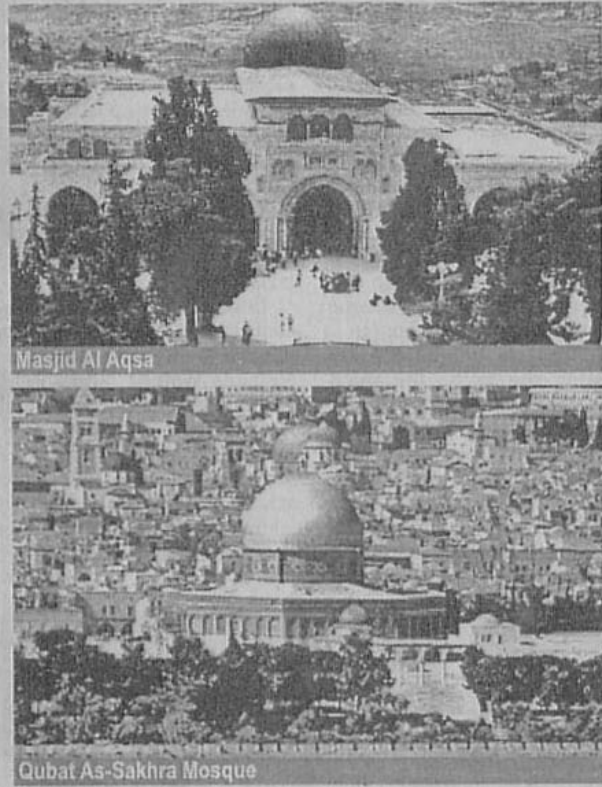


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

## Real photo of MASJID Al Aqsa



What do we know about "Masjid Al Aqsa"? Have you noticed that whenever there is mention of the Al Aqsa Mosque in the local or international media, the picture of the Dome of the Rock appears instead! Muslims post it everywhere, in their homes and offices. As a result, our children fall into the trap of not distinguishing between the two Mosques! What will happen if the Aqsa Mosque is destroyed? No one can condemn or complain, as the confusion between AL-AQSA Mosque and QUBAT AS-SAKHRA Mosque is so well established. All Muslims should be aware of this difference and make it clear to our children and the public about Masjid Al Aqsa. The Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) led salat with all the prophets, from Adam (Sm) to Isa (Sm) here. This is a very important matter. Let all people around us know that the Aqsa Mosque and Sakhra mosque are not the same. In Islam Al-Aqsa is one of the three most sacred places after Mecca and Medina. Taher, J., Sharjah, U.A.E

wood. Though the local civil society and environmentalists opposed it, observed hunger strike, the government is yet to take any step to withdraw the odd construction.

I think the govt. should take immediate steps to remove the jetty and punish the group which engineered it. Sarwar Kamal Dept. of philosophy, CU

### Attitude towards nurses

There was a round table discussion on "Giving Nurses due Recognition: Promoting Nursing Education in Bangladesh" at a local hotel on November 22, 2005 organised by the American International University. I sincerely thank The Daily Star and AIUB for actively taking up this nursing issue.

We, at the United Hospital, plan to deliver top quality medical services to our people.

Unfortunately, in the process of recruiting, we did not find the nurses who can really deliver world-class services. To bring them to that level we have started conducting an 'intensive training programme' for the selected nurses. One of the four core items/sectors of the training programme is 'Attitude build up and Behaviour' (Other sectors are English language, Computer/IT and Professional skills).

We are trying to 'change' the prevailing attitudes towards the nurses.

They are one of the respected members of the 'medical team', which delivers the service. Doctors should not consider them as 'subordinates' to carry out the 'orders'. We should show proper respect to the nurses and at the same time nurses should also develop 'self esteem'. The society should not look 'down upon' them. Theoretically, we all say it's a noble profession but that is not reflected in reality. We are trying to impart the confidence in their minds brushing aside the 'undesired inferiority complex'. They will be trained how to behave properly/show respect to the patients, their attendants and other people.

In this context, I feel, the initiatives taken through that 'round table discussion' is highly commendable.

Our print and electronic media has a duty to the society to dispel the misconception about the nursing profession. Their role to attract the top meritorious students from the upper middle class society into this profession is vital. Only then the Graduate Nursing Programmes will get the students from the top level ensuring the output of a type of nurses who would really deliver 'world class' services in Bangladesh.

