

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.

## Lux Superstar 2007



PHOTO: STAR

It was fascinating to watch the competition sitting thousands of miles away from home, and get an idea of how a positive social transformation is taking place in Bangladesh. Thanks to all the participants, especially the five finalists. The final session of judgment was an IQ test, and well done by all respondents.

However, I have an observation about the question raised by one of the judges and its reply. Perhaps the judge could articulate the story of the giant, two gentlemen and a lady differently so that a direct personal question could be avoided. Similarly, the respondent could also avoid the word "Bikolango". This word represents an unfortunate section of our society. They are not "Bikolango" by their own choice. The remark of the respondent was not meant to hurt any "Bikolango", but if

any one of them was watching the show, she/he might have been hurt and carried a sad feeling about his or her condition. But I definitely appreciate the situation and time frame under which her feeling was expressed. I also appreciate the need for a humorous atmosphere in such a competition.

A precise family background, including educational background of at least the five finalists, could give us more insight into our social transformation. To me this was a missing factor to make a fair judgment of our positive social transformation.

Finally, thanks again to all participants, judges, sponsors, producers of the programme and the moderator.

A reader  
On-e-mail

### English medium education

Internationalisation is a mandatory way of developing a country. For this, learning English is necessary. Needless to mention, the "English medium schools" are doing a great job in this regard. But these students have to take equity certificate of their O and A level for admission to medical and engineering university or colleges. This is not fair, to say the least.

A reader  
On-e-mail

### DU reopening

The VCs of the public universities met the educational adviser. We, the students, kept our fingers crossed that something positive might come out of this meeting. But the DU vice chancellor did not hint at resuming our academic activities very soon. Now, you know how we are trapped.

What happened on August 20 evening at the DU gymnasium area was unfortunate. While reacting to this incident, the students took to the street; the law enforcers treated them harshly.

But the government and the army were sincere enough to resolve the crisis. The CA expressed his regrets and the army camp in the DU area was wound up. But the vandalism still continued! Who did this? The common students were happy when the army was called off from the campus. But perpetrators of vandalism did not spare the opportunity to destabilise the country. The political parties played a role in this respect.

Being a common student, with no political affiliation, I demand immediate reopening of the university and efforts to be made by the authorities to effectively manage the session jams created by the latest incident. The government should also put pressure on the DU authorities in this regard.

K Chowdhury  
Astudent of Dhaka University

### Power conservation initiative

An eye-opening and pioneer news report came in a local daily (Sept 05) that Ahsanullah, a village in Pabna, has taken the lead in Bangladesh by introducing the use of energy-saving lamp at the initiative of the local REB. This is momentous news of national significance and a step in the right direction, given our acute shortage of power everywhere. It should be introduced all over Bangladesh. It was reported that the village earlier consumed 27.5KW, using normal filament lamps. By using compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) there will be a saving of over 20KW! Assuming that the average bulb was of 40 watt, it represents that nearly 700 (seven hundred) filament lamps were replaced by CFLs.

The exercise is praiseworthy indeed, and the village and the REB deserve all praise for this initiative in power conservation. Power conservation needs very little capital, backed up by awareness and educating electricity consumers mostly. I estimate that the difference of price between filament lamps and CFLs of comparable illumination could be at least Tk 100. Based on these values, the financial outlay for introducing CFLs amounted to about Tk 70,000 (seventy thousand taka), if not more.

It would be interesting for all of us who use electricity, and may be a national model of power conservation, if your newspaper could follow it up and report on the matter, giving the background, the people and organisations involved and how this whole changeover was managed; and the reactions from the users.

It can be a very informative, instructive and interesting news-story for your readers; and of great interest for the authorities also who should replicate this endeavour everywhere. It will go a long way in helping us in conservation of power, which will considerably ease our present power shortage.

S.A. Mansoor  
Gulshan, Dhaka

### Intel's assistance

It has been reported that the top microprocessor and semiconductor chip manufacturer of the world, the Intel Corporation, will assist Bangladesh with Tk 700 crore in Information Technology education.

