

letters@thedailystar.net

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 2005

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.

Well done, Bangladesh!



PHOTO: AFP

Hearty congratulations to the Bangladesh cricket team, especially to Mohammad Ashraful, captain Bashar and coach Whatmore, for the first ever win against Australia. It was a magnificent performance by the Bangladesh side. Australia did everything to deny victory to Bangladesh. The win against Australia has several implications for the future of Bangladesh cricket. First, Bangladesh team has proved that nothing is impossible in this world.

No one expected Bangladesh to win, yet Bangladesh won. Second, some sections of the Australian media have been very critical of the performance of Bangladesh as a test nation, almost to the point of ridicule. This win against Australia is an appropriate answer to that. Third, Australian commentators speculated that Ricky Ponting had decided to bat first to "thump" Bangladesh, but it was Bangladesh, which overpowered the mighty Australians. This win against the champions of the cricket world will help boost the confidence of the Bangladesh team. However, without being carried away, Bangladesh should try to learn from this match for continued improvement in its performance.

Dr Reza Monem, Brisbane, Australia

When will the dirty politics end?

At the end of one English play, an actor dressed in a complete black suit, gently nods and smiles and says, "This is the end of the Story". I wonder when will be the end to our powergreed dirty politics!

Since the past two and half decades, it has been the same story over and over again. A die-hard attempt to win power. It is the same old tall talks. The same old cheap way of hiring of the slum dwellers for processions and political meetings. Brag and boast about the country and

the news. Unless, there is no check to this divide and rule theory, it is their blood, kith and kin and their favoured ones who will continue to rule the country. In my opinion, there are ways to counter/check this one sided act. I suggest the non-partisan professionals, media and the business community unite and put pressure on the following points, until full implementation.

1. Politics and policies should be for the benefit of the country and the people.
2. Distribution of business should be fair and impartial, and therefore,

power/electricity, gas, jute, national disaster shelters/flood protection and the public health centres, should be given preference.

The above should be good enough to put an end to the long years of self-benefit and party politics. Only non-partisan minds will succeed.

Abdus Salam Chowdhury
Malibagh, Dhaka

BAF plane crash

I was really shaken by the news of the air force trainer plane crash. It left 6 people injured including 2

falsehood! Drama is a combination of fictitious attitude of actors and actresses. On the other hand the politicians display such attitudes when it is needed in the field of politics. Drama gives recreation to the audience. Politics gives not only recreation but also wealth and power, to the politicians only. We, the public, try to share but fail again and again!

Sadat Shahriar
Dept. of EEE, RUET

Accident at DU cam-

students a terrorist act. This is the result of dirty politics in our country. The general students should be aware of this nasty politics in our country and try to restore real ideological political environment.

Taslim Hasan, University of Dhaka

Whenever whatever happens, the police always play a negative role and cause the whole situation to deteriorate further. When a DU student was run over by a bus, the students tried to see the dead body of their beloved classmate and they went to Shahbag for this reason.



Supporting Pakistani cricketers

This letter is in response to 'About supporting Pakistani cricketers' (April 18) by Kh. Asef Kabir Upal. It is a fact that people in our country support Pakistan and everyone has the right to a favourite team. But the reasons offered by Mr. Upal for not holding Pakistan responsible for 1971 is not right. He said that 'a few sordid men or a particular group' was responsible and 'these people do not belong to any country'. But if these people do not belong to Pakistan then why are they living in that country now? If a few men were responsible then why other Pakistanis are supporting them by printing wrong history in their text books? If they are the enemies of their own country then why are they not being brought to justice? Why are they allowed to enjoy lavish retired lives instead of facing trial?

