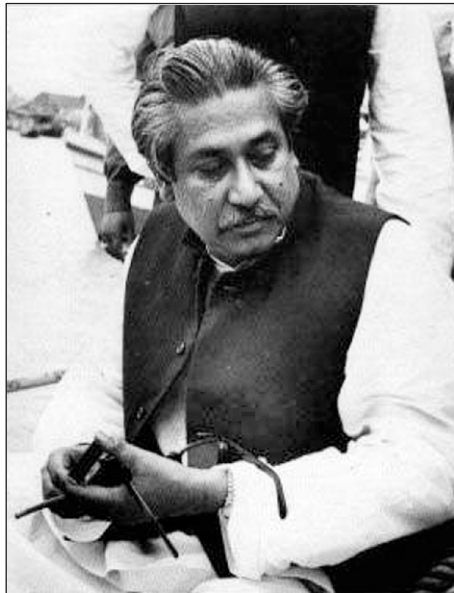


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

# Disgraceful



It is our disgrace that this nation which was carved out of Pakistan as an independent sovereign Bangladesh through a nine-month long liberation war, waged and fought against the Pakistani occupation forces in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, does not feel any compunction in witnessing his death anniversary not

mourned and observed nationally. How can even BTV which is the state electronic media run by tax payers' money goes without any hook-up on his life, his political vision and struggle and his achievement which are now one of the treasures of world history of the twentieth century, for the world has recorded in the encyclopaedia the events leading to the creation of Bangladesh and the man who led the events to culmination. BTV could spend days and weeks, even months for Ziaur Rahman, who came much later in the political scene of Bangladesh through a military coup. Ziaur Rahman's announcing of 'Independence of Bangladesh' on 27 March 1971 over makeshift radio as already declared by Bangabandhu on 26 March must be regarded as a milestone followed by his participation in the war of liberation. So he also has a special place in our history of liberation. But on no account should he be given any position at the cost of Bangabandhu who had sustained toils, trials and tribulations for the cause of Bengalees for long 23 years under the oppressive rule of Pakistanis, and who for his unending struggle for the legitimate political and economic rights and interests of his people won their hearts and became their absolute leader.

Many of those people are still holding high position and power, but they have changed their hues.

AH Dewan, South Kafrul, Dhaka Cantt.

## Hasina's stand

Opposition leader Hasina has characteristically publicised to international community that Bangladesh is a heaven for Islamic terrorists. In her recent press commentary, she suggested that an

government. What she has failed to realise is that the citizens have also lost confidence in the opposition. We have a prime minister whose government consists of left wing ultra neo liberals, who are responsible for corruption, and on

& self correcting democratic country in the South Asian region. It is an icon of freedom, and a symbol of progressive movement. Hindus, Christians, and Muslims are free to express their opinions, and choose their own religions, and way of lives. Women are the fastest growing working class that has an active role in today's economic, social, and political arena. As a result, in the last decade and a half, Bangladesh had two female prime ministers.

Shadabul Mujib  
Los Angeles, US

## Too much homework

My little niece, a student of class V in an English-medium school, came to our house one Friday afternoon bleary-eyed. Asked if she was feeling indisposed, she said that she got up at sunrise grappling with four assignments of homework during the weekend. Then she snoozed for a couple of hours.

In the primary stage (up to class VI) there is too much to read, write and assimilate for the little minds. During our school days (during the British days), the quality of teaching prevailed over quantity. The teachers are under the impression that too much homework is good for educating young minds. As a pensioner, I have to help my niece with reference materials from my personal library.

Lately, the press has been pointing out the grey areas in the official code of syllabi and teaching methods in the private schools, specially the popular English-medium schools. This Code has to be announced quickly and implemented firmly, to avoid over-stuffing the young minds. My father, who was in the Bengal Education Service, had to pass BT (Bachelor of Teaching) before further promotion. There are courses for teachers at the KG level. The media carry no news on these vital sectors; while the opening of new educational institutions are being publicised for subjective reasons. The Quality in development projects is lacking.

When our political pundits would settle down to some serious business?

Alfa Ahmad  
Dhaka

the other hand, we have a major opposition leader who is utterly conservative and absolutely incapable of controlling her mouth. She will go to any lengths to tarnish the image of Bangladesh. Rather than calling for national solidarity, and show of strong resolve, she is out in public and among journalists to tarnish our image, culture and secular democratic values that we cherish since 1971.

What she has suggested is wrong. Bangladesh is a progressive

## Fight against session jam

The students sniffed when they heard the name of Pharmacy Department. Very often they would pass some jarring comments. Because at that time one had to spend six years to complete the three-year honours course! Most of the students of our department were downhearted. This is the history of Pharmacy Department.

But the situation dramatically changed after the new chairman took over. Now I am proud of my department because there is no session jam here. Although I have spent five years to complete the four-year course, I am not depressed, because the situation has improved appreciably.

