

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.

# Tragedy of caste system



All human beings want peace and happiness in our daily life. Hinduism means peace. But power hungry Hindu politicians in India made it their weapon to oppress fellow human beings in the name of religion. Peace loving people all over the world will have been shocked upon reading the news in the Indian news media entitled "Dalit protests intensify in Maharashtra." Three persons were killed and over 65 injured on Thursday 30th November 2006 during protests across Maharashtra following the alleged destruction of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's statue in Kanpur.

Dalit people regret to say that the Maharashtra government's response to this hate campaign appears to be negligible and higher officials of the government have done nothing to stop the killing, rape, brutality and intimidation that continue to be meted out to the Dalit

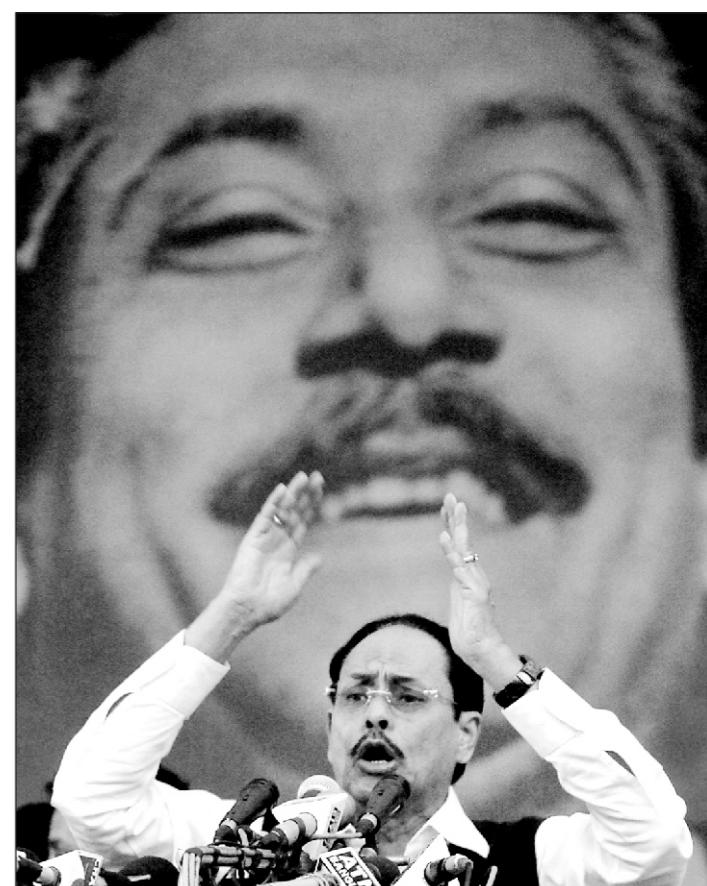
population of India.

The ethno-religious and Dalits minorities in India are subjected to relentless persecution and unspeakable violence. People's voice can help to put an end to this continuing saga of violence, persecution, and crimes against humanity. As the Press Trust of India reported: the Indian nation paid homage to Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on his 51st death anniversary on December 6, 2006.

The creators of the wrangle must make a public confession to the Dalits, Buddhists and Muslims by admitting that their plan, policy and actions in this wrangle are all wrong and sinful. The authorities concerned in India must initiate a process which will prevent the occurrence of such events in the future.

**Sona Kanti Barua**  
On e-mail

# Murky political scene



## Advisers

I have the pleasure to extend my heartiest thanks to the eminent advisers to the present caretaker government as they are trying to bring about some credible solution to the prevalent political impasse. These set of good, efficient and dedicated people of worth have been trying really hard exercising their wisdom, clarity of thought and a neutral mindset for creating an atmosphere congenial to holding a free, fair and credible election.

This unique presence of such people renews our hope and confidence that we indeed have good people in society who are capable enough to steer our nation forward any time it is required.

Congratulations to you all...

**Rafiqul Islam Rime**

Agrabad, Chittagong

## What is our destination?

In the past I never tried to write anything to a newspaper. This time I intended to do so because of the current situation, which I think is critical.

The politicians have let us down.

