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Drug addiction

Every now and then we find news in the electronic and print media that drug addiction has become widespread across the country. Statistics show drug addiction is predominant in the least developed countries like Bangladesh where the people, especially the young, are involved in it. Drugs, being a curse, snatch away valuable lives of young people. Many innocents are victimised by it in the early days of their lives. All hopes and aspirations of their parents are lost. Recently, our country turned into a regular route of drugs where the number of drug addicted people is more than 50 lakh. According to police reports, more than two thousand people are very much active in this business. They are making money countrywide selling drugs. Sometimes they are caught red handed but afterwards they are freed. I want to draw the attention of the home ministry to the following points:

- 1) Proper implementation of law to remove this curse.
- 2) The police should be accountable and dutiful.
- 3) Public awareness has to be increased by the govt as well as socio-cultural organisations through different colourful programmes.
- 4) Above all, the parents must look after their sons and daughters to protect them from going astray.

Eng. Md. Meheub Haque
BUET



LITON RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS

Selection of candidate

Selection of candidate is always crucial and the result in Chittagong city election has proved it again. Mr. Monzur Alam who is best known as a sober and gentle person has beaten Mr. Mohiuddin Chowdhury handsomely. The people of Ctg wanted a change in the mayoral race as they were utterly disgusted with the Ctg city management. Perhaps so do the Dhaka city people. Dhaka City Corporation has miserably failed to take care of the city under the leadership of Sadek Hossain Khoka.

Time has come for Begum Khaleida Zia to look for really a sober, gentle and pleasant personality who will be above party politics and will care only for the development of the city.

Aconscious citizen
One-mail

Police excesses

I refer to the news on the captioned subject published in your daily on 28. 6.2010. From the news it appeared that on the day of hartal on 27.6.2010, Rab men entered into the house of Mr. Mirza Abbas, ransacked and even beat up inmates.

A similar incident was noted by a senior columnist which appeared in DS on 29.6.2010. Excerpts are noted below:

"Violence is a sad reality of hartals. The attack on the house of a leading BNP official and clubbing the party loyalists and family members inside the house hold was carried out in full view of the television cameras.

The government should give a full clarification

explaining the conduct of the law enforcers in a transparent manner matching the transparency in which the attack was telecast live....." (Hartal yes, violence no, Mr. Habibul Haque Khondker 29.6.10)

Besides, at least one newspaper has questioned the role of the law enforcing agencies during hartal. The incidents noted above further question their role in such situations. It is therefore necessary that the government inquires into the matter and ensures that the law enforcers do not commit excesses while dealing with the public.

AbuImran
One-mail

Jamaat leaders

On June 30, The Daily Star published a pictorial news item mentioning that the top brass of the Jamaat -- Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, and Delwar Hossain Sayedee -- were arrested as they had failed to comply with earlier summons for court appearances in a case filed on charges of hurting religious sentiments of the Muslims.

Those who are misinterpreting the Holy Quran and Hadith and using religion as a tool for their own interests deserve severe punishment.

Habibur Rashid Ismail
Chittagong

Rickshaws banned

May I kindly ask the local administration under whose instructions the one and only passenger carrier of the middle and lower middle class groups which is rickshaw has been banned from plying the many connecting roads of Uttara to the main roads. One such road is Kazi Jashimuddin

Road. As I was heading to my office from my home located at the Jashimuddin Road of Uttara, my rickshaw was stopped on the road by the baton wielding police officer. After inquiring the officer told me that this road had been made off limits to rickshaws. I said who made it off limits he said I don't know. I said then how will I go to the office? He gave me a blank look as if I asked him a very weird question. I again said, "It is raining, please allow me to go." But all my pleas fell into the deaf ears of the officer. Is Dhaka slowly becoming a city for the car owners only? Because the cars are allowed on all roads, irrespective of whether it is wide or narrow. This treatment is totally uncivilized. It is the duty of the traffic department to maintain the transport movement system efficiently. It is really not a fair way to ban the most sought after transport of the mass people.

Hope the authorities concerned will change their decision.
Humayun Hyder
Uttara, Dhaka

Whose baby is it?

