

Govt living inside a cocoon!

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had addressed the nation on January 6, 2010 after completion of two years of her government. In her speech she pointed out the government's successes. She claimed that law and order was better after her government had taken a tough stance against crime and corruption. Her observation was so preposterous that we were taken aback at that time. Since then one year has passed. Meanwhile, criminal activities have gone up. The prime minister and the home minister do not even acknowledge that criminal incidents are happening. Home Minister Sahara Khatun has said that law and order is better than ever before. How could she say such a thing when every day numerous incidents of robbery, looting, mugging, killing, abduction, rape, and arson are taking place, which are being reported in the print and electronic media.

In the January 22, 2012 issue of The Daily Star, quite a number of criminal incidents were reported: robbers kill stock trader in his house; robbers stab crew at port; masked gunmen kill one, abduct 3 in Khagrachhari; two house-wives tortured for dowry; and 13 BCL activists hacked to death in Pabna.

If the prime minister and home minister do not acknowledge these criminal reports, how could the situation be tackled? The government should put all its efforts to control the horrifying situation. We are very perplexed that the home minister is repeatedly saying that everything is in order. Is she living in a cocoon where no news is reaching her?

Nur Jahan
Chittagong



Respect your language

The way the radio jockeys (RJs) speak on radio is extremely disrespectful to our language. They neither speak English nor Bangla. Their language sounds dirty. I draw the attention of the ministry concerned to take immediate action to stop this nonsense. I must admire the ABC radio's exceptional role in this connection. I urge the managements of all FM radio stations, please show some respect to your language. We do not speak and so do not like to listen such a strange language (Banglish!) with an annoying accent.

Foyed Ahmed
AGB Colony (Ideal Zone)
Motijheel, Dhaka

The government's achievements

There is no doubt that Bangladesh has improved a lot compared to its past. 3000 megawatts of power have been added to our national grid. Thousands of schools and colleges have been established. Our poverty rate has decreased. Bangladesh has improved economically, according to the reports of World Bank and IMF. Bangladesh is now the second largest garment exporter country in the world. Its hosting of 2011 Cricket World Cup was another achievement for us. Bangladesh has also made its first laptop DOEL.

So why do we always try to find faults with the government? We should rather try to highlight the achievements of the government in the last three (3) years. Yes, there are also a list of failures, but we need to work on that.

Imrul Chowdhury
Student

BSF's brutality and LGRD minister's indifference

The recent circulation of a video footage, which showed a Bangladeshi being stripped, kicked and beaten by the BSF of India, aired by Indian TV channels, has sparked criticism across the country and abroad. At the same time, we have felt embarrassed at the speech delivered by LGRD minister Syed Ashrafur Islam who said that the government is not "much worried" about the recent incident of physical abuse on a Bangladeshi citizen by BSF. While National Human Rights Commission of India has served a notice to the country's home ministry seeking a report on the BSF jawans who were videotaped in the act of assaulting a Bangladeshi youth, such insensitive remark from our minister is totally unacceptable. Despite repeated assurances from Indian authorities that BSF has been instructed to maintain the highest restraint while dealing with smugglers active at the border, such barbaric incidents are continuing unabated. It has to be kept in mind that the government is the a guardian of a country. It cannot ignore what is happening at the border. According to the newspapers, a number of lawmakers of parliament on January 24 have criticised the foreign ministry over its failure to address the issues for the sake of maintaining peace at the border.

We hope that the government will consider such occurrences seriously. However, we express our gratitude to the Indian newspaper The Hindu for urging the Indian government to seek apology from Bangladesh.

Md. Shafiuddin Sabuj
University of Dhaka



Age catching up with Tendulkar?

The quest for the elusive century of centuries in international cricket is being overshadowed by the closeness of the time for terminating his career! Seems like there is a race between these two deadlines! Like any long lasting talent, the end of the reign of Tendulkar, a superb batsman, is drawing near. The question provokes all cricket enthusiasts, and surely it is eating into the mind of Tedulkar too! Every sportsman reaches the end of his or her career, and Tendulkar is no exception to this final reality. Starting young, he has had a long and distinguished career in the international cricket arena, studded with high class performance, scoring many thousands of runs. Age is now naturally catching up with him, and the time is drawing near when he will take the final bow from international cricket! It will be the end of an epic chapter in the game. Tendulkar's name will go down in history with the immortals like Bradman, Hammond, Hutton, Pataudi and many others. He will be missed by the many cricket supporters across the world!

S.A. Mansoor, Dhaka



A recipe for violence

The government ministers were giving wrong information about BNP's rally in Dhaka on 29 January 2012. The government tried to brand the rally as a programme with 'evil intention'. The ruling party staged a counter demonstration in the city on the same day, which was nothing but a recipe for political clashes and violence.

A simple look at the history of Bangladesh politics will help us identify the party with chronic 'evil intention'. A responsible ruling party will never hold a rally to counter the opposition's rally in the city at the same time. I hope we will not have to witness any more 28 October 2006. Obstructing the democratic programmes of the rival political party should end once and for all in our country.

