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All-engulfing corruption

It is deeply frustrating that corruption is pervasive in the country. Corruption now occupies the centre stage in public discourse in Bangladesh. It is humiliating when we see the name of our country on the top of the corruption list of the world.

A few years ago, we were dubbed as one of the ten most corrupt countries of the world. Our leaders at that time dismissed the evaluation and blamed others for portraying a false image of the country. The result is that we are still a top corrupt nation.

In reality, corruption is deepening and widening in all sectors. Recently, the Transparency International revealed another report that said our police

and judiciary are holding top two positions in the corruption list of the South Asian countries.

Unfortunately, after 40 years of our independence, we have failed to rid ourselves of corruption. On the contrary, we have welcomed black money and made Anti-Corruption Commission weaker. We seem to have turned a blind eye to corruption despite the fact that it is damaging to our national image. Unless our leaders rise above their petty interests, a corruption-free society will remain far from reality.

Md. Hafizur Rahman
Mirpur, Dhaka

We want punishment to criminals

I minutely read the news report titled "Bike-riding muggers" published in The Daily Star of December 31, 2011. What I have understood so far is that our law enforcing agencies are unable to control crimes. I think this news will encourage the muggers to carry on with their activities without any fear.

The DMP commissioner has said in a monthly crime conference that they will launch a special drive against muggers. He also reported that some muggers were arrested but they (the police) were forced to release them on bail. After their arrest, the muggers stay for a few days in jail and resume their activities after getting the bail.

The police are considered friends of the public in many countries. But in our country, the situation is completely reverse and the police department tops the corruption list. In seminars and symposiums, the big bosses of different law enforcing agencies express their profound opinions. But practically, we do not see any result. They just comment on different topics as they are invited to say something.

I request the law enforcing agencies and other departments to sit together and take firm steps to ensure security of the common people. The criminals must be punished. We do not want to read the news of crimes only, we want to read the news of punishment given to the criminals.

Nirmal Singha Chowdhury
Dhaka

Dynastic democracy

Some are of the view that democracy is not flourishing in Bangladesh as it should. It has fallen in a trap. Two major political parties, or to be more specific, two families have ensnared it. They say, the

political turbulence of 2006 led to usurping of state power by a non-political government which gained acceptance of the people. So, they think we should come out of the cycle of the two parties and look for a third and new one. Certainly, there are many examples which deserve serious notice. India has a good experience of this 'dynastic democracy.' No one can deny that India has a fast growing economy.

To accelerate the wheel of growth, the government should just ensure equal rights for all. All the people within the geographical boundary of Bangladesh should be treated without any discrimination. Only then we can hope to be a prosperous nation.

Indrajit kumar Das
Chittagong College
Chittagong

Is it a wall, or a road divider?

Every time I shop at Gulshan 2, I marvel that a nation with some of the best architects and engineers in the world - and a reputation second to none for sheer cleverness - could have perpetrated the horror that is the road divider at Gulshan 2. Its height makes it a major obstacle for those of us past the first flush of youth, as we heave our shopping bags and ourselves over it.

The drains are uncovered, presenting the risk of falling into them and landing on the filthy rubbish that is never cleared from there. The only advantage of the height is when it rains and there is a flood, those athletic enough to take a flying leap from the great height, can keep their shoes dry.

The rest of us need to remember to wear our plastic sandals so that we can wade through it. May I suggest that it should be included in the scheme for 'the beautification of Dhaka'?

Angela Robinson
Gulshan

Rangpur Express train a joke

The so-called Rangpur Express has turned out to be a joke to the people of Rangpur. There is only one train that starts from Dhaka at about 9am. It is supposed to reach Rangpur at 7pm and then begin its return journey to Dhaka at 7.30 pm. Then it is scheduled to reach Dhaka at 6am. Unfortunately, from day one the train was late by at least two hours in arriving Rangpur and as such was more than two hours late in returning back Dhaka.

If you are familiar with the train services between Dhaka and Chittagong, and Dhaka and Sylhet, then you know that there are two trains by the same name, one up and one down. The trains named Mohanagar Probhati start from Dhaka and Chittagong almost at the same time. The same goes for Mohanagar Godhuli, Paharika, Joyontika, etc. We think the Rangpur Express has been introduced only to say that Rangpur has a train now.

The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the then communications ministry to introduce a train service from Dhaka to Rangpur for the people of that district. But the minister and the bureaucrats, as usual, made a mess of the whole thing.

We urge the new Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta to look into the matter and provide a meaningful train service to and from Rangpur by providing two trains, both starting their journeys at the same time from both ends. The people of Rangpur will remain ever grateful to the railway minister for this.

Baharul Hayat
South Guptapara, Rangpur

Save the hungry

It has been learnt from the recent Oxfam report, as I learn from my teacher Prof. M. Zahidul Haque of SAUB, that every day 925 million people go hungry. It is very alarming news, no doubt. But one thing is inspiring that the Agricultural Science is remarkably advancing in developing super yielding cereals and genetically modified crops. It is also true that to meet the food

demand, chemicals are being used improperly which leaves adverse effects on the environment.

