

Rising Stars

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Crime in Bangladesh

Farzana H. Kastury

In the earlier, honest days, it might have been true that crime leads to a life of darkness. But today it might be fair to say that crime makes a bright (I) future. If you can become an expert in this line, you can build up immense wealth out of thin air and can live a happy and secured life. This statement was of course not meant to encourage our somewhat lost generation to take up the profession of crime, but to depict the irony of life one wants to observe the present state of crimes committed in our country, the first example that flashes in our mind is the condemned name of Ershad Shikder. The revelation of his brutal murders of six lives made us see how insecure our lives are in this society. The funny thing is, he was never caught by the police in spite of being convicted for many cases during his ten years of ruling the lives of the inhabitants of Khulna. Today only one Ershad Shikder has been unmasked. We wonder how many of them are still in action!

One of the many forms of crime is to throw acid-bombs on mostly the faces of the girls who have rejected the love of a 'mastaan'. When this acid successfully hits any part of the body, it not only disfigures that portion of the body by melting it; it also destroys the mental state and the social life of that person. Not many of the convicts have the fortune to cure the disfigurement by 'plastic surgery'. No matter how you sympathize for her, can you ever make the pain go away? Dear readers, can you tell me, why a person in love would want to destroy the face and consequently the life of the person he loves? Is it not an example of a perverseness? This happens not only within the slum areas or Dhaka City; this trend has spread like a contagious disease throughout the country. An honest soul may seek its remedy, but how can a person be stopped from throwing acid-bombs unless you have to stop coming out of your home or you sew yourself a spacesuit and walk around in it. Well, an example had been set by our government (surprised!) in the 80's (I couldn't find out the exact year) to try to control it. A capital punishment was announced for the person convicted. One such criminal was hung until death in front of a mob and the rate of throwing acid-bombs had declined surprisingly fast in the years that followed. Don't you wish it be repeated!

If our students are the future of the country then I fear that our future is not very bright in schools the students learn how to successfully cheat in examinations and in universities they learn how to kill the helpless. During the last few years the question papers of the S.S.C or H.S.C examination have been leaked out. Whoever is doing this has no sense of the harm they are doing to the students. The sufferers are mostly the good students who study hard all year round. A few students who know that there is a way to pass the examination other than studying they will surely choose the easy way which is of course studying nothing and buying the question paper the day before the examination and memorizing the necessary answers. The best example was set in 1998, when a Head-master of a school arranged for this leaking out of the question papers to help his dear daughter pass in S.S.C. But his accomplices got greedy and made many photocopies and sold them for a hundred takas (very profitable business indeed!) One if any student puts a revolver aside and opens a book to copy from? can an inviolator do if any student puts a revolver aside and opens a book to copy from? Student politics has taught us to fear the new generation. When we think about a university going student, the image somehow becomes a cadre holding a pistol to shoot someone. But what is the reason for thinking so? The majority of the students are simple students, who go to university to learn, not to kill. Then why are they being misled by the political parties? Our honorable president had once requested to stop student politics for the sake of the students but without any reasonable effect. Yes, there are many good sides of student politics but can you see any of them in our country? There is usually no investigation of a crime if a so-called student who is associated with a political party has committed it. They are almost never caught and never punished. This is probably true for all the crimes in our country.

When the protector is the main culprit then we can hope very little honest action from them. Yes, I am talking about the police force that at present seems to be the instrument of corruption. They take bribe as if it's their right to take and our duty to pay. While driving, they stop cars with or without reasons and demand for money in a shameless manner (I believe that there are exceptions). They close their eyes if any crimes occur in front of them and then charge the victim for that crime. Who knows how many Rubels must be murdered before they learn to respect their badge?

Street crimes have turned into a natural disaster that is as frequent and predictable as cyclones. Hijacking has become a mean of earning money for the so-called deprived. Guns are available in a very affordable price and sometimes come free in exchange of obedience towards a big fish of the underworld system.

Corruption has anchored so deeply in the soil of Bangladesh that it is slowly deteriorating the meaning of morals to the citizens of the country. Today, bribing for getting anything done, such as to get the telephone line fixed is not considered a crime at all. Rather it has become sort of a price you have to pay to live in this country. An honest man lives with every danger of his life and the corrupted ones unfriended. All we can do now is wonder, who is supposed to protect us.

he night before the exam, X is arranging all the chits. He has spent about an hour preparing his cheating supplies in all those chits. He will take them to the exam hall the next morning and if everything goes fine, i.e., if he doesn't get caught, he's sure to pass the exam with a respectable grade.

