Prove the worth of our independence

Chowdhury Asif Mahmud-Bin-Harun

NOW that we have lived a past with the pride of calling ourselves Bangladeshi, it is still hard for me to have it the same way if I just take a look around and find ourselves lingering far away from fulfilling the dreams of our ancestors who believed that we would rather be a much better nation with the highest security and the best facilities if we gain independence. Yes, today we are independent, but only from another nation. Not from poverty or insecurity which stood out to be this country's biggest challenge to overcome. As a university student I would like to see an all in all change. As in, I would like to have a country with a better security, social environment and a country with the highest facilities for its people. My country will not have any political brawl rather there would be cooperation among the political parties and general people to overcome the bigger challenges to ensure us a better tomorrow. This country would sing in a composed melody of joy and success. For me, in the future I would really love to see no load shedding or traffic jams in particular. And keeping a *'Digital Nation'* in the mind, the two most important changes which are required I believe is the technology and the education system. Let the children of this country get familiar with the latest technology from the very beginning of their education. Let all the poor and the illiterate people get to know how to use computers and surf Internet. Winds of change have started to blow! Now is the time to get on with it! Let it be me, you and all the people around us. Know that, it is us who represents the republic of Bangladesh. Then let it be us, to change this country and prove the worth of our independence.

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Photo: Anisuzzaman Russell

Early Marriage

Atanu Dev



Photo: Md Akhlas Uddin

WHEN I heard about Rabia's death, I cannot explain how shocking the news was for me. She was my neighbour and a childhood friend but she came from a poor family and got married a year ago at the age of 16. She died because of early pregnancy. And the horrifying news was, Mostafa a 14 year old boy who lived in the nearby district town of Kishoregong got married with a girl of his age with the approval of the society. However, on one side, many social organisations with the support of electronic and print media supporting their movement against early marriage, at the same time in a dark corner of our society such evil practices are going on. In the village of Karmuli in Kishoregonj three early marriages were held within a week. Even though the social leaders are aware of the adverse effects of early marriage, no action has been taken to change this. In these circumstances they have become mere spectators. A recent survey said that, 66 percent of the total marriages in a year is due to early marriages in our country. Early marriages are occurring in our society due to lack of consciousness, ignorance and avoiding responsibility. Early marriage is a curse towards our development. Through this special edition I want to see a change in our society regarding the concept of early marriages.