

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.

## Reanimation of folk songs



If you have a keen ear for music listen to 'Shona Bondhu' album composed, arranged and conceptualized by Bappa Mozumder, and 'Maya' by Habib. They have promoted the tradition of classical heritage to the accompaniment of fusion of old and modern instruments such as tabla, flute, guitar, keyboard etc that might raise anyone's

only if not the most important tie his kids can ever have with their relatives back home. Otherwise, no matter how many times we bring our kids to Bangladesh every other year or so to visit their grandparents and other relatives (like most of us do), they will go back hoping not having to come back to Bangladesh again. Not being able to communicate with and share thoughts with others would make them totally uninterested in anything or anyone in their parents' native country.

I fail to understand how the second generation kids from our neighboring nations like India and Pakistan and other foreign countries can appreciate their culture and speak fluently in their respective languages, at least at home; while Bangladeshi kids tend to show disinclination to Bangla.

When I decided to make US my home a few years ago along with other first generation parents, among other things, I conceded to the idea that my kids will not be too well conversant in Bangla. It would be almost illusory for me to expect my child to read and understand verses from Tagore in Bangla but would it be too much for me to ask for him to at least communicate at home in Bangla?

I do not think I am asking for too much. I have noticed with my own 6-year old that all I had to do is speak in Bangla with him at home.

I strongly believe that if we want, as parents, we can at least have our kids speak in Bangla, if not anything more.

**Halimul Mannan**  
Monroe, Louisiana, US

## Karnaphuli Bridge

The news on ntv prompts me to write in this column of your daily. Other reactions appeared in other dailies too, but the administration seems keen to have this bridge on the Karnaphuli river. Big political promises of tunnel etc. remained as utopian projects, and none became a reality. At last in April '04 the PM laid the long promised foundation of 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge.

The dilly dalling in building the bridge is a mystery. It is hoped that it will be built with a sense of urgency to improve communication in the Chittagong region.

**Ahmed R Choudhry**  
Uttara, Dhaka

## Open University

Recently, I completed my HSC through Open University and this time the authorities concerned were really quick to publish the results. So I would like to thank them wholeheartedly on behalf of all the students. Open University is a noble concept to spread the light of education among the less fortunate pupils who couldn't complete their study in due time for various reasons.

Now I would like to point out the problem of inadequate number of tutorial sessions. Usually there are two classes on every alternate Friday in a month, which I think are not sufficient for students to comprehend the designed text properly. So it will be very handy for students if the number of tutorial sessions is doubled. I would request the authorities to consider the above mentioned proposal for the greater welfare of the students of Open University.

**MSH, Topkhana Road**  
Dhaka 1000

## 'Hijab Issue'

The letter published on April 04 under the heading 'Hijab issue' by Ms. Cantara Wali Ruhi caught my attention. I am very happy to know that someone who had a very negative impression on the practice of wearing 'hijab' has understood the necessity of hijab for women and repented for the ignorant remarks made in her intellectual infancy.

However, more appreciably she has started wearing scarf after having studied the subject. Nowadays we see many young women at the university level wearing hijab. But quite unfortunately many of them do not understand its real value.

Everybody should know that hijab is compulsory for Muslim women.

**Md. Arif Sadeq**  
Department of English  
University of Dhaka

## Political scenario

I am not an expert who can express opinions clearly through newspapers. But what I am most concerned about is the situation in this impoverished country of 130 million people.

So I cannot keep quiet. As we see the so-called political parties in our country and their activities, it seems we are puppets in their hands. The goal of politics should be betterment of people and the whole nation. But things are not going the right way. At present most of the political leaders (88%) in Bangladesh are businessmen. Why parliament seats are virtually auctioned?

People want to know whether the politicians love the country or not.

Why money and muscle have become the main instruments in our politics? These questions need to be answered in the interest of the nation.

**Md Rozaer Hossen**  
Harinuthpur, Gaibandha

## Rab

Many people were very happy, to my mind, to see Rab going into operation against terrorists, but recent reports are really disappoint-

chain smokers like me to cut down gradually without being harassed here and there.

