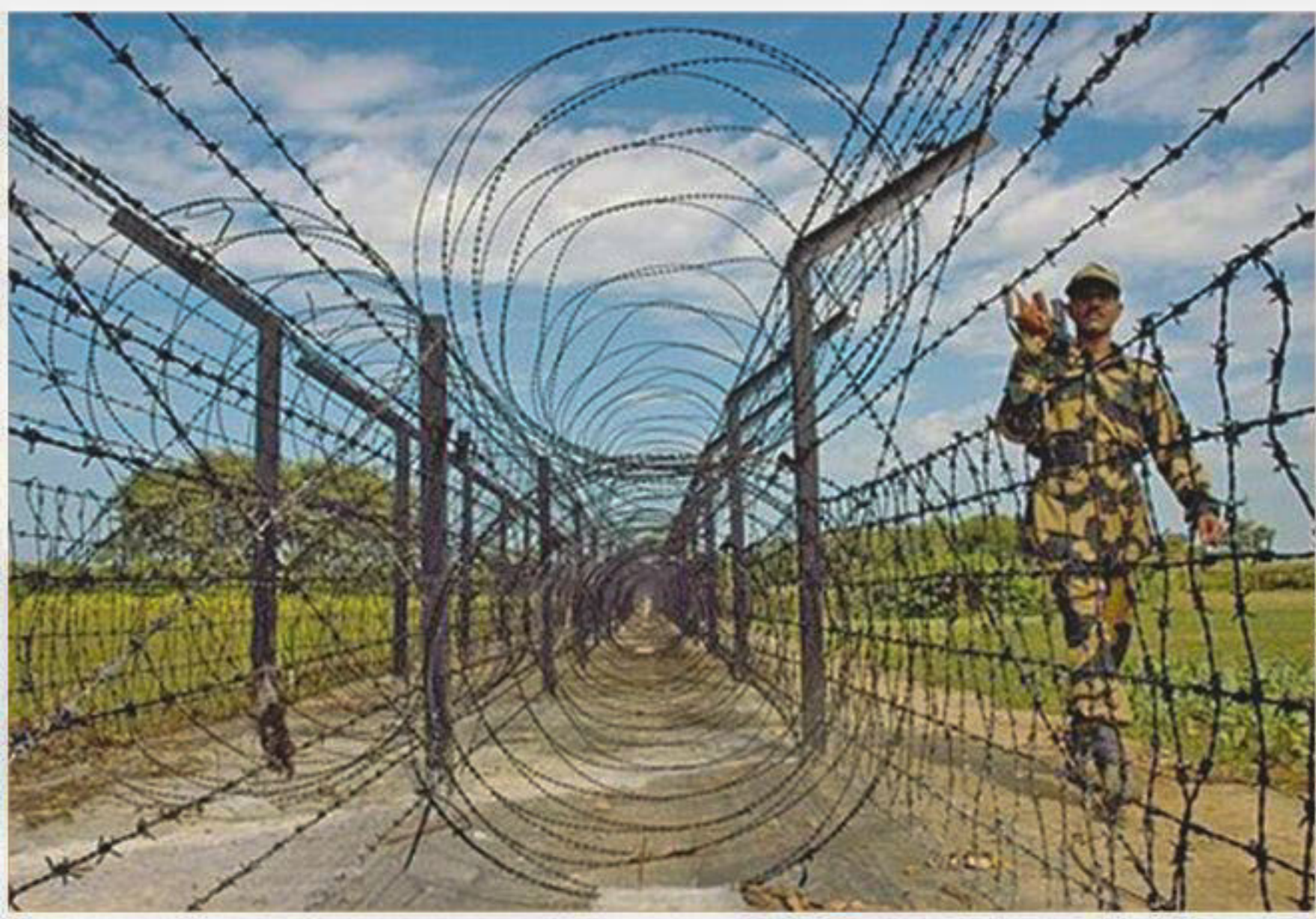


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 200 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

# Border killings and our weak diplomacy



The border killings of Bangladeshi nationals by the Indian Border Security Forces have put us in much concern. Almost every week BSF shoots one or two Bangladeshis to death on the plea of infiltration or illegal trading. But mere infiltration or illegal trading can not be the only reason to open fire on Bangladeshis. There must be laws for the infiltrators or illegal traders. And accordingly, they should be punished.

As is known to all, the Indian political high-ups assured our country leaders, including the main opposition leader Khaleda Zia that border killings would come to zero. But reversely, the border killings are on the hike.

