After the miserable series against the Aussies the

Good cricket

Bangladesh cricket team has bounced back gracefully. They

comprehensively defeated the Kiwis by seven wickets in the

first ODI. More importantly, it was their first win against the

It was the bowlers who did a great job by restricting the

was spearheaded by Mashrafee who bowled with aggression

Kiwis to the modest total of 201. As usual, the pace attack

and grabbed four wickets. He was ably supported by the

would like to mention the innings played by Zunaed

Siddique whose innings was a mixture of caution and

aggression. For the most part of Bangladesh innings he

played the role of sheet-anchor even though he missed a

other bowlers and the fielders. Following the good work of

the bowlers the men with the willow played sensibly. Here I





Durga Puja

Durga Puja (Worship of Durga), also known as Durgotsab (Festival of Durga) has been an annual Bengali festival that marks the worship of Hindu Goddess Durga.

Durga Puja includes the worships of Shiva, Lakshmi, Ganesha, Saraswati, Kartikeya and Mahishasura as well. Modern tradition has come to include the display of decorated mandaps and artistically depicted idols of Durga, exchange of Bijoya greetings etc.

It is also a festivity of Goddessmother Durga winning over the evil Maheshasoora- the demon. It symbolizes the worship of power of Good, which always wins over the evil.

Durga Puja includes six-day celebrations of Mahalaya, Shashthi, Maha Saptami, Maha Ashtami, Maha Nabami and Bijoya Dashami. The dates of celebrations are set according to traditional Bengali Calendar and the fortnight is called Debi Pokkho- fortnight of the Goddess.

Durga Puja is widely celebrated in Bangladesh and in the States of West Bengal and Tripura in India. Not only it is the biggest Hindu festival celebrated, but also the most significant sociocultural event in Bengali society. In India, Durga Puja is also celebrated in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and in some other parts, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Kashmir, Karnataka and Kerala. Durga Puja is a major festival in Nepal. Nowadays, many non-residential Bengali cultural organisations arrange Durgotsab in the countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, France, Kuwait etc.

According to the Krittibas Ramayana, Rama invokes the Goddess Durga in his battle against Ravana. Although she was traditionally worshipped in the spring, due to contingencies of battle, Rama had to invoke her in the autumn, which is known as akaal bodhan. Today it is this Rama's date for the Puja that has gained ascendancy, although the spring puja, known as Basanti Puja is also present in the Hindu almanac.

The prominence of Durga Puja increased during the British Raj in the then Bengal. After the Hindu reformists compared Durga with India, she had become an icon for the Indian inde-

pendence movement. On the first quarter of the 20th century, the tradition of Baroari or Community Puja was popularised due to this. Today's Puja goes far beyond religion.

This year, I had the opportunity to celebrate Durga Puja at my village home at Boali under Modhupur Police Station in Tangail District. It was a great festival participated by all walks of people irrespective of religion, age and gender. Both the Hindu and Muslims participated in the festivity, which signifies the harmony among religions.

Like all over Bangladesh, Puja celebration at Modhupur is also marked by a degree of peace and harmony that is expected indeed. The authorities were alert enough to maintain law and order and prevent any untoward incidents during the festival.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the authorities concerned and the government for acting appropriately in this regard.

Dr. Uttam Kumar Das Advocate

Supreme Court of Bangladesh Shyamoli, Dhaka to the Small lea Growers of

Pakistan betrayed?

Needless to say that Mr. Kabir has unnecessarily brought India into the recent US-Pak problems and cautioned India what to expect from the US if it fails to honour the nuclear agreement. I see the Pakistan analogy is wrong and illogical. Even if we assume that Mr. Kabir?s analogy is right, I highly doubt that the US would start bombing some random part of India for violating the nuclear deal. But, if suddenly, Indians start harbouring anti US terrorists in their territory and keep thinking that territorial integrity and sovereignty would save them from US fury, they should think again. Well, who knows, what would happen to that kind of India? I am sure the US will be furious.

Bluntly put, Pakistan hardly needs to be betrayed! The country Pakistan has tried to play a double game with the US and has made Americans very frustrated. The real elephant in the room is Osama and his surrogates in the mountains of Waziristan. Afghanistan is a weak country and needs peace and stability for its survival. And, it is not getting that from its eastern neighbour. If Taliban and al-Qaida want to fight in Afghanistan, they should stay there and fight. No need to retreat to Pakistani areas for good night sleep! The problem for Pakistan is that it claims to own the areas but it would not or could not control the areas. You can play that game against a weaker country but not with the US. If you own the area, please control your area!? I am sure that very similar message is being conveyed to Islamabad. If people coming from those Pakistani areas kill Afghans, NATO and American soldiers, the US will take them out unless Pakistan shows some sincerity in dealing with the residents of these mountainous areas.

