



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.

Pakistan betrayed by USA?

Pakistan has been maintaining cordial and friendly relations with the USA for a very long time. The USA always supported Pakistan's territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty. The USA gave economic and military aid, made Pakistan members of Seato and Cento and after 9/11 event compelled Pakistan to join the US war on terrorism.

But what a bolt from the blue! The US President George Bush has secretly ordered US forces in Afghanistan to launch attack on Pakistan territories wherein Al-Qaeda and Taliban suspects are allegedly hiding. The US forces have already killed many innocent civilians, men, women and children in Pakistan.

Is US attack on Pakistan consistent with international law? Is not the attack an attack on the independence and sovereignty of Pakistan?

Why such excess and abuse of power by the

US President George Bush?
Is not George Bush by attacking Pakistan violating Article I.4 of the Charter of the United Nations? It says "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state or in any other manner inconsistent with the purpose of the United Nations" It was agreed and signed by the former US President FD Roosevelt on December 01, 1943.

Would George Bush and his over enthusiastic Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, US Supreme Court Judges and eminent citizens of the world kindly enlighten us on the matter?
We are afraid if India is also going to face the same situation like Pakistan in future when US President George Bush has already got an agreement on US nuclear energy aid to India.

OH Kabir
Dhaka



PHOTO: AP

Religion based politics

Thanks to The Daily Star for one of the lead news reports about the Hujji political party today. We are really concerned about the CTG's attitude towards religion based politics. Many might not agree with me, because this particular CTG has no popular or constitutional mandate to govern the country the way they are doing, there is every possibility that they would prefer to support religion based politics in Bangladesh for reasons beyond their choice.

They have already shown significant shift in their political choice just to support the rightist groups including extreme religious fanatics forming political parties like the Hujji's Islamic Democratic Front. They are even giving approval of the 4-party alliance to go for a nation wide demonstration in mid October 08. The issues include a hidden agenda to allow the Jamaat to get registered, despite the fundamental ideological difference between their party constitution and the constitution of the country. You can already notice that most of the newly floated parties are in favour of pursuing the policy of religion based politics to get the support of the innocent majority.

The other important thing that has come out in the report is the sympathy of "expatriate"

Bangladeshis supporting the Hujji party. Not necessarily they are very religious but they know what kind of trouble they can create in a country when the fanatics are let loose. It has been proved beyond any reasonable doubt all over the world that religion-based politics is more of a deterrent to democracy than anything else.

Therefore, it is necessary for us including the media to project the political agenda of any religion based political party. These parties are not only out to destroy our democratic march but also at the same time helping the western political "Pundit" to tie up Islam with terrorism, which in real terms is just the opposite i.e. terrorists and fanatics are the real enemy of Islam, rather than the western civilization.

One reader
One-mail

Piranha cultivation

Piranha—the deadly Amazonian fish—is being cultivated covertly in different parts of the country. Needless to say, this clandestine activity is a matter of great concern. It is also reported that the fish is being sold in markets as a variety of Rupchanda. And the gullible people are buying the fish.

Thanks to our apathy to the

environment, we have done great damage to different elements, including the flora and fauna of this land.

The secret cultivation of Piranha—an alien species will, no doubt, aggravate the situation. The fish, being omnivorous, is considered to be the most dangerous aquatic creature that inhabits the fresh water bodies.

It is noteworthy that the authorities have already banned the cultivation of this species. Yet, some unscrupulous people are not paying any heed to the dictates of the law. These people should be brought to book as early as possible.

Zabed Wali
Bahartali, Chittagong

Online edition

I am a regular online reader of The Daily Star. Its online outlook & presentation is really nice. The only one thing that I feel should be added is the information regarding the regular advertisements which are published in it. If you add one tab that will show the regular advertisement to the user, then it will be very useful to us.

I hope you will consider the point.

Md. Kawasurul Enam
One-mail

Nuclear deterrents

In my previous newspaper articles on nuclear and nuclear related matters, I suggested, among other things, to the US and other nuclear weapon countries about the need for speeding up efforts towards perfecting anti-nuke weapon technologies - against the backdrop of contemporary risks, threats and vulnerabilities associated with possible nuclear war or wars. Even went to propose, among other things, to world people - a bunch of engineering possibilities associated with it: as to how to disable at source (for example) nuclear headed missiles or to disable them before firing from any place of the world at any time, all with the help of, say, identification and breaking up of relevant security codes through an integrative and synchronized anti-nuke weapon technology to be developed on a composite of cyber technology, imaging technology, robotics, remote control mechanism and servo mechanism.

One of the aims of my proposals was to supplement and complement the present day diplomacy in areas of what I would call the nuke peace and to enhance the chances for protecting the world and for that matter the universe from devastating consequences and ramifications of nuclear attacks in at least the foreseeable future. The choice of the word "chances" in the above sentence is deliberate because one of the assumptions here is: by the time nuke deterrents (at least of some sort) would be in place, there could exist new or additional or both challenges for protecting those deterrents from say, possible events of disablement.

