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Decimate student politics

No doubt, student politics is a nuisance for us at present. It is a threat to the smooth progress of Bangladesh. Most of the educational institutions of Bangladesh are vulnerable to this epidemic. The recent decision of our PM Sheikh Hasina to jettison the responsibility of overseeing BCL has perplexed all of us. By quitting the post of the organizational head of the BCL, she has tried to eschew the liability. Actually, she should be more progressive and forward-looking in taking decisions about student politics. We know about the bright credentials of student politics and the people of Bangladesh are thankful for its contribution to the Language Movement and the Liberation War. I was proud of being a resident student of Zahurul Huq Hall of DU, as this hall produced many student leaders like ASM Abdur Rab and Tofael Ahmed. We know that bright students do not join politics any more. Some hoologans use the banner of student politics, that is a win-win situation for both these so-called student leaders and the political parties. Political leaders use these student activists for their personal gains. I am not against student politics. But student politics must be for the students, by the students and of the students. The existing student politics is hindering the normal functioning of the educational institutions. The general students are the victims of this social malady. So, I urge our Honourable PM to rethink about student politics. Please ban student politics by promulgating new laws for the greater benefit of the nation. You know what BCL activists are doing across the country. Are they enhancing the party image? Do they have any contribution to your landslide

victory? Will they ensure your next triumph? Do you think that they are really students? They may be, but they are diseased and perverted.

So, please reform student politics.
Molla Mohammad Shaheen
Lecturer, Dept. of English
Leading University, Sylhet

Khaleda's house

I am not sure what is playing in the minds of the opposition leaders regarding the cantonment house. The role of the party is more like an adventure of "Bhumi Dossu". Why they are eager to hit up the street when two other most legitimate and civilized options are opened for the leader to choose from—the moral and the legal step. I doubt there is any sensible person in the BNP or its Think Tank to advise the leader to take a moral stand and leave the place to its rightful owner. We know that it is the most difficult decision for her to take. The simple reason is that the BNP is born to oppose the AL as a political power and would go to any length to undermine their services to the nation. Our political history is very clear in this respect.

The second best option is to seek protection of the law. I am not sure whether the BNP leaders are sure that they would win the legal battle. Even if they win, this will set a new political precedence in the country, and perhaps encourage the BNP to fight everything on the street and achieve their goal which they failed to achieve in the general election. Before forcing any political solution on the street, please be sure that the people and the power brokers are behind the BNP, otherwise, the BNP might be further bifurcated with less costs and efforts.

The moral course of action is the best. We urge upon the

opposition leader to show her political leadership and statesmanship and vacate the house without destroying our peace and democracy. The national interest must precede any personal or family emotion. The media can perhaps help her out to take a rational decision rather than going for confrontation on the street or in the court.

Areader
One-mail

Cyclone Bijli

It was a stroke of genius naming the latest cyclone Bijli. Whoever named it so, deserves a medal because approaching the shores of Bangladesh it fizzled out, bringing cooling breezes to the despairing citizens vigorously waving hand fans and much-needed rain for the parched fields. BIJLI was even a boon for boro because now REB's anaemic bijli would not be required for a few weeks.

I propose that from now on each and every cyclone formed in the Bay of Bengal be named similarly, such as: AMPERE, CURRENT, ELECTRIC, AMPERAGE, VOLTAGE, POWER, BIDDYUTH, ETC.

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon
Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Blackout?

For a couple of days now, people of Mirpur area, especially East Monipur and West Senpara, have been facing uninterrupted power outage. Every night the blackout, with a short introduction at about 6.30pm or onwards, starts occurring and then continues to happen at an interval of every three to two hours. Students are badly affected by such power failures.

Md. Shahadat Hossain
East Monipur
Mirpur 2, Dhaka

Education or business?

With much unease at heart I begin to retell how the unauthorized institutions are playing havoc with our education system and the education pursuers in the country in general, and in Chittagong city in particular.

In the past, we noticed a huge number of unauthorized institutions selling certificates, and doing false counselling to the students seeking admission in foreign schools and colleges. And the wrong doers took away money from many students.