Sadly, the countrymen have noticed that our genuflecting foreign policy is responsible for the rise in the border killings. Now our diplomatic relation with India is based on some mere interests. India wrests their interest from this country but in return we get very little from them. It just tries to press upon us with its boss-like attitude. Our political leaders and diplomats have totally failed to bring down border killings with their diplomatic skill. Even the foreign ministry's protest letter regarding border killings has got no reply from its Indian counterpart. Our home minister delivered his opinion about this issue in such a style that could be interpreted as nothing was wrong in that type of killing. It also seemed that he was taking the side of India. All these are the signs of our weak and problematic diplomacy.

**Md. Sairul Islam**  
Lecturer in English  
Jahangirpur Girls' School and College  
Mohadevpur  
Naogaon

## Start social movement against crime

It seems that we have fallen into a dark era with looting, killing and violation of women's rights. Gory incidents of murder and cruelty against women are happening in regularly destroying the lives of so many people. Has society at large nothing to do except writing a few lines in the newspapers or organising and standing in human chains in protest? Delhi youths have revolted against the crime against women but here in our country we are yet to go to such an extent. Initiating a war against crimes is overdue. We have seen how party politics have institutionalized crime in every strata of society with impunity. So we have to come forward irrespective of caste and creed and form a united social movement against crime. Otherwise as a human being, we will be accountable to our creator for all our inaction.

**Abdus Subhan**  
Ishwardi Govt. College

# Award harshest punishment to rapists and their abettors

According to the media reports, a 14 year school girl of Tangail was violated 4 days by four men. A young girl named Bithi directly aided the rapists by handing over the girl to them after taking her from her family on the pretext of attending a wedding ceremony.

In Savar, a college student was sexually assaulted by several men. Unfortunately, another girl helped the rapists in this case, too. The rapists, all belonging to different private universities and colleges, also took obscene photographs and videos. The so called educated persons also demanded money from the victim's family and threatened to release the photo and video, if the money was not given.

In this apparent civilized society, perverts often in the guise of educated people prowl the neighbourhoods to find a prey. Parents can teach their daughters to stay away from suspicious men or move with a group of trusted friends. In the recent incidents, girls have actively aided and abetted criminals in committing horrific outrage to another girl. Sexual assault on a girl is more devastating than taking her life, because of the trauma and social stigma it is associated with. Capital punishment by hanging in public places should be awarded to the rapists and also their female companions, so that nobody dares to commit this kind of heinous crime ever again.

**Saif**  
Dhaka



## Misusing constitution for partisan end

I was surprised to read the news item 'was president's permission sought?' (The Daily Star 9.1.13). Section 30 of Constitution, as mentioned, requires a citizen to seek permission of the Republic's president before accepting foreign 'state's award. Yet the president's office sent letter to Dr Muhammad Yunus reminding this. Didn't the office know that the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by Nobel Foundation not by any 'state'?

Misinterpreting the spirit of constitution for political purpose is regrettable.  
**Dr Rafiqul Hassan Khan**  
Uttara Model town  
Dhaka

## We suffer for the greed of some

Everyday some sort of disturbing news awaits us. January 9, 2013 was no exception. We learned that a powerful lawyer and parliamentarian was lobbying for the Chinese company Harbin, which has returned as a selected bidder for the Barapukuria 250 MW power plant. It is the same company that had triggered a lot of controversy during the tenure of the last BNP government by setting up a low quality power plant in Tongi. The MP has allegedly secured several other power projects by influencing the bidding process.

Another powerful parliamentarian is backing China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC). When its bid was rejected due to its flaws, a powerful ruling party leader put pressure on the power board forcing it to seek clarifications twice. Though Shanghai Electric's bidding price was the lowest, CMC's price was shown less than that.

For windfall gains, these ruling party MPs are not hesitating to award contracts to set up power plants which are bound to be of low quality. How could they stoop so low? They are elected by the people to look after people's welfare, but they are busy in fulfilling their selfish desires.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

## Play domestic test cricket

Currently, the weakness of our Tigers is the longest version of the game. I believe this weakness exists mainly due to lack of playing test matches. In Bangladesh, domestic cricket leagues consist of T20, ODI's, 3-Day or 4-Day versions. I think that full 5-day matches must be held in league tournaments in order to improve the playing condition of Bangladesh. I also feel the televising of domestic cricket would increase the popularity and importance of it. This would also encourage sponsors to advertise on TV during the matches.

