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## The real stalking issue

Underlying the stalking issue are some cultural assumptions that need to be questioned. It is about a great deal more than punishing the deed. Some girls seem to be being indoctrinated in the belief that, if they were ever raped, they might as well be dead. Why else does the victim of threatened rape choose death, again and again? She obviously believes, rightly or wrongly, that, if she were raped, her family would be so shamed, even victimised, that she would be a terrible burden to them.

No one would ever want to marry her and, maybe, no one would want to marry any other members of the family also because of the stigma of rape. Her friends' families may not let them associate with her. Some may even say that the rape was her fault. Some girls commit suicide, surely do so, believing that, actually, in the end, their family will be relieved.

Assuming his victim believes these things, the man who 'stalks' a woman has immense power. He is giving her two choices - to give in to him - or die.

Every effort to punish stalking without facing this issue is surely doomed to fail. It needs an educational programme for the whole community - from the government to the head of every family. Every mosque, church or temple, every school teacher and journalist must be urged so to preach and teach that such attitudes are replaced with other, truly human, values. How can we celebrate the great victory of the Liberation War without demanding victory against the tyranny of such destructive ideas?

Angela Robinson

Gulshan, Dhaka



## SAVE COX'S BAZAR

AMDADUL HUQ / DRIKNEWS

Due to the adverse effects of climate change world's longest sea beach at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh is currently experiencing serious destructions. The sea has advanced nearly one kilometre inside and is devouring landmass every day. A huge area having agricultural fields, houses, roads and other installations along the beach have already been taken away by the swelling sea. Under this situation, aggressive action is needed to save and protect the Cox's Bazaar natural sea beach resource.

It may be mentioned here that the recent Cancun Summit has decided to form a 'Green Fund' to provide financial assistances to protect countries affected by climate change. It is sincerely expected that the international agencies will join the Bangladesh government's efforts to protect the Cox's Bazar sea beach against the destructive effects of climate change.

Professor M Zahidul Haque

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MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRIKNEWS

## Insolence and arrogance

I am sorry to say I find most of the people of the country insolent and arrogant. Prophet SM of Allah SWT said, "A smile to your brother is a charity." I wonder how many people in this country talk to a person with a smile.

Go to any government office, they will greet you with a scorn if you are not a VIP, absolutely forgetting about where their pay cheques come from at the end of the month. Then again, go to any shop or mall for a purchase, you are most likely to be greeted in the same manner. It is even more shocking with the emergency services. This disease of insolence and arrogance has plagued the whole nation.

It is exactly the opposite in the West. Go

to any government office, you are sure to be greeted with a smile saying "how can I help you?" Then visit a grocery store or a shopping mall, the greeter is there to greet you upon arrival and welcome you back again at your departure. Behaviour is the most important thing in the life of a person and that of a nation.

It is also said that the person most well-behaved is the most dear to Allah SWT. What do we have to be proud of, other than defeating the Pak occupation army in just over nine months, when we fail to honour our own kind for the conquest of Mt. Everest and do not even hesitate to disgrace the Nobel Laureate?

Saleh Ayub, One-mail

## Excusing ourselves!

Usually in the national parliament we find the national leaders busy finding faults of others, rather than cooperating with each other with the intention of building a successful nation. We must stop this blame game, because blaming others is nothing more than excusing ourselves.

If we look at the development of some of the previously poor countries of the planet, such as Republic of Korea, India, China, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, etc., we can find out the reasons behind their development, that they had dynamic leadership, that they set priorities and started pursuing their goals.

On the other hand, despite being almost in the similar position compared to the aforementioned countries even four decades ago, why are we lagging far behind

them? Is it due to corruption, lack of vibrant leadership or spending time focusing on unnecessary issues? How long will we be spending time playing blame games? Should we not stop and wake up?

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## The postage stamp proposal

Three cheers to Professor Faruq Aziz of Chittagong for putting into words what most people are thinking and asking, "Has Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina lost touch with the common people?"

Like Professor Aziz, I have been following closely the Musa Ibrahim postage stamp proposal. We were quite excited by the proposal floated by Sir Frank Peters earlier this year. An excellent idea that costs relatively nothing to

implement, but guarantees a huge basket of benefits for Bangladesh.

Not only does Musa Ibrahim deserve the honour, but this is also the kind of opportunity the government should be looking for on our behalf. My eleven year old son sees the 'full picture' and the benefits to be gained, why not the Prime Minister or her ministers? I'm rapidly losing confidence in them.

