

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.

# Congratulations Rafique

It was an amazing innings from you because you always were a stroke player and you stayed so long in the crease. Keep this form in the future and we will have lot of fun watching you playing.

My humble advice to you: Please keep yourself cool in the off-field activities. Best of luck!

**Azam**  
On e-mail  
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Bangladesh cricket team are presently touring the West Indies for playing both versions of the game. In ODI matches they proved their ability. But the breaking news is that now they are showing their depth also in the Test matches. The first innings of the first Test was undoubtedly remarkable, for the first time in our Test history, two batsman scored the magical ton.

A lower order batsman like Md. Rafique has scored his first Test century. So from now our top order batsmen should remember, if Rafique can, why can't they?

**Saumitra Sarder Piklu**  
Dept of Law,  
Dhaka University



PHOTO: AFP

# Rise of Bangla Bhai

There comes a point when the government either needs to do something or acknowledge it has failed. Otherwise, the public decides for the government that it has failed and waits for an opportunity to express that decision in the elections. The BNP government is coming close to the point where the public is about to take that decision for they are no longer willing to accept the government's plea that any criticism against it is the work of the opposition.

The news about Bangla Bhai and his band of vigilantes that has been covered by all leading newspapers over the last month or so is a case in point where the government has to do something or make someone bear the responsibility. If it does not, the public would decide upon it and express it when they have the opportunity. The question among the public is why do we retain such a large police force and why do we have to have a ministry of home affairs when someone like Bangla Bhai can do what he and his vigilantes have been doing right under their noses?

It is understandable that Bangla Bhai has gone into

hiding and it may be taking the police time to apprehend him. What is not understandable is the unbelievable news that has now come to light of the activities of this Bangla Bhai that he has been carrying on, not like a bandit from hiding but with the boldness that even the law enforcing agencies like the police does not dare to demonstrate. If these stories are true, then by the most flexible interpretation of the concept of parliamentary responsibility, the minister in charge of home affairs needs to either resign or be asked by the prime minister to resign. So much for political responsibility. As for administrative responsibility, the Government needs to take action against the police officials not at the lowest rungs but against officers at much higher levels, officers as SPs or DIGs. This man and his group just did not spring from nowhere all of a sudden. There is enough evidence that they have been carrying on their dastardly acts for a period that the police officials just cannot explain without accepting responsibility.

To me, it seems that this Bangla Bhai grew in stature right under the nose or per-



PHOTO: STAR

haps the patronage of both political leaders and the police as his actions were directed against the outlaws that both the police and the politicians were finding it difficult to control. He however grew more in stature than these politicians or the police expected. There should be an independent

judicial commission to look into this and the findings of this Commission should be published so that the public knows of those among the politicians and the police who helped this Bangla Bhai attain the stature that he has.

**Shahjahan Ahmed**  
Dhanmondi RA, Dhaka

## Election campaign methods

People of Dhaka City have recently been witnessing the campaigns of Member of Parliament election in some form or the other. The typical form of campaigning is posters and graffiti on walls, demonstration, miking and camps on the footpaths etc. However, these methods are damaging the city for which they (Member of Parliament) want to be elected for.

I personally find this extremely alarming. If we proceed to examine the MP's fundamental duties towards the citizens, one will find that their method of campaigning contradicts their promises.

When travelling around Dhaka City (which is very densely populated), one will find only a handful of walls that have not been subjected to graffiti. As the election date is nearing, the use of microphone throughout the day has become unbearable. Another method that does not go unnoticed is sticking posters all around. We suffer from traffic congestion in Dhaka as it is, but these unscheduled demonstrations only cause further disruption. Another important issue is that, once the election is over they will have two options. The options are that the elected MP either leaves all the stickers and graffiti on or cleans it up. If they decide to leave it as it is, then they will not fulfil their election pledges and if they clean the city then we do know whether it will be at the expense of the government, in other words the taxpayers' money. To me, neither of these two options is satisfying enough to cast my vote for any of the candidates.

I fully understand that campaigning during any election period is of great importance for the candidates. However, there are other alternatives, which in the long run would save money and create less public inconvenience. The form of campaigning that I would suggest is organising public meetings and demonstrations, posters only on billboards (which they can construct in all areas) and through newspapers and other media, personal visits etc.