The responsibility associated with say, developing, sustaining and promoting anti-nuke weapon technologies lies, in varying degrees though, on both nuclear weapon countries and non-nuclear weapon countries of the world. But an aggregate of efforts (I mean known efforts) towards harnessing, sustaining and promoting opportunities of arts, sciences, engineering and technology in pursuits of for example, counteracting and neutralizing (at least to an acceptable extent) - in a proactive, reactive or other manner - undesirable effects or undesirable side effects (or both) of products of quantum engineering have not so far been found to be adequate for meeting the demand side and the supply side (as applicable) of nuclear deterrents.

Further, the present day size, mode and level of transaction in the domain of anti-nuke weapon has not yet been able to attract, harness and sustain maximum benefits in pertinent areas from an increasingly borderless world for most of the world countries. One of the reasons for that is - the world is yet to become borderless in a way that could be instrumental in inter alia triggering, through out the world, anti-nuke weapon cooperation (technological, non-technological) to the satisfaction of world people.

In the midst of above and other developments, it is interesting to note, the president of Russia has declared recently that his country would have guaranteed nuclear deterrents by 2020. It implies inter

Cricket and poor selection

The retirement of Khaled Mashud & Habibul Bashar (not to mention the other names) from the international cricket showed their desperation. The ICL fiasco is inevitable. The handling of the senior players makes no sense. We dumped Habibul Bashar from the ODI team after a fruitful World Cup on the plea that he had not scored many runs in that tourney. We forgot his captaincy which played the pivotal role in the World Cup. And from then the slump of the Bangladesh team is going from bad to worse.

Apart from this, they dropped Khaled Mashud, arguably the best keeper in Asia, on the pretext that he's not a good batsman. But what did Mushfiqur Rahim & Dhiman Ghosh achieve in batting?

It's a shame that we have no specific selection policy. We applied different yardsticks to different players.

Now, I want to mention something about the selection of the national league players. Marshal Ayub, vice captain of the



Academy team now is going to represent the team Chittagong, after playing for Dhaka & Barisal in the last two seasons. It also happened to Suman Kumar Saha, the medium pacer from BKSP, who played for his home team Rajshahi for several seasons, played for Barisal last year and is going to play for Sylhet. It creates a problem for both the players &

the teams. If a player represents his home division he will play with pride. But nobody thinks about such matters.

Now it's high time to formulate an appropriate selection policy for both the national and domestic teams.

Solaiman Palash
East Jurain, Dhaka

Rickshaws

The rate at which the prices of petrol/gas are increasing and the demand for these motor fuels rising should force the authorities concerned to give a second thought on the fate and future of the rickshaw, which needs no fuel but manpower to run and which provides employment to many in addition to its great environment-friendly quality!

What is essential is a separate rickshaw track on all the main roads and development of a good traffic culture.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy is an internationally recognised health profession and accepted by WHO, and there are more than 70 physiotherapy colleges in India, but there is still no physiotherapy college in Bangladesh.

The issue deserves a closer look.

D. M. Nurul Amin Utpal
On behalf of all physiotherapy students & professionals in Bangladesh
Final Year, BPT, CRP, Savar, Dhaka

Political parties' agenda

Instead of reforming their parties, the AL and the BNP are busy coming up with long wish-lists, one after another. The tactics they are using these days to get their party men most of whom were involved in criminal activities released from prison and to get criminal cases against Hasina and Khaleda withdrawn, indicates that these parties haven't changed a bit. Their anti-people, anti-democracy and anti-progress nature prevails. These parties are holding our general election and our democracy hostage to their petty demands! What about our demands?

If these parties don't want to participate in the election, I suggest we go ahead without them. Bangladesh will do much better without them.

Azad Miah
Oldham
UK

Party registration

Liton's front page headline news on September 28, about political parties' registration should never have been an issue. The EC must be firm, and draw the line somewhere, and adhere to it strictly. It now appears that the holding of election which is truly democratic is beyond them! Mixing of religion with secular political activities must be avoided at all costs.

Both Jamaat and IOJ must shed their "I" factor. Why not name it simply as "Jamaat Party" and "Oikyo Jote Party", if they want to stand for election, on a democratic basis, without any religious connotation. One cannot bandy the name of religion with our brand of dirty politics with violence and all sorts of illegal deals and activities (like asking for vote in the name of religion) associated with it, which is our usual practice, particularly in rural areas.

This has to be the last firm and final act of the CTG and the EC, if they are really bent on having a non-biased free and really fair election without any reference to religion and race.

Racism and religion should have no place in electing people to form a truly democratic government, and this has to be established by the EC with full support of the CTG. But one wonders if the CTG and the EC are strong enough to call "a spade a spade".

A democrat
Dhaka

Control sale of acid

Despite the acid law being enforced through the Acid Control Act, 2002, the support of different NGOs and the extensive media coverage of acid violence in Bangladesh have still not been able to stop this heinous crime. The number of acid attacks has greatly decreased over the years, but the challenge ahead is the most difficult: to eradicate acid violence from the country.

