



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.

## Sheikh Hasina's assertion



This is my reaction to your article published in The Daily Star on Friday July 6, 2007. In the article you explained your emotional crisis created by the government's ban on visiting your pregnant daughter in the USA. After the AL leaders' arrests, fingers are pointed at you and questions are raised about your leadership and the CTG banned your foreign visit.

As always, trying to defend yourself you mentioned how much you love your country and being a free citizen you are deprived of your basic rights. Madam, you are talking about your daughter's difficulties, please pay a visit to any government hospital (not for political purpose) and you will find plenty of women of your daughter's age suffering from pregnancy complications. They might or might have their mothers beside them, still it is not helping to ease their suffering, because they are not getting the basic maternity care.

Now you will say that BNP lawmakers gobbled up all the money in the health sector. It is not just the BNP or the Awami League; corruption unfortunately became part of our political culture. Corruption took place under your leadership as well, and as a sensible leader you should have eliminated it, but you failed. What goes around comes around, now you are feeling for your daughter, but madam, what about

those thousands of mothers who have to see their daughters' being deprived of minimum healthcare?

We expected that you would follow the legacy of Bangabandhu in leading your party and the country, maybe we expected too much as you have failed. As for your daughter's problems, I will pray for her safe pregnancy, she deserves it being the granddaughter of our Bangabandhu.

**Syed M Fahim**  
NSU, Dhaka

### Congratulations!

My congratulations to Ms. Nuzhat Amin Mannan on becoming the winner of 'The Daily Star Short Story Contest' for her entry 'The Meltdown'.

Perhaps it would have been more encouraging to the win-

ners as well as other participants, had the DS organised a function to distribute the prizes. The DS could invite some prominent literary figures plus the panel of judges, participants and some selected guests.

Anyway, heartiest thanks to The Daily Star for holding such a unique contest.

**Prof. M. Zahidul Haque**  
Chairman  
Dept. of Language  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

### Why children?

I was shocked to see the innocent faces of the wife and children of a man accused of corruption. One wonders why the children should also become victims of the crimes committed by their father. In our socio-economic culture most of the parents keep a separate account in their children's name, sometimes, without their knowledge.

I think the whole thing should be looked into from a humanitarian angle.

**Nuruzzaman Khan**  
On e-mail

### South Africa

I was surprised by the fact that I could not send email or fax or even make telephone calls to South Africa. It was required for clarification of some engineering based technical issues; for which expertise is available there. I tried for three days through all these means. Having failed every time via email, fax or phone; I am taking this route to attract the concerned authorities' attention!

South Africa has a lot to offer to us, in terms of products and technology that can be of great benefit to us. Now it is an independent nation, recognised by us, and no longer a British colony notorious for its inhuman racial policies! Then why do our authorities still continue this age old communication ban on South Africa?

Will the authorities please take quick actions needed to remedy this wrong, to enable the common citizens to share and exchange views?

**S.A. Mansoor**  
Gulshan, Dhaka

### 'Woodpeckers' only?

The caretaker government's various efforts, especially efforts in bringing the corrupt people to book have been welcomed by the common people.

No doubt, people never witnessed an anti-corruption drive on such a scale.

As expatriate Bangladeshis, we felt ashamed of our country being consistently ranked as the most

corrupt country in the world. While we had a general feeling that corruption is prevalent in our socio-economic system, we were amazed by the magnitude and nature of the corrupt practices by public officials and politicians as unearthed in the recent weeks. The chief conservator of forests who was mandated to 'conserve' forest resources, has virtually fuelled the high rate of deforestation in the country and made fortunes in the process. The home minister, who took oath to protect the law and order in the country, was himself engaged in criminal activities of extreme nature.

While corrupt forest officials ('woodpeckers') are being brought to justice, little is heard about the government's attempts to catch corrupt officials in other government departments.

Hope the long hand of law will not get stuck only catching those corrupt 'woodpeckers', but will also chase the corrupt big guns of other government departments and segments of society.

**Amit Khandker**  
Pennsylvania, USA

### Doctors

I really appreciate the ongoing activities of the joint forces. The economy of the country was crippled during the rule of the past government. They never thought about the welfare of the poor people.

Now, I would appeal for a massive crackdown on doctors, most of them are just exploiting us ruthlessly!

**N Islam**, Chittagong

### Terrorism

Over a decade it has been the habit of the US and its allies to harbour the terrorism theme to track the Muslims all over the world and the so-called strategic relationships have been developed among the countries to finish off the Muslims by calling them terrorists, suspected, real or potential ones!

**Dr. Abdul Ruff Colachal**

JNU, New Delhi

## Saving Buriganga



With reference to the report "Plan to pipe in water from Jamuna" published in The Daily Star on Tue. July 10, 2007, I am compelled to write this letter to you.

While it is a great measure to resolve issues for Dhaka city, as well as saving the Buriganga river, we are not getting enough information as to how the Jamuna will be affected; what impact withdrawal of such a huge quantity of water will have on one of our major navigable rivers, and how the impacts will be mitigated. It would be nice if the government lets the public know more about the project studies, its impacts and mitigation plans.

The problems with the Buriganga and Dhaka city are multi-faceted. Just bringing in water won't save the river unless adequate measures are taken to stop the pollution at the source level, i.e. at the industries. It is time that the industrial units as well as the Dhaka city authorities find out new ways to manage industrial waste, rather than merely dumping them in the river. This should be combined with a bigger plan for waste management and treatment for the entire city.

I don't mean to say it is not doable. But let's carefully examine all the aspects of the issue. While solving the problem of the Buriganga, let's not create another problem in the Jamuna.

**Ferdouse Oneza, AICP**  
Senior Planner  
Community Planning  
City of Kennewick, WA

4X3

4X3

8X3

6X2

