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## Israel's cruel attitude

I was reading the news of the brutal attack on a Palestinian father and his son by the Israeli soldiers and I was simply shocked. The situation in that part of the region is just immutable. It seems as if no one cares for the people of Palestine. No one can't even take proper actions against the brutal Israeli soldiers. This kind of brutality will further propagate the hatred among the people of Palestine and Israel.

The way the Israeli soldiers treat the innocent Palestinians is simply barbaric. Killing of the innocent people must be stopped and Israel must understand that if they do not deal properly with the Palestinians, then they themselves will have to suffer on their own soil.

Minhaj Ahmed  
Uttara, Dhaka

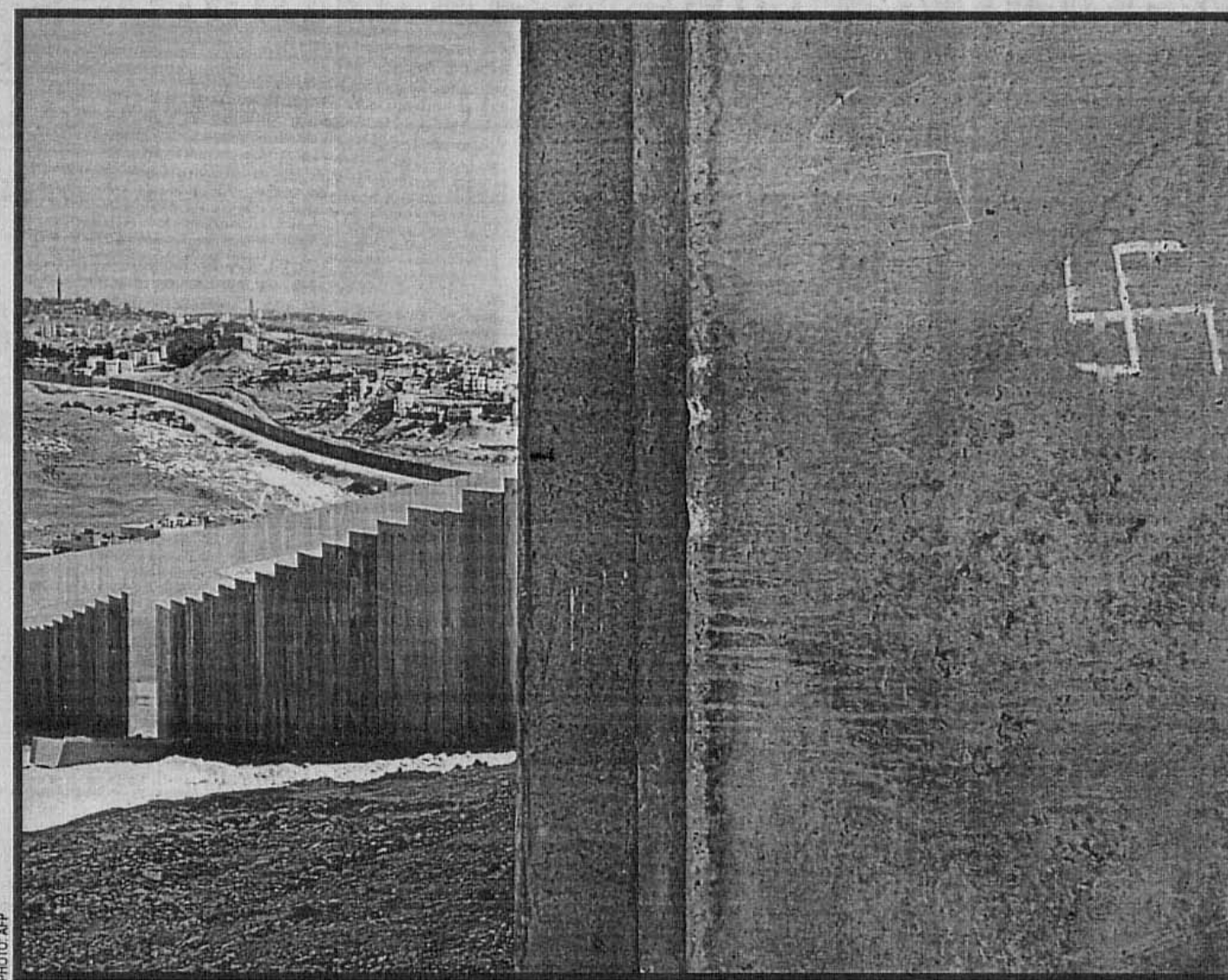


PHOTO: AFP

### Letter from Europe

General strikes and political unrest have made it impossible for foreign companies to invest money in Bangladesh. If this situation continues further there will be an economic disaster in Bangladesh. Due to this crisis in Bangladesh other countries like Vietnam, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the East European countries are trying to get fresh orders for textile products from the US and Europe. They are also interested in destroying the garment industries in Bangladesh. European businessmen are thinking to change their policy towards Bangladesh. In 1997, a large textile industry in Dundee, UK, collapsed due to the political crisis in Bangladesh and about 500 people lost their jobs. A senior Scottish Parliament member went to Bangladesh to get supply of raw materials, but he failed. In Bangladesh more than 1,000 garment industries could not work properly for the last few years. More than 1.5 million people are working there, among them 80% are women. Contracts worth about 2 billion US dollars per year are going to Bangladesh. All these will be in danger if the politicians do not change their policy.

It is not necessary for a politician to be wise. But they should have political sense and their advisers must be qualified people. The so-called politicians in our country both in the opposition and in the government and their advisers lack that sense. They never think about the nation, about economy, or about people; they are interested in grabbing power and fill their own pockets.

Nowadays to take admission into schools, colleges (medical college, engineering college) and to pass the examinations everybody has to pay bribe.

