

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.

**Biman flights**

Your article about Biman Bangladesh desperately sought more chartered aircraft to ferry pilgrims for Hajj. Biman is still operating losing flights to New York.

It would be advisable for Biman to temporarily suspend flights to New York, Brussels, Frankfurt, Rome and Paris, and press the freed-up aircraft exclusively on Hajj flights.

This should go a long way towards alleviating the aircraft shortage, and Biman can cancel the contracts with the chartered aircraft operators. **Niraj Agarwalla, US**

have had no effect, perhaps a little publicity will have no effect, perhaps a little publicity will do no harm either. For the last one month K B Aman Ali Road has been in very bad shape. The surface is badly ruptured by heavy rains and on a dark night, it is dangerous for vehicles to pass that way. Moreover, there is heaps of road metal on both sides of it, which leave very little room in the middle.

The road, should I say, needs immediate repair. **Ismath Ara Begum, Chittagong**

**Anti-social activities**

Anti-social activities in our locality are on the increase day by day. We are victims of terrorist activities of a few armed men. They extort money from the shopkeepers and businessmen along with valuable things. They extort money from the

to encourage the innovative entrepreneurs to support with 49 per cent equity by Bangladesh Bank without interest. The investors must be a potential one and the proposed project must be feasible showing the internal rate of return as acceptable. There is provision of share buy back.

The EEF has generated enough enthusiasm among the promising investors. This has also encouraged the Bangladesh Bank to open small and medium enterprise fund to encourage the small investors and entrepreneurs.

But very recently, the activities of EEF have reached to a total deadlock situation except disbursement to ongoing projects with very careful scrutiny and continuous monitoring.

It is learnt that the quantum of disbursed money is more than the budgetary provision for the purpose.

body, we just want people to be held accountable."

I extend my moral support to the US anti-war protesters led by the dead soldier's mother Cindy Sheehan. War cannot bring peace. To establish peace, we have to follow peaceful ways and means by having respect for others' peaceful mind, thoughts and ideas. **Zahidul Haque, Dhaka**

**Uni-track education system**

I'm a victim of the Multi-track Education System. When I was in class IX, I had a lack of interest in classroom education. That is why I was a casual student in school. But my knowledge and interest was about science. I wanted to become an engineer or scientist.

But for the multi-track education

With the next election in the corner and the political parties polarising and preparing themselves for national election we would like to portray the image of an ideal MP that the majority of the population envisions holding the august office/vocation. The member of parliament may be a tall or a short man, fat or slim, fair complexioned, brown or deep brown, bearded or clean shaved, suited-booted or in 'punjabi-pyjama' but he/she ought to be a proven successful, dedicated, pleasing, 'not-self serving' personality with honour, esteem and prestige, with achievement in his/her own profession - a lawyer, an engineer, a doctor, an educationist, a retired civil or military official, a committed social worker, an NGO leader, a banker, a very successful industrialist/businessman (who has disassociated himself from business), a journalist etc., not a smuggler, a man with dubious past, with a police record, with the credit of numbers of crimes/murders he has helped in committing, a half-literate, a religious fundamentalist etc. We would prefer to be quite old fashioned in our choice. Please leaf through the CVs of our present day MPs. Many of the CVs and their activities are simply unacceptable.

We urge upon the political parties to give nomination tickets to those who deserve to shoulder and discharge the responsibilities and duties of an honourable MP. Please allow the seemingly utopian idea to be translated into reality. **SN Mamon Dhaka**

**Opposition's role**

The opposition party AL has failed in all its responsibilities and in its role as the supporting party in the process of nation building and parliamentary activities. They have failed to rise above party-politics and perform their duties in the interest of the people and their security, during a period of critical national importance.

The party has failed to uphold people's interest: failed to participate supportively in parliament, boycotted and disgraced the parliament, engaged in hartals to cripple the economy and failed to participate in national dialogue after terrorist attacks.

We the people, without any affiliation to party politics, must demand that the main opposition be immediately replaced by an Interim Party to take part in parliament and in a dialogue on National Security. The idea might sound rather bizarre, but what options are we left with? **K. Gazi California, US**

**Tele-tapping**

The freshly incorporated amendment to the Bangladesh Telecommunications Act 2001 has stirred up thought-provoking arguments and counter-arguments in different spheres. The issue of debates has been so farfetched so as to openly imply that the voices raised against the amendment are definitely supportive of JMB. Can we just sit back and try to think what steps have been taken to actually consolidate the democracy which we are supposedly enjoying since 1991?

