



### Much Ado about Nothing

The world's media, it seems, always need a sexy new disease to keep going. Some western countries are on war footing with their TVs and newspapers talking in military terms. Words and phrases like "exterminations", "pre-emptive action", "holocaust" and "catastrophes" are indiscriminately used to warn us of a disease that has so far taken only 20 lives. Ironical that in the United Kingdom alone, on an average 20,000 people die in a year of normal flu related illness. Instead of putting its resources in curbing diseases like HIV-Aids and Malaria, the west is digging its hand into its pocket to give money for something, which, we are not sure, will be worth the while. Millions of survivors of the South Asian earthquake are still fighting death in this harsh winter. Pakistan's plea to its western donors to send more tents and warm clothes has fallen in deaf air. Whereas as far as "fighting" Avian Influenza is concerned a recent UN conference has met its target within hours. The only reason can be that, should an epidemic break out, more and more White people would become exposed to it.

*Diosa Hussain  
Banani, Dhaka*

### The religious fundamentalists

The other day I was talking to my father about the rising militancy problem in our country. I am a student of Dhaka University and like other conscious citizens of the country I am very much worried about the problem. The derailed religious fundamentalists even do not know what they are aiming for. As the whole country was being threatened, I was a little scared. Girls are being threatened to wear hijab, though I think it is totally a person's own choice what to wear. I asked my father if I should wear hijab while going to university. I was expecting an affirmative but got an unexpected answer. He told me that I was the proud student of Dhaka University and I possessed a strong historical background of fighting against all odds. Should we need to fear anymore?

*Kazi Mohua*

### Stalins and Lenins of India

It was really interesting to learn about this unusual village in India where people are named after famous Russians. I'm sure there are a lot of unusual and interesting things happening all over this country as well. It would be nice to see these stories published in the SWM. We are always reading a lot of negative stories all over the newspapers and magazines. These sorts of stories light up our lives and encourages us to do good in this world.

*Sadat Kashef  
New DOHS*

### Islamic militants

It seems that all of a sudden the government is going all out against the Islamic militants, discovering a huge amount of arms and ammunition in secret hideouts. Is it me or does everyone feel that the government has some ulterior motive behind this sudden action against the militants. Didn't this same government, not so long ago declare that Islamic militants in this country were only a figment of the media's overactive imagination.

*Ruhul Amin  
Mohammadpur*

