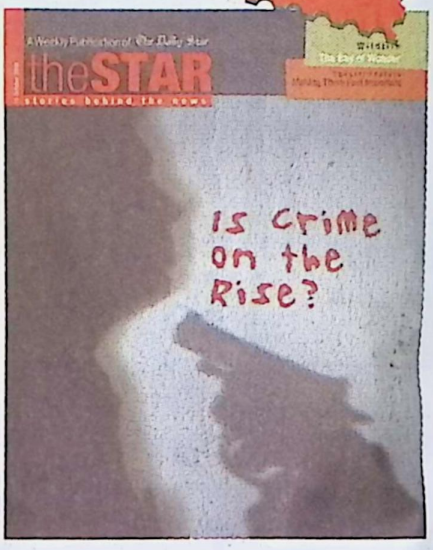
letters

Minus as Many as Necessary

Since Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed-led caretaker government has taken power last year we have been hearing a lot about the so-called 'Minus Two' formula. Though in a democratic country it is not possible to refuse anyone's right to get elected to the parliament, time has proven that the leadership of Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina will bring no good for the country. The two leaders, because of their personal hatred of each other, have proven time and again that with them remaining at the helm of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Awami League, the country and its economy will remain backward-looking, caught in the disastrous cycle of self-destruction, not to mention the politics of violence that we have witnessed in the last one and a half decades.

It is extraordinary that after the hype and hoopla that the CTG has generated in the first half of its rule the government will suddenly sit on its knee to plead with the big parties, many leaders of which we know are corrupt. We, the people of this country, believe that a bleak future awaits us if we do not pursue the war on corruption more vigorously. There is no denying that the country badly needs a democratic government to take over, but that does not mean that the rule of law, the basic premise of democracy and freedom of speech, will be ignored. I urge the CTG and the Anti-corruption Commission to rejuvenate its drive against corruptionists, smugglers and the godfathers who have kept the 14 crore people of this country hostage in the last 37 years.

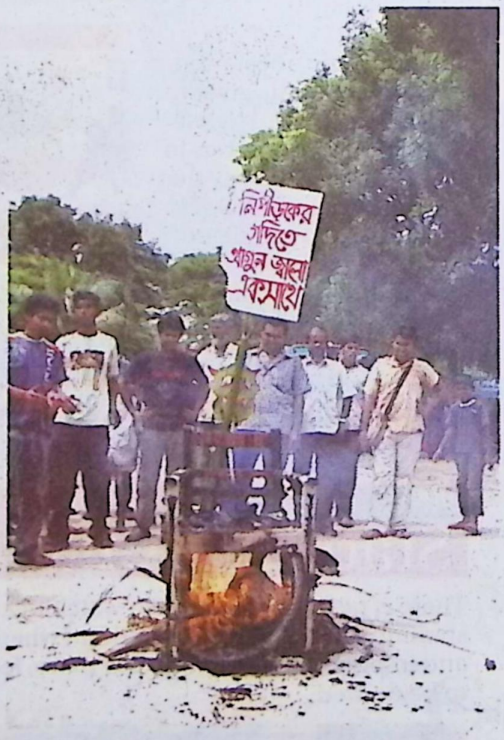
Masud Rana
Shukrabad, Dhaka



Value of Democracy

News of the acquittal of the killers of our great leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM Qamaruzzaman and M Mansur Ali -- came as a shock for us. Moreover, most of the corrupt leaders in Bangladesh have been released from jail without punishment. So what is going on in our country? The caretaker government has lost much time in recovering the economic image of our country. Prices of all necessary goods are increasing day by day and everything is now beyond the poor people's reach. This government has already failed to bring down those prices. In the ensuing election, most of the corrupted leaders might participate and use unfair means.

Subir Kumar Das
Department of Economics
Khulna University



Sexual Harassment on Campus

Instances of sexual harassment in Rajshahi, Dhaka, BUET, Jahangirnagar and other universities have occurred over the decades, reminding us how little we have done to ensure the security of female students on campus. Now the students and the civil society are also trying to force the authorities to make stringent rules to prevent and punish such incidents. The authority seems to be acting otherwise. Persons who have been proven guilty of harassment should not be selected for any public institutions.

Maheen Zakariah Khan
Elephant Road, Dhaka
Ex-student of BUET (93 Batch)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINE:

Letters to the Editor, Star Diary and Write to Mita, with the writer's name and address, should be within 200 words. All articles should be within 1,200 words. A cover letter is not necessary, but every write-up should include the writer's name, phone number and email address (if any). While The Star welcomes unsolicited articles and photographs, it cannot accept the responsibility of their loss or damage. The Star does not return unsolicited articles and photos. Response time for unsolicited write-ups ranges from three weeks to two months. All articles submitted are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

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