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Women trafficking

Women and child trafficking is a perennial problem in our country. It is not only a problem for Bangladesh but rather it is a global problem. Poverty, overpopulation, gender-based discrimination, lack of consciousness are the reasons among others behind women and child trafficking in Bangladesh. Uneducated and vulnerable woman and children deprived of financial, legal, social support and opportunities become victims of internal and cross border trafficking.

It has been found that over 1 million women and children have been trafficked out of the country in the last 30 years. A UNICEF report says that approximately 400 women and children in Bangladesh become victims of trafficking each month. Another study reports that approximately 300,000 Bangladeshi children and women between the age of 12 and



30 have been trafficked to India alone in the last 10 years.

Moreover, a non-government source reports that about 200,000 women and children have been trafficked to the Middle East in the last 20 years.

Obviously, it is a matter of grave concern.
Mohammed Jamal Uddin
Dept. of English language and Literature
International Islamic University
Chittagong

Foreigners treated shabbily

I am very shocked at the incident of mugging in Gulshan-2 on 9 March. But it is a very common incident in our country to cheat the foreigners. Should it not be stopped?

Akter Hossain
Department of English
Jagannath University, Dhaka

Good teachers needed

A qualified teacher is crucially important for quality education. Teachers play the most important role in education. Without qualified teachers we cannot think about quality education. In the public universities of Bangladesh we do not have as many qualified teachers as we need. The bad practice of teacher politics in our public universities has worsened this situation day by day.

Appointment of teachers should be impartial and based on merit only.

Kawsar Hossain Jewel
Dept. of Statistics
University of Chittagong

Women's progress

Once there was a time when women were kept in their homes to perform household tasks. They were not allowed to come outside their homes. But now they are engaged in all types of jobs. They are working in factories, schools, banks, universities, armed forces, and so on.

Md. Al-Helal
Department of Fisheries
HSTU, Dinajpur

Parliament overheating

National Parliament House is the heart of a country, particularly for a democratic one like Bangladesh. It is expected to be a quiet and disciplined place because the destiny of the people and the country depends on the decisions and discussions made here. But it is a matter of profound regret and shame that the parliamentarians have made this place no better than a 'Fish Market'.

Sometimes it seems that a 'Fish Market' is far better than this place! This is really shameful for us as a nation. The MPs, whom the general people chose to speak for them, use vulgar, nasty and uncontrolled words as if they are fighting with their

enemies in a battlefield! This has been so common a matter that now we see it almost in every session of parliament.

We want lively discussions, constructive criticism in parliament. However, the veteran politicians and leaders of the respective parties should take the responsibility to prevent their MPs from talking so aggressively. On the other hand, the speaker must be strict and stern in his words and should give punishment to the violators of discipline in parliament.

Therefore, it is high time for the MPs to go by parliamentary norms.
Mohammad Zia-ul-Haque
Golichipa para, North
Halisahar
Chittagong

Raucous JS sessions

The speaker of the Bangladesh parliament believes that the leaders of the treasury bench and the opposition should play an effective role in maintaining order in the parliament which plunged into pandemonium last week due to the unruly behaviour of some lawmakers from both the government and the opposition. "If the top leaders are active to this end, I strongly believe that parliament will be more functional and dynamic, and will run smoothly," he added. During the nearly hour-long interview at his parliament office, Mr Hamid touched upon issues ranging from parliamentary affairs, code of conduct for the lawmakers, political culture, parliamentary debates and so on.

The Speaker slammed the unruly behaviour of certain lawmakers in parliament during the winter session of the house amidst uproar over the former presidents' issues and requested MPs to make an honest introspection about the disturbing trend in the functioning of the house. It is disturbing to note that a thinking is growing among certain sections in the house that the house should be paralysed in order to make a political point.

The Speaker's observations are excellent as he mentioned that both the leaders can play a big role in maintaining order in parliament. It is their responsibility to demonstrate how lawmakers should behave in the House.

The Speaker had earlier come down heavily on the

lawmakers for hurling invectives.