I would also like to request the authorities and policy makers of the private universities to include this vital topic (Attitude build up and Behaviour) in their Graduate Nursing Programme

lem, I find enormous work has to be undertaken in this sector to build up a healthy and motivated youth force and population in general. Our population is grossly physically defective. According to a study the average number of orgasms achieved by wives is only three per marital life. To many people pregnancy seems to be the only goal—irrespective of the fact whether the wife was duly 'satisfied' or not. The wife expects to achieve orgasms at least 40-50% of the times.

Our students, workers, lower, lower middle, middle class income group people are quite ignorant about sexual cycles, reproductive

### Million dollar recreation

For years we've been hearing that Saarc is doing a lot for the world's one of the poorest billions of people. Every year they are organising annual summit with the presence of heads of states of the member countries. This summit should be organised in a simple and economical way, but what have we been watching for the last couple of years? In the name of hosting the summit, Bangladesh spent a lot of public money (of which a big portion is donors' money). Of course, we want a modern and beautiful Dhaka but not in this way. No doubt

Well, the above proposal deserves approval of the govt. However, I think, the newly created facilities should not be exclusively confined to the service of the ministers and high officials but the common Bangladeshis living abroad who often require special help and support from their home missions should also be provided with these and other facilities.

At the same time, more efficient professionals should be appointed on regular or contractual basis for protecting and promoting Bangladesh's trade interests and to strengthen educational and cultural relationship with different

means as their qualification for getting jobs and promotions, are not able to provide honest, dynamic and a superior service to the country.

We protest this hateful practice and demand for an immediate measure against this heinous act. We believe that unless the corrupt practices and political interference is strictly dealt with, the country can never hope its bureaucracy to be free from dishonesty, lethargy and self-indulgence.

Takad Ahmed Chowdhury Assistant Professor of English The University of Asia Pacific (UAP)

non-stop hartal. Both parties increased the prices of fuel several times. Both of them enhanced the remuneration of ministers and MPs.

Income disparity, crime, bombings, unemployment, unfair labour practice, price hike, foreign interference in domestic politics, looting of public properties are common things in case of both. The poster (though designed by a rightist party) perhaps represents the sentiments of the nation.

Mamun MBA, Dhaka University

# National security at stake



Bangladesh, a country practising democracy, finally became the hot target of Islamic militants. The attack was launched for establishing Islamic rule, according to a member of the suicide squad of JMB arrested in this connection. Suicide squad, a deadly form of terrorism, has started creating havoc in the country. If the series of blasts across the country on 17 August in 63 districts are termed as dress rehearsal, the ongoing attacks

on court premises, security personnel are the final showdown. During the Saarc Summit the whole Bangladesh was covered by a security blanket and a huge number of members of law enforcing agencies were mobilised. People wholeheartedly accepted the initiative, as the flawless arrangement of Summit was the top most priority. But what happened later on?

The country is turning into a liv-

ing hell where not a single place is safe. If such attacks continue to exist then what would be the way to stop them? Nothing actually, because our country lacks the expertise to contain this deadly form of terrorism. Innocent people are losing lives. After the attacks, security is beefed up in all the important places. But people who need security are left uncovered. Then, what's the use of such deployment that is incapable

of providing security to a major section of the citizens? When will the country's two major political parties stop playing the blame game and sit together to find a solution to this problem?

Sorry to say that the element of urgency to deal with the menace is still missing. Shafiqat Rana Sayed Dept Of Economics and Social Science BRAC University

### Welding workshops

A lot of welding workshops have been set up like mushrooms here and there 'illegally'. This is injurious to passers-by as these welding workshops cause eye disease. As a result, the 'Ratina' of eye may burn. The involved workers suffer from eye diseases.

Moreover, welding workshops are greatly responsible for our environment pollution.

The authorities concerned should look into the matter. Sarwar Ali Dhaka

longest sea beach in the world. Blue water, surfing waves, sandy beach and open spaces are alluring attractions for any tourist. It's the unique and only one tourist spot in Bangladesh of which we feel proud and dream of a potential money machine through tourist business. We have a good chance to develop it as an international standard multidimensional tourist spot. But for lack of government attention, development initiatives and proper plan we couldn't develop it as the most attractive tourist zone in the world.

organs and health, safe practices, the role of foreplay, orgasm, male and female masturbation etc. The wife expects the husband to take her to the height of pleasure from the very beginning! And the husband/partner would like to possess sex drive of a horse at every encounter irrespective of his health, body stature, physical and mental well-being, stress factors, lethargy, age etc. It's more predominant among the workers and people whose wives reside in the village homes or away.

