NEWSNOTES

Rat! Rat!



MOST of the election pledges that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) made immediately before the last general elections have remained unfulfilled. These include publication of statement of wealth of ministers and MPs, a commitment the party took up back in 2001 to wheedle voters. "No effort for development and people's welfare will be successful unless unabated corruption is rooted out from the state and social life," the BNP manifesto read.

The party's pledge to wage a Jihad against corruption and nepotism went down well among the masses, most of who were scared to find their nation crowned as the world's most corrupt for the first time.

Five years after that, the voters-- weary and disenchanted as ever-- have discovered themselves in the murky world of dashed hopes.

The BNP policymakers, are, sadly, under this illusion that they can fool the voters once more, for the prime minister, recently told the parliament that her party would succeed in curbing corruption if it was voted to power again.

Khaleda's urge has come at a time when the country is abuzz with news of grafts and corruption by the BNP Faithful. Both of Khaleda's parvenus sons have so far been successful in averting increasing number of allegations showered on them by the opposition and the media. These imputations are all opposition's conspiracy, BNP loyalists cry. But the neither the party nor the government has so far done anything to prove the critics wrong. In a country where the citizens are fast losing faith in the politicians, the BNP's flip-flopping with a burning issue like this may turn out to be futile.

Today we don't find women only as executives, doctors, teachers, pilots and other professions. To survive the hard and crude world, we see them earning a living at a pump station as well. At the Plana Fuel Station in Langalbandh in Narayanganj, five out of eight employees are women. This only shows how women are slowly breaking the social norms and facing the world. It also shows how men are changing their stereotypical views about women and their contribution to the society.



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