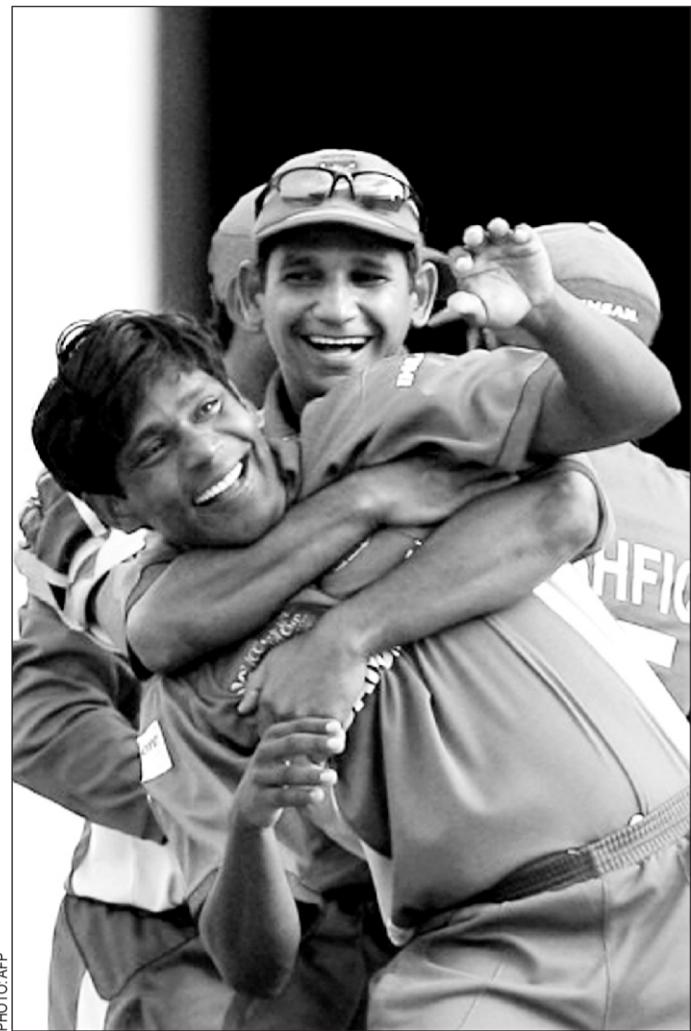


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

# Come on, Tigers!



Winning against the mighty Indians was like a dream come true! No, not really. Rationally speaking, our Tigers played some sort of sensible cricket which gave India an abrupt shock. In other words, Bangladeshi cricketers had a game plan and they fought bravely till the last minute. Shockingly but truly, this unexpected defeat resulted in great misery for India as a whole and they were eliminated from the world's most prestigious ODI cricket event. The Indians sure would love to kiss the World Cup Trophy this time around.

But what actually went through these young and talented players' minds since winning against India? Are they overwhelmed? Is defeating India the final objective for Bangladesh? Those questions seem to squeeze us (the nation's blind cricket supporters) ever since Bangladesh lost to the Giant Aussies and the Kiwis. We expect our cricketers to play reasonably well. It's not a question of winning against the mighty cricketing nations; rather we desire to witness some sensible performance from these young cricketers.

**Md Badiuzzaman Tamal**  
Jahangirnagar University

around the world after cold war was refuted by himself in the late nineties on the basis of thirty five years' of empiricism.

It is also a fact the activities and actions taken by the present government with the implicit and explicit support of the armed forces are laudable but for the sake of long term positive and tangible impact they need to undertake both political and administrative reforms. You are absolutely right to advocate for reform agenda.

Thanks again for your bold and pragmatic comments.

**Dr. Matur Rahman**  
(Former MDS, BPATC)  
Stockholm

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I was a half hearted reader of The Daily Star because there was no substitute. I started liking the paper a few years back when you started raising issues of corruption and fundamentalism.

Today, I decided that The Daily Star is my newspaper. Congratulations for your commentary.

Please go ahead.  
**M S Siddiqui (Shah)**  
Bangla Chemical  
Dhaka

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Your commentary appears to be totally against the sentiment of the common man. It tends to drive a wedge between the harmonious working of the CTG and its chief backer by bringing in many superficially similar but irrelevant Army-led previous governments in Bangladesh and Pakistan. The remarks by the General was in terms of wide policy direction against corruption and dynastic dictatorship in the guise of democracy which had the country by the throat since its independence and it is a pity that you found it fit to paint it foul, vaguely pointing out dangers from the recent past which we all are aware of. As the General's comment had no detailed plan or directive for anyone, especially the CTG, it is completely far fetched to imagine to construe it either as a show of strength or a bid for direct power. Of course we all know that the Army as the most powerful institution in the land cannot be precluded from such bids in the future if the welfare and survival of the country as a civilised nation demands it.

