

# Let justice be done



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Society is angry with the greedy, selfish and wicked landlords and garment owners who have been earning extra profits by violating human rights. They are becoming more and more greedy. All the owners and related administration personnel should be charged with murder over the Savar incident. Sohel Rana, the



Sohel Rana

owner of Rana Plaza, was informed about the cracks in the building the day before the collapse, but he ignored the warning. We strictly demand severe punishment of the building and garment owners and of those who are responsible for the tragedy.  
**Peter Rebeiro**  
Indira Road, Dhaka

## Minister, Hulk, Superman

Since when did the 'Incredible Hulk' and 'Superman' join the BNP? Our home minister's comment about the reasons behind the building collapse in Savar was outrageous. Just one building has collapsed and the nation is witnessing its terrible consequences. What if an eight-magnitude earthquake jolts the country? It is time we introduced disaster management training throughout the country on an urgent basis.  
**Shamim Abedin**  
Love Lane, Chittagong

## Open letter to Kevin Steele

Congratulations on your new appointment as the Managing Director of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. I was pleased to learn that Biman is making significant improvement. We hope this will continue to improve under your efficient management.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some problems of Biman:

1. Recently I travelled by Biman's brand new B737-800. My seat did not recline, which made the entire journey very uncomfortable.
2. The leg room between the seats was very limited as they tried to accommodate as many seats as possible on the aircraft.
3. The lavatories are always left in a dirty condition. When I went to the lavatory, there were footmarks on the toilet seat, toilet paper had been thrown everywhere, and the sink was clogged with toilet paper and water. I noticed the cabin crew talking in the galley area but no one made any attempt to keep the toilets clean.
4. The ground air-conditioners (only 1 available) actually blew hot air into the cabin making it extremely hot.

I feel that improvement in these areas will also improve the image of our national airline.  
**Aminur Rahim**  
New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka

## Boston killing horror

The inhuman bombing near the finishing line of the Boston Marathon is the ugliest and most repulsive crime by terrorists. Words fail me as I offer my condolences for the near and dear ones of the deceased. My prayer goes to all the families of the injured and the maimed innocent victims, facing lifelong impediment and sufferings beyond words.  
**S. A. Mansoor**  
Gulshan, Dhaka

# A tragic death

It was so sad to see the picture of a dead PDB employee hanging from an electricity pole on the front page of The Daily Star of 19 April, 2013. The poor soul embraced death while performing his duty on an electricity pole without taking any measures or putting on any safety gear.

Both the PDB's and the worker's ignorance is responsible for such tragic incident. We condemn the PDB for not providing its workers with all necessary safety gear while carrying out such highly risk-involving jobs. The authorities concerned should compensate the victim's family. They should ensure that all their workers are safe while working. And when such work is carried out, the electricity connection should be cut off from the main line which may serve as a strong safety measure. The authorities concerned should look into the matter seriously in order to avoid such accidents in future.  
**Mashudul Haque**  
Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

## Where is our president?

Hundreds of people have died and thousands were injured in the deadly Savar building collapse. People from all walks of life are helping the victims and participating in the rescue efforts. But our president appears to be very busy performing ceremonial duties. Are we to believe that he has not yet heard about the disaster? At this hour of need, we want to see our president unite the nation. We want him to stand by the poor people who have lost their loved ones. The Savar disaster has made the whole nation come and work together. But the political parties are playing their evil games as usual. This is the time for the president to come out of the ceremonial duties of Bangabhaban and play his role to steer the country away from turmoil, disaster and death.  
**Shahjahan Hafiz**  
Gulshan, Dhaka

# Most absurd & fictitious theory of Savar building collapse

From the depth of my bleeding heart I offer my sincere condolences to the bereaved families of this most tragic man-made accident. I pray to Almighty Allah to grant the deceased the status of martyrs and grant quick recovery to the injured.

It was indeed very shocking to read the statement of Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. He made the most absurd and absolutely fictional theory of the building collapse. In his view, the nine-storey concrete building may have collapsed due to the shaking of the building pillars by the opposition political supporters in the early hours of the day. How could an intelligent man like the home minister make such an absurd and baseless statement on an international medium like the BBC? This is a great disgrace to the intelligence of our leaders. I know some of our political leaders lack common human decency and mutual respect when it comes to their political opponents. But to make such an absurd statement about the cause of a building collapse goes way beyond political rivalry.

