

# Arab leaders should stand up



PHOTO: AFP

The wealth and geo-political importance of Arab world can not be over emphasized. The USA and NATO always follow a 'divide and rule' policy in the Arab world and take military actions against any Arab country for one excuse or another in the name of human rights and democracy. But the USA and NATO never take any military action against Israel. In the name of comprehensive peace in the Middle East, they secretly help Israel. And so, the

freedom of Palestine from the clutches of Israeli occupation is deadlocked. Would not Israel create more and more problems in the events of recent crisis in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and other Arab countries, and complications to the peaceful solution of Palestine crisis? The leaders of the Arab world may sit together and try to solve their own problems without any foreign interference. **O H Kabir**  
*Dhaka*

## Just ban coaching centres

This is on the news item "Student left in critical state" published on May 6 in the last page of The Daily Star. Mother, a small word with a very broad meaning, is a woman who helps and puts all her efforts to show us the light of this wonderful world. On May 8 the whole world celebrated Mother's Day. With respect to this day, on behalf of all other mothers in Bangladesh, I, Amy Rahman a proud mother of two daughters, ask the Bangladesh Government of the measures taken on the incident and what is done to stop this kind of institutions who suck the hard earned money of the parents in the name of education. The 13 year old, Rizia Sultana, was beaten up by her school teacher for not enrolling in the coaching center run by the teachers. My question is why do parents send their children to school? Do we spend huge amount of money behind our children's school for nothing? Is it a mandatory thing to go to private tuitions? The coaching centers nowadays are run by amateurs without proper training and approval of the Ministry of Education. Unfortunately the fast growing mushrooms (educational institutions) are poisonous. Most of the school teachers aren't trained enough and lack child psychology. There are some institutions for the tiny tots. They train 3-4 years old kids for school. What a business plan! Now, kids are supposed to be kids and you don't expect them to act like a grown up. It is us, parents, who need to understand these facts and stay away from such fraud institutions. We look forward for a better and bright future of our country and we know that our children are the future. Therefore, I request the government to take necessary steps for the matter and save our future. **Amy Rahman**  
*Citizen of Bangladesh*

## Beatification of the late Pope John Paul II

I have learnt from the BBC news that the late Pope John Paul II has been officially beatified at the Vatican in front of mammoth gathering of Catholic faithful. French nun Marie Simon-Pierre got miraculous cure of Parkinson's disease. The miraculous cure is part of the case for the beatification. This is the last stage before sainthood. And another miraculous case will be required for sainthood. We have heard that by this time already papers of 270 miraculous cases of the late Pope were submitted to the Vatican Authority. Hopefully, the ceremony for his sainthood would be held at the Vatican soon. It may be noted that in this time of advancement of science, the miraculous cases could be sent to the top level associations of the scientists of the world. Their verification would be the perfect answer to any question regarding this great religious event. **Mobarak Ali**  
*RK Mission Road*

# Only for US interest

Before 1990s, Osama was an average student studying Civil Engineering in Saudi Arabia. It was a critical period when the cold war rivalry grew between the USA and USSR with Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The USA started to propagate global Islamic jihadism against socialist block-the common enemy of both. At that time, the innocent young Osama left the luxurious life and took part in Afghan war. Thus, Osama became a successful leader of about 20,000 Taliban warriors. He fought the battle with bravery and secured the US'

interest. After the collapse of Soviet Union, to protect his own interest, accelerated by the US propaganda, Osama declared Jihad against his previous ally USA. Consequently, he has appeared as a threat to US national interest. Now it has been proved that the rise of Bin Laden as a global hero and the death of him as the world's most wanted terrorist were only for the preservation of US interest. **Ali Ahmad**  
*Department of International Relations University of Dhaka*



