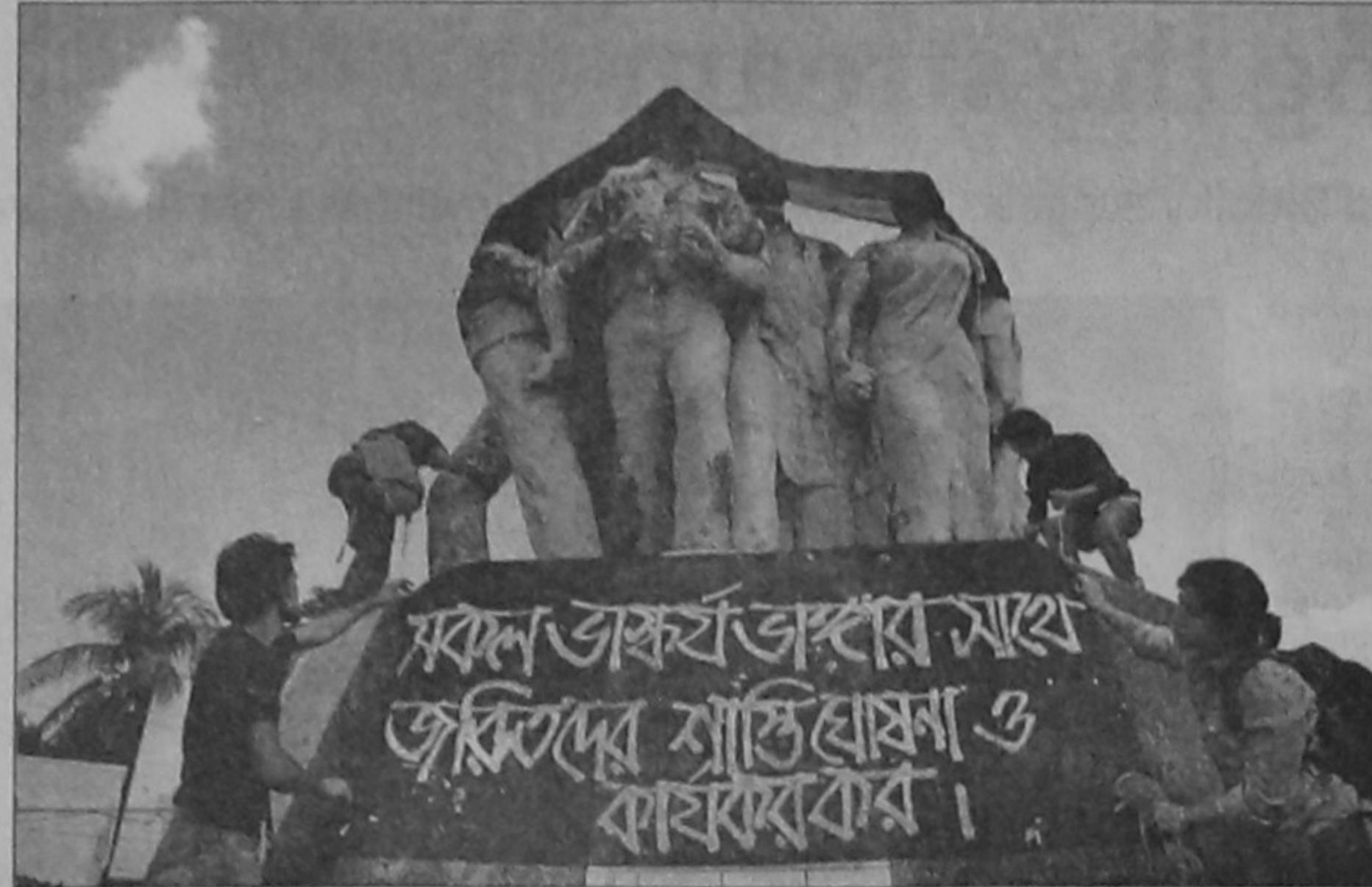


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Fundamentalists strike



NOOR ALAM/DRONE NEWS

The fundamentalists want to demolish all the sculptures with a view to establishing their norms in our country. They have stepped further to vandalize another sculpture! Balaka in front of the Hotel Purbani International in Motijheel was their latest target. Six members of Anjuman-e-Al-Bayanat, who partially demolished the sculpture, have been arrested and sent to jail.

