

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.

## Impact of cartoons



SOURCE: CS, TORONTO EDITION

The impact of cartoon, be it a cartoon movie, cartoon on social aspects or politics, is obvious. Kids do derive immense pleasure watching cartoon movies --- some adults do the same as well.

Political or social cartoons in the newspapers and magazines provide a different touch to the readers along with the obvious flavour to the illustrations. What the writers fail to depict through words; a good cartoonist does it very comfortably through some sketches --- plain pencil sketches or the colourful ones. A single cartoon of some mere dots or dashes (portrait) awfully reveals something very deep and drastic and it catches the readers' eyes!

Think of once famous cartoon "Tokai" by eminent cartoonist Ronobi how brilliant it had been! "Tokai" used to be published in the then weekly magazine "Bichitra"; Ronobi, in his unique creation, used to depict different social anomalies that were so eye catching --- so diverse, eloquent, vibrant.

Congratulations, Ronobi!  
**Rafiqul Islam Rime**  
Lecturer, Department of English Language & Literature  
Premier University, Chittagong

### Inflation

I would like to thank Mr. Syed A Basher and Mr. Sharif Faisal Khan for their clear and precise article on inflation titled "The Inflation Debate" (July 30 DS). In this article they clearly mentioned the causes behind Bangladesh's inflationary pressure using the AD-AS model. The gist of their article was that the price level increase in our country is due to both supply shocks as well as demand side shocks and they had statistics to back up their judgment i.e. although the CPI inflation increased, at the same time real GDP also went upward indicating the fact that there has been strong export demand, greater inflow of remittances etc besides the increase in the prices of oil. Therefore this article also highlighted that CDP economist Debapriya Bhattacharya's analysis was wrong, since he had claimed that inflation is occurring due to supply-side shocks only.

For a layman like me, this article was certainly an eye-opener as I came to know about the real factors contributing to the increased price level.

**Wasif Wahed**  
Old DOHS, Dhaka

### PSTN operators

The recent decision to give operating licence to private PSTN operators in Dhaka is certainly a welcome one. However, we want that the BTRC will ensure complete PSTN service by the private service providers.

We obviously don't want some more restricted-mobility mobile service providers. In other parts of the country, where the private operators got licence earlier, it hardly seems they are providing PSTN services. Most of them are selling RIM card like cell operators to be used in mobile handsets.

In simpler terms, we want to use a PSTN phone connection to fax, operate Internet and other data services besides voice calls.

**Sabir Ahmed**  
University of Dhaka

### Bank statements

I am an 18-year old Bangladeshi living abroad and well-acquainted with the basic guiding principles of

democratic nations by now. The news of Bangladesh Bank's refusal to release the two former prime ministers' bank statements has disgusted me. Bank statements are the matter of the respective individuals not the central bank. Of course, Bangladesh Bank has its autonomy but why is it being extended in matters where autonomy does not apply? To withhold them under any pretext, be it autonomy or anything else, is

year while the house is not even in a posh zone or it is not growing in size! Landlords hardly consider the poor economic condition of our country. I wonder if there is any law which restricts those greedy landlords who are fond of increasing the house rent to satisfy their insatiable appetite for money. If there exists any law of such a kind, measures should be taken to make both the parties aware of it and the law should be enforced where it is necessary. Moreover, as it is a kind of business, landlords should pay taxes to the state for the rent they are collecting and increasing at their sweet will!

**Md. Ali Haider**  
MS student  
South Dakota State University  
USA

### Arrests of top leaders

The arrest of the top leader of Bangladesh Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, under emergency rules, without representation being allowed, suspending her basic human rights in the way it was done was an arbitrary use of the law. Whether the act constitutes an attempt to stifle a political leader is for you, the readers, to decide. Ask yourself: is Sheikh Hasina's arrest a regular

so? Being the daughter or wife of a big personality is irrelevant. Why should there be a sub-jail where one can live in relative comfort with a daily supply of four newspapers? What if another supreme leader of a party is arrested also and there be a need of another comfortable sub-jail with similar amenities? I realize that they are not ordinary persons like me or most of us, so they have to be given special treatment. But they were at one time the supreme authority of the land and shouldered the maximum responsibility of anything that happened during their time in power. So, I believe if they are found guilty after a fair trial they must be given the maximum penalty under the law. Since they are leaders they must be held to a higher standard. They must be held fully accountable. For their sake and ours, I

trust the present government will ensure fair and transparent trial proceedings.

