

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.

**Future of democracy**  
I appreciate the decision of the government and also of the judges on releasing political prisoners on medical grounds. Unfortunately, politicians are demanding the release of all prisoners even if they are convicted of corruption and murder. I am certain soon after the takeover of power the political government will release all the criminals or will influence the court to release them. I want the political government to take over power as soon as possible and at the same time I am afraid that godfathers will reappear again with their ugly faces and the helpless people will become more helpless. The irony is that I find many so called intellectuals supporting those criminals' release.

I want to be hopeful but the reality is different. I guess many criminals will be again elected as MP in the next general election. The only option left to people is to choose better candidates.

Dr. Mahboob Hossain  
Associate Professor  
Department of Pharmacy  
The University of Asia Pacific  
Dhaka

**Superman Phelps**

US swimmer Phelps made Olympic history by becoming the first swimmer ever to win eight gold medals in one Olympic, overtaking his fellow US legend Mark Spitz's seven gold medals at Munich 36 years ago.

It was thought that Spitz's record would never be broken. But Phelps proved it wrong. To him, records are always made to be broken, no matter what they are.

Congratulation, Phelps!

Astir Faisal  
Shah Amanita Housing Society  
Sholabazar, Chittagong

**CU campus**

The majority of students at CU are not involved with the political parties. Their main intention is to complete the study for getting a good job. But campus violence seriously obstructs their progress.

As a general student, I am deeply concerned about campus violence at CU and my question is, how long will we suffer?

Md. Ziaul Hoque  
Department of History  
University of Chittagong

you know why you are the most respected woman in this country? Because you are the wife of President Zia (the great freedom fighter), you are the uncompromising chairperson of the BNP. You have earned this position in the hearts of the people by virtue of your status and your strong character. Now what has happened to you? It seems like your party is unable to function in the political arena without the help of the Jamaat.

Please do not move with the party that opposed our independence.

Mohammad Nazakat Ali  
Pallabi Ext

Mirpur Share Egara, Dhaka

**Tale of our workers abroad**

Yes, the sordid condition strikes us, stirs our senses as well. The expatriate labourers broke down in tears. Returning home they buried all hopes, aspirations and dreams not only theirs but also that of the near and dear ones. Many sold land, livestock, some even living place for bearing the expenditures. Now

**27th BCS results**

The Public Service Commission (PSC) showed the highest sense of responsibility by issuing a press release on 19 May 2008, clarifying the status of 27th BCS results. This is a rare case of showing respect to the public sentiment by a statutory body like the PSC. The people have the right to know the status of the results. The PSC, before anybody's pointing of finger, disclosed the truth before the public. The PSC, in other words, performed the job of ensuring people's right to information. Every government department should follow the example of the PSC.

The honourable chairman of the PSC has categorically said in an interview with the media that after having the court verdict it will take about two months' time to publish the results. The High Court passed its verdict on 3 July 2008. The chairman's declared time is yet to be finished. I personally believe that the chairman is a man of commitment. Surely, he will go by his words. But by this time, different news items, personal opinions are coming out in various dailies which might confuse the stakeholders and can lead to a misunderstanding in the public mind, undermining the newly created good image of the PSC. One pertinent question related to the 27th BCS is implementing the newly proposed quota system. The PSC can make it clear that the new quota system is not applicable to the 27th BCS, because the condition was not advertised at the time of publishing the recruitment notice.

The PSC is an established organisation. It has excellent computer and personnel set up. If the new marks have been entered in the computer (it was wise to make entry quickly) then it's a matter of an hour to have the results. When the chairman told that it would take two months to publish the results, many thought that marks had not been entered in the computer. The candidates thus lost more than a year not because of their fault but because of their participation in the BCS exams!

Under the above circumstances, I may earnestly request the caretaker government to look into the matter and relieve the innocent students and their guardians of unlimited anxiety and agony by advising the PSC to publish the results of the 27th BCS very soon.

Nasir bin Zahir  
Trishal, Mymensingh

**Political intelligence office**

I congratulate the caretaker government on its proposed Political Intelligence Office. It is imperative for the state to keep an eye on the people who have made the lives of anonymous, hardworking, ordinary people like me miserable, to put it mildly.

