

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 200 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

We want to trust police



PHOTO: AFP

News of atrocities committed by police is reaching us everyday. We are appalled by it and feeling very upset. The latest incident is about two sub-inspectors assaulting and harassing a teenaged girl and her father and mother in the police club next door to Dhaka magistrate's court on May 29, 2012. Police took the 15-year-old girl to a separate room and behaved with her indecently. Police also assaulted the journalists and lawyers to whom she was narrating the incident.

We think time has come to pull down the signboards which read: "Police is your friend, take help of police" and put up signboards "Beware of police" written on it.

We used to tell our children that whenever they are in trouble, they should seek the help of police. Now parents will have to tell their children to keep a safe distance from them. State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku advised journalists to keep a "safe distance" from police while collecting news. We are astonished by this advice, are police ferocious beings?

As usual, Home Minister Sahara Khatun on May 30, 2012 claimed that police were "far better" than any time in the past. She always speaks about law and order situation in that manner. So it is no wonder that police will do whatever they wish when home minister herself speaks in their favour.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

A source of inspiration for women

Repeated successes of our sisters Nishat and Wasfia, who conquered the highest peak of the Everest, has made us proud. Wasfia, the second female Everest conqueror in our country has dedicated her achievement to all the women of Bangladesh. Their stupendous success indicates that women in our country are capable of doing everything that men can do. Now what we have to do is to ensure a level playing ground for them so that they can prove their competence in every sphere of life.

It is a matter of great regret that still many girls in our country, both in the rural and urban areas, encounter discrimination and deprivation in the very family they live. Things are worse especially in rural areas where women's talents and achievements are not valued, nor recognised. Their merits and creativities dry up in their very early life due to poverty, eve-teasing, child marriage, dowry, domestic violence and so on.

But it is inspiring to note here that some non-government organisations are working sincerely to change the negative attitudes of society towards women and promoting gender equality, education and women empowerment. If we are able to create congenial atmosphere for them, surely they will come up with flying colours. So, these two Everest conquerors will remain as a great source of inspiration for the millions of women in our country.

Md. Musfikur Rahman Jony
Baneswar
Rajshahi

Don't raise liquid milk price

Nowadays most of the households prefer the freshness of pasteurized milk to the powdered milk. So, this trend boosts up the businesses of nine local milk processing companies. A report says that the companies processed nearly 150 million litres of liquid milk in 2011 whereas four years ago it was only 85 million litres.

Naturally, over the years, domestic production of milk has increased with the entry of new investors who came in seeing the shortfall in supply against the rising demand, considering its good business prospect.

However, in the name of supporting the farmers, recently many companies have raised the liquid milk's prices by at least Tk 3 per litre. But we have learnt from newspaper reports that their purchasing prices at the dairy farmers' end have remained unchanged. Some companies hiked the prices showing the excuse of increased processing, transportation and packing costs.

It may be mentioned that prices of Milk Vita milk have been raised six times since 2009. Most of the families meet their nutrition demand with pasteurized milk. Low income consumers can not bear the expense of other nutrition sources. Considering all these things, the government must ensure quality of liquid milk and monitor its price as the companies can not hike its price irrationally.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