In this session, the house also lost many hours due to interruptions and forced adjournments. The house is the symbol of the dreams of over 150 millions people of this country reminding the MPs of the solemn oath they had taken that they would faithfully discharge their duties. This is a tragic development which can emasculate this house and render the democratic process ineffective and irrelevant.

Referring to the chaos in the house over ex presidents' issues, MPs must realize that ours is a democratic society which, we are sure, can find solutions to the most intractable problems. The maturity and sagacity found in the democratic political forces should help them discover rational approaches to solving this problem. We also express our hope that such approaches and attitudes will re-emerge in the coming days and the democratic spirit of inclusiveness will reassert itself in the country.

Gopal Sengupta
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Results of 28th BCS

BCS is a very competitive exam for the participants and also a very important national issue as the officers selected through this exam play a vital role in national strategy building in future. So, a fair selection of the officers is essential. It is a rigorous exam and also a lengthy process. Almost two or more years are required to get the selected candidates appointed after the date of circulation. This lengthy process brings a question about the fairness of the selection procedure. Only a single paper objective type answer sheet (computer readable) takes more than three months! Then the written exam results another 3-4 months. After the written results are published, a few candidates are selected for viva voce. And it is a matter of great regret that even six months after the viva was held, the results have not been published.

The PSC, a constitutional body, is performing a very important role by selecting the right candidates for the right places. So, we want the PSC to be impartial and highly competent.
Sharmin Sultana
Mirpur-1
Dhaka

Environment

Recently, a news report was published that Bangladesh offered to host a regional summit on environment conservation and carbon emission cut. Bangladesh is the most affected country across the globe by carbon pollution caused by the developed and industrial countries. As well, Dhaka is the most polluted city in the world.

So, it is appropriate that one global summit on environment should take place near Dhaka and thereafter the capital may be shifted to that place.

Saif Tinku
Uttara, Dhaka

National flag

Only a few days ago I went to Chittagong Stadium for watching a cricket match. It was Bangladesh vs. India. I saw that a boy was cleaning his sit with the flag of Bangladesh. I want to say that he used his flag like a brush. I said to him "Do you know what you are doing". He replied, "Yes I am cleaning my sit, what is the problem?"

We should show a better understanding of the issue.

Mohammad Shaikat
SSC examinee
P.H. Amin Academy

Powerful women!

The BSS Dhaka, news report was published in the front page of a local English daily on 10 March. It ranked our Prime Minister as the sixth most powerful women of the world!

Possibly, on the occasion of International Woman's Day some authorities or organisation may have drawn the list of ten most powerful women in the world. It will be interesting to know who are ranked in this list and how many of the Asian top ranking ladies are included in it.

My possible guess is Hillary Clinton, given her official position in the US government, may top the list. Among others, I believe Sonia Gandhi, from Asia may also be in such a list. I cannot think of anyone else.

It will be appreciated if you could please obtain the list and publish it in your pages, one of these days soon!
S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

On research

My attention has been drawn to a news item in The Daily Star (March 11, "Findings of researchers can be used in formulating policies").

According to the report, Professor AKM Nurun Nabi of the University of Dhaka has urged "...formulating policies and devising strategies, and thus giving the researchers due credit" at a programme to mark the "Research Day."

There is no denying what the Professor said, however, the point is the research also needs to be contemporary, innovative and practical given the problem in hand. A professional researcher is also responsible to carry on a worthy research.

Unfortunately, the policies and strategies that are designed and implemented in Bangladesh in most of the cases lack appropriate ground works and researches. That is why those ultimately fail and lose relevancy, and could not bring any benefit for the nation.

Our politicians, bureaucrats and policy makers hardly rely on researches for their works. As a nation, we are lacking in this regard. This is true from the agriculture to the judiciary.

There are no centres of excellence or think tanks on various branches of knowledge, which could guide the nation on which we could rely on. Only the Bangladesh Institute of Development Policy (BIDS) or Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) can't solve the all problems of the nation. There are other issues and areas of work beyond theirs.

In recent times, a few organizations are emerging (mostly initiated by university professors out of their own institutions, or retired bureaucrats and military officers). However, those have their own limitations, sometimes vested interest. Nonetheless, the trend is good.

