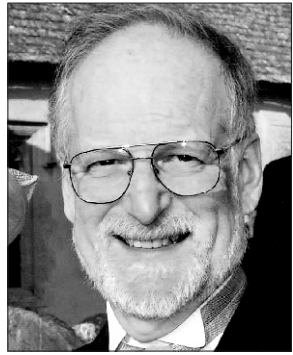


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

**A mysterious death**

What's behind Dr. Kelly's death. Perhaps he knew too much and could not keep quiet any longer as the debate on deception and misinformation at high places of British political establishment turned ugly and sour. A tragedy that Dr. Kelly met death; tragedy too such a sordid sequence of events surrounded his death. There is something right about British democracy after all; the head of the independent commission has promised a truly independent inquiry not limited to the death of Dr. Kelly but extending into substance surrounding his death namely the use/misuse of his expertise in hyping up the case of Iraq war.



One cannot help feeling sad and sorry for what Mr. Tony Blair has led himself into; his zeal was driven by obsession, his conviction (of Iraqi WMD) sounded more like a received truth. Evidence proves him wrong. His desperate search for plausibility, his shifting platform on causus belli for war, often dressed up in clever semantics proved disingenuous. And now, Mr. Blair seems to be abandoned by his mentor George W Bush. What a price to pay for loyal "special relationship" that might, at the end of the day, prove nothing more than circumstantial and anything but special.

Dr. Kelly's death is indeed a sad event. But death of thousands of Iraqi men, women, and children in this unjust war is a greater tragedy which grief alone cannot mitigate. Let history judge these acts.

Zakir Husain, Dhaka



Suicide or ...

more offensive, particularly when our government is trying to clean up the law and order situation.

We demand an immediate statement from the Home Minister, and a judicial enquiry for identifying the truth and the culprits as police seems to have conveniently failed to do so. For the public a prompt and harsh corrective step is not too much to expect.

S.A.Mansoor, Gulshan, Dhaka

**Bush and the WMD**

Finally it is revealed that Mr. Bush along with his allies had attacked Iraq not because it had WMD but for reasons best known to them. Mr. Blair and Mr Bush started this war for personal repugnance rather than on any real issue. Who would take responsibilities of the victims' families? Who will share the misery of the orphans? Where are WMD? Was the whole thing a farce? I think Bush should be charged as a war criminal along with his allies. So many lives have been lost, including the Americans', for only man's personal ire. This is absolutely unacceptable when a president of a first world country acts in such a way -- legalise attacking a nation without any valid reason. We the peace lovers of the world wish for a better tomorrow.

Badal Hasib, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

US waged a war against Iraq just to show its mighty power with the plea of WMD, which was clear to the most of the world. And the scale of death now faced by US soldiers at the hands of Iraqis is quite natural. Before, during and just after the war both US and UK were confident with Iraq's possession of WMD. Now they have started saying that one day their perception would be proved to be true.

It's comical to know that the US administration thought common Iraqis would welcome their army with garlands! The oldest civilisation of the world would welcome the invaders on the brink of total destruction of their country, amazing isn't it?

No self-respecting nation could tolerate the way US is handling the Iraq crisis, simply they are performing the role of an occupier. And Iraqis have started to resist the occupation and according to US army it's simply a classical case of guerrilla warfare. US has set foot on quick sand, the only way to escape root is to hand over Iraq immediately under UN administration with a timetable to transfer of power to Iraqis.

S.J.Kabir, Mirpur, Dhaka

Now, both Mr Bush and Mr Blair have changed their wordings as "weapons programme" instead of "weapons". So, what is next? "Weapons dream" and then "weapons fantasy"?  
CNR, Chittagong

**Mastans**

Public peace is under threat (it always was) in the hand of the mastans. Places such as business centres, stationery shops, multi-storied buildings under construction etc. are their main targets and in the name of charitable service they demand and raise tolls from the common people. If they fail, they damage property and sometimes kill innocent people. In some cases it is seen that drug addicts resort to this sort of crime to buy drugs. But in most of the cases it has come to light that some politicians make these criminals do such misdeeds in order to accomplish their own wicked interest. It is a matter of regret that the government never really took practical measures to stop mastans. The police sometime arrest them, but they are hardly punished.

the American people and to the Congress about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. He even called for a 'regime change' in Washington. There are US Senators like Howard Dean, Joseph Lieberman and Edward Kennedy who'd criticised Bush for invading Iraq based on concocted intelligence and demanded full-scale investigation into the matter.