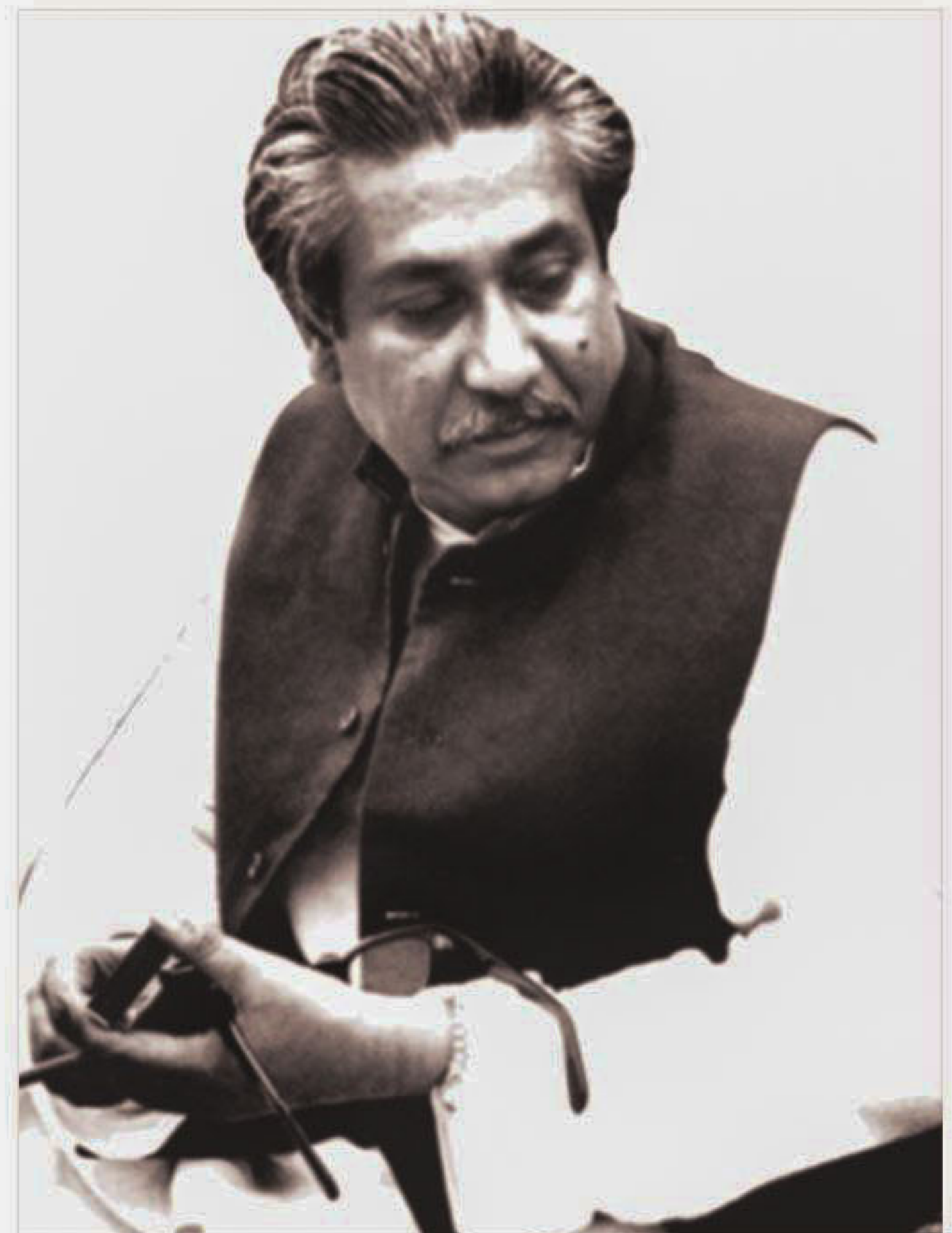
Materialise Bangabandhu's dream

Forty years passed by after independence, yet no one seems to address the core problem the country is facing since the day one of its inception. No did even the fortunate incumbent prime minister, who escaped the gruesome killing as she was living abroad with her (late) professor husband. I wonder why the two-time prime minister Sheikh Hasina is not interested in implementing her late father's plan into reality. Had she implemented the plan that Bangabandhu was about to do, many of the problems would have been taken care of by themselves without extra effort. Many of the existing problems would have simply vanished with decentralisation as people from far flung areas would not have to throng the capital for a living.

Everything in Bangladesh is Dhaka-based, as if there is nothing left of Bangladesh outside Dhaka. Bangladesh is a very small country compared to many countries of the world. Had decentralisation taken place as dreamt by late Bangabandhu, Bangladesh would have been a very different country. He perhaps planned to decentralise the country into 60 provinces thereby appointing 60 governors and late Motahar Hossain Talukder happened to be the designated governor for Sirajganj. But as ill-luck would have it, Bangabandhu along with other members of his family died at the hands of the assassins before he could implement his dream into a reality.

One of the fortunate survivors of that fateful assassination is the incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana. As the prime minister of the country, I believe it is the sacred duty of Sheikh Hasina to implement her late father's dream into reality. In my humble opinion, this is the best way she can pay respect to her late father and this could be the second best thing for 160 million Bangladeshis next to independence.

Saleh Ayub
On e-mail



Young man, keep writing!

Once again, the Class 9 schoolboy from Chittagong, Shafeen Mahmood, is challenging your readers, sir, on a moral issue.

At the heart of democracy must be the conviction that there is no hierarchy with the people who really matter at the top and, for instance, the garbage collectors at the bottom. Moreover, it is pointless to discuss changes in organisation and expensive projects and avoid what can bring about the necessary changes of heart.

It seems to be easier to build clinics and train midwives, than to train boys so that they grow into men who consider their wife 'worth' the expense of using them and care about the risks of their dying in childbirth. It is easier to lecture people about early marriage, than to work among the chattering classes of a whole area who insist on it because the boys and men are beginning to 'eye up' a young girl and no one can face the cost of disciplining them. It is easier to repeat the rules and regulations about reporting offences to the police, than to see to it that there are policemen in the local station who take those who do so seriously and do not abuse them.