The nation is dumbfounded to know that some extremists have made attempts to crush a sculpture in one of the busiest parts of the capital during emergency rule. The emergency rule may be interpreted as ineffective rule if these attempts to vandalize private or national properties continue.

Islamic scholars and analysts should register their protest against the misinterpretation of the holy teachings of Islam.

Subir Das

Dept. of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
BUET, Dhaka

A good move spoiled

I want to draw the attention of the people responsible for the brand new viewer participatory live programme on RTV aired at 9:45pm on November 27, 2008 called 'Jibone jibone anaee' concerning drug issues sponsored by many important stakeholders of the country. I surely think the time and intention of the programme was absolutely contemporary with the fact that over 45,00,000 youths are affected by drug dependency in Bangladesh. Especially, for people like us who in some way or the other are connected to the cruel effects of drug dependency - it is a sign of hope that NGOs, multinationals and even national organisations are coming forward to assist the experts in the field to contain the national drug problem. Once the sponsors agree upon buying expensive slots of air time to sensitise the masses on any issue, the responsible people could explore more before commencing such a programme. The programme started with a video clip (poorly made to the context of the programme) portraying a true story of an unfortunate death of a boy, focusing on the interviews of the dead boy's sister and father who witnessed the boy killing himself.

The story immediately made the viewers anguished and terrified. And surprisingly there was no rescue! The facilitator talking with the experts even stood in the way while they tried to uncover the story and direct the viewers to a point from where they could see the light of hope. In the cases of drug dependency, denial of the problem is a common stage of mind for the victims as well as for the caregivers that leads to severe consequences. We tend to hide our dear ones from the bad name just as he/she does.

A sensitisation programme on drug awareness programme with such a story will only make people even more nervous and force them into a deeper shell of denial.

I was undone and hopeless and only could watch and share the similar expressions on the faces of the guest experts. I could only cry loudly to the people responsible for that programme who chose the theme 'Drugs may lead to suicide' instead of proactive themes like 'Let's talk about drugs'.

BSF atrocities

How could a drunk soldier of the BSF of India intrude at late night inside another country with his arms and go on a shooting spree, killing three innocent members of two families, while injuring 10 others, rendering two families destitute?

However, he was overpowered by the villagers at some stage and handed over to BDR, but the BDR handed him back to BSF as if he committed no crime. He did not have to face any trial in this country for committing triple murder.

Neither the govt of India bothered to issue any statement, nor the govt of Bangladesh protested and took it up with the Indian authorities. This drunk Indian

soldier could have killed his own nationals inside his own country, but he chose to walk down to the neighbouring small country for the pleasure of killing the unarmed civilians, knowing well nothing would happen to him for committing such gruesome crime in this country. Why our government remained silent and inactive is a mystery to us. Is it the sign of good relationship between the two countries?

Incidents of murder of our nationals by the BSF at our borders are taking place regularly. But no one talks about it and everybody seems to have accepted it as normal affair of the day. I urge the sector commander's forum to be bold enough to condemn such killings by the BSF. They are so blunt and insensitive!

Should we not snap our diplomatic relationship with Pakistan till they come forward to issue an apology for the war crimes in 1971? We must prove that we are a sovereign country.

A.B. Mohammed Zakaria
Staines, Stanwell
Middlesex, UK

Wrong information
Your staff correspondent's incisive report on the false date of birth declaration by a top leader published on 1st December has to be dealt with impartially by the Election Commission. As stated from school records, and confirmed by the controller of examinations of the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board the date of birth is September 5, 1947 and not August 15, 1947 as given in the declaration. Under the EC rules, the nomination paper should be rejected if it contains wrong information.

