



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.

Price hike

We all observed that prices of essential commodities had kept on rising under the last government. Prices rose further in the recent past as well. Almost every day newspapers and TV channels report that the essential commodities like rice, course flour, onion, lentil, red chill, milk powder, beef, potato and chicken are all selling at exorbitant prices in the cities and rural areas. In Bangladesh most of the people have limited and fixed income. They usually cannot purchase the desired goods and services owing to their low income. When inflation increases the price level, they become helpless. Their purchasing ability reduces further and life becomes difficult.

Common people expect that the government will take effective measures to halt inflation and arrange adequate supply. Keeping prices within the purchasing capacity of common people should be the top priority of the government.

Md. Ashraf Hossain
Central Bashabo, Dhaka

DRockStars

The popular TV show DRockStars is gradually gaining more popularity among people, as it steps into its second season. This is a positive sign for Bangla music as people are now also listening to the metal or hard rock genre of music which was unimaginable before the emergence of underground bands who came onto the music scene in the early 2000s. Finally, people are now listening to these categories of music because majority of them listen to folk rock or soft rock pattern of music played by veteran bands. But this show is certainly doing a great job by picking up talented musicians from Khulna, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Sylhet and so these bands are getting a platform to give exposure to their talents. I was surprised to see bands from outside Dhaka performing so well and was particularly amazed by the fact that they also listen to these genres of music. Lastly, I would like to thank channel-i and djuice for arranging such a show which will help give Bangla music a new shape and direction.

Wasif Wahed
Old DOHS

Women on the move

Once upon a time women thought that they were only born to be a good housewife. But now a revolutionary change has taken place in their attitude. Housewives are working outside their homes like men. They are not lagging far behind in different fields.

However, women in our society are still not in a position to take important decisions regarding their lives.

The situation will hopefully change in the future.
Nusrat Sultana Sonia
Department of English
IU, Chittagong

BCB & our expectations

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)—the most affluent and prestigious sports body of our country, has been reformed and a new ad-hoc committee has been appointed. It's welcome news indeed. Although the members of the past committee did a decent if not excellent job during their tenure, yet most of them were appointed on political consideration. The way they ran the premier sports body of our country came under question several times due to corruption and nepotism. But the people who ran the show were able to escape the wrath of the media and the people due to some extraordinary performances by our cricketers.

But now is the time for this new committee to forget the past and move forward. They should make the BCB a transparent organisation. They should never forget that the BCB is there for taking our

cricket forward and not for fulfilling individual goals. Right now, they need to appoint a new coach, physio, management members for our national team, and merit should be the sole criterion for these important jobs—where our national interest comes first.

Even though our immediate past coach Dave Whatmore achieved successes on paper, but now is the time we need to ask ourselves whether this man was really able to instill the right temperament in our batsmen, especially in Test cricket. Whatmore should be held responsible for the repeated failures of our batsmen in the longer version of the game. We see our batsmen struggling to cross even 200 runs. They still don't know how to occupy the crease and play session by session.

So I think our new committee should look into these aspects and should not commit the same mistake this time by appointing a high profile coach. There is no doubt that our cricketers are naturally talented and in my view, instead of appointing a foreigner, a local coach should be able to help them a lot. A local coach can easily sort out our players' problems and can communicate more easily with them. I think our former captain Aminul Islam Bulbul was neglected in the past and now BCB should give him a suitable position to aide our struggling batsmen.

Cricket is the only sport where we have achieved tremendous success and our people are just crazy about the team.

So, I do hope our newly formed BCB will be able to run the show more efficiently.

