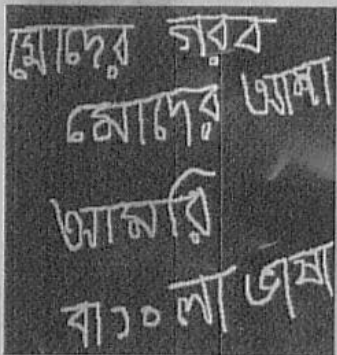


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

PRESERVE OUR MUSIC



VERY recently, I listened attentively to some Bangla songs as music has a refreshing effect on my mood. But I was very shocked and confused as most of the songs had poor lyrics and compositions. I wanted to buy some quality cassettes. In my opinion if a singer can't pronounce Bangla very well, he should not sing Bangla songs. Who gave these singers the right to distort our language?

We had, and still have, many talented artists who are true representatives of our culture. We should follow them and refrain from doing anything that goes against our cultural ethos and language. Md. Toufique Rahman
Rothkola, Kishoreganj

THE on-going debate started by Mahmudul Haque about

local rock bands seems to be about two main topics. Firstly, the kind of music that they play, and secondly, the Bangla accent distortion by the band vocalists.

Well, on the first topic, what is the point of talking about how good or bad you think a certain type of music is in a newspaper; everyone has his own taste in music. So get over it! Local rock bands like playing their type of loud and fast music, let them do so. The s point of making music is to do what you like.

Now about the Bangla accent distortion. Mahmudul Haque and Shaikat Islam have said that the singers should sing in English rather than in their own 'distorted' form of Bangla.

Can't they just be happy that these singers are showing pride in their culture and heritage by actually singing in Bangla? They complain about accents being 'foreign and funny', well countless English music bands sing in many different accents and no one complains about it, its all about having your own individual style.

Mahmudul Haque and Shaikat Islam complain about 'distorting' Bangla; they would do well to remember that like every other modern language, Bengali originated from different ancient languages and has evolved, or like they like to say, 'distorted' from its original

form. I'm sure the Bengali we speak today is very different from the Bengali that was spoken when it was in its formative years, so how does that make you any different from the modern local rock bands? In fact, since you say that language should be kept intact in its original form, by your logic we should not have changed the original language of mankind--the language of ancient cavemen!

Naveed Ahmed
One-mail

I don't know how much in-depth knowledge Shaikat Islam (D.S 9.5.05) has on music, or what his opinion on music actually is, but some of his comments on the present music scene of Bangladesh are absolutely irrational. For instance, he claimed that just accompanying thunder drums and high decibel guitar riffs and screaming vocals don't make one a 'metal' or 'underground' band. But the fact of the matter is if Shaikat Islam did his homework properly, he would know that high decibel guitar riffs, thunder drums and screaming vocals don't define underground bands, neither a metal band, as he so aptly put it. The other comment he made is 'can he say

