



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.

### Herr! Schroeder

Do we have to spell out our appreciation and declare adoration with many thanks that at last a sensible reaction has surfaced in Germany (which must not have escaped attention of any one keeping in touch with the world news and views) after the US has been trying to play with the Iranian's programme on nuclear development. Schroeder has spelled out his warning for the US.

Thank you Schroeder, but you have to keep the spirit up to the last. The whole world will be with you.

**AF Rahman**  
On e-mail

### Image of the nation

While the government leaves no stone unturned to remind the common citizens that they should uphold the image of the nation, what does it do and what do the ministers of the republic say? The "ahoban" and the "ashol karbar" seem to have no correlation! Possibly the instruction of maintaining

the image is not applicable for our "shorkar".

The honorable Minister for Law (the nation's top law keeper, law mentor and law enforcer) has given his crystal clear views on Martial Law. Could we therefore conclude that the Jatio Party and BNP followed by the perpetrators of 'Jungle Law' should not be legal political parties and therefore abolished forthwith? Normally it seems to be justified logical conclusion; but Bangladesh defies logic and reason; as we plough through a new model of democratic dictatorship!

After all the King or Queen can do no wrong. So let all others (foreign embassies included) see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil against our super high image built on skewed logic and justice!

**Apolitician watcher**  
Dhaka

### Of inappropriate clemency and divided lawyers

Mohiuddin Jhinto got lucky. His party is in power and with the right connection (as cynics say) at the right place, he got away with killing two people. Our honourable President most probably had no idea whatsoever what he was signing and thus granting clemency to a notorious criminal.

Now the government supported lawyers, the pundits and custodians of law are supporting it, while the group belonging to the opposition is against it more for a political reason than anything else.

What can we expect from the judiciary where lawyers are so busy with politics and judges are allegedly forging certificates (Opps! Contempt, contempt.)

**Saif, Dhaka**

### "US respond in measured fashion"

For how long will this fooling and camouflaged management of Iraqi defence and protection of the stooges of US administration continue? The indiscriminate US fire this Friday on 'musallis' emerging out of a mosque at Nasaf, a town just outside Ramadi, definitely calls for a just punishment, but who will do this? The rogish action naturally invites more swoop on the occupying forces and their cohorts. If, in further attack, the marauders kill some army or dismantle some of their set-ups, they will be called 'terrorists', while those responsible for the 'terrorist act' on innocent Friday prayer goers will be named 'peace-keepers'—what a travesty!

What term would you use for these 'jehadis'—renegades, terrorists or martyrs, in the western terminology? How long the harmless people of quiet disposition, how long the (poor) world conscience will suffer and tolerate such torture, hegemony and black-mailing? Perhaps the west will realise when their back will be to the wall?

**AF Rahman**  
On e-mail

### An unfortunate incident

A young woman knocked on the door and said that she was our neighbour's grand-daughter and had come from London. Her grandmother had sent her to make my acquaintance as I had also come from London. I called my mother to the door and she let her inside as some of the things she said convinced us of her identity.

Once inside I was distracted by a number of telephone calls made to our phone. As she was talking to my mother, she also gave mentioned other people in the neighbourhood that she claimed to know. She the asked her to show her round the house. My mother took her to my parents' bedroom.

Five minutes later, I saw her hurriedly leaving the house while still talking to my mother. She said she needed to pick up her cousins and took the old man who works at our house with her saying she would be right back.

In the five minutes alone with my mother the girl had concocted a story about urgently needing money because her grandmother wasn't home and that she would return the money as soon as she returned claiming she had dollars she needed to exchange. My mother



The anniversary of atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been repeated ad nauseam for 60 years. The US government—having broken the Japanese code—knew its Japanese counterpart was frantically looking for a face-saving way to surrender. The US dropped the bombs anyway, not because Japan refused to quit its war but in order to test new weaponry and to impress upon the Russians the extent of its own military might. The

atom bombs cruelly ended countless Japanese lives, they also killed dozens of American POWs held in the two cities. So long as many Americans continue to justify the nuclear terror attacks on the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is difficult even to begin to come to grips with the desperate need to abolish nuclear weapons and thus eliminate the possibility of similar atrocities repeating ever again.

**Dr Zeljko Cipris, NJ, USA**

gave her the money.

As she left the house, my mother went next door and inquired about the girl only to discover that their granddaughter was still abroad.

We have informed the police of this incident and have discovered that three similar incidents involving the same tall, well dressed and well spoken female and private car had occurred in Uttara in the last two weeks.

This incident is not an isolated one and art-ists have always existed in Dhaka, but now they have background information about the personal lives of those who they con. Housewives should be alert and cautious about whom they let

enter their homes regardless of who they claim to be.

**Citizen**  
Uttara, Dhaka

### Muslim names, revised

Mr. Kamrul Hasan of BUET commented on my writing on Mohammad, Muhammad and Md. published in The Daily Star on 27 July. His comments were published as a letter to the Editor on 5 August.