We, after all, have to earn a living, and anyone who denies us our daily bread must be constrained and invigilated. If the proposed PIO can prevent hartsals, murders, campus violence and other assorted villainies we have come to expect from the political parties, then give even more power to the PIO. It is as though "wild beasts" are about to be unleashed on the people, who seek protection. We (the people minus the politicians) will be eagerly looking forward to the speedy implementation of the PIO.

Ittekhbar Sayeed

Dhanmandi, Dhaka

**Indo-US nuclear deal**

The long-term implications of the recent Indo-US nuclear pact have to be carefully analysed by the political players in Dhaka, on future Western ambitions in South Asia. Analysts in the media point out that the deal would open future US investment by more than USD 10 billion, and provide job security to more than 200,000 Americans.

At the same time, China has assured Pakistan of nuclear umbrella services. The other side of the coin is the future outcome of the tentative project of supply of Iranian oil to India through pipeline passing through Pakistan.

Bangladesh has enough natural energy resources to attract the rich industrialised countries. What is more attractive are the energy resources in Myanmar. What could Dhaka do -- what are the options available? The main political parties are battling the CTG and the EC on local issues and technical details. How to handle Bangladesh policy strategies during the coming decade? The coming election campaigns should not make us one-eyed.

Bengal was under the influence of foreign cultures for centuries (mainly Mogul and British). We won freedom and independence in 1971. The question is how long could we maintain it? We are staggering under the load of poor governance. We need two ingredients: the right leadership, and the mass weight behind the policies. How close are we to these basic objectives? We are fighting within ourselves, and had to invent the CTG to prove it. We need extra reserves of civic energy for our foreign policies.

Let us start the house-cleaning afresh, as foreign economic cartels are planning on how to make Bangladesh a colony once again.

A Mahasen  
Dhaka

**Retirement age**

A secretary proposed to the CA that the retirement age of government officials and employees be raised from the existing 57 years to pave the way for them to contribute more. It is good for the officials but bad for the unemployed young generation. On the other hand, judicial officials serve up to 67 and university teachers' retiring age is 65.

To make it more acceptable to everybody, the service length can be considered, like 30 years of total service or 60 years of age.

Mostafiz  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar  
Dhaka

**Where is Asif?**

No doubt Asif could be a legend for Bangladesh. He might have won a gold for Bangladesh. But that has not happened. Let us look back. It was on 2nd October 2006 that we, the people of Bangladesh, were speechless. What happened on that day? Our boy Asif was beaten by the police and sent to court.

It was only then Asif declared while answering a question from a journalist, "Amar kachhe sobkichhu ondhokar lagche, amar shooting korbona". I am very much shocked that our cricketers are wasting a lot of money every year. What are we getting in return? It is high time to think about it. Why are the other sportsmen of the country deprived? Everybody should enjoy the same rights.

Md. Tarik Ali Chowdhury  
Department of English  
Leading University  
Sylhet

**RMG sector**

The readymade garments industry in Bangladesh is in jeopardy. It started a few years back -- 'the unrest', stoppage of work, creating havoc, and damaging valuable assets in and around the factories and even in the streets.

Factory owners were flattened, many innocent workers were beaten, even law enforcers were assaulted. The situation is going out of control.

It is not clear who is fighting for what? Is this the workers' movement against owners' bad treatment or deprivation? If a factory is burnt into ashes, how can workers' interest be protected? If factories that go by the rules are damaged, then a genuine question arises, why?

Unruly workers, leaders and agents, whose negative activities are creating lots of problems, should be brought to justice.

Shakil Monjur

On e-mail



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRIKNEWS

their respective leaders, even if such leaders are grossly wrong, corrupt and unpatriotic. These slaves are mostly created by sycophants, and dalals (paid agents) employed by a leader in exchange of undue favour. The media, which in most cases in our country are owned by corrupt businessmen, also play a big role in making a corrupt person a big leader. What is most shocking is that many highly educated members of our civil society and intelligentsia shamelessly enrol(ed) themselves as the slaves of one leader or the other to become vice chancellors, pro vice chancellors, ambassadors, DGs etc.

I do not understand why people are raising the issue of shifting this established university campus to some other place or merging it with some other university.

A former student of SAU  
One e-mail

**Tsunami and Bangladesh**

Tsunami is a series of very long waves generated by any rapid, large scale disturbance of the sea or by undersea earthquakes. Thus tsunami is defined as a large destructive ocean wave caused by an undersea landslide or volcanic eruption.

