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Speak up, don't suffer in silence



PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I. KHAN

Last year a large number of women have been victimised by their husbands' brutality. The question is what turns a common man into a monster? Society and religion teach men to take control over their wives and women to be submissive to her husband. Man in this society cannot endure the fact that his wife is more educated and qualified than him. Our general mindset is that the husband should be more educated than his wife.

Both Rumana's and Jui's cases are the horrid examples of this. Both of them ended up becoming the victim of their husbands' brutality, just because their husbands couldn't stand their higher qualifications.

Now the question is what is the way to get rid of this problem? To eradicate this deep-rooted problem, parents should teach their sons to be liberal and daughters to be vocal about their rights. It is very disappointing that to marry off a daughter, most of the parents look for a man having higher educational qualification than their daughter.

It is 21st century, a time when women are called the agent of change. The change will never happen if women endure all these physical, psychological and emotional tortures inside their own home, by their own husbands. I want to tell all those thwarted wives, don't suffer in silence, speak up.

Kohinur Khyum Tithila
East West University
Dhaka

Just accidents!

Our minister has said that road accidents are just accidents. In other countries schoolchildren got killed by drunk drivers, in spite of the government's best efforts. But in Bangladesh pedestrians and schoolchildren are getting killed by buses and trucks in the absence of any efforts by the government. Only in our country can politicians make such excuses without being held accountable.

Ezajur Rahman
Kuwait

Increase gas supply in Bashabo

Bashabo is one of the planned residential areas in Dhaka city. From last December 2011, the residents of this area have been experiencing severe shortage of gas supply. The dwellers of the area solely depend on fuel gas from Titas for cooking. Particularly from 8am to 3pm, we hardly have any gas supply.

The population of the locality has increased a lot in the last couple of decades. After Titas Gas set up the supply lines around forty years back, no measure has been taken to augment the gas supply. Immediate steps need to be taken to solve the problem, otherwise the next winter it would be difficult to live in Bashabo.

We urge the authorities of Titas Gas T & D Company Ltd. to take proper steps to augment fuel gas supply in Bashabo.

Mohammad Ashraf Hossain
Central Bashabo
Dhaka

We want a clean campus

Nowadays, the environment of Dhaka University is in dire condition. For instance, garbage and wastes are littered here and there. Heaps of brick particles and abandoned construction materials lay haphazardly on the campus. Streets are never swept properly and so it is never clean. One would not believe this unless one pays a visit there. Sometimes it seems to us that it is a garbage disposal site.

As there is no public toilet on the campus, street children, rickshaw pullers, homeless people and vagabonds use the whole campus as public toilet. It's impossible to get fresh air.

I on behalf of the students and teachers, urge the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps immediately to keep the university area clean.

Solaiman kabir
Zahurul Haq Hall
University of Dhaka



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Al Jazeera report on trial of war criminals

In a front page news on 17 February 2012, The Daily Star published a news about a report broadcast by Al Jazeera television channel that said the ongoing trial of the war criminals in Bangladesh would throw the country into further political instability. The report dealt with former Jammata-e-Islami Ameer Ghulam Azam standing trial for crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971. On the Al Jazeera report, The Daily Star also published comments of many renowned personalities, who strongly criticised and opposed the opinion aired by the internationally renowned TV channel. They stressed that the trial would rather bring political stability in the country.

It seems The Daily Star reporter preferred to collect comments of the persons who are actively supporting the trial and there were no comments from the other side that want to turn the history back, although their numbers are negligible. But in democracy, no one should try to set aside or choke the voice of the minority.

As a nation, we are confronting the problems of widespread corruption, ever-increasing unemployed population, sliding law and order situation, a scandalous share market, soaring prices of essentials, intolerable traffic jam, a dysfunctional national parliament, anti-people activities of the big two political parties, uncertainties about the next general election, closure of higher educational institutions due to unruly acts of some student factions and many more to add to the list.

The primary objective of the government should be to focus on these issues but surprisingly it is spending most of the time and energy to fight the opponent political forces.

Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque
East Rampura, Dhaka

Awami League should not mislead people

We have become very vexed by the attitude of our politicians. They think that people are all fools, they do not understand anything, and they will believe whatever the politicians say. But people are not blind, deaf, or dumb. They are observing everything; they have their own judgement on every issue.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 18, 2012 said to a rally that the BNP chief's "Dhaka cholo" programme is "designed to protect the war criminals." Sheikh Hasina should have known that people would not swallow it. They know very well that the opposition's programme is to re-instate the caretaker government and has the support of people from all walks of life.

The ruling party is continuously saying that BNP wants a CTG because they want to go to power. How absurd! Unless people give their verdict in favour of BNP, how could it go to power under a neutral government? So, Awami League's objection to the CTG system is unjust and unacceptable.

If Awami League had gotten the time to listen to people's voice, they would have known the fact. That is, people are thinking that Awami League wants to remain in power and hence this protest for re-introducing the CTG.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

An open letter to Mr. Moudud Ahmed

Ever since the creation of the new Election Commission, we have been coming across many views from many corners. A lot has been said about the legality

Aggression of Hindi and our lack of self-respect

Since 2009 till January this year, it cost about 100 crore taka to bring more than 200 Indian artists in Bangladesh. We have to spend about 1000 crore taka to telecast Indian channels. We can measure the financial cost but can we measure the loss we incurred by accepting Indian culture?

We often see that the new generation refers to Hindi as their 2nd language on their Facebook profile. Without playing Hindi songs no marriage ceremony is held. The noisy presence of Hindi songs on FM radio, imitation of Bollywood fashions by the new generation is common.

To cripple a nation, its language and culture have to be ruined at first.

Our boys sacrificed their lives only to save their mother tongue in 1952 from the aggression of Urdu against our language and culture. After 60 years of our glorious achievement, we are now facing another language aggression. The only difference is Hindi is not forcefully imposed upon us. Why should we accept Hindi language and Indian culture? Don't we have our own language and culture? In India Bangladeshi satellite channels are prohibited. So why should we watch their channels and follow their culture shamelessly?

I think it's not smart to follow Bollywood fashions and speak in Hindi. It is our ignorance and disrespect to our own identity.

Md. Yeasir Arafat Nadim
4th year, Dept. of Economics
University of Dhaka



of creating such a commission through a search team. But the most interesting comments came from Barrister Moudud Ahmed.

It was on 11th February 2012 that I was watching NTV evening news in London when I heard Barrister Moudud Ahmed saying about the newly formed Election Commission that it was formed with people of very low calibre and that they were neither competent, nor had any previous experience. Mr. Moudud Ahmed is a renowned barrister of the country. He is an elderly politician. I did not expect him to say such things.

I shall talk about only one person Chief Election Commissioner. I know him for long. He was my classmate in the college. Even at that young age, he was very refined, cultured and well-behaved. He was a brilliant student. He had the opportunity of being a student at Harvard. He was a CSP officer. He attained the rank of a secretary to the government.

There was never any black spot in his career. He always maintained his political neutrality and served every government with equal dedication. What more can you expect? Talking about previous experience I do not know what type of experience he is talking about. Only a person joining the commission as a clerk can have several years of experience. Commissioners whether ex-judges, civil servants or even generals