Here we have to mention that there were about 55 governments in Italy in the 50 years after the Second World War. They had political crises and still they have, but their economy, their people never suffer.

Jasmin Farid  
Germany

### EC officials

The position of election commissioners is very important and one who takes the responsibility of these posts is regarded to have integrity, accountability and other qualities that are humanly possible to possess. As these posts are constitutional, no executive body can fire them until election commissioners retire intentionally. So they have nothing to lose if they take actions to keep the democratic norms and values sky-high, defying and thereby making some corrupt people unhappy.

Naturally the Election Commission could withhold the recent Dhaka-10 election process for a while and investigate about the allegations and take necessary steps to cancel the election afterwards. Unfortunately, this is one of the wildest dreams that our nation can ever imagine of.

In Bangladesh who is the best politician? The politician who is the most shameless around us. In addition to this, the politician who does not have any conscience at all. Fortunately if he/she has any conscience at all that conscience can be bought very easily, anywhere, anytime. But that is not expected of the EC officials.

MD. Mamunur Rashid  
Uttara, Dhaka

### Boisterous leaders!

There is absolutely nothing wrong on the part of Mr. Suranjit Sengupta, MP of the AL, asking for foreign

minister Mr. M. Morshed Khan's resignation, following the defeat of the Bangladesh candidate for the OIC secretary general's post. Despite that some quarters objected to it. The point is when the AL has a better option (relatively credible politician) and a less controversial person available in their leadership (Mr. Abdus Samad Azad, MP would have been credible in this case) to speak on the matter, then why choose Mr. Sengupta? Similarly, we also saw him excessively vocal (rather out of proportion) and in the forefront overshadowing more senior leaders like Mr. Abdus Samad Azad, MP also from Sylhet, in commenting and dealing with the issues from the AL's perspective. After all, there is a word called 'befitting'. Politicians should be more responsible.

the talk show, only indicated lack of politeness, maturity and aesthetic sense on his part. His conduct, specially in a formal place, was unbecoming of a political leader. At one stage, he disgustingly shouted at the moderator (Mr. Zillur) saying "Aapni chup koren mia, aapni ki janen?". It was totally unacceptable by any standard and was yet another instance of our disturbing political culture.