Shimul Chaudhury
On e-mail

AL's political blunder

Scrapping of the caretaker government (CTG) system from the constitution was the most unexpected and unwarranted political development during the last three years of Awami League (AL)-led alliance govt. This abrupt and unilateral step ignoring the opinions of all other political parties as well as the general sentiment of the people, is now widely believed to be AL's ill-motivated political manoeuvre to stay in power by hook or by crook.

But by doing so, the ruling AL has been trapped in a deep political quagmire. If AL decides to revert to CTG system by re-amending the

constitution, it will be treated as a big political defeat for the party and it will adversely impact AL's performance in the next general election. Again, if AL refuses to restore CTG system, the party will be held solely responsible for the impending political turmoil in the country. On both counts, the immature decision of abolishing CTG system now is considered as the AL's greatest political blunder.

Md. Mohsin Ali
Senior Assistant Secretary (Retd.)
Nutan Courtpara, Kushtia

Choosing the right friends

Friends play an important role in the life of every man. The young ones socialize with their peers and are greatly influenced by them. A good friend can be a source of inspiration and encouragement and a helping hand in the time of need. But very unfortunately, we have witnessed some tragic incidents in recent times where a person intentionally became the cause of harm for his friend. The greed for money and material possession ripped apart the ties of supposed friendship and prompted one to threaten, hurt or even murder the other. A true friend would never even think of such hideous acts.

Friends are to be chosen carefully. Emphasis should be given on good nature and personality of a person rather than good looks and riches. The guardians should also keep a simple idea about the friends their children are making and passing time with. Keeping a cordial relation with the friends' parents would help both parties as well. Let good friendship prevail.

City's risky manholes



Manholes in Dhaka city are found to be made in such a careless manner that most of these are lying - no matter whether these are on the main roads or small lanes - haphazardly.

While constructing those, usually not at the same time when the roads are being repaired, the contractors give very little attention to these "crucial things" and thus these manholes become higher or lower than the road level.

These manholes are risky for vehicles especially the three-wheelers and motorbikes as well as for the pedestrians. When the vehicles run at a high speed, passengers in a bus or car get sudden jerks and sometimes motorbikes fall on the road losing balance.

As a city dweller, I urge the authorities concerned to pay attention to this issue and take prudent and consistent steps to dig manholes. The administrative headquarters in the capital should act first so that the rest of the country may follow the good practice.

Prabir Bidhan
On e-mail



Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

4 killed as cops fire on BNP men
100 policemen among 450 injured countrywide;
half-day hartal called in the towns today
(January 30, 2012)

Any investigation by police against police brutality and killing will not be acceptable. The Awami League leadership is to blame for using the national police force as their own party goons and they have made every effort for a confrontation at all cost. Playing with fire may burn their own house.

Jumana Sarwar

This is probably a prelude to a civil war with no clear winner. We probably do not deserve to be independent but ruled by others. What a shame!

Dev Saha

In such cases, police usually go berserk, often leading to casualties that further smears their image and alienate them from the public. The political parties

are out to show their strength on the streets which they term as democratic movement. The government in such cases usually go for coercive action against the opposition politicians. But the other day, they were also on the street, agitating in the same way. Ironically, power blinds the ruling class and they take no lesson from history.

M. Shafiqul Alam

Where is our home minister? Who has empowered the police to resort to open fire and kill people demonstrating against the government? My question to the government, why not allow the opposition to observe its demonstration programme and remain vigilant so that its activists do not resort to killing, arson and looting of public

properties? The home minister is too partisan and does not have control over her law enforcing forces.

Upfront

This is how we are repaying the debt of our martyrs,' who made their supreme sacrifice for our freedom. But people of Bangladesh love democracy. They have proven it many times at the cost of their blood.

Tipu

Is it called democracy? How much blood do we have to shed to free the country again?

Anonymous

We can't expect any good things from our two big parties. They are doing politics for their own interests, not for the general people.

Shibli

What a disgrace to democracy! The AL has scrapped the caretaker government system and killed the protesters who opposed this by using the police force. The AL is showing its true face.

Maruf

Were Pakistanis more brutal

than Bangladeshi police? Pakistan army killed Bangladeshis in 1971 and now Bangladeshi police are killing Bangladeshis after forty years of independence. What is the difference?

Anonymous

This is absolutely unfortunate for the nation. The party in power should maintain the democratic norms, principles and culture. The law enforcing agencies should play impartial role in maintaining law and order during any political movements without violating the human rights.

Mayen Uddin Tazim

Why did the ruling party take the hard line before the BNP started their tough movement against Awami League-led government?

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

We the Bangladeshis are being tortured and killed by the Indian BSF in the border region and by our own police inside the country. Being poor and powerless, we have nowhere to go and no one to look after our interests.

Shimul

Back to the days of Ershad! What a democracy!