

Political violence on campus



PRAJNA TASNUVA RUBAYYAT / DRINKNEWS

The recent occurrences of violent activities at different university campuses are at the same time shocking and alarming. People running wild with machetes, iron rods and injuring and murdering others inside the university premises; the reality is probably even worse than our nightmares. This violence must be stopped at all costs.

Banning student politics cannot provide a solution to the problem. But the present condition of student politics has to be changed. The students should keep to the political principles and do politics for the good of the larger community and society, not for their personal gain. They should realise student politics is not about making money or showing off power, it is about building character and gaining leadership qualities so one can be in the lead of the whole country at the time of need.

The political parties and leaders should also exercise control over these political bodies and make sure that no student can get access to and store weapons or firearms. The university authorities should also remain vigilant and be in contact with the student bodies.

We hope politics will redeem its lost honour and glory and once again give rise to great national leaders.

Shahriar Kabir
Dept. of EEE
BUET, Dhaka

Airport of most agonising delay

I would like to bring to the attention of Biman and the Bangladesh Government Ministry of Tourism about the unacceptably long delays in getting checked bags from flights landing at Hazrat Shahjalal International airport in Dhaka. For example, on December 27, 2011 we had to wait three hours after our Gulf Air flight (GF 250) from Bahrain landed in Dhaka. This is too long a delay, by any standard.

When asked, a Biman official at the airport told us that with the manpower and equipment they have, they can't bring luggage any faster, if two or more international flights land within an hour or so of each other. Consequently, if two flights land at about the same time, it takes three hours to bring all the bags from both the flights to the belt. This is an unacceptably long delay, causing great inconvenience to arriving passengers.

Record shows that multiple flights from the Middle East and beyond, carrying thousands of passengers are indeed routinely scheduled to land daily in Dhaka airport within a short duration, especially in the morning. Thus waiting three hours for bags has become almost usual at Dhaka airport. Imagine the rage the long distance travellers, coming all the way from Australia, Europe and North America who start their journeys one to three days before they actually land in Dhaka, feel at this long, long delay in getting their bags.

In my forty plus years of international travels covering many countries, I have never experienced delays of more than an hour in getting bags at the belt, in any airport, anywhere, except in Dhaka. Yet, as we see it, the solution of this problem is not difficult or too costly. It needs a few more pick-up trucks and some part time drivers cum porters. The additional cost is very minimal, and can even be passed to the travellers in the form of additional taxes and/or baggage fees.

Dr. A. Razzaque
Bloomfield Hills
Michigan, USA

BPL and batting power play

It's very refreshing to see BPL T20 being played here in Bangladesh.

I would like to say that there should be at least 8-10 different teams competing in order to make the tournament more competitive, challenging, and interesting. I also believe that this will encourage BCB to set up more cricketing venues all over the country so that each team may get a chance to play in their own home grounds.

Here is an idea for the ICC to ponder. At present, T20 cricket has only one power play during the first six overs of each innings. During this time, the batsmen try to get used to the wicket and are therefore not able to take full advantage of the power play.

So how about dividing the power play into two parts? The second power play can be given to the batting side from 15th over. This way, I believe the game will be a lot more entertaining. I hope the ICC will think about this seriously.

Aminur Rahim
Mohakhali, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

Govt. should speak rationally

On February 15, 2012, readers' comments were published in response to The Daily Star news report headlined "Journalist couple killed". All the comments were true to the point and Jumana Sarwar's comment was very interesting. It said, "The roaring home minister, who reminds the nation that law and order is better than anytime in the past, will again blame the opposition of being part of the conspiracy to stop the war crimes trial."

It is well said, because when anything goes wrong, the government instantly points its finger at the opposition and declares it a conspiracy to foil the war crimes trial. It has become their favourite saying and people have become tired of hearing this again and again.

The opposition political party clearly said that they are not against war crimes trial; they want the guilty to be punished. They are only saying that the trial should be of international standard, it should be transparent and not politically motivated.

So, we hope the government would not waste its breath by this sort of meaningless remarks anymore.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Mindless remarks of ministers

Last year the commerce minister said food prices would reduce if people ate less. The LGRD minister and Secy-Gen of the ruling party ignores the daily killings on our borders as "incidents" of no consequence. The communications minister thinks the more illiterate the bus/truck driver, the better; while another minister said that it was sufficient if they (the drivers) could identify a goat or a cow on the road. Today the shipping minister, also the transport big-wig, wants tolls and extortion to be legalised to stop rampant corruption in the transport sector. Half the prime minister's time is spent in warning various ministers, members of parliament, government officials and party men to behave, all to no avail. Will the home and population ministers, tomorrow, declare that Sagar and Runi actually volunteered to reduce our population? Are we supposed to listen in awe their "wise words"?

Sikander Ahmed

Malnourished children



PHOTO: STAR

According to a recent report of Save the Children, 500 million children in the world could grow up physically and mentally stunted over the next 15 years because they do not have enough to eat. The survey was carried out in Bangladesh, India, Peru, Pakistan and Nigeria where half the world's malnourished children live.