Captain Mohammad Shahid Helal,  
psc, BN (Retd)  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

### EC's credibility

Your very well written editorial in the Dhaka-10 by election (DS July 8th) has attracted my attention. You

BNP for its seriousness in contesting this by-election; there is nevertheless a lot to be said for what it eventually did to win it, that gave the BNP victory a very bad taste. I don't think even the die hard supporter of the BNP would say with his hand on his heart that this election was fought fairly and squarely. Therefore the call by the election observers to annul the result of the election finds acceptance among the people who wish the democratic process to succeed.

The role played by the Election Commission in this sequence of events is therefore of great significance and here the Commission has left all of us deeply disappointed. First, the leave of absence to which your editorial made, rather kind

out these fraudulent means. For the PM, she now has one of her political advisers in SQC who is held in contempt by the public for his recent utterances. Now she has another of her Political Advisers in the newly elected MP from Dhaka-10. Must the PM be any more oblivious of events around her, or what does she need to wake herself from this slumber into which she has gone?

We were so proud of our evolving democracy and now so utterly despondent. We appeal to the PM to wake up; help annul the results of the Dhaka-10 by-elections and for future of our democracy, recast the Election Commission. She can start doing this by replacing the secretary as the others she cannot. She needs to send a message to the Commission urgently.

Shahjahan Ahmed  
Dhanmondi RA, Dhaka

### Education

Bangladesh is a developing country. We have scarcity of resources and therefore optimum output should be taken from the limited resources that we have in order to create a prosperous nation. Our policy-makers (legislators) can play the most effective role in this regard. I have a particular appeal to them which I am going to present in this letter.

Economists say that for the development of a country like us, we have to improve our transport sector and education sector first, apart from curbing corruption. I want to say something about the education sector as we are watching sheer disregard for this sector and our policy-makers are doing almost nothing in this regard. I think that they need some help from a bachelor level student like me.

We have three types of educational system in our country i.e., Madrassah education, Bengali medium schools and English medium ones. A proper education policy is absent in all these systems. Madrassah education is creating religious fanatics, secondary school board is virtually ineffective in the distant regions of this country and English medium schooling is promoting the money culture. To my mind, it is now high time to learn from history. The policymakers should ponder over what Kemal Ataturk did in Turkish educational reform and bring forth a new educational policy.

Private tuition is not unlawful but the recent trend is unethical. To reduce the bad effect of private tuition, in-school education should be strengthened and teachers should be paid due remuneration. The difference between different education systems should be reduced.

I think that the matters discussed above will find a place in our political leaders' musings.

Tawhid Shams Chowdhury  
BRAC University, Dhaka

### Election mockery

It was a shameless act of mockery by the BNP when they won the Dhaka-10 by polls by vote rigging.

Is this an example of the BNP's democracy and nationalism? It is surprising that the BNP wanted army deployment in the last general elections, but they refused to deploy army in only 103 polling centres this time around!

Nayeem Islam

The Aga Khan School, Uttara, Dhaka

### Cooking made easy!

Unlike the past, our mothers today do not like to confine their daughters to the precincts of the household. They rather concentrate more

on shaping and grooming their daughters' lives through education, so that they can have economic self sufficiency as well as the ability to keep afloat against all odds. But for giving more time on careers there are many girls who sometimes fail to show efficiency in home management due to lack of practical training. It is a matter of fact that young women are expected to show all round performance everywhere, specially after marriage. They have to advance their careers and maintain households at the same time. But in doing so, it is now seen that many young women find themselves in great difficulties particularly in the field of kitchen management due to lack of experience.

Taking note of the subject, Professor Siddiqua Kabir has come forward to contribute towards solving the major household problems. She has written many recipe books that give useful knowledge about cooking for all. Her directions are so easy to understand that the persons who never went to kitchen can prepare ingredients by putting and mixing them in correct order without any problem.

Rubab Abdullah

Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

### When judges cry for justice

It seems the coalition government is moving heaven and earth to seal the victory of their nominated contestant in the Dhaka-10 by polls. They flouted all the existing laws, made snarl-up in the thoroughfares posted life sized adds, attacked the Bikalpa Dhara processions and got away with everything.

Government high-ups know it is not enough to ensure a victory in a constituency in the capital, where voters are now moved by rationale rather than emotion when exercising their voting right. So the next best possible way is to set free all the criminals and create such an environment on the election day so that no one dares to go to the voting booth.

