

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 cricket crucified

The dastardly attack on the Sri Lanka cricket team is the death of Pakistan cricket. The country is no longer a place for going. Travel and tourism will be finished. Possibly it will become another Afghanistan with Taliban ruling the country!

Except giving statements and excuses, the Pakistan police have miserably failed to protect their visitors. People were seen on TV camera shooting at the bus carrying the Lankan cricketers! It indicates the level of lawlessness that has engulfed Pakistan. One wonders when and where it will end!  
S.A.Mansoor  
Dhaka

## To a General's daughter...

I am a mother who has a daughter like you. I am a teacher who has taught and guided students like you in their sensitive years of growing up. At this moment I have no words of comfort for you. I and all the patriotic people of Bangladesh condemn the shocking incidents of the last few days.

You have lost a mother and that vacuum can never be filled. But you have gained a mother in every one of us who has shed tears with you in this nightmare. Every time, every day when we pray for our children we promise to pray for you. Every time our children will smile we will hang our head in shame. Yes, it is shame because we could not ensure this basic right for you in this country which has a glorious history of fighting for its rights.

Every parent who watched the TV felt proud of you as we listened to you says in clear terms, "My father was the best DG." You have already grown up. You have taken the responsibility of upholding the honour of your parents.

Do not lose heart. In these hard times do not lose your faith in Allah. All our prayers are for you, so that He gives you the strength you need for the coming days. REMEMBER! We are with you all the way, always.  
Raunag Jahan  
Teacher  
Sunbeams School  
Uttara, Dhaka

## Aprotest

Women for Women, a research & study group, wishes to record its support with your newspaper for the news "Benod Behari Chowdhury asks all to unite, save two schools". While thanking DS for its prominent coverage of the hunger strike by members of the Chittagong Civil Society led by the respected leader Benod Behari Chowdhury who is 99 years old and who surely never thought he would

see such a tragic day, Women for Women registers its strong protest against Chittagong City Corporation and demands that the plan to demolish Aparna Charan City Corporation Girls' High School and Krishna Kumari City Corporation Girls' High School be immediately rescinded.

We request the press to continue a campaign of protest in Dhaka and all over Bangladesh to stall the evil designs of the CCC. A Member of Executive Committee  
WTFW

## Climate change

We are a bit concerned over the issue of climate change and what would be the consequential effects of such ecological change and how it occurs. Many of us may not have a clear idea about this issue and how it would eventually affect our social, economic and environmental segments. Climate change is one of the biggest environmental challenges the world is facing now. Rising global temperatures will bring changes in weather system, raising sea levels and leading to increased intensity of adverse weather.

The government has taken a comprehensive Tk 300 crore programme to minimise the impact of climate change by undertaking some positive initiatives and the plan needs to be implemented through a participatory approach of the various government departments, local communities, NGOs and other national and international organisations.  
Nasarullah  
One-mail

## English and Math teachers

At this moment there is a huge shortage of English and Math teachers in rural secondary schools and this is severe in madrasas. In almost all the rural schools, English and Math are taught by the teachers who haven't studied Math and English at their degree level. Teachers themselves do not know English and Math, so how will they teach their students? Even in England, the government gives extra facilities to the students, who are studying Math or Science at the degree level to produce Math and Science teachers in their secondary schools as there is a shortage of Science and Math teachers.

Keeping that in mind, our government can give stipend to the students who would take English or Math at the degree level in rural colleges only and stipend would be continued if they take these subjects in their B.Ed course at Government Teachers' Training Colleges.  
Mawduda Hasnin  
Rajshahi

# Challenges ahead

In an indigent country like ours almost every group of people has countless grievances and unfulfilled demands. Students have demands for an efficient educational system; labourers have demands for higher wages and better living standards; while civil servants have demands for effective administrative reforms. However, having grievances and demands (no matter how grave they might be) doesn't justify mayhem by the aggrieved. Just because a few students have certain demands, it doesn't anyhow give them the right to vandalize their campuses and brutalize their teachers. Similarly, in a civilized society distressed workers aren't expected to slaughter their employers if the latter fail to fulfil the workers' rightful demands. By the same token, the incredible crimes perpetrated by the BDR mutineers is by no means a justifiable way through which a disciplined and well-trained armed force should express their grievances. It's quite apparent that there were several constructive ways through which these mutineers could have communicated their demands to the authorities. Instead of killing a great many of their superior officers they could have called a non-violent strike (or even a 'hunger strike'). Moreover, it was also a legitimate option for them to communicate with different interest groups, the media and the government policy makers via their own spokespersons. Despite having all those applicable alternatives, they resorted to indiscriminate violence that actually made us question the credibility of their blatant accusations. If they had taken a peaceful route to achieve their objectives, they might have been able to make their causes clearly justifiable. Brutal killing of superior officers apparently exposed the inadequacy of moral and cultural grooming that exists in our paramilitary force.