It is said that the world has made dramatic progress in reducing child deaths from 12 to 7.6 million. But this survey reveals that one third of the parents surveyed said their children complained about not having enough to eat.

High food prices throughout the world have worsened the situation. One in four of the world's children have stunted growth. It means that the body and brain of these children have failed to develop properly due to malnutrition.

However, it is impossible for any charity to rid all children in the world of malnutrition. It requires affluent people's extended hands to their neighbouring poor families and their children to overcome this situation.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Brutality of the BSF

This report was published on 12th February in most local dailies, of the inhuman torture inflicted on a Bangladeshi woman by the brutal Indian BSF personnel. To add salt to our wound, the BSF Chief said the other day that "shooting will be necessary"! It reflects the actual state of mind of those Indian ruling class when this is the opinion of their high and responsible official! It is worst than what we had heard about the Nazi brutality in the World War (1939-43) days. How can we have friendly relations with such a cruel country? Their brutality at the border, seems to be the rule, rather than exception.

Our government, particularly the foreign minister, as well as the prime minister have totally failed in this important matter, where the lives of our citizens are determined by the whims of an Indian border guard! Why this issue is not raised at the United Nations by Bangladesh? This is indeed a total failure on the part of government that can not be ignored any longer. If not for any other reason, then just this matter alone, will be more than enough to put them out of power, come next election!

Disgusted citizen, Dhaka

Dual citizenship

I am writing this not to hurt anyone with any malicious intention, but to share my thoughts as to what I feel after having observed many things in and around the country as well through interactions with friends and relations living in foreign countries as immigrants.

Many may disagree or differ with my simple observations that those who have dual citizenship can hardly love his/her adopted second home or his/her motherland heart and soul. When one is enjoying all the benefits and fruits of the country which has given full-fledged citizenship to one, then one should give one's full heart and soul to the country one migrated to. True patriotism cannot grow simultaneously for two countries. One would always be in a dilemma to make any trustworthy and sensible decision. This is just a generalised view of mine from seeing the immigrants all around the world with their behaviour about sports when held in their migrated (foreign) homeland. This should not be the true spirit of patriotism.

Mashududul Haque, Dhaka

Humayun Faridee's death has left a void in art, culture

Humayun Faridee was a charismatic actor and a devoted theatre personality in Bangla drama. In my childhood, I watched 'Shangsaptak', a Bangla super hit small-screen drama where he played the role of Ramzan. Since then he has been my favourite artist. This powerful actor mesmerised thousands of audience at home and abroad. Humayun Faridee also played a great role for the development of theatre. His absence will make a permanent void in the arena of drama and culture.

Mizanur Rahman
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "AL, BNP shift a little, show some hope"

Rezaul Karim

True power lies with the people. So the government must resolve the crisis immediately.

Mayen Uddin Tazim, former Advisor, UNDP

Both parties can take the Ninian's theory of interim government system which was given in 1994. A cabinet of the interim government can be formed with the participation of all 11-15 members from the different parties who will be responsible for holding a fair election in assisting the election commissioner. It is noted that Ninian came to Dhaka in October 1994 as a special envoy from the then-Commonwealth secretary general to break the political impasse between the then-ruling BNP and the AL-led opposition over introduction of a caretaker government system.

Banoo

Cheers to Blake for putting some heat to melt the ice. Neutral and non-partisan government is the main issue. Call it by any decent name. But what will you do about the Election Commission? The selected Chief Election Commissioner has a reputation of being a good man but a very weak one and the other members are connected to the ruling party. How do we make EC really non-partisan and neutral? The appointment and transfer of government officers who can influence elections in favour of the ruling party has always been an issue. Please think about all of this as a composite for a neutral election.

Reaz Hassan

The truth is, we are not yet fit to hold general elections under a party government. We are too selfish and greedy to allow free, fair and credible election that might usher in a new government. Under a party government, all the state machinery would be effectively used to ensure incumbent's victory. Even the last Election Commission felt that elections under party government would be problematic. The interim government, caretaker or by whatever name we may call it, must essentially be there, if possible for a period of four months or so. A slightly longer tenure is recommended for undoing the administrative set up of the last government and for the new officials to understand the hang of things. Hope things will be sorted out soon and we will be out of this quagmire of uncertainties.

Kabir Choudhury

It is the responsibility of the government to bring back a neutral and non-partisan government during the time of election. It is the ruling party who created the problem and it is its responsibility to solve it.

Dr. Ahsan Habib

Both AL and BNP have successfully kept the issue alive for the last three years, diverting the attention of people from real issues and the Bangladeshi press and people treated it as a major issue. I feel sorry for us who are being treated as puppets by these two dominating political parties.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

At last BNP and AL are going off at a tangent. Both are stickler for their respective opinions. Whether it is called a non-party government or CTG system, majority people want to see a fair, free, credible and violence-free election. Both AL and BNP should come across the table and narrow down their wide differences on national issues burying their petty parochial interests.