The students also come up with

they've done a sparkling job but unfortunately they've failed to address all issues rather efficiently. I think this is not the way to dream of having a hunger free, poverty free modern region, we are just focusing on meetings, rather than having a fruitful outcome of the summit. Please let's brush aside such decoration, furnishing and all other funny things and try to put our utmost effort, so that we can unite to fight against corruption, terrorism and poverty.

Rakib Ahmed, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

countries of the world. Professor Zahidul Haque, Dhaka

### Internet bill

I am an Internet subscriber of T&T board. I became a subscriber on 27/09/2004 last year. Since then I have not received any Internet bill. Eventually I was asked to collect bill from T&T board. This is a problematic situation. Can't the T&T authorities do something to alleviate the sufferings of their subscribers?

Nasirullah Mridha Salim Matuail, Dhaka

### A dose of truth

There is a colourful poster entitled "Last fifteen years of AL and BNP misrule" in many places in the city. I read the poster painstakingly and realised the real situation of our country under AL & BNP rule from 1991. This poster compares AL and BNP as follows:

AL initiated the championship in corruption and BNP continues it.

AL spoiled the public property in Magurchhara gas field and so did BNP in Tangratilla. Both parties call

### Mighty hands!

Congratulations for the lead story in the DS of November 20 captioned "Outdoors ad business in mighty hands". Your investigative journalism is of exceedingly high order. May I request you to also find out as to why is it that all cars purchased by the government since it came to power in '01, including the cars meant for use by the defence services are of a particular brand? As citizens of a democratic state we have the right to know what is going on at the top level. Fahmida Intekhab, On e-mail

## Bush to trigger World War III?

The reasons, number of people killed and wounded, ruins and destructions of World War I and World War II are known to most of us.

The aftermath of World War I (1914-1918) led Europe and the Middle East, especially the Arab countries to instability and uncertainty. Furthermore, the subsequent World War II (1939-1945) changed the geo-political situation of the world.

The sun of the great British colonial empire had set in, Germany was ruined, and Japan was razed to dust. Many Asian and African countries emerged independent. And above all two countries (1) the capitalist US and (2) the communist USSR (of the Allies the UK, France, the USSR and the USA) which fought shoulder to shoulder against the Nazi Germany (of the Axis Germany, Japan and Italy) emerged as two superpowers of the world.

After World War II, the capitalist US and the communist USSR did not see eye to eye about various matters and international issues.



They became bitter rivals and arch-enemies of each other. After about four decades of hatred, jealousy and enmity against one another and the so called Cold War during which period the US called the USSR an

iron curtain, a dreadful bear, an evil empire and what not, international peace was threatened and the world was brought to the brink of World War III several times. All of a sudden, surprisingly and mysteriously

for the reasons still not clear and known, the superpower USSR disintegrated and collapsed.

Intoxicated with the joy, happiness and satisfaction of the demise of the USSR the ambitious capitalist US claims and considers to be undisputed and unchallenged and the most powerful country in the world today, free from any check and balance and any sort of accountability.

True, the US has turned into the most powerful and irresponsible country in the world. And so it has invaded Afghanistan and Iraq, collaborating with Israel in oppressing and suppressing the Palestinians and now contemplating attacking Syria, Iran and North Korea. We wonder if the US President George Bush is going to trigger World War III?

The US can only be checked and balanced if Russia, China, India, Germany and Japan realise the gravity of the present world situation and face it collectively.

OH Kabir Dhaka

### Inhuman, indeed

I would like to highlight the BSF's activities in respect of the inhabitants of Bangladesh border areas. Why does BSF kill the innocent villagers time and again? Do they think that a single cultivator or a young cow caretaker will invade their land? It's a matter of shame. The BSF should put an end to this barbaric business. Mir Rumi Ahmed King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah

### Cox's Bazar sea beach

Our Cox's Bazar is the biggest and

Moreover, we destroyed its natural glory with unplanned motel construction and endangered tourists with loose security measures. It's really pitiful for Bangladesh as a third world country that it begs money from IMF while potential economic resources are remaining out of attention and proper care such as Cox's Bazar sea beach. Add to this, in the recent times a vested group has made a jetty in the middle of the beach, hurting its virginity, destroying its aesthetic beauty, tarnishing its natural disposition and dividing the beach into two pieces. It's really a ridiculous construction as it's made of

Curriculum. Dr Abu Sayeed ERCS United Hospital, Dhaka

### Sex education

Sex education has remained a taboo in the country since time immemorial. Formal and proper sex education was not imparted to our students, much to the detriment of the society and the stakeholders.

