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WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

## All women are 'worth it'!

As a woman, I am obviously concerned to raise the status of all women and, as a teacher it is natural for me to want also to raise their level of education and their contribution to the economy. However, there seems to be an assumption floating around that one depends on the other and so it is alright to behave badly towards a woman who is uneducated or not contributing to the family's income!

Of course it is important to improve women's education and place in the economy, but this should surely happen because the worth of all women is not based on cash but on the creation of both men and women in the image of God!

I heard of one man who looked down on his wife refused to take her to hospital when her labor pain started. He thought she was not worth it. That is the attitude that we should all be targeting, sir.

Preachers in mosques, churches and temples, teachers in schools and parents at home, should say, loud and clear, that all women should be respected and thus, when they have the chance for education and income generation, then they should take it - but the respect is basic and should not be dependent on anything else. All women are 'worth it'!

Angela Robinson, *On e-mail*

### History of hounding

Two articles that appeared in the editorial page of your esteemed daily on March 2 definitely drew the attention of many. Syed Badrul Ahsan, a staunch supporter of Awami League, wrote the history of hounding the leaders and intellectuals by rulers since pre-independence era. He has elaborately drawn a picture how Ayub-Monaem clique tried to hound the personality like Bangabandhu. He writes how the present government is chasing man of letters like Dr. Serajul Islam Chowdhury and the nation's pride Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus. He, like thousands, expected Dr. Yunus as a guest of honour with Dr. Amartya Sen at the opening ceremony of Ekushhey Boi Mela. Like the writer, we all are frustrated and disappointed at the narrowness of the organisers.

The second article shows how popular Dr. Yunus is among the students of foreign universities and their keenness to listen to his speech and thoughts.

A.M. Howlader, *Motijheel C/A, Dhaka*

### Facebook mania

Facebook is one of the largest social networks throughout the world. It is very effective and really helps us to be updated with all the old friends and share the best moments of our lives and also provides many more entertainments. It has attracted the people of all age, class and gender. But when kids of junior classes get attracted to it, they get distracted from many works which they are supposed to do. So, parents should be aware about this matter as this is becoming a serious problem.

Md Mahbubur Rahman

### We need airport

There has been a huge outcry and protests regarding the building of a new airport, but I suppose this is in many ways justified. Here I mention some of the problems at HS International Airport:

1. There is only one runway. This causes major traffic congestions on the airport taxiway where airplanes are waiting in line to takeoff with all engines running and burning extra fuel. Similarly, planes waiting to land are put on a holding pattern also burning precious fuel.
2. Bangladesh Air force (BAF) occupies more than 50% of the runway causing delays to commercial flights which is a huge loss to commercial airlines.
3. With only one runway, any mishap on the runway will cause the runway to shutdown causing commercial flights either to be grounded or diverted to alternate airports.
4. With Uttara residential area so close to the airport and so many high rise buildings coming up, this is a disaster just waiting to happen.
5. During Biswa Ijtema, a total gridlock at the airport road causes immense sufferings and inconveniences to passengers.

Therefore, in my opinion, there should be an alternative airport either for commercial flights or for BAF and VVIP flights. I would also like to urge the government to relocate Biswa Ijtema site.

Aminur Rahim, *New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka*

### Controlling emotions

Shame on the people who attacked the West Indies team bus! (If they meant it for our own team, shame on them for that, too!) Things like that give Bangladesh a bad name. Cheers to the ones who apologized (for the shameful act that they'd never have done, themselves)!!

Thanks to The Daily Star for publishing that! If people could only learn to control their emotions, the world would have been a better place.

Didi, *Dhaka*

### We should act reasonably

Too much of anything is not good; we overtly react on many occasions. When in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011, Bangladesh defeated Ireland, people acted as though we have won the World Cup. In the celebration which followed, many people were injured, and a few were even killed.

I remember that occasion when Bangladesh had defeated Pakistan in a cricket match. Awami League was then in power, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina brought back the Bangladeshi players by a special plane to accord them a reception and she said that Bangladesh had taken revenge for 1971. How absurd! How could these two be compared?

What happened on March 4, 2011, the shameful defeat of Bangladesh cricket team to that of West Indies, should be an eye opener. Were they so intoxicated by the previous win over Ireland that they failed to play properly? We were aghast, the Bangladeshi players seemed like children who were learning to play cricket. So, I think the government and the players should act wisely.

