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## Stalkers



PHOTO: STAR

We are all, surely, angry with the boys and men who persecute girls and women by stalking, name-calling and other forms of sexual harassment.

However - as in other forms of evil - underneath the badness is often the sadness. Evil is not only fearful and destructive, it is also pathetic. Bad behaviour by the male of the species in all countries is compounded in this dear country with traditions about the upbringing of the boy-child. Actually, I am not sure that they are 'traditions' (i.e. something to respect) but just bad habits that have grown up without resistance and create a trap into which young men have fallen.....a trap involving one false assumption about themselves and one vital skill that they are never taught:

1. The assumption is that it is their right and privilege that all women should do their bidding and that the word, "No!" is thus out of order and merits punishment. Some learn this, as little boys who are indulged to excess, by cooing adults and maidservants who know how best to treat the little master if they want to keep their job. He learns quickly that he can bring the wrath of his parents down on anyone who does not do his will. When he goes to school, it is not unusual for some parents to give any teacher who attempts to discipline their child, a hard time - which leads to the teachers appeasing him in order to keep their jobs. Thus, slowly, he slides into the trap of "Who am I, if I do not get my own way?" This sense of identity is undermined by rejection - which he cannot bear and looks for someone to blame and punish to ease his internal pain.

This mindset can curse men everywhere. Recently in the UK, a prisoner

who was released from jail, got a gun, injured his ex-girlfriend, murdered her new boyfriend - and some innocent others - before killing himself. Some men wrote to Facebook to say that he had done the right thing and she needed to be 'taught a lesson'. What a response!

2. The lack of skill that can be fatal is a boy's inability to attract a girl by 'fair means'. Many boys grow up not capable of having even an ordinary conversation with a girl! (Some even give their own sisters a hard time and are never rebuked...) Some do not go to co-educational schools or, if they do, find that some of those schools do not help boys and girls study, work and have fun together in reasonable and proper ways. What can such a boy do when he finds himself attracted to a girl and, when he tries to approach her, his coarse behaviour repels her? He has not the faintest idea how to make himself acceptable to her, her family and her friends so that he may be accepted as her suitor and be told "Yes!" "No!" or "Wait!" He blames her and turns on her.

All over the world, parents and teachers, family members and friends, youth group leaders and those who consider themselves 'the leaders of the community' have a duty to help any boy they may see, from a young age, who is getting out of control, considers all forms of obedience demeaning and is physically and verbally violent towards women. Please befriend them and help them to mend their ways.

Underneath the badness is indeed the sadness - but it is highly dangerous to the future of the whole of society, as well as women.

**Angela Robinson**  
Gulshan, Dhaka

### Traveller's tale

Recently, I came home from USA, and on the return flight, flew from London to Dubai (About eight hour night flight) on the new Emirates Airbus A380.

Outwardly, this full length double decker four engine plane, appears shorter than the Boeing 747; the only aircraft which has a partial double deck. However, this was more an optical illusion; as the fat A380, two storied plane, appeared so, compared to the 747, at first glance when seen at a distance from the airport gallery!

Inside, the whole upper floor had First and Business class cabins with around 180 seats in all (First and Business Class). Downstairs was all Economy class with around 340. The two floors were totally separate, and boarding was through separate boarding gates for the two floors of the aircraft.

Compared to the 747, which had a lower head room, and a rather cramped first floor hunch-backed cabin; the A380 had rather more than enough head room, like the Boeing 777 in which I flew from Miami to London. The seat layout in the business and first class was one seat at the two sides, and two seats alongside in the centre row, with aisles on either side of the centre row of seats.

During normal cruising flight the noise was totally absent in the upper deck! This sums up my personal experience of flying on board the newly introduced A380 passenger aircraft.

**Engr. S.A. Mansoor**  
Retired engineer

### Expressway

#### "Lollipop"

Congratulations to car owners for the biggest 'Lollipop' ever! DS of 24 Aug, front-paged news of the finalisation of the 21 km Freeway from the Airport to Demra. Salient features are:

1. Contract will be signed by December 2010. (Bet, they will still be sitting in Court then untangling the Wrists!!)

2. Freeway to be completed by December 2013. (Is it a

dream or some nightmare?)

