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PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

## "Enacting law for appointing judges"

The above captioned write-up appeared in the July 24 issue of The Daily Star. It was timely and articulate. Appointment of judges in higher judiciary in recent years have stirred all concerned. Before the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment there was provision in the Constitution requiring the President to consult the Chief Justice in appointing Judges which was done away by the amendment. But even then a practice was in vogue to consult with the Chief Justice. But the thing took a Paradigm shift in recent years and nowadays the party in power selects the judges without any objective analysis and as a result many unsavory controversies has tainted the image of the higher judiciary.

It is very pertinent that the image, sanctity, and prestige of the judiciary is to be brought back without any delay. The other day the Law Minister disclosed that the government is pondering over introducing a Law on the qualifications of the Judges. This type of casual approach will not serve the purpose rather a sustained and committed approach is to be taken to set things right and that can be done by reviving the original provision of the Constitution. The suggestion put forward by the author also may be considered and that must be done without any political motive and parochial agenda, otherwise the image of the Judiciary will be further defamed, which will be catastrophic for the nation.

**Khijir Ahmed, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka**



PHOTO: AFP

## CHILD LABOUR A curse

Child labour is one of the curses of our so called civilised society. Children who suppose to have dream in their eyes and books in their hands are working in our houses and in different factories. They are deprived of all kinds of privileges which a child should have.

The children who are working in houses are the most vulnerable. Freedom is a word which is still unknown to them. Very often they are facing sexual harassment. Bangladesh, though a signatory country of CRC, has not yet taken enough steps to prevent this kind of child abuse. The government of Bangladesh should pay heed to this matter since children are the future of our country.

**Kazi Bahauddin  
Dept of Law, DU**

## Non-transparency in governance

The regime may take corrective actions to maintain transparency in approving non-essential projects; and in the handling of tenders. As politics has become a business, there is scope for making money on the side for private profit.

The Dhaka City Corp is a big defaulter, with grey projects, where the QC (quality control) is poor. Now meaningless projects are approved to make the city more beautiful. No disciplinary actions are ever announced in the media. Also, in the ADP, the mega projects are retendered several times, in a questionable manner, presumably to favour certain earmarked tenderers. Then there is the tendency to amend the tender conditions midway. Political jealousies do not encourage continuity of projects approved by the preceding regime for implementation. The motivation is not a conundrum—the 'commission' culture.

Now businessmen prefer to import goods available locally, to make more profit, through questionable documentation and palm greasing. The import policy is lax on import of non-essential items; and proper protective levies are not imposed to discourage wastage of precious foreign exchange, (imagine import of fruit juices from several thousand miles away, of which more than 90 per cent is water! Why not import the powder or raw materials, and do the processing locally?).

One big neighbour is capturing some vital sectors through exports, and the adverse trade balance is reaching more than one billion taka. No comment from the regulators! The bilateral talks are a sham, when there is no change of heart/approach.

Where there is scope for private gains, the national goals are skipped. Besides, Bangladesh is rich in natural energy reserves, hence foreign groups are always achieving ways and means of dubious entries with questionable offers and recommendations from the donor agencies. The absence of the Opposition in the JS allows the official regulators to reap dubious windfalls. The civil service has apparently no accountability. Several of the five dozen ministers do not know how to spend the time in enhanced public services.

Now there are internal factions within the parties in the regime for local control of development funds (DS, Aug 3). The transparency of the working of the PMO needs more publicity, for awareness, and to remove misunderstanding and doubts.

The regime relies too heavily on one tool or weapon for establishing good image; announce more and more projects. The system losses at the routine level of daily administration is woeful. The counter services in the government offices is abysmal, because the ministers and the MPs are not interested in non-projects. Attacking the opponents is not enough even for pass marks!

Prediction: there would no official feedback on this public feedback from a voter!

