

B for Bangladeshi...

I applaud Ms. Srabonti Narmeen Ali for a poignant and passionate piece under the above title in which she reflects the thoughts of her generation. I will urge those from my generation and the handful of Freedom Fighters still around to read her piece. She points the finger rightfully at us when she writes, "...our parents fought for our country and gave us the gift of independence...However, where did they go from there?" So true. We fought the enemy, our comrades gave their lives and once we became free we let politicians take over and run the country as they wished. We, who fought thought we were such heroes and it was enough that we picked up arms to fight the Pakistan Army. So we relinquished our duties of making sure the DREAM of the People to make Bangladesh a Paradise on earth was realised. Yes, my young friend, you are so right in saying that this is not the Bangladesh anyone wants. As Freedom

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*Akku Chowdhury
Banani*

The Land of the Not So Free

Mustafa Zaman's article titled "The Land of the Not So Free" gives a chilling account of the double standards perpetuated by American foreign and domestic policy. He brings to attention all those unpleasant truths that politicians go through amazing lengths to hide. Zaman mentions Senator Daschle who had the gumption to criticise the Bush Administration for their fascist post September 11th legislation and policies. The write up mentions Gore Vidal's writing titled "The End of Liberty" which took months to get published. Vidal points out Osama Bin Laden's former involvement with the CIA as well as the FBI's murderous attacks on Waco evangelists that left 82 dead including 25 children. These and many more home truths have been revealed before but they get buried with time and propaganda. So it is important to highlight these gross violations committed by these "fighters of terrorism" again and again. I commend Zaman for his incisive writing and in touching a subject that is so controversial, yet so crucial.

*Roxana S. Islam
Banani*

Think About It...

After reading both of Kajalie Shehreen Islam's articles, "Til the Pages Go Blank" and "Baba/Ma, the World is a Horrible Place," I have to say that I have very little hope in my country. Both of her articles had to do with the social decline we are facing in Bangladesh. The first article was on the security of writers and journalists and the second one focused on the many kinds of harassment that women face. We ought to be ashamed of our country and the current state that it is in. I would like to thank Ms. Islam for writing two very well thought out and extremely coherent articles. Although I felt slightly depressed after reading them, I also feel that there is hope yet, if there are people like her out there, speaking out against injustice and wrongdoings in whatever way they can.

*Ahmad
On Email*

Correction

Last week's story Against Addiction by Faizul A Tanim reads as if CREA and Alo jointly organised a programme. In fact, CREA organised a half-day long programme on June 25, on their own.