

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.



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Neglected forests

I will not talk like a poet or a historian that Bangladesh is a country of lush green, but in fact it has only 6 per cent forest coverage compared to total land. According to ecologists, about 25 per cent forest is highly desirable for country's 'ecological balance'.

We all read and learn it, but don't realise it. In most countries, nature conservation, forest protection have been turned into a political issue. The forest department is in charge of looking after the forests. Do they nurse the forests or destroy them? A burning question.

Ronju Ahammad
Forestry Hostel
Chittagong University

ceremony at Dhaka Recourse Maidan when the Pakistani occupation forces were compelled to surrender to our valiant freedom fighters. The Bengalee nation achieved independence at the cost of millions of lives 33 years ago.

In an independent state like ours people are desperately looking forward to an exploitation and terrorism free society, equality of treatment and protection of Constitutional and Human Rights. If the state cannot ensure the democratic rights and economic emancipation of the people, the hard earned independence is bound to be useless.

So the first thing we have to ensure is separation of the judiciary from the executive in order to establish the rule of law in society without further delay.

Some unfortunate incidents in the higher judiciary caused serious disappointment among the people of the country. However, separation of the judiciary will solve the problem of executive control in an effective way.

Advocate MM Mujibur Rahman

Khulna



PHOTO: INTERNET

Bangabandhu's image

On the occasion of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's death anniversary (August 15), may I make some observations. The history that the BNP-Jamaat coalition government printed for our new generation, spending crores of taka, is full of lies and should be re-edited or cancelled. Major Ziaur Rahman announced independence on behalf of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman but in the new history it is not mentioned. Major Zia declared independence saying, "On behalf of our great leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman." General Ziaur Rahman had said that nobody could reach the position of the great leader like Bangabandhu which I learned from the writing of journalist Atta Samad. Bangabandhu was not an angel but a human being and a great leader who might have made some mistakes in the whirlpool of international and domestic politics at that time. The Awami League should not use Bangabandhu's name as a weapon to win votes. He is the father of the nation and should be kept above politics.

It is unfortunate that his killers have not been punished yet.

Kazi Firoz, Kosice, Slovakia

Fenchuganj power plant
The news item published in The Daily Star on August 9, 2004, under the heading "Fenchuganj Power Plant, Canadian Senator censures government move for re-tender" attracted my attention and the contents made me unhappy and muse about our government's lack of prudence.

The government's decision to invite fresh tenders for the Fenchuganj power plant ignoring a Canadian company's offer is an unwise move. It is unthinkable displeaseing the Canadian Senator, who had lobbied for removal of quotas and tariff on Bangladeshi exports to Canada.

Nurjahan, Chittagong

A cell-phone user's thought

I have found the Grameen Phone advertisement in The Daily Star describing the harms of missed calls. Good.

To me, a missed call means 'Kemon achho tumi?' - Missed call means 'Bhalo achhi'.

So, I appreciate missed calls at the personal level. A single missed call signifies so many things without any cost. So, it is normal to make missed calls. In our neighbouring countries the rate is very low in telecommunications. But that is not true about our context!

Palash Debnath, Dhaka

RAB image

This refers to a news item published in your esteemed Daily of 11 August under the caption "Deaths Darken Rab Image".

A soon as I read the report, the following images appeared in my mind's screen: RAB seems to have immense similarity with that of the Rakhi Bahini of the first Awami League government. Incidentally, the abbreviated nomenclature RAB could also pass for Rakhi Bahini.

The RAB operations seem to have a similarity with operation Clean Heart carried out earlier by the government. Pakistan who carried out a genocide in the then East Pakistan seem to have learnt some lessons from that experience, but not Bangladesh. Today the common people of the country are as much scared of the police and members of the various law enforcing agencies as they were with the very sight of the militia or the occupation forces in the then East Pakistan.

Shamsheer Chowdhury, Dhaka

Kabul scene

President Hamid Karzai surprised many in Kabul by entering the October presidential race with the brother of a



Indian democracy

India, a big, strong, stable democracy, peacefully conducted the elections. It is not the only election India has managed in a democratic atmosphere. Previously, a number of elections to the legislative bodies were held.

India has been practising democracy without any hindrance for 57 years after the British left the country. It has become customary in India that political parties respect other political parties and they expect the same from their rivals, although a few exceptions are there, but with no eventual effect on the total democratic picture of India.

We have the caretaker government system in Bangladesh. But has any one really noticed that the system is the result of mutual distrust? And that goes against the basic principles of democracy.

Mehdi Mamoon

Pallabi, Dhaka

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Sweeping allegations

Our attention was drawn to your staff correspondent's coverage of a seminar on 'Participatory assessment of problems of private universities' organised by BIIS. While we appreciate such highlighting of the problems of the private universities and constructive suggestions, we nonetheless take exception to such sweeping remarks as '.....none of the country's 52 private universities fulfill all the criteria required for registration under the Private University Act'. We beg to point out that it was not at all based on facts when Mr. Arifur

consider us as a competitor in any sector like industry, agriculture, IT, garments etc?

