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AMIRUL RAJIV

Dhaka University incident

I was shocked to see the unfortunate clash on DU campus. Ultimately, the protests from the students and teachers sparked a clash between the police and the students and hence the campus turned into a battlefield.

But I must say that those responsible for the whole thing must be reprimanded for their unnecessary attack on the students.

Wasif Wahed
Old DOHS, Dhaka

The most effective way of checking the misuse of power is to ensure that firm action is taken whenever there is an infraction. Any successful

democracy is founded on the legal and civilian control.

Gopal Sengupta
Canada

The "one voice" of thousands of DU students has reminded us that this university is the centre point of all historic events against injustice from the Language Movement in 1952 to fall of dictatorship in 1990.

As it had happened inside Dhaka University, it triggered protests and demonstrations, which have made headlines in all print and electronic media. There are many such incidents happening across the country. People appreciate the CTG for

its strong stand against political power abusers. The CTG will lose public support if it fails to handle this sensitive issue efficiently.

Faruk Ahmed
On e-mail

Being a former student of the country's premier university and an eyewitness to Tuesday's barbaric and heinous police action on the students of Dhaka University, I have been completely dumbfounded. Who are the victims of this untoward incident? Undoubtedly, the general students pursuing higher education with the hard-earned money of their guard-

ians.

Without any hesitation I would like to say that those responsible for the incident should be identified and given exemplary punishment. Some vested groups always lie in ambush to take advantage of such situations, but the students pay a high price.

I urge the venerable chief adviser of the caretaker government to take the initiative to bring back normalcy on the campus.

Bazlur Rahman
Fellow of London School of Business, UK

Monsoon misery

Natural disaster like floods are a common phenomenon in Bangladesh for its physical location. The rainy season comes with the omen of deluge to create unbearable sufferings for the people.

Every year during this period one fifth of Bangladesh is, by and large, inundated. The miseries of the deluge-affected people know no bounds.

This year is no exception. We have already noticed the typical flood pattern..... many parts of the country have been submerged, thousands of people have been marooned, rendered homeless and helpless, and hundreds of people lost their valuable lives.

As yet, people of the flood-affected areas are living in a pitiful situation. Thousands of people are living under the open sky. Water-borne diseases have broken out at an alarming rate due to scarcity of pure drinking water. Many people are starving to death.

Though the government has taken timely measures and started distribution of relief materials, it is too inadequate to meet the needs of the flood victims.

The government should strengthen its relief operation and take immediate steps to rehabilitate the flood victims.

Besides the government, people from all walks of life should come forward and extend their helping hand to the distressed people.

Md. Faisal
Shah Amanath Housing Society
Sholokbahar, Chittagong

Comments

Fahad Nazer's article, "Interrupting a history of tolerance III" on August 9 was nothing short of an irritating outburst.

The Vatican reflects Catholicism in the structures of its many churches, cathedrals and chapels; Saudi Arabia tries to maintain an Islamic reflection by maintaining strict Islamic laws.

Sumaiyah Afrin
UODA

Wealth statement

The Anti Corruption Commission chairman said that the advisers should submit their wealth statement- the ACC cannot issue letter to them for submitting wealth statement. There is a possibility of misunderstanding between the ACC and

the government. I think it is their (advisers') own responsibility to submit their wealth statement.

They should consider the issue in all seriousness.

Nurnobe
Chittagong University

Thalassemia drugs

Thalassemia is a blood disorder when the patients regularly need blood transfusions. Regular blood transfusion leads to accumulation of iron in the body which is toxic and has to be removed. Drugs to remove the iron have never been regularly available in our country.

Desferal, an injectable form, was available in a very limited number of shops and used to be sold for Taka 50 three years back. Recently, it was sold for Tk 200 but suddenly it is not available in the market. Another drug, Kelfer, from India was imported by the Thalassemia Foundation but is also not available for the last fifteen days. These drugs are very essential for these patients to remain alive and have to be regularly taken. In Dhaka Shishu Hospital, parents of thalassaemic children are facing a critical situation for non availability of these drugs.

The government should make these drugs available at a subsidised rate. It may be mentioned here that thalassaemic patients need these drugs throughout their lives.

Prof. Waqar A Khan
President Dhaka Shishu Hospital
Thalassemia Centre

Patriotism vs. vandalism

The scenes of vandalism to protest against an isolated incident at DU, is not an example of unity for a cause. It is a stark example of unity for violence and destruction.

We the people of Bangladesh should be ashamed of ourselves. The jubilant faces of the protestors are an indication of their happiness in being able to come to the streets after a long break. Only students cannot possibly organise such widespread demonstrations. It certainly has the hands of power hungry politically motivated people whose activities are now curbed. They are looking for an opportunity

to create problems for the present CTG. No government can possibly be anywhere near 100% performance in all its steps/policies, but certainly this is not a way to show disapproval.

Is it possible for a patriotic citizen to cause/support intentional damage of public transport, private vehicles and even traffic lights (just a sign of their desperation!)? I personally feel that we the people of Bangladesh lack patriotism. Patriotism only lies in the cinema halls where on hearing the national anthem, people very reluctantly stand up. From the very childhood our parents and teachers together with the media have to play a role to imbibe patriotism in us. If we had a little bit of patriotism in us, we could not have gone on the rampage like this.

What image of Bangladesh do these pictures portray to other nations? Do we want ourselves labelled as an uneducated, uncivilised, emotionally driven, sadistic nation? When will we be able to go for nation building, rather than anarchy building strategy?

An ashamed citizen.
Shahin Hossain
Circuit House Road
Dhaka

The incident that took place on the Dhaka University campus is indeed regrettable. However, what is surprising is that the newspapers have reported these incidents in a very biased manner. While it's true that the army and the police instigated the violence and mishandled the situation, it is also true that the actions of the students are equally unacceptable and unethical. Violent protests whereby innocent civilians and their businesses are hurt do not represent democratic practices. Your paper has failed to criticise such actions and this is very disappointing indeed. The paper is also not critical of the strike that has been called at different educational institutes. It seems the media is naturally inclined to accept this evil and self-destructive practice as the ethical norm. We should not forget that it is due to such violent protests that our country is consistently rated as a high risk country not suitable for travel, tourism or business - all

contributors to our economic quandary. Yet the media is unable to speak out against such atrocities. Your editorial on Tuesday was full of advice to the present government on how to better themselves in dealing with the general public but not once did it mention that the student bodies also need to behave lawfully and they have an equal responsibility in protecting people's rights.

While there are many things to be criticised about the caretaker government, they have more positives than our 'democratic' governments. Yet you open the daily newspapers and all you see is criticism of the current government.

Providing constructive feedback is of course very important but one must also remember to provide encouragement something the country's media seems incapable of.

The free press is supposed to be the conscience of the nation and if this is what our conscience has become, then there is very little hope for us.

Tarique Haque, On e-mail

Students?

These acts are nothing but one form of terrorism. These so called students are insane. Our teachers and the political leaders created these monsters and they are so big and powerful that they can do any harm.

What the hell these people want anyway? They don't have the simple clue about life ahead and for sure they have no sense of self-respect. I denounce these kinds of student movements. No one has the right to destroy public property or set cars on fire just because he is angry. They ought to do something better for themselves and for the nation.

Nafeed Imran Ahmed
On e-mail