

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 150 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

### Abandon nuke power plant project

Recently, Bangladesh signed an accord with Russia to set up a nuclear power plant in Rooppur. In view of the recent accidents (still uncontrolled) with the nuclear power plants in Japan after the earthquake and tsunami, I suggest that the Bangladesh government abandon the idea of setting up the plant because of the following reasons: Firstly, Bangladesh is in high risk of earthquake. Secondly, we are not so technologically developed like Japan to cope (still to be seen) with a similar situation. And thirdly, Bangladesh is such a small country (radius hardly about 135 miles) that in case of such radiation hazard, people will not be able to move to safer places. As such we should stick to the other traditional methods of generating power.  
Wali-ur Rahman, Vancouver, Canada

### Discriminatory BCS quota system

After the result of 29th BCS has been published, the Quota system has become the most talked about issue across the country. The question has arisen in our mind whether the present quota system is justified in the present context of the country where thousands of brilliant students are still unemployed. A meritorious student has to attend the exams twice or thrice to become a BCS cadre while less meritorious students are getting chance easily using quota facilities. This is injustice to the meritorious students. To build a powerful nation there is no alternative to merit. It is high time the present govt. started to think about the reshuffle of present quota system lowering it to 10 percent. I urge the people of all walks of life, especially the university students to raise their voice against this discriminatory quota system. The present govt. should look into the case with due attention.  
Eng. Md Meheboob Haque, BUET

### No-fly zone over Libya

It is unbelievable that the West is being prodded to enforce a no-fly zone over Libya. This is an Arab and an African issue. Why are not the Arabs and the Africans enforcing it? It is not because they don't have the resources; it's the will that is missing! The Arab League, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and African Union are all lame duck organisations that provide high-profile jobs to favourites who will guarantee the security of their patrons and vested interests, not the interests of the ordinary citizen, the poor and the downtrodden. This is not a recent phenomenon. The Palestine and Kashmir issues are still burning! The Arab League and GCC have met several times since the hostilities began but remained typically indecisive. This is a regional Arab issue and must be tackled as such but requires leadership and courage!  
Muhammad Jamil Ather, Karachi, Pakistan

# The Japan tragedy



PHOTO: AFP

The disaster in Japan is of such a magnitude that one gasps with horror and disbelief. The massive earthquake and the tsunami that followed have leveled many parts of Japan, killed thousands of people, and injured thousand others. How unfortunate! We can easily imagine the mental condition of the Japanese people. Our prayers are with them, may the situation come under control and spare them from further hardships!  
Nur Jahan  
Chittagong

The 8.9-magnitude earthquake and the ensuing tsunami on Friday March 11, 2011 have pushed Japan into a disastrous situation. In addition, blasts in the nuclear plants have further worsened the situation. The brave people of Japan with great

patience and endurance are facing the outcomes of the natural disaster. While expressing profound sympathy to the people of Japan, I would request all the nations of the world to stand by the side of the friendly people of Japan in their distress. Japan is a very close friend and development partner of Bangladesh.

The Government of Bangladesh has already taken some steps to move quickly in aid of earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan. Meanwhile, countries including Bangladesh which are planning to set up nuclear plants should take a lesson from the Japan's nuclear disaster.  
Professor M Zahidul Haque  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
Dhaka

### Role of Islamic Foundation

I don't see Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh playing any role in removing misconceptions associated with Islam or preventing torture in the name of religion. The foreign scholars are doing a much better job. I am ashamed of the fact that despite the existence of Islamic Foundation, we have to write letters/articles to clarify various Islamic injunctions. The only time I see Islamic Foundation active is during Shab-e-Baraat with one day's elaborate plans of "righteousness." How has this prevented the misuse of fatwa? Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh should take up long-term projects to eliminate ignorance and produce good human beings.  
A concerned citizen  
Dhaka