Such unholy businesses must come to an end.
Rafiqul Islam Rime
Agrabad, Chittagong

Wrong priorities!

I have just read a DS report on the formation of three sub-committees by the government to investigate all the 'misdeeds' of the former speaker, Jamiruddin Sircar. Do we really need three sub-committees for that? The new AL-led government seems to have gone mad about forming panels, committees and sub-committees, allegedly, to investigate all the misdeeds that took place under the previous government. My personal opinion on this is that, all these investigations by the newly elected government are absolutely pointless. After wasting a lot of money and time, all these committees and probe-bodies are going to let us what we already know: the BNP-led government plundered our country like never before in our history. Unfortunately, and predictably, Khaleda Zia will deny everything and instead accuse the government of launching a smear campaign against the BNP!

That is why I think the government should concentrate more on our future and not become obsessive with the past. Our judiciary and the ACC are still not fully independent. Why not? Our media still works under fear. Our varsities and colleges are closed, thanks to student politics. Our police force needs investment and reform. These are the areas where we need to concentrate. And what about internal party reform? The AL still hasn't done any serious reform. So far we have only seen window dressing by the AL and the BNP.
Azad Miah
Oldham
UK

Erratic rainfall

As the world is getting warmer, the pattern of rainfall is likely to change. It is believed that some of the areas of the globe will become arid owing to a decline in precipitation. On the contrary, some other zones will become wetter because of more rainfall. Simply put, the earth is likely to face erratic weather patterns -- a fallout of global warming.

It is believed that the Akkadian civilization -- which flourished some 4500 years ago -- collapsed not because of political turmoil but because of climate change. In our present day world people of some parts are suffering as a result of change in weather pattern. Darfur conflict, bloody as it has been, is said to be caused by a scramble for fresh water.

As our country is a low-lying delta, it is tagged as a frontier zone of climate change. Since most of the people of this land depend on agriculture in one way or the other, any significant change in rainfall may spell disaster in this alluvial plains.
Zabed Wali
Pahartali, Chittagong

True Muslims

The word "Muslim" refers a person who submits his will to the Almighty Allah, follows the commandments given in the glorious Quran, and runs on the path shown by our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). But presently the meaning of Muslim has been altered. Our Creator has certainly forbidden all the evil acts [2:60] "...and do no evil nor mischief on the (face of the) earth". Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) showed the art of living through his prophetic teachings. But some criminals are committing malevolent acts, using the name of Muslims and Islam.

I wonder whether I should call them Muslims, as the meaning does not go with them, as their will is not submitted to the Almighty.
Tawfiqur Rahman
Student
University of Development
Alternative

Opinion poll

Congratulations for conducting the survey, which demonstrates The Daily Star's commitment to truth and facts "without any fear or favour."

Although this type of surveys is very common in the developed world, it is a new but extremely laudable initiative in case of Bangladesh.

I have gone through the survey findings with great interest. These are important reflections of vox populi, which all of us, and especially our leaders, must take very seriously.

Only one issue disheartened me slightly, and that too in the very beginning. After the correct (as per the data) information that the "Govt ranks high on price control, low on BCL in 100-day show", you have mentioned "Fertiliser supply, BDR handling too get high points". I beg to disagree on the BDR issue, because the success graph shows only 8% of the respondents mentioning BDR handling, whereas the weakness graph shows 16% mentioning BDR violence. Although there is a difference between "handling BDR violence" and "BDR violence", most would treat these as the same issue (since there is some ambiguity, which should have been clarified). In that case, BDR handling, as per the data, didn't actually get high points.

As a member of ESOMAR, I would like to draw your attention to point 8 of the Key Fundamentals of the ICC/ESOMAR Code, which states "Market researchers shall ensure that projects and activities are designed, carried out, reported and documented accurately, transparently and objectively."

Moreover, as per Article II (a), "When reporting on the results of a market research project, researchers shall make a clear distinction between the findings, the researchers' interpretation of these findings, and any recommendations based on them."

