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Helpless patients



WAHID AHMAD/DRINKNEWS

It is a matter of great regret that even after many news reports in several dailies and telecasting in various satellite channels regarding the ordeals and sufferings of helpless patients in hospitals, especially in city areas, impoverished people are still facing the same misconducts of a group of hospital employees and the influence of brokers hanging and lurking around the hospitals. Most of the government hospitals in city areas have been under the control of a good number of brokers, who are one of the major reasons behind the plight of patients. For instance--a few weeks back a watchman from our building went to a hospital in the city for treatment since he was suffering from TB, liver disease and bronchitis. He went to see some doctors hoping to be treated well in that hospital, but his all hopes had been shattered when he experienced the horrible ordeal on that day. After he had arrived at the hospital when he tried to communicate with the hospital authorities concerned, he was intercepted all the way by a group of brokers and told to wait. He started waiting and found those people who

told him to wait were whispering with each other. A few hours later one man came to him and heard about the diseases from the watchman. Afterwards he (victim) was given the promise by that broker to make the provision to help him get proper treatment. Then it was nothing but just waiting as the poor helpless watchman was under the process of being swindled. At the eleventh hour he had been briefed as to how he (broker) was going to get the treatment done through undergoing a cheap surgery by the very next week on the rooftop under the open sky of that hospital, when the doctor would be available. Listening to the broker exhausted feeble poor watchman came back home with a distraught face at the end of the day. He was sobbing during telling this awful tale of swindlers some days before his death. However, I would earnestly request the authorities concerned to intervene and make things better.

Hasnat AIUB
Banani, Dhaka

Poor performance

As a cricket loving man, unless otherwise busy, I do not miss any international fixture in which Bangladesh is featured. I did not miss the last four games, two Tests in England and two ODIs of Asia Cup in Sri Lanka. I am writing this letter not because Bangladesh lost all last four games, I am writing this letter just to say something to the Bangladesh cricket officials about performance of our players. As a commoner fan, without having much technical knowledge, I noticed the Bangladesh players are as talented as others, but I found in them some serious psychological problems.

I would just mention a few of my observations here. The number one opener of first Indo-Bangla ODI, opened his innings in such a torpedo speed that he made 35 in just 2.2 overs and next he was OUT. He also did the same thing in the 2nd innings of the 2nd Test with England.

Not a single player of Bangladesh team could face the spin attack. We noticed their collapse against England and Sri Lankan spinners in a miserable way. I think the trainers should teach them to stay at the crease and not to rush for runs and throw away their wickets. We do not find commitment in any of them.

About their quality of bowling and fielding, especially their spinning, all our spinners bowl without any variations. They drop the ball every time in the same style and at the same place.

If the opposition batsman keeps his bat at a place where his first ball hit his bat, he does not need to move or turn his bat much for next balls. Every time our spinners will hit his bat and the ball will go at a distance and will bring him 1s and 2s without much effort. Why will he then take extra risk and play shots to lose his wicket? Our players cannot create pressure on the opposition batsmen.

Unless the mindset of our players could not be fixed, they will always promise a "good cricket" but will continue to disappoint us.

Bangladeshis are cricket crazy people, they love cricket, they spend time on cricket and they have talented boys too. The game is being mishandled.

Shafiqul Islam, NY

Redesigning the rickshaw

I am gratified that at last I have got a response and from a lady foreigner at that, to the 69 letters I have written on the

subject over the last 2 years and 9 months. My grateful thanks to Angela Robinson for backing me up and for the many entertaining and informative letters from her that have appeared in DS in the recent past!

Not in the least was her appeal to car-owners some time ago not to use a hosepipe to wash their cars. When nearly 50% of Dhaka's population is deprived of clean drinking water, it is a piteous sight every Friday morning when I walk from Niketon to Gulshan-1 market, to see on the way, dozens of cars being washed with hose-pipes which run free to flood the roads while the Gas Guzzling Monstrosities (GGMs) are being wiped clean or the cleaners just idly gossiping. I berate them endlessly to desist, which has undoubtedly earned me the sobriquet of "that old crack-pot". Could someone calculate how much clean water is thus wasted and all this is to no purpose anyway because minutes after they drive on the un-cleaned roads of Dhaka, the GGMs are coated with dust.