Our aim will be to look for a political arrangement that is based on rule of law; puts in place instruments of checks and balance that not only control corruption, but also attract people who are committed to and remain honest in politics. Let there be no illusion that anybody other than the politicians can rule a country. What is needed is a process that promotes integrity and demotes self-seeking indulgence among the politicians. It will be a tragedy if Bangladesh Army gets embroiled in politics and fails the country this time around. Frankly, politics is not their domain and they should steer clear of it. Let us not allow the lender of the last resort to bankrupt itself! This will be disastrous!

**Adil Khan**  
New York

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Thank you very much for your commentary. A bold expression at the right time. Though we supported this govt. initially but their dilly-dallying in transferring power is not good for the country.

**Kamrul Naser**  
On e-mail

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I am impressed by going through your commentary 'Gen. Moeen Goes Public on Politics'. 'Many' may not like your comments but you have rightly tried to give a pragmatic analysis on the basis of empiricism. In this context, the 'concerned people' should read thoroughly the recent works of living Harvardian legend Samuel P. Huntington. His earlier advocacy of the contribution of armed forces

## The CTG's role

Some of the things they are doing are really praiseworthy. Especially, no one can deny their courage to reach the powerful people when the question of corruption comes. But how far can they make the common people 'honest' and 'pure' as they never were responsible for their present situation? And how far will it be wise to change them overnight? It is ultimately the people who make a state. I am indicating the common people, the masses.

I think the present government is prudent enough to understand it.

**Shahid Ahmed**  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

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## "Sick" buildings

If you move around any residential area of Dhaka city, you will see the

# Rajuk

Every day the newspapers and TV project Rajuk being busy in demolishing unauthorised structures all over the city. Are they doing it willingly?

Possibly not, as the unauthorised construction was the result of political connections and bribing of Rajuk employees at various levels! Today demolition has been practically forced on them by the CTG, and looks so good for a change. Has the CTG looked into the modus operandi of approvals for new construction? The only way out is graft (temporarily somewhat suspended) and the all-conquering influence.

The established process of procrastination was a sort of cash-cow for Rajuk's employees and officials; which was milked with enthusiasm all round! Except for cash rich builders; to the normal retired people; it was nothing but misery! Even going to the relevant Rajuk department

was a punishment by itself. Way back in July 7, 2006 a letter was published in a daily; where I proposed a pragmatic and realistic approach to accepting or rejecting a construction proposal by Rajuk within sixty days! Unfortunately it cut no ice anywhere; as there was no incentive (lubricant) in this method. It was only a process designed for time efficiency, which no-one in Rajuk ever liked! Way back in mid November 2006, I submitted a proposed construction plan for approval; based on Rajuk's new rules. Till today, more than four months since, there has been total silence from Rajuk! Does it mean that since nothing was said and no response came from Rajuk I can go ahead? How long can one wait after arranging for money and keeping it pending with financial institutions, while Rajuk takes its own sweet time; with no concept of time value of

money? Unfortunately I cannot muster peer-pressure, and have no lubrication available.

What can people like us do? Will the CTG seriously investigate the approval procedures of Rajuk? If need be I can provide the adviser concerned with a pragmatic suggestion of expediting the approval procedures. It is nothing extraordinary; except getting it done on a piece rate basis, under the scrutiny of an approved body of Architects and Designers in the construction sector, under established Rajuk guidelines and building codes.

Approaching the Rajuk authorities is a sheer waste of time; I have tried and failed.

**A landowner**  
On e-mail



# Dr. Yunus as a political leader

I am obsessed to write this which reflects my insight developed through ongoing changes in our national life and my personal inspection on the changes with people from different social strata. This is also in reaction to the Article 'Dr. Yunus and the future of Bangladesh' by Mr. Abdullah Momen published in The Daily Star on 30th March, 2007.

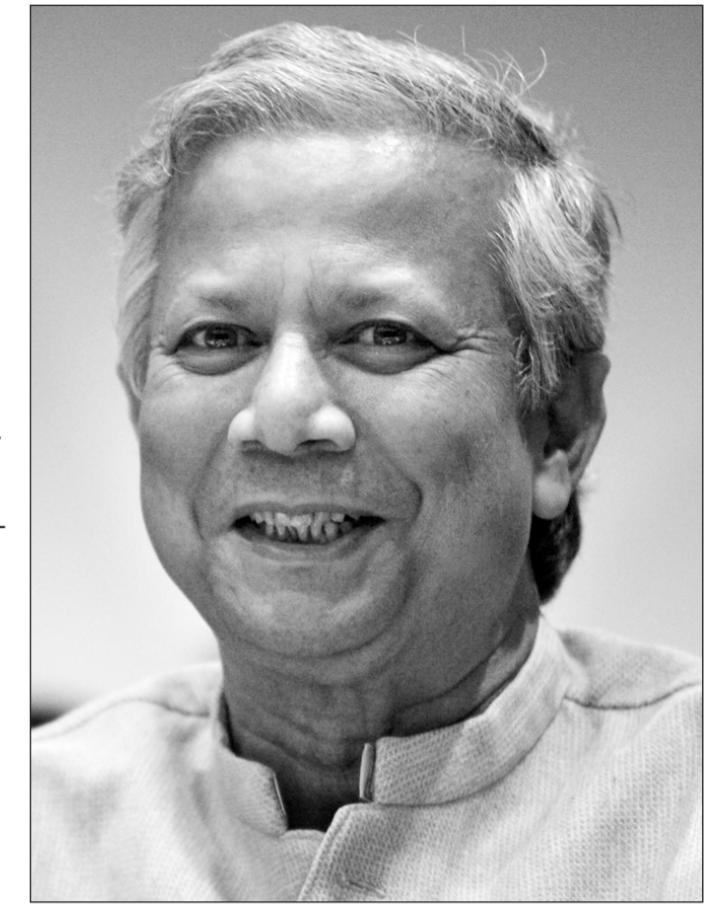
Addressing a critical situation in any stage of national life calls for special attention to working out the best possible solution for mass benefit from the decision makers exercising in-depth analysis, creativity, past experience and judgment. Failure in handling critical issues of national importance leads to unprecedented sufferings of the people and creates anarchy in social life and national progress suffers retardation. Mishandling begets a chaotic and complex social environment.