Nur Jahan, *Chittagong*

### Misuse of law

The senseless killing of Shahbaz Bhatti, Pakistan's federal minister for minorities is unacceptable and disgraceful. There must be more tolerance of views, especially for minority communities. There is nothing wrong with the blasphemy law as it stands, what is wrong is the implementation and misuse of the law by people and this needs to be looked at.

There is also a great amount of onus placed on the judges in these cases to show stricter criteria and not become kangaroo courts. It is clear that blasphemy rights have been misused and abused against people in some cases. Our great religion does not teach to kill people. It is wrong and against the teachings of Islam. The government of Pakistan must take perpetrators of such acts to task.

### M.O. Gani

Every accident is pathetic, but to vandalise any vehicle or damage any property or adopt the path of violence will never produce any effective result. Being students, we must shun the path of destructive methods of demonstration.

### Bazlur Rahman

Students should not take the law in their own hands. How are the victims of vandalism related to the tragic accident? Dhaka University is our pride. And we hope the students will understand that the image of the university is being destroyed by these kinds of incidents.

### Akkas

DU students did that out of anger and emotion. We don't expect this from the students of a pioneer university who know they should abide by the rules of law.

### Dr Karim

It is disgraceful that DU students are taking law in their own hand. But why don't the lawmakers do the things they should do? Why are they not taking any steps? Often road accidents happen in Dhaka University area. Why is the government not taking a permanent and effective step against this issue? Government is going to give Tk. 2 lakh to the family of the deceased. But why don't they assure punishment of the culprits first?

### Farhana

This is a long, outstanding and traditional culture of our national politics. We have inherited this culture from our continued political system. We do not know if such tradition is available in any other country. University students are the future leaders of the country. They should ask themselves why the innocent vehicle owners will pay for others' crime.

### Abul Kashem

Redwan's death is saddening but worse is the reaction of his mates. Is this what they learn?

### Rathin

Is this the only way the DU students have

## Yunus and government

It has been quite a long time that we are witnessing something is going wrong between Prof. Yunus and the government. I, like many others, do not really know the reason(s) behind this episode. The whole nation is proud of Dr. Yunus, the man who has earned a Nobel Prize for Bangladesh.

Prof. Yunus is the man who succeeded to raise Grameen Bank, that started with two staff, to a level that now employs 20000 persons with 83.5 lakh borrowers. It has 18 other affiliated social concerns and disbursed Tk. 60000 crore in loans.

Prof. Yunus has been removed from the post of Grameen Bank's Managing Director by the government that owns only 25% of its stake. We, the general mass, are really surprised why the government, leaving so many other national problems undressed, is creating new problems. Spiraling prices of consumer commodities; crisis of electricity, gas and water; looming food shortage; share market slide; unemployment and huge drop in manpower export etc. are the burning issues before the government.

By ignoring the core issues and willfully destroying an internationally acclaimed institution of the poor and disgracing a paramount personality like Prof. Yunus, the AL government is accelerating its downfall.

Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque, *Khalishpur R/A, Khulna*

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There were three reports in your front page on 5th March, all related to Grameen bank!

May be the government does not like the way it works; but why take it up in a personal manner only about the bank chairman? After all, this bank and its founder chairman, brought recognition of the world to Bangladesh, by winning the Nobel Prize! Can we overlook this singular and the greatest achievement of Bangladesh? There are many government owned public commercial banks, where the government holds majority shares, and that operate in a far worse manner, but seems to get away 'scott-free' and carry on.

In contrast, government's ownership in Grameen Bank is below 10%, which makes the actions taken so far as subjective rather than objective! To have a fair evaluation, it would be best to publish in the dailies a comparative summary of lending activities of the local 'Public', 'Private' and 'Grameen' Banks. The criteria could be say, "collateral and/or guarantees needed against getting loans", "minimum amount of loan usually given", "usual terms and conditions of loans", "interest charged and usual repayment period", the "minimum charge to sanction a loan", and importantly the amounts involved in "bad and written off loans".

Government should provide these comparative figures, as it is no 'state secret'; but if government does not, then it is well within the capabilities of our dailies to produce these comparative figures! With these information available publicly, most of your readers, can draw their own conclusions, without the unnecessary histrionics being created.