I feel that the above two requirements have not been fulfilled while presenting and interpreting the BDR issue data.

Dr. Nasir Uddin Khan
Uttara, Dhaka

Cultural heritage

Pahela Baishakh is a cultural expression of the Bengalis and an inseparable part of our own culture and heritage. It is the most colourful and joyous festival of the year. Thousands of people from all walks of life came out on the streets wearing our traditional dresses to celebrate the day. We welcome the New Year with "Esho hey baishakh Esho, Esho" echoing throughout the country. Pahela Baishakh has immense significance in the life of all Bengalis. But the point that is above all other things is our language. Some people are mixing Bangla with English in conversation. They can't speak properly either in Bangla or English.

So, I ardently appeal that we may learn English but we should not forget our language for which our valiant martyrs sacrificed their lives. We can develop our culture through the language.
AKM Anisul Haque
Department of English
Metropolitan University
Sylhet

Grameen's initiative

This refers to your news item "Yunus briefs Hillary about Grameen healthcare plans" (DS, 17th April 2009) in which Prof. Yunus discussed with Mrs. Clinton the proposed creation of a Grameen Medical College and teaching hospital as joint venture collaboration with a leading school of medicine of a premier US university.

I would draw Prof. Yunus' attention in particular to consider establishing a few top class-nursing schools in Bangladesh, instead of medical colleges with co-operation from the US and Scandinavian countries. It is not doctors that Bangladesh needs desperately, but good nurses, the backbone of any excellent healthcare system. Scandinavian nurses are the best in the world and very much demanded even in the USA. Good nurses, indeed, are

Trial of war criminals



Reading Syed Mohammad Ali's letter entitled "Stories of war criminals" published (April 10, 2009) in The Star Magazine, I cannot but thank him for his observations that will help the authorities conduct the trial in an appropriate way. It is really unpleasant to think that the war criminals will not be punished for the crimes they committed. Without their trial, the sacrifice of martyrs, who laid down their lives for liberating people from slavery of Pakistan, will not be respected, even not upheld.

So it is a national demand. But I feel compelled to say that the government is driving everything through the

political channels, even though they have done some admirable jobs.

Now, I also want to say that many freedom fighters are being called "Razakars" because of their involvement with the Jamaat-e-Islami and many Razakars are being called "freedom fighters" for their involvement with the Awami League. Nevertheless, people want to see the trial of war criminals.

I, therefore, hope the government will keep the liberation war above politics.

Mostafa Al Mahmud (Mamun)
Humanities Group
Dhaka College, Dhaka

in great demand worldwide and if Bangladesh can produce world-class nurses, both male and female, it can supply them throughout the world including Scandinavia where nurses are in short supply. Nursing is an honourable profession and a great number of men are joining in this vocation in all developed countries. The bright boys and girls in Sweden climb up in the profession by obtaining Ph.D. in nursing. Bangladesh's healthcare system can be improved greatly by enhancing the quality of the nurses and nurses from Bangladesh can be our healthcare ambassadors in countries where they are needed greatly.

I would request Prof. Yunus to give a serious thought to my proposal.
Tayeb Husain
Lund, Sweden

Good work

Referring to the letter "A good novel" by Md. Mostafa Zaman, on the 13th April, I want to add a few more words. I have also read the novel "After the

road accident". Each and every line created an echo in my heart.

Writer Akash Pradip has done an excellent job. Through this book, he tried to raise social awareness. The novel is extremely practical. Based upon this novel, a nice movie too can be made. To realise the tragedy of an accident and its aftermath, one must read this novel. Unfortunately, the novel did not get any media coverage.

I am a regular reader of The Daily Star, my favourite newspaper. In "Book Review", I found the names of famous books. But I never found anything about the book, "After the road accident". Is it only because the book is not published by any famous publisher? Though the book has some printing mistakes, yet the book is unique. The media always gives much priority to the famous writers. If these continue how would the new writers get recognition? Moreover, publishers often demand a large amount of money. Is it possible to fulfil such demand?