Would the legal and election experts give their fair and rational comment on the issue?

A disillusioned supporter
Dhaka

Talk show experts

I was very upset listening to a few so called "civil society" members on the issue of lifting the state of emergency. They are telling us that the ordinary people of Bangladesh will feel more comfortable if the election is held under the state of emergency. On our behalf, would you, sir, kindly ask the same people whether they like the old British rule, Ayub-Yahya rule, Martial Law or semi Martial Law for Bangladesh? They might be confused; but the answer might be: they would prefer the "old British rule".

I am pretty sure these elite group of people might find my observation ridiculous and irrelevant; as I consider their comment about the state of emergency harmful, undemocratic and unpatriotic. These gentlemen are misusing their name and fame (?) guided by strong political choice never made public, but can easily be assumed by their acts and deeds. They are perhaps arguing for a permanent system of "state of emergency". Their main political choices are a. Upazila election, b. National caretaker government, c. The much needed "National Security Council", and finally a referendum on their political agenda; alternatively, the party coming to power must be of their choice and preference.

These groups of people are seen in the electronic media every day. Their mission and vision are quite questionable

to the ordinary people like us whom they never meet to propagate their political philosophy. I do not know how long these groups of people will control or influence our politics?

A reader
One-mail

Traffic rules

Because of not abiding by the traffic rules and regulations, people in our country often face accidents. The drivers are not trained and they violate traffic rules.

The traffic authorities must concentrate on enforcement of traffic rules.

S.M. Rumen
Naya Bazar, West Nasirabad
Pahartali, Chittagong

Where's our Obama?

If Obama will ever live up to the level of expectation he is coming in with remains to be seen. But, there is no doubt that he has awakened the better spirit of most Americans if not that of most around the world. I cannot help but wonder how it would be to have a Bangladeshi version of Obama to lead our desperate nation out of the misery we just cannot seem to shake.

Like many I thought the time may have arrived for Bangladesh to leave behind the politics and politicians of the past and move in a better direction where good leaders will take reign of the country; but like a recurring nightmare we are back to square one again. The country is set to elect one of the two "incompetents" again. Why? Is it really true that people get the leaders they deserve? What do we have to do to deserve our Obama?

Anwar Babar
Dallas, Texas, US

Signboards

Although Bangla is our mother tongue, most signboards, especially in the cities, are found in English. I think our signboards should be in Bangla. Every nation respects their respective mother-tongue in their every task and action.

But I am not against English or any other foreign language. For acquiring knowledge and fulfilling other needs we must learn other languages, but not at the cost of our own language.

Harun-or-Rashid
Sobhanbag, Dhaka

Cell phone menace

Now mobile phone has reached every corner of the country. We are getting the facilities offered by this remarkable modern device. It is advancing our life. It is making easier to communicate with each other. However, problem is created when some people misuse this blessing of science. Some boys, who are so much curious to collect the girls' cell-phone numbers, have turned it into a device for annoying others. Their idea is to impress the girls and develop a so-called relation through the mobile phone. The boys often create serious problems for the girls in the name of developing friendship.

The matter should not go unnoticed.

Shovon Chowdhury
Dept. of Accounting
Govt. Edward College
Pabna

Meeting of the two

Defying the incomprehensible and unrealistic ego, Sk. Hasina Wajed and Begum Halema Zia, who have long been known to be the inhabitants of two opposite poles, came face to face and exchanged greetings. This apparently positive attitude could well be the ginning of a new political culture in this country. They should pledge to continue a healthy relationship based on respect and tolerance for each other and show signs of political and mental maturity. These virtues have remained unfamiliar to them. The dagger's end relationship between the top leadership has not only distanced the two political parties but has also created animosity, hatred and intolerance among the field level workers and ordinary supporters as well. If this good neighbourly gesture between Mrs. Wajed and Mrs. Zia is confined to exchange of greetings and sharing of home made delicacies alone, I don't think any remarkable qualitative change is going to happen regarding democratisation of political system of this country.