**Ahmed**  
On e-mail

## Pronunciation

This is the response to the letter with the heading "Smart people's English" published in the March 27 edition of the DS. I hope the writer would not deny that correct pronunciation of any language is a part of perfection and perfection is an ingredient of smartness.

It is true that there are many talented smart people with inferior pronunciations. They have been placed in important sectors (e.g. research, teaching, medical professions in the U.S) but not television where pronunciation is one of the key issues to present any news perfectly.

And the last time I also checked, everybody raised their voice and said those talented smart people would be smarter if they could use correct pronunciation in their speech.

I agree with Mr. Babar Anwar that one should not use words like "what the hell?" But, when we see an eminent person or any important TV announcer, who is also a representative of the nation, using wrong and distorted pronunciations, it hurts.


We should take the issue seriously.

**Tamjiduzzaman, Mirpur-1, Dhaka**

## Woes of a young girl

Rozy, a young Bihari girl aged only 16, used to feel insecure in her daily life. She is tall, eye-catching and attractive. But these qualities are going to mar security in her life. She is living in a Bihari community situated in Bejpara, Jessore. Her father is living in Pakistan. She has not even seen him. She used to live with her poor mother. They are living in a very small house with her

We want development, progress, proper utilization of our whole population, but it is nothing more than crying in the wilderness. Because the women who are covering up the half of our whole population cannot participate in the development process for lack of proper education.



## Female education

Women must be active citizens contributing to the material and intellectual wealth of the country. So the government must make sincere efforts to catch up with the advanced countries of the world by providing proper education to the women.

**Nazmus Shaker Nafi, Dhaka College, Dhaka**

feeling a bit secure. Such issues need to be addressed by social organisations.

**Mostafa Sohel**  
Nordic Agriculture Academy  
Odense, Denmark

## Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms

A new registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms was appointed in March 2005. As soon as he got the appointment, he was sent abroad for "Training" for a period of two and half months, without anybody else to carry out his responsibilities as the "Acting Registrar".

Consequently, all the applications for registering various kinds of companies, firms, trusts, societies etc. are left pending till the newly appointed registrar comes back from his training, tentatively after two more months from now.

This situation has left many applicants in a limbo, and trade and business are suffering due to this irresponsibility of the Joint Stock Companies & Firms.

The situation needs to be rectified as soon as possible, and an appeal is hereby made to the appropriate authorities to take proper steps to make the registration process regular with immediate effect.