I want Akash Pradip to write more and more. But if he does not get any response, then naturally he too will lose interest. It is my request to the media to give due coverage to the new writers.
Saiful Islam
Laksam
Comilla

Stimulus package

Last Sunday the government announced a stimulus package of Taka 3,424 crore to fight global economic recession. The package is 43% for agriculture, power 18%, agricultural loan (recapitalisation) 15%, exports 13% and for social security (food) 11%.

They don't give anything for garments. This stimulus package has two parts. The first part is for the present fiscal year and the second one is for the year of 2009-10. Many economists & intellectuals welcomed this package. We also welcome it.

But the RMG sector is neglected!
Mahfuzur Rahman Manik
IER, University of Dhaka

Is it real democracy?

I think it's high time that people like us start questioning whether democracy really exists in this country. Lets not go to what's happening outside because we have a lot to do in our homes. If we

don't look at the mirror now to see how disgusting we have started to look, then we probably will never realize the point.

Many times I have wondered why we don't develop, though we have excellent manpower, intelligence, skills and ample determination to move forward. But there is a negative force that holds us back. Our past has been a boon to us and earned respect from people all over the world. But 50 years from now, people of this great nation will not find the same reason to be proud of their glorious past. Things are changing, they are bound to. Resources are becoming scarce. We have to make our way through this. Everyone else is making their way, why can't we?

I want to conclude my letter by asking a simple question. Are there no men in Bangladesh to lead the country?
Sk. Golam Raihan
MBBS student
Bangladesh Medical College



JU VC's remarks

Congratulations for the editorial dated 18.04.09 regarding JU VC's rash remarks blaming intruders for the recent spate of violence on the JU campus.

The VC, being the highest official of the university and guardian of the institution, has failed to do justice to his position.
Md. Delwar Hossain
East Rampura
Dhaka

Two legendary women

On 6th April we observed the birthday of Suchitra Sen. On 19th June we will observe the birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi. Both these women are extremely popular. Their name and fame did not remain confined within the political boundaries of their respective countries.

Both of them have many things in common in spite of their different backgrounds. Since 1978, Suchitra Sen has begun her isolated life. Suu Kyi remained detached from the general public from 1990. Both of them are highly religious minded. One has devoted her time to Ram Krishna Mission. The other is a staunch Theravada Buddhist.

Suchitra's isolated life made her fans more curious

about her. But the house arrest of Suu Kyi has broken the hearts of millions of her well wishers. What is the fault of Suu Kyi? She was a supporter of democracy and launched a non-violent struggle. Was this her fault?

Perhaps, they will never come in front of the general people. And the world too will never forget them. Their popularity will probably go on increasing...
Akash Pradip
Lecturer and writer
BHPI, CRP
Savar, Dhaka

Politicians Vs ACC

It is disgusting to note that since the present government took over, a group of MPs from both the opposition and treasury bench are launching a campaign against the Anti Corruption Commission and its chairman. It is understandable why these MPs are against the ACC.

These people had been thinking that corrupt politicians are above the law and there is nobody in the world to challenge them. But the myth was exploded by ACC operations during the two-year rule of the caretaker government. Many of the corrupt politicians were elected to the 9th parliament and arted hatching conspiracy against the ACC. The

result is the resignation of the ACC boss a man respected by all but cursed by the corrupt people.

Md. Qamrul Islam
Banani Para
Sunamganj

Rehabilitate widows of Feb. 25

The carnage at BDR headquarters undoubtedly was a shameful and heinous incident. The massacre caused massive losses to the country and tarnished its image.

Proper investigation into the incident should be carried out according to the law for awarding exemplary punishment to the culprits, so that none dares commit such acts in the future.

As a woman, I know the agony of losing husbands, fathers and dear ones. The carnage at BDR headquarters has left many widows and orphans. This is really a pitiable situation which should be addressed immediately.

Hence, I call on the government to extend assistance to the affected family members of the army officers killed in Pilkhana incident for their proper rehabilitation.
Yasmin Sultana Nelly
President, Shikha O Samaj
Kallian Foundation
Motijheel CA, Dhaka