The primary aim of ideal higher education is to equip one to do analysis, research and writing of a topic or subject matter with innovations and thus contribute to new knowledge. The research findings also need to be disseminated in the form of publication in the relevant journals of other forms of communication as early as possible.

Given the situation in Bangladesh, our higher education system (at the graduated and post-graduate level) is still relying on a faulty structure and practice which wants students to memorize and bring them back in the answer scripts (those who don't go for other means). The skill of students is determined how one is effective in reproducing things without one's own analysis and judgements. That is why those individuals find them helpless in real life situations beyond classes.

Very few disciplines, have comprehensive and effective courses built in their curriculum on enhancing students' analytical and writing skills.

It is high time to think about our education system in Bangladesh which needs through overhauling. It should be practical, innovative, interesting and relevant to our national and global needs.

Uttam Kumar Das
LL.M. Candidate 2010
University of Minnesota
Law School
Minneapolis, USA

Comilla region

The Comilla region was once under ancient Samat and was joined with Tripura State. This district came under the reign of the kings of the Harikela in the ninth century AD. It came under the rule of East India Company in 1765. This district was established as Tripura district in 1790. It was renamed Comilla in 1960. Chandpur and Brahmanbaria subdivisions of this district were transformed into districts in 1984.

Do we know the interesting history of not only this region but also many other places in the country?

Shamal Bhowal
Student
MS in Agronomy
Bangladesh Agricultural
University, Mymensingh

Poor umpiring

Are international umpires really that blind or was it another plan to swindle Bangladesh and make England win? During the second ODI between Bangladesh and England, I believe Bangladesh played a perfect match and outplayed England in every aspect but they were still short because the umpires made terrible and obvious mistakes. Was it deliberate or are they just reckless?

I urge the BCB to inquire about this. I am a big critic of Bangladesh cricket but this time my heart goes out to Shakib Al-Hassan and his team for their valiant effort during the second ODI and if it were up to me, I would declare them the winners. If umpires are out there to ensure that the stronger team wins every time, then they should have declared England the winners before the match even started and stop everyone from wasting their time.

Aminur Rahim
New DOHS, Mohakhali
Dhaka

Technical education

The industrial base of Bangladesh has been expanding in the last two decades. Mentionable development has been achieved in garment, cement, textile, steel, sugar, paper, pharmaceutical, ship breaking, shrimp culture etc. Manpower export has already been proved a positive factor for the economy. In addition to the garment industry, information technology and ship building industry have tremendous potential and are developing fast. To operate the existing industrial ventures; to expand the industrial sector and to export technical manpower abroad Bangladesh needs huge technically educated manpower at diploma and undergraduate levels.

Without proper manpower, no industry can develop. But if we evaluate the scenario of Bangladesh on technical education a poor picture is observed. In different seminars and informal discussions we mostly agree that expansion of technical education is very much needed. Practically, no mentionable achievement is seen in the last four decades after independence. One poly-technique institute in each upazila is very much the need of the time to provide technical education facility to all geographic locations in the country. As Dhaka has developed into a mega city and more than 10 million people live over here, at least 10 poly-technique institutes are required for Dhaka metropolis.

The technically educated manpower could be exported to other countries. Considering all the above factors, the government should give the matter a serious thought.
Mohammad Ashraf Hossain
Bashabo, Dhaka

Uncivilised behaviour

Nowadays govt officers are assaulted by ruling party's student leaders. It happens when govt officers are performing their duties. There is no such example in any other country, not even in African countries.

The government should address the issue.
Hafiz Chandan
Wuhan University
China

Electricity

This is the third time I am composing this letter because every time I tried to relax and compose this letter, power failure occurred. I am pretty much sure that not only me but people of all around the capital city are too much annoyed with the number of times the power failure occurs in a day. This electricity problem is hampering the activities of our daily lives and rather than solving this crisis, our government is busy changing names of institutions. This is the real meaning of Digital Bangladesh? We always had this electricity problem and so far none of the previous governments paid special attention to it.

Our politicians should try to solve the matter, rather than going to parliament to find out weird facts about rival leaders.