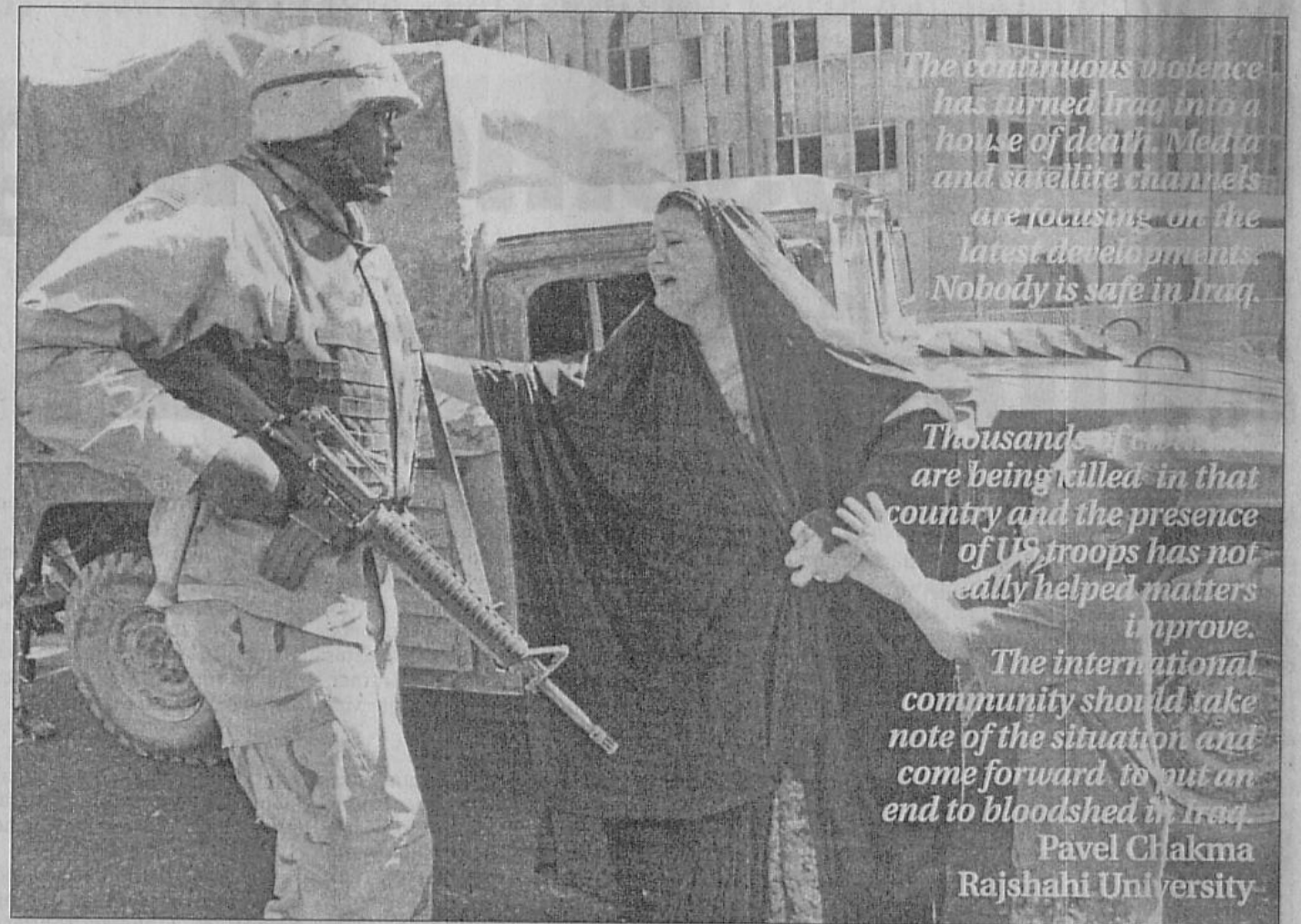
confidently that all these present genre bands are creating 'art and music?' referring to Arafat Kazi. Well, once again, who is to define what's art and music? For musicians, instrumental songs of Dream Theatre provide one of the pinnacles of instrumental artwork, which are so creative that even the best musicians in the world are awed by their creative finesse.

Although I am not a big fan of Dream Theatre, but rather of metal music, I can still appreciate their music since I listen to music of that end of the spectrum, but someone not so inclined on metal music might comprehend the instrumental artwork as being just noisy.

When it comes to music, there is no defining 'art and music'. And before I finish off, don't judge other young genre musicians by what the vocalist of Black has cooked up. I know his voice sounds so constipated that it often you wonder whether he is trying to put an accent really badly, but his voice is not the yardstick for the Bangladeshi music scene.

One errant fellow in the music scene of the country doesn't mean all of them are like that. Asifur Rahman Khan
Ramna, Dhaka

Iraq situation



The continuous violence has turned Iraq into a house of death. Media and satellite channels are focusing on the latest developments. Nobody is safe in Iraq.

Thousands of innocent people are being killed in that country and the presence of US troops has not really helped matters improve.

The international community should take note of the situation and come forward to put an end to bloodshed in Iraq.

