

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.

An icon of protest



Napoleon Bonaparte had said, "Give me a good mother and I shall give you good nation", the fourth Khalifa of Islam Hazrat Ali said, "Give me ten good mothers and I shall give you a great nation".

Malala Yousufzai, sustained bullet injuries as she protested the Taliban's barring women from education. The word Taliban means, pupils or students; it is an irony that they themselves do not believe in the education of women.

Angel Gabriel said unto Muhammad (SM) "Read in the name of your Lord, Who created you from a clot of blood" It is clearly understood that the God Almighty wants human beings to be educated not excluding the women as emphasized by the fourth Khalifa of Islam, Hazrat Ali.

The Taliban are either ignorant or brainwashed

by the vested quarters who do not want Muslims to emerge as a prosperous nation in the world. Once the Muslims were well ahead of the developed western world, but began falling behind as soon as illiteracy overtook them. It is so very unfortunate that the well-to-do and wealthy rulers of the Muslim world are not doing enough for the proper enlightenment of their peoples.

Muslim philanthropist may consider, initiating a scholarship programme named "Malala Scholarship" to encourage specially the Muslim women throughout the world to pursue and acquire knowledge and thereby accord recognition to the sacrifices made by Malala Yousufzai.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Houston, Texas
USA

Who to trust?

According to a recent TIB report 97% of the MPs is involved in negative activities of which 70% is involved in criminal activities. Members of the parliament are the representatives of the people. If they get involved in criminal activities we are then supposed to be their godfathers because, we voted them to power, indirectly according them the opportunity to indulge in corruption and criminality.

However, TIB has to be transparent and provide the details to the people to back up their claim. They have to make sure that their report is flawless. Only then can the TIB take pride in their work. Otherwise, their reports will remain a topic of the talk shows and speculations.

Md. Ahsanul Kabir Palash
Department Of Marketing
University Of Dhaka

Food adulteration

Food adulteration is a widespread activity that poses grave threat to our health. There are many laws in vogue in our country; but none of those is enforced. The only move we have seen is against the retailers rather than the wholesalers, where the process of adulteration starts. I think the law should be imposed on both. Holistic agricultural marketing policy including sophisticated storage facility should be adopted. Media and public awareness is a must to get rid of this menace.

Mizanur Rahman

SAU, Dhaka

Who are the street children?

Street children live neither with their parents nor at a home. They have either lost their parents or their parents have left them. They live on the streets and have to live by begging or stealing. Street children can be found in almost all the cities in our country. They are exposed to dangerous elements like drugs. Due to drug abuse and horrific living conditions they often fall sick. They have a tendency to get embittered and disappointed with their growing-up. And eventually they lose trust on others. There are many organisations that want to help them, but it is not always easy. So, authorities concerned should come forward quickly to save our future generation.

Tahia Ahmed Naba
Class-IV, Sylhet Grammar School
Subhanighat, Sylhet

Is Nafis guilty or innocent?

It is disturbing to learn that recently a 21-year old Bangladeshi student named Quazi Nafis is being held by the FBI on charge of trying to blow up the Federal Reserve Building in New York. The parents of Nafis in Bangladesh are claiming that their son under no way is associated with any terror activity. But the question is how Nafis was caught into the scan of FBI? There must be some reason? What I feel is Nafis may be one of those young men in Bangladesh who is trying to get their high ambitions realized and to get rich overnight by adopting unlawful ways and means.

Professor M Zahidul Haque

Nuisance in public universities

The public universities have been made unstable again by some rogues. Clashes among some student organisations and their internal feuds have become usual events. It is alarming to see some people using dangerous weapons to attack their opponents.

The general students expect the police to take punitive actions against these elements, but to our utter dismay we find that they are doing nothing. More appalling is that these troublemakers

have sued some general students instead of them being sued. It happens only for those who belong to the ruling party. However, such mayhems are not new. I urge all the political parties not to use the general students for their political ends, destroying their valuable lives.

Golam Ali Rubel
Department of English
International Islamic University Chittagong



TIB's revelations!