Nations surge forward towards democracy and development, Bangladesh always falls into this susceptible trap of lagging backward. As in most cases, even in the case of tele-tapping, lack of proper governance may shortly lead to the adverse effects coming to the surface whereby, misuse of power by the empowered authorities will be hypocritically analysed and assessed with concluding remarks such as, "In order to gain something, one needs to lose something." But then again, not many of us will be surprised at this reactive attitude since we have hardly been proactive in the past. The question is gain something at what cost? If tele-tapping is really the answer that the government is seeking, well and good. But the government must ensure that the adverse effects of the amendment to the Act do not exceed its benefits to the society.

It is clear from the past incidents that in order to completely eradicate this JMB network, the nation needs to join hands with the law enforcing agencies who have been showing praise-worthy performances so far. Social awareness must be created to exude positive vibes among us just as it was done during the food inspection days a few months back. About the tele-tapping issue, let's just hope that the amendment was not an impulsive act on the government's part. **Asia Alam Chowdhury, Dhaka**

**Our helplessness**

Asking for something means asking for pressure. Raising our heads and moving hands forward we asked for toys to our fathers in childhood. When we understood the importance of knowledge we walked to our teachers, asked questions and obtained unknown answers.



PHOTO: AFP

This is the month of December, the month of victory, glory and dignity. But the ultimate victory of the people, i.e., the economic emancipation of the toiling masses and establishment of an exploitation-free society based on social justice, is yet to be achieved. The dream of the Bangladeshis to transform the country into 'Sonar Bangla' is yet to be materialised. The hopes and aspirations of the common people remain to be fulfilled. Unprecedented anarchy, chaos, conflicts, terror and horror have gripped the society and in the process national security and stability is at stake. The country has been plagued by unbounded corruption and adulteration. Poverty alleviation and solution to the problem of unemployment continues to remain a far cry. The gap between 'Haves' and 'Have-nots' is being widened day by day. The political arena is perturbed by agitation, counter-agitation and violence. Recently, the country

witnessed the upsurge of religious militants and the bomb blasts carried out by the outlaws have put the security of the common people in jeopardy. But the (three million) valiant freedom fighters didn't lay down their lives during the War of Liberation for such a country, which has miserably failed to race with other countries of the world in terms of development, peace and progress. Rather, shamefully it (the country) has topped other countries in one respect, i.e., corruption. The nation is all set to pay homage to the martyrs of the liberation war but it can only be paid befittingly by bringing about a qualitative change in the lives of the people, thereby changing the complexion of the society as a whole. **Anwar Iqbal Jhawtala, Comilla**

Thinking about age and misdeeds that we have done, we turned our heads to Kaba and beg for forgiveness to our Lord. In this world we are all beggars. Some beg peace, some money, but when a human comes to a human for help they feel annoyed. Jogging around our homes or in parks, during early sunlight hours makes us feel joyful. The feeling of early morning sunlight, peaceful lanes and gentle wind flying around our ears, boosts up our youthful energy. But among these beautiful creations of God, we will find people sleeping on streets corners, wrapped in thin layers of clothes, asking the sun to give them some heat.

Some of these people are engaged in illegal activities or take begging as the line of work. Almost all of them even didn't have primary education. Many of us hate them as it may damage the reputation of our society, but how society is responsible for producing such huge

expensive equipment should be postponed till the trained personnel are back. Once the trained staffs are back and find no equipment to practise what they had learnt, no amount of salary can give them job satisfaction and eventually they will drift away. Training and construction/equipping the hospital should proceed in parallel.

As an engineer trained in the early sixties to operate the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (which, need I add, has not seen daylight till today), I know the bitter frustration at first hand. **A.B.M. Nurul Islam Gulshan-2, Dhaka**

**War criminals**

The renowned war criminal hunter Simon Wiesenthal died recently. He was interned in Nazi concentration camps for twelve years and was fortunate enough to escape the fate which was meted out upon six

was not properly served by self seeking pseudo-politicians. There ought to be someone like Simon Wiesenthal to capture the war criminals and put them to trial. An honest and dedicated effort is the call of the hour.