S.A. Mansoor, *Dhaka*

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Bangladesh government argued that Dr. Yunus can not be managing Grameen Bank because he is over 60 years of age. I have two comments on that.

1. Is it wise to have a younger incapable person to take over or a healthy 70 year old as capable as Dr. Yunus to guide the bank?
2. If age is a factor to be considered, then why Mr. Muhith and lots of other advisers of Bangladesh government are still continuing in their jobs when they are much over 60 years?

Iqbal Mahmood, *Ph.D., P.E. Los Angeles, CA*



PHOTO: AFP

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There is a joke regarding Bangladeshis which is very popular among common people. The joke is that a person was visiting hells where people from different nations were suffering. Guards were deployed everywhere so that no one could flee. But there was a hell where no guard was deployed. The man became surprised and wanted to know from the accompanying angel as to why no guard had been deployed to that particular hell. The angel smiled and replied that this was the hell where Bangladeshis were put. The angel said, "We need not put any guard because whenever a Bangladeshi wants to flee the hell, other Bangladeshis pull him down."

Bangladeshis are so jealous a nation that they cannot even tolerate any good of their fellow citizens. Prof Yunus, who has earned a wide reputation for Bangladesh, has been removed! Unfortunate for the poor Bangladeshis.

Kazi Ahmed, *Toronto, Canada*

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Who is this sacked Yunus?

1. The only Bangladeshi Nobel laureate.
2. Won Nobel Prize by staying and working within the boundary of Bangladesh.
3. The only entrepreneur Nobel laureate of the world.
4. Who has worked with the poorest of the poor of the world.
5. Who believes in work over charity.
6. Who focused on empowering the women of the village.
7. Who has shown a model to the world that banks can operate without collateral too.
8. Who has shown that the poor are creditworthy too.
9. Who believes in dignity over mercy for the poor.
10. Who left a secure and comfortable western life to live and work in his impoverished motherland.
11. Who is implementing the concept that business owners get satisfaction not only by making profit but also by investing for social causes.
12. The only Bangladeshi who has won most of the world prestigious prizes including Nobel Prize, US Presidential Medal of Freedom, Ramon Magsaysay Award, King Abdul Aziz Medal, etc.

The list will go on and on.

Afsar Ali, *USA*



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### DU students go berserk

100 vehicles vandalised, bus burnt in 2-hour mayhem following overnight death of a student under truck (March 7, 2011)

What the students did is wrong, but they cannot be held responsible for this. They did it out of frustration, because in this country criminals (such as irresponsible drivers) hardly get punished and innocent people always suffer.

### Mahboob Hossain

I'm deeply shocked with the death but ashamed with the behavior of our beloved students. I drive through Shahbagh quite often. I saw how people cross the street without caring the moving cars. Accident is not unlikely unless this is stopped. But in any case this is an accident. How could an educated person go on berserk? What was the crime of the BRTC bus in the picture or the passengers who were injured? I am bit troubled to imagine that these students will lead the country soon.

### Shaan

How can this happen in a democratic and civilised country? It's not a road accident at all. It's an intentional killing of a DU student by the workers of Himalaya Paribahan bus. Exemplary punishment should be given to the criminals.

### Suman Sen

Whatever may be the case, I support the students for their action against the buses and the drivers. Those, whose near and dear ones have been killed, will only understand the grievances and nobody else. The killer drivers go unpunished in most of the cases. Saying good words about not taking laws in one's own hand will only be logical when the laws

will be implemented against the killers. How many drivers have been punished for killing 13,000 people every year?

### Md. S I Bhuiyan

What was the difference between the behaviour of the transport workers and the DU students? Nothing.

### Mohammed Anwer

I hope this would be properly investigated.

### Mizan Kamal

Mere saying that we are shocked due to the sad demise of a DU student is not enough. We demand capital punishment of the transport workers who were involved in killing Redwan.

### Farid

The culture of violence must be stopped. Political leaders of the leading parties have to take responsibilities for creating this culture.

### Dipu khan

Immediate action should have been taken by the law enforcers. The killers should be arrested and punished by the court as soon as possible. It is not the DU students' fault, it happens because year after year murderers are getting no punishment.

### Afreen

We visited DU a few years ago with family, a 15-year-old teenager termed it as a 'graffiti university,' and no wonder why it now produces hooligans.