Bangladesh will be keeping an eye on the proceedings. If foreign lawyers or relatives want to come and defend the detainees, let them do that.

**Sayeed A. Chaudhury**  
Gulshan, Dhaka

### Hasina's arrest

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure this one out. The arrest of Sheikh Hasina, under emergency rules, without representation being allowed, suspending her basic human rights in the way it was done was an arbitrary use of the law. Whether the act constitutes an attempt to stifle a political leader is for you, the readers, to decide. Ask yourself: is Sheikh Hasina's arrest a regular

part of the government's drive to clean up corruption, or is it an attempt to consolidate power?

A prima facie fight for reform to hold a free and fair election in Bangladesh to protect democracy has now become a crusade to ensure that no opinion opposing the new order exists. Yes, in the end a certain type of 'controlled and balanced' democracy shall prevail in Bangladesh, I suppose. But is really choosing your elected representative from a list of pre-selected politicians a truly functioning democracy?

Hasina's arrest will therefore harm democracy, in that perception of the people is that the arrest was based on shoddy evidence.

**Matthew Islam**

(Bar Student)

London, UK

Their ancestors made civilisation.

I hope this win will stop the sectarian war in Iraq.

**Mohammad Anisur Rahman**

Abdul Gani Road, Pahartali

Chittagong

## Iraqis celebrate

I thank the Iraqi players not only for their victory in the field but also for their commitment. They knew how important it was for them. It was not merely a game in the field but it was an opportunity to unite the whole

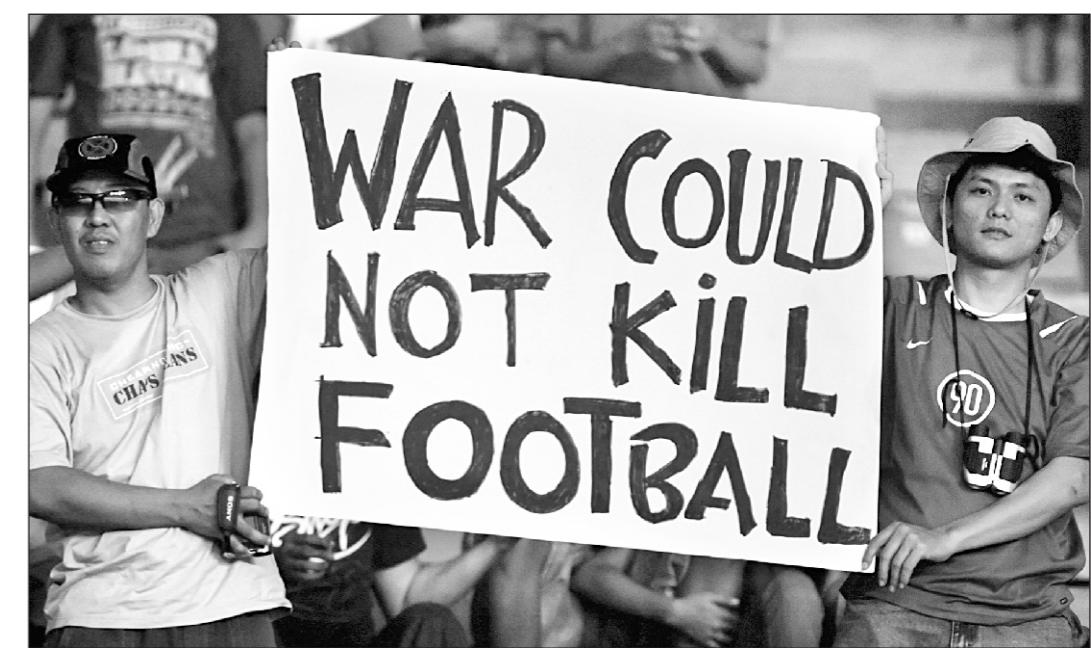


PHOTO: AFP