In my thirty years practice as a physician and more than fifteen years as a STD Specialist, who are customarily the first persons to be consulted in our country for various sexual, psycho-sexual prob-

such complaints.

Various psychological disorders like depression, hysteria crop up from sexual disharmony, mal-performance.

With rapid urbanisation and other resultant factors these problems require to be addressed with due sincerity and seriousness.

Formal sex education has to be imparted on a mandatory basis in the post primary school level to weed out false notions or ideas about sex, and right information ought to be made available to the population.

Dr. Syed Nasirullah Dhaka

### MOF Protocol

According to a news item published in a section of the press, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOF) has recently sent a proposal to the Cabinet Division for creation of 12 local posts (5 Protocol Officers and 7 Drivers) and purchase of seven luxury cars for six Bangladesh missions abroad in order to provide protocol to the visiting Bangladesh Ministers and high officials of the government. At present Bangladesh missions abroad are unable to provide protocol to the visiting ministers and officials due to the lack of officers and cars.

### Leakage of BCS questions!

We are utterly shocked at the news of question paper leakage of the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) preliminary test held recently by the Public Service Commission (PSC). The news has been published with substantial proof in our print and electronic media. In fact this has become quite a regular piece of news, beginning from the 24th BCS examinations. So, recurrence of this unwelcome phenomenon has become a norm rather than an exception in the recent years and thus reducing the country's bureaucracy to rubble.

All the news-reports on BCS question paper leakage in the recent years alleged that a good number of leaders and workers of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), two government-backed student wings, in connection with some PSC staff were behind those leakages. By reading those reports, the people understand that this loathsome act is done as a blueprint of taking over the country's bureaucratic control.

Bureaucracy plays a key role in a country's overall activities and development. Unfortunately, in our country this vital organ has already come far into its downward journey in terms of quality, dedication and honesty. With the age of CSP cadres almost over, our public administration is mostly run by the civil servants recruited by the tests, many of which are not free from serious allegations of political nepotism and exercise of unfair means. We also often come across the fact that most of our officers are being promoted because of their political affinity, not because of qualification, experience and dedication towards profession. The unfair practice in the recruitment and promotion of our public servants is terribly damaging the image of our bureaucracy and holding back many of our brightest students from choosing it as their career. Moreover, there is no doubt that this workforce, with political affinity and unfair



## Female workers

Thank you Atiq of DU for your opinion on our female garments workers. I would like to add my thinking on this issue from a global context as I agree with you. Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs is a very prominent economist of recent times as he is serving as the director of UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor for UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In his recent book "The End of Poverty; Economic Possibilities for Our Time" he has praised Bangladesh and its positive economic movement. In this book he has used our country as an example for other poor countries to come out and break out the extreme poverty circle. Mr. Sachs has been very pleased to refer to our garment industry. At the same time, he has clearly stated about the gender discrimination and sexual harassment of our female garments workers. Now you might be asking yourself, how this has got anything to do with the global impact?

Mr. Sachs has been visiting many different countries and he has gained direct and indirect support from many world leaders on his mission to eliminate extreme poverty. Former US President Bill Clinton is one of his strongest supporters. As we all know that in western countries the real economic development is not only measured by GDP, GNP or Monetary value. The total economic growth and development is the combination of many things and human life value is one of them. Mr. Sachs emphasizes very strongly human resource development. Equal work opportunity and safe work environment are two critical and important elements of workforce development.

It seems to me that our country has failed to develop a better workplace without discrimination and harassment for our female garment workers.

So, as a Bangladeshi born world citizen like many others my request, prayer and hope are the same as Atiq's. The government, all political parties, policy makers, employers, intellectuals and all citizens; please take necessary steps to eliminate those miserable conditions in the garment industry to provide a better and safe workplace for our female workers. Shamsul Ruble, South Dakota, USA