3. It will save one hour's time for travel from Airport to Demra. (From 8 to 7 hours?)

4. It will serve majority of central Dhaka traffic and relieve gridlock. (That can only happen if RICKSHAWs are allowed on it. Will they??)

5. It will cost \$ 2.5 billion (Tk. 17,500 Crores). (Whoopee!!! Where is the BMW/M-B/Patrol/RR showroom?)

I would like to add a 6th point to the Kheyali Pulo: Since the Freeway will be built mostly along railway lines IT IS SURE TO REQUIRE MAJOR REPAIRS FROM THE 3RD YEAR ONWARDS!!!

My observations: If even one of the above is achieved within the deadline, then I am (with apologies to Vodafone):

1. Superman, 2) Shahrul Khan is my Dhobi, 3) Aishwariya is my girl friend, 4) I go every day to Gonobhaban to have tea!! In addition, I will shave off my head and change my name to Chameli, Kyaaa!!  
**Sikander Ahmed**  
Gulshan-1, Dhaka

### Tourist spots in Sylhet

Attractive waterfalls, hills, tea-gardens, lakes, shrines, forest sanctuaries are some of the tourism attractions of Sylhet. This tourism sector is contributing much to the development of the economy of Bangladesh. Due to the huge potential of tourism sector, Sylhet is getting great attention of the tourists on priority basis.

The tourism sites of Sylhet always remain pompous with the worth-mentioning presence of the tourists. But due to some drawbacks or limitations, Sylhet as well as Bangladesh is not getting enough remittances from the tourism sector.

The government as well as the media (newspapers, TV channels, radio channels and internet) must project the tourism prospects of Sylhet.  
**Khondoker Rezwana Tanvir**  
Dept. of Business Administration  
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology  
Sylhet

### Police officer and MP

The news of a police officer being slapped by a lawmaker in Satkhira's Sarsha upazila came to me like a bolt from the blue, as this is probably the first time that a lawmaker called a police officer to his office and then beat him up with his cohorts. Since then I have been asking myself whether I have been living in a democratic country or an uncivilized country. The latter one may be my question's answer though that is not enough. Hitting public servants is not new in the country and the practice is getting worse day by day as no exemplary action has not been taken yet regarding this. A few days ago a lawmaker of Dhaka city beat a police sergeant, as the hapless officer did not call him sir, the lawmaker was willing to be called by sir as the term is frequently used in the developed countries to communicate with someone, irrespective of the position of the person. In those countries even a clerk can be called by the word 'sir' as this is the sign of civilization and education.

The lawmaker beat the police officer for implicating him and his cohorts in a murder case allegedly perpetrated by them. Is it the police officer's fault? Our honourable home minister is very much vocal about certain issues.

I would like to know what action has been taken to stop such heinous incidents.  
**Anis Rahman**  
Student of Dhaka University

**Airport safety**  
There are strict laws guiding construction of high rises in and around any airport, I am worried that if the matter comes to the notice of Int'l Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO), Bangladesh could face severe penalty.

**Sheikh Monirul Islam**  
On e-mail

### Why this behaviour?

After reading the article entitled "Why this behaviour?" My heart went out to the sales workers at Aarong. I too am an American, but I am absolutely appalled with the behaviour of my fellow countrymen, particularly this woman. Her churlish behaviour is sadly common. We Americans think our rights that we carry in our own country travel with us when that couldn't be farther than the truth. This cultural insensitivity shows a lack of respect and/or common sense. This woman should have her passport revoked. I got married six months ago to a Bangladeshi woman and I've only begun to scratch the surface of this unique and diverse culture. Bangladeshis all over the country have shown me nothing but love and their hospitality is second to none. What a shame this woman was belittling workers at a department store because they couldn't speak her language. A person from the other side of world comes to a new country and expects to have all the comforts and luxuries of her home.

