

Men should change attitude



We often hear of housewives being tortured or killed by their husbands. Mostly, these happen for dowry or for objecting husbands' extramarital affairs. Wives are murdered by strangulation or with sharp weapons and sometimes they are doused with kerosene or petrol and set on fire. Recently Rumana Manzur, an assistant professor of Dhaka University, became the victim of her husband's jealousy and her eyes were seriously injured. We pray that she may regain her eyesight.

Husbands are able to do abominable things because they are physically strong, and except in a few cases, they earn more than their wives and many wives solely depend on their husbands. Males are stronger and they are supposed to take care of females but many a time they use their strength in abusive ways. We do not know if this attitude of men will ever change and women will get the due respect, love and kindness they are entitled to.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Selfish political activities

On 10-11 July, the twelve Islamic parties of Bangladesh called for 30-hour long hartal across the country demanding for reinstituting one of the four fundamental state policies ("Absolute trust and faith in the almighty Allah"), instead of secularism, recently included in the constitution through 15th amendment.

Due to hartal general students could not attend their respective institutions. One the other hand, Kowmi Madrassa remained open during hartal. Regarding this, while facing private TV journalists, Mufti Fazlul Hoquo Amini said on 11 July, the regular classes and examinations were held amid the hartal in Madrassa considering student's academic loss. But Amini overlooked the academic lives of tens of thousands of students studying in Bengali and English medium institutions. My question to such kind of hartal observers: Who will fill up the academic loss of the general students?

Ex student
Department of public Administration
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Exploring mineral sands

A report on the matter was published on 12th. July in the pages of a local English daily; the writer cited "adverse impact in environment" as the reason for not allowing mineral sand exploration, anywhere in Bangladesh. If we are serious about "protecting the environment, as well as our precious health", then smoking should have been abandoned much earlier!

Exploration of mineral sands should be allowed, however, with the provision that environment pollution is minimum, if any! Today's technology can manage to contain environment pollution to a large degree; and it can be effectively minimized. Recovering and exporting minerals like rutile, zircon, and others can help us earn foreign exchange.

It will also help the growth of related local activity, and improve the economy of the regions where this exploration will be undertaken. Today these areas are fairly under-developed; a rational decision can be taken; setting off the disadvantages of some atmospheric pollution against the many advantages and economic activities that will come from exploring our mineral sands!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Do we need an agro policy?



Nearly six years back the Ministry of Agriculture had formed a technical working group comprising experts under the convenorship of the then Additional Secretary (PPC) Dr. Syed Naquib Muslim to formulate a draft National Agriculture Policy by updating and improving the previous one of 90s.

Accordingly the group worked hard to prepare a pragmatic agriculture policy by incorporating all the segments relating to agricultural activities and development.

A series of meetings were held with the representatives of various public and private organisations associated with agricultural matters. Even the present Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury also took keen interest in formulating an up-to-date farmers' welfare oriented National Agriculture Policy. The draft policy was ventilated by print and electronic media for public opinion. Several inter-ministerial meetings were held to update the draft policy.

A number of Additional Secretaries worked as convenors. A few months back the final draft was approved by the technical working group under the convenership of Additional Secretary A.Z.M. Shafiqul Alam (who has also left MOA for taking up his new assignment). Still the Draft National Agriculture Policy is awaiting final approval!

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

Police excesses on opposition

In reading the news reports regarding the attack on the Opposition Chief Whip, and your editorial on the subject, I was reminded of the incidents that took place during the BNP government's tenure from the outset.

Who does not remember the sight of Mohammed Nasim, the former Awami League Home Minister, sitting quietly on the street while the police with truncheons were beating him? He was accompanied on the ground by Begum Matia Chowdhury, former and present Agriculture Minister, also being beaten by sticks. Where in the world does one see women being beaten up with sticks while peacefully protesting? I would venture to say that accused women serial killers, such as Christine Wuornos in Florida, are more humanely treated in the U.S. and other civilised countries.

Have we forgotten the merciless beating delivered late in the BNP's tenure to Saber Hussain Choudhury, also a former AL Minister, when he was almost blinded in one eye, despite identifying himself? Indeed, it seemed that by identifying himself he enraged the police more and received more brutal treatment, as though they were actually looking for him.

While not condoning the unnecessary use of force in the present case, one cannot avoid considering the hypocrisy of the BNP as they protest the kind of brutality they pioneered on the then opposition.

Syed Hamde Ali
The Nawab Palace
Bogra

Rude rickshaw pullers!

Our most deprived rickshaw pullers all of a sudden have become most apathetic human beings, showing no willingness to help, especially the female passengers, when they literally beg them to take them to their desired destinations, finding no other means to reach their places. These rickshaw pullers willfully sit idly on their rickshaws and pay no attention to the passengers' repeated requests.

They don't even have the minimum courtesy to give any reply to passengers' inquiry. If anyone agrees to go it seems like they are doing a big favour. But the fare he demands makes the passenger speechless. These rickshaw pullers are doing this to harass the passengers purposefully.

I really don't know why they behave in this manner these days. Are they earning enough which makes them less interested to take a passenger or they behave this way just to have fun seeing the passenger running here and there for a rickshaw? Dhaka City Corporation must do something to ease this situation by hanging a chart of rickshaw fares everywhere, and our traffic police can also play a vital role by directing them to take the passengers to their desired destinations. If they do not agree to do so, traffic police can confiscate their license and rickshaw, both.

