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Domestic violence



The Parliament has passed a bill aimed to protect women and children from physical, sexual and psychological abuse and other forms of domestic violence. The bill was passed against the backdrop of widespread domestic violence in the country.

The Bill is a step forward in reaching the ultimate goal of providing women what they deserve. It will certainly have a healthy impact on Bangladeshi politics. The bill, when made into law with the assent of the Honourable President, would enable a victim to lodge complaints with a judicial or metropolitan magistrate seeking protection against domestic violence. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010, however, will come into effect on a date to be fixed by the government through a gazette notification.

Violence against women is considered one of the worst forms of human rights violation and public health concern around the world. The United Nations Development Fund for Women estimates that at least one in every three women is beaten, raped, or otherwise abused during her lifetime. A 2005 World Health Organization study found that at least one in every five women reporting physical abuse had never before told anyone about it.

The bill defines as domestic violence any physical and mental torture, sexual harassment and psychological harassment of a woman or child by any member of the family.

Unless male chauvinism, which should have no place in our country, is countered with courage and determination, the bill will be stonewalled.

Gopal Sengupta
Canada

Innovation and creativity

Sirajul Islam (4 Oct) has undoubtedly cited a much debated subject to which no definitive answer exists. Emphasis on teaching of maths and science (at the expense of Humanities) is certainly good for society nowadays as there are more job opportunities at home or abroad for such students, whereas Humanities are good for developing civic sense, tolerance and other ingredients of a good society.

For innovation everyone knows that "Necessity is the mother of invention", so any one type of education would not necessarily make one an innovator. However, for technical innovation, especially in a digital age of computers and electronics, emphasis on maths and science is a must, although Thomas Edison had no such training and proudly proclaimed his intention to hire mathematicians and scientists for implementing his ideas.

Of course present day maths and science have evolved out of the closet of old Philosophy (i.e. exercise of the mind), and philosophers are still needed in society, but perhaps not in great numbers. So considering the welfare of the majority of a contemporary section of population, special emphasis on maths and science is not inapposite. Innovators can always hire them if there is a plentiful supply.

Engineer Shafi Ahmed
London, UK

Destruction of an ancient heritage

It comes as a great surprise to us Muslims that the tomb of Hazrat Akbar Shah (RA), which was located at a corner of Ramna Park, has been totally desecrated and destroyed for no valid reason. The Mazar is approximately 500 years old and belongs to a contemporary of Hazrat Khawja Sharifuddin (RA) of High Court Mazar. It is believed that the Saint, who lies buried there, once owned a large portion of the area.

It is our sincere request to the government to look into this and give us a satisfactory report. It is an alarming fact that our national heritage has been destroyed in such a manner. It is not wise to demolish sacred places, and, therefore, the Mazar should be re-built.

Moinuddin
Dhaka

Ministerial accountability

In the cabinet form of government all the members of the cabinet are individually and collectively accountable to the parliament as well as the Honourable Prime Minister. But we can't see the reflection of that in practical.

Here is an example: there was an administrative crisis in Pabna when the PM was in the USA on official visit. At that time, we saw in the media that the DC was crying publicly displaying lack of administra-

tion efficiency. He should have sought his superior's advice or instruction for the next course of action.

We have learned from the media that H.T Imam, the advisor to the PM and the State Minister for Home Affairs visited Pabna, ordered by the PM from abroad. So, we can see that the PM closely monitors all matters which are supposed to be looked after by individual cabinet members. They have to be proactive. Everyone of the ruling party has to remember that if they fail to fulfil their electoral pledges, people will not vote for them next time.

I would request the Honourable PM to show "zero tolerance" towards irregularity and corruption in every sector.

Md Zahidul Islam
LLB Final Year
Bangabandhu Law College
Dhaka

A meaningless independence

It is almost 40 years into independence. Apart from an identity, we have achieved nothing in all these years. It can no longer be argued that it is a newly emerged country. How long we have to wait to reap the benefits of independence? We were school going kids during the time of Liberation War and it is almost time for us to leave the world. Will the independence ever be meaningful?

Nigar Chowdhury
One-mail

"Born to a cruel world:" We are responsible

Much have I heard that going through the daily newspaper can be a pretty painful experience, given the countless mind-boggling incidents that take place around us everyday. The truth in it never struck me harder before I read the news, "Born to a cruel world" published in your daily on September 30, 2010.