While 'congratulating' motor vehicle owners for the formal inauguration of the Gulistan-Jatrabari Flyover (a lollipop), I would ask them, will this be a panacea for traffic jams in Dhaka? Will I be able to go from Gulshan to Airport/Uttara-Ashulia in less than 30 minutes? How many such flyovers do we actually need? When will these become a reality? Traffic jams and the resultant deafening horns are still very much a part of life, in spite of all the expensive colourful electronic gadgets installed.

I will go on repeating that traffic jams in Dhaka can be a thing of the past if the existing traffic laws are up-dated and rigorously implemented and enforced. But then where will our controlling authorities get the will and the courage to book even a junior minister, MP, bureaucrat or one of the nouveau riche who as we have seen, can upbraid ministers publicly and get away with it.

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

CCC elections

Many political pundits will explain Chittagong election results from different angles. The AL has accepted the defeat gracefully. But they learn anything from this debacle? Will they take little pains to organise the party rank and file? Will they choose cleaner, better and approachable candidates for Dhaka city and other forthcoming elections? MPs and ministers should come down to earth to meet

the people. People will vote for individuals. Younger generation wants to see changes in the behaviour of leadership. The prime minister's sincerity should be reflected in the government. Still there is time. In future we don't want to see return of the corrupt government that the people so overwhelmingly rejected.

M. Sanaul Haq
Uttara, Dhaka

BUET

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the technological study leader of Bangladesh, is enervating its reputation through some of the undermining activities during the past few years. The pioneer university was once again shut down over an amateurish behaviour of its students! The reason behind the scene is too ridiculous to explain and one may be surprised but the truth is truth. It is a pity that BUET was closed several times over such untoward and unwanted incidents.

But isn't there any solution to come out of this tradition? How long will we waste our youth and squander our poor parents' valuable money?

Engr. M. Helal Uddin
Eastern Refinery Limited
North Potenga, Chittagong

Holy Miraj

We are going to observe the Holy Miraj on July 09.

Miraj is the direct proof of 'Tawhid' as well as the expression of 'Shan-e-Resalat'. One's distrust in Miraj clearly means his or her distrust not only in 'Resalat' but also in 'Tawhid'.

Miraj is the staying of our greatest and dearest Nabi and Rasul Hazrat Muhammad (Pbuh) with Allah, the Almighty.

Without realising the significance of Miraj, it is impossible for one to realise 'Kalema'.

Habibur Rashid Ismail
Chittagong

Threat to officials

Recently, one issue made all sensible citizens of the country worried. It is issuance of a direct threat to the government officials by a top political leader belonging to the opposition. Any such direct or indirect threat will not bring any good result for the country and will harm it in the long run.

A government official is an official who is involved in public administration through employment. They are basically the employees of the state, not any party government. The government will be changed after an interval through election, but the officials will remain and work with the future governments, who are the inseparable constituent of the state. They are basically administrative executives and enforce legal rules.

Power is distributed among three institutions namely, the executive, the legislation and the judiciary. The government officials work under all three institutions, which are guided by their service rules. The government officials include both civil and military officials. Like the civil officials, the military officials are also guided by their own service rules and they follow a strict channel of command. They are involved in various development activities in all democratic societies.

The government officials are directly involved in building infrastructure, developing human resources, maintaining law and order and ensuring both internal and external security. They play an important role in socio-economic transformation poverty alleviation, employment generation etc. In market economy, their role has again shifted from socio-economic progress to economic growth. Here they mainly act to facilitate the market. Due to the development of the new concept, the new public management (NPM), they became more market friendly and see the citizens much like customers. Therefore, the role of the government officials is very important for overall development of the country.

For any development work implementation, the initiative of the government officials is a big issue. Any threat to them will certainly curtail their initiative and obviously they will not feel secure to perform their duties.

Ferdous Rahman
Coordinator, Media for Development

Physiotherapy college

At the CRP, Ms. Valerie is trying to give mobility to the paralysed persons with the help of her dedicated physiotherapists. Our health minister himself is an eminent orthopaedic surgeon.

The work of a physiotherapist has to continue, for a month, a year or more. The effectiveness of surgery is complemented, by the dedication of the physiotherapists.