### Attention: Election Commission

The UP elections schedule has been announced on 24<sup>th</sup> February. But it is a matter of regret that many of us have not yet received the national ID cards. We, the inhabitants of Arahazar, are facing problems for this. Our photos were taken in 2009. After that, 18 months have passed. But we have not got the ID cards yet. Can we vote without our ID cards in the UP elections? If not, then we urge the authorities to give our national ID cards soon.  
Rokon Mahmud, Arahazar, Narayanganj

### Muslim women are everywhere

The idea that Muslim women are oppressed is preposterous. There are 1.57

billion Muslims. Out of them, millions are women. Are they all "oppressed"? If Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) wanted to subjugate women, why would he say "It is only the generous in character who is good to women, and only the evil one who insults them?" Let us not forget that Khadeejah, wife of the Prophet (pbuh), was a successful businesswoman. Jobs for women such as driving, encouraged by Islam ages back, are recently making way into the "modern" civilisation and being welcomed as empowerment of women. The Qur'an has also prohibited female infanticide. Muslim women are everywhere, studying, working and contributing to the society. Therefore, if you want to be fair, ask a Muslim woman how she feels, not BBC or CNN.  
A citizen  
Dhaka

### See the writing on the wall

The government is out to remove every kind of thorns from its way. This government dreads everybody who has temerity to burn bright dispelling the dark of the society. So, Dr. Yunus who made us proud by winning the Nobel Peace Prize is a blood sucker in the eye of Sheikh Hasina, but when Chhatra League cadres extract juice from the already shrunken general people by racketeering, they become golden boys. How much money has the govt. squandered in name changing game? Hundreds of opposition leaders and activists are languishing in jail on ridiculous charges while the genuine murderers, rapists, land grabbers involved with the ruling party are being freed and absolved from all cases against them. How long will the govt. be able to deceive the people? A storm of anger is brewing somewhere ready to erupt. Won't they heed and see the writing

# This enmity must go

I read with interest the column 'this enmity must go' by Mr. Mohammad Ali Sattar. I have also written a number of articles on this subject. In my weekly column in 'Janakontho' on Tuesday on 8 March on stone-throwing at the bus carrying the West Indies players, I made some brief references at the massive vandalism by some of our student's at Dhaka University campus three days earlier. I have also been watching with distress the reckless conduct of a section of our surface transport sector workers, all under the direct patronage of our Shipping

15 March in its first page. I consider these two Ministers are working against the interests of the poor passengers, and all in the interest of the private bus owners. In an otherwise good piece Mr.Sattar have missed this point. Thanks for the column all the same.  
Mohiuddin Ahmed  
Former Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

I read the article "This enmity must go". It was an excellent article. Students are often forced to leave the running bus. On