There is no excuse to check who are residing in those areas. I do not think this hard line policy is Bush specific. Both Obama and McCain can come down even harder on Pakistan in regard to the crossborder terrorism. It needs to be stopped! Shamol Saha

Boston University haising a Distribution lea

I thank Mohammed Zamir for his

fine PCP article on this issue. A

couple of years ago, I had the good

fortune to meet him and discuss

with him my book Islamic

Calendar: A Global Blueprint

which clearly lays out a perfect

mathematical lunar calendar

based on mere counting of either

29 or 30 days alternately for Islamic

months and a provision for a leap

month every two years (with some

This calendar can be applied

globe-wise with complete confi-

dence of its accuracy like the

International Gregorian Calendar

for thousands of years into the

future without the need for sight-

ing the new moon or Hilal as this

fact is already taken into the calcu-

proposed leap years.

lations by means of provisions for

The simplicity and accuracy of

the Calendar beggars belief and it

conforms to all known Islamic

guidelines in the Holy Quran and

Hadith. I have sent copies of my

book to the present Secretary

General of OIC soon after its publi-

cation requesting him to look into

the proposals and hold scientific

seminars and discussions on it in

the OIC Forum. He has kindly

acknowledged the receipt of my

book with a promise to look into it,

but this was about two years ago

Through your columns I would

like to renew my request again to

OIC, and the Bangladesh

with no further progress.

easily memorable exceptions).

Lunar Calendar

Government to put pressure on the OIC as suggested by Ambassador Zamir, to hold discussions in setting up an Islamic Calendar which will not require the moon sighting or consultation with sun/ moon conjunction tables and will be applicable throughout the whole globe. As a scientific day and date of the Gregorian Calendar is applicable throughout the whole globe for a solar calendar, similarly we must have a lunar calendar and an Islamic day and date applicable

all over the whole globe, as is easily

shown in my book.

Lastly, I would like to point out humbly that following Makkah timings is only a solution if we know beforehand (days, months, years etc like the Gregorian Calendar) what this Makkah timing is. If we do not know, but have to rely on proclamation from Makkah at a very short notice of couple of hours and without assigning any reasons for arriving at such proclamations, we would forever remain in darkness and controversy. Unless we have a calendar to scientifically forecast Islamic events thousands of years into the future, we have to wait for impromptu proclamations from Makkah.

I have also sent my book to well known Islamic scholars and universities and many heads of Islamic States with a similar request as made to OIC and hope scientific debates and discussions will take place on the topic soon.

Anyone wishing to have more information may contact me at my website:

www.oaktownpublications.com Engineer Shafi Ahmed London, UK

Doctor or bully?

"You won't live long", said the doctor to my aunt.

My first question to all the people reading this article is: Are doctors the arbiters of our destiny?

It is not that I am getting emotional, nor am I trying to draw anyone's attention, but I have been asking this question to myself for the past 1.5 years and haven't yet been able to come up with a suitable answer.

One of my aunts is suffering from pulmonary hypertension. This is an incurable disease. They say you can fight serious diseases like AIDS and cancer, but you are dead once you have pulmonary hypertension. Unlucky for my aunt, she is suffering from this disease and only God knows what's

at the end of the line for her. Regarding this matter, I have to make a comment about the doctors of Bangladesh. Is it written anywhere in medical ethics that the doctor goes up to the patients and say, "Sir/ Madam, you won't live that long. Start counting your days". I just want to know, does this make sense?

I have not travelled to several countries, nor have I seen variances in different cultures, but I am sick and fed up with mine. Here the doctors tell their patients directly, "Youwon't live long".

Many of us watch different kinds of movies, documentaries over the TV and the Internet. According to my knowledge, I have seen, the doctors normally call up other members of the family and explain them if the patient is in critical condition. They never say, "Oh

God! It's all over for you". The doctors of Bangladesh are good. Some of their treatments do change lives, but do they have to keep on continuing this bad habit? Or will I call it a malpractice?