Intel will provide 1,000 computers for schools and train teachers over the next three years to help spread Information Technology education in Bangladesh's rural areas. Craig Barrett, Intel chief and Dr. Yunus, the Grameen Solutions chairman, signed the agreement.

However, Intel has no immediate plan to invest in Bangladesh's fledgling Information & Communication Technology sector. Barrett told a news conference. This reveals our poor performance in this sector. Vietnam enjoys Intel's direct investment after Barrett's 2002 visit to the country.

Shouldn't we gather more pace in the race?

Saif Tinku  
On-e-mail

### An appeal to Chief Adviser

At the international level, Bangladesh is today known as one of the countries with heaps of records of human rights violations. As an unfortunate nation, our country has suffered tremendously with lots of political killings and torture of opponents, frequent use of police and other law enforcing agencies in victimising innocent people.

We have observed how a political government created and used special forces to kill opponents without giving any consideration of how this act was evaluated by others, especially who are watchdogs of human rights violations nationally and internationally. The party in power abused their power to kill people as if they were free-birds that could be easily killed! Many national and international watchdogs of human rights including Bangladeshi media repeatedly asked the governments to stop such barbaric acts. But the governments paid no attention to it.

Now, we have a non-political government, led by an educated and enlightened person, who worked in many reputed national and international organisations and who surely understands how important it is to honour the citizen's basic rights of getting fair judgment. Is it not a crime to seize the right of people, even if the person is a listed criminal, of justice and kill them in the name of crossfire? Are we not trying to establish the rule of law? I would urge the Chief Adviser to review the killing by law enforcing agencies initiated by political governments and stop it, as we believe that your government is working to protect the human rights of people. Let's enhance the image of Bangladesh globally, not only by curbing corruption but also by establishing the rule of law and improving human rights records. Let's not forget that nobody is above the law, not even the abuser of the law! Let's give Bangladesh a chance to be honoured internationally.

Abdul Moyeen  
Australia

### British Council

British Council is an eminent organisation which aims to help the students of Bangladesh to get acquainted with the English language. It also provides scholarship for meritorious students who can't afford to study in foreign universities to acquire a better degree.

British Council acts as a helping hand to solve these problems and eventually, its contribution in Bangladesh is an eye-catching one. Besides, being a helping aid, it has well-equipped library facilities and every year some courses are organised to give tips about good English spelling, learning and most importantly, free-hand writing. But the astonishing thing is that it has branches in Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong but not in Rajshahi.

Rajshahi, as a divisional town, is regarded as the city of education. The people along with your daily welcomed the lightning speed steps taken by the present government to defuse tension after the sudden outburst at Dhaka University. This was the first time in the history of this nation that the incumbent