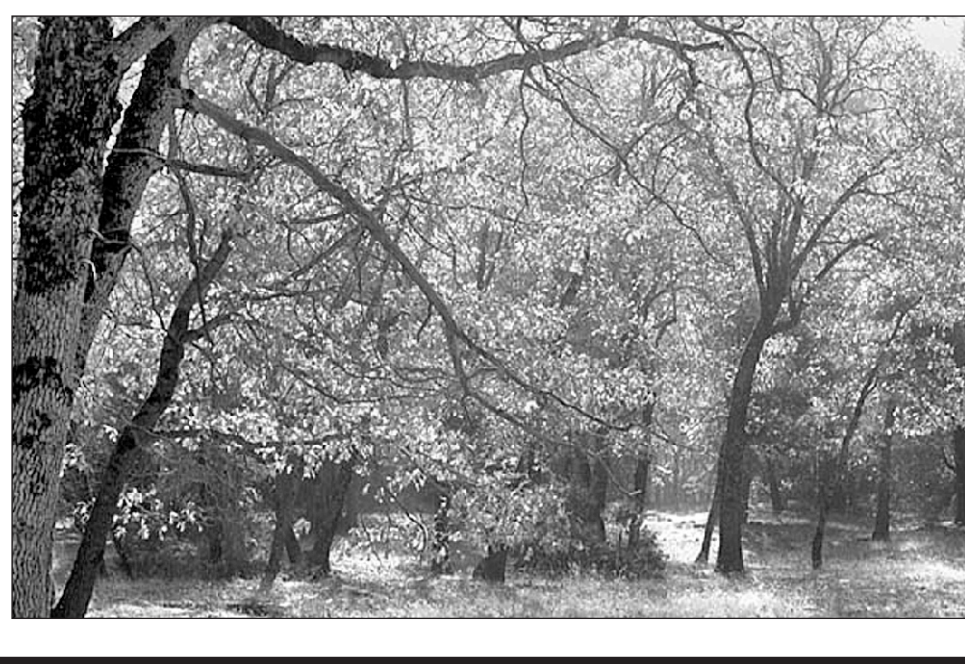
I like to quote Mr. M. Shahidul Islam again: 'The Economist magazine reported on June 7, 2003 that a disgruntled MI6 official had leaked to the BBC that the intelligence on Iraq's WMD came from only one uncorroborated source, one which the Joint Intelligence Committee had been reluctant to validate so far. Jack Straw's mention of a third country without naming it has cleared the fog. It is Israel that sucked in the US and in the UK into a Middle East Quagmire. I too believe it is Israel and the American Jewish lobby that acted behind everything. Did the same cabal kill David Kelly too?'

Sirajul Islam, Shayamoli, Dhaka

**"Our good police"**

Daily Star report published on Thursday July 17 breaks the ice of this case. It seems the reporter did a praiseworthy job -- revealed the officer's identity, while the police remained silent regarding the issue. If this is the truth it brings shame to all of us and makes the role of the authority rather questionable! Could there be any thing

**Tree plantation and eradicated arable land!**



So, we expect that the government would take determined efforts to uproot this immoral deed as well as doers.

Rubab Abdullah, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

**"Law breaking citizens"**

I read Mr. Zubair Sadeque's observation that nothing good will happen to us till we collectively learn to obey the laws and rules of this land. However his example of the driver is a wrong focus. The poor driver was only trying to please his boss who in all probability thought well of him for showing the "initiative". So why blame the poor driver and not the employer?

Violating law or placing oneself above the law is endemic in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, while looking at it, we blame the petty offenders (like this driver) and overlook those who have institutionalised it -- many people upon whom we depend on interpreting the laws. We all know our leaders believe that winning a political office or a governmental position, places him/her above the law. Political parties patronise the real criminals. The institution to look after day-to-day law and order, the police, provides the best protection to the offenders of the laws. With such lack of respect for the law coming from the top, why should anyone blame the poor driver who, believe me, would never dare to go against the law if he knows that his boss would not tolerate.

Our people are by nature honest and law abiding. If the leader do not follow the law, why the commoners will?  
Shahjahan Ahmed, Dhanmandi, Dhaka

**Why are they irresponsible?**

This is in response to KM Zubair Sadeque's letter regarding the launch disaster (July 14, 2003). I fully agree with the writer's view. This sort of incidents are happening one after another and it seems that (as if) the government does not know anything about it. If the Shipping Minister thinks that he cannot handle this job then why isn't he resigning? Unfortunately, this won't happen.