My aunt went to by far the best hospitals in Dhaka city and everywhere the doctors were saying the same thing. "You won't live long" But when we took her to India, the situation was totally different. The doctors there never said anything the crease till the very moment of victory. Finally, the credit goes to the whole team --including the coach and management--who needed this victory so badly. It will certainly boost their morale. ZabedWali

Ashraful played in his trademark belligerent fashion and

pulverized the Kiwi bowlers. Most importantly, he stayed at

Pahartali, Chittagong

well-deserved century.

black caps.



negative like this even to us. Isn't it strange that we being a country neighbouring India have practices so much different? How long will we lag behind like this?

My aunt is a very nervous per-

son and whenever the doctors say something like this, she loses her nerves and her health deteriorates. Does this statement have a meaning to her? Yes, it does. It breaks her down completely.

When will our doctors learn how to be professional? Won't we ever see a change in our culture? Won't these mishaps taking place in the medical arena of Bangladesh ever come to an end?

Should we treat our patients in this manner? Or should we bring a little change? Who will answer my question? Will it remain a dream or will it ever come to being? It's not only me who wants a change. The 160 million people of Bangladesh want an answer.

Sunny Quazi Saad Billah EastWest University

Thai visa issue

I am extremely thankful to His Excellency, the Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh, for kindly responding to my letter on "Thai visa issue" published in DS on 26 September 2008 through his letter on 6 October 2008.

First, I apologise to His Excellency, The Ambassador of Thailand in Bangladesh if I have hurt his feelings by mentioning in

my letter that an Asian nation should be sympathetic and considerate to another Asian nation. In this connection, I would like to mention that on 17 September 2008 I visited the VFS Thailand Visa Application Centre to submit a tourist visa application for myself but an employee of VFS sitting in the ground floor of that building told me that I could not submit my visa application without prior appointment over telephone and he also showed me a list of visa seekers who had made prior appointment for submitting visa application on that date and that employee also gave a small paper to all visa seekers along with me who didn't know about the system of submitting visa application with prior appointment over telephone.

In that small paper it was clearly written "Please book appointments over phone before coming for submission of application to IVLAC" with the phone numbers 8850636 and 8811071 and one email address as well as one web address of IVLAC. I have sent one copy of that paper to the Royal Thai Embassy in Dhaka.

I fully agree with His Excellency that there is very good relation and understanding existing between the governments and peoples of Thailand and Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi people are innocent, peace loving, friendly and religious like the people of Thailand and they visit Thailand for holidaying, shopping, business and medical treatment, since Bangkok is less than two hours by air from Dhaka. They are also a friend of Bangladesh, so my view was why Bangladeshi citizens should not have the option of buying an air ticket and fly to Thailand without applying for visa in advance as citizens of many countries can?

I understand that the government of any country has got every right to impose a system of advance visa for the citizens of any country of the world and at the same time I hope His Excellency will agree with my suggestion that any citizen of Bangladesh who has visited Thailand once with visa in advance and returned to Bangladesh without overstaying in Thailand for any valid reason and did not engage him/herself in anything illegal, then that Bangladeshi should be allowed to visit Thailand without visa in advance for the second, third, fourth time and so on. Dr. Kazi Mizanur Rahman Banani R/A, Dhaka

Palin, a liability? To understand why Alaska

Governor Sarah Palin will be of little help, a look at what a prominent Alaskan woman thinks about her will be in order. In a column published in The Anchorage Daily News on Sept 16, Alaskan writer Elise Patkotak wrote: "There was a time when I thought John McCain really was a different kind of politician, one who would put the country above his personal desire for grandeur. I stopped thinking that the day he announced Sarah Palin as his running mate. ... Sarah Palin is untested and untried. There were dozens of other people much more qualified to be McCain's running mate who would not have caused people to question how ready they'd be to take over if something happened to McCain. To my mind it is fairly clear that the only reason McCain chose Palin was because she brought in something he desperately needed as the rightwing, conservative Christian base of the Republican voters who view McCain with distrust and distaste.

"I looked at the people speaking at the Republican Convention, from Mitt Romney to John (I-don't know-how-many-houses-I-own) McCain and wondered how they could keep a straight face while claiming that Barack Obama is some sort of elitist. ... I looked at the young man standing on the stage with the Palins accepting applause and wondered what he was being applauded for -- dropping out of school or getting a 17-year-old pregnant?"