There is no end to the various ways of cheating during the exam and every effort is being made to improve and innovate new ways. The common ways are bringing chits in the exam hall, looking at a list of them in the toilet, just in case, scribbling the important points on the desk, keeping a list of them in the toilet, just in case, scribbling the important points on the desk, looking at the script of the person sitting right beside without even telling him that he is taking this undue advantage, and the most daring one is copying everything down on script from the open book hidden under the desk. There are some other arrangements for cheating too. When a group of people wants to cheat, they plan where they will sit in order to cheat most conveniently. There is some reciprocity among these cheats who, in polite words, share information during the exam. These information are nothing but answers to questions. This is such a shameful practice by shameless people, people who are not rebuked by the conscience, most probably they don't have any.

Why do people cheat in the exam? There are apparently two reasons why people cheat. First is that they cheat just to pass the exam; and second is that they cheat to score better marks or grades. The latter, however, isn't the usual cause of cheating. Nevertheless, there are types of cheats too. Some are 'Regular Cheats' who cheat in every exam. While on the other hand, some are 'Occasional Cheats' who cheat only if they couldn't study for some reason. The regular cheat never studies and he focuses all his efforts in preparing his cheating supplies. Whereas, the occasional cheat doesn't do so unless it is absolutely necessary. There is another type of cheat, 'The Ambitious Cheat'. The ambitious cheat cheats to score better grades. He studies quite hard but lacks enough confidence to face questions in the exam and so he has the cheating supplies to back him up. The ambitious cheat is pretty dangerous too. He cheats not only to score better grades, but also to compete over someone who is honestly scoring good grades. In fact, the ambitious cheat is the worst of all. Now, there is some special type of cheat, the 'Vanity Cheat'. The story of vanity cheat is quite pathetic although it is never appreciated.

The vanity cheat usually scores good grades honestly. But in case he couldn't study for some reason and doesn't hope to pass, he cheats just to keep up his trend of getting good grades. He can't possibly tolerate flunking the test and so he better cheat.

Two people are sitting juxtapose and one asks the other to help him with an answer. Now, would that be called cheating? Well, it depends on what the person is actually asking for. If he asks for just a hint or if he asks for just a hint to be, it although unofficially illegal, is unofficially tolerable. But if he asks the other person to fully expose his script for him to copy, it is simply intolerable and insulting for the person who he is asking to. Well, anyway, such practice is still not encouraged. The Three Musketeers' motto "One for all and all for one" is not for all and all for one is not a good maxim to be followed by students during an exam.

Cheats are basically children. They cheat and they are not ashamed of admitting the fact to their classmates that they have cheated. However, they are cowards in the sense that they don't have the guts to admit the same fact to the teacher when they are caught. Even when caught red handed, they never run out of excuses. Either they simply deny having cheated at all, or they trump up strange excuses, which are really disgusting. In addition to that, they don't forget to speak ill of the teacher or the inviolator who has caught them cheating.

