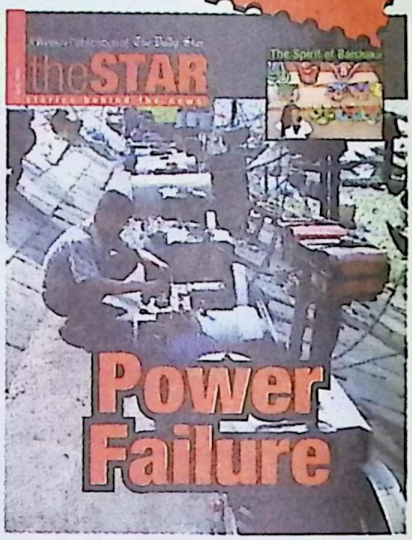
letters



Dhaka's US Embassy

My husband is a US citizen and he has applied for immigrant visa for me and our baby. A few months ago I was called to the Embassy for an interview. Before the interview, we carefully collated and checked all the papers in consultation with the attorney so that I would get the process right the first time. The interview was scheduled at 8 AM but from 6 AM onwards people started gathering outside the main gate of US embassy. I also took my place in the long queue. I had to wait in line for three hours before I could go in, and after that I had a nightmarish eight-hour wait before the actual interview. There was no canteen inside, and we were not allowed to take even a bottle of water. The guard behaved very rudely when I asked for water for my baby. At long last we were called for interview, but I was stunned when the visa officer said I had not submitted sponsorship papers. My attorney assured me these had been submitted before, but I was forced to return to the Embassy with the papers the following week. My attorney told me I would get the visa this time around, but the visa officer told me that it was very easy to get "fake documents" in Bangladesh, and they would have to "review" my case. Why was it necessary to make such a sweeping statement, and display such an antagonistic attitude? My American attorney commented that she has not come across such behaviour in all her twenty years of practicing immigration law.

Six long months have passed, and my case is still being "reviewed". I don't understand why the embassy officials would treat genuine visa applicants, who are paying fees, in this abysmal way? Is this the image the US wants to project?

A Sufferer
Dhaka

Enough!

We, the students, have seen shameless political hooliganism in the classrooms, dormitories and canteens of our campuses over the last three months. In truth, this has nothing to do with politics -- it is nothing but organized crime in the name of student politics. The golden days of our student politics is gone. The student fronts are now engaged in criminal activities, and their shameless desire to dominate our campuses are jeopardizing the academic lives of millions of students. It is time to call for an end to student politics on campus for the greater good of the nation.

Mohammad Rajja
Dhaka



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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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