**AMahasen, Dhaka**



### Who will put them to school?

It pains me to see the street children peddling Harry Potter, The Vinci Code and many such books. How confidently they utter the names, how successfully they appeal to the buying ability of the people driving in cars. A quick haggle and before the green light is on a bargain is struck. But alas! it never occurs to the happy satisfied buyers that the little hands that clasp the price money will never turn the pages of these books on their journey with Harry Potter.

The government is spending a huge sum of money on education, the NGOs also boast of many such successful projects. Then how come these unfortunate kids do not come under the purview of any such plan and programme? Will somebody put them to school?

**Farida Huq  
DOHS (old), Dhaka**

power given to anyone in the state should be a blank cheque.

**Muhammad Alfaz  
Group Captain (Retd)  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

### Immortal Bangla!

This is in response to Mr. Rizwan Shamim's letter, we would just like to tell him that when after 300 years of British rule and even the 20 odd years of Urdu rule, our mother tongue is still intact and it will be through eons. And just for this information, the phrases that are being used are very Bangla, and even if he wants to be highbrow and sneer at this, we young people use this language. And every word used is from our mother tongue, and they are not peculiar, they are Bangla. And if we are 'cool' why does it irk him? We are such hypocrites; we don't mind using 'yo' and 'dude' because it is in English, but the moment we do it in our language the moral police in Eus starts fretting. World over the youths have their own language and it's alright to have that. We yet speak the correct Bangla with our teachers and parents, but we choose to speak that way with our friends.

Bangla is a language that is full of words from Portuguese to Persian, and it hasn't harmed us. Look at why English, the language, rules the world, they have taken words from so many languages and it has become richer!

It seems Ehis ire is because we students are getting some good benefits from diuice; why doesn't he just change over? And what's the harm if a brand wants to give some special benefits to its users?

We are well aware of our mother and her tongue; Ehe needs to clear Ehis confusion.

**Irfan and friends  
DU students  
Dhanmondi R/A**

### Too much school homework

My little niece, a student of class V in an English-medium school, came to our house one Friday afternoon bleary-eyed. Asked if she were feeling indisposed, she said that she got up at sunrise grappling with four assignments of home work during the weekend. Then she snoozed for a couple of hours.

In the primary stage (up to class VI) there is too much to read, write and assimilate for the little minds. During our school days (during the British days), the quality of teaching prevailed over quantity. The teachers are under the impression that too much homework is good for educating young minds. As a pensioner, I have to help my niece with reference materials from my personal library (imagine a child poring over encyclopedias!)

Lately, the press has been pointing out about grey areas in the official code of syllabi and teaching methods in the private schools, specially the popular English-medium schools. This code has to be announced quickly and implemented firmly, to avoid over-stuffing the young minds. My father, who was in the Bengal Education Service, had to pass BT (Bachelor of Teaching) before further promotion. There are courses for teachers at the KG level. The media carry no news on these vital sectors; while the opening of new educational institutions are being publicised for subjective reasons. The Quality in development projects is lacking.

When our political pundits would settle down to some serious business? **Alfa Ahmad  
Dhaka**

### Inside a bus

A few days ago I was on the way to my residence from my hall. I got on to a "Metro Link" bus from Azimpur. When the bus reached New Market it became overloaded. I was sitting on just right of the door. There were some girls and men standing beside me. Thinking of giving my seat to a girl, whom was near to me, I was going to stand for leaving, and then two persons began struggling for that seat. It told them that I was leaving only to give that to the girl standing closest to the seat. One of them began to argue with me why I was giving it to her and made some indecent remarks. I became very angry with him. Then some passengers managed to keep the situation under control.

The girl also didn't know what to do. In this way women are being dishonoured by us.

