

More on Chintito

To add to Chintito's worries about the many shades of Bangalis and Bangladeshis (please note the two shades of our name), let me tell you how we have managed to divide our people into several shades or 'Barnas' as in Hinduism. For example:

1. Children of the rich go to costly English-medium schools. With 'better' education and English manners, they achieve better careers in life forming Barna-A.

2. Children of upper middle class go to better Bangla medium schools (e.g. Cadet schools, Mission schools, Viquarunnessa, Agrani, laboratory schools, etc.), and many of them obtain higher education and better jobs forming Barna-B.

3. Many others go to ordinary Bangla schools (public or private); half of them cannot cross the SSC level, and most others are rejected for higher education or jobs on merit grounds.

They are our Barna-C.

4. Many others can afford only the cheap education at *moktabs* and madrassah. They follow different curriculum and different dress codes, and grow up as our Barna-D.

What an excellent way of dividing a nation. Recently a Super-Brahmin class has also been added. These are the children of the very rich who are studying in foreign schools abroad. 'Good' education they may have, but who knows what kind of patriots they grow up to be. Those who wonder why the French recently banned headscarves and turbans from schools should take a lesson on patriotism from the French.

Humayun Hye
Baridhara, Dhaka

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Imams Against Dowry

Thanks for the excellent write up under the above caption. This article shows that Imams and *moulvis* represent good and bad characters of our society. Because of our ignorance in matters of Islam and our apathy in dealing with such deplorable behaviour. Sometimes, *moulvis* and *moulanas* get away with their reprehensible misdeeds.

One does not necessarily have to know Arabic for educating oneself in the teachings of Islam. Innumerable publications on matters of Islam in our mother tongue are abundantly available in the market. We are pleased to learn the story 'Imams Launch Crusade against Dowry'. This is an excellent opportunity for those concerned to offer the Imam group of Brahmanbaria necessary social and moral support. We believe such acts will motivate and encourage others to emulate them. I wonder if SWM will be willing to start a column on the Islamic way of life, particularly in matters of family life. I can assure you that you will get a good response. I congratulate SWM for focussing on this issue.

Syed Waliullah
Dhaka

A Rigged Election

A number of quotations from SWM's "Voicebox" page from July 9th obviously indicate that the by-election of Dhaka-10 constituency is another scandal in the history of Bangladesh's democracy. In my opinion, the arrangement of the election has become a gigantic hoax as the ruling clique finalised the result before it was held. Hundreds of instances of fake votes have already come before the common people via the media and the election observer teams. It can hardly be claimed that the election was free and fair. My question is how can a man who came into parliament through vote rigging and corruption possibly contribute to the betterment of this country?

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