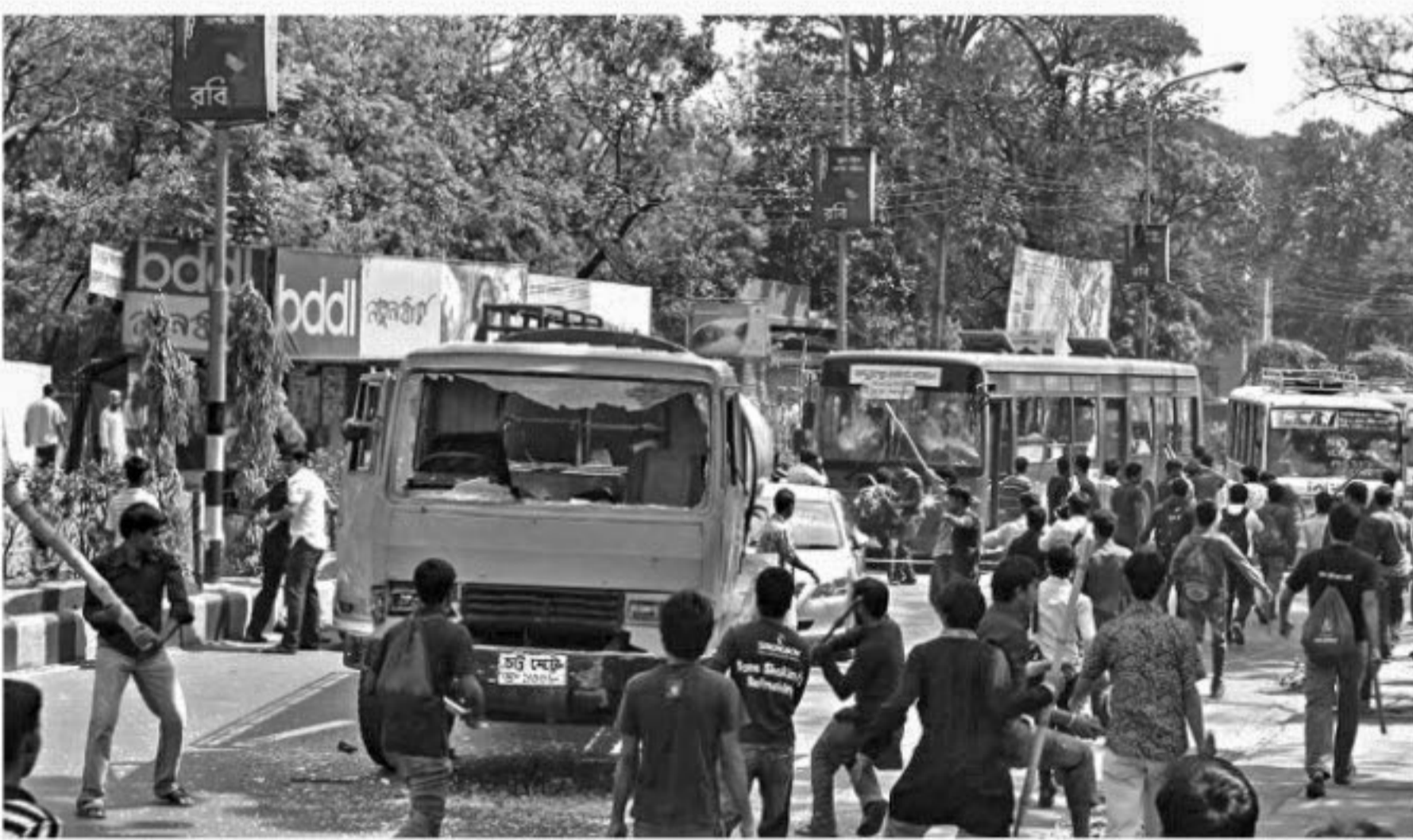


PHOTO: STAR

Minister, who is at the same time the President of the transport workers. He condones, rather encourages, the transport workers to vandalize the BRTC buses. He wants the BRTC buses to stop operation so that the private bus owner can loot the helpless passengers without even the slightest of competition from any quarters, not even from Railway either. About 10 months ago, this Minister persuaded the Communications Minister to restrict the services of BRTC buses in many places of the country. Daily 'Janakontho' published a long story on this subject only last

the other hand, students too make chaos while paying fare. The only way that can solve the problem is the constant discussion between these two groups. Very recently, we have formed Road Safety Forum with our students. Unfortunately, students are not much motivated. They are more interested to raise their voice against Drug Addiction and other social issues. In this regard, if you have any innovative idea or suggestion, please share with us. Please keep on writing.  
Pradip Das, lecturer, CRP

### A matter of great public interest

During the last days of the colonial period to prevent the water-logging of a large area of the then Brahmanbaria sub-division, created due to siltation of the river Titas, N.M. Khan ICS, SDO took the initiative to dig the Anderson canal, named after the then Governor of Bengal. This saved a vast acreage of land from constant flooding, thereby enabling the people of the area to achieve great agricultural output.