**Mars Sohel  
Dept. of EEE  
BUET, Dhaka**

### League of murderers

It is very interesting to note that the people involved in food adulteration called a 48-hour strike, as the government had started catching them and exposing them through TV and newspapers. How horrifying it is to see that type of food, especially in the Chinese restaurants, fast food and sweetmeat shops. The main consumers are youngsters, school and college going children, the future generation of our country. How audacious it is that instead of apologising and correcting themselves, they have made a union (League of Murderers) and called for strike in an open meeting in the presence of reporters. Why the government's law enforcing agency did not round

them up?

The criminals so far killed by Rab had records of dozens of murders, but what about these criminals? They are killing the Future Generation of our nation. They are Mass Murderers.

Humble Suggestions: 1) Monetary fine and few days in jail will have no effect on these Hardened Criminals. Corporal punishment is the only remedy 2) Even then if they do not stop—then LONG term jail, not less than five years with. 3) All those

shops observing strike should be locked up by the law enforcing agencies, and their licence cancelled with immediate effect. Only after written Apology and Promise not to repeat the crime, they may be permitted to re-open. 4) If they do not surrender within the specified time, their property should be seized, auctioned and allotted to another person with assurance of supplying good food. 5) Fast food shops, sweetmeat shops and Chinese restaurants are visited by affluent people. Millions of our

people cannot afford them. Even if they are permanently closed, none will starve or die. Rather the opposite, the consumers are being slow poisoned.

These shops may be auctioned for some other business.

We highly appreciate the government's drive to expose them. It should be done throughout Bangladesh, not restricted to Dhaka only. Those criminals have no right to exist. Monetary punishment will have no effect. Corporal punishment and long term jail may correct these evil persons. Our State minister for Home Affairs has a reputation of being tough. He should be given the responsibility to tackle them with Rab and Special Police.

**Abdul Aziz  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka**

### Press Club and Peter Jennings

I think it was 1970 or 1971 that Peter Jennings visited Bangladesh and I was a student of Dhaka University living in Segun Bagicha. I saw Peter at the Dhaka Press Club in Segun Bagicha with all the journalists in discussion. Peter loved the world and he had an affection for Bangladesh which is why he was in Dhaka. Over the years we as a family living in California took Peter as a part of the family.

It would be a good gesture to dedicate at least the Conference Room of the Press Club as Peter Jennings Room in memory of him. Peter had a good contribution towards the birth of Bangladesh that we should not forget.

You may play a role in keeping his memories alive in Bangladesh.

**Rafiq Hussain  
On e-mail**

### Annan's good definition of terrorism

It's interesting that Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, has underscored the necessity of redefining 'terrorism' due to the recent bomb attacks in the UK and Egypt, in order that we can all live with it. I just cannot comprehend what he has actually meant and wanted to deliver by saying "to bring in moral clarity that maiming and killing of civilians is unacceptable, regardless of one's cause", whereas he mentioned nothing about the happenings in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine!

Those sensible human beings around the world, who have been seeing the carnage in those countries through TV footage and press releases know the extent of annihilation of the innocent men, women