**S Quoreshi, Dhaka**

## The ruling class

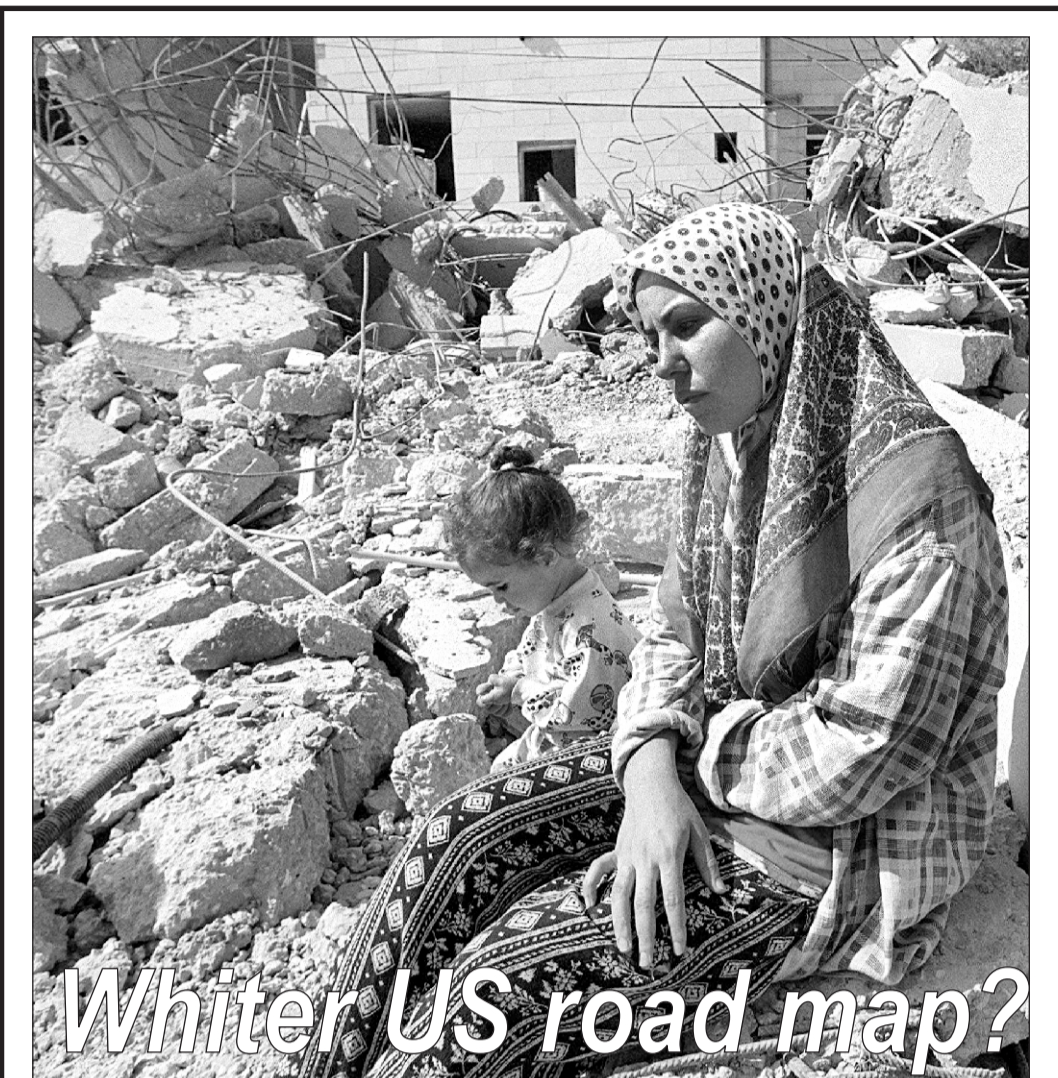
Enjoyed the unusual article "The ruling class in Bangladesh" (DS Independent Day supplement). Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, always very readable, displayed that extra moral courage to present to the public a clinical dissection of the debased art of power puppet dance controlled from behind the stage (since the British left). He was uncomforably frank with his analysis, and those attacked should respond, to create a national debate on this hot and slippery issue. These special but powerful coteries of power and wealth seekers avoid direct confrontation through clever diversion movements.

The politicians are boring personalities, as the system loss in local politics is very high. They operate with small footprints, and cannot get out of politics for a while. This game of the under-inflated ball travels like pervading epidemic through the second-rate filters of the changing society. The vast majority of the voters citizens are not directly and actively interested in this 'profession', avocation, or hobby. They play with black balls, in grey environment, and use invisible purdah (veil). These ranting are released for equaliser effects. Now the business magnates have joined the club, diverting politics into big business.

Unless the society can reduce the communication and economical gaps at the vertical levels, the future of the country is not bright, judging by the menu offered by the political jugglers for more than a century. The monotony of approaches by the different political leaders lead to the indirect conclusion that various hidden agendas continue to be patronised.

The jealousy rift is ripe to the core: notice that the name of Sk Mujibur Rahman was hardly mentioned officially during the Independence Day 2005 official celebrations.

Now religion has actively and openly entered into Dhaka politics,



Whiter US road map?

Due to their internal feud and hatred the Jews themselves had destroyed their own Jewish state of Israel in 721 BC. The Assyrians invaded and conquered Israel. Thousands of Jews were taken prisoners and slaves and thousands of Jews left their homeland for distant countries in search of their livelihood. For over two thousand years the Jews lived as vagabonds in different countries. There was no existence of the state of Israel, Israel was totally lost, forgotten and wiped away from the map of the world.

During the First World War the British forces invaded the Muslim Ottoman Empire of Turkey and cut it into pieces. The British hordes in collaboration with American capitalists hatched a heinous conspiracy to settle the stateless Jews in the heart of Arab land Palestine and to follow the policy of 'divide and rule in the Arab world. The Anglo-American duo invited and enticed the Jews to migrate and settle down in Palestine. They provided the Jews with all kinds of help and assistance, economic and military aid.