It is now seen with great concern that all the bridges of the railways as well as the roads between Ashuganj-Akhaura are in the process of being closed. Such an action may seriously affect the flow of water during flash flood which used to bring disas-

ters in the past. As a local resident, I, like many others, am alarmed at the possibility of any future impending danger as a result. The authorities must provide an explanation to dispel the public fear which now exists among concerned citizens.  
Z. Rahman, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

### Dr. Yunus' image

I think the best thing for Dr. Yunus would have been to resign even before all these so-called allegations were being conjured up by different organisations and politicians. I am sure he was not planning to turn the bank as its MD into perpetuity. I am also sure if he has spent the last several decades in organising the Grameen Bank, then he has also structured it in such a way that it would run even without him.

# Second-rate performance of our cricketers

In a sport there is always a win or defeat, but we don't expect our team to lose matches by huge margin. We, the Bangladeshi cricket fans, find these two defeats against the West Indies and South Africa a hard pill to swallow. These two defeats were hugely upsetting for all the fans and it will take years for us to forget the painful memories. Shakib Al Hasan should spend more time in cricket rather than talking big during interview sessions, and on many occasions he seemed over-confident. Tamim played the most disappointing cricket and could never come up with big scores. In fact, his performance was awful. I hope Jamie Siddons will ponder on the performances of our cricketers and find out what exactly went wrong. But our bowlers did really well.  
Badal Hasib  
SIBT, Sylhet



PHOTO: AFP

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's *The Daily Star* report headlined "Khaleda, Blake shares same view"

### Faqrul, USA

A dignified issue might be solved in a dignified manner. Kindly uphold the dignity of law of the land and image of the highest court in the country. We can request Mr Blake, the GOB and Dr Yunus to uphold the dignity of a nation through an amicable settlement of Grameen and Dr Yunus's issues. Thanks to the foreign TV network to put us in such a political impasse. Please speak again.

### Khalid, UK

The attitude of our PM towards Prof Yunus the lone noble prize winner in our history is really deplorable and sad for all of us. We find no word to condemn her vindictive attitude. She seems to regard him as a political rival and treating him in the similar way of treating the BNP leader. What a menace! It is totally unbecoming of an elected PM Now US assistant secretary of state had to come in person to stop her from abusing her position to relish her sadist mind.

### Anonymous in USA

As I read the various newspapers of Bangladesh, I get the feeling there will be a show-down between Friends of Grameen and Friends of Bangladesh. If Friends of Bangladesh wants to fight out foreign aggression, it should try to make Bangladesh self-sufficient and fully independent. If you keep a door open for aids and loans, that door may remain open for other matters also.

### Ziha

I think government should co-operate with Prof Yunus. He is our pride.

### Loginbd

We also support this. We hope the issue involving Prof Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank would be resolved amicably.

### Anonymous in USA

The question of Dr Yunus and Grameen Bank has become an issue of whole world vs. Bangladesh. While the whole world is supporting Dr Yunus only the Bangladesh government is against him. This war will have negative effects on the employees, the borrowers, the microfinance and the Bangladesh economy as a whole.

### Husain, SM

In the wake of the visit of Blake, all justification put forward by the Govt. about the removal of Dr Yunus will be swept away. Can the government turn away from what Blake will say? Now, the nation will expect another press conference by foreign minister Dipu Moni swallowing all the words said before about the Noble laureate. The nation will be happy, nonetheless. It understands that it was uncalled for, after all, raising the dust over the issue.

### Notice

Dear readers, We appreciate greatly your contributions to this page. In order to give more space to our valued readers we request you to please restrict your letters / comments / opinions to a maximum of 150 words.  
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### DV lottery deception

Diversity Visa (DV) lottery is an opportunity of immigration given by the USA govt. for people throughout the world. So far, the recruitment process has been proved transparent and praiseworthy. People from different countries like Bangladesh, India, Nepal, etc. are getting chance to go to America safely. But some unscrupulous persons are deceiving people using the name of DV lottery. Hacking the e-mail addresses of several people, those cheats are sending fake messages of DV visa affirmation. The e-mail messages sent by those frauds offer "permanent" resident card only for \$681! The govt. must come forward to solve the matter. And the media should also come forward to make people aware about this deception.  
Khondoker Rezwan Tanvir  
Dept. of Business Administration  
SUST, Sylhet