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Eden College scene

It was indeed a sad incident that took place at Eden College recently, which was prompted by an utter indifference shown simultaneously by the college management and the authorities concerned in the government administration. Media had been focusing on the issue so that the authorities could look into the matter, but, regrettably enough, they did nothing to keep things under control. The inaction or the utter indifference on the part of the authorities prompted an incident that has made us ashamed and feel

Sorry for ourselves. It put a question mark on our sense of self-esteem and responsibility towards the nation. Had the authorities taken the necessary action against the JCD led students who had been causing havoc to the general students of the college, the incident could have been avoided. The incident that was shown on television was a shockingly violent one. The violent clashes and beating up of the students were barbaric, unsophisticated and awesome.

Now that such a sad incident took place at Eden, it is the demand of the day that the elements responsible for it be punished.

Rafiqul Islam Rime, Agrabad, Chittagong

Infanticide!

The morbid picture of the dead bodies of the two kids of JMB militant Shakil alias Molla Omar, in the front page of DS disturbed me so much. It has driven me to my computer. It is haunting me all the time and has thrown me into unrest. My heart has been possessed with profound melancholy as I witnessed the children of the heaven are lying in a human hell. May their souls rest in peace in the supreme heaven of God! I beg forgiveness to the departed kids for the wrong committed against them on behalf of those

TATA has repeatedly said that

who are responsible for their death. Neither the parents nor the state have any right to kill kids in any situation.

Sayema Khatun
Uttara, Dhaka

Make it transparent

The government of Bangladesh should make the process of dealing with foreign firms transparent. Every proposal they make and every condition they press should be made public and placed before the parliament for detailed scrutiny.

Azizul Hoque
Kazir Dewri, Chittagong

University education

The University Grants Commission must be commended for undertaking a very useful initiative in standardising the grading system of public and private universities in the country. The system presently obtaining in public universities vis-a-vis private universities (and even among the private universities themselves) is patently unfair to the students in that the same performance level is evaluated differently.

But I would like to draw the attention of the UGC to another aspect of tertiary education in Bangladesh, viz, they agree that the public universities' fees are (ridiculously) low, thanks to the liberal subsidies given by the government in public interest. It is equally true that private universities, because of their high expenses incurred for hiring qualified teachers, cannot afford to charge anywhere near the level of the public universities. But, the tuition fees levied by some of the "Ivy League" schools have crossed the tolerance threshold of the guardians of our children. I know of one university, which even levies charges on the students for mobilising funds for their new campus. This surely is the limit!

I think the government should declare a construction policy where these things should be clearly written.

Khaliquez Zaman
Kabul, Afghanistan

Our political culture

Going through Mr. Asghar Khan's book review (DS: 14 March) "We have learnt nothing from history"; I feel that our politicians, who include all shades of them, are not politicians, in any sense of the term. They are out and out opportunists; who use their voices with lofty promises and loftier lies to sway the electorate their way! Principles, morality and civility are beyond their vocabulary. Their words and deeds are best described in Shakespeare's lines— "It's a tale, told by an idiot. Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing"

Democracy unfortunately has become a joke when power is centred in and around the leaders. To paraphrase the famous saying on democracy— it is only: "For the leaders, of the leaders, by the leaders". The poor unfortunate "people" are just numbers in the voting game! Once voting is over, it is winner taking all. The winning party goes about with only one objective— "Make hay while the sun shines"! The next crucial objective when about three fourths of the term are gone, is to ensure victory in the next election. For attaining this, might, money and muscle power are freely used to elbow others out! We do not have "rule of law", rather "law of rule"-set by the powers that be. What we have is pseudo-autocracy and nothing else.

We remember the proverb "Dark deeds are done in the dark". Our politicians today however believe in "dark deeds are done in broad daylight"; so that all can look, listen and learn. It is impossible to catch the culprits and their mentors; for the simple reason that they have great clout. Take the case of JMB and their associates, the culprits are there, but their mentors are missing. In case of the AL meeting bombing

and murder of Mr. Kibria even the culprits are missing; what to say about the mentors. Official words were "It could be AL, India or international conspiracy," but not the religious bigots and their associates who were earlier let loose by the ruling party, for politics of expediency. No wonder, one shudders to think what will happen when these bigots win majority seats.

Poverty, illiteracy coupled with blind faith are the potpourri of fundamentalism; and we have this in no small measure! Is anyone worried about it?

Unfortunate citizen

On e-mail

Butterfly wings

I am thanking Mr. Somaratne who has presented the film lovers a very good realistic art film, which is the best one I have ever seen. It's a true picture of what is going on in society. We always feel shy of doing something for street boys. Actually, economic problem is the main problem for those families where street boys are born. So, first we have to give attention to

solving their economic problem, then we can ensure their education.

I wish the solvent people of our country will try to do something for street children. This film will create a soft corner in them for the hapless humans.

Abu Zafar Mohammed Abdullah
On e-mail

A nuclear family

Everybody has some idea about a nuclear family. Nuclear family has some advantages. A nuclear family is calm and quiet because there are only a few members. So, one can enjoy peace and happiness in a nuclear family. You need not think of others. So, one enjoys much time to do a lot of work. In a nuclear family, one has got less duties and responsibilities than in an extended family. So one can remain free from anxiety. He can have much free time to move.