I could almost feel my senses going numb for a while after having read the news. A mother in Dinajpur left her 1-day-old kid wrapped in a polythene bag at a roadside dustbin to be bitten off by pigs and stray dogs, so much so that his right hand had to be cut off and his right leg required 10 stitches while the tender soul was still fighting for his life. What did the child do to deserve this? Needless to say, the child is going through unbelievable suffering for some act he is not responsible for. Such an act can never be supported by anyone who has the last shred of sanity left in him/her.

Hardly do we realise that when such incidents happen in the society, it is the society as a whole to be held responsible. "WE" are responsible!

Tasnim Jara
Khilgaon, Dhaka

Discrimination in BCS exams

Our Honourable Prime Minister is dissatisfied with

the performance of the bureaucrats as thing are not happening according to her government's plan, and so far as we have come to know through the media that it is the incompetence of the bureaucrats that is delaying the development activities. This is the era of globalisation, and good and effective governance does not have any alternative.

Through BCS exams top-most civil servants are appointed to serve the country. But the dreams of the jobseekers do not come true because of the prevailing quota system. The system is discriminatory and bad for good governance, as meritorious candidates are being deprived of their due share. The reserved 30% quota for freedom fighters' children is not rational. Definitely, freedom fighters are the most respected persons of the country and they should be provided with all the necessary things they need to live with honour. They can be given VIP status, and should be honoured in a way that cannot be questioned by anybody. But, this is not the way to reward them, depriving the deserving candidates.

The freedom fighters did not fight for a country where such discriminations would prevail. They fought for equality and justice. So, I think they should come forward in eliminating the discriminatory quota system to uphold the spirit of our Liberation War.

We earnestly appeal to the Honourable PM as well as the authorities concerned to bring equality in the BCS examination process for the greater interest of the country, as the best service can be provided only by the most qualified.

Anis Rahman
Zahurul Haq Hall
Dhaka University

Issues of relationships

The two articles in your editorial page on 2nd October, by Md. Nurul Huda and Dr. P.K. Panday, laid emphasis on the relationship between the public representatives and the bureaucrats.

This conflict, in almost all areas of governance, between the elected representatives and the appointed officials, may be identified as the root cause of the failure of parliamentary form of governments in Bangladesh.

In both the articles, the writers believed that undue interferences by the public representatives create the areas of conflict in the administrative process, which is the responsibility of the executive. The sad incident of Pabna and the mode of handling it is an example before us. It seems that we want the government to be run by the public representatives, having full authority, while the executive will implement the representative's direction while bearing full responsibility for governance!

This split of authority and responsibility, can only lead to conflict and confusion, which in a sense is happening now. Our executives, on the other hand would like to operate in the then British India administration model. The upazilla bureaucrats are frustrated, because the Chairman, without any Vice-Chairman or the various sub-committees, tries to exercise all authority, whereas the purse strings are pulled by the UNO! Therein lies the origin of conflicts at upazilla level!

The executive-police interaction should be an executive oriented function, because police is a branch of the executive, to maintain law and order. The responsibility for law and order rests with the executive, and not public representatives, who invariably, when in opposition, tend to disturb law and order. Now the public representatives want to use the police, to function at their whims and wishes, most likely to cripple the opposition as the first priority, under their subjective brand of law and order!

S.A. Mansoor
Gulshan
Dhaka

A great verdict

Farzana Hossain, a college girl, was killed in a road accident on 26th October 2007. At last, on 19th September this year the court has announced the final verdict in the case. The accused, driver Nurul Islam, has been sentenced to seven years imprisonment. This is really good news.

In our country, the families of the victims hardly get justice. The drivers escape through bail. Farzana's mother, Sophia Hossain said that she had to face lots of troubles to fight the case. The advocate had asked for a huge amount of money, which was beyond her means. However, finally, the authorities concerned handled the case. We hope, in the future they would also show this kind of strong sense of responsibility.

I pay my heartiest tribute to Sophia Hossain for her struggle and patience for getting justice. This verdict would serve as a warning to all errand drivers.