They have not even let the judges live in peace. This time their assignment was to go after Shaikh Jahangir Husain (District and Sessions Judge) who was reportedly 'disobedient' enough not to entertain a 'request' from the government to set free hardened criminals. The judge had to file a writ petition as all his complaints to the authorities concerned fell on a deaf ear.

At present the freedom and integrity of the judiciary is really at stake. The memory of sacking a judge for taking bribe is still fresh in our minds. If an individual no less than a judge has to go through such harassment, who the common people will turn to? Saif, Dhaka

### Management of airport

The decision to hand over the management of Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong to Thai Airways is an absolutely pragmatic one. Those who have visited and saw the management of Bangkok International Airport, Changi International Airport at Singapore, would be adequately convinced of the need for foreign management in our airports.

ZIA has been equipped with all the ultra modern facilities of international standard, but what about the safety standards?

I would request those who are opposing foreign management of our airports to please allow us to come out of the shell and try to see the world beyond. There are lots of examples of such deals round the world where management of ports and airports is done by the countries advanced in the field of aviation.

Biman made remarkable progress to be compared with the airlines of any advanced country in the world. But our ground handling and security could not keep pace with our in-service standards for which it is justifiable to invite foreign management to handle our airports till such time it becomes an eye opener for us to manage our own house in proper order.

CF Azim  
Dhaka

### A true picture

I thank Mr. Feroz M. Hasan for his write-up which draws a true picture of what 90% of our citizens want. Yes, we need a new movement, a new form of politicising, a new dimension and direction that will lead us out of misery, poverty, illiteracy and truly make us an "emerging tiger" from Asia. In fact, I agree with Mr. FM Hasan on nearly all the issues except one -- the party he represents and for which he is canvassing.

Why? Because I am not a blind man, I have eyes and am able to see. I am able to see through the lies and deceit that we are being told every day. "Bikolpo Dhara" is the same old wine in a new bottle or as we say in Bengali "Ekei Awnger Bhinno Roop". What does the BDB has that is different from the conventional political parties? Who are at the core of this party? It has the same people who were in other parties that had lied to us, gave false promises, cheated us and so on. The shining stars of the BDB had behaved the same way when they were in the BNP and/or



PHOTO: AFP

### Carry on, cricketers

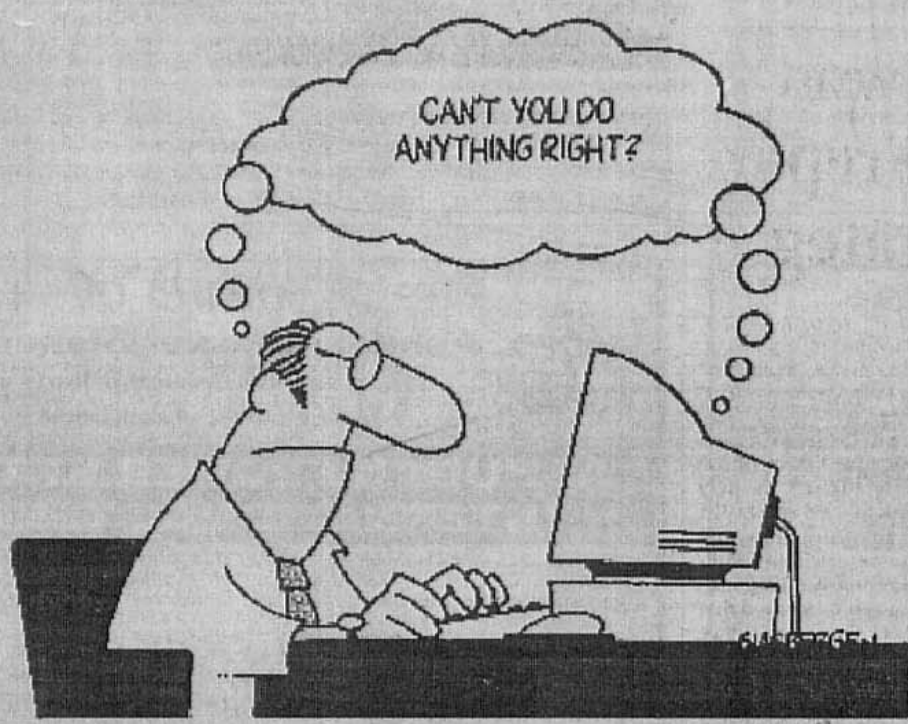
Soon the Tigers will take part in the Asia Cup to be held in Sri Lanka. At the moment the Tigers have everything including a dynamic coach like Dev Whatmore to play better.