Pavel Chakma
Rajshahi University

Pronounce correctly

I read the letter by C. W. Ruhi with interest. Pronouncing English correctly is a challenge for most of the Bangladeshis and we should not be blamed for this. This is a kind of naturally acquired handicap for all of us. How an English word is pronounced has very little to do with how it is spelled. Then there is the added difficulty of speaking in American, British or Australian way.

should not be the way to start something, which would benefit you throughout your whole life. M.A. Islam, US

We can say we know English when we have good command in four skills of learning the language like listening, speaking, reading and writing. Among the four skills, listening is the most difficult one as we don't know the correct pronunciation. It creates a lot of

to raise the temperature of the atmosphere, and that is turning into a grave threat for all the living beings on earth. For solving the problem recently a law has been enacted in Japan. The law has the provision to have at least 20% vegetation on the rooftop of each building of Japan. It's not only helpful to protect us from Greenhouse Effect but also helps us in many other ways.

Vegetation or gardening on the

need for having green patches.

So we can easily adopt the idea and implement it to ensure a healthy environment. Imagine the rooftops of all the buildings of Dhaka city are covered with green plants and colourful flowers; how beautiful it will look!

Barsha
Uttara, Dhaka

Smokers are dishonest!

A lot of writings have appeared in

When he becomes an adult and gets a job, he has to be dishonest to meet the extra expenditures that smoking invariably entails. So I want to say that a non-smoker may be honest or dishonest, but a smoker is very likely to be dishonest.

What do smokers have to say on this matter? I don't think they can easily refute what I believe. Munir, One-mail

Bad taste!

I was shocked and embarrassed to see the horrible, bruised, bloody faces on the TV that aired the news of a bus accident occurring on 26 April in Tangail. It is nothing new that by calling it the freedom of the media, the TV channels broadcast the clippings of wailing patients, their bloody bodies and corpses. Though they are quite interested to chew the common, favourite term --human rights, they even do not know the fundamental principles of journalism concerning the HR. In no way the human rights are preserved, when these types of scenes are aired without scrupulous and cautious editing. Rizwan UH Huq
Khulna

Jhakanaka and some questions

Grameen Phone is now trying to promote its new package Djuiice and that's why it is arranging concerts to attract young mobile subscribers. They have already arranged two concerts in Dhaka & Chittagong titled "Dfusion Jhakanaka" featuring Indian Idol finalists Amit Sana & Rahul Saxena. Both of the two concerts have drawn huge crowds. They are going to arrange three more concerts under the same title in Dhaka featuring some

prominent local bands and Indian Idol Abhijeet Sawant and one of the Idol finalists--Rahul Bidiya.

It's disappointing for millions of mobile subscribers like me to miss this great concert. Because only Djuiice extra card holders will be able to join the concerts. Grameen Phone should realise there are many people in this country who are using other services. Even the subscribers of Grameen Phone will miss these concerts, other than Djuiice subscribers. Thus Grameen is now also disappointing its millions of

Cable operators

As a foreigner who has lived and worked in Bangladesh for 21 years, has been patient, has held his tongue on politics and many issues here as an honoured 'guest of this country', I decided I have had enough! The Cable Operators of Bangladesh decided to protest an issue by punishing all its loyal, paying customers. This is too much! How can we allow this? I know it seems petty, but as a foreigner, there is little I can or should do to interfere with Bangladesh. But when private

having valid travel documents (Passport etc) It is strange since India and Pakistan are showing positive attitude in developing people to people contact, family and friends' reunion by not only relaxing the travel restrictions but even introducing cheaper means of communication by linking up not only capitals but even cities and towns ignoring the big problems like Kashmir, nuclear competence etc. They have very correctly and appropriately realised that those are too thorny issues to be resolved



Absolutely helpless?

About 300 people are either dead or missing following the building collapse in Savar. And their families are now facing a very uncertain future. But there is nobody to look into the matter. What a pity!

We should be sympathetic to the family members of the victims. And the owner of the building should not go unpunished.

The government should take up the matter in all seriousness. After all, nobody should get away with this kind of crimes against humanity.

