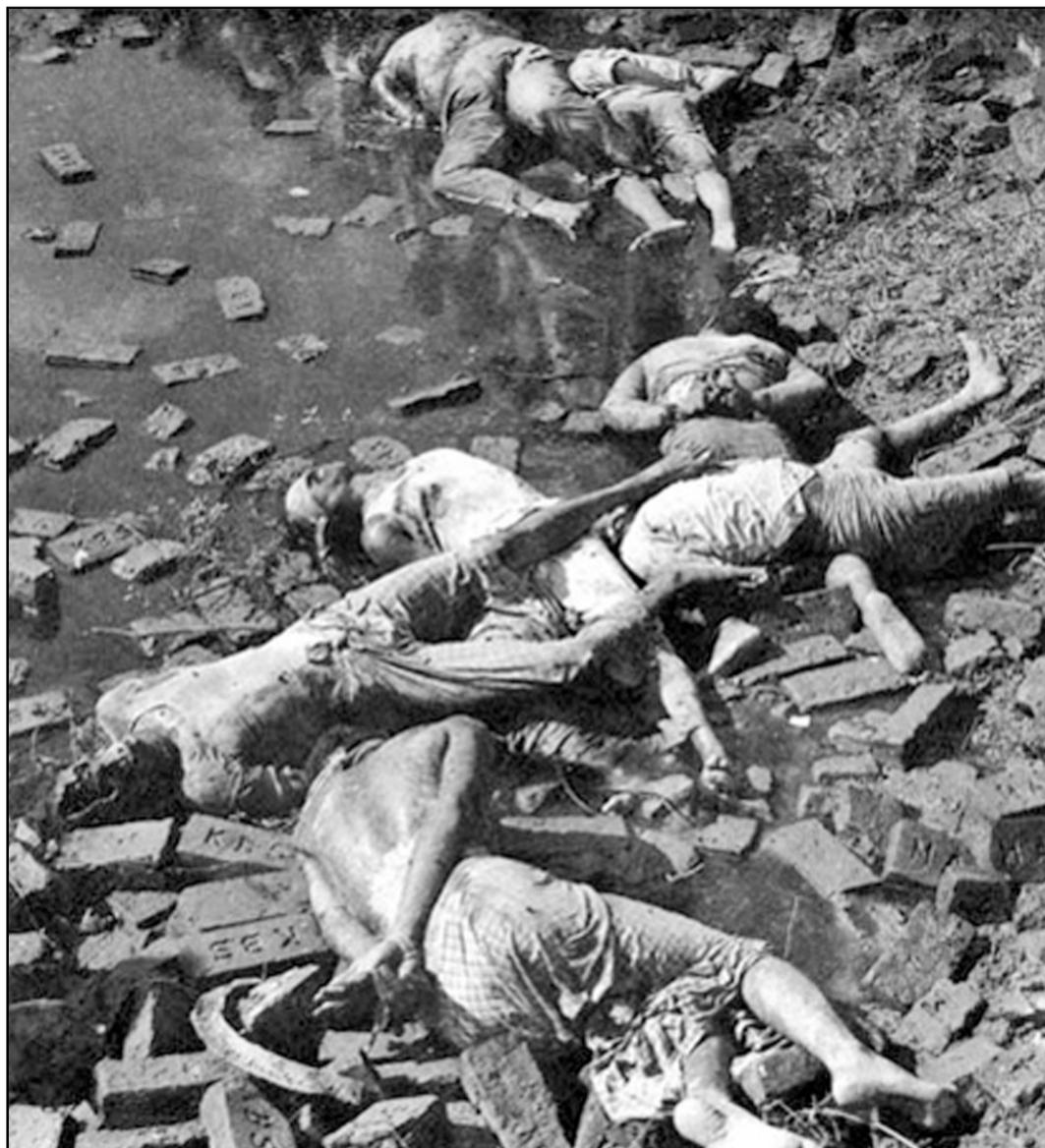


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.



## Punish the killers of 1971

The nation will always be indebted to the victims of the 1971 genocide until we punish all those who were responsible for the indiscriminate killings. The trial and punishment must be given to all that not only pulled the trigger but also those who helped, abated and aided the Pakistani Military Junta in the process of eliminating the Bengalees.

No matter how long it takes, the trial of those killers has to be held. There can be no debate on the question of whether the Pakistan Army committed 'genocide' or not in Bangladesh. It is also a fact that many Bengalees (members of Razakar, Al-Shams and Al-Badr) played a vital role in the planning and execution of that genocide. In the last 36 years many of those responsible have not only been identified but unfortunately rehabilitated and given very powerful positions. Many became ministers of the Republic and were given the honor of flying the national flag in their cars. The time has come for us to move forward of course, but we need to put the dark past in the right perspective. That can only be done if we bring to justice those responsible for the worst crime committed in the later part of the last century. The Nazi criminals are still being hunted, tried and punished. Let us not forget those who bled to death to give us freedom. The dead will never rest in peace while their killers move around freely. It is our obligation to the nation, society and the world to end

that dark episode in our history.

The most unfortunate part of our history is from 14 December till January 31 1972. As the Mukti Bahini along with the Indian Army began to crack the Pakistani defence and claim one victory after another, the Pakistani forces along with their local agents began to select and eliminate the intellectuals in different towns all over Bangladesh including Dhaka. Teachers, professors, journalists, doctors, engineers, bureaucrats and any one who they felt would be an asset to the new born nation were picked up by them and eliminated in the most barbaric way. The killing that began on March 25 was indiscriminate. Although they were picky at the end as I mentioned but initially they randomly killed whoever they felt like. They burnt down villages and mahallas with rage killing the innocent and raping the women who survived. They looted whatever valuables they found. It was a nightmare we can never forget and at the same time it is a glorious part of our history because we fought back and liberated ourselves.

Under the present caretaker government we feel like being reborn and I would ardently hope that the process of the 1971 genocide trial will also begin. A special tribunal should be set up immediately and given the responsibility to proceed with the investigation and trial.

Akku Chowdhury, On e-mail

Concerned to stop noise pollution.  
Sharmin Rashid  
Department of English  
Lalmatta Girls College, Dhaka

scope. The students learned a great deal from their mentors about how to make their software more user-friendly & efficient.

The two-day fair beckoned the emergence of a whole new breed of software engineers & programmers.

Wrishti Thakur Raphael  
Dhaka

### Expatriates' MP

The economy of Bangladesh depends to a great extent on the money remitted by the expatriates living in the Middle East, America, Australia and Europe. So it is time for the nation to give them the opportunity to select a parliament member. Expatriates from Bangladesh should be given the voting right in the coming general election to elect their own representative (MP) in the national assembly to represent their interests. It will improve the image of Bangladesh as a developing country in the world.

There must be two reserve seats in the parliament for the expatriates.

One MP from Europe, America, Australia, and Canada.

One MP from the Middle East.

1. All Bangladeshis living in a foreign country must register themselves with the respective Bangladesh embassies.

2. Candidates must put their CV, experiences and references online with scanned copies of their educational certificates and experiences.

3. Candidates must not be allowed to represent any political party in Bangladesh; politically they must be neutral.

Their main duty will be to represent the interest of the expatriates in Bangladesh like investment, housing, public relations, travel, and to advise the Bangladesh government on job possibilities for Bangladeshi in a foreign country; to help Bangladeshi students to study in a foreign university and to help the expatriates who would like to come back to Bangladesh permanently.

Shaeen Karim  
Computer Systems Officer  
CTT Support Unit  
TAFE NSW - Western Sydney Region

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But now if Dr. Yunus comes to lead our country it will be our last chance as a nation to survive with dignity in the international arena. But we should also not forget that to have a healthy democracy there should be an opposition in parliament, and we should not forget the present caretaker government's historic achievement in containing corruption and bringing order to this nation, and preparing it for real democracy!

Abu Abdullah  
Karwan Bazar, Dhaka

### "Dr. Yunus and the future of Bangladesh"

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## Towards Middle East peace

Apart from lambasting the "illegitimate foreign occupation" of Iraq by US-led forces, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia also urged Arab leaders at a historic summit in the Saudi capital recently not to allow foreign powers to determine the future course of the region. Not just that, Abdullah has at last said that the root cause for all ailments the Arab nations are now suffering from is disunity among the Arabs themselves. And that the Arabs should shoulder the prime responsibility for the US-led Western atrocities in Iraq.

It is really a shame that when the entire West is together fighting the so-called terrorist Muslims and their nations, the Muslims are still divided over Shia-Sunni differences.

The West seems to be quite keen to make Israel accepted by the Arab world as their leader, not just a good neighbour, and the US supports and aids the Israeli attacks on Palestine and Lebanon. Israel enjoys the active support from several non-western countries with their resources. The West as well as the good part of the East have made Israel a major arms merchant in the region.

It is therefore not enough that Arab nations have finally come to comprehend the crux of the Middle East issue. The main question remains unanswered: will the Muslim nations, both Arab and non-Arab, unite at least now to face the global challenges from the uni-polar world together on a common programme for Islam and Muslim nations? King Abdullah, who has rightly reactivated the Middle East Peace Plan, could take the lead in this direction as well.

Dr. Abdul Ruff Colachal

JNU, New Delhi



### Sheikh Hasina's claim

I strongly oppose Sheikh Hasina's repeated claim of speaking for the people of Bangladesh. It is a well known fact that most Bangladeshis rejected the Awami League and the BNP and their brand of politics and are willing to give the caretaker government the benefit of doubt. We have seen enough in the name of the people.

Please let them stay in peace for a while before the next elected government resumes business as usual with their harts and murders in broad daylight.

It is an irony that these leaders talk about democracy while they don't practise it even within their own party.

M.A.Kalam  
On e-mail

### Tigers on top

Congratulations to our valiant boys on their great success against the giant Proteus. Surely, they deserve the loudest of applauses as they swung back quite amazingly after two heavy defeats at the hands of Australia and New Zealand. As the critics were already having their lips licked, the Tigers once again got up from their slumber and roared to create panic for yet another top side in the world. Hats off to the rising stars of our country!

Hardly anyone would have believed that the Tigers would bounce back in such an awesome fashion. The stage was set for a spirited young brigade of talents to show the world what they are capable of. As the 22-year-old Ashraful bludgeoned his way to scoring a vigilant yet blistering 87, it was up to the spinners to make life difficult for the South African batsmen on a slowing wicket.

Dancing to the tunes of Calypso, this squad of nineteen and twenty-surely has more flare to display to the world.

Md. Sabir Saadat  
European Standard School (ESS)

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