# letters

## Shirin, Meira, Fehmida

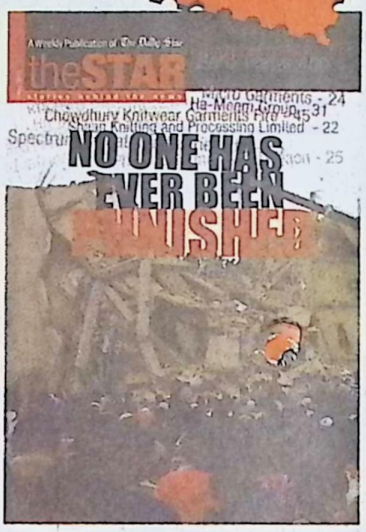
The appointment of Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury to the office of the Speaker of the parliament should be welcomed by people of the country regardless of their political affiliation. Her appointment is especially important at a time when bigots of the society are demanding to marginalise women even more and deny them basic human rights. Maybe she lacks the experience of a veteran parliamentarian. But that should not stop her from becoming a speaker who would perform her constitutional duty impartially and efficiently. Before becoming the president of the most powerful nation in the history of the world, Barak Obama was a junior US senator and a community organiser in Chicago. Even his sworn enemies do not argue that he has shown signs of inexperience ever since he became the president. The writer may be right in raising the question if her appointment is 'an example of distribution of favour to those who are blindly loyal to the supreme leadership of Hasina.' However, another important question to ask is this: Is there any shortage of 'yes men' in AL or even BNP for that matter? Hasina could easily have gone with a loyal MP who is a man. Instead she chose a woman. That is something to be appreciated in this country where women are 'second class citizens.'

*Russel Rana*
*Azimpur, Dhaka*



Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury

## No One Has Ever Been Punished




I want to thank the Star magazine for publishing such a well written piece. It breaks my heart to see so many hard working and poor people die for no fault of theirs. This is not the first time. One may wonder if there is any rule of Law in our country. If there was, how could the owners of so many garment factories walk free after virtually killing so many innocent people by not complying with building codes, fire safety measures and so forth. No one seems to take responsibility. The government agencies responsible for enforcing these laws often claim that they are doing the best they can given the amount of resources they have. The owners claim that they have done everything possible to ensure the safety of the workers. How then these man-made disasters keep on happening? The bigger question is: Why has the government not been able to bring these people to book and punish them for their crimes? So it seems that the lives lost have no value to them. We hope that the owner of the Rana plaza and owners of the garment factories will get the maximum sentence under law and other owners will take notice.

*Ayesha Siddiqui*
*New Eskaton, Dhaka*

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Letters to the Editor, Star Diary and Write to Mita, with the writer's name and address, should be within 200 words. All articles should be within 1,200 words. A cover letter is not necessary, but every write-up should include the writer's name, phone number and email address (if any). While The Star welcomes unsolicited articles and photographs, it cannot accept the responsibility of their loss or damage. The Star does not return unsolicited articles and photos. Response time for unsolicited write-ups ranges from three weeks to two months. All articles submitted are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

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