Kohinur Akter, Dhaka University

rooftop helps to keep the houses cool in summer and warm in winter.

At present Dhaka ranks almost the top in the list of the most polluted cities of the world. Gardening in the rooftop can be a good way to refresh the polluted air of Dhaka.

Besides in such an overcrowded city like Dhaka where we hardly can find a park for recreation, gardening on the rooftop can fulfil

the newspapers about the bad effect of smoking. The government has also passed an anti-smoking law, which is laudable indeed. But smokers are not paying heed to this. I have invented a theory that smokers are dishonest (with very rare exceptions). Aren't they? A smoker delves into the bad habit during his very adolescent days when he has no source of income. So a smoker has to earn the money somehow or the other.

But we should and must try to improve our verbal English, especially those who are communicating verbally. These days there are excellent conversation dictionaries on CD. With any computer, the skill

of pronouncing English correctly can be acquired without much pain. Please make use of the technology if you are not already doing so. By the way, please do not make illegal copies of the CD. That

problems while communicating with the foreigners or listening to English TV programmes. So, to solve the problem teachers should be aware of their pronunciation as we learn better by hearing from them. Tarique Islam
Agrabad, Chittagong

Rooftop gardening

At present "Greenhouse Effect" has become a global problem. It helps

Mobile phone craze

The mobile telephone market is hotly competitive, judging from the spate of colourful advertisements in the papers--most of it amusing and irrelevant. The discount offered is cleverly marginal, and the value of saving is in micro-units. The main issue is camouflage, which is Tk 1.99 for 20-second pulse/a (compared to 50 paisa per minute in the neighbouring country).

A fall-out is on the horizon, and the new subscribers would benefit. BTB agency Teletalk lost its bearing due to colossal bungling (underhand dealings). The kalbatahaki season is on in the mobile sector.

The above is a small particular area. What is the overall picture looming ahead? Watch out for US-India combined operation to grab the Saarc markets in the long run. How China is going to retain and increase its market share (offer good quality products and services at cheaper prices)?

Dhaka's trade and commerce policies need regional-oriented base, which is lacking at present. Bangladesh has to export to the third world countries, for diversity (Japan and Taiwan pestered out keeping their eggs in one basket: US).

The newspapers carry too much political news. Life's basic problem

is how to earn enough, and spend judiciously. The small goodies of life carry too many value-added wrappers (fat VAT).

The finance minister is busy with the election-oriented budget, under political pressure. Loosen the purse strings where, and how? The prosperity of the country depends more on the business community than on the tantrums of the political refugees seeking relief and larger footprint.

Watch the modern icon: a young man using his mobile while standing stationary on the middle of the road. Inviting honking to clear the way. The centre-stage is never vacant, while there are many

vacancies in the background. Flags have to carry high up, for visibility, while the background or foundation is invisible. Don't believe what you cannot see (and check).

We are ambitious but do not know the technique of success (step by step). Fast food, fast actions, fast triggers, and fading and changing colours. There is a difference between dying and dyeing! The next lecture, if it could be held, might have bundles of surprises.

We have seen enough tamasha.

What next?

AZ, Dhaka

Although, GP is giving pulse

scheme from the very 1st minute to the GP Easy, National, Regular and Djuiice subscribers, GP Gold users have not been given anything. Whether a call from a T & T land phone is received at 12 at night or at noon, Tk 2.50 is charged for every minute.

Is there anyone who will look into the problem? Prince Abraham
EastWest University, Dhaka

This is in reference to the letter of Mr. Yasser Rahman published on 9th May. I totally agree with him. GP created a value among the young

people by their patriotic ads. But their recent extravaganza with the idols of another country was really disappointing. One can say that thousands of young people were flocking in their last concert and it was really a successful programme. But it is the responsibility of the leaders to show the right path. GP could find out Bangladeshi idols, rather than importing the idols of another country. It is really disheartening.

Patriotism is the prime thing that we want to create in the minds of young people. Shahed Mustafa
Shantinagar, Dhaka-1217

cable operators punish their customers, enough is enough! I called my cable operator, Fair Cable, and told them I, too, was joining the hartal. I cancelled my subscription and told them I refuse to pay the bill for April.