Following the war of liberation the situation was the most conducive we ever embraced in our national life. It was an opportunity to shape up the future Bangladesh right after its birth where every citizen would have equal rights and opportunities to live and work. We utterly missed the occasion to undertake long awaited restructuring of imposed governance for which we fought the war of independence, laid down lives. In consequence, in the last 36 years we experienced brutal competition among the political parties to strengthen the grip over govt. machineries to retain power.

Politics of welfare became politics of politicians' family welfare. This culture of inheritance has become the thumb rule practised by all political parties.

Now comes the much talked about involvement of Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus in politics. I firmly believe there is no need for more dialogue on Yunus' competence. He has proved his worth.

**Muklesur Rahman**  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka



home & abroad, this show would obviously be called 'Mandira Bashing'.  
**Nabila Nudrat**  
DBA, J.U.

## General's speech

Every single word General Moeen shared with the freedom fighters during the tea party was correct. Yet I do not think it was proper for a General to criticise politics or politicians, ex or present governments.

**Jami, Dhaka**

## Iran and the Middle East

It seems that Shiite Iran wants to dominate the Sunni Middle East. Although Sunnis are the majority among the Muslims in the world, they are mostly dispersed in non-Arab countries like Indonesia, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Shites, on the other hand, are concentrated in Iran and Iraq and this gives them a strategic advantage over Sunnis in the Middle East. As long as the Sunni minority under Saddam Hussein ruled Iraq, it acted as a buffer state between Shia Iran and the Sunni Arab countries. But after the American-led ouster of Saddam and the rise of the Shiite majority in Iraq, the situation has changed dramatically. By dismantling Sunni minority rule in Iraq, the Americans might have paved the way for the rise of an imperialistic Iran bent on dominating the Arab world.

Historically, we have been ruled by politicians and bureaucrats with minimum intellect. They really lack vision, which Dr. Yunus possesses. Bangladesh shouldn't allow second grade politicians to hold sway. And they are the main critics of Dr. Yunus and his philosophy, rather than the people in general.

Others are very dogmatic and looking for revolution according to books. They are brainwashed by some ideological confusion and they fail to be pragmatic. They rather indulge in theories not compatible to current globalisation and current socio-economic situation of Bangladesh. We need good economic management with social commitment in this country.

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**Dr. Mohammad A Karim**  
Dandenong, Australia

## Submarine cable

I don't understand one thing. Every morning I read the newspaper with the hope that it'll say something about the "submarine cable" of our country. It is really high time for us to address the issue. The government is taking many good decisions, then why isn't it concerned about the submarine cable? I think this is one of the most vital elements for our prosperity.

And why are the newspapers not saying anything about the submarine cable? How much backward should we go, how long should we wait for it...?

**ABM Adnan**  
On e-mail

## Mandira Bedi

I appreciate the report on Mandira Bedi by Mohammad Islam published in the sports page of DS on 27 March.

Mandira Bedi, the host of the show 'Extra Innings', really crossed the limits of decency while commenting about the Bangladeshi cricket team. From the Day Bangladesh beat India in WC, she is continuously insisting that it was only our luck that helped us to win the match! It was visibly clear from her expressions that she was just not ready to accept the truth that our boys played really well and from the very beginning of the game, Indians could do nothing to resist the Bengal Tigers.

Mandira Bedi is a renowned celebrity in India and in some cases also in Bangladesh among the Hindi movie/serial viewers. But her attitude in the programme reflects the idea that being such a celebrity doesn't always help to have the minimal level of wisdom or neutrality. Her ridiculous comments about our team only hurt our sentiments. Though the report in the sports page says that Ayaz Memon saved the show from being called 'Bangladesh Bashing', I think, if the producers of 'Extra Innings' just showed the courage to accept and show live telephone calls from

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