**Delwar Hossain**  
Nandina, Bajitpur  
Kishorgonj

## Answers to ten questions

I have carefully read Mr. Abu Talab Mahmudur Rahman's letter [DS-06 December 2006] written from Kuwait and have carefully noted down its content. I am not quite sure if I am the bravest amongst the available politicians but I think that anyone claiming himself/herself to be a politician would certainly like to reply to Mr. Rahman's letter without much hesitation. I also feel that he deserves a reply, so that politicians as a whole are not laden with all the blame and responsibility for whatever is happening in our beloved country.

Answer no.1: No, not always. Answer no.2: Yes, undoubtedly. Answer no.3: You have asked a sweeping question, whose reply is that not all politicians that you come across are shameless. Men and women who come from a good stock and indulge in political activities know how to

behave and how to differentiate between good and bad. Answer no.4: Most of us, I agree with you brother, are driven by muscle rather than brain because there is an acute dearth of intellectuals and educated people amongst the ranks of the politicians today. Conversely, we have a plethora of musclemen and women roaming around everywhere. Half read or half-educated people [even read up to class 8 or 9] are found occupying the highest seat of power today unlike the times of Sher-e-Bangla Fazlul Huq or Shaheed Suhrawardy--the intellectual giants of the sub-continent.

Answer no.5: We feel that our political opponents do not give a damn to our legitimate demands terming everything that we say or do as subversive. Our backs are pushed against the wall leaving us with no option but only hard line. Personally, I think that any 'oborod' or blockade should be confined to the person or institution which has become controversial and not the whole country. Presently we are trying to do exactly that.

Answer no.6: Sorry dear, where

is that blessed democracy in our country which you are talking about? Is it on paper that you see or on our lips? You may say we have a mockery of democracy or if you are more generous we may say, we have a semblance of democracy. Show me, which of the political parties except the CPB or the dreaded 'Jamaat' follows democratic traditions [and ways] within their 'homes' in our country? None, you would agree. Where are the solid democratic institutions which nurture democracy? Then why talk of democracy and compromise at all?

Answer no.7: No. Politicians are just a minority numerically, but very strong otherwise due to their fertile brains!

Answer no.8: Sometimes the people in general also make mistakes and choose the wrong people to rule the country. It is then that the country goes to dogs and innocent lives are lost. Selection of right persons through ballot is still a far cry in our country, since we go by the 'markas' or symbols which represent various parties. Not necessarily all nominated candidates of my chosen or favourite

party may be angels. Therefore you see, where do we make the basic error?

Answer no.9: Agreed. But to revert to sensible politics will take enough time; at least a generation.

Answer no.10: No, not at the moment, because it is a free for all affair. Once I am elected or any Tom, Dick or Harry is elected there is no way to bring him back to senses or the right track if he goes astray. For five years s/he is gone!

I would love to respond to your further queries, if any.

**A.K. Faezul Huq**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Baridhara, Dhaka

## NGOs and voter list

It has been recommended that we utilise NGOs and their grassroots level linkages to remove anomalies from the flawed voter list. As a citizen of Bangladesh, I have strong reservation against this. Based on my experience in dealing with many of the field workers of NGOs and knowledge gathered through a number of newspapers, I can say that most of the field workers are politically tilted towards a party.

But what we watch today is a different political scene.

**Sirajul Islam**  
Navana Shefali, Gulshan 1  
Dhaka 1212  
Assit. Teacher, Bogra YMCA Public School, Bogra

While the Awami League and the 14-party alliance are out to ensure free and fair polls in the country we should not use political activists of any party to update our voter list.

I do not object to the idea of anyone working for a certain NGO and a political party at the same time, but I do object to using them to update voter list.

**Khairul Hasan, Surrey, UK**

## Good news but...

Well, a day full of positive news (it turned out to be short lived) after so many negative things happened in our country. It was like a cool breeze coming out after a prolonged hot and humid summer. I really felt good to read the contents of the news headlined (in the DS today): Light finally seen at end of the tunnel, 14-party moving towards polls, drastic changes in top level civil admin, or rise above personal differences, protect constitution etc.

But what we watch today is a different political scene.

**Sirajul Islam**  
Navana Shefali, Gulshan 1  
Dhaka 1212  
Assit. Teacher, Bogra YMCA Public School, Bogra

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