Gopibagh, Dhaka

## Protecting bin-Laden?

Mr. Jafar Ullah's write up in your 3<sup>rd</sup> May issue, raises interesting possibilities that need clarification and answers! The secret 'doings' and the 'unbelievable ignorance' of the Pakistani ISI need to be uncovered! For Pakistan, the acronym 'ISI' should stand for "Incompetent Silly Idiots", and not 'Inter Services Intelligence' that it was supposed to be! **S.A. Mansoor**  
*Dhaka*

## Saudi student's heroic act in US

Recently, a Saudi student Mashari Abdul Mohsen Al-Siraihi who was studying Electronic Engineering in the University of Akron sacrificed his own life by rescuing an American child drowned in a lake in Ohio. Our tributes to Al-Siraihi for his heroic deed through which he was able to project the true values in Islam which encourage Muslims to uphold moral and humanitarian duties in any circumstance. May God grant eternal peace to his soul and strength to his family members to bear the loss. **Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
*Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Dhaka*

## Change the work culture

Announcing new development projects at regular intervals is no real sign of development. The bugs are in the daily routine processing, monitoring, evaluation, and corrective actions. This depends on the feedback networks. The pen-pushing colonial culture in the Secretariat is outdated; it has to be replaced; suitable for a newly independent nation. The Secretariats must have technical officers, for quick disposal of the files. Now digital technology is available (in Bangladesh) to overcome the communication gaps. Urgent reforms are needed to avoid overlapping of responsibilities in the different offices/agencies. For example, the DCC, Rajuk, Wapda, WASA, PDB, Roads & Highways need better coordination to avoid overlapping of responsibilities, and waste of time, money and energy. The Operation and Maintenance assignments should be separated from development projects; and the responsibilities assigned to separate offices. The field offices have to be strengthened. At present, the ADP annual budgets cannot be spent (even 50 per cent), due to bureaucratic delays. **A Mawaz**  
*Dhaka*

## India as a world power

India has been striving hard to gain international support with a view to becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council. If the SC is actually expanded and India is made its full member with veto power, political stability and peace in South Asia will never be established. For more than sixty years, India has been flagrantly defying UN resolutions for holding a plebiscite in Kashmir. India has been suppressing different ethnic minorities particularly in the eastern part of the country for decades by sheer military might. Her relations with many of her neighbours have always been strained. India's attitude towards Bangladesh is big-brotherly, aggressive and expansionist. Almost all the permanent members of UNSC are aggressors, imperialists and tyrants. India's entry into this powerful world body will only increase their number! **Md. Mohsin Ali**  
*Nutan Courtpara Kushtia*

## A collective guilt

It is our collective guilt that we are failing to keep Prof. Mohammad Yunus, a Nobel Laureate, in the Grameen Bank he created, he toiled for and flourished. He is the first Bangladeshi and perhaps the first Muslim from this part of the world to receive the Nobel Prize. PM Sheikh Hasina has nothing to gain in dotting the sign to execute the Supreme Court decree, but she can reap massive benefit from the millions, and love and respect from Prof. Yunus if she condescends to make common cause with the million female members of Grameen Bank and other people. **A. H. Dewan**  
*South Kafrul Dhaka Cantt. Dhaka*

## Dr. Yunus and law

Dr. Yunus episode has entered a new phase. All legal formalities are gone. His friends from home and abroad used all their weapons to keep this champion of small loan holding the post of MD of Grameen Bank. I fully understand the feelings of our lone Nobel laureate to quit his dream project. He has earned glory for this poor country. He has reached some age and retained enough maturity and strength to work for the downtrodden people. He has worked hard but perhaps also enjoyed enviable perks. His friends are royals and celebrities. His lawyers are giving him hopes against hopes. But futility of his legal battle is evident to all. Dr. Kamal desired to go to law school again and Barrister Rakan is planning for more reviews. Aren't these two renowned lawyers fighting a decidedly lost battle? But as an admirer of Dr. Yunus, I pray that he utilises his retained energy and connections to something more humanitarian. **An admirer**



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## Caretaker system declared illegal (May 11, 2011)