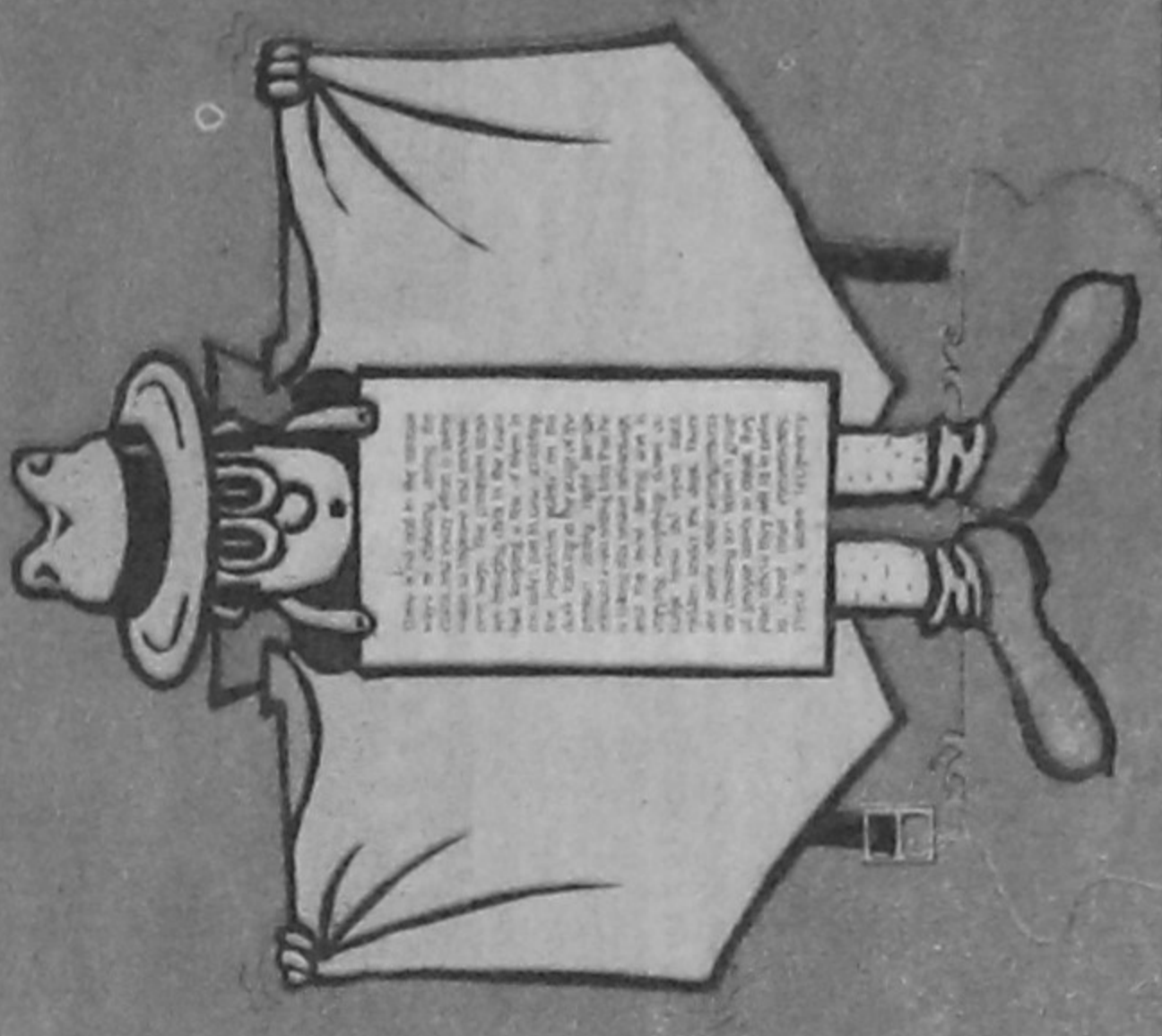
The most irritating among the cheats are those who feel happy to have got good grades which they have achieved by unfair means. It's really something to wonder if that happiness is real and how happy one can possibly be by getting a good grade dishonestly. When a cheat wears a happy face for having got a good grade dishonestly, he doesn't actually wear the usual arched smile of a happy face symbol, but exposes his whole set of teeth from one corner of the mouth to the other which is amusing and at the same time disgusting.

Who are these cheats actually cheating? It may apparently seem that they are cheating teachers, inviolators and board of examiners, but in the long run, they are actually cheating their very own self. Cheating may help him pass the exam and get a degree, but he doesn't learn anything at all. If someone gets an A by cheating, his real knowledge is definitely not worth that grade and sooner or later, his false face will be exposed.

In addition to being chickens, cheats are untrustworthy too. The first thing is that they are dishonest and one can't possibly trust dishonest people. It may not seem so apparent right now, but deep inside your subconscious mind, you resent a dishonest person, provided that you are honest yourself. Even dishonest people don't trust one another. The teachers may not know a cheat's dishonesty, but his classmates do know the type of person he is. No matter how successful this cheat becomes in life, we all know that he used to cheat in the exam and we wouldn't mind telling others that he used to be nothing but an abominable cheat.

Cheating is a detestable practice. A cheat can really put a stop to this. If alcoholics can give up alcohol, chain smokers can give up smoking, drug addicts can give up drugs, could giving up cheating be a big deal? What one can do to give up cheating is give a little effort in studying. Sincerely it is very important here without which one can achieve nothing. The sense of true achievement is something divine and only an honest person knows how it feels to achieve something entirely his own. This achievement and exclusively belongs to him. There is not a single scar of falsehood in this achievement and that's the kind of achievement we should all strive to make.

Cheating An Abominable Practice



By Mohd. Naved Ferdous Iqbal

he night before the exam, X is arranging all the chits. He has spent about an hour preparing his cheating supplies in all those chits. He will take them to the exam hall the next morning and if everything goes fine, i.e., if he doesn't get caught, he's sure to pass the exam with a respectable grade.

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Archie 'JUST WITME'

1. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
MARGE: YES, I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTAURANT!
2. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
MARGE: YES, I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTAURANT!
3. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
MARGE: YES, I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTAURANT!
4. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
MARGE: YES, I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTAURANT!

5. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
MARGE: YES, I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTAURANT!
6. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
MARGE: YES, I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTAURANT!
7. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
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9. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
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10. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
MARGE: YES, I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTAURANT!
11. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
MARGE: YES, I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTAURANT!
12. ARCHIE: ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO HERE?
MARGE: YES, I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTAURANT!