**Adam Kilander**  
California, USA

### Traffic accidents

Recently, there has been quite a few reports and meetings on fatal accidents. They are trying to find out causes and solutions. Obviously, most reports found Reckless Driving as the Main Cause. Please refer to the heading in today's DS (24 Aug.) "Cops to arrest errant drivers" on page 16. This does not conform to rules of punishment for driving offences in most other countries. For rash or reckless driving the cops may seize the driving licence and the vehicle. They can sue him in a special Court dealing with traffic accidents.

The present need is to seize all fake licences and train the drivers.

There should be a training centre in each district. Recently, I saw a footage concerning the accident in which two secretaries died. The footage tried to show the cause of death rather than the cause of accident. In the footage it was clear that the bus was completely on the wrong side. I am sure both the vehicles did not slow down in a sharp bend like that.

**Abdullah Haroon**  
One-mail

### Horrible news!

It is horrible news. A pregnant woman, being denied treatment at the Sadar hospital of Savar, committed suicide by jumping from the Savar over-bridge. After her fall, a baby was born and embraced death within a short period of time.

This incident is really shocking. Why didn't the authorities of the hospital send her to DMCH by an ambulance? Did the authori-

ties try to avoid the responsibility? This is really a shame. This is the naked picture of our health sector. Do the poor and helpless people have no place in the public hospital? If not, where will they go? Are all the helpless people destined to commit suicide?

I know it is difficult to find out the real culprits who neglected such a serious patient. But we can expect that some stern measures would be against them.

**Pradip Das**  
Lecturer  
BHPI, CRP

### Genocide

This refers to the letter by Sikander Ahmed (Aug 23).

The points raised in the letter are spot on. I agree 100 per cent that this is a slow genocide that is being committed in our country.

Every year we get promises that things would get better and every year things get worse. Instead of addressing the real issues and finding solutions to the problems which are killing our people, the authorities come up with their own list of fictitious "to dos", i.e. renaming airports and changing signboards.

There are criminals and thieves in every country and we have our share of them. There is nothing unusual or tragic about that. What is tragic, however, is that these people commit genocide against us and in return we provide five-star food, five-star accommodation and bullet-proof security for them. We must bring these people to justice no matter how powerful they are.

**Azad Miah**  
Oldham, UK

### Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

We have just mourned the death of our loved 'father of the nation' for the thirty fifth time. Many of these years have been spent under autocratic governments; some have been spent with democratic governments who were happy to present a distorted view of history. But now, and for the second time, we have a democratic government in power which will not be worse off if a true history of our beloved Bangabandhu is presented in full.

Then why are we still not seeing a true, complete, and coherent picture of who Bangabandhu truly was and the facts and stories behind all his gigantic contributions to our country?

There is no question as to how great a man Bangabandhu was, and that he is the father of the nation. He was a great leader, a statesman, and most important of all, he was a man of great generosity and courage. But I know this because I have read at least a dozen books on him written by authors both foreign and Bangladeshi, and have had countless discussions with family members who knew him personally. Every Bangladeshi does not have that privilege. They all deserve to know the man behind the legend, a man who



SHAFIQ ISLAM/DRINKNEWS

## Anthrax

Anthrax is now an alarming issue. Eight more people have been infected with Anthrax in different areas of Pabna and Sirajganj, the districts' health officials suspected on Monday last. Three more people have been suffering from Anthrax symptoms in Sirajganj, raising the total number to 109 while five more patients were found in Pabna with the same symptoms increasing the number to 24. The situation is going from bad to worse.

We came to know from the news media that though Sirajganj civil surgeon office and Pabna district and livestock officials have been distributing free vaccines among the Anthrax patients, the situation is not under control. Animals that are sick are being slaughtered. Dead animals are not properly buried. As a result, the disease is spreading. There is another problem, infected patients are dependent on unscientific methods of treatment.

probably was greater than the legend. But unfortunately the new AL media gives us only poorly constructed pictures that tell little about Bangabandhu, but lay claims only.