This is the only reaction to my provocative reflections, which I appreciate. However, he is totally wrong to suggest that it was A.K. Fazlul Huq who promoted the usage of writing

Muhammad at the beginning of Muslim names in Bengal. The usage goes far back to Fazlul Huq's time. As a boy I saw Fazlul Huq who was then in his late 50s or early 60s, and there were many men older than him at that time with names starting with Muhammad. Consider the name of Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah who was only 12 years younger than Fazlul Huq. Certainly, when Dr. Shahidullah was born his father did not know A.K. Fazlul Huq.

Why is Md. written for Muhammad?  
**R.H. Khandker**  
On e-mail

### Praising America

I must admit I was intrigued by the op-ed piece written by a former IGP in the August 16 issue. The forthright manner in which the former police chief actually praised the better aspects of American society i.e., social mobility, relative egalitarianism, and rule of law, is a sharp departure from the usual plethora of America-bashing on the pages of our newspapers.

**Esam Sohail**  
Kansas City, USA

### A new technique for advertising cigarette

All types of advertisement of cigarettes are prohibited in the media. This is a very positive step of the government. Smoking is spreading among people of all stages and ages in our country like virus. A rickshaw puller who earns 150/200Tk in a day at least spends 30Tk smoking cigarettes. The day-labourers in their recess time consume cigarettes as part of entertainment. Many young people think of smoking as part of smartness and a remedy for nervousness and stress. The cigarette companies in their commercials always tried to focus on the features that attracted people to these harmful things.

Before the new law was legislated we often used to watch the advertisements of cigarettes in the media. One of our TV channels was named as 'Biri Channel' for showing the boundless ads of biri and cigarette. Once the Cable network operators of West Bengal refused to relay any Bangladeshi Channel showing the reason that it was prohibited in their country to telecast from those channels which air commercials on cigarettes.

Now things have been changed. While reading newspapers at the breakfast table we don't have to face the endless ads of cigarette. Those ads also do not bother us now while watching any program on the television. But I am going to tell you about a new way of cigarette-penetration

among the youths.

After the new law about cigarette ads has been enforced a multinational company has started a new technique to publicise their products. At first they began to distribute cigarettes for free along roadsides or in public places. As their main target is the young people, they began to send their representatives to the university and college dormitories with various gifts and offers. They have begun to award the students who have consumed their products more with alluring gifts such as T-shirt, lighter etc.

Recently the University Grant Commission (UGC) has sent a notice to all universities offering the authorities to take necessary steps for prohibiting smoking in offices, departments and other public places of the campus. Consequently, some days ago our hall authority has prohibited smoking cigarette at the hall TV room and common room but a new sales promotion process is on. I think cigarette is the starting point of consumption of narcotics. This is very harmful for the young as well as for the nation.

**Kamrul**  
Sher-e-Bangla Hall, BUET

### Bombs thrown at Akhaura

The bomb explosion at Hazrat Shah Syed Ahammed shrine when worshippers were in attendance is another sign of social instability in Bangladesh. The fact that after the bomb explosion of last May a person could walk in and cause the injury of one person and injury of many others should be a warning for better security. This may be an act of terrorism or simply an isolated attack by a mad man. But what is worrying is that people's lives were at stake and our police were not able to stop it as they were in no way prepared to do it.

I hope the government puts greater effort into securing religious and public venues against such explosions that result in the death of innocent civilians.

**Zeenat Z. Syed**  
Business Analyst, Atlanta, GA

### djuice and Bangla

Mr. Irfan and friends reacted to my letter. I understand that Bangla has survived through ones, however, my point is that the djuice billboards expose and encourage youngsters to use words like "fao" and "tashki", which I think is wrong. It's all right and normal to talk informally when friends are around but encouragement from huge advertisements focusing on such words is indecent. When you're looking at a nation,

## Who is to blame for poor image



Bangladesh's image is not a pretty one, largely due to our corruption problem. But the Finance Minister doesn't believe Bangladesh's leaders are to blame for the corruption or for Bangladesh's poor image. "Corruption travels from the developed countries to the developing -- we learn corruption from them." If we are to listen to his statements in the past year, then industrialised nations are to blame for teaching us corruption (!), the local media -- the "greatest enemy of Bangladesh" -- is to blame for serving its purpose and reporting on corruption, and Transparency International (the organisation which put Bangladesh at the top of the corruption list) is to blame for listening to the media reports.

Given the hilarity and revealing nature of these comments, it seems the media is the greatest enemy not of Bangladesh but of the Minister as well!

**Sajid Chowdhury, On e-mail**

growing up children, they might take these for granted. I am talking about the intellectual growth of young people. Mr. Irfan claims that the phrases being used are 'very Bangla' and says, "We young people use it".

Who is he trying to represent? I'm thinking about the masses not a segment.

He even declares that every word being used is from our mother tongue and is Bangla; how would he describe "hebbly chalu"? People being or acting 'cool' is not irksome to me; however, the fact that these phrases are meant to be 'cool' is disapproving. Mr. Irfan adds, "We are such hypocrites; we don't mind using 'yo' and 'dude' ". Not all of us are hypocrites. In fact 'wannabes' say 'yo'.