I read in the newspapers, more than once, the latest was the statement by Mr. Ashraf Islam, the Honourable Minister, that "Chhatra League" is not their baby; so they (i.e. parental party) cannot take the blame or responsibility for their misdeeds. Then who are they? How dare the boys, abandoned in the mid-way, could create terror on the street and fought battles with the opposition activists during their hartal day! I also fail to realize how so much of beating and wounding pickets including senior leaders and parliament members take place without orders from the authorities?

Most shocking and deplorable conduct of the police and members of Rab was the naked intrusion and merciless beating of inmates, including ladies and children, destroying all privacy of senior respectable citizens in the Khilgaon area (fortunately we saw everything through courtesy of the TV channels).

I hereby cry, for the sake of civility and decency, that please do not allow any one (whether general public or any govt. agency) to be so ugly and ferocious on our own people. Let us also not only clap on the parliament tables, for this or that, but please condemn all kinds of rude and ruthless behaviours of the law enforcers. Please do remember while there is life, there is hope.

And please let all of us keep in mind that there is always a tomorrow.
AF Rahman
One-mail

Justice system and media

When we have faith in the judiciary which we believe is independent, why should the media and some sections indulge in campaigns against the judgment? Justice cannot be influenced by signature campaigns and demonstrations. The media outlets are reacting now more than they reacted when the crimes were committed. The common man is tired. S/He wants the media to find everlasting solutions to prevent the recurrence of such crimes so that they can be hailed as a true

pillar of democracy. All successful newspapers are ceaselessly querulous and bellicose. They never defend anyone or anything if they can help it; if the job is forced on them, they tackle it by denouncing someone or something else.

While strong public opinion, ably backed by proactive and dynamic media, is a healthy sign of a vibrant democracy, of late we have been witness to the people interfering with the judicial process by either demanding instant justice or criticizing the judicial pronouncements in high profile cases. This is a dangerous trend because it exerts undue moral pressure on judges. Justice requires that to lawfully constituted Authority there be given that respect and obedience which is due; that the laws which are made shall be in wise conformity with the common good; and that, as a matter of conscience all men shall render obedience to these laws. Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Gopal Sengupta
Canada

Population boom

Yesterday our daughter drove us through the vast expanses of Houston, Texas. It seemed to me that we travelled like from Teknaf to Tetulia in Bangladesh. Interestingly except for cars on the road and cattle's grazing on the fields, we did not come across a single person during this journey. Imagine, no people in an area as big as Bangladesh, whereas Bangladesh has a population of about 160 million or so. Perhaps there are many more places like Houston on this planet earth where we live in.

Countries like USA, Canada, Australia and so on have vast open spaces like Houston, Texas. May be in a million years or so these places won't be taken over by human beings for dwelling, the way the population is growing in these countries. On the other hand, it is almost unimaginable that a country named Bangladesh shall continue to exist in a million years, the way the population is growing there. I see this as the only problem the country faces. Unfortunately, non of our national leaders are concerned or worried about it as almost all of them have their second homes in those aforementioned countries. This population explosion is just like a time bomb ready to explode any time with dire consequences. I faintly remember back at school in Bangladesh our economics teacher told us that if the entire population of the world is put into USA, it would not be as thickly populated as Bangladesh. Immigration is now an open door policy, the government of Bangladesh should robustly take up this issue with their counterparts of the aforementioned countries to relocate these large number of people there instead of taking loans and incurring debts.

It is well understood that the overpopulation issue of Bangladesh is not the headache of other countries, but is an undeniable truth that those countries are pouring in millions of dollars in the form

of aid and loans for those people in Bangladesh. This means they are also concerned and worried too. I think equitable distribution of population shall immensely benefit the world at large, which shall ensure a better tomorrow for the world population.

Saleh M Ayub
Houston, Texas, US

Teachers' status

The teachers of Govt. High Schools have been demanding first class status for a long time. In the past, no govt. took any initiative in this regard. The present govt. has decided to give second-class status to the teachers. I think it won't solve the problem at all. Attracting and keeping talented and capable young people in the teaching profession is only possible when they are provided with attractive remuneration and status. To produce a competent generation by imparting quality education, I would like to make some points.