Pradip Das
Lecturer
BHP, CRP

Credit - the drug of choice

Bank of America has joined JP Morgan Chase in suspending foreclosures in twenty-three states following revelations that employees at several lenders had approved thousands of foreclosure affidavits and other documents without proper vetting. Attorneys general in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois and Ohio have all launched investigations into what appears to be widespread fraud by the nation's major banks and lenders. It is unknown how many homeowners lost their homes due to foreclosure fraud. Banks are expected to seize a record 1.2 million home this year, a twelve-fold increase since 2005.

They are your parents!

A leading daily is currently publishing a series of reports depicting the plight of the elderly people living in a 'Briddhasrom' (Old Home), situated in Gazipur. I regularly read the heart-touching sad stories. All the inmates are passing their days in a very neglected and uncared for condition, because they have been abandoned by their children. In most cases, the children whom they brought up with utmost care and comfort have thrown them out of their cosy home after taking away all the means for their livelihood! What a tragedy of life!

The children, mostly well established in the society because of their parents' sacrifice, hard work, and love, should not forget that these old people are their parents. It is the sacred duty of every child to offer due respect to their parents and to take proper care of them in their old solitary days. And in-laws should not forget that they have also their own father and mother.

May Allah bless us and put all the children into the right track!

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

Nearly 9 million households now have upside-down mortgages, and for the first time ever, mortgage debt is bigger than the total value of homeowner equity [cash invested] --- bigger by \$836 billion. The root of the problem is the same as it has been for centuries: credit, which leads to debt that spirals into ever-greater debt. Then those who are lenders gamble that they can make even more money by devising new and

more lucrative ways for people to go more deeply into debt, while the people themselves gamble on what they consider a sure thing, just what they need to pay off their debts, or set themselves up for retirement, or finance their lifestyles, etc.

Credit has become the drug of choice of the modern world, far more widespread than any other.

Ted Rudow III
Menlo Park, CA

Bus fare during Eid



Most of the city people like to celebrate the two Eids in their native villages. They enjoy their vacation with their near and dear ones. But during this time the transport owners, especially the bus owners, double the bus fare. They create temporary transport crisis to maximize their profit. This situation compels the holidaymakers to end their vacation earlier to avoid the hassles in the roads.

The government and the law-enforcing agencies should implement strong monitoring system to mitigate the sufferings of people, so that they would not face such problems during the Eid-ul-Adha.

S.M. Abu Nayem Sarker
Department of English
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology
Sylhet

DV lottery-2012

The State Department of USA has declared the rules and regulations for DV lottery-2012. You can fill up the EDV form through internet from October 05 to November 03, 2010. All the rules are same as before. But those applicants who applied before should apply this time with their recent pictures. It is observed that some Cyber Cafes and miscreant groups collect bio-data from colleges, universities and coaching centres. These groups apply on behalf of the applicants without even informing them. After getting the winning letter they demand huge amount of money from them.

We request all the applicants to follow the below things:

1. Never send two applications in any condition.
2. Never give your bio-data and picture to any

unknown person.

3. To apply for EDV no fee is required.
Adv. Quazi Raquibul Islam
Siddheswari Circular Road
Shantinagar
Dhaka

Mahatma Gandhi

Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and many other renowned personalities of the world were highly impressed by the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. A number of Asian and South African countries got inspiration from Gandhi's message of non-violence, to fight against British colonialism, for the freedom of their countries.