Humayun Hyder
Zigatola
Dhaka

SSB looks hyper active!

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) looks very serious to take action against officials who went to now-defunct Truth and Accountability Commission (TAC) to seek clemency for their misdeeds. These officials, who earned money unethically, sought amnesty on their own accord in response to a call of the then army backed caretaker government. It may be mentioned that the SSB or any other departments did not identify their misdeeds.

The officials who did not go to TAC then, and are still committing misdeeds, are happy now to see the hyper activities of SSB regarding amnesty-seekers. They may think that these actions will prove them pure and efficient, but unfortunately we can understand that their drive started after the report published on this issue in the media.

However, we hope proper disciplinary actions would be taken against all wrongdoers impartially.

Mobarak Ali
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Political consensus

Current political condition of our country has made me worried. Relentless political violence is creating enormous problems in our life. Currently scrapping of CTG is a burning issue in our political arena. The opposition party is undertaking different activities like processions, symposium, hartal, etc.

If programme like hartal continues it would be detrimental for the country. There is a lack of consensus among our political parties. No party wants to evaluate other's activities positively. Political parties should not criticize one another; rather they should be united for deciding on national important issues.

Md. Faruque Alamgir
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Whither quality education?

Due to lack of infrastructure, educational aid, logistic supports, and sufficient allocation in the education sector students do not get quality education in Bangladesh. However, the present govt. took a pragmatic step to introduce a new education policy for ensuring quality education. In fact, coordinated and combined efforts are needed for implementing such step.

Md. Firoz Alam Leon
BRAC University

Protect Sirajganj from river erosion

Sirajganj always gets affected by river erosion. Whenever the water of Jamuna rises, villages of Kazipur, Belkuchi and Shahjadpur are flooded. This year half a kilometre of Maizbari and Dhekuria under Kazipur upazila was badly eroded because of strong current of the river.

A few years ago, some parts of the embankment collapsed. Last year again about 200 metres of the embankment collapsed due to the pressure and whirlpool in the water. Although it was repaired, it is still not out of danger. This monsoon there is a probability of breakage in the embankment because of the strong current.

In order to get rid of river erosion, WDB has to take more steps. Loading and unloading materials, gathering domestic animals and drying cow-dung on the embankment are weakening it. We hope that the authorities concerned will take necessary steps to protect Sirajganj from river erosion.

Md. Fuad Hasan Sarkar
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World Population Day

11th July was World Population Day. This year's theme was: "Seven billion people counting each other". World Population Day aims to increase people's awareness on various population related issues such as the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty reduction, maternal health and human rights.

Md. Arshad Ali
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READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "BNP on mission caretaker govt"

Faqrul
Now a new political game will emerge. Please, do not throw Bangladesh in the process and allow safe zone for the fanatics and fundamentalists to take over power in the vacuum to be created by political rivalry, chaos and civil disorder.

Kazi Salim
Most of the parties are only rubber stamp parties. Their leaders live on subscriptions from the businessmen. They do not have any political agenda and public support. The opposition leader should go to the parliament and discuss the issues, instead of trying to mislead the nation and to make trouble with ill motives.

Anonymous
No election will be free and fair without caretaker government.

Emdadul Haque
A positive thinking indeed! But try to shun supporting the fanatics like Jamaat, Shibir and so on in the name of Islam whose anarchy has already been observed during your rule. Then the majority people will rethink to support your movement who are secular in nature and mind.

Anupam
The caretaker government enforced by the Army is not at all respectful and rational for implementing the national election in a democratic environment. People of Bangladesh are politically conscious. So, only a safe, secured and congenial environment and system can motivate the mass people of Bangladesh to cast their votes. So, all citizens should be more conscious to establish safety, security, humanity and modern system which will enhance our honour in the world of democracy.

Dr. Karim
For integration with Bangladeshi society few things may be important. All parties have to be nationalistic and patriotic with visions. Changes of mission statement have to be clearly understood. Changes in leadership profiles in political parties have to be abrupt which is not obvious, especially for BNP and Jamaat. Best MPs from individual parties are not selected because of muscle power. So, changes need in traditional nomination process, including AL. Nation needs educated visionary parliamentarian in the political arena.

Shahadat Hossain
The ruling party shouldn't do anything which is opposed by the main opposition. The government should continue to ensure the participation of the opposition.

Russell
We don't want to see same hartal or sufferings for decades. Can any leader tell us that how many years we have to wait for a good political environment or what is their goal? We want change in our politics in real sense. Our political leaders should have commitment to do something for our future generation.



Adieu Harry Potter!

Finally the time has come to say goodbye to our most beloved franchise, Harry Potter. No more movies to hang on to, let alone books. Surely 15th July was a bittersweet and very emotional time for the potter fans that grew up alongside this franchise.

I want to thank J.K. Rowling for giving us the power of imagination, for letting us enter the magical world of Harry Potter through the wonderful movies, and most importantly for forming a habit of reading among this generation. But I don't think this is the end of this world phenomenon. We, the Potter fans, will carry the Potter mania through the rest of our lives.

Last but not the least; we believe that no other franchise in the world will ever be able to take its place as it has made a special place in our hearts.

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