We hope the Ministry of Information will look into this and give our great leader the respect he deserves and serve his legacy with the truth. Then we can all say in unison, 'Long live the name, the legend, and the memory of Bangabandhu!'  
**Altam Mahmud**  
Student of North South University  
Gulshan, Dhaka

### Time to act

Once again a destructive fire broke out from a factory at old Dhaka and claimed the lives of three. This happened two days after the government decided to extend the deadline it had given to the factories to move away from residential areas. To some extent, the government's misjudgement can be held responsible.

How late is too late? Did we not learn from the colossal calamity just a few weeks ago? How long does it take the owners to move their factories to some other places?

Apparently, long enough for another accident to happen. I think if the government allows these callous owners some more time, those dangerous establishments will eventually remain in those areas. This is Bangladesh, you know.  
**Rafi Abdullah**  
West Dhanmondi, Dhaka

### Graduation ceremony

I wondered, as I sat before the audience, how these eight years of school life had passed so quickly, leaving behind a handful of memories I would speak to my teachers, friends, parents at my graduation ceremony, (held on 7th August, 2010) delivering heart felt thanks to the teachers who had been our mentors, leading us ahead in times of failure and gloom, school staff who had never backed down in the most pressing moments, gave us a helping hand when I thought there were not any. I listened to what the teachers had to say about us, praising us for our sincere efforts to score the best results in our "O" level exams; our honourable principal urging us to look at our path ahead and strive towards the zenith of success. I walked slowly

towards the podium, dragging my feet as they faltered and spoke at length how grateful I was to be a student of Paramount School, the only affiliated centre of Cambridge University in Rajshahi, providing education at comparatively cheaper fees than other reputed English medium schools of our country. I felt blessed, lucky to be a part of the family where my journey began from class three and culminated at O-levels and I sincerely pray to the Almighty that may this family continue to thrive.

**Shatabdi Biswas**  
Student of A Level  
Paramount School and College  
Rajshahi

### Narayanganj scene

We, the expatriates, are very much worried about the fragile political situation of Narayanganj. Spearheading smear campaigns and fabricating news in the media has been a common tactic, in painting political adversaries. There are no political ideologies.

**Safiuddin Sarwar**  
Toronto, Canada

### Educated women

There was a time when very few women got proper education. But now girls are receiving higher education. Some people insist on having educated girl as their wives. Others are strongly against this. It is considered in brief advantages and disadvantages of having an educated wife. We can easily recognize, by her appearance, a girl who has received western education. She is fashion loving. The greater part of her time is wasted in dressing her hair. She is too fond of using cosmetics. She puts on costly dresses of the latest fashion. But there are many advantages also of having an educated wife. Being educated, she can manage her home more efficiently. She can look after the work of the servants and maintain accounts. She keeps her kitchen in hygienic condition. An educated girl understands her duties well. She can teach many things to her children. Not only this, an educated wife can also help her husband in his office work. She can work as a typist, by checking accounts, preparing draft, and by her personal suggestions. An educated girl is not always obedient and faithful. She has her own friends. She does not like to observe family traditions and customs. She goes to her club. She wants to dominate her husband. She likes to live in her own independent way. An educated wife can be a great asset to her husband and her family, if she is good-natured and respects the traditions of the family and co-operates to run it smoothly.

**Joti**  
Department of English  
Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College

## Exotic tourism



As a destination that has so much in such a small space, Bangladesh can be compared to one big natural theme park. Our many cultural and religious festivals/events, village or trading fairs, traditional craft-villages, heritage sites, gardens and parks, virtually unspoilt serene beaches and fishing communities and rural lifestyles all offer unique and exotic experiences to visitors to this land.

What we need is to first get the basics right at these sites. These include ensuring comfortable movement by road/water and

overbuild and/or create white elephants. Bangladesh must first determine what it should offer to the visitors and where it needs to be positioned and pitched, before rushing into building big time. All options for involving the community at large in developing a sustainable tourism need to be explored and the time it takes for such planning may be used to get things right at the existing facilities.

**Mohammad Shahidul Islam**  
BPC officer