Almost all the English dailies headlined the discreditable revelations of the misdeeds of our honourable MPs. Surely there are some exceptions; otherwise where are we heading?

It turns out that they are busy doing well for themselves in various ways, as stated in your front page reports about TIB's findings! One daily also highlighted their major deeds under the following criteria, based on TIB's findings. These are:

* Seven women MPs, 27 Ministers of State or State Ministers from the ruling party and five from the opposition are involved in negative activities!

* 76.9 percent of MPs misuse power for fund manipulation, remuneration and enrolment related matters of educational institutions in exchange for money!

* 75.5 percent of MPs misuse local development funds for personal matters!

* 53.5 percent of MPs were directly involved in different criminal activities which included corruption, encroachment on property, extortion and even murder!

* 69.2 percent of MPs controlled purchase-related decisions in different government, autonomous and local government organizations!

It is a sad and shameful litany of misdeeds that we ordinary voters have to live with! Small wonder, that we are probably well in the lead for being labelled the "Most Corrupt Country"! From the above, it seems that we deserve all this, because of the misdeeds of our honourable (!) elected MPs!

A Voter, Dhaka

Importing primary school

books from India

On October 18, Bangla Daily "Amader Somoy" published a news item that said, books for the Government Primary Schools are being imported from India through the Benapole land port. In the last month 1 crore, 37 lakh and 34 thousand books have been imported. A total quantity of 3 crore, 6 Lakh and 19 thousand 993 books will be imported. Importer of the books is NCTB of Dhaka while the exporter is Krishna Traders of Kolkata, India. Responsibility of C & F has been given to Mrs STM Trade of Benapole.

Now my questions are:

- 1) Are the Bangladeshi printers and publishers not capable of printing or publishing those books for the country?
- 2) Why is this import business at the expense of our hard-earned foreign currency?
- 3) Is the cost calculation beneficial to us?
- 4) Was it done through open bid?

The nation should know under what circumstances it has been done.

Md. Habib Mansur

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's *The Daily Star* news report headlined "Grateful to you all"

Sohul Ahmed
Admirable programme.

Turja
Great initiative.

Md Rahim
Thanks to Prime Minister for this initiative.

Khaled
Salute to all of our foreign friends for helping us in liberation war.

Barkat
I do not know how others see it. But I feel ashamed. I wonder why it took more than forty years to express our thanks and gratitude to the foreign freedom fighters.

Neutral
The ceremony would have been more graceful if all the political parties of our country embraced the spirit of Liberation War and work together for a prosperous and peaceful Bangladesh.

An Observer
Bangladesh would have been independent with or without their help (a better option) today or tomorrow. But it would be very tough without their contribution. This is the reality. Indian intervention made it quick.

A Choudhury
I wish to thank the PM for organising this event to express gratitude and thanks for



Bangladesh should lead climate campaigns

Bangladesh should lead the international climate change campaign as it suffers much from climate change impacts. Coastal dwellers are the worst sufferers.

Emission of harmful greenhouse gasses, particularly, carbon dioxide is considered as one of the main causes of the increasing number of natural calamities and continued environmental degradation across the world. In fact, industrially developed countries are blamed for making the situation worse.

The government, together with a number of leading research institutes, is conducting researches on climate change, but Bangladesh is

yet to play the leading role in the campaign internationally.

However, we expect that decisions will be adopted in favour of the vulnerable countries like Bangladesh in the eighteenth conference of parties (COP 18) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Doha, Qatar in December 2012. This expectation would come to reality if Bangladesh can raise its voice properly at the right time.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Impact of Hindi TV Serials

Of late there has been a lot of complaints in the newspapers about the quality and contents of the Hindi TV serials regarding how it is causing a negative impact on our culture. First of all, I would like to clarify that these serials are fictional and does not represent real life anyway. So, we have a possibility of getting influenced. These TV serials are only there for entertainment and a

lot of people, especially housewives, watch those. Banning TV shows may prompt people to go outside to seek other forms of entertainment and this would surely create other problems. Therefore, I urge everyone not to get addicted to such TV shows as these have serious impact on our culture and family.

Aminur Rahim
New DOHS
Mohakhali