letters

Mixing Religion with Politics

It is a well written essay. The writer has managed to do what few journalists do these days---present the readers with facts, not their biased personal opinions. I condemn those who are misusing the Holy Quran for political gains. Although it is disappointing to see the Awami League try to play the same religion card, the fact is as a political party they are not the ones who started it. Let us not forget that this country was founded on a secular constitution. And we know who all changed it. I have a question. When someone falsely calls you an atheist, what can you do to fight back? If religion continues to be misused by the political parties, the losers ultimately will be the people of Bangladesh. Just see what Pakistan, a country founded on the basis of religion has become— a failed state.

Mohammad Rezaul Kaim
Tongi, Dhaka

The Power of Ballots

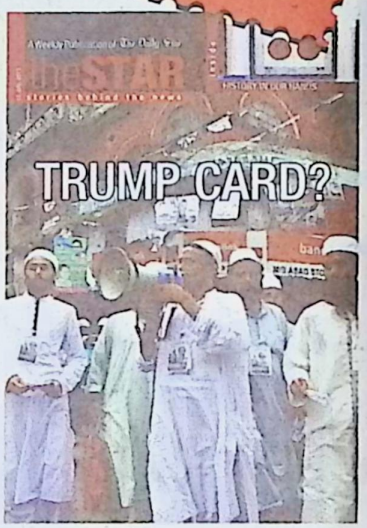
I was a bit disappointed to read this article. It reads more like an opinion piece at times than a well balanced analysis that is objective in its approach. I believe journalists have a responsibility to expose the groups and parties that started this madness of using religion to win votes by lying to the religious but moderate people of the country. Those who shed crocodile tears for the abuse of religion in today's politics but do not address why and how we got here are indirectly supporting the very elements responsible for this mess.

Tanzima Khan
Fokirarpool, Dhaka

(Misplaced) Pride and (Outdated) Prejudice

I want to thank the writer for such a well balanced article. The feature especially addresses the discriminations workers from the subcontinent face in Middle Eastern countries. I remember reading about a Bangladeshi woman who went to Saudi Arabia as a domestic worker and went through untold sufferings from the moment she set foot on Saudi soil. She was taken to a house and locked up. Several Saudi men raped her while she was kept in isolation for a month. Her passport was taken away. One day she escaped and with the help of a sympathetic official of the Bangladeshi consulate got an air ticket home. After coming back, she made a complaint to the government and some officials advised her not to 'talk too much about it.' She is not alone. Hundreds and thousands of hardworking workers who go to work in the Arab countries are treated inhumanly and are denied basic human rights.

Lalarukh Khan
Dubai, UAE



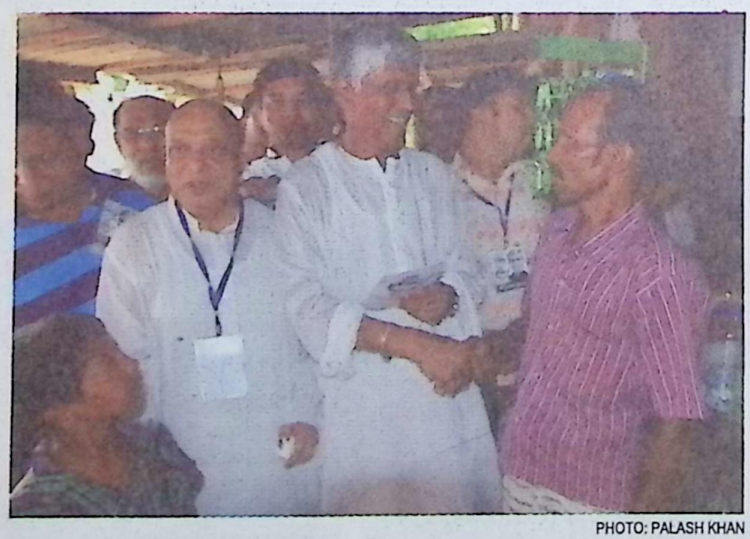


PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily represent the views held by *the Star*.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINE:

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.

All materials should be sent to: The Star magazine, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Fax: 880-2-8125155 or emailed to: <thestarmagazine@gmail.com>
It is recommended that those submitting work for the first time to The Star take a look at a sample copy beforehand. Our website is: http://www.thedailystar.net/magazine