I will wait for a cable operator who chooses NOT to punish customers and sign up with them. This is real democracy--using economics to push BAD companies away and create space for good companies.

Welcome any cable operator who wishes business with loyal, paying customers. If enough of us would join this economic 'hartal', we can push the bad cable operators out and welcome new ones in! Join this hartal! Craig A. Meisner, Uttara, Dhaka

Pakistani visa

We refer to the letter by Mr. Jafar published in your daily on 21/04/2005.

We fully agree with his views that of late the High Commission of Pakistan in Dhaka has become too much selective in issuing visit visas to the common people. In most cases people are disappointed as visas are not issued to them despite

quickly but for that billions of people living in the sub-continent should not suffer. After all, these people are of the same origin and got divided for political reasons. One senior political leader perhaps correctly observed that while borders could not be changed, but people could be easily allowed to cross the same by lifting restrictions which in turn will help promote peace, trade, commerce, business and tourism. And towards this end, they are working hard very earnestly. What could not be achieved in 60 years, the positive attitudes Dr. Manmohan Singh and Parvez Musharraf did it in around 60 weeks. Kamal Ahmed, Shamim Ahmed, Imtiaz Haider & Zulfikar Haider
One-mail

Critical issue

I have read the letter "Can you change your history?" in The Daily Star some days ago. No, I think it is totally impossible. But now we're facing a critical situation when anything is possible. Thanks to Sadat Shahriar for raising a critical issue.

Rupa Chowdhury
New York, US

Support for Pakistan

I don't want to take too much time to give my response/opinion to Ms. Ruhi's letter, and I thought for a while if it was worthwhile.

Ms. Ruhi was not born when the Pakistan army raped our Bengali sisters, mothers, and friends in 1971 (unlike the Brazilians or Argentines).

What's the connection? Yes, self-dignity and respect for the martyrs. When you do not learn from past mistakes, you tend to

make the same mistakes over and over again.

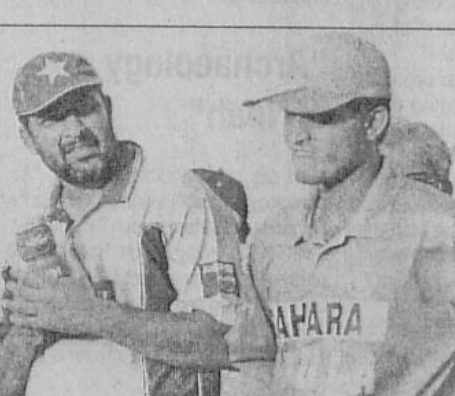
Sports and politics go hand in hand. President Musharraf attended the last ODI--just to enjoy the game? Think again. Bidyutpal Sarkar
One-mail

It is silly to pretend that support for Pakistan is not in part politically motivated. Most of those who support Pakistan do

so because they feel a kinship towards the country. Those who support Pakistan and oppose India in cricket (and vice versa) need to be honest about whether their support has nothing to do with their feelings about the two countries.

It is everyone's right to support whoever they want to. But please let us not pretend that politics has nothing to do with it. Abdur Rahman
Dhaka

If supporting Pakistan has nothing to do with politics, then why do we support Bangladesh? It is not because our team is very good. That is for sure! I have a question for Pakistani supporters. Who do you support in a match between Pakistan and Bangladesh? If your answer is Bangladesh, then what is the reason except politics? Md. Morshed Zaman
Dhaka



School vans

We often see tiny school vans in the streets doing their duties of carrying school kids.

It seems to me that the whole thing is very risky. Dhaka city is not safe even for the pedestrians, as it has no traffic rule; heavy vehicles try to overtake small ones in a very dangerous fashion. So how can parents feel assured that their children would return home safely in those vans? The physical structure of these vans is very light, and they are highly vulnerable to accident.

Can't the traffic authorities think of introducing separate lanes for such light vans?

Zishan, Lalmatia, Dhaka