I think a few things need to be clarified regarding the issue. First of all, if the mutineers really had some grievances, was it truly possible for the higher ranking officers to alter the prevailing scenario? The type of facilities the paramilitary force would receive is actually determined by the government budgeting and strategic policy makers. Then why did

the rebels slaughter the innocent unarmed officers most of whom had nothing to do with the lack of the demanded facilities? Secondly, the paramilitary force of a country can't logically expect to attain the equal status as the country's main 'military force'. In an economically vulnerable country like Bangladesh it's certainly not trouble-free to allocate resources among various armed forces in an absolutely satisfying manner. Inadequacy of resources and relevant funds is

Furthermore, the mutineers didn't even hesitate to open fire on innocuous pedestrians and onlookers that actually revealed the maniacal nature of the people involved in this revolt. Like a bunch of felons they didn't hesitate to loot, plunder and kill innocent women and children. Worst of all, like cold-blooded murderers, they didn't show any sign of remorse afterwards. I really wonder what type of 'ethical training' these people receive as the members of one of the most important



PHOTO: STAR

actually a common dilemma for almost every sector, not only the paramilitary force. These mutineers should have understood this reality. Factually speaking, the entire mutiny was based on utter falsehood. The mutineers claimed that the slain officers initially opened fire, which was not true. They lied about the casualties. They tried to win public support by terming this sordid act as the outcome of 'accumulated anger', a theory that was bought by many irresponsible media outlets. (Regrettably, a few TV channels were telecasting the news in such a manner which made the whole thing appear quite justifiable.)

armed forces in the country. It's quite disturbing to imagine that upon these people's 'sense of responsibility' our security relies. These coward mutineers were only good at killing unarmed people and when the heavily armed military forces closed in they fled with their tails between their legs.

The ruthless killing of the qualified military officers is an irreplaceable loss of human capital for our nation. The general people including the civil society want exemplary punishment to those involved in this gruesome bloodbath. No one in a civilized nation should be given the right to violate the basic

code of law. I think we shouldn't take the Prime Minister's announcement of general amnesty seriously because at that critical point it was necessary to bring the situation under control.

We must understand that no valid deal can exist between civilized humans and a bunch of horrendous savages.

Kh. Asef Safa Kabir  
Lalmatia, Dhaka

\*\*\*  
The two day long BDR mutiny that broke out on the 25th February must be a great lesson for the leaders and government high-ups of our country. Whatever the causes of the revolt, the consequences have so far been lethal. The country have lost almost 75 (as is estimated by media) of its brilliant, energetic and young officers. Though the casualties have been minimized, the country may yet have to brace for long term consequences.

The problems before our leaders are complex, they must examine all possible alternatives and choose the best one. They should prove their prudence and sagacity.  
Pulok Chakraborty  
SUST

\*\*\*  
We passed two horrifying days and nights due to the mutiny of the BDR.

Approximately 75 army officers were killed/missing, wives of some army officers living in the BDR headquarters were brutally murdered.

I would like to raise a question here. Why should the culprits responsible for these brutal murders will go unpunished? How Bangladesh is going to replace those brilliant officers? Who is going to compensate for the losses suffered by the families of the dead officers? Money and verbal consolation are not good enough.

Punish the culprits as per the law of the country. If we fail to punish the responsible elements, this kind of unwanted events will keep on happening.  
Nazakat  
One-mail

## Indian visa and visa office

Indian visa and its office has become a headache for visa seekers as well as neighbours of the visa office. As India is our nearest neighbouring country people have to visit India for many reasons. But having an Indian visa has become quite difficult due to heavy rush of visa seekers. Neighbourhood people of visa office unnecessarily suffer due to the crowd gathering since early hours of the day. Now Banani dwellers are very rightly opposing shifting of the office to their area. To avoid the hassles, we put forward a few suggestions which may solve the problem.

1. Tourist visa may be granted on arrival at Indian port of entries.
2. Drop box system may be introduced for the tourists who have used their visa 2/3 times without extensions. Drop boxes may be set up at 3/4 places of the city.
3. Separate dates/times may be fixed for stu-

dent/medical/business visa.

4. Long term multiple entry visa may be granted to deserving persons.

5. A commercial bank in their different branches may be employed to collect and disburse passports after stamping the visa.

6. Separate queues/days/hrs may be there to cater to senior citizens, women, sick and disabled persons.

If some of the above measures are taken we hope the visa and locality problem will be solved without any difficulty.