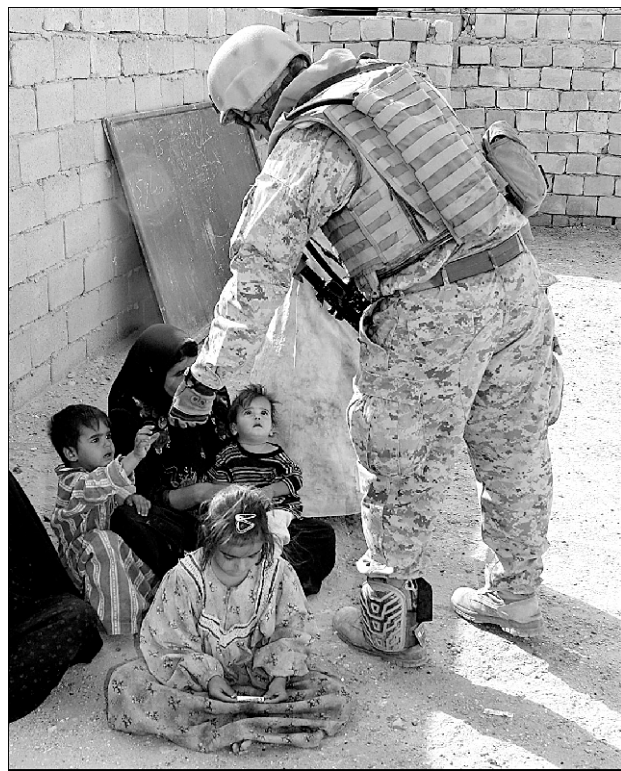


PHOTO: AFP

## Still divide and rule?

A trite question for the foreign invaders of Iraq: Still believe in the divide-and-rule colonial policy? Why US-led Iraqi overtures to Iran? Oil or Shia control over part of ME?

Rule over your fast food and fast life, and release the Israelites. How many visible gun barrels for each suicide attack? How long the recurring budget could afford this mad programme (Pound Sterling 500,000 per day in London alone)?

Saudi Arabia (the leader of the Islamic world) has a new monarch, but the nation's bank vaults are in

the US. It is a tricky shifting of currency resources in the near future. Saudi Arabia has to lead in the right direction—it has to go via OIC to strengthen this neglected institution (step-fatherly treatment).

Now it is an open fight amongst the West, ME and East, rather than N and S. The compass is going haywire, as artificial magnetic fields are interfering. It is a human and social problem. The industrialised countries rely too much on lab scientists. Carry out more human surveys.

**Alif Zabr, Dhaka**

## BRITONS' POSITION



PHOTO: AFP

Most probably the citizens of Britain think that men become genetically different according to their geographical position or religion. So only a portion of human kind have the feelings of love, anger and humiliation, the rest of them have no such feelings. They don't feel angry when children, women and innocent civilians die in the bombings carried out by Britain and its allies.

We can only hope and believe that the game will not be the same. It's essential to have a just world where not only the holy nations but the whole mankind will be able to

breathe freely.

**Mohammad Mahdi Hassan  
Mirpur, Dhaka**

### Misguided terrorists

Panic is not still over. Bombings on 7 July in London that killed 52 innocent people are still fresh in the people's minds all over the world. Another bomb blast in a Red Sea resort in Egypt rocked the world. The deadly attack killed at least 88 innocent humans, including foreigners, and wounded so many.

I take this opportunity to express my deepest indignation at this inhuman acts of

terrorism. I also pray for the peace of the departed souls and convey my heartfelt sympathy for the members of the bereaved families. The culprits who are responsible for these heinous attacks should not claim themselves as Muslim. Islam believes in peace and hates violence. We know that the Muslims all over the world are persecuted & harassed after 9/11, that opened the door to invade Afghanistan and Iraq. But in no way, Islam prescribes terrorism which leads to anarchy and mischief in this world. The derailed Muslim militants should take lessons from the incidents that took

place in the early days of Islam. Hazrat Belal (R) embraced Islam and due to that the people of Mecca tortured him. But our Prophet, Hazrat Muhammad (Sm), never took any action against this act of barbarism. Some new Muslims also migrated to avoid torture or killing on the advice of our Prophet. The Prophet himself was physically & mentally tortured & harassed. The inhabitants of Taif threw stones on him that caused bleeding from his holy body. But the Prophet never uttered a single word of wrath against these non-believers. Instead, he remained patient. After the long journey of hard-

ship, the truth of Islam triumphed with the victory in Mecca without a single drop of blood-shed. The people of Mecca who were against Islam were frightened but Hazrat Muhammad (Sm) forgot their misdeeds, persecution, torture, injustice, killing etc and forgave them. The people in crowds embraced Islam seeing the generosity of our Prophet.

Everyone is safe under the umbrella of Islamic ideology. But the terrorists have forgotten the teachings of Islam.

**Md. Shahidul Islam  
Reazbag, Khilgaon Talata,  
Dhaka**