Instead of Palin bringing in Hillary Clinton's disgruntled female supporters, more women now support Barack Obama. In this this mission, the US should take election, the issue is economy as it will be for a long time to come. The economy will dominate as most Americans fear that their most cherished American dreams -- a well-paying job, a house and a car-- disappear in the wake of economic mismanagement. As a result, the influence of Christian right will wane and influence of economic and social reformers will grow. This is likely to intensify in the 2012 race as the Americans will face growing economic pains. There will be little time for any moose-hunting hockey mom.

As new industrial giants like China and India make their presence felt, the issue will be how to regain America's industrial competitiveness. Like the United States, both China and India are where funds are excessive with

unlike the sagging U.S. economy, both the Chinese and the Indian economies are growing exponen-

the current election, three issues will dominate the next election: the economy, the economy and the

Mahmood Elahi Ottawa, Canada

Global crisis and lending institutions

The ongoing financial crisis in the US which constrained the US government to move a \$700 billion bailout is not an internal matter of the US alone.

The US ought to realize that the practice of money lending is as old as human civilization itself. Here it is in context to add that though the housing bubble, which busted and culminated in the present financial crisis, is projected to be the result of so called pious motive of providing houses to all including sub-prime borrowers and even NINJAs but the real force behind this housing bubble is the greed of the interest seeking lending insti-

The inadequacy and inefficacy of the regulators like Federal /Central Banks all over the world has been thoroughly exposed, during this financial crisis, in avoiding NPAs (bad debts) and free flow of risky instruments (born out of risky lending) amongst various lending institutions of the world.

Therefore the on going financial crisis should be utilised to rectify the defects of lending business. In the lead as a leader of economic globalisation so that the world not only can be assured of a smooth financial ride in future but can also adopt globalisation with renewed vigour. For this, the US ought to keep the following in view-

(1)- First and foremost, the banks should be bifurcated in two institutions. (a)- Banks as lending institution that will give loan on interest and (b)- "Safe Vaults" (or any other suitable name) that will operate saving accounts and will keep valuables (gold, ornaments, important documents etc) in

(2)- These "Safe Vaults" should not be allowed to lend money on interest to public. Only in case dependent on foreign oil. But these "Safe Vaults", then they

should be allowed to give it only to the government to take care of its operational expenses.

Therefore, all the fixed deposits When you mess up with your in banks for (say) above one year finances, you cannot compete. Like should be converted into shares of because there was no availability the banks. Fixed deposits for different durations should be allotted different index numbers.

> At annual general meetings of the banks and the lending institutions (with loan-able funds as shares) the share holders will cast votes whose value will be equal to share value multiplied by said index number.

> Similarly, the promoter's capital can be converted into shares with suitable index number. These banks and other lending institutions can function like any other limited company.

Once the USA amends its bank and lending institution ownership laws as mentioned above, then other countries will also fall in line which will be good for the stability of financial markets all over the

Hem Raj Jain Near Pari Chowk Greater Nodia (UP), India

Dead telephones

I would like to bring to the kind notice of the authorities concerned that 200 telephone lines have been out of order only in Gulshan area for the last 7-8 days. When I tried to contact BTCL to lodge a complaint, I was informed that 1200

other lines were affected around Dhaka city in a similar way, which was caused by theft of telephone cables. I was also informed that the lines could not be restored of cables and funds were not allocated for new replacements either.

This seems to have become a common practice; I would like to request the decision makers to look into this matter seriously, as telephone is the most important means of communication in today's fast paced world.

We, as honest citizens and tax payers, do have the right to demand that prompt and effective steps be taken by the authorities to resolve this problem immedi-Azra Azad

Gulshan, Dhaka

Poor train service

We must improve the service of our government owned railways, the cheaper and safer way to long distance travelling all over the world. The matter of regret is that the authorities make little effort to improve the railway service in our country. There may be a luxury train side by side the luxury buses.

All our heads and policy makers should keep it in mind for the sake of our national development. Imtiaz Alam

Narayanganj

Law enforcers

The main job of the police is to protect the public. This includes protection against crime, maintenance of civil order, enforcement of traffic and other regulations, prevention of alcohol and drug abuse, prevention of neighbourhood disorders, firearms and weapons control, law enforcement and investigations as mandated by the law and requested by the relevant national or local authorities.

However, the law enforcers are exposed to different kinds of hazards while performing their duties.

' This is an issue that the decision makers should address in right earnest.

Final year student Department of Criminology and Police Science, Mawlana Bhashani

Science and Technology University

Md Kamruzzaman Ferose