**Ahmed, Rampura, Dhaka**

## US concern over human rights!

The recent visit of US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Christina Rocca, for observing the overall situation of human rights in Bangladesh clearly reminds us of America's own violation of human rights in Iraq, where the American troops are inhumanly treating the Iraqi prisoners.

When the US itself is not concerned over its violation of human rights, which is known to all other nations of the world, how can US representatives comment on such violation during their visits to other countries? It is ridiculous.

**Faisal Hassan**  
Tophkana Road, Dhaka

## Biman: A showcase of antics

Two 26-year old F-28 aircraft is set to 'enrich' the fleet of Biman, the national airlines. The 1977-model planes have been bought at a cost

of \$2.91 million from Indonesian Hiebert Group Ltd. Our fleet already had three of them.

These outdated models are not technically sound to fly in the hilly region and the maintenance cost is 35 percent higher than a similar aircraft. Biman has already taken measures to get back-up engines though the managing director

height of education, the purpose of which is to widen the outlook of students, impart skills and abilities and make students prepare for life and the world. For this, stiff competition takes place every year for admission into government universities. And we see that brilliant students along with good past academic performances among millions get

Al-Ghraiab detention centre the poster calls on people of Bangladesh to "reject Bush-Blair's democracy and follow the path of Islam." The obvious stress of the poster is not against US or British soldiers, but against democracy and the clear hint is in favour of its rejection. This is simply playing into the hands of the western

reported under the headline "Saifur takes a swipe at Dev. Partners" (May 10). It was shocking to learn of what he said to save the image of his government. On the question of partners' criticism against violation of human rights, he tried to justify them by quoting what was happening in Iraqi prisons under US command/control.

## Launch disasters

The drowning of MV Lighting Sun on 23 May once again proved the unworthiness of lives in our country. Similar launch mishaps claimed a large number of lives last year, but nothing was done to punish the culprits.

What can an innocent traveller do? Can he or she check the fitness of the launch before boarding? These are questions that the authorities concerned must answer.



PHOTO: AFP

claims that they "are still in good condition". Biman's love affair with the obsolete aircraft has gone against the recommendation of the Biman's fleet planning committee's modernisation plan.

I think soon Biman itself will become a tourist attraction. That day is not very far when people from round the globe will come to Bangladesh to pay a visit to Biman, the only museum where all kinds of obsolete aircraft are available.

**Saif, Dhaka**

## High seat of learning

Everyone knows that a university represents the most momentous

chance to be admitted through appearing in admission tests.

However, the universities do not have the right kind of atmosphere to help students attain the objectives of their lives.

**Rubab Abdullah**  
Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

## Hijb-ut-Tahrir poster

All three letter writers in your Letters to the Editor column on the subject of the Hijb-ut-Tahrir's poster (Hijb-ut-Tahrir poster, DS, 31st May 2004) have, either missed or didn't care for, the most important point in the so-called innocent poster. Underneath the pictures of

people, many of whom are now busy in examining the issue, if democracy compatible with Islam?

Fundamentalists like Hijb-ut-Tahrir and others have rejected democracy. The question I would like to ask the three the letter-writers, have they or will they?

**AZM Abdul Ali**  
Uttara, Dhaka

## Finance minister's observations

Though belated, I could not help saying a few words about our finance minister's replies that he gave to the journalists after one of the BDF meets, which the DS

He has preferred to cite the example of an occupied country bringing his own sovereign country (under a democratically elected government) on the same plane. Then are we to surmise that Bangladesh is now under the occupation of the coalition government and so abuse of human rights in violation of the constitution is inevitable and unavoidable?

His was a stultifying effort. The American nation as a whole is in disgrace, and its administration has not dragged its feet to bring each and everyone responsible to face the nemesis.