The physiotherapists are presently studying at the several institutes and in some private universities

But what we need now is a high-grade physiotherapy college of international standard, covering all aspects of physical medicine leading to graduation and post-graduate degrees. With our health minister at the helm, we are most hopeful that the contemplated project will see its fruition, in the nearest future.

Shahabuddin Mahtab
Gulshan, Dhaka

Eve teasing

Irene Khan's write up on June 19 should serve as a stark reminder of the apparent failure to stand against the menace which has so far claimed many innocent lives. Empowerment of the powerful women (prime minister, home minister, leader of the opposition etc) is indeed meaningless if the dangerous harassment to members of their gender still continues.

Mere show of rallies and lip-services in seminars for gender equality will not help prevent rise of this serious trend that in the recent past assumed unacceptable proportions.

As Ms. Khan rightly pointed out, sex education at home and schools is probably the only way to start in the positive direction to combat the sickness which if allowed to go on may soon undo all the efforts being made during the recent past towards emancipation of women in Bangladesh

Z. Rahman
Gulshan, Dhaka

BSF atrocities

It is unfortunate for the whole nation that the BSF members most frequently assault our people. Very recently two Bangladeshis were injured at Bisnakandi stone quarry on the Gowainghat border in Sylhet. The injured were Nasir Uddin, 30, a resident of Bisnakandi, and Lilu Miah, 28, a resident of Bagaiya at Gowainghat in the district.

Local people said an Indian Khasia tribesman fired two rounds at the two Bangladeshis about 9:30am when they went to the quarry to collect stones. The two were injured. Bangladesh Rifles soldiers of the Bisnakandi outpost rescued the injured. The Bangladesh guards lodged an instant protest and the BSF's local company commander sat at a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart at the Bisnakandi BDR outpost at noon. The sources said the BSF officials said they were not aware of the firing by the Indian and they would look into the matter.

Active volcano!

Withdrawing scripts from the National University, Gazipur, I reached Chandura to catch a Lalpur bound bus. The bulky bag limited my movement and peace of mind. Anxiety to have a bus and concern for the safety of the bag and inexperience led me to fall into the trap of the ticket middleman. They took from me the money in full but I found myself in the lowest class of bus. The crammed bus was always uncouthly noisy with constant haggling of the conductors over the fares. A passenger was also beaten in the counter but the weak labourers could not protest it. The years of hard labour, low payment and humiliation has made them expendable. The rough appearance of the labourers speak volumes of their abject condition. Lack of education, consciousness has prevented them from making the best use of their minimum means. The bus we were travelling on presented us the worst kind of travelling experience. It halted frequently to board and onboard the passengers. Passengers swore and shouted at the conductors and the driver but to no avail. The reality is the money they get from the passengers is very little. While good buses charge 300 taka for travelling from Dhaka to Rajshahi, this dilapidated buses take only 100, 80 or even only 50 taka from a passenger.

On 21 June 2010, I went again to National University to attend a workshop on computerization of admission process. I came to Chandura by local bus. The coarse looking seats and passengers got on my nerves. Besides, all along the way I saw hundreds of tall garment factories but I could hardly notice a gentle and suave family life. The past bitter experience made me wise enough to book a seat in a Sonny AC bus. I came to know that the bus would take a long time to come to Chandura because garment workers were locked in clashes with the police in Ashulia. About 20/25 vehicles were damaged and the road was blocked. We were enjoying a World Cup football match on TV. But the electricity went off, leaving us in the sweltering heat. At long last, the 5.30 bus came in the evening. I got on the bus and found myself in a different realm. The suave passengers were sitting in the spacious seats, no haggling, and no swearing. As bags were kept in the covered cabins, there was no visual pollution. Passengers were enjoying drama serials on TV sets at the vantage point up the inside windscreens. Some passengers were talking on phones mildly or browsed Internet on their sell phones.

The journey was smooth with occasional breaks at the posh hotels for the refreshments of the passengers and the bus staff. I remember now which buses the poor labourers travel in and in which hotels they have refreshments. I get a shudder even at the remembrance of those cheap hotels and latrines. Then I see an anger brewing everywhere, I feel a volcano growling underneath my feet. But the power hungry people living in the posh areas are complacent about their condition without thinking that they are on a living volcano.