The developed nations have surplus food grains, if they distribute this food rationally, it is not impossible to feed the hungry people of the world.

Md. Refatul Hossain
Dept of Agri. Extn. (DAE)
Khamarbari, Dhaka

When money rules...

When the whole society is running after money, then who is going to appreciate someone's sincere endeavours to do something better for society? 'Money for money' is the ruling principle of society. Money can buy anything, from social status to even spiritual attainments. Those who do not run after money are often labeled as worthless. In this money-wise society, few good people are struggling selflessly to put the nation back on the right track. Will they ever win?

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

Secret killings and disappearances

Mysterious disappearances and secret killings have created panic in the country. Fifty-one people vanished last year, according to a report published in The Daily Star. No clues have been found as to why these people vanished, although fingers are pointed at the law enforcers. But prime minister has hinted at BNP's involvement in these killings which is a sign of bad politics. It is the duty of the law enforcing agencies to find out the killers and the real reasons behind these killings. Otherwise it will be much more dangerous in the future. We hope that our law enforcers will be able to perform their duty properly. We also hope that our top-level leaders would make responsible statement on the matter.

Sourav Roy
Dept. of Mass Communication & Journalism
University of Dhaka

Rein in BCL cadres



What happened in KUET is very frustrating. Not only in KUET, this is the situation in all our educational institutions. The pro-Awami League (AL) student body, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has been controlling all the universities and colleges of the country now. They are using their power to gain personal interests. They are killing students, beating students, raping the female students, and what not? They are against any logical demand of the general students of a university. We have seen what happened in Jagannath University, how they tortured the general students. The AL should rein in the BCL cadres immediately, for their own good.

A student
Dhaka University

Neutrality expected from president

At last, President Zillur Rahman has started a dialogue regarding the appointment of the Election Commission members. According to our constitution, the president has limited power, in all respects. But we were hopeful about the success of this dialogue. The BNP also agreed to take part in this dialogue. Some of the parties, including BNP, requested the president to include caretaker government issue in the dialogue. But he did not do that.

The president invited many parties which never represented the parliament but ignored some parties which have their representatives in the 9th Parliament. Jamaat-e-Islami was not invited although it is the 3rd largest political party in the country. One may not like Jamaat-e-Islami, but how could our President take such an undemocratic and biased decision?

We request all concerned, including our president, to review the decision.

Dr. Abu Saad
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka



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MP Kamal Majumder assaults TV reporter (January 4, 2012)

Shame on Kamal Majumder.
Bashir dubai

Funds for the development of schools come from the government. The money is allocated in the budget. When the school authorities collect money from the students for the school's development, there is a possibility of misusing the money. Most of the money will go into the pockets of the high-ups. We see only a few bricks by the side of the school showing that the development work is going on.

Amdem

Kamal Majumder's behaviour speaks volumes for the kind of people that pass through the nomination process of the two major political parties and get elected as MPs.

A school's governing body or chairman should not make any

secret deal in the name of development. Many of the Awami League men are discriminatory about gender and religion like the Jamaat people.

Dr Karim

We are really shocked at such behaviour of an MP towards a journalist. It is really a bad practice by the school authorities to charge such an extra amount of money.

Mizanur Rahman

This kind of behaviour from a lawmaker is totally unacceptable. If he was ill, he shouldn't have been on the school premises. He said that he did not have the strength to lift a cell phone which is nothing but a joke, as he found the strength to push the female reporter away.

Niloufar Sarker

We keep listening that nobody is above the law. Now that a lawmaker broke the law, we would like to see what action is taken against him by the government. It would be interesting to see how the law comes into action to ensure justice to the innocent victim who was at the scene on a call of duty to ensure social justice.

Elihan U.K.

See whom you have voted for! They don't know anything but money.

Anonymous

Shouldn't the MP be arrested for assaulting a journalist? That's what happens in a civilised country.

Robin

The parliament should take step and ensure that its members maintain minimum decency.

Mir

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should take stern action against this MP for his unlawful and vicious conduct.

Md. Abul Kalam Azad

A committee has been formed by the education minister as usual. But does anyone have the power to do anything against that MP?

Anonymous

I really commend The Daily Star and other media houses for bringing the news on the front page. This shows the strength of democracy at work. You are doing a great job. Expose those politicians' activities, who think that they are above the law and can get away with anything, simply because they are MPs and belong to the ruling party. No matter who you are, you must respect the law.

Akhtar Hossain

Honest and educated people are not nominated by the party. These dishonest people are creating anarchy in all spheres of life.

Anonymous

How did he become a lawmaker? Does he have any educational background to be the president of the school's managing committee? Everything is possible in Bangladesh.

Shah