It is never too late to mete out justice. **TKM, Dhaka**

**India's role**

Its disappointing that, though India played such a major role in Bangladesh's liberation, nothing has been mentioned or discussed in your V-Day special supplement. Bangladesh knows that without India's interference it would have been very difficult for freedom fighters to liberate Bangladesh. So many Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives for such a great deed. But there is no mention of them.

The main purpose of this letter is not to recall the past or to prove any

**Painful apathy**

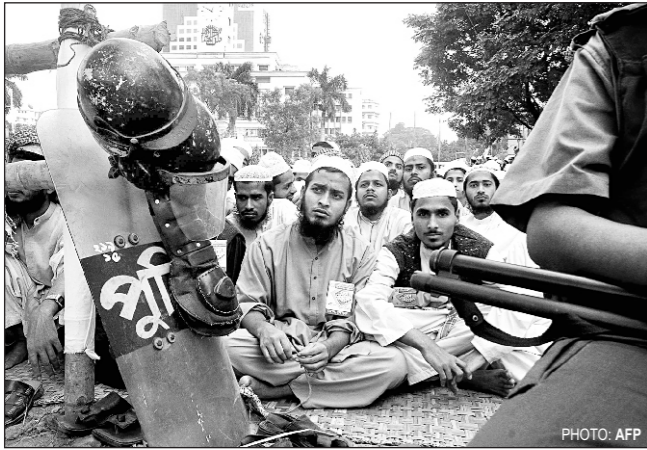


PHOTO: AFP

Two main political parties of the country seem engaged again in their perennial business of mud slinging. After the series of bomb blasts, people all around the country expected a united stand against the terrorists.

But the major politicians remain indifferent as usual about the aspirations of the countrymen. The recent repartee between the present and the ex-prime minister of the country will do nothing to lower the confidence of the bombers. It is really sad, they are still apparently apathetic to uniting the nation though claiming to be the friends of the people.

We wonder when our leaders would change their way of business and would really feel for the people. People are more conscious and concerned about things happening all around them now. Mere tall talk cannot help them any more.

So, a positive change in the mindset of the leaders is not a mere expectation now, it is a must if they think sensibly. **Sabbir Ahmed, University of Dhaka**

The use of loudspeaker is part of modern life. But nowadays this useful instrument has turned into an object of annoyance. It disturbs normal life of the people. It is used most often in different ceremonies. The noise that comes out of the restaurants makes a mess of the total environment. It continues from morning till midnight at a stretch. The students are the worst sufferers as they fail to concentrate on their studies.

May we request the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to stop indiscriminate use of loudspeaker? **Tasrin Zerin International Islamic University, Chittagong**

**Bangladesh Bank and EEF**

As per agreement on December 26, 2000 with the government, Bangladesh Bank has set up the Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund [EEF] to encourage the entrepreneurs to invest in the risky but promising sectors like software industry, food processing and agro based industries. The major objective was

shopkeepers and businessmen. No construction work is possible without paying money to them. Being drug addicts they are misguiding the young generations.

We call upon the law enforcing authorities to take effective steps to stop these anti-social activities. **Takhlisa Khanom International Islamic Islamic University Chittagong**

**Anti-war rally in US**

Recently, Cindy Sheehan-the mother of a US soldier-killed in Iraq, the mother who became the face of the US anti-war movement together with other anti-war protesters, urged US President George W Bush to stop killing and to bring the US troops back home. Sheehan, the mother, said, "We don't hate any-

system my schoolteachers did not allow me to the science group. So they took me as a student of commerce. Even I didn't know that commerce group is not for the engineers. It's like a forced marriage and I did not know what to do. Moreover, I was not mature enough. After that I scored good results in SSC and HSC level. Despite my good results, my destiny was not as I wanted it to be. Moreover, I didn't have the opportunity to change the track.