Can we afford to throw our cricket players out, those who are at least fighting for bringing pride to this nation?

Those days are not far away when our boys would no longer be the minnows. The Tigers will roar soon.

Tamjid
First Security Bank, Dhaka

When they win, we applaud and praise but when they are defeated we pour our wrath on the coach and players. Yes, I am talking about our consistently inconsistent national cricket team and our ever-optimistic mind. Their dismal performance in Asia Cup broke our hearts once again and raised many questions. We have never received any frank statement from our captain as far as our batting technique is concerned. However, you don't need to be a cricket guru to detect our batsmen's over-shuffling tendency which enhances the possibility of LBW. Moreover, Faisal Hossain, whose domestic

batting average is over 40(!), has awesome feet-movement (does they move at all?) and it unfolds the huge difference in quality between domestic and international cricket. Even after providing adequate facilities, economic security and good coaching-training stuff, the situation has not changed at all. Our scoreboard is still shuttling between 160 to 180 like 15-20 years ago. But why? Our captain doesn't know the answer.

The answer is, if you appoint the best tutor for a dull student, who doesn't have minimum ability or quality to learn, he will never be getting A+. Our cricket team is like a bad student of cricket under a good teacher. In an interview the former Sri Lankan captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, who has the experience of playing in Dhaka League, expressed his concern over our present cricket players' ability and performance. So, it's time we looked after our domestic cricket structure so that we can get players in future with real ability to learn from defeat and experience.

In response to the letter of Md. Fazlul Hossain (DS 9th August, 2004),

I want to make the point that though New Zealand took nearly 18-20 years to win their first Test match, they got very few chances of playing Test cricket unlike Bangladesh has been getting under ICC's home-and-away system. Yes, some 20 years back Sri Lanka was in no position to win the Asia Cup Tournament, but they had some quality players like Arvinda De Silva, Ranatunga, Dilip Mendis, Ashoka De Silva, etc.

But where are our counterparts? When Ranjit Fernando was asked to compare present Bangladesh and Sri Lanka of twenty years ago, he told that Sri Lanka had the capability of putting up stiff resistance in every match at that time but that is not true about Bangladesh.

Another point that I want to make is Whatmore's multi-skill theory. There is no doubt that it needs a match winner (quality cricket player) to win a match. Mini all-rounders jack of all trades, master of none may play some face-saving cricket but will never be match winners.

Aibir Rahman
Dept. of CSE, DU

routine manner; and by the afternoon the tension pile up. Good cricket is an emotional purgative, if not tonic. By the way, you can play platonistic cricket at home, alone, either with the bat or with the ball, not both. Imagination was bestowed on the humans for temporary escape. Can the other living creatures indulge in such imagination?

Cricket is like predicting the weather: there are too many variable factors (occurring within milliseconds in four dimensions) to be taken into consideration. The computer can calculate, but how to, and who will feed the machine fast enough to compute the outcome? it is one person batting against eleven opponents; plus the possible misjudgment with the batting partner passive at the other end.

What is the difference between the philosophy of cricket and life? Not much. Sunshine, some good harvests, adversities, the highs and the lows, some nasty bouts of weather and storms, floods; some smooth rides, and the time to laze in the sun (while fielding, meditating reflectively but alert). Cricket (or life) is continuous monitoring of different types of feedback's all the time. Cannot relax till the last bowl (offlife) is bowled.

The relationship between the bat and the ball is not hostile. It is effortlessness which wins-the sing of a master artist. The aim is to play better, regardless of the result. The Japanese martial arts are not based on hostility or enmity. The ball is coming to caress the bat! it is the mother-child relationship. Nothing could be simpler. The right stroke leaves the fielders standing. That is the beginning of art.

AMM Abad, Dhaka

concerned.

I think the points raised by Mr. Bartholomew deserve close attention.

Md. Mostafizur Rahman
Sadaat College

Karaita, Tangail

Mr. Jinnah's intended radio broadcast

In his column, 'Between the Lines' (Pakistan and Indian Muslims, 7 August 2004) Kuldip Nayar has made some observations about Mr. Jinnah. Mr. Nayar writes, Jinnah thought that in Pakistan, 'Politics would not be mixed with religion. He even promised more. But the custodians of Pakistan did not allow his words to be broadcast over the radio, lest what they had in mind should get jeopardized.'

Does anyone, amongst your readers, knows what Mr. Jinnah wanted to say? Could anyone refer to any source about this particular statement of Mr. Kuldip Nayar? I would even request Mr. Nayar, through your paper, to elaborate on this point and quote some reference about Mr. Jinnah's intended broadcast and how that was not allowed to go on the air.

AZM Abdul Ali
Uttara, Dhaka

English medium schools

I have gone through the interview of British Council Country Examinations Manager, Mark Bartholomew, with Tahmina Shafique published in The Daily Star on 25 July, 2004. In the interview, he has projected a total picture of English medium schools in Bangladesh. He has criticised our educational system and environment in the institutions. He has emphasised the need for playing and travelling as far as students are

We all start the morning in the