In a nuclear family, specially a student enjoys much free time. So,

A lesson for us



The party conference of the Indian Congress was held in Hyderabad in January last year. The leaders and activists of various levels of the party participated in that conference. The successes, the failures and the future plan of the party were discussed in it. But one of the main attractions of that conference was Mr. Rahul Gandhi's presence. He was billed as the next president of the party. But when Mr. Gandhi came to deliver his speech, the scene was completely changed. He said in his speech, "I don't want any post of the party. I want to work for the poor people, I want to learn and this is the time of learning." Everybody was astonished and some shed tears hearing his speech. This is called like mother, like son. What generosity! What a sacrifice! Can we imagine such a scenario in the context of our country?

Yes, Mr. Rahul has proved himself to be a real patriot. If we look at our political leaders, what do we see? Everybody knows very well about them. So we do not have to repeat the facts about the politicians. But the question is can we follow the example set by Mr. Rahul Gandhi?

Mustafa Iqbal Shahadat, University of Dhaka

he can study peacefully. Again, a nuclear family is free from noise and disturbance. So, one feels very happy there.

Dibakar Ghose
IUC

Save RU from violence

After the killing of Dr M Yunus, another bestial murder took place on our campus, our teacher, noted educationist and founding father of the geology & mining dept. at RU, Dr S Taher Ahmed is no more with us. He was a gentleman. He was our teacher, friend and father. His death traumatised us and frightened other teachers and guardians. It is more horrifying than the murder itself that a colleague and a student leader (both are students of S. Taher) are alleged to be involved in the crime.

Both teachers and students are responsible for the situation prevailing in the educational arena. Sessions jams have become a regular phenomenon, and bloody clashes among followers of different parties are taking place regularly.

We have to work together to bring back peace and discipline to the campus.

S M Sami, Dhaka



The butcher

Slobodan Milosevic, former President of Yugoslavia, who was standing trial in The Hague for war crimes-- better known as 'Butcher of the Balkans' is dead. He was the first sitting leader to be indicted by UN tribunal.

I am observing with curiosity that the man charged with genocide, who was responsible for the deaths of over 150,000 and uprooting of millions from their homes and against whom there were no less than 66 charges, is yet stated to have been standing trial, (in the words of journalists) on "alleged war crimes" and the UN within hours of his death has come out with a demand for investigation into his death, in spite of the fact that most news releases declared him to have been dead because of heart failure.

In spite of the Butcher being responsible for murdering hundreds of thousands and making millions leave their country, he could not have been tried for the crime against humanity till his death and yet international attorneys like Anthony D'Amato from the US dare declare that he (Milosevic) was not offered justice, but no one stood like this for

President Saddam Hossain of Iraq (his case can easily be compared with that of the late Yugoslav president). Saddam has been going through trial by the marauding army of the occupying forces who have been already charged by the saner majority of the world community for massacre of a nation and devastation of an ancient civilisation on the false pretext of WMD which never existed.

A F Rahman
On e-mail

Police and bribe

This is in response to the letter written by Shegufa Yasmin (February 1, 2006) in your daily. I do humbly request you not to blame only the police sergeants for taking bribe. Don't you see the other government officials who take bribe? Show me one such office, where they do not take bribe. This is a chronic malady. And remember a police sergeant has to pay a huge amount of money to get his job (that is what we are told). You should also know, if reports are anything to go by, that for every good posting (inside or outside DMP), they have to pay a good amount of money to the bosses! It is no secret these days.

A citizen
Lalbagh, Dhaka

Ineffective parliament

In a parliamentary form of democracy, the parliament plays an important role where ruling and opposition party lawmakers take part in the proceedings, discussing and formulating important policies. Like many other democratic countries we also have a parliament (Jatiya Sangsad), but it is ineffective.

Our political parties should work together to put an end to this situation.

Md. Zonaed Emran
University of Dhaka

Migration

I was reading 'Relations With UK', and 'Young Bangladeshis: The soldiers of fortune'. Both write-ups have some common points.

Flow of migrants in and out from any part of the world is a natural phenomenon. In the anthropological mapping of Bangladesh, it can be seen that migrating people from the Middle East, Europe (from Portugal...), Far East, especially from China and Mongolia formed the Bangladeshi nation. In the recent past, due to the garments industry, people from the neighbouring countries have been migrating to Bangladesh for jobs. There are other stories as well.

However, in the perspective of globalisation I would say that Bangladesh is still far behind the global migration scale.

We have to be innovative to make the most out of the prevailing situation.

Abdullah Al Mahmud, UK

Wrong window?

The complete story of publishing cartoons of the Prophet (pbuh) was disconcerting for Muslims. Many can criticise or defend the objections of Muslims.

The United States and EU are speaking with a bit of pride of power, but even that power can lose its supply because of incorrect political calculations. They must take steps considering that if they try to sneak out of the wrong window they can get a stone as their holiday gift.

Seeing and reading the reports of violence may heat up the concern of someone who thinks deeply about politics. This may be the introduction of a new chapter, describing events that changed the east from west, and west from east. The Danes have done something, which could only trigger violence.

Time will prove how much political skill the Arabs have. Are they planning for something? If not, that is good news indeed. But if "yes," may God protect the world. The person who thought that the protests in Beirut or Tehran were temporary may be given the title "Fool of the year".

The westerners silently dominate some parts of Arab world. Afghanistan got busted after 9/11, then former Iraqi President got the chance to act in a serial which can be called, "Trial or Denial," showing Saddam arguing with the jury. The Americans proved why they are the best in making movies, because they have the finest people for producing such things.

Tahsin Hyder
Dhanmondi, Dhaka