It is they only who can convince us that there is no shame in our calling a Bengali 'Arun' not as Aarin but as 'Orun', 'Rabindrasan' not as 'Raibindersan' but as 'Robindroshadon', 'Nazrulmancha' not as 'Nazrulmanch' but as 'Nazrulmanch' or 'Sunil' not as the Roman alphabets suggest but as 'Shunil'.

If we loose our characteristic pronunciations our poems may sound awkward, let alone the question of maintaining their sweetness.

AK Dasgupta
Kolkata

Admission test proxy?

Admission tests are going on in public universities. Students having passed H.S.C are participating in those admission ordeal. They (candidates) are studying heart and soul after the HSC exams and doing everything that is needed to win this battle. And PROXY is one of unfair ways to overcome the ordeal.

Students of various public universities are participating

in exams for other candidates to help him/her to pass the admission test. To do this, the candidates buy admission forms in a serial or roll number. And the candidate is seated beside the university student to steal some answers from him/her.

Now-a-days this 'proxy' culture seems to be nothing to the students. But here some other students who deserve admission are being deprived.

Will the university authorities do something about it?

Md. Nurul Alam Shuvo

Dept. of AIS

University of Dhaka

Election

Though the present caretaker govt. is facing a lot of criticism, it has certain achievements too. They have initiated a vigorous campaign against corruption and succeeded in ringing about a perceptible change in the political arena.

However, what people are looking forward to is a free and fair election.

Md. Zahidul Islam Zibon

Dept. of English

International Islamic

University Chittagong

Business ethics

Today world business is the most important topic. Like every other activity, business too has its own ethics and rules, which should be followed honestly. Tempted by the desire of gleaning fat profit, businessmen often indulge in nefarious activities like adulteration, hoarding, black-marketing, smuggling etc which are very detrimental to the economy. Adulteration is a threat to public health. Hoarding obstructs the smooth and steady growth of the economy. Black-marketing causes inflation, deprives the government of substantial monetary resources that could be used for social welfare. Smuggling is another anti-social activity that drains away the country's resources and hinders economic growth. The business community should follow business ethics.

Ashraful Alam

Department of Business

Administration

Shahjalal University of

Science & Technology, Sylhet

Mumbai carnage

What is happening in India, our sub-continent and the world? The act of terrorism in Mumbai is absolutely outrageous. We condemn the incident in the strongest possible terms. Who are these cowards? What Islam and the Muslim population in the world will gain from such activities of terrorism? It will bring more shame, condemnations, hatred etc. for the majority of the Muslims who are peace loving, development oriented, progressive etc.

Now, we urge upon the right thinking Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jews, to unite, cooperate with each other and fight the devils and wipe them out.

Our sons and daughters deserve a peaceful safe happy world.

SNM

One-mail

The Mumbai seize and indiscriminate killings by terrorists has surpassed all the previous incidents in its style, use of sophisticated weapons, the crimi-

nals' depth of coordination among themselves etc. The whole world was shaken.

The USA's war on terror campaign has yielded nothing. The strength of terrorists and their sophistication is rather growing. To succeed in this campaign against terror all the nations should join hands to fight it out.

The time has come for all the nations to look into the roots and find the patrons of these terrorists. Bangladesh is not an exception. I feel the terrorists in Bangladesh are no less dangerous.

I think Bangladesh should also reduce dependence on Muslim countries, especially the Arabs. In the name of aid, our Muslim brothers invest only in religious institutions, some of which are used by the fanatics as breeding grounds of terrorists.

Shafiqul Islam

NY



Deforestation!

Due to deforestation carbon dioxide is increasing worldwide. As a result, the world is becoming warmer. So, if we destroy trees at random, one day the country will turn into a desert. All living animals and birds will be in great danger. Tough measures should

be taken to prevent deforestation.

People should be made aware of tree plantation through the mass media.

Zafar Akbar

Bangladesh Islamic University
Dhaka