First, the government should give first class status to the teachers, so that they can get complete job satisfaction having teaching as the most dignified profession in the country. Secondly, a separate pay scale should be introduced for the teachers to help them get rid of their financial woes. If the teachers are provided with attractive salaries, they will be more interested in class teaching rather than private coaching. And last but not the least, a separate directorate for secondary education should be established to bring dynamism in official activities.

To sum up, it may be mentioned here that teachers are the architects of an educated nation. They should be well treated.

Md Jalal Uddin
Asstt. Teacher
Natore Govt High School
Natore

Hartal and a citizen

I must congratulate opposition parties which called hartal after 1370 days because it came to me as a heavy down-pour after a continuum of unabated drought. Though I don't support it, I enjoyed the day to my heart's content. My activities included finishing a 'complex' job involving a national bank and Rajuk. As it was a hartal-day, my sunrise was late in the morning followed by late breakfast.

Then I started from Mohakhali for Motijheel readily opposed by family members. I ignored and took a No. 3 route minibus and with the help of a rickshaw, I reached the destination in 15 minutes (please read 90 minutes for a normal working day).

By the grace of Almighty Allah, my job was finished with in an hour (including 2 brief rickshaw rides) thanks largely to Hartal which reduced crowding in both the offices. I was extremely euphoric. So, I personally request all the opposition parties to call 'dawn-to-dusk' Hartal at least once a month (according to some 'practitioners' 10 days a month) so that complex jobs can be done in minimum time and with greater ease. Dawn-to-dusk merits explanation. Dusk-to-dawn hartal will ruin the



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

Development budget

Preparation of budget is a significant phenomenon for the country. Effective implementation is equally significant. When a budget is prepared the utopian way it does not help the nation. On the other hand, when a pragmatic budget is implemented inefficiently it does not bring desired well-being to the nation. A few renowned economists assessed the development budget 2010-11 as not achievable after observing the presentation in parliament by Finance Minister AMA Muhith. They did not make any significant comment on fiscal measures as well as on different allocations. They thought from their experience that the present administrative structure and procedure is not suitable for implementing such a large allocation in ADP. I would like to echo them. If the government does keep the existing procedure of project approval and project implementation as it is, the budgetary allocations cannot be utilized properly.

The government field level development agencies that are entrusted with the responsibility of project implementation are not enjoying commensurate authority to perform the job assigned

to them. For example, Rajuk, BPDB, BADC, Department of Roads and Highways and so on are the development project implementing agencies of the government. Even after approval of a project by ECNEC and incorporation in ADP, the agencies cannot make decision for awarding a contract to a contractor or a consultant when a project exceeds a certain amount of money. The limit is so small that almost all projects require approval of cabinet purchase committee to select a contractor or a consultant which is very much time consuming, usually it takes more than a year.

This time consuming procedure could easily be overcome if the government enact some changes to its present project implementation procedure delegating authority to the development agencies.

The government should consider the factor seriously and delegate authority to the field agencies. The ministry will visit the site, monitor the status of implementation of the projects from time to time and investigate if any wrong is committed.

Md. Ashraf Hossain
Central Bashabo, Dhaka

practices of doctors, dentists, legal practitioners etc. which is highly favoured by the businessmen.

But it was horrifying to see the activities of anti-hartal activists and law enforcers by virtue of still-functioning private TV channels. That came out vividly in your editorial page (write-up of Habibul Haque Khondoker, dated, June 29).

It is my earnest request to pro-hartal activists and law enforcers: set up an high powered Digital Anti-hartal Commission. This will help handle the matter delicately with precision. If for the time being, digital system is not available, live telecast should be banned.
Dr. M. U. Chowdhury
One-mail

Walkway in Dhanmondi

The walkway on the Dhanmondi Lake parallel to road No. 10 ends along the Mirpur Road as the lake ends there. The fence, separating the walkway from the footpath, along Mirpur Road makes it useless. People coming into Dhanmondi R.A. from the East end of the lake cannot use the path and vice versa. The pathway starting from the bridge (Road # 8 Bridge) on

the lake at the juncture of roads 8, 10 and 7 after an interruption by Panshi begins again from just beside eastern wall of Panshi Restaurant and continues to the east end. Since the pathway between Panshi and Mirpur Road is artificially separated from the pathway scheme on the lake, fitness lovers do not use this portion of the pathway and people coming into Dhanmondi cannot use this because of the fence. However, it has been observed that the fence is repeatedly trampled and broken by passers-by that seek and need an access through this pathway. Disuse encourages undesirable elements to occupy the space and dirt piles up making it further unusable. The artificially divided pathway can be integrated into the pathway scheme easily by a few yards of connecting path through behind Panshi making it useable.

