

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: AFP

Casting aspersions

My attention has been drawn to a news item published in your esteemed Daily of 22 September "HR body during government tenure".

I have gone through the remarks made by the UNDP Representative apparently in response to an earlier remark by Mr. Saifur Rahman. I would like to refer to a particular comment "People of Bangladesh get into Airbus while travelling abroad but Airbus is not made in Bangladesh. Then why people put their trust in Airbus". How much does Mr. Lissner know about the people of Bangladesh? A very fine comment indeed!! It is aggressive casting aspersions on the very intelligence and honour of the people of Bangladesh as a whole. Of late, it has become a fashion for many diplomats of foreign missions and privileged expatriates to make comments on our "affairs" which do tantamount to interfering into our internal matters. These comments are reflective of a kind of prevailing arrogance of the western society as a whole and most certainly aimed at poor nations. As for Mr. Lissner, let me remind readers that he has a track record of making remarks of the same kind in not too distant a past. The comment is highly suggestive in nature.

Shamsher Chowdhury, Dhaka

We love English

We want to live, love, write, and communicate in English. Like Adrian Rich, we dream of a common language. "I want to make a planet called English; English communication, understanding, and peace for everyone. Even if I have to communicate with some wonderful alien beings from another planet." (Estelle) Communication is vital between nations, lovers, and friends. Sometimes we say that a certain region has a certain language. But if we travel through places such as India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, or China, we can see that one language may have many dialects. For example, we can say that people speak Hindi, but there are many dialects. In a small country like Bangladesh, the language is Bengali, but all the people speak different dialects, hundreds of dialects. This happens in most countries. In Bangladesh, most of the time, we cannot hear standard Bengali. Sometimes, it is difficult to understand what most people in Bangladesh are saying because the words and dialects are so different. In the US, the people use many different kinds of English and the same happens in England. There is standard English, street English, slang, Creole English (Louisiana), cowboy English and so on. Well, the history of the Tower of Babel made everyone speak in different tongues and no one would understand each other. There are too many languages and we can't learn all of them or get to know people.

There is only one language that is common. English is very important and necessary for international communication, science and peace. **Estelle Mahnuma, Suchitra, FM Chaudhury, M Shahi Gulshan 2, Dhaka**

Pitfalls of looking East

I read Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed's article and a few letters in favour and against it in this page.

A lot of what Dr. Ahmed has written against India is correct. How-

ever, the recommendations he has made based on his perceptions of the Indian attitude came more from his heart and perhaps cannot and would not stand critical analysis.

We may be frustrated by the Indian attitude like Dr. Ahmed. But his recommendation to leave SAARC and join ASEAN does not suggest his understanding of the dynamics of international politics. He wrote of many ASEAN countries valuing their relations with us and ready "to court our friendship." This is an over-simplified statement and in no way should lead to his next

danger. Sri Lanka, in the early 1980s, emboldened by its growing economic stature, tried to leave South Asia for ASEAN and incurred Indian wrath. Rest is history. For better or for worse, our location is South Asia where India happens to be the dominant power. We have just got to learn to live with India. How well we adjust is the test of our diplomatic skills, something that the foreign minister singularly failed to demonstrate with his most recent outbursts. Even if ASEAN would like to let us join it, which is not the case, we would not be able to do so, should the Indians

different angle."

How felicitous, indeed, are the words against the backdrop of your front-paged commentary titled, "Hon Speaker, you could have taken the JS to a greater height!" You've seen it from your own angle of the chandelier. I do respect your right to do so. But there are other angles too that call for your appreciation and respect. Therefore, please forgive me if I do not accept your views as the alpha and omega because they represent only one angle of the light fixture.

You've upbraided the JS Speaker,

Hijab

This is in response to SN Mamoon's letter of Sept 17, in which he made outrageous comments on Hijab.

Muslim women are not so dumb that they would wear Hijab or head-scarf under duress to please the patriarchs of their family. Most of these women are donning Hijab just because they know very well that Allah commanded them in the Holy Quran to wear modest clothes, including the head covering (Quran, 24:31; 33:59). Not only that, these young ladies are confident enough to make their own decision. They know what they are doing, and it doesn't matter to them how hard the people of their previous generation (i.e. "religious" people of "pre 1971 days" according to Mr. Mamoon) wanted to distort the message of the Holy Quran and Sunnah out of ignorance.

No one has any right to prevent a woman from wearing Hijab or making harsh comments on her head-scarf, that would be tantamount to encroaching on her liberty. **Shukla Mirza, Doha, Qatar**

Woe of rains

Typically, rain is pleasant to all. But we, the dwellers of Dhaka city have gathered a bitter experience lately. We were marooned for long four days due to incessant rains. Most parts of Dhaka city were deluged. The main thoroughfares were waterlogged. But if we analyse the reasons behind this mishap, we find some faults of utility service providers.

DCC, RAJUK and WASA are responsible for this. We cannot stymie any calamity, but we can minimise the sufferings of the people. If DCC, RAJUK and WASA were dynamic and service-oriented, natural disaster could not be so calamitous. These institutes are very lethargic and corrupt.

Molla Mohammad Shaheen Dept of English, DU



PHOTO: STAR

Tigers protest!

News from Sundarbans-- the Royal Bengal Tigers have started a fast unto death to realise their one point demand, that is, to disassociate themselves from the national cricket team that uses their name. All these started when some tigers tried to commit suicide by drowning after learning the results of the recent ICC Trophy. Some senior tigers reportedly persuaded them to give up their fatal mission (as they are already on the brink of extinction). The dears are roaming tantalisingly near them. But the tigers are continuing their fast and showing utmost indifference to the presence of dears to safeguard their self-esteem.

