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# Punish those attacking, killing cops



PHOTO: STAR

We cannot understand how in a sovereign and civilised country its police force is being attacked almost regularly by the Jamaat-Shibir militants. The whole country is in a state of panic as Jamaat-shibir, who always defy the country's sovereignty, in a show of sheer brutality, are swooping on our cops. They are attacking the police and beating them up severely. In fact, their brutalities resemble the atrocities carried out by razakars and al-badrs of 1971. The countrymen firmly believe that Jamaat-Shibir men are none other

than the Pakistani collaborators who are still trying to destroy the sovereignty of the country. So we request the government to award harshest punishment to the Pakistan-sponsored Jamaat-Shibir vandals who are slaying our protectors and brothers -- the police.

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



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## Please don't call hartal during HSC exams

The HSC examination is going on. If the political situation goes like this, there is every possibility that several hartals will be called during the ongoing HSC exams. Last Thursday the education minister in a press briefing requested all political parties not to call hartal during the HSC exams. On the same day, another press briefing was held at Dhaka Reporters Unity where students also requested the political parties not to call any hartal during theirs exams. We hope political parties will consider the appeal of the HSC examinees. Several hartals were called during the last SSC exams for which the schedule had to be changed five times. This time we don't want to see any repetition. We hope the political parties will consider this matter.

**Jannatul Ferdous Usha**  
Nalitabari, Sherpur

## Hire subcontractors to keep Dhaka clean

During my recent visit to Kuala Lumpur, I was overwhelmed by the cleanliness of the city. There was not even a sign of dust on the roads. I was told by the locals that the local government subcontracted the cleaning work to private companies. The government has inspectors to inspect the city and has even fined the company if any rubbish was found lying around. These private companies also separated rubbish which could be re-cycled such as aluminium cans and sold them for revenue. I even noticed that every bus and taxi had warning signs inside asking not to throw any rubbish outside onto the roads. In Bangladesh, it is quite the opposite. Here in order to keep the buses clean, bus conductors instruct passengers to throw all rubbish outside onto the roads. This practice must be stopped. I believe this is a very good idea to hire private subcontractors to keep Dhaka clean. This idea must be considered by our government seriously. The rubbish, dirt and dust in our cities have become unbearable and are also spreading diseases among people.

**Aminur Rahim**  
New DOHS, Mohakhali  
Dhaka



PHOTO: PROBR BIDHAN

## Send skilled professionals to UAE, KSA

There is a big job market in UAE and Saudi Arabia for engineers and doctors. But it is a matter of regret that UAE and KSA are not issuing any visa to our people for the last few years. There is a rumour that the death of a Saudi embassy official is the reason behind this, which is totally wrong. The gulf countries do not bother about the political situation of a country when recruiting manpower. It totally depends on the skills of the job seekers and the negotiation between the countries. The Gulf countries are recruiting manpower from India, Philippines and other countries. The fact is that Bangladesh government has completely failed to make that negotiation.

Our political leaders need to understand that manpower business is a part of international politics also. Our present government is taking positive steps to send workers in South Korea and Malaysia. But this is not enough. An engineer or doctor gets 10 to 20 times more salary than a general worker. So it is obvious that they will send 10 to 20 times more remittance to the country. Now we are thinking of building the Padma bridge with our own fund. In future we will have to build more things on our own. Remittance is the main source to strengthen our central bank's foreign exchange reserve. Bangladesh government should take necessary action in this regard ASAP, instead of showing lame excuses.

**Borno**  
On e-mail

## Take heed of demand for caretaker system of govt

It is incredulous how the present Awami League-led government has succeeded in creating so many serious problems. The government is fully responsible for this perilous condition of the country and the main reason behind it is the government's adamant attitude about not restoring the caretaker government system, which is the main demand of the opposition. In fact, this is also the demand of the people as a whole.

The government is constantly saying that city corporation, municipal and many other elections were held under its supervision in which many BNP candidates have won, so why are they afraid? How absurd! How could these elections be compared with the general election?

To stop the unrest the government must immediately reinstate the caretaker government system. The government can not let down the people and create an unstable condition in the country.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

## Bravo, Tigers!

Once again our Tigers showed their bravery in the field of Lankan lions. The most noteworthy thing is that the Tigers had performed consistently in the Sri Lanka tour. Next time the cricket bigwigs would not be able to treat them as underdog.