I am A level student and happen to be junior to the writer, he misinterprets that I have an ire that students are being benefited from djuice! A brand will obviously give benefits to its customers and companies worldwide launch similar packages. I just expressed the feeling of discrimination after learning that only djuice customers can represent Bangladesh in the World Cyber Games event. I believe the millions of Easy prepaid customers should also be valued. Mr Irfans letter ends with "We are well aware of our mother and her tongue, he(me) needs to clear his confusion". Mr. Irfan and his friends are DU students, are such narrow thoughts expectable from them?

**Rizwan Shamim**  
Ramna, Dhaka

### Short evaluation of our universities

We have 21 public, 52 private, in total 73 universities in our country for providing us higher education and apt research facilities. But except a few most are ridden with student politics (including teacher politics), session jam, even corruption into administration.

DU, the Oxford of the East, is throbbing with such problems. Now foreigner students do not choose it for higher education. It is losing its standing day by day.

SUST, the first science and technology university of Bangladesh, is chronically ridden with feud in administration and student politics.

CU has become famous for session jam. Sometimes there are three batches existing at the same time! How incredible it is! CU has earned scandalous bad name. Accommodation crisis and classroom crisis are common with all universities.

However another option is private varieties, for higher study. But they have residential flats as campus, temporary teachers, common subjects (BBA, MBA, CSE, Law, English and a few other subjects).

The two major activities of varsities are research and teaching. How many researches do our universities do every year? They have no well equipped laboratory, and adequate number of manpower. And teaching? The less said about it is better. But education is the backbone of a nation.

**Roy, SUST**

### Why this bluff?

I would like to endorse the letter written by Mr Abdul Karim from the Jahangirnagar University published in your newspaper on last Friday. It is very sad to realise that most of our food processors do not maintain the truthfulness in labelling. Whatever they mention on the label

usually not to be available in the content. In that good judgement it is right to write that soybean oil is 100% free from cholesterol, though in reality fat from plant origin does not contain any cholesterol. It is a part of their advertising technique, which can be allowed. But the offence is that when you declare something is added but not really added is a false statement. I have noticed that there are some companies who are advertising that their oil is 'enriched' with Vitamin A and D. Please remember the word they are using enriched which means adding back only those micronutrients that are lost during milling/refining and for which there is good evidence that a deficiency exists among the general population. Natural oil contains Vitamin A as beta-carotene, precursor of Vitamin A, but during the refining process the entire vitamin is destroyed. I have discussed with some refiners that nobody is adding back that lost Vitamin A in the oil, but they are publicising that their products are enriched or fortified with Vitamin A and D.

injured and disabled FFs in front of the Prime Minister's Office this year. It seems that there might have been a planned move to belittle the contribution and the existence of the FFs, and hence the disregard with these great people by the state as well as the reactionary civil servants and politicians within the government. This is expressed quite clearly in the second paragraph of the news item, and in the way the hospital reached the present state of its existence. It now seems that the government is not willing or not interested to salvage this important hospital.

Therefore, it will not be wise to leave out the hospital to some other organisation as we do not believe that it will protect the interest of the FFs and their families as well as people seeking medical treatment as such. The idea of leasing out this hospital only leads to destruction of this institution as has happened with many of such leased out concerns in the country. The best option will be to hand over this hospital to an institution or trust who has track record of caring for FFs and our glorious war of liberation. I may



No matter what people say and how critics dub him, he'll always be the greatest leg-spinner of all time. Back in the 90s, when Warne was breaking into the world scene, I read an article where the great English batsman Sir Herbert Sutcliffe said that Warne would take 600 test wickets, I said to myself, "Is this guy day-dreaming or what?"

But Warne has gone against all the odds and proved everyone wrong. Congratulations Warne on your 600 wickets, you truly deserved all the recognition. You're the best.

**Akhter Salim Fahmi**  
Gulshan-1

Some donor agencies are trying to motivate the refiners to enrich their oil with Vitamin A by adding the premix. It will be a good step if govt. agencies take step to make it mandatory to fortify all the processed edible oil with immediate effect. This fortification of oil will reduce the night blindness, and other Vitamin A deficiency related disorders among the population.

**Ashek Mahfuz**  
Uttara, Dhaka

### The freedom fighters and their fate

The news item on the state of Hospital for FFs (The DS, 6.8.05) saddens me very much. During our very life-time we have been watching the gradual degradation of the FFs in various spheres of their existence in this country. It started with the preparation of so-called valid list of FFs several times by the government to clubbing by police of

mention two such organisations -- The Muktiyudhho Jadhughar (Segunbagicha, Dhaka) and the War Crimes Facts Finding Trust (Khilji Road, Dhaka) -- who, I hope will be willing to salvage this hospital.

**Dr. K. Maudood Elahi**  
Dhaka

### To be an MP

A few months ago, Pakistan had announced that one should be a holding a Masters Degree to be eligible for contesting in an MP election. Do we have any similar policies in our country? My earnest request to the editor would be to let us know the requirements for anyone to contest in an election?

**Dr. Lailun Nahar**  
Shamoly, Dhaka