As long as the government does not take necessary precautions to avoid such accidents, innocent people's lives will always be in danger. I wish the government would start caring for the people.  
Minhaj Ahmed, Uttara, Dhaka

**Better-connected Dhaka**

The population of Dhaka has crossed well over 1 crore. The city has innumerable problems and all the governments found it tough to manage the various sectors of the city properly in terms of crime, transportation, pollution, gas, water and electricity supply etc. People from all walks of life are complaining and counter-complaining, but progress is very slow for the obvious reason of resource constraint.

I want to raise a problem here of Dhaka which no government planner has taken seriously so far. The entry points of the city are so limited that going out and coming in Dhaka is a tiring experience. Dhaka has only four entry points: Katchpur bridge, Tongi Bridge, Ashulia bridge and Gabtali bridge. God forbid, if for any reason these bridges collapse then Dhaka can only be connected by air or boat. And it may happen at the time of Eid or in any other occasions when there is mass movements of people in and out of Dhaka?

My humble suggestion to the government is that there should be minimum double bridges in all entry points so that traffic can be stream lined, only in and only out, through separate bridges.

Now easily a parallel bridge can be constructed in Gabtali, at the back of the bus terminal and all buses and trucks can use that. If executed, there will never be a traffic jam in Gabtali.

It is really ridiculous that we have only one bridge to cross if we want to go to Chittagong, Comilla, Sylhet, Narshingdi and all other places across Shitalakha. The old

road from Jatrabari to previous ferryghat at Shitalakha should be widened and a bridge should be provided so that all transports going to Narshingdi, Brahmonbaria and Sylhet can use that bridge leaving Chittagong road over Katchpur less congested.

Will the authority concerned start thinking in this way so that we have a better-connected Dhaka after 5 or 10 years atleast.  
Azam Choudhury, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

**Shiite-Sunni divides in Iraq**

We are witnessing the two faces of American foreign policy towards the independent Shiites of Iran classified as a hostile force versus the friendly "oppressed" Shiites of the southern Iraq. During the Khomeni era, the Shiites in general were portrayed as a violent and a deviant sect of Islam, distinct from the more peaceful ordinary Sunnis. Such double standards in foreign policy are the result of political expediency rather than a genuine belief in a certain ethical or moral principal. The ordinary Shiites, Sunnis in Iraq primarily see themselves as Iraqis first; otherwise the Shiites would not have sided with their fellow Sunnis and defended Basra during the Iran and Iraq war. Making the ethnic composition the subject of discussion rather than the nationhood is designed to weaken the Iraqi society, rather than to unify it. This will ensure the neo-empire-builders will always have leverage from the outside.

Iraq's new council designed by the invading forces rather than the "liberated" Iraqis via holding free election. The council is supposed to reflect the ethnic and sectarian composition within Iraq, something that is clearly lacking in their society. Do the senate and congress have a proportional representation of the Blacks or the Hispanic communities? The only places where the Blacks and Hispanics have proportional representation, if not over-representation, are the prisons.

Hence the imposition of such a council may be the first step in preparing it for its disintegration in the near future. Perhaps one day we will see the State of Kirkuk-Chevron in the North, Basra-Bechtel in the South, and Mosul-Halliburton with Baghdad as its capital in the centre!  
Yamin Zakaria, UK, London

**Launch disaster**

Recent ferry disaster in the river Meghna causing over half a thousand human lives erupted a widespread concern within the country and without. The causes of the tragedy are yet to be officially declared, albeit after every such disaster, an inquiry committee is formed as if to end the matter there, compromising thereby the peoples' right to know the inside story.

However, this time the most unfortunate part of the anecdote was reflected in the weird and wonderful stance of our Shipping Minister, who visited the place of the disaster after long three days. Just after the accident, he publicly declared before the ATN Bangla television network that the passengers were unwieldy and even they push out the Magistrate and the police personnel to get into the launch. Subsequently, he ordered replacement of all IWTA and shipping staff from the Sadarghat terminal on the plea that they failed to control overloading. One just fails to understand that if the police force with all its law-enforcing tools fail to control the over-loading of passengers, how it is possible for the shipping or IWT staffs to control the same against overwhelming muscle of the launch-owners? Again, the minister shrugged off any possibility of taking moral responsibility of the disaster and thus resigning from his post, as he uttered: "I am not the person to resign. If resign, who will work?" This is the utterance of an honorable minister whom we voted to power!