Another encouraging thing is that Bangladesh has got a bunch of first-class cricketers. Sakib, Mashrafe, Tamim, Mushfique, Nasir, Anamul, Razzak, Sohag Gazi -- all are reliable players. It was amazing to see how Tigers beat the lions in their den. Bravo, Tigers!

**Bidit Chowdhury**  
On e-mail



PHOTO: AFP

## Supermarket with rooftop greenhouse

It is gathered that the Whole Foods Market, a Austin based foods supermarket chain of the United States is set to open a supermarket in Brooklyn with a 20,000 sq ft rooftop greenhouse growing produce to be sold on the premises. It is said to be the USA's first greenhouse integrated into a supermarket which will be located in the Gowanus neighborhood of Brooklyn. As reported, the rooftop greenhouse that will be designed, built and operated by Gotham Greens with Whole Foods is set to open this New York fall. Everything including temperature, humidity, irrigation, plant nutrient system in the greenhouse will be controlled by computer.

It may be mentioned here that the Whole Foods is popular for producing natural and organic products in the United States. The initiative indeed deserves appreciation. I think the super markets in our country may set up such type of Green houses to produce vegetables which will not only help supply of fresh and organic vegetables to the city residents but will also ensure a clean and green environment.

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

## READERS respond

*Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Khaleda not happy with Hefajat programmes"*

### S M Iftekhar Ahmed

All they are thinking about is ousting the government by any means, not caring for the well-being of the people. But they are wrong if they think they will get votes from this generation.

### Shafiqur Rahman

Khaleda Zia would be happy if she becomes the next prime minister of Bangladesh. Her alliance with groups such as Jamaat and now Hefajat implies that she is looking for a friend right now whom she can rely on in carrying out her programmes.

### Rana H. Mahmud

When I read the headline of this news I thought Khaleda Zia has finally become "sane" and hasn't liked Hefajat's 13 point programme. But after reading the full news I realised how wrong I was.

### Saleh Tanveer

Does Khaleda really want Hefajat to do her work so that she can go to power? This may seem like a good short-term strategy to oust her arch enemy Sheikh Hasina but this will be like riding on a tiger she cannot control.

Hefajat has its own agenda and will force BNP to accept it; but people of Bangladesh will not accept it. Further, there is a risk of Bangladesh turning into an international pariah state which will affect relations with all the major trading partners in the West and will have huge economic consequences. Khaleda Zia, you have to be careful what you wish.

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*Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Target Taliban rule"*

### Enamul Haque

We don't need scholars like him. I dream of a Bangladesh free from terrorists like him. May Allah be with us.

### AA

In some blogs of Hefajat-e-Islam, they are threatening to kill atheists. They must be arrested. They don't have the right to do so and this is not an Islamic view. They must be brought to book for spreading wrong thoughts in the name of Islam.

### Iftekhar Hassan

90% of Bangladeshi population is religious and gentle. Secular, fundamentalists, atheists, leftists, etc., are perhaps less than 5% of the population. Prudent politicians should work together to prevent these bad elements of society.

### Probr Bidhan

These people must be brought to book for misinterpreting and abusing religion.

### Vikram Khan

This is the gift of Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia to the people of Bangladesh. These zealots took advantage year after year of the fighting between the two ladies.

## Practice of blaming each other should end

Since the inception of democratic system in 1991, people had dreamt of a better future. But democratically elected governments have failed to fulfil their dreams. In the name of democracy, we have actually seen undemocratic activities. When a political party comes to power they treat other political parties as their enemies. There exists enmity between the two major political parties, which is most unexpected. After the Ramu incident, political parties blamed each other for the violence. Now they are blaming each other for the attacks on minorities and temples, vandalising of properties etc. The government is pointing fingers at the opposition and the opposition is blaming the government for these unexpected incidents.

Unfortunately, the reality is: every time the culprits go unidentified and scot-free because of this blaming culture and politically motivated investigation. I would like to request the government and the opposition to stop blaming each other. Please sit together and talk for the sake of people and the country.

**M.A. Kashem**  
Mohammadpur, Dhaka