Self-esteem is something we are lacking right now. I hope the clowns in the national team who like to claim them as cricketers will give up cricket (to which they give so little time and go by the name of professional cricketer and earn a hefty amount per month from BCB) and mind their own business which is always high in their agenda. **Sumon, Dhaka**

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Tiger or tail?

Our rain drenched and flood wetted cricketing Tigers have slunk back from the jungle trails of ICC with their tail between the legs, and a woeful countenance. We the unfortunate Tiger fans are meanwhile pitifully mewing in sorrow and anguish. Since luck and chance plays a significant role in cricket, particularly one day cricket; with our pitiable standard of cricketing technique and temperament; may be we should seriously look into transforming our luck!

One way to woo lady luck could be by changing the name and mascot of our team; from the elusive and majestic Tiger to the ever cunning Cat. Cats are said to be lucky and according to some are bestowed with "nine lives"; an appreciation of their luck and cunning ways. They even have the uncanny habit of landing on their four feet, no matter even if they fall deliberately or otherwise! May be this trait is badly needed among our cricketers. What more could an anguished and disappointed fan propose? Even Whatmore our coach seems to have lost his aplomb at long last! Some wags suggest that we call our team "Tiger Bai", since the way other tigers have mauled us at the ICC tournament.

Puns aside; after the tour of New Zealand; it should be time for us to take a hard look at our cricket and decide if we are fit

for further participation in the international arena or not; at least for the next decade or so, while we do our homework properly. **SA Mansoor, Gulshan, Dhaka**

Another view of cricket

We have got a very good coach, Dav Whatmore, who takes it as a challenge. Let's give him time, let him do what he wants, Bangladesh must progress.

Bangladesh has got some talented young stars and there are more to come; they need proper nourishment and confidence, nothing else.

I am very optimistic that Bangladesh will overcome these problems with Dav Whatmore.

Rezaul Karim Imon, Motijheel, Dhaka

It has been a nightmare to see our cricketers playing at their lowest level. Even Kenya and

cricket

I shall keep this reasonably brief. I'm a follower of Bangladesh cricket from abroad. I was born and raised in the UK, yet have a passion/love for the Bangladesh team. I was privileged to attend the only significant victory Bangladesh have achieved on the international front - i.e. the defeat of Pakistan in the 1999 World Cup.

I attended the disappointing match last Sunday, when Bangladesh lost to South Africa. I feel as though the team has not really progressed in the time between these two occasions. The team of recent years has been a young one (one or two players notwithstanding). I thought this was a good policy -- as the players would hopefully develop, with exposure to the highest level of competition.

This has not happened. We have one or two good signs on the batting front, but very little of praise on the bowling front



PHOTO: AFP

the US batted better than our boys. I think our cricketers are overpaid underachievers. They exactly don't know which ball to play and that is absolutely pathetic. I think we have been in big cricket for too long and the boys should play better cricket by now. Have we tried to solve the problem of our poor performance? I don't think so but we are busy finger-pointing at each other. For a poor country we are blessed with money in cricket and the fans are paying for all the expenses. The board should understand that if fans get over-bored, then cricket will be totally wiped off from the country.

We have the best coach not the best selectors. We need better foundation at the basic level, that is school or college level.

Belal Atcha, Toronto, Canada

Bangladesh

and I fear a defeat mentality may soon enter the minds of the present crop of players. I think gradual change is therefore needed. In a country of such large number, I find it difficult to comprehend why we cannot produce decent players, whilst Sri Lanka can do so on their part.

My overall message is this - we've watched a young side persevere with dedication and application on occasion (demonstrating abject weakness at other times) - but this team is not good enough. Keep a core of the players, but select a new set of lads - and don't go back to the tried/tested/failed unless there is a clear indication that they have made improvement.

Ruhel London, UK



PHOTO: AFP

Migrant issue

I again refer to the letter 'Why I am not a migrant' from Dr. OM Ohidul Alam (DS 06/09/04).

So far, I have seen two responses to the above letter. Just like the two previous writers appreciate what Mr. Alam has done for Bangladesh and disagree with his mistaken painting of migrants as opportunists who are not doing anything for Bangladesh. I also share their view. I think Mr. Alam was too narrow in his vision. Probably he

forgot there are thousands of Bangladeshis living in posh areas of Dhaka and Chittagong and not doing anything whatsoever for the country. Then who are to blame more? Those who live in Bangladesh and do nothing or those who live outside Bangladesh and do nothing? Anyway, there are a lot of migrants who are contributing to the social uplift of Bangladesh. So, the point is not where someone lives. It's about the mentality of the

individual person.

Did Mr. Alam ever think who is to blame for the present social and economic condition of Bangladesh. It's not because of those who left Bangladesh or those middle class families living in Bangladesh and have difficulty meeting ends. It's the corrupt politicians and the extremely greedy rich people of our country. If anyone is to blame, let's talk about these people. Unnecessarily pointing fingers to migrants will not help

improve the present situation of Bangladesh.

Mr. Alam probably doesn't know that Bangladesh consistently has the highest amount of applications for DV Visa Lottery Program and for the Canadian Immigration. Also, Bangladesh almost always gets the highest amount of actual DV winners in the whole world. So, the desire to leave Bangladesh is pervasive. There are very few people left in Bangladesh (probably Mr. Alam is one of

them) who didn't apply at least once for DV Lottery. What does that tell us? In this 21st century, people will seek better opportunities and better life this century.

Bottom line, I just don't want to be a pawn of those corrupt politicians and give my life for their utter selfish betterment. Give me an opportunity to truly contribute, probably I will be the first one. **Nayeem Mano USA**