In the midst of such a horrible national tragedy, we expected our leaders to be united in helping the victims and their families and taking stern measures against the people who are responsible for constructing such a sub-standard building by violating building code regulations.

Maybe the home minister was trying to deflect blame away from one of his infamous party members, the owner of the building, and toward his opponents. It is a time when the whole nation should come together irrespective of political affiliation and help the victims and their families in all possible ways.  
**Mohammed Uddin**  
USA



## Dialogue to end crisis

The government being the guardian of the country has some extra responsibility to keep the country's affairs in order. The present political instability is causing serious sufferings to common citizens and pushing the country's economy towards total collapse.

So the government needs to take the initiative to start a dialogue with the opposition and other political parties to find a practical solution toward ending the present political crisis.  
**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
Dhaka

## Bush legacy

So there have been plenty of presidents who slaughtered millions! The Civil War was one of the most horrendous wars. It had the highest casualty rate, considering the population, of any war that the US has ever fought, virtually pitting brother against brother, fathers against sons, just slaughtering each other. The question they need to put to the American public is: "Is that oil really worth American blood and the lives of your boys? Is it worth fighting and dying for just to keep the price of gasoline down so you can go for more joy rides?-- Is it worth your boys?" Well, as far as I'm concerned, it's not worth it!

A great columnist has said that if they'd put the presidents, kings and the politicians into the battlefield, they'd never have any more wars. --Because it's not the people who make the wars who have to fight them. If the people who actually made the wars and got the world into wars had to themselves personally fight them, there'd never be another war!  
**Ted Rudow III, MA**  
Encina Ave  
Palo Alto, CA

### Erratum

The name of Major General Amin Ahmed Chowdhury Bir Bikram, was inadvertently dropped from the letter titled "Death of a brave patriot" published in the Letters to the Editor Page on April 26, 2013. We regret the error.  
-- Page In-Charge

## READERS respond

*Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report head-lined "Survived at a price"*

### Samia

Can you get me in contact with these individuals? I would like to help them and their families.

### Khaleda Alam from Canada

Today we are crying but tomorrow we will forget them.

### Shakib

It's so encouraging to see how the trapped people fought to stay alive so that they could take care of their loved ones. It's a lesson for us.

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*Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report head-lined "18-party, lefts call hartal for May 2"*

### Shafiqur Rahman

This is absolute stupidity. Calling a strike to protest the collapse and subsequent killings is simply ridiculous. We don't need another strike. Our economic development gets hampered because of strikes.

### S M Iftekhar Ahmed

No doubt the government has failed in many aspects but there are better ways to protest than calling a shutdown at such a time. Often in the past it has been noticed that whoever is in the opposition calls a shutdown for their political gain and this is no exception. They are not paying any respect to the dead. By stooping to this level they look to their own personal gain and I feel that the people, along with the business community, must come forward and resist this unjust shutdown.

### Sabina G

What we don't need right now is a "strike". It will only bring misery to the victims and their families.

### Abir Hasan

Everybody knows that leftists are still surviving in the country; no need to call a hartal to advertise your existence.

# Shun hartals to win people's support

One of the interesting things about the American system is that the U.S. government employees are not permitted, by law, to strike against the government. The reason is that the Government represents the People of the United States and no strike against the people is permitted. When air traffic controllers tried to stage a strike, President Ronald Reagan sacked them all, and managed to still keep air traffic moving. This courageous act sent out the message that no loosening of this law would be tolerated.

What is occurring in this country is a series of hartals, effectively against the people of Bangladesh. It is very sad that the peace-loving people of this nation are being held hostage to the whims of the manic hordes that enforce hartals against the will of the people, in complete disregard for the sufferings of the poorest classes. It may be a democratic right to call a hartal in protest but not to enforce the hartal on people who prefer to go about their business. Let those who declare hartals refrain from all their activities and see how many follow them. Intimidation does not indicate support for any movement.  
**Syed Hamde Ali**  
The Nawab Palace  
Bogra



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