Minhaj Ahmed
Uttara, Dhaka



FACEBOOK

Time running out

Who the government is for? Certainly not for the common and poverty ridden people. The government has completed about one and a half year but their activities and performances do not exhibit that they are acting as per their election pledges. In the last election, the present government got the popular mandate for their pledges to the nation which seem to be unattended now. A good number of important projects need to be implemented immediately but the government is not paying any heed to those. There are a series of assurances, commitments, plans and policies, fund allocation for various development works but execution of those development works is being ignored and nobody can say when those works will be complete.

The government must look into the sufferings of the poor people.
Md. Mosharaf Hossain
Chittagong

Let it be pragmatic
Thanks to Allah, at long last the government has given in to the demand of the general mass regarding the clock issue- an issue unnecessarily created by them. The unfortunate part of this drama is the govt was adamant on their decision without caring for people's opinion, so much so that the prime minister herself very strongly declared in the house that her govt would not change their decision and let people who disagree adjust themselves to the new set-up. It sounded so undemocratic and dictatorial!

However, they have finally bent down realising the fruitlessness of the so-called experiment. But again to show off their unilateral authority they have revised half the decision, that too in a blunt manner. While retaining half the decision against the will of the people, they would have followed universal way of adjusting the clock. GMT presently known as UTC is adjusted twice in a year and made effective on last sun day of March and October. Based on this, airlines all over the globe work out their flight schedules known as summer and winter schedule. Most of the countries also follow the same pattern and adjust their clocks. The latest decision of readjusting it on 31 March is in conflict with the above, requiring airlines to manipulate their flight schedules for Bangladesh for three days which is uncalled for, though incidentally 31st October will be in line with clock change.

Probably the decision makers unaware of the universal practice introduced and imposed their own thinking on the people. After all, we are unique in all respects, so we have to have our own way of doing things and set examples like closing the immigration counters at Dhaka airport 40 minutes before scheduled departure of flights causing serious problems for the air travellers, something unheard of in the aviation world.

In a small country like Bangladesh where 90 degree longitude is exactly passing through the middle of the country, it is sheer madness to experiment with such silly ideas and invite uncalled for miseries and confusion for the people.

A problem should be solved in its proper perspective. Shouldn't the air conditioners be banned for the private houses till we have generated enough of energy?
A.B. Mohammed Zakaria
Stanwell, Staines
UK

Banks' recruitment policy

It is quite common to see that banks are contributing to the economy both by accelerating the wheel of economic growth and taking a huge number of talented people as employees who are best of the best in terms of academic qualification. As banks go through rigorous selection test to recruit their employees and offer lucrative salaries, in most cases, banks ask for people who possess extra ordinary academic results and other track record as is shown in the recruitment circular of various banks. In selecting qualified candidates, no doubt, banks are following the right recruitment procedures. However, as a student, what makes me dumbfounded, by observing some recent circulars, is confusing and discriminatory as a means of selecting candidates for written test. In recruitment notice, banks mention that candidates having 4 (out of 5) both in SSC and HSC exams need not apply, creating discrimination between students who appeared in SSC exams in 2001 and 2002 the years when elective subject was not added (and still not added) to the total GPA and the student, who got results after adding elective subject to the final point appeared in the exams afterwards. Even, the candidates who sat for SSC exams in 2001 experienced same discrimination in their HSC exams held in 2003.

As a matter of fact, banks along with some other companies are showing unwillingness to bridge the gap created by the education ministry. And the innocent, but brilliant candidates, especially the ones who passed SSC and HSC in 2001 and 2003 respectively, are the ultimate sufferers.

The education ministry should take the matter into consideration and get it right.
Aabir
MBA Programme
Dhaka University

Trial of war criminals

The trial of war criminals has now become one of the headlines in our newspapers. There are speculations from various corners whether the trial is against a particular political party or against the real war criminals. However, the people of our country are awaiting a trial which will be held after a scrupulous scrutiny, justice and impartial investigation. In this trial, our government should not

misuse the political power or vested interests of some people or group since it may cause defamation, irreparable loss or punishment to some innocent persons or groups. Any injustice may lead to trouble.

The people of our country always show their zero tolerance to oppression, injustice and exploitation.
Mohammad Saifuddin
Dept. of ELL
International Islamic
University Chittagong



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