In matters of dismal law and order state, he in the same vein

quipped that murders and rapes happen also in America and American newspapers print those on the back page. How come the FM draws an analogy between the US and Bangladesh? American people do not have to see their lawmakers and political veterans of the opposite camp being murdered, one after another, allegedly by goons of the party in power, neither do they read the news of a father and son cut into pieces, of a suspected outlaw tortured and choked out of life and then hung on a tree. They have not even heard of that with change of government the offender in thousands in custody could get scot-free by reason of their alignment with the party in power without even a primary enquiry. Rapists, many of whom are party activists, move freely after committing heinous crimes as they did on many Mahimas. The government has politicised (or polluted?) the police department and the judiciary and so the perpetrators are not brought to justice. The lawmaker of the AL was eliminated by brush-fire in broad daylight, (in a meeting place) and also just when the development partners were in session in Dhaka, and the police without tracking down the killers took AL activists into custody. Of course, crimes of horrific nature are committed in American society, but the criminals are not spared on political identity.

**AH Dewan**  
South Kafra, Dhaka Cantt, Dhaka

## Can academia fulfil...

A write up by Dr. Andaleeb on the above mentioned topic (DS: 30 May 2004) is truly time befitting. His assertion that the universities are not "designed merely to manu-

facture graduates on mass scale, often based upon borrowed, context-less and ineffective education" is reflective of the state of affairs in our universities- both public and private. Universities are supposed to be the "centre of excellence" providing intellectual leadership to the nation but if the teachers don't even take their classes regularly what can be expected from them? It is seen that most of the senior teachers in our public universities seldom go to the classes, thereby contaminating the juniors. Their track record of research work is also deplorable, thus losing the moral grounds to lead the nation. If we take audit of the number of peer reviewed publication per teacher per year then we will be shocked. In the overseas universities, a teacher's appointment and tenure depend solely on his annual refereed publication output after all that is the measure of his continuing education. One or two reviewed publication per year from a teacher is not a big asking from a person whose job is to study and teach. With this yard stick our general universities may at best be termed as grand 'adda' clubs and the technical universities are no more than vocational institutes. In this situation can academia really fulfil national aspiration?

**Zislam, Manipurpara, Dhaka**

## Scotland Yard, FBI and magic wand

So now we have dragged a couple of clever FBI and Scotland Yard boys (regarding Sylhet shrine blast) to clean our dirt? You people genuinely believe that some foreign agents are going to solve our problems while our hoodlums are deliberately encouraged to commit these crimes? Remember Operation Clean Heart? Well, it did clean a lot of dirt, but look, we are all back to square one again. Why do you think that is so?

Our police forces don't need FBI to catch criminals. We are talking about Bangladesh, a country where the police know about a crime before it happens. Yes, our police forces need forensic labs and other modern gadgets to combat crimes, but above all, they need to be free from political monkey business. We have countless number of armed groups and organisations in our country. We also had countless number of "arm recovery" operations. But within a few months, we end up with the same level of crimes and criminals. These guns and bombs don't fall from the sky. Where do they come from and who pays for them? I think we know the answer. If we eliminated all our crimes and corruption with a magic wand in an instant, we would still be back to square one within three months! Our governments continually waste our resources in some showing-off investigations, while deliberately ignoring the root causes of all this lawlessness. These politicians have become so confident in their deceiving tactics that now they are beginning to waste the resources of foreign countries too. I request the UK and the USA to take their men immediately and tell the government of Bangladesh to "unconditionally" abandon all their armed fronts/wings/organisations and

student politics. Either do that or face cut in aid and isolation from the international community.

Why should the UK or the US solve our problems? If the people we pay can't solve our problems then these out-of-date and useless men should step aside and make room for those who can.

**Azad Miah, Oldham, UK**



## Obscene cinema posters

The explicit show of female anatomy in Bangla cinema posters, with all its ingredients of vulgarity, crosses the threshold limit of our culture and ethics.

The overtly exposed obscenity in cinema posters is terrible to think about. The vulnerable age group, especially the school and college level students, are the worst victims of it. The motive behind cinema posters is, perhaps, to give titillation to adolescents. The aggression of occidental culture could not be the only reason for this ill practice. Some producers, writers and directors with almost no sense of aesthetics occupy the steering of our present cinema industry. They have proved themselves enough to destroy the glorious tradition of Bangla cinema.

The government should take immediate action to salvage the FDC from the hands of these elements.

**Tawhidur Rahman**  
Nazrul Islam Hall, BUET



PHOTO: AFP