Shumie Zakana  
Mirpur, Dhaka

## Christmas on my mind

Deck the halls with boughs of holly... whenever I hear this I think of Christmas. Red and green presents flash in my mind. I imagine Santa going over the moon with Rudolf guiding him. I think about the big Christmas tree standing proudly by the fireplace, with

## Be fair to Dr. Yunus

I sadly noticed that a section of media people, intellectuals and politicians are making irresponsible comments on the activities of the Grameen Bank founder Dr. Muhammad Yunus. It is very easy to comment and give lecture on poverty alleviation sitting in an air-conditioned room than working with the people in the field.

Many intellectuals are blaming that Dr. Yunus is serving the purpose of the capitalist block. May I ask - is not Bangladesh a capitalist country? None of the bank gave loan to very poor people before Dr. Yunus. Dr. Yunus saved the poor from so-called "Joddar" and "Mohajon", instead of confining himself in giving lectures on difficult theories of economics like our economists.

If Grameen Bank would not have brought any benefit for the people, it would have failed long time ago. Unfortunately, our politicians and intellectuals do not understand this simple thing. It is Dr. Yunus who brought the honour for the poor people by proving to the world that poor people are not loan defaulters like rich people.

Unlike many, I was not surprised when our prime minister made irresponsible comment based on a fake TV documentary. All the corruption cases against the politicians of the government party have been dismissed without any proper investigation whereas Dr. Yunus welcomed investigation of corruption charges against him.

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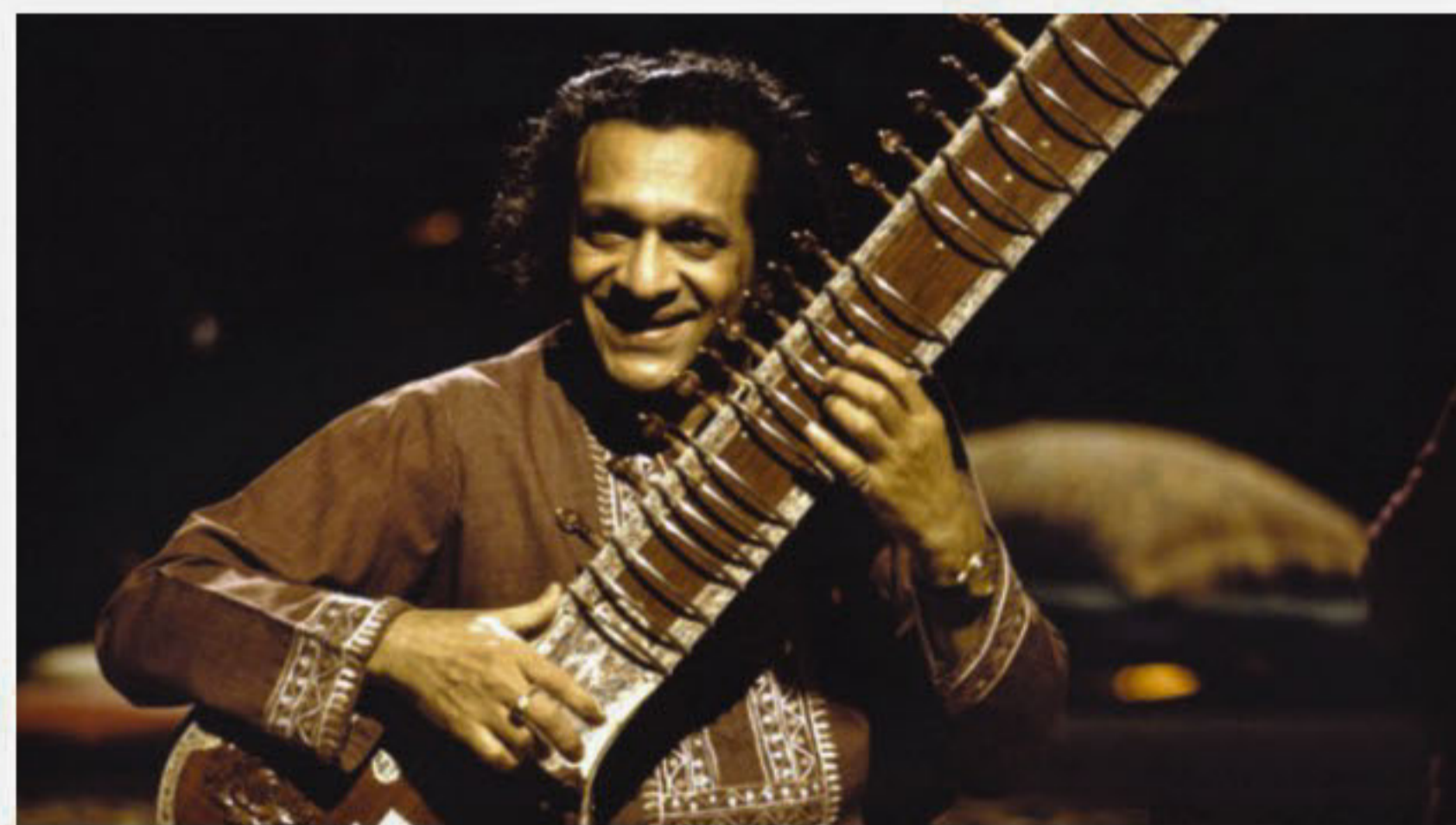
Much has been talked about and thought of siphoning off the fund of the Norwegian donor agency Norad, granted for the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Inevitably, Dr. Yunus has been targeted to be criticized from every direction being the Chairman of Grameen Bank, for 'embezzling' the fund. Whatever, the Norwegian government has finally made it clear that there has been no anomaly of fund and that the Norwegian govt. is satisfied as there is no corruption or misuse of money, nor even is it utilised on unintended purpose.

The above clarification is exactly what we were due to receive from Norad, with patience. But we failed to show patience. On the contrary, we, from all responsible sections, jumped into tormenting a reverend figure like Dr. Yunus who has brought the best of honours of the world to the nation, simply based on an informal documentary named "Caught in Micro Debt." Different news agencies and newspapers made the headings and banners with the sense of, "Down with the Grameen Bank, down with Dr. Yunus," completely regardless of the formal content of the agreement between the two financial institutions working for micro credit economics.

We have done nothing but a blunder by not only humiliating Professor Yunus but also hurting the image of our country.

Ikbal Azam  
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## Honouring the friends of 1971



We are very glad to know from media reports that the government has chosen some 400 foreigners to honour them for their outstanding contributions in the nation's war of independence. It has also picked 24 international organisations for the honour, 39 years after the independence. They are recognised inside and outside Bangladesh as connectors of ideas, people and opportunities, and as enabling leaders who care deeply about both people and independence, and the birth of a nation with pride through sacrifices, sufferings and struggles.

The extraordinary accomplishments of these civil society members and organisations are a testament to Bangladesh's independence and ingenuity. Their achievements have redrawn the frontiers of human knowledge. And it is our tremendous pleasure to honour them for their important contributions.

The award should recognise those who have made lasting contributions to Bangladesh's competitiveness and have helped strengthen the nation's identity as a brave nation.

Gopal Sengupta  
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## Let us make a change

The Supreme Court of India recently asked the sitting prime minister of India to explain or clarify the reason of delay in taking appropriate action against the telecom minister in view of alleged scandal relating to telecom. The Supreme Court did this job voluntarily, as appeared in the media, though the telecom minister resigned before the court action.

In this connection, it may be mentioned that our Supreme Court may also take similar action on many a grounds as often published in the media. We are champions of corruption for years at a stretch as per TIB reports, but no significant case be reported leading to punishment or so.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on LGRD ministry and other agencies do often refer to corruption of Dhaka WASA, while many a consumers are tired of WASA officials' extortions cum compulsory corruption relating to meter reading, bill making etc.

The caretaker govt. did a good and praiseworthy job in the gas sector as hundreds of persons declared voluntarily the money they earned through corrupt practices and they deposited this money to govt. fund.

It is time for the govt. to practise in the similar fashion. Let something happen in the name of good governance, accountability cum digital Bangladesh.

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WAHID ADNAN / DRIKNEWS



WAHID ADNAN / DRIKNEWS

## Live and let live

We state below a few glimpses from our present day national and international scenario:

Following North Korean artillery bombardment on South Korean Yeonpyeong island, the USA has rushed warships including huge aircraft carrier from Washington to South Korea, and China has expressed concern about joint US-South Korea military exercises in the Yellow Sea. Is South Korea-North Korea war imminent? For whose interest and benefit?

Very often the Israeli armed forces attack Arab countries, destroy hundreds of houses, kill thousands of innocent people. Israel has forcefully occupied Palestinian territories and reigns a rule of terror on the Palestinians. Washington has been sitting idle and talking about

negotiation and mediation for peace in the Middle East for over last six decades.

In our own country thousands of people in the coastal areas became homeless, left with no work to do, suffer from hunger and disease, after the disastrous cyclones Sidr and Aila hit the region. But we, the people in Dhaka, spend crores of taka daily for constructing palatial buildings for luxurious living. We, however, believe that with our whole-hearted acceptance of 'live and let live' concept, we can solve all our problems, remove our woes and sorrows, and establish the doctrine of good governance on earth for our survival.

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