Nazmus Saquib, Bashabo, Dhaka

Cost and management accounting

In Bangladesh, like many other countries, business enterprises are growing in size and complexity. Management today requires relevant facts to reduce the risk of making faulty decisions. Management needs cost and management accountants (CMAs) not only to fulfill the traditional role of recording, classifying and analysing business transactions vis-a-vis application of IT in business but also for managerial control. The CMAs are skilled in obtaining, evaluating, reporting and managing all the information which organisations need to control their operation effectively. A cost and management accountant is a specialised professional to work as financial consultant, cost consultant, cost auditor, tax consultant and adviser, appraiser, management consultant. Render professional services in designing and installing system of cost and management accounting. Design and implement information system for business decision. Guide management in cost effective execution of business operation.

Bangladesh is a country of immense possibility. Because of its geopolitical positioning, Bangladesh has earned an excellent reputation in international trade, manufacturing and overall favourable investment environment among the investors.

Shakil Ahmed, On e-mail

Why this luxury?

Our ex-PM Sheikh Hasina has two very expensive Mercedes SUVs.

As the leader of the opposition, she deserved this small perk! And, if I am not wrong, the idea behind this unprecedented "perk" for the members of parliament was to give them a means of transportation to meet their own constituents. It was not meant to provide a tax-avoiding scheme for their rich and powerful masters.

Mohammad Zaman
North Carolina, USA

Professor Abdul Karim

Professor Abdul Karim, the senior most historian of Bangladesh and former vice-chancellor of Chittagong University, breathed his last on 24 July. Like his large num-

Floods worsen

The flood situation is deteriorating. The rivers are still swelling, dislodging thousands of people and snapping communications countrywide. The government should take all out preparations

to face the situation because it is going out of control.

Many people fear that a 1998-like devastating flood may occur this year too because the situation is

getting worse day by day. The flood situation in many districts became critical within a few days. Thousands of people have been exposed to water-borne diseases.

People should come forward to help those in distress.

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam
Lecturer, Dept. of English
Metropolitan University
Sylhet



PHOTO: AFP

ber of students, friends, acquaintances and relatives I was deeply saddened by his expiry.

I had the privilege of learning at his feet in Dhaka and working as his colleague in Chittagong University for a short spell, respectively, in the late 1950s and early 1970s. However, the contact continued later as I met him from time to time in Chittagong and Dhaka. I developed a great liking and respect for him as an outstanding teacher, a caring colleague, and a great human being, easily accessible, amiable and with a simple life style. I presented him a neck tie in 1973, but he kept wearing it throughout his life (maybe this was the only neck tie he had). That he was a brilliant teacher

will be, I am sure, the unanimous view of all his students in Dhaka and Chittagong University.

Professor Karim had a checkered career. Born in 1928 in Chittagong, he did his Masters in History from Dhaka University in 1950 and the next year he joined the same university as a lecturer. He continued teaching in Dhaka till 1966 when he joined the newly established University of Chittagong as the first Head of the Department of History. Meanwhile he obtained two Ph.D. degrees, one from the University of Dhaka and the other from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Though basically a research scholar and a teacher, he held many administrative posts.

As a researcher Professor Karim specialised in the medieval history of Bengal - its political, social, religious and economic life, its inscriptions, coins and literature. He was eminently qualified for this job as he knew both Persian and Arabic very well. He had to his credit a large number of publications: 36 books and about 200 articles in English and Bangla. The articles were published in standard research journals at home and abroad. In recognition of his outstanding scholarship, he was awarded Akbar Gold Medal by the Indian Numismatic Society, Peace Award by the International Association for Religious Freedom, Ekushey Padak by the government of Bangladesh

and Gold Medals by the Bangladesh History Association and the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

In Professor Karim's death the nation has lost a brilliant teacher, a dedicated historian and an able administrator. Unfortunately his death will also mean the virtual end of our long and rich tradition of research in medieval history. It would also mean a huge loss personally for me, because he was a sincere well-wisher.

We pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Professor M. Mufakhrul Islam
Department of History
University of Dhaka

Your editorial

Landmark judgment

I refer to your editorial (July 22, 2007) on the recent landmark judgment by the Pakistan Supreme Court announcing the restoration of the Chief Justice to his office. Indeed, the verdict is a big slap on the face of Pakistani military regime and its tactics. I do, however, disagree partly with your assumption that: "At a time when Pakistan is under assault from various quarters, especially from religious extremists, and with the Americans threatening to strike al-Qaeda bases in the country, the Supreme Court judgment is an unambiguous statement that there can be no military solution to Pakistan's problems".

Pakistan is officially a partner of the US in its global "War on Terror" the Pakistan army received \$ 6.4 billion from the USA since 9/11 and is legally



PHOTO: AFP

bound to eliminate terrorists operating within the country. However, despite Pakistan's "repeated assurance" and "all-out effort" many al-Qaeda, Taleban, and local Sunni religious extremist groups take "safe shelter" in the tribal regions of Frontier, Balochistan and northern parts of Pakistan.

For an "unknown" reason Pakistani troops prefer conducting operations against some selective tribes and areas. Also, almost all the joint US-Pakistan operations against key al-Qaeda / Taleban figures failed "mysteriously". Considering all the facts, can the US be blamed if it now chooses to strike terrorist hideouts in a weakly governed Pakistan without consulting Islamabad?

M. Emad
Oxford, UK

TERRORISM

Liberals in the Muslim world and the West must denounce terrorism as it is.

Prof. Salim Mansur, professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario and a prominent Indo-Canadian scholar, recently pointed out in The Ottawa Sun: "There are two denials working in tandem at least

since Sept. 11, 2001, that undermine liberal-democracies and their efforts to eliminate Islamic militancy from our world. One denial is the Muslim majority refusing to denounce without equivocation the thugs from Osama bin Laden to the street corner spokesmen for al-Qaeda. The other denial is the

liberal 'white man' refusing to speak clearly about wrongs of the other -- the 'non-white' -- and, especially, when such wrongs as Islamic terrorism places in peril everyone without any distinction of ethnicity, gender and belief."

Prof. Mansur points out that the Muslim denial to confront the ugly reality stems from "the fear of being labelled an 'apostate' by other Muslims." The "white man's" denial is the result from the fear of being labelled as a "racist". Prof. Mansur writes: "This fear is bound up with the liberal or 'white man's' guilt over the past sins of Europe's colonial-imperial history."

An Afro-American scholar, Shelby Steele, at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, has also written about the "white man's" guilt. "Today, the white West," writes Prof. Steele, "lives in a kind of secular penitence in which the slightest echo of past sins brings down in withering condemnation. There is now a cloud over white skin where there was once unquestionable authority."

The Muslim world must find a way to get rid of this lack of resolve to condemn this religiously-incited terrorism which is doing more harm to the Muslims in their own countries as evidenced by the slaughter by the Sunni extremists of their fellow Shiite Muslims and vice versa in Iraq, the unspeakable brutality of Hamas toward the fellow Palestinians who support Fatah and never-ending attacks by the Taleban against the Pakistani armed forces which actually helped to create the Taleban.

These violent acts must be condemned without equivocation if the Muslim world is ever to stem this never-ending bloodletting of fellow Sunnis and Shiites. The Western liberals, for their part, must realise that the present generations cannot be blamed for the deeds and misdeeds of the earlier generations and must give up their guilt-complex and treat the non-whites as equals and not as victims of sins committed long ago.

Mahmood Elahi
Ottawa, Canada

Congratulations!

Iraq has been reduced to a graveyard by the manmade crisis that includes the killings of thousands of people.

That said, the recent triumph by the Iraqi football team, that won the tough title of Asian Cup

Football beating Saudi Arabia 1-0 in the final, is a success that one finds difficult to define.

It is the reflection of a rare kind of spirit that is mortified, shattered and pushed severely back to the wall by the coali-

tion forces, yet not subdued; rather triumphant, majestic and unyielding!

Rafiqul Islam Rime
Agrabad
Chittagong



PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: AFP