Encouraged and overwhelmed by the generosity and support of the US and the UK the Jewish settlers in Palestine started a reign of terror, oppressed and suppressed the Palestinians, murdered count Folke Bernadotte, the UN mediator in Palestine, and in defiance of all international conventions, laws and regulations unilaterally proclaimed the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. The US and UK promptly accorded recognition to the illegal state of Israel.

In 1967 Israel captured vast territories of several Arab countries, West Bank including Jerusalem of Jordan, Golan Heights of Syria and Sinai Peninsula of Egypt.

In the past the Israeli Jews suffered tremendously and their sufferings knew no bound. They were plundered and killed by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans and were persecuted in several European countries like Spain, Russia, Austria and Germany. The great holocaust of 1933-1945 is still fresh in our memory. It is very unfortunate that the Jews of Israel have not taken any lesson from the dark pages of their history. They are now merely overjoyed and greedily engaged with the illegal possession of Arab land of Palestine.

The great Palestinian leader Yaseer Arafat left no stone unturned for the peaceful solution and independence of Palestine. But he was blamed, betrayed and boycotted by the Israeli and the US leaders to hide their (US-Israeli) lapses, omissions, excesses, chicaneries, violations and dishonesty to keep Palestine under Israeli subjugation as long as possible.

We wonder if US President George Bush and the Israeli Prime Minister Sharon in the name of democracy and international terrorism are adding fuel to the fire in the Middle East.

Whither the US road map for peace and independence of Palestine?  
**O H Kabir, Dhaka-1203**

for which the political culture is responsible over the world. The current jote regime (coalition of convenience) is a beginning of the shape of things to emerge sooner than later. Not only mental preparation is necessary, but also physical contingency arrangements, by individuals and groups.

It appears that a fall-out is coming there is no other viable alternative, when invisible walls and fortifications are being strengthened. Give more time to non-political agendas. There is no rainbow in darkness; or coming out of black holes.

The gravitational pull of these black holes is legendary, but that is the equation high above in the sky. Man-made tactics are transient, as there is no escape from the timeless law of compensation. Chawa-pawa (desire and want) has an auxiliary

clause: the price has to be paid ultimately.

The punishment is inflicted indirectly in most cases: "easy come, easy go", as the readers note every day in the newspapers. The medical services sector is booming, in this 'healthy' society. Of course the leaders have to be cured; but there is, apparently, never any shortage. Mass production, with premature perfection! The quality of leadership is inversely proportional to the generation of noise.

We fumble with objectives, and have no stamina for principles. The polemics in politics is self-centred. A true leader hides his centre, including universal appeal.

Bottled water is easy business. So is bottled coke (more than 90% water). Drops of water make holes in the stones below. Search for leaders with the humility of water (seeks the lowest point). Turbulence in water is due to the environment. Back to square one and andolon (mass movement). Against whom?  
**A. Mawaez, On e-mail**

## An unkind statement

The deputy education minister Ehsanul Haque Milan has recently declared that the teachers helping the examinees in adopting unfair means in SSC exams shall be subjected to crossfire. Such statement purports to be unkind in that nobody has the right to take away the life of a seemingly guilty person without placing him on the clutch of law. I do not mean that a teacher should be corrupt. I only mean that a teacher is just not anybody. He is the conscience of the nation. If he supplies copies, it is because of the pressure of some political leaders. The honorable deputy minister has presumably forgotten that he had been a bona fide student of some poor teachers in one way or the other.

Bangladesh has been dubbed as the number one corrupt county not for the teachers but for the corrupt clerks, officials, bureaucrats and top level leaders. Had he brought those people under "crossfire", Bangladesh would have been a safer place. But will he do that? I am afraid he won't.  
**K M Shafiqur Rahman, Bogra**

# Hapless children...



Please help them. I often see on the way to my college that many children are engaged in laborious jobs. It is poverty that compelled them to do this kind of jobs. Poverty is a great barrier to education. They want to study but they cannot. There are many rich men living in this country who travel in luxurious cars on the city streets. If they want they can do a lot for the poor children. They can help them for their education and better living.

We have to understand one thing that without them it would not be possible to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

**G.M. Rezwan Rasul**  
City College, Dhaka