In a Garo village, a naughty Muslim built his house somewhere illegally and did not tie up his cow or his goat which then ate the entire vegetable garden that a poor widow and her youngest daughter depended on who could not afford to build the sort of fence that would have kept them out. There was both a Christian and Muslim leader of their congregations in that village and when I asked my informant why these two men could not have sorted out this problem, I was told this was not possible. I demanded, "Why not?"

Every noble effort to improve the quality of life and fight poverty is useless if there is moral feebleness - and it is good to know that at least one representative of the younger generation is keeping his finger on this sore point. Keep writing, young sir!

Angela Robinson
On e-mail

Show respect to senior citizens

In Bangladesh slowly but steadily the elderly citizens are losing respect. They are considered to be an object in many families and then they are sent to old homes and the worst innings of their life starts there. Today's generation is so concerned about their children that they hardly find any time for their beloved parents. Why has this happened? With our increasing need to have the latest car, computer etc, have we forgotten that some things never change and how important old skills and wisdom of age are?

In the past, even 15/20 years back, the elderly people in our society were well respected and senior citizens were considered wise and insightful.

I think there are a lot of people who respect and honour their elderly parents and relatives and treasure their memories. But sadly, there are a lot of younger people who haven't been taught to listen to their elders or to value them. In our attempts to teach our children self-reliance, we might have made them so independent that they don't have any feelings or time for the old members of the family. Family values, morals, connectedness that strengthens family bonds and legacies should definitely be put in order.

Government should give them priority on many occasions. Let them feel that they are special. Please do not send them to old homes.

Badal Hasib
English teacher
Dhanmondi
Dhaka



PHOTO: SHAFIQUL ALAM



Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

COMMENTARY

What he actually said

Accusing MPs cared not to find it out
(June 5, 2012)

It is a commendable commentary to defend the integrity of an honourable man.

Shaheen Subhan

Though I am not a direct student of Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, I must say he is a great intellectual in the country and I just can not accept the discussion in the House. I give thanks to the Speaker of the House and I expect a sorry statement from the commentators in the parliament.

Md. Rafiuddin Haque

What Prof Sayeed actually said was absolutely correct. We must praise him and condemn corrupt MPs and ministers.

M Bazlur Rahman

It is expected that all AL members should be like Deputy

Speaker, but in fact it is not. How can we expect sobriety from AL cadres when the party's president and general secretary humiliate persons of national and international stature?

Suahmed

Political leaders in our country come to limelight by means of money and muscle power, where an enlightened man like Abdullah Abu Sayeed comes to limelight by means of greatness of heart, knowledge and wisdom. This is the difference between the two types of people.

Md. Nazrul Islam

Can't we do away with such anti-corruption commissions and ask the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) to combat corruption with the existing office of the Comptrol-

ler and Accountant General (CAG) instead? If the answer is no, then I would like to ask the JS, why and to whose benefit?

Sheikh Din Mohammed

Our MPs and ministers have already proved that they are fools.

Al borhan

We live in a glass house. That is so obvious. Every time there is the slightest of whistle of air, we are greatly disturbed. It is more like 'thakur ghore ke re...' It only shows how vulnerable the MPs are and the nation knows the reason why.

Moallem

People like Professor Sayeed and Deputy Speaker are sources of inspiration for everyone in our country.

Shah Asad Ahmed

Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed is an honest and dignified person. I have had the privilege of personally knowing him since my Dhaka College days. I had the misfortune of watching that parliament session which displayed this unacceptable behaviour by four members of our parliament.

After seeing the video footage on different TV channels, it

became obvious that these MPs castigated him based on an unsubstantiated report. This kind of behaviour is totally unacceptable from the members of parliament.

Rubo

Another example of how lame, frivolous and irrelevant the parliament has become. In the name of protecting it, parliament has in fact violated democracy by not tolerating its criticism. All citizens have the solemn constitutional right to criticise any public official.

Roni Rahman

Whatever words Prof. Sayeed has used I believe his voice represents the voice of the whole nation. The MPs' reckless utterances are typical as well. They think that they are above public criticism which is quite illogical.

Ashim Dhar, USA

Except a few, most of the ministers and MPs of all the governments always talk non-sense. But the Speaker should not join the chorus. He should expunge all these odds and ends from the proceedings. However, this is not new. The people of this country saw it in the previous government's time and are seeing in the present one and will see in future.