Tsunamis can cause great destruction and loss of life within a minute on shores near their source. They are capable of obliterating coastal settlements, and may cause severe coastal flooding and ecological disruption of coastal areas. It is very hard to escape violent disasters caused by tsunamis.

But it is very important to create public awareness, improved tsunami detection, mitigation and warning system for avoiding huge loss of life and property. Experts have suggested the following steps: i. Preservation of coral reef and natural mangrove forests; ii. Afforestation in coastal areas; iii. To keep a pollution free sea; iv. Stop excessive fishing and introduce modern sustainable fish catching methods; v. Public dwellings should be kept at least 500 meters away from a seashore, coastal embankments etc.

Manir Hossain  
President of Society for Environment and Nature Study (SENS)  
MBSTU, Tangail

## Poor diplomacy!



TANVIR AHMED / DRIKNEWS

It is a sad truth that our diplomats are not diplomatic enough when it comes to performing their duties. Once again our image has been blurred abroad due to poor diplomacy. The recent "Kuwait issue" is the living example of our poor diplomacy. In foreign countries, particularly in the Middle East, Bangladeshi workers have faced a lot of problems.

On the other hand, hardly we can deny that our economy depends on foreign remittance. It should be noted here that more than five

million workers are currently working in the Middle East.

So, undoubtedly it is a matter of major concern for us. Most of the workers who work in the Middle East come from very poor families. Now it is the duty of our diplomats as well as the foreign ministry to look after these wretched people who are in a deep crisis abroad.

Aiman Bin Shaofiqul Hamid (JASIM)  
Dept. of English  
International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC)

**Leaders and their enemies**

March 26, 1971. From radio a voice of hope, an announcement of a lifetime, a direction for a nation, a piece of news for the world was heard. A war hero, a sector commander of Mujib Nagar Sarkar, a valiant freedom fighter, who later during the crisis period of the nation again came to the scene and took over power in his hands to rule the country, was speaking. Later he founded a political party to start the democratic process in this country. But he was brutally killed in a failed coup in 1981. This was the brief history of Major Zia, ex President Ziaur Rahman, commander of Z Force during the liberation war. During the liberation war he died for his life, during the crisis of 1975 he also came forward and finally he was killed while on duty for the country. The name of President Zia will ever be remembered with respect.

On the other hand, there is another person we should also know, Golam Azam, chief of a political party, who was totally against the independence of Bangladesh and whose party members were Razakars who took arms against the freedom fighters, killed millions of Bengali people, helped the Pakistani military in killing the freedom fighters, helped the Pakistanis to rape Bengali women. He even did not accept the emergence of Bangladesh and did stay back in his own country Pakistan. They are termed as war criminals. People are raising voice against them and demanding their trial. The name of Golam Azam will be remembered with hatred.

I am not concerned about politics and in fact I do not understand politics as I am not competent to be involved in this matter but one thing I must point out to Mrs. Khaleda Zia with due respect -- how come your party needs the Jamaat's support? After the mass movement against Ershad regime, we voted you to power. Do you believe this? Or do you think the Jamaat brought you to power? Do

We should think seriously of resurrecting the old values in society.

Bilkis Rahman  
Govt. HSS College  
Magura

One e-mail

**Landslide**

Six people were killed in a landslide in Chittagong. It is not the first landslide accident. We hear from time to time the sad news of landslides in Chittagong that results in many deaths. During the rainy season when torrential rain takes place, landslides accidents occur. Yet, the authorities concerned pay very little attention to this issue.

Mushfiq Wadud  
Department of English  
Stamford University Bangladesh

## Students in trouble

Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet, is one of the well-known public universities of Bangladesh. But now it is facing many problems. Students of SUST are facing the problem of transportation, because the number of buses for the students is inadequate. There are nearly 6,000 students. Among them 4,000 are dependent on the university bus. But the number of buses is only 12. As a result, every day students have to struggle for seats. The sufferings of the female students know no bounds. Recently, the three advisers of the caretaker government inaugurated eight 'new' BRTC buses and an academic building. But the eight buses are new only on paper. These buses also have far fewer seats.

The authorities concerned should address the issue in right earnest.

Shahnama  
Student of BBA  
SUST