M. Sanaul Haq  
Uttara, Dhaka

## How to go about now?

A handful of disgruntled BDR personnel rushed inside the Durbar Hall from the back door and with a burst of gunfire killed completely unarmed officers. Their subsequent heinous acts are by now well known to every citizen of the country. With her wisdom the Honourable

Prime Minister declared general amnesty to bring the situation under control. But the general amnesty certainly did not mean pardoning those who were involved in the act and the same has subsequently been made crystal clear by the Honourable Prime Minister.

No sooner the BDR HQ was cordoned by the Army, with no difficulty the disgruntled elements could understand that they had no option but to melt out to escape trial for mutiny and that is why they bargained for removal of cordon before disarmament and unfortunately we yielded to their demand. We even overlooked to plug in on the possible escape route.

The only way left is to make the citizens aware of their presence among them and cooperate with the law enforcing agencies for their apprehension to face trial. That is how we can regain the lost honour as a nation. The media has a definite role here.

Brig Gen Ali Hasan (Retd)  
One-mail

## Our leaders

What good are they when they could not come together on the day one hundred and fifty of our bright army officers were brutally murdered? What stopped the Prime Minister from calling upon the Opposition Leader to join her in facing the grave national crisis? At a time like this they are still busy mud-slinging and blaming each other, instead of joining hands in saving the country and giving solace to the wounded national psyche.

But time has not run out yet. There is still time. When 150 million people of the country are united in anger and grief, we are least interested in hearing your discordant and partisan voices. Enough is enough! Dear Prime Minister, please ask the Opposition Leader to join you at this hour of peril. We also request the Opposition Leader to respond immediately. Please take all decisions together. For God's sake do not fail to rise to the occasion.  
Shahjahan Hafiz  
Dhaka

## Who are they?

The photographs printed in your daily of men in white caps standing with their feet on the chest of a flattened man and rejoicing on the streets of Dhaka, again of men in the same attire throwing shoes at other men in similar attire inside sacred mosques have raised a question. Who are they?  
Md. Mahmoodul Haque  
Gulshan, Dhaka

## Barbarian!

Eggs were to be served to the accompanying people of the bridegroom in a wedding function in Rangunia. But as the father of the bride could not manage to collect about 700 eggs at a time from the market, the bridegroom's people became very angry and later the "brave" bridegroom broke 19 eggs on the newly married girl's head. Actually, the man is not a "Bor" (bridegroom) rather a "Borbor" (barbarian). The innocent girl will be burdened with the memory of this incident up to her last day in this world.

In marriage ceremonies, we find some overenthusiastic people who wait for any lapse from a bride's side and if they find any, they do not hesitate to

take advantage of it. This must come to an end.  
Harun-or-Rashid  
Sobhanbag, Dhaka

## CSR issue

Corporate Social Responsibility or CSR is a very popular buzz word today. The corporate bodies are trying to demonstrate that they are doing many social welfare activities from CSR point of view. It would be a matter of great satisfaction if they really would do so. Actually many people do not know the real essence of this commonly uttered term. The organisations should be more honest and sincere.

Only giving some money as donor or sponsor is not really CSR activity. In all phases of your business, you have to give priority to the benefits or inter-

ests of your stakeholders. If you are not caring enough to defend the environment, to honour the consumers' rights, to fix reasonable price, to pay proper tax and duties, to preserve employees' interest etc., most probably you are not doing much.

Many companies are trying to offer some money as charity and getting positive rewards from media and potential consumers. This is not much different from other forms of advertisements. So, to be socially responsible, you have to implement it at all levels. As part of this society, you have to do many things for social progress. This is not a matter of sympathy or aid.  
Md. Abdul Hamid  
Assistant professor  
Dept. of Business Administration  
Shahjalal University, Sylhet

# Crime index

The Department of Criminology and Police Science (DCPS) of Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) in Tangail has undertaken an exceptional publication named "Crime index 2007" of Bangladesh. This is reportedly the first ever initiative of this in the country. The book published by the APPL was formerly launched by Professor Mozaffar Ahmed, Chairperson of TIB at a function at Dhaka Reporters' Unity on 20 February 2009.

For taking such an initiative, I congratulate the team comprising faculty members and students of the Department. It is of course a

praiseworthy initiative which will be useful for relevant researchers, practitioners and policy makers. However, there is concern as well regarding its continuation given the lack of trained personnel and resources in an academic institution like DCPS to continue such a venture over the years.

That is why there is a need for state patronization for such an activity. This could be done through setting up a permanent cell or unit under the auspices of the Police Headquarters or the Ministry of Home Affairs. It will undertake regular research exercises on the crime issue and come

out with relevant publications. It will work in collaboration with relevant experts, academics, and researchers at academic institutes and elsewhere in the country.

During my doctoral research on the legal framework on human trafficking in South Asia (during 1997-2001), I have the opportunity to visit offices of the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) based in Kolkata and New Delhi to review relevant reports and publications and consult with relevant officials. I was amazed seeing the dedication and professionalism of the officers (who are deputed from the Police). The NCRB is under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

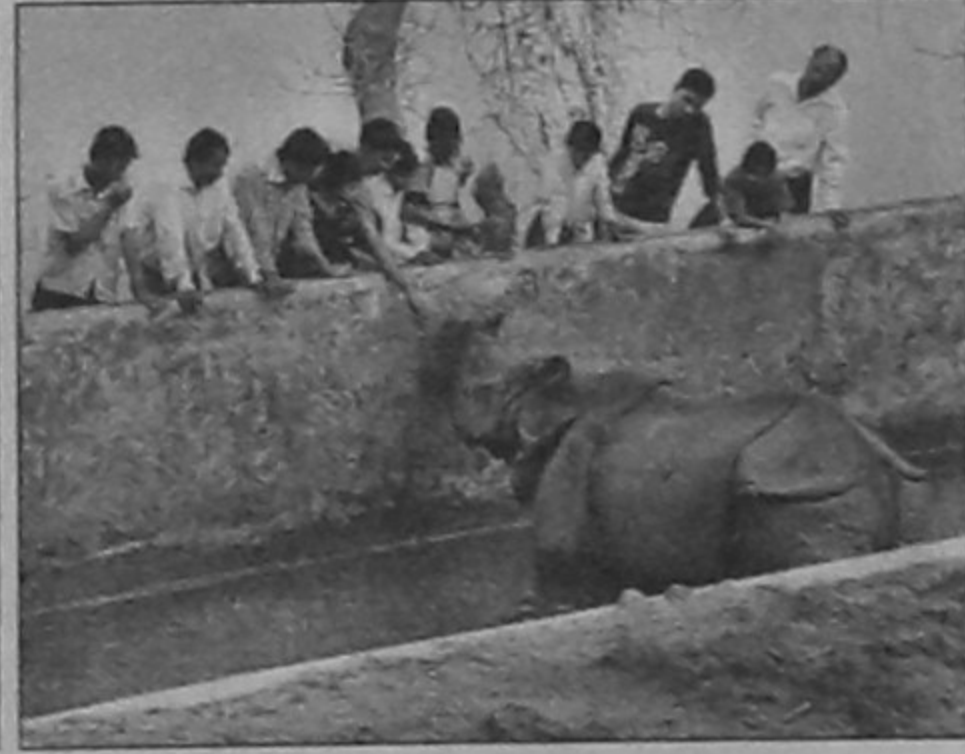
I come to know that the India's National Police Commission in 1979 recommended to set up a Nodal Agency which would suggest a common format for maintenance of crime including the criminal records at all the Police Stations in the country. The same common format is to be utilized to create shareable databases at Police Stations, Districts, States and National level.

The NCRB over the years has developed a unique professionalism and quality in their research and publications. The best practices from the NCRB could be a point of reference in our efforts.

Uttam Kumar Das, PhD  
Lawyer and Researcher  
Adabar, Dhaka



# Revamping the zoo



The concept of zoos has undergone a sea change in the past couple of decades. Zoos are no longer meant to serve as showpieces, exhibiting wildlife in confinement. Rather, these are supposed to serve long-term needs of conservation by facilitating research on diverse aspects of wildlife and their management. On the front of upkeep of animals and birds, too, greater emphasis has been on securing for the wildlife an environment as close to their natural habitat as possible.

While many acclaimed zoos around the world have realised or are close to realising these avowed objectives, the condition of our Mirpur National Zoo among the country's biggest animal shelters located on a strikingly natural landscape still has a widening gap to seal. No doubt, some positive developments, including scientific captive breeding of a few rare species, have taken place, the overall situation has to witness substantial development in several critical spheres.

Caged wildlife looking harrowed and forlorn in small, dingy confines is still a disturbing practice that needs to be ended at the earliest.

In a belated but welcome development, the zoo authorities have now completed a master plan identifying the constraints and preparing a roadmap

for future development activities.

Given that management of zoos is a scientific exercise requiring long-term preparations, expertise and patience, such an effort should have been there much earlier.

The job at hand now is to implement the roadmap with a sense of urgency and sincerity. Bangladesh and its heritage as a biodiversity hotspot makes all this highly imperative. With a number of species adding to the list of the endangered every passing year, the zoo can do a world of good to protect the long-term survival prospects of such wildlife. Faunal lives apart, the region boasts of an incredibly high diversity of flora, and as such the zoo has to undertake the twin responsibility of facilitating research on both the fronts.

Bangladesh lacks adequate database on its faunal and floral wealth something that can be effectively developed through study and research. Tourism is also a part of zoology. The development of zoo will definitely contribute to tourism.

If the government is really serious about conservation, it should stop exhibiting mawkish sensibilities and propel the zoo to a global status through concrete action.

Mohammad Shahidul Islam  
A national tourism worker