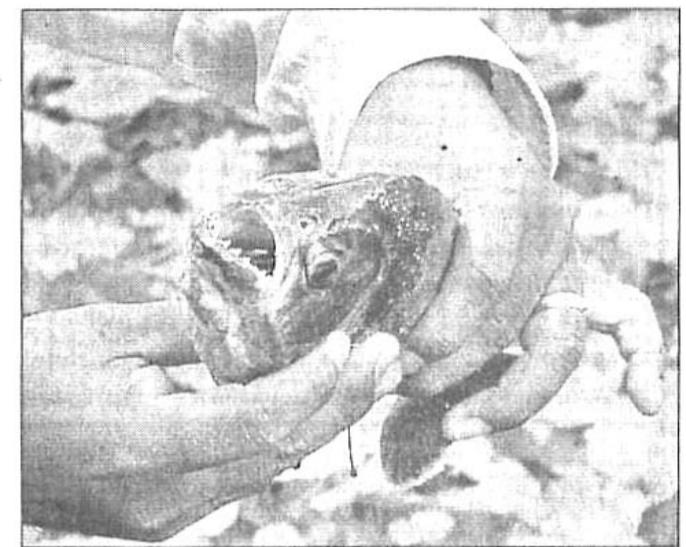
letters@thethedailystar.net

## EDITOR

The Daily Star

now there's a thing called 'rule of law', perhaps you are not familiar with such societal practice, how can you be? when you are so consumed by your blind devotion to your leader; indeed, this rule of law is here to stay and it will serve the people and so your leader must face the pangs of justice till that time, you and your cronies would be far more useful to the country and indeed your party if you put your mind to some constructive activities, rather than lamenting on a dead issue like your leader."

Dr. S.I. Zaman  
University Professor



## Piranha!

It has been reported in the press that the carnivorous piranha fish is being cultivated in ponds and sold in open market in some parts of our country by calling it rupchanda as it looks like rupchanda! Piranha causes serious damage to aquatic life and the environment.

Immediate measures should be taken by the authorities to check piranha cultivation.

Professor M Zahidul Haque  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
Dhaka

### Unemployed

I passed BSC in electrical and electronic engineering 6 month ago from a public engineering university. But still I am unemployed because I have no connections!

So shall I not be able to get a job?

To make sure that we do not

endure this task with our lives at stake, the authorities concerned

should build an overbridge on

the Mirpur Road, somewhere near

Road No 4, 5 or 6. Then regardless

of the irresponsibility of the car

drivers, crossing the road will be

safe for those who need to.

Farah Hamud Khan  
Class IX  
Sunbeams

Regardless of the traffic signals

and zebra crossings, reckless driving

continues in the Mirpur Road,

making road crossing here one of

the most dangerous tasks for the

school students, teachers and

guardians as well. In the middle of

this dangerous situation the traffic

police men are pretty much help-

less spectators.

It is therefore a common sight in

Mirpur Road to see school children

running across the road to avoid

speeding vehicles.

The problem is immensely acute

in the junctions of Mirpur Road

with Road No. 4, 5, and 6.

To make sure that we do not

endure this task with our lives at

stake, the authorities concerned

should build an overbridge on

the Mirpur Road, somewhere near

Road No 4, 5 or 6. Then regardless

of the irresponsibility of the car

drivers, crossing the road will be

safe for those who need to.

Shahjahan  
USA

\*\*\*

The army camp in DU which was set up last

December (long before the present CTG and emergency) was bound to provide friction points and sparks.

It is very clear that the Dhaka University

teachers, who are said to be highly responsible members of our society, are the key

people who added fuel to the fire. The

government solved the problem very

promptly, but the teachers led the students

and sent them to the path of violence.

The only way to prevent repetition of

violence is to have university campuses

shifted to places outside the city. Then the

political importance of the DU teachers will

also be reduced and they can engage them-

selves in teaching. This may not sound very

convincing, but we cannot allow a repeti-

tion of what we saw on the DU campus.

Shahjahan  
USA

\*\*\*

The escalation of violence outside the

campus area indicates that some ele-

ments are out to destabilise this govern-

ment. We are very much apprehensive of those ele-

ments who are still active and working

against the interest of this nation.

For God's sake, we do not want to go back to

the days when all norms of governance

were systematically destroyed. We do not

want to go back to those days when ineffi-

cient and unqualified judges were

appointed from cadres of their party.

We urge upon the present government to

be firm. The people are with you.

The people of this country want a demo-

cratic government genuinely voted to

power by the people. This government has

given us assurance.

Shafiqul Islam  
One-mail

\*\*\*

The army camp in DU which was set up last

December (long before the present CTG and emergency) was bound to provide friction points and sparks.

It is very clear that the Dhaka University

teachers, who are said to be highly responsible members of our society, are the key

people who added fuel to the fire. The

government solved the problem very

promptly, but the teachers led the students

and sent them to the path of violence.

Shahjahan  
USA

\*\*\*

The escalation of violence outside the

campus area indicates that some ele-