

Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Freedom of expression

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right in a free and democratic society. But where do we draw the line? Suppose I am traveling in a plane and the person sitting next to me has been behaving in a strange way and honestly I hate this kind of awkward behavior. Do I bluntly tell him I hate him for his way of behaving? Or very politely request him to consider my presence next to him? We are all humans and sometimes we do not like a certain person or a group of persons, do we approach them and tell them that we hate them? A racist or an ethnic remark or joke is considered a criminal act in all civilised societies.

Society can accept honest remarks from an innocent child if he says that he does not like a certain individual. This is acceptable from a child because they did not develop a sense of sensitivity and do not mean to hurt people, but this is not acceptable in case of an adult.

English as 2nd state language

In our country, even educated people face difficulty with English. Whereas, neighbouring countries like India and Sri Lanka are doing

better in this area.

We all know, for reasons like job, business and other economic activities, our people now have to compete in the world market and even, to some extent, in local market with the people from other countries. Our deficiency in English obstructs our competitiveness in those fields.

Bengali is our only state language. If English is declared as second state language for the sake of upgrading our competitiveness in the future world, there will be no harm to our mother tongue.

May the academicians, intellectuals and the authorities concerned please consider this proposal?

Imtiaz
Uttara, Dhaka

Unsolicited 'advice'

As usual the visiting dignitary from a western country finding no other issues "advised" the government to open outdoor politics without realising the significance and effect of any such move. While making the 'advice' he appears to have totally ignored the historical steps taken by the administration towards holding of a meaningful election for peaceful transfer of power to an elected government. He seems to be totally oblivious of the fact that the present administration is at the helm of affairs for a

mission with popular support to get rid of a situation created by the corrupt and power hungry politicians who made a mess of the country in every aspect. I do not understand what amusement these western countries (particularly two) including a few of their paper organisations called 'European Union' get by showering unnecessary and unsolicited advice on us as to how to run the government, how to do politics, how to behave with the corrupt and the criminals etc. We are no longer in a position to listen to the so called 'advice from the West and it is, therefore, high time for them to stop this evil practice.

May I have the privilege of quoting the under noted extract from the famous book "Wisdom of Mankind" written by Dr. Habib Siddiqui, Bangladeshi internationally known expert in Six Sigma methodology now based in Los Angeles.

"The West does not have a conscience, it never had. Hypocrisy had been her trademark. Truly, if hypocrisy is an art, the West has mastered it. As Malcolm X would have said: There is no system more corrupt and more hypocritical than a system that represents itself as the example of freedom, the example of democracy, the example of fraternity and can go all over this earth telling other people how to strengthen their houses, how to

manage their affairs, while their own minorities non Christians, are denied the basic human rights including democratic rights and are unprotected and routinely discriminated upon."

Anyone having a minimum sense of humanity would wonder what these western countries have been doing by invading the middle eastern countries recently on the false pretext of war on 'terror' by inflicting untold sufferings to the inhabitants unprecedented in the history of mankind; only to serve their political, military and economic lusts. Therefore, the early they shun their hypocrisy, better for the world.

Mohammad Ataul Hoque

One-mail

Why this anomaly?

We the students of the medicine faculty of Dhaka University are in trouble. DU is closed till 28th Oct.07. But the faculty of medicine is holding examinations in different medical colleges such as, Dhaka Medical College, Mymensingh Medical College on behalf of the University of Dhaka. Due to this lack of coordination we are suffering a lot.

Ho could this happen?

Laila Shamsul
Rowshan Alom
Postgraduate student
Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka

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