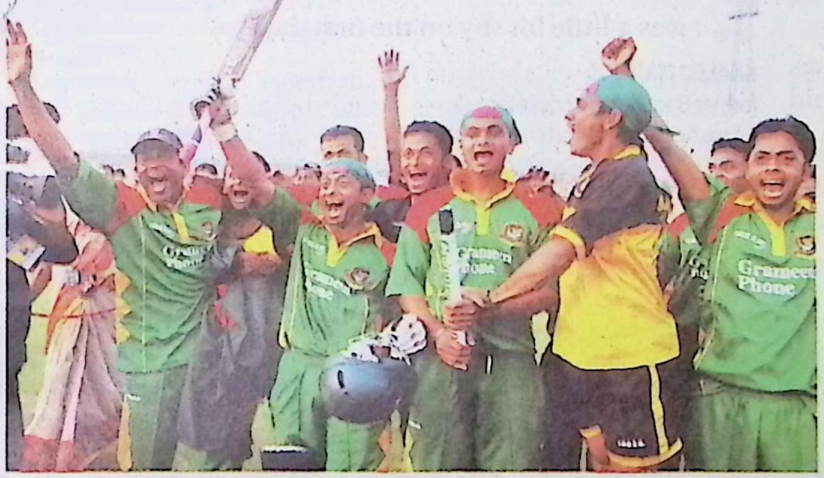
Congratulations to the Tigers

Hearty congratulations to the Bangladeshi national cricket team for their tremendous victory against Sri Lanka in the second One Day International in Bogra. The national cricket team's performance really made us overjoyed and did the Bengal tigers proud.

As we the citizens of the country are suffering from many kinds of evils like corruption, crimes of the society, rise in fundamentalism, high price of daily necessities, diesel and fertiliser crisis etc, this victory puts us at peace and gives a breath of fresh air to our daily lives. The two main political parties of the country should take lesson from this victory. The cricket team's victory was not a magic trick, it was the outcome of combined team spirit. If the political leaders of different parties could work uniformly and practice politics, then we will be victorious in many of the national issues. Thanks to Bashar's team for doing a great job.

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Incorrect view of women's rights

This is to draw attention to last week's letter written by Eishan of Chuadanga Government College that simply reflected his wrong opinion concerning rights and equal freedom for women. It is completely wrong to think that freedom and rights are limited to getting scholarships and being offered vacant seats in local transportation. What Eishan does not see is that the government is actually improving the system by allowing the female population to cope up with the much more favoured male population. In our country education for women is not considered as vital but in fact it is! And the fact that seats are vacant for women is completely true and acceptable. Being a male I believe it is the least we can do for a lady. Anyway freedom for women is not fair in the sense that any male person in the society can roam around freely whereas women can't. Now as a citizen, I believe that "extra benefits" will not be a problem in the long run, because it is not practised in our country and if continued, the perception of women getting equal rights shall forever remain fiction.

Azmi Syed
Mohammadpur

The elderly among us

It's gratifying to know that concepts of old people's home are catching on. I used to be horrified when I initially learnt of these institutions years ago and thought of these as more of an alien concept in our more family-oriented culture. But reality is brutal. So far away from home, I call my mother every week and sometimes chat on-line with a web cam. But that's all I can do. I do find some comfort that my brothers are there with three pairs of grandkids to give her company. I also have friends here whose parents live on their own. For all of us fear and anxiety are constant companions. Every time the phone rings at the odd hour, we go through panic attacks.

But what about those parents to whom death would be more welcome than living in the daily indignities that they are meted out by ungrateful offsprings or their equally unappreciative spouses? No longer seen as useful or needed, they are merely tolerated for the rest of their existing years. Yet we forget that frail and helpless, they have come full circle to the same helpless conditions as when they had first started out in this world. The same way that we ourselves did. And very soon we will find ourselves to be in.

Rebecca Sultana
Toronto
Canada

Alas! 21st February!

February 21st is the most significant day in the life of a Bangali national. On this day in 1952 Salam, Barkat, Rafik and Jabbar laid down their lives to establish Bangla as the mother tongue of our country. Now it is celebrated throughout the world as it has been declared as International Mother Language Day. But what respect are some of us paying to this day?

The other day I was going to my cousin's house and I saw some local boys decorating the Shahid Minar, the symbol of our mother language, while listening to Hindi songs! They were paying homage to the martyrs of Bangla language while listening to Hindi songs! Is that the sign of patriotism? They could hear our national songs like "Amar sonar Bangla" or "Salam salam". Now my question is if we observe 21st February listening to Hindi songs, what will the next generation do?

Asif Ahmed