I think Germany should not be compared with Pakistan because Germany officially apologised to Poland and the Jews for WW II atrocities. But did Pakistan ever apologise to us? In Pakistan, the school textbooks say that we collaborated with India to break Pakistan and remain silent about the pre-war discrimination and the wartime atrocities. Pakistanis are reading wrong history and are virtually in the dark about 1971. Their attitude towards us was reflected when they

arranged economy class for our cricketers and business class for their boys when our team went to Pakistan. Recently, China has officially complained to Japan to change its textbooks where Japan did not mention the wartime atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers on the Chinese. Did Bangladesh ever complain to Pakistan about the fabricated history that is written in Pakistani textbooks? No. We are busy presenting reasons to support the Pakistani team instead of taking initiatives to lodge an official complaint against the fabricated history that is being taught in Pakistan. We have a lot to learn from China in this regard.

Mr. Ahsan (April 9) was rightly critical about the female supporters of our country. I know a few who were so besotted with the 'handsome' Pakistani cricketers that they became very much upset (did not eat for several days) after Bangladesh beat Pakistan in the World Cup. I know that all girls are not like them, but such kinds of people really exist in our society.

Durdana Ghias, Dept. of Economics, Dhaka University

people's welfare, when in power and vice versa, carry on with destructive activities while in the opposition. Hartal, being the worst which is nothing but life for life! What will or what has our younger generation learnt? No wonder they are so delinquent. The changes in the administration within a span of five years disrupt stability and prosperity.

The two most powerful political parties have brought the situation to such a pass that very little is possible other than for them to share power. Their fortresses are strong with plenty of money, resources and power and are well protected by the state-owned law enforcers and the well-equipped armed cadres. These cadres are there not only for protection but is also let loose on the innocent public for extra income, as we often find in

international tenders or other big jobs must be awarded on merit. One-way grabbing should be stopped.

3. The law enforcing agencies should be given autonomy to function without let.
4. Bureaucrats should be given maximum freedom to work.
5. Stop the prevalent destructive politics. Encourage television channels for political campaigning. Stop using public places for political activities.
6. Ensure full security to the public at any cost. Get rid of criminals.
7. Provide adequate benefit to the farmers.
8. Put better efforts and monitor fair procedures at government schools, especially the free schools.
10. Shun student politics once and for all.
11. Development in areas like,

babies. The point is why do we need fighter planes? Who are we going to fight? And if we do fight anyone, will we win? Why do we need to spend so much money on these killing machines? On top of that, the ministry of defence has 48 crores unaccounted for, according to your report. Amongst this are 10 crores for buying useless ammunition. 9.88 crores for a tank transporter and 2 crores for buying adulterated milk.

For God's sake, stop using the taxpayer's money to invest on a sector whose main purpose is destruction of some sort or the other.

Fuad, Gulshan, Dhaka

Drama and politics

Can any one tell me the similarity between drama and politics? I think that under the present condition in Bangladesh both are full of

But the problem began because of the immaturity and lack of ingenuity of the police. They couldn't manage anything, moreover they made everything hellish. Without any reason they hurled abusive words towards the students. They entered Charu Kala and Central Library and started beating them. They didn't even spare the female students.

I think a more efficient, well mannered, educated (?) and smart police forces should be deployed in that area. It is really a mystery to me that the police are always so agitated on the students, it seems they are always ready to attack them.

And who does not know how risky the Shahbag crossing is? Those appointed at the check post are good for nothing. One day I myself

Felicitation to the Kuwaiti women

From the beginning of history women are being neglected by men, although they play very important roles in every sphere in which men are involved. Regrettably, women are not treated like men.

History is a witness to discrimination against women. But women do not take this discrimination on them easily. They had tried their every possible bit to establish their dignity in the society as men. Recently, the franchise to Kuwaiti women has proved to the Middle East women that they should be united to seek their rights like men. The women in the most Middle East countries do not enjoy the right to vote. To strengthen democracy universal suffrages is mandatory. We believe that the franchise of the Kuwaiti women will motivate their neighbours to give due rights to their women folk also.

Md Rezaul Karim
University of Dhaka

A closer looks at our political culture

Our politics looks vigorous. How about its vitality or health? High system loss is not a sign of genuine vitality. Hate campaign fall into this category. Noisemakers waste energy.