We have talented players like Rafique, Sumon etc. We have a young worthy good bowling side. So there is reason to believe that our team can do better.

Saumitra Sarder Piklu  
Dhaka University

Cricket and specially Bangladeshi cricket is my life (you can say that). As I live abroad, I try to keep myself informed about the (Bengal) Tigers through electronic news media. Your newspaper is one of my sources. The Bangladesh Team are now in Sri Lanka preparing for the forthcoming Asia Cup. They have played a warm-up match against a Sri Lankan Invitational XI on Tuesday. Your newspaper reported the following day that the Tigers have won the match by 29 runs. Bangladesh Scored 265 runs for 7 wickets in their allotted 50 overs in reply the Sri Lankan team could only manage 236 for the loss of 8 wickets. The information I got from one of the Sri Lankan newspaper, the Daily News, was much rosier. According to the report published in their electronic version the Sri Lankan team, which they called Sri Lanka 'A' - 2, score only 136 runs losing 9 wickets. You can check it in their website <http://www.dailynews.lk/2004/07/07/spo03.html>. Dr M Sayeed Haque, Birmingham, UK

## Dream of an IT Village



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Computer Science has become a buzzword nowadays. The present government has been putting a lot of emphasis on computer and technology through speeches since the day it took office. However, they are showing a great negligence towards upgrading the present curriculum of Computer Studies in HSC and SSC levels. In order to make Bangladesh an IT village, we must use the potential of our secondary and higher secondary level students. But these students are learning age old concepts of computer science which is an ultra dynamic subject and changing every now and

then. Currently, there is hardly any topic which can help them show their potential. A programming language called Q-Basic was included in higher secondary curriculum, but it has now no acceptability at all to any IT organisation since it is the age of visual programming. Moreover, only a few reputed colleges are organising science and technology fair which should be promoted in all colleges in order to give their students more chance to present their own ideas. Topics like web-page designing, visual programming should be included in the context to encourage the creativity of the students. But

the government is showing no sign of interest in this issue.

It seems that they want to make Bangladesh an IT village only by decreasing the price of computer, which is nothing more than an absurdity. Does the government want to build a castle in the air? I think this is high time the concerned authorities realised the significance of upgrading the present computer studies curriculum and took immediate measures, because, while we are thinking of taking necessary steps, the technology is preparing to take a giant leap.

Sabbir Anwar  
Khilgaon, Dhaka

tics teaches to speak right thing at the right time and in right manner by the Right Person. In yet another incident, many have seen but perhaps no one commented so far, to my knowledge, about Mr. Sengupta's dismal conduct and demeanour while participating in a recent (a month back or so) talk show 'Tritio Matra' in a TV programme. The way he was annoyingly flexing his body and the way he shouted and behaved particularly with Mr. Zillur Rahman, the moderator, not to speak of his opponent of

deserve our praise for putting across to all, including hopefully the PM, sentiments with which most of us share fully.

From the very start, two things were obvious. First, the ruling part left no one in doubt that it would leave no stone unturned, both legal and fraudulent ones, to win. Second, the BNP attached to this election a matter of prestige, that it had to win this election to prove to the public that it was running the government effectively with public support.

While no one should fault the

reference, was one that the CEC should never have taken. He should have known how important his Commission is for conducting a fair election.

If someone had any doubt about the result, the way it was announced and the great speed with which Mr. Falu was given the oath as an MP removed even those lingering doubts. The inexplicable part of this sordid affair is that the BNP did not have to do any of this for it would have perhaps won this election, though by a reduced margin, with-



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