Further, it is really lamentable that while this appalling human tragedy was condoned by the great personalities like HM the Queen Elizabeth II and the honorable Pope Paul from thousands of miles away, our heads of the state and of the government, being hardly a

hundred miles away from the river Meghna could not do a little more by physically appearing beside the distressed near and dear ones of the deceased. Is it because that over five hundred deaths are not big enough for a country of a hundred and fifty millions or is it that the departed souls came from the very humble and hapless strata of our rural society and thus to be ignored? The humiliated people of this unfortunate country are yet to know the right answer!  
Hafejul Alam, Dhaka

**Sonargaon- Rampura bypass**

I would like to draw the attention of the Mayor of Dhaka, who has promised to mitigate various problems of this mega city of more than one million within the limited capacity of D.C.C. We have been noticing that the road repairing has been started in different localities of Dhaka city, garbage cleaning has been geared up, footpaths and road dividers has been given a new look, and many other development activities has been going on. But regrettably, despite the assurance

from the Communication Ministry and the DCC, the link road from Sonargaon-Rampura is yet to begin.

I would suggest that if the authorities concerned give a better thought like preparing a Y shaped road -- from Sonargaon to Rampura and another meeting the same just beside the Gulshan shooting club, it will lessen the traffic jam the city dwellers facing everyday. To my opinion, this plan will not need any foreign investment if the Communication Ministry and the Dhaka City Corporation sit together and prepare an integrated plan to prepare a Y shaped road to ease serious traffic congestion at Moghbazar, Mouchak and at Bangla Motor for people who uses the roads for moving to Rampura and Gulshan 1.

I would humbly request the city Mayor and the Communication Minister to give a serious thought on this proposal which will help thousands of people to avoid the regular traffic jams and save their valuable time.  
Shahid Hossain, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Md.Zillur Rahaman, Bangabandhu Hall, University of Dhaka