Abdus Subhan
Lalpur, Natore

Hajj Policy

The Fitra system for Hajjis means the Hajj Agent will collect Hajjis at a rate much lower than the rate declared by the government. They generally allure the intending Hajjis telling that their accommodation at Mecca will be very close to holy Haram, and the Hajjis fall in their trap and what actually they do is take them in a house near to holy Haram and after three or five days the Hajjis are taken to Medina Sharif and from there they are escorted to Mina just on the 8th day of Zilhaj and after five days of Hajj rituals at Mina, then to Arafat, Arafat to Muzdalifa and then again to Mina. Thus all the formalities

are closed and the Hajjis are kept in a house near to Mina at Azizia or Shirsha from where the distance of holy Haram is not less than nine to ten kilometers. Then the Hajjis of this Fitra system face a great problem the problem is to cross the big way to come to the holy Haram and engage themselves in Ibadat.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs is very much aware of this fact and this system was annulled in the current five year Hajj Policy. Some influential quarters pressurised the department concerned and an amendment was brought to the Hajj Policy. The said amendment was placed before the cabinet a few days ago and it was rejected. Now as per the existing Hajj Policy, Hajjis will have to be kept in the same house where they will be kept on arrival at holy Mecca. So, the govt. deserves thanks for this bold step.

Alhaji Abdul Mannan Howlader
Executive Director
Haramine Travels and Tours Ltd., Motijheel, Dhaka

A good proposal

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications has recently proposed to the government to create a new ministry for railways (DS:23.06.10). I praise this proposition as it was overdue and a long felt necessity. The railway has huge manpower, huge land property and resources and enormous prospects. But as has always happened in all pristine departments in our country; lot of unnecessary, worthless and political elements in the name of workers and experts intruded into the organisations. The same has quintessentially happened in the railways. Umpteen times the railway tried to sell out its property, especially precious lands to the private parties and sometimes they succeeded. Though the railway is a losing concern of the government, yet the luxurious lifestyle and benefits taken from the government and the organisation by the officials and some union leaders will tell the real story of its dilemma.

Worldwide train is one of the cheapest, fastest and popular means of transports. If the government is sincere enough to improve the railway for the sake of the benefits to the people there are lot of scopes and prospects. But without having any vision to improve the transport system creating a new ministry will mean only a new set of useless recruitment of political people, new expensive vehicles, new ministers (may be new adviser too) and addition of huge expenses.

Ahmed Munir
Purana Paltan
Dhaka

Football craze

The World Cup which is regarded as the biggest soccer event in the world started its month long journey last month.

After being qualified, 32 nations of the world are participating in the World Cup-2010.

Many of them have already shown the world their stage shows.

No mentionable incidents of violence so far have been heard except 1/2 stray incidents like theft or robbery, though many were doubtful about the capacity of South Africa to hold such a grand soccer show peacefully.

However, along with the world we, the Bangladeshis, are watching and enjoying every game. Many of us, like

football experts, criticize team-management, strategy, tricks and mistakes made by the players while they are in action.

Many people predict which team is going to win and which team is going to be defeated. There are a few people who even point out with much confidence the two teams which will fight with each other in the final show.

With all these, people are having great fun.

Kshitish Chandra Milan
Assistant Teacher
Bogra YMCA Public School
Bhaipagla Mazar Lane
Bogra



PHOTO: AFP

Women's rights?



Will this massive craze of torturing women in our society ever come to an end? Why is it that when women's rights are discussed we always find ways to back out by simply saying, "We're working on it" or "I think women have been given much more respect and rights than before through our initiatives or campaigns"? Where do we, women, actually stand in a country like Bangladesh, where a single woman is left all alone to fight her battles while some elite people in our society are too busy running their so called social campaigns? A survey conducted by Bangladesh Health and Injury brought to light that over 2200 children commit suicide every year--which is almost six per day, of which four happen to be females. Even in a country like Bangladesh with a moderate economic growth and the increasing awareness among people, we still turn a deaf ear to the cries of the women not only in the most primitive of areas but in the city as well.

My question is when will this come to an end? Just ask yourself who needs to change--you, society, the nation or the entire human race?

Maliha Rahanaz
Ebenezer International School
Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka