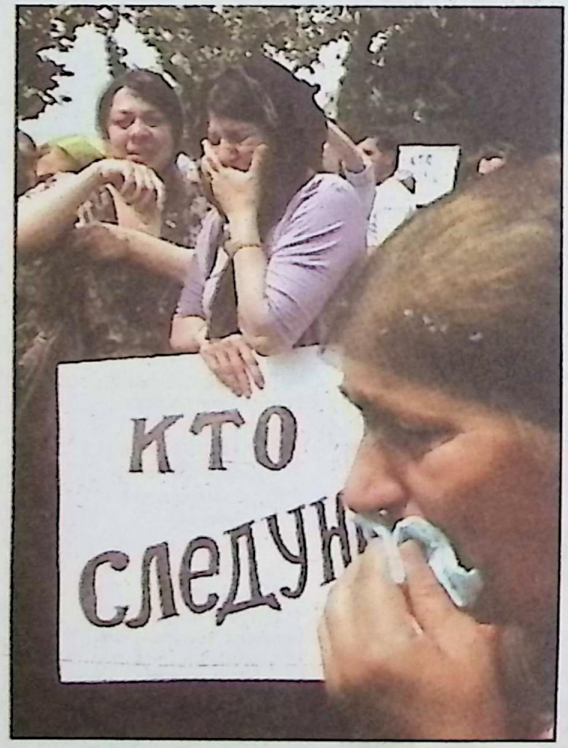
# letters

## Awami League Council

Awami League is one of the biggest and oldest political parties in our political arena. This year it has celebrated its 60th anniversary. Since its inception it has proven a party of mass people -- from the historic language movement to the liberation war its contribution is matchless. However in its recently concluded council it failed to produce intra-party democracy, which is essential for the practice of democracy as a whole. The strength of a political party and how far it is democratic depends on its exercise of internal democracy. The councillors unanimously approved Hasina as president and Asraful Islam as general secretary uncontested. On the other hand councillors also gave authority to the president to select 43 members out of the 76-member central committee, which is undemocratic. Such a move will establish dominance of party president and general Secretary in the AL. As a result of this, the party would be the rubber stamp of president and general Secretary and will weaken the party in the long run. Many new and less experienced leaders were included and many veteran politicians were axed from the executive committee. In my opinion this is an ominous sign for the party. Inclusion of new faces is far sighted, but it must be done gradually giving priority to experienced ones.

*Md Zonaed Emran*
*Dept. of Political Science*
*University of Dhaka*




## Terror and Terrorism

Your contributor Faraz Rahman (Star Magazine, 31/7/09) makes some valid points about international political hypocrisy, but confuses the words 'terror' with "terrorism". The latter is a specific internationally recognised term for violent actions against civilian populations by non-state parties to achieve political aims. He is correct, however, to say that violence sponsored by state parties for political aims, including covert state support for terrorist organisations, has been equally, if not more devastating for civilian populations, past and present, than those perpetrated by non-state parties, and may indeed have inflicted more terror.

*Dr Penelope Schoeffel*
*Fairfax Rd, Bellevue Hill, NSW, Australia 2023*

## Beyond Brutality

I can hardly contain my anger as I try to express my thoughts on paper. A child working as a maid was tortured on the charge of stealing Tk.10. What is human dignity worth in our society? Are we losing our humane values and becoming animals? As the wise man said, it does not matter so much what we descended from -- it is what we descend to that shames the human race!

*Muhammad Ashikur Rahman*
*Dept of Public Administration*
*University of 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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