Our congratulations to the SC for giving such a judgment in the interest of politics and sustain democracy within normal and healthy environment of public support rather than on artificial arrangement like the caretaker government. This system has been a twin brother or sister of the article 70 of the constitution. Because it was just helping the political leaders to play blame games without correcting or adjusting their political behaviors as required under constitutional politics. **Anonymous in USA**  
  
Our democratic institutions and Election Commission are

still not strong enough to conduct free, fair and transparent election under biased and irresponsible party government. We hope this verdict will create opportunity to carry out amendment to caretaker government provision. It will be extremely useful if parliament can enact a bill after extensive discussion and consensus among political parties. **Khondkar A Saleque**  
  
Animosity, grudge and vindictiveness are the crests of the two main political parties. Our sorrow is we are lacking in good statesmanship. Unless our politicians chasten their

mindset CG system will be remain next 100 years. Because AL and BNP will never agree with each other on any proposition. **Nasirullah Mridha in USA**  
  
With this fresh development of the caretaker government issue, the nation is pushed into turmoil again leaving the general public into total uncertainty and insecurity. It is difficult to understand why the influential classes do this act of ambiguity. **Abul Kashem**

On top of above problems in democracy, there is another problem that is quality of nomination process. Both AL and BNP had failed to bring their competent knowledgeable candidate to parliament. So quality is sacrificed for quantity. **Dr karim**  
  
Even though they were 'undemocratic' and backed by Army, we cannot deny they have influenced the nation's progress and politics quite positively in the last decades. The economic, judicial and social outcome were always better in the periods of these interim

governments, way better than the recent AL and BNP tenures combined. **Rafi Alam**  
  
Why did not you mention about 1991 when AL rejected as refined rigging? Is this a way to hide AL from the blame? **Ishtiaq Chowdhury**  
  
Whether elections were held under the caretaker government or not, we are essentially electing a batch of poor people to earn their livelihood through unfair means. Image of politics in Bangladesh will not improve until people from rich ancestry enter politics. **Rashid Ahmed**

Verdict itself is contradictory as it recommends holding next two elections under the CG system. Where our justice system is heading? **Sky**  
  
Abolition of the caretaker government system will ensure that the party in power will continue to stay in power. Obviously the SC decision is welcomed by AL since they are currently in power. **Salam**

## Child molestation

Incidence of violating women, girls and even babies has increased in an alarming rate in Bangladesh. Recent news in a local daily narrates how two babies have been molested by two lascivious men from areas of Bayazid and Rangunia in Chittagong, and the babies are now fighting for life in the hospital. This gives an extremely depressing picture which portrays both mental and psychological dilapidation of a section of people who got involved in these kinds of despicable acts. It is therefore suggested that unless the government takes some drastic measures it will be difficult to contain such uncivilized acts. **Humayun Hyder**  
*Zigatola Dhaka*

## Nepotism

Lots of brilliant students have been victim of nepotism. They are running after jobs after completing their graduation. A dull student of my locality got a job, because his uncle holds a high position of the government. In this way, the brilliant students are getting frustrated. **Md. Sabbir Hossain Shovon**  
*Govt. Haraganga College*



PHOTO: STAR

# Civic sense

Through the foresight of a previous generation the present owners of property in the posh areas of Dhaka have become multi-crorepatis without lifting a finger. Lavish living, shady business, club crawling and flashy cars are their stock-in-trade. But just take a look in front of their palaces dirty, unkempt, garbage strewn, in disrepair resembling paddy fields instead of roads. Example 1: the road leading from Mohakhali into Gulshan-1 with all those glittering boutiques, shopping malls and under construction apartments. All it would take to repair these deep pot-holed, water-filled roads are a few thousand takas but----???. Example 2: Pure water is life, dirty water is death. 25% of Dhakabashis go without pure drinking water. But car owners daily wash their cars with ever-running hosepipes that flood the roads. Would a week without water teach them anything --- probably not? **Sikander Ahmed**  
*Niketon, Gulshan-1 Dhaka*