The root causes of the acid attacks are lack of awareness and availability of acid. I think that we are doing our best to create awareness, but we are lagging behind to restrain the easy access to acid. Issuing licence to the acid purchasers may help, but strict monitoring is required, which the government is unable to provide. Therefore, acid sellers are frequently selling acid to unlicensed customers for more profit.

28th BCS

After a long time, the results of 27th BCS have been published. The circular was given in mid 2005. The PSC had to take the viva voce twice due to allegations of corruption in the examinations like question leakage in the preliminary and written test and money transaction in the viva voce. However, to finish the 27th BCS exams the government has taken about three and a half years. In this long time many candidates of the 28th BCS have already reached the edge of the age limit for government job.

It would be the last BCS for these candidates like me. I earnestly request the government and the PSC chairman to take all necessary preparations for the 28th BCS and announce the date of preliminary exams.

Palash Kumar Podder
28th BCS candidate
Katasur, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Pollution



We are facing the great problem of pollution because of the large scale of industrialisation and the negligence of people. Man is the main cause of pollution nowadays. He cuts the trees and it does not rain. If there is no water there will be no crop. He cannot get fresh air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat. Moreover, due to pollution the ozone layers crack and harmful rays of the sun come down to the earth.

Nowadays, the capital of Bangladesh, Dhaka, is the most polluted city in the world. Everywhere there are the heaps of dirt. The people should cover their mouths and noses with masks. The other cities are also being polluted. If such condition continues, people will die of different kinds of fatal diseases.

To avoid the pollution in the cities the citizens should be conscious. The government should enact strict laws and punish the violators. Everywhere, there should be dustbins. We need education to save the environment, to plant trees and to preserve the sources of water. Only then can we get fresh air, pure water etc.

Mohammad Rajja
Gonoshasthya Kendra, Dhaka

In such a state, when hundreds of lives are being shattered every year, I think that it is high time that the government takes the matter more seriously. I believe that the government should nationalise the acid selling business. With the sale of acid being under the government's constant supervision, the sale to unauthorized customers is likely to decrease. However, the government should ensure that corruption is prevented from its side by leaving the job to responsible officials. If this can be arranged, then that day will not be far away when no more innocent faces will be burnt by acid.

Concerned
South Kafrul
Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

Moon sighting

Every year we face a problem while celebrating Eid and other Muslim festivals. Majority of us follow the guidance issued from the government appointed committee but a small number of people also follow Saudi Arabia. Not only this section of people, but also some neighbouring countries of the KSA follow it, regardless of the moon being sighted or not in their own countries. Obviously, the Islamic world is divided regarding this issue. There is a Hadith to observe these festivals after sighting the moon.

I think the Islamic scholars from all over the world should come forward to discuss and settle the issue.

Harun-or-Rashid
Sobhanbag, Dhaka

Eid entertainment

As usual, television channels, audio companies, cinema theatres came up with all guns blazing to entertain people on this Eid. People didn't have the chance to feel the dearth of entertainment. But the numbers of quality programmes were very few, to say the least.

There were loads of dramas and telefilms but most of them were boring and not up to the mark. Of them, few were unique and caught the attention of viewers because of unconventional story and presentation. Noted director Amitabh Reza's drama 'Ekti non fiction along baki koekti fiction' was one of them. Hanif Sanket's drama 'Tothabritto Jothakar' on ATN Bangla was entertaining and its message, which the director wanted to convey, was commendable considering our present socio-cultural situation. Moreover, the drama 'Facebook' on Ekushey television was another one which highlighted the contemporary Facebook freak generation and their activities. It was also a good drama to watch because of superb acting by Zoya Ahsan & Mahfuz Ahmed.

There were quite a lot of magazine programmes but they disappointed us. Although Hanif Sanket's 'Ittadi' as usual lived up to its expectations but BTV's 'Anondomela' failed to entertain us this year as well! The host Farzana Brownia tried her best to entertain the viewers but the age-old contents, age old BTV studio and age old ideas made it a total mess. Renowned dramatists & filmmaker Humayun Ahmed's dramas were not that much entertaining this year nevertheless his cinema 'Amar Ache Jol' was quite entertaining in its first half, although its second half was highly disgusting & couldn't keep pace with its first part! The packed audience who watched this film at

Bashundhara City Star Cineplex said that the finishing of this movie could have been much better.

Audio companies were buzzing with new albums to entertain viewers on this Eid but very few albums were able to satisfy the listeners. The much hyped album of Habib & Ferdous Wahid's 'Oboshese' and Balam's self-titled 'Balam 2' failed to live up to expectations. Few songs are indeed good but none of the songs is remarkable or unforgettable like their previous albums. Young composer Asheq's album 'Pori' featuring renowned singers of this generation caught my attention and I must say this album is

very fresh & pleasant.

This year what impressed me most is the programme presentation of private fm radio stations. They came up with highly entertaining programmes and the various RJ's of various radio stations really kept us rocking! ABC Radio, Radio Today, Radio Foorti, Radio Aamar all came up with fresh ideas and programmes to entertain us.

All in all, this year's Eid entertainment was not that attractive.

Nazmus Saquib
Dept of English
Stamford University
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