At present people come past Panshi into the park and onto the pathway or enter the park passing Road # 8 bridge. It is troublesome, irritating and time consuming because of the traffic on Road # 10. A facility is wasted for nothing. To make the most out of it, to keep it clean, secure and worthy of fitness-lovers, a passage should be allowed to Mirpur Road. With an outlet to Mirpur Road, fitness-lovers and other passers-by can easily use the pathway to and from Mirpur end, the fence remains intact and no further money is lost in repair works. Otherwise, the walkway built with public money becomes worthless.
Mir Mahboob Ali
Freelance Consultant

Poor football!

Some of my friends, colleagues and I went to the big screen at Regency 'Club 13'. One of my friends is not a big football fan but kept asking where England's skill, tactics and passions were - I actually couldn't answer.

The first two German goals were just a sad joke. I was pleasantly surprised when we scored, then the "goal" - leaving aside we deserved to lose, this was a key moment and when you are talking about referees / linesmen at the

World Cup, then you have to talk about these guys being the refereeing equivalent of top international players. To miss the ball that was 3 feet over the line is beyond incompetence. The laughable thing is that, the ground has a big screen and about 10 seconds afterwards the whole ground can see the "goal". Funnily enough, the same linesman gave Rooney offside after about 2 minutes when he was clean through and had clearly been played outside by a German player.

I guess once we were chasing the game the inevitable happened. Was it Barry who was chasing the German winger for the 4th goal - I have never seen a player quite so slow. When Germany started knocking the ball around to "holes" it really was the ultimate humiliation. Capello has surprised me at this World Cup, he is incredibly limited tactically, when he brought on Wright Phillips and Heskey to "chase the game" it actually begged belief. The biggest single problem is that the team was built around Rooney, I cannot remember a player of any international status playing as badly in a World Cup as Rooney has, frankly we could have played any 1st or 2nd or 2nd Division forward and it would not have weakened the team.

The saddest thing is that, come August Rooney, Terry, Barry will be playing great games against Wigan, Blackpool, Stoke etc and will be back thinking they are great players.

The England team will have some people greeting them when they come back and then we will play a meaningless friendly against Belgium or someone, win 5-0 and everyone will say "England are back". The truth is that these players are earning a fortune at their clubs and they have been given a status in our society they do not warrant.

England were pitiful at this World Cup because they were less of a "team" than I have ever seen, USA/ New Zealand / Australia have very limited numbers of players to choose from but they showed how to work as a team.
Ronald Biswas
DOHS Baridhara
Dhaka

Interpreting hartal

The "SHO-FOL" hartal of BNP and "BE-FOL" hartal in the view of AL and "NIS-FOL & KU-FOL" hartal for the public just passed away. Mr Jainul Abedin Faruque rushed to meet the speaker with the demand that Mr. Annie be sent abroad for higher treatment, otherwise they won't attend JS. Moreover, public interest notice to evacuate the cantonment residence of opposition leader must not be served to her anymore.

These two demands are now on the table of the speaker which they think are vital to save the country from the rule of the AL and are of great interest for the people of Bangladesh. Mr Faruque should know the truth. During the last caretaker govt all the politicians

pretended to be so sick in the court premises that they even could not walk to the court when brought in and needed stretchers and wheelchairs with even oxygen cylinder in support to carry them but the moment the bail was granted they jumped on their feet, clean shaved themselves with new suit and shoes and started moving everywhere, no sign of grave sickness was there!

There is nobody to look after the poor hartal victims or their families. Why cannot the BNP help the families of Kashem and Faruque who died from burn injuries? Let us be honest and be sporting, dear politicians.

Dr. SHAMEEM HASSAN
New DOHS, Mohakhali
Dhaka



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