Our politics display some chronic symptoms of ill health. It is based on sick ideas, which adversely affect the physical body and party movements. The approach to political decision making is questionable, because many of the strategies are not leading us into the right directions. The monitoring is poor, and the self-regulatory role plays an insignificant part in the overall output. Proof? The mark sheet of the last three decades. The voter service is poor, and the

No more hartals

Since Independence, Bangladesh have observed hartals on numerous occasions. Our politicians say it is their democratic right to call hartals and they are doing these for the sake of the common people. What a lie! The ongoing HSC exams have been rudely interrupted by the hartals. The authority was forced to reschedule the exams. Now it seems that the examinees' start of university life will be delayed due to this heinous act of the opposition party. I think we, the students, should motivate all classes of people to form a union against hartal as no one except the politicians want hartals. We can put pressure on the present government to formulate a law to ban hartals. But can we trust the politicians? When in power they will talk big against hartal but when in the opposition they show their true colours.

Ashek Ahmmed, Rajshahi



political parties are getting away with the default situations. Questionable sources of financing are dragging down the political culture.

Two autocratic regimes intervened for about 16 years since our Independence. These regimes displayed less violence and indiscipline. Now, even the very



PHOTO: AFP

Is OIC a dead organisation?

The Holy Quran was revealed not only for the Muslims but also for the guidance of the entire mankind. No one has the right to dishonour it, which some US soldiers did at Guantanamo Bay. It is a shameful act for which every Muslim should protest and demand inquiry and punishment for those responsible. The US magazine "News Week" had published the details, but subsequently, due to pressure from the US administration had to retract.

It is regrettable that the OIC is silent about the incident. It is the moral duty of the OIC to find out what happened in Guantanamo Bay regarding the desecration of the Holy Quran.

The Muslim countries formed the OIC to look after the rights of the Muslims of the whole world. But, alas! We find that OIC is not doing its duties properly.

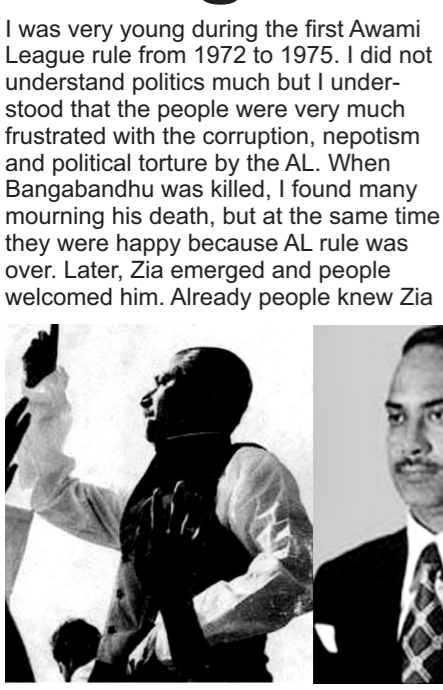
Is OIC a dead organisation? It is the duty of the OIC to look after the interests of the Muslims of the world. The world Muslim's should try and make the OIC strong.

Muhammad Ibne Asadullah, On e-mail

important organs of the government appear to be tainted, as could be judged from the political analyses in the mass media. The established institutions have already started cracking up, and there is no apparent concern in the official circles. The GDP is above six percent, but the black and grey contributions have not been separately pointed out.

Bad habits, when allowed to linger, introduce virus in the system, to which the bodies become immune in the long run; and the routine behaviour pattern allowed to continue. Scathing attacks on the opponents divert public attention,

Bangabandhu to Khaleda Zia



as a freedom fighter who had created an honest image of himself.

Now, when I compare the situation of 1972-1975 with the present political condition I find that the situation has worsened very much under BNP-Jamaat

rule. The government is now intervening in the personal life of a former President. Every day we see in the media the helpless face of Bidisha. Like the Rakhi Bahini, RAB is being used to attain political goals. The ruling party cadres are not allowing holding of chehelum of a deceased person. The ruling party leaders are being charge-sheeted for killing opposition MP. Who should I blame? Jamaat or the young Turks of the BNP?

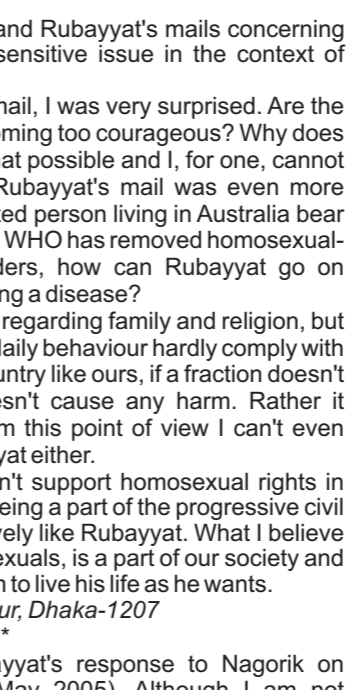
inequality in the income distribution. Prices of essentials are rising and consequently real income of the majority is going down.

The present regime is dreaming of another term. They know that many new rich people are behind them. What kind of Bangladesh will be under an alliance rule in the next 5 years? Will it be another Indonesia under Suharto? Or will it be completely different, surpassing

the corrupt and family based Marcos regime? only time will tell.

Jewel Ahmed, Basabo, Dhaka

HOMOSEXUALITY



I just went through both Nagorik and Rubayyat's mails concerning homosexuality, which is a very sensitive issue in the context of Bangladesh.

The first time I read Nagorik's mail, I was very surprised. Are the homosexuals in Bangladesh becoming too courageous? Why does this person want rights? How is that possible and I, for one, cannot support such rights? However, Rubayyat's mail was even more surprising- how can a well-educated person living in Australia bear such narrow-minded views! When WHO has removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders, how can Rubayyat go on rambling about homosexuality being a disease?

Rubayyat has raised questions regarding family and religion, but he doesn't know that many of our daily behaviour hardly comply with religious beliefs. In a populous country like ours, if a fraction doesn't take part in reproduction, it doesn't cause any harm. Rather it facilitates child adoption. So, from this point of view I can't even agree wholeheartedly with Rubayyat either.

Being in my middle ages, I can't support homosexual rights in Bangladesh. On the other hand, being a part of the progressive civil society I also can't react aggressively like Rubayyat. What I believe is that everyone including homosexuals, is a part of our society and everyone should have the freedom to live his life as he wants.

Mahabubul Islam, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

I read with interest Syed Rubayyat's response to Nagorik on homosexuality (Daily Star, 30 May 2005). Although I am not defending unorthodox sexual, it was utterly disappointing to pick up, in Rubayyat's letter, undertones of religious bigotry and the clear lack of a moral basis to argue against homosexuality. His letter seemed to home in on the fact that homosexuality would lead to the breakdown of the nuclear family and therefore it is a disease. On the point of the breakdown of the nuclear family I would like to remind

him that this statement is untrue. Homosexuality is not a modern phenomenon. It has existed since ancient times. So, if homosexuality were to destroy Rubayyat's "family structure" it would have done so already.

Moreover, with a little wisdom it is easy to see that there is no evidence to suggest that the world's gay population has increased disproportionately. It has always been the case that there are more straight people in the world than homosexuals. Where is the threat to the nuclear family? If he claims that homosexuality is a disease then all other forms of birth defects - blindness, Down syndrome, deafness etc - are diseases as well. For the most part, homosexuality is not a lifestyle but a condition that people are born into. So, on what basis could you call Nagorik's condition a disease? I understand sex is a taboo to talk about in certain cultures, and people in those cultures are less inclined to face issues relating to sex head on. This leads to ignorance. And, as they say, little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Saadi Chowdhury, UK