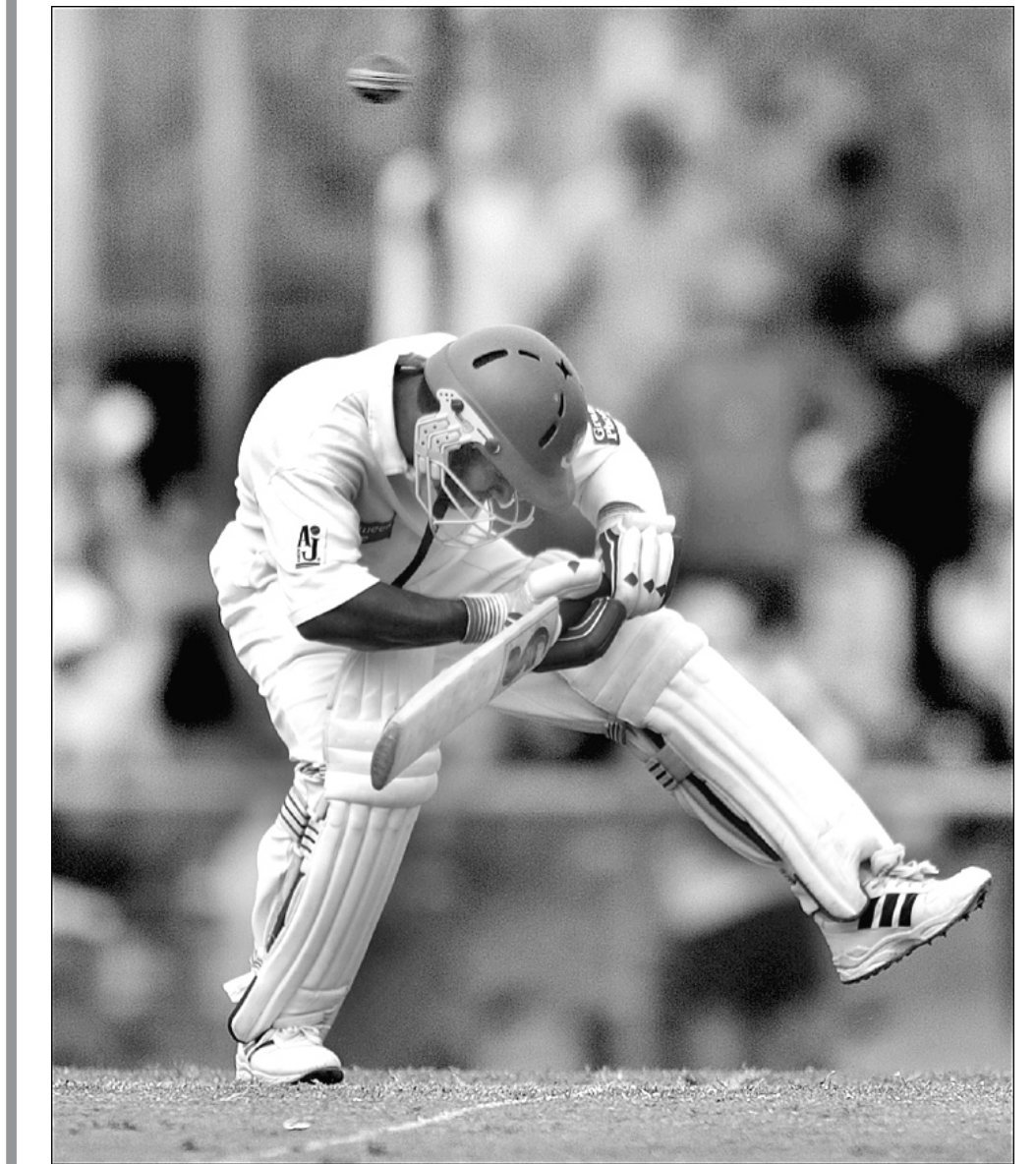
**Garbage or no garbage**

Surely the proliferation of waste around the garbage bins and at dumping sites could be contained if householders and rubbish generators took initiatives into sorting out the rubbish themselves.

This way the scavengers would not have to climb the heaps of rubbish, open the bags and spread out the garbage in search of reusable/re-sealable goods.

Good civic training and enforcement of segregation of garbage at source (household/industry) is the solution and not the buying of newfangled bags and bins.

The Daily Star with other like-minded newspapers could run a campaign appealing the people's sense of charity and help the poor "Tokai" in his search of a dignified living.  
Yunus Sattar, Bara Magh Bazar, Dhaka



Maybe next time!

**A bird's eye view of the Darwin Test**

What was imagined earlier by the former Australian cricketers, Dennis Lillee and David Hooks is not what happened in reality -- the demise of a five-day test match on the very first day. However, for Bangladesh, it was indeed an unfortunate 'moment of truth' to prove once again their incapability to cope up with the mighty Aussies during the proceedings of the just-concluded Darwin Test match which the tigers eventually lost by an innings and 132 runs during the post-lunch session of the third day. To wrap up at ninety seven and then finding their overly superior counterparts twenty four runs ahead at close of first day's play, had certainly created some effect on the newly-found obdurate psyche of Khaled Mahmud and his company, yet soon the

South Asian cricketers discovered their original fragility as they made easy access for the down-under team to pile up a mammoth score of 400-plus runs despite a three-wicket haul by the country's best quickie Mashrafe Mortaza.

Performance by the Australian batsmen was, as usual, flamboyant notably those of veteran skipper Steve Waugh, Justin Langer, Darren Lehmann, Stuart McGill apart from those of speedsters Jason Gillespie and McGrath. Though Khaled Mahmud, the captain of Bangladesh admitted of the careless and hasty execution of shots, the main reason of batting debacle in the first inning, still majority of the fans staying back here in the country in addition to the press, however, appreciated the seeming improve-

ment of the 'new-look' tigers under the able coaching of Dave Whatmore, a top cricketing tutor.

Moreover, the Aussies failed to create at least four new world records they hoped to. Fine batting by Habibul Bashar and in the later stages by the Hannan Sarkar and Al-Shahriar duo gave the side additional spirit and vitality though lady luck disappointed Alok Kapali, a recent sensation. Similarly, Javed Omar failed to keep up his name though Tapash and Manjural glazed with the cherry. With fingers crossed, millions of fans back in Bangladesh await a better show from the Tigers in the upcoming second test. God speed Bangladesh Cricket Squad!  
Aziz Amirul, Dhaka

**Anti-American?**



Anti-American soldier of an American war?

A gentleman in Iraq was asked (in a recent BBC news interview) for his opinion about the Iraqi war fiasco. He replied saying Donald Rumsfeld should resign! Now immediately, most of you are thinking this must be an Arab or Muslim or Taleban or someone who hates America. Would you be surprised if you knew that, the person who said that was none other than an American soldier who went into Iraq to liberate the Iraqi people? Don't forget this soldier doesn't yet know about the whole "dossier" and "evidence" scandals that are now happening in both London and Washington. Just imagine what the reactions of all those who are risking their lives in Iraq would be if they knew the whole truth.

Perhaps this particular soldier was an anti-American(?) Maybe he was brain washed by Mullah Omar. Or maybe he has joined all those people all over the world who just want to destroy America simply because it is so great, so kind, so good and so peace-loving! So are we now going to "shock and awe" this "bad" and "evil" soldier?  
Azad Miah, Oldham, UK