Md Kamal Hossain  
Jahangirnagar University

## London bombings

At first I thought suicide bombers carried on London bombings and I also wrote a letter in that vein. But now after analysing everything I have got the impression that there is something deeper, which is sinister and deplorable. It suggests a diabolical design to justify Prime Minister Tony Blair's war against terror.

First, the four people who are being accused of the bombings must have been aware of the CCTV, so they would not have come in a group and there was no sign of nervousness in them.

Second, one who is going to blow him up in a bus will never leave his identification papers on the roof of the bus to be picked up by the police.

Third, all the bombs went off within seconds of one another, it seems peculiar; circumstances might have differed and all of them might not have been able to plant the bombs so preciously.

Fourth, at first the police claimed that those were time-bombs, then shifted from their stance when a family reported that their son was missing; they immediately pounced on it and branded him as a suicide bomber.

It is a matter of great disappointment that Muslims are being oppressed and blamed for all untoward incidents.

Nur Jahan, Chittagong

## International assistance & third world

I think international financial assistance is a hindrance to the development of the third world countries. This is because most of the donors are nowadays interfering in the internal affairs of these third world countries. This is obvious to everybody. Of course, there're various logical reasons to be in debt but if we try to avoid taking financial assistance, then, in my opinion, development will be possible through our own efforts. For that, firstly we've to uproot corruption from every sector. In this context, it is notable that the donors never help us to remove corruption either by financial assistance or through any other means. So, this is our own responsibility. If we are not serious about eliminating corruption, it will eat up our national resources.

The second step is to increase our internal assets. By removing tax collection barriers, we can increase these. We can employ our own engineers, technologists, scientists and other meritorious professionals that are going abroad every year (Brain drain). We have resources but the foreign companies (Niko, for example) are destroying these, while our super meritorious are engaged abroad and contributing to the economic development of other countries. That's unfortunate, to say the least.

Then comes the point of

# Withdrawal from Gaza



administrative decentralisation. If we can reform the whole administration by decentralising and giving it financial freedom, then the whole process will be a uniform one.

We have to follow a sensible investment policy. By doing so we can increase foreign investment. Increasing foreign investment and export trade can be two major alternatives to international assistance.

Nowadays, the WB, and the IMF threaten us and impose difficult conditions to have financial assistance.

We had to lose in many ways

market as Ghano chini, & mini-packs are available in the grocer shops.

How is it that the government is taking no action? Unknowingly I have been using it in my tea for several years under the presumption that if it is available openly, it is safe. Can I sue the regulators?

AA, Dhaka

## Hiroshima Day

Mr. Jaiil has rightly observed that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed and millions were killed; but surprisingly Hitler's Nazi Germany

chief of the INA.

He declared that mother India had two sons and they were Hindu and Muslim. He asked Indians, both Hindus and Muslims, to forge unity and launch an armed struggle to free India from the clutches of colonial bondage. He said, "Give me blood and I shall give you freedom." But because of defeat and surrender of Japan at the hands of allied forces, Netaji could not succeed. Otherwise, the history of India would have been different.

In my opinion it is Nehru, and not Jinnah, who played the main role in the creation of Pakistan, so that he could become prime minister

Israel is withdrawing from Gaza, that's hyped news.

Once they opted for those Jewish settlements and left no stone unturned to fortify them. But that led to only bloodshed.

Israel is withdrawing from Gaza at a time when the M-E peace road map has apparently failed to achieve anything. Israel has taken a good step.

Abdullah-al-Mujahed

University of Dhaka

involvement in the countrywide bombing" (The Daily Star, 24.8.05).

Is this bomber group stronger than our government?

Abu Raihan, South-Hall, CUET

## Job fair

The job fair organised by Youth Employment at Osmani Auditorium on 7 August left many in doubt about its effectiveness. The fair was packed with thousands of people looking for a job on the spot. I was there, but what surprised me much was the way they conducted the whole thing. It was no way to make one sure whether s/he was primarily selected or not. One more thing, I could not accept the idea that the employers asked for experience. In fact, the fair should have been only for the totally unemployed.

I think like me many people went there with high hopes, but the result was disappointing.

Md. Kabir Hossain, Dhaka

## "Enacting law for appointing judges"

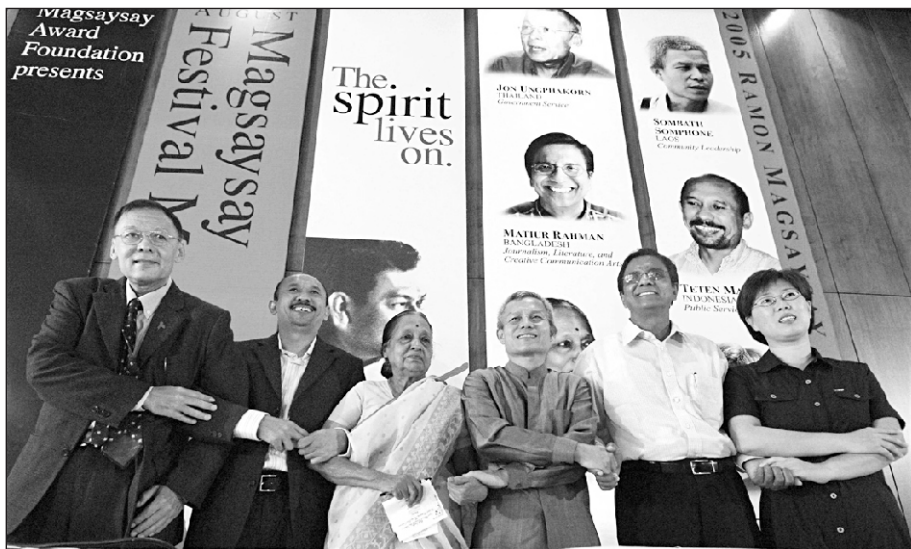
The above captioned write-up appearing in the July 24 issue of The Daily Star is timely and articulate.

Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary in recent years has stirred all concerned. Before the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment there was provision in the Constitution requiring the President to Consult the Chief Justice before appointing Judges which was done away by the amendment. But even then a practice was in vogue to consult with the Chief Justice. But the thing took a paradigm shift in recent years and nowadays the party in power selects the judges without any objective analysis and as a result much unsavoury controversy has tainted the image of the higher judiciary.

It is very pertinent that the image, sanctity, and prestige of the judiciary are brought back without any delay. The other day the law minister disclosed that the government was pondering over introducing a law on the qualifications of the Judges. This type of casual approach will not serve the purpose, rather a sustained and committed approach is to be taken to set things right and that can be done by reviving the original provision of the Constitution. The suggestion put forward by the author may also be considered and that must be done without any political motive and parochial agenda, otherwise the image of the Judiciary will be further blurred.

Khijir Ahmed  
Segun Bagicha, Dhaka

# Role of journalists



Now, the world is called a global village due to the immense development in information technology. In the present world, even in a war devastated country or dictator-ruled state, whatever it is, it is very difficult to hide any information or news.

Against this backdrop, one of our leading journalists, Mr. Matur Rahman,

has won the highly prestigious Magsaysay Award. I think it is a great honour for our country that he has been given an international award. Journalists do have a role in promoting social justice.

MAH Nazim  
University of Dhaka

(Adamjee Jute Mills, privatisation of various sectors, banks etc) due to their conditions.

Engr Md Ariful Islam  
Ramdebpur, Baghit, Tangail

## Carcinogenic sweetener?

According to a news report in The Daily Star of Aug 16, Sodivue cyclamate has been banned since 1982, as it might cause cancer. But the items are openly sold in the

was spared only because Germany was a European country, in spite of Hitler's policy of extermination of Jews. All over Germany concentration camps were built where thousands of Jews were massacred. Hitler handled this programme himself.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the proud son of Bengal, made alliance with Japan and formed the Indian national army consisting of both Hindus and Muslims and Shanewaz Khan was made the

of India; because Mahatma Gandhi had declared that MA Jinnah should be the first prime minister of independent India.

S. M. Khalid Chowdhury, On e-mail

## Worrying news

"Former Islamic Foundation director Moulana Fariduddin Masud, detained for suspected links to the August 17 blasts, accused Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Industries Minister Matur Rahman Nizami of

# MUSHROOMING MADRASSAHS



I was shocked to read the news on the alarming growth of madrassahs in our society on the front page of The Daily Star on 4 August, 2005. It is supposed that the system of teaching in madrassahs is alienated from the main stream education. The existing and mushrooming madrassahs across the country are offering religious education for the students (most of whom come from the poor and conservative families).

Those madrassahs never offer any scientific courses for those

'alienated students' and that's why they are being educated as unskilled members of our society. After finishing their education they cannot play any supporting role to our society, except leading prayers in mosques.

The government should address the issue and find ways of improving madrassah education.

Fuad Hussain Fida  
Dhaka

# Iran's nuke programme

Nuclear energy is both a boon and a curse for the humanity. If we skim through history we will find the use of nuclear weapon for mass killing by the US in 1945. Hiroshima has been bearing the effect of that catastrophe till today. But on the other hand, most of the European countries and the US and Canada are now using nuclear energy as a fuel for power generation. The main source of electricity generation in France and Germany is nuclear power plants. As the mineral resources of the world are limited, nuke-energy is the only reliable energy source for the future. This is why the westerners are now concentrating on enhancing their nuclear capability and as they are supposed to be the leaders of this world, there is nobody to suspect them whether they are enhancing this energy for

peaceful use or not.

When Iran, the most scientifically advanced Muslim country in the Middle East, began its uranium enrichment project, it became a headache for the western world. Though the then Iranian government always

offered them the opportunity to investigate their plants, the leaders of this unipolar world did not pay heed to that and persuaded them to abandon their uranium project in 2003.

The new Iranian government has declared that it would restart the nuclear

project soon. I think this is a very bold step but Iran must always keep its process transparent enough, so that the war-mongering US-UK allies never get the chance to make this an excuse to attack Iran in future.

Kamrul, BUET