**Aminur Rahim**

# Staggering global food wastage



According to a study conducted by the London-based Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1.2 to 2 billion tons of food are wasted worldwide each year out of about four billion metric tons of food produced. In developed countries, the wastage takes place at retailers' and consumers' levels while in the developing countries most wastage are due to inefficient handling and poor storage facilities. The report revealed that in South-East Asian countries, losses of rice range from 37 to 80 percent of their entire production, totalling wastage of about 180 million tons per year. Many developing countries have given priority to investment to improve infrastructure. In Bangladesh, wastage of food grain during harvesting, transportation and storage is also high. In order to contain food wastage, the Bangladesh government should also increase investment in infrastructure development for proper storage of food grains and other agricultural products.

The developed countries in Europe and America should preserve the food grains for feeding the world population particularly in the poor developing countries, instead of rejecting food grains and other agricultural products. At retailer and consumer levels, producers must use the 'best before date' labels.

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
Dhaka

## Nirmal Sen's life and work will inspire us

Nirmal Sen is no more. He breathed his last on January 8, 2013 at the age of 82 years. We have learnt from the newspaper reports that he was brought to Dhaka from his village home for hospitalization late last month as he was suffering from acute pneumonia and was kept on life support for ten days. He died as life support was withdrawn as doctors found no sign of his recovery.

A lifelong bachelor, Nirmal Sen suffered a brain stroke earlier in 2003 and was taken to Singapore for treatment; unfortunately, he was brought back three months later due to financial constraints. He again suffered a brain stroke in October 2011 that left him paralyzed.

However, the nation will not forget his glorious role in all movements of his time like anti-British, liberation and autocratic movements. In recent times also, he was seen in a wheelchair among the journalists demanding justice for the killing of journalists. He was the founder president of the Federation of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) in the post independence era in 1972 and 1973 and played an outstanding role in ensuring press freedom and journalists' rights. His newspaper column written under the pen name 'Aniket' was very popular. He was the president of Gonotantrik Biplobi Party. We have heard that in accordance with his last wish, his body will be donated to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for research work.

However, his life and thoughts may help people to choose the right direction of life and the nation to follow the right way in its journey forward.

**Mobarak Ali**  
RK Mission Road

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "30 teachers hurt in BCL attack"

**Sujon**  
Punish them.

**Jumana Sarwar**  
How long the nation will watch this savagery?

**Selim Reza**  
Very bad indeed. I am ashamed to see the repetition of the same kind of violence by the so called students of Chhatra League. They must be brought to book.

**Shushmita Sen, Toronto**  
Where is our prime minister today after describing her so-called achievements of the last four years in her latest delivered speech? She should dissolve this neo-fascist group (who are providing her support to keep in power).

**The Truth**  
I wonder whether the BCL has any morality. You kill general public in broad daylight (i.e. Bishwajit). Now you attack the makers (teachers) of humanity. Please have some morality and stop committing such heinous crimes.

**Md. Sabuj**  
We think the worst victim, after the Awami League loses power; will be BCL as they have to pay for their misdeeds. However, they have done enough to bring down the government in the next election; as they have broken all the records of the past mischief.

**Sohel**  
Education is the backbone of a nation but the condition of this sector in our country is very disappointing. Some so-called students like them have made the situation worse by their violence in academic institutions.

**Mr. Nayim**  
Again the real feature of BCL came out just like the venomous serpents. But my complaints are not against these puppets, but against those who utilise these hired hooligans, who are student by name, to fulfil their selfish design. Teaching is a noble and dignified profession and even the worst elements in society respect teachers. But these incidents of attack on them are very unfortunate.

**Ahmad Sharief**  
Have the teachers had any lesson from this incident? And what about the general people of the country? Will they still go on supporting the incumbent? And what about stopping these atrocities? Can't the nation stand against them?

**Barkat**  
Every department is headed by appointee of ruling party. And when anyone opposes the head of such institution, the BCL goes into action. As long as Awami League will be in power, it is sure that no action will be taken against them. It is sad that innocent students have to suffer academic loss due to the crime of the terror gang.

**Anonymous**  
It seems the BCL is gradually taking over the administration or controlling the administration of many academic and government institutions. How the BCL men can beat up the university teachers? The case should be investigated properly and also the criminals should be given exemplary punishment.

**Citizen**  
What is happening in the country? Why is the Awami League not doing anything to stop such inhuman and uncivilised acts? The AL will definitely get the result in the next general election. People are watching that violence, corruption, killings, tortures on people and all types of crimes have increased. Neither AL, nor BNP can do anything except blaming each other. These nonsensical acts they keep doing, because the people vote for them again and again and they continue