

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.

Stop mass arrests



PHOTO: AFP

It is indeed sad that we, the general people of Bangladesh, are facing a lot of problems due to political instability. The ruling as well as the opposition party is responsible for this. From our point of view we can say that the ruling party should show patience in dealing with opposition activities. But the government has failed in this respect. Thousands of opposition activists are being arrested and the situation is going from bad to worse. Among the victims, a big portion has no connection with politics.

The government should be a little more tolerant.

Mamun Ali Khan, CMA, ICMAB, Dhaka

It seems to me that the so called mass arrests in April and the new round of mass arrests are nothing more than a method for the police to cash in on an activity used by terrorists with so much success--kidnapping for ransom. Despite what the opposition says, I'm inclined to believe the police when they say that the

arrests are not politically motivated. It seems that they are motivated by money.

Those who are arrested are generally the poor who do not have a legal recourse or do not have adequate "contacts" to help them get out of their predicament. So the only option for them is to buy their way out of prison. And since there have been no charges filed against any of them or even proper records of their having been arrested, it's very easy for the police to simply let them out of their cages once payment has been made. Is it surprising? No! Their failure to arrest even one kidnapper of businessmen seems to me as an act of collusion and not one of incompetence. And it was only a matter of time before they created their own little earning regime from the scheme that they don't have to share with criminals.

No newspaper has yet reported on how many of those arrested since April are still in prison and how many have been charged with any crime. **Saif Ahmed, Mohammedpur, Dhaka**

Those names!
I have noted with interest the letter on the above subject in your daily on 29 September, 2004. I think name giving as per the animal world goes to the idea of associating the strength or ferocity of the animal concerned. For instance, Cobra or Cheetah are synonymous with ferocity or strength. Hence the elite groups have been named after them to show their performance.

The idea is to call them by other names which symbolise power that unfortunately they lack. That's why we call them Cheetah or Cobra or Tiger, so that they feel elevated.

Doyen
Shantinagar, Dhaka

Flyover boon or bane?

There are 17 railway crossings in Dhaka city. The ill-fated city dwellers have witnessed the mockery of their time, money and energy in the name of the construction of the Mohakhali flyover, the usefulness of which is still doubtful. I wonder why the big mouthed decision makers of the communication ministry don't shift the railway station from Kamalapur to Tongi, as all the trains connecting

all the rail destinations in this country go through the Tongi station. This would undoubtedly relieve this near-to-collapse city to great extent.

Also the cost of rearranging rail tracks and building a modern railway station outside the capital would definitely be far less than building 16 more flyovers in this densely populated city. **Shehzad Bin Shams**
DOHS, Baridhara, Dhaka

Prejudice (brain drain)

We would like to express our views

the hijab just because it bears the sign of a particular religion, won't it be expression of resentment and zeal against a particular religion "Islam"? Isn't it a sort of "extremism"? The Cross bears the sign of a particular religion, so why not ban that?

Cantara Wali Ruhni
Dept of English, JU

Intellectual poverty?

I speak of architecture as a part of the cultural whole and this must be read in that context. Have you ever wondered why historic preservation in architecture is a much-hyped academic and media cliché these days? Perhaps because it is sometimes seen as a cultural icon and an identity issue. This sensationalism also arises in part when there is a vacuum in modern design thinking.

When a large part of the practice cannot innovate and give society a new icon and direction but finds it convenient and far easier to adopt off the shelf global models, the society suffers. It suffers from a lack of identity that arises from a failure to invent aesthetic and spatial inspirations and formulation of new icons. This inevitably leads to a distorted collage of borrowed aesthetics and displaced identity.

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