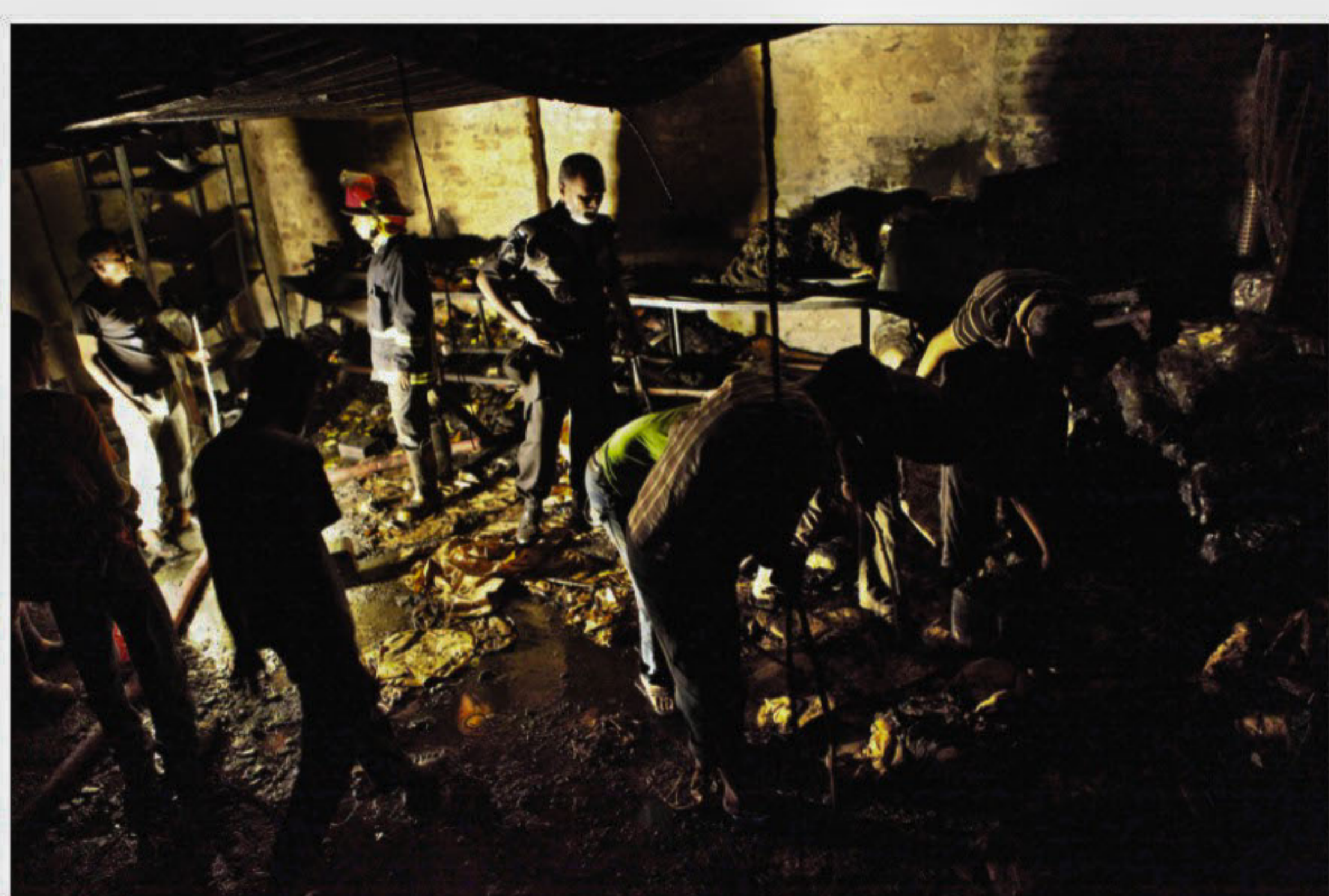
Gandhi, the greatest humanist of this age, was rightly described as 'Mahamanab' i.e. great man. A multifaceted personality, Gandhi possessed some of the rare qualities of head and heart. He was a saint, a true patriot, a tire-

less freedom fighter, an outstanding statesman, a veteran politician, a shrewd diplomat and a great philosopher, thinker and social worker.

Non-violence, 'Satyagraha' and other related aspects of his philosophy were highly appreciated by the world community. Gandhi advocated for world peace and welfare of humanity. This was evident from the letters, written by him to Adolf Hitler, urging him to bring an end to war in the interest of humanity.

The message of love, non-violence and Satyagraha of Gandhiji can become effective weapons to save the present world from violence and terrorism. The philosophy and teachings of Gandhiji are relevant even today.

Mohammad Shahidul Islam
On e-mail



Fire at chemical factories

The news of fire, which broke out at a chemical factory in Dhaka's South Jatrabari on October 6, 2010, in which seven workers were burnt alive and four others were critically injured, has shocked us deeply. It is so unfor-

tunate losing life in such a horrible way.

Nimtoli incident is still raw in people's minds, after that we learned about a few more fires at different chemical factories. It cannot go on like this; the govern-

ment must put all its efforts to stop this sort of incidents happening again, and the owners of these factories must ensure all safety measures.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong