



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.



## Plight of garment workers

Droves of garment workers--emaciated, battered and wraith-like-- coming out of their sweatshops; a common sight of the busy intersections of the city. It seems that every atom of their life-blood has been sucked up by the beast inside whose maw they toil from dawn to dusk. The biggest irony is that they are paid a mere pittance in exchange of their back-breaking labour. The whole scene reminds one of the institution of slavery which was in practice in American South prior to the Civil War.

Unfortunately, the owners often hesitate to pay the wage of the workers --a practice which

leads to demonstrations and eventual conflicts. Again the same people, the owners, maintain a life-style that recalls the lavish lives of the figures of the stories of The Arabian Nights.

Last year, following the protests of the workers, the minimum wage of a worker was fixed as Tk 1,662. I think the venerable economists and the owners -- the worthies who resolved upon the said amount of money-- can explain why that specific amount of wage was fixed as the monthly emolument of a human being!

Zabed Wali, Pahartali, Chittagong

## Dispelling cultural imperialism

Education, universally considered the backbone of a nation, can play a quintessentially significant role in dispelling cultural imperialism. Historically narrating, almost all the imperialists intruded into the educational domain of a nation for paralysing the nation both economically and culturally.

According to Edward Said, 'Culture', almost imperceptibly, is those practices, like the arts of description, communication, and representation that have relative autonomy from the economic, social and political realms and that often exist in aesthetic forms, one of whose principal aims is pleasure.

Joseph Conrad in his book 'Heart of Darkness' shows how the people living in Africa, so-called heart of darkness, are barbarian and uncivilized. In the novel the lord-like behaviour of the colonials reminds us of the behaviour of the present superpower USA in Iraq.

The only solution is to strengthen the education system which will dispel the aggressive intrusion of culture.

Bazlur Rahman  
Undergoing MBA in the London School of Business, UK

## CTG's moral authority

I am fully aware of the fact that presently Bangladesh is one of the most corrupt countries in the world. Like many Bangladeshis, it is also my desire to see this country as a corruption-free land in the future. But can we achieve that goal through this caretaker government? Do they have the moral authority to perform this task?

In order to earn the moral authority this caretaker government must first prove that its members are a bunch of honest people and they are dedicated to getting rid of corruption in our society. They have to earn people's trust by their actions which must be ethical, impartial and transparent. Let's take litmus tests to find out if they are really trustworthy and have earned the moral authority to talk irresponsibly.

We do not want this government to fail and the members to be faced with controversies. We further hope Mr. Matin will clarify his position on the liberation war and the collaborators.

Dr Chanchal Khan  
Melbourne, Australia

**Matin's comments**  
The International Forum for Trial of War Criminals of Bangladesh, a Sydney based think tank and advocacy group, is greatly surprised by the comment made by Adviser Mr. M.A. Matin that "We should not be talking about anti-liberation elements after 35 years of liberation war" (bdnews24.com; 25 March). While the Chief Adviser Mr. Fakhrudin Ahmed repeatedly talks about the values of the liberation war and its spirit, this unexpected comment from Adviser Matin raises the question whether the Chief Adviser's cabinet members share the same values as he propagates to talk to the liberation war.

There is no doubt that the present government enjoys overwhelming support from the citizens as well as from the expatriate Bangladeshis. This, however, does not give a licence to the Advisers to talk irresponsibly.

Dr Chanchal Khan  
Melbourne, Australia

**Interference**

1. Are they transparent in their actions? I am afraid not. Notice their recent activities in sending Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina to

the International Forum for Trial of War Criminals of Bangladesh.

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