That is why my opinion is that under the university level you should treat students as immature and should allow track changes. Only uni-track education system could ensure this. **Omar Sharif Jahangirnagar University**

**Ideal MP- an appeal**

**Guest Birds**



The honourable Planning and Finance Minister while inaugurating the Plastic Goods Fair, made his observation towards the migratory birds terming them a menace for the country and suggested killing them on the plea that they make a mess by polluting wetlands, haors, crops etc. His comments were strongly criticised by the environmentalists and other related personalities of the country who termed the minister's remark very unfortunate. They are of the opinion that these birds contribute to the eco-system and help grow the fish in a healthy manner. They also said that taking the advantage of the minister's comments a section of greedy people will start hunting the migratory birds in a whole sale manner. It is generally seen that these guest birds stay here for a short period of time after which they fly back to their country of origin. They mostly do this due to change in the climatic conditions. As for these birds, even if they do some damage which is very insignificant they are always welcomed by the lovers of the nature. But the suggestion of their slaying as mentioned by the minister is discriminating. It is also important to mention that our veteran minister may have forgotten the fact that the dangerous Avian Flu, which was first detected in Romania and later on to some other European countries may exist in these birds. The World Health Organization has already cautioned many countries including Bangladesh to avoid physical contact from these birds. There is a likely hood that these birds may carry the dangerous virus of the flu. Therefore, the birds that are coming to Bangladesh may be vulnerable to the virus. Hence, consuming the meat of the birds might pose extremely hazardous to the people of Bangladesh. The minister should take care of these factors or otherwise take the advise of the health departments before making such comments. **Humayun Hyder Zigatola, Dhaka**

**Enemy at the doorstep**

The politicians, law enforcers and bureaucrats are to blame for the birth of Bangla Bhai, a common name on everyone's lips these days. The government needs to take immediate steps to strengthen its political system and consolidate the democratic system. The recent suicide bomb attacks and on going bomb threats are slowly taking away the people's confidence in the government and law enforcement agencies. Let this not be our biggest mistake, a time might come when the majority of the people mostly uneducated and below poverty level will join the hands of the Islamic militants. Because democracy or the democratic government could not provide them the basic necessities- food, water, house, clothes, education, health- so, what makes us think that these victims of political oppressions will



PHOTO: AFP

keep their emotions anger and frustration to themselves for the rest of their lives? This poor segment of the society is the key weapon of the terrorists. The government needs to take immediate action and eliminate the root s of terrorism and give confidence to its public. Every day the enemy is getting more and more powerful, it is just waiting and playing

its game tactfully, when the right opportunity will arise for them, we shall not even know what will hit us.

We shall lose our freedom, and civil rights- it sounds like the worst nightmare, but it's possible and can happen sooner than you think. The enemy is among us. **Mashruf Habib Los Angeles, US**

section of people, who dream to get education, healthcare, concrete shelter and social statues?

I, for one, can do very little. I can only pray for them those who beg happiness to God everyday and go places for help. I can only dream of a day when all of us will love each other as respected citizens and help to erase our differences and all classes. **Tahsin Hyder Maple Leaf International School Dhanmondi, Dhaka**

**Cancer hospital**

While I agree with Dr. Manzur Morshed about training our doctors and nurses in cancer management (Do we really need to build a cancer hospital now? D.S., Dec. 21, 2005), I beg to differ with his view that setting up the cancer hospital with

millions of his compatriots. An architectural engineer by profession he dedicated his life to research, investigation and actual hunting down of the Nazi war criminals. He traced them to South America and captured much-hated Eichmann from Argentina, and ultimately justice was served.

A similar situation exists in our country. The fiends of Al-Badr, Al-Shams and hard core Razakars are still roaming at large in Bangladesh, Pakistan, many middle- eastern countries, and also in Europe and America. Those war criminals, rapists, and killers who unleashed a reign of terror on the population of Bangladesh in 1971 and were actively involved in the killing of intellectuals were not hunted down and brought to justice. The nation

past facts but to insist on the fact that India is a friend of Bangladesh. **Rajiv Kanabar Mumbai, India**

**Terminate JMB!**

To kill innocent people is forbidden in our religion. But the JMB did carry out bomb attacks in Bangladesh and still threaten to blow up the cities. Even, I heard from my sister that JMB sent a letter to a school headmistress of Chittagong threatening to kill the children of that school. This is ridiculous. I don't know what they are trying to prove. They are undermining our religion.

The JMB threat must be contained with some tough measures. **Rajul Hasan Sydney, Australia**