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Elections in the Memory

Elections have always been laden with controversies in this country, as pointed out by the writer. Even after the successful mass movement of the 90s that ousted the autocratic Ershad regime, democracy has not really taken roots in the country. Looking at the political culture of the country, it seems that democracy is only about holding elections. In reality, democracy is a way of life that needs to be practiced at all levels. Democracy is about accountability and tolerance.

Mabubul Alam
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

A Better Year Ahead

In last week's *Straight Talk*, the writer echoes what millions of Bangladeshis are hoping for: A peaceful and prosperous year. People are tired of the mindless violence. The entire country is suffering. If the current situation continues, the economy may spiral out of control and face deep crisis which the country will find extremely hard to recover from. Students are frustrated because they are not being able to sit for the exams. Let us all work together to find a solution to the political stalemate between the two political parties and put a smile on people's face.

Mithila Mazumder
Baridhara, Dhaka

Old Wounds Heal Not

Those of us who support the liberation war understand the writer's concern about our inexplicable weakness for Pakistan that waged a war against a people that wanted nothing but dignity and freedom. Many of us have conveniently forgotten that the Pakistan military killed almost three million people and raped many of our mothers and sisters. But I have nothing against the Pakistani people. I have friends who are Pakistanis and they are as liberal and modern as any other people. But I have everything against the Pakistan establishment who has never accepted the fact that Bangladesh is a free and sovereign country now. Pakistan must make an official apology to Bangladesh and initiate the process of healing.

Farook Khan
Azimpur, Dhaka

Cricket is above politics

As a cricket lover it's my earnest request to all the political parties not to give any political strikes during the Sri Lanka Cricket Team's tour of Bangladesh and after that, the Asia Cup Tournament and the World T20 which is going to be held in Bangladesh for the first time.

I believe that the spirit of this game is more powerful than anything else. And Cricket should be above politics and political tensions. We are really proud as a nation to get the opportunity to host such prestigious cricket tournaments for the first time, all on our own. But the current political dilemma is a big barrier to our progress.

Abu Mohammad Mahdin
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Corrigendum

In last week's story *Reinventing Education* on page 17, Khan Academy's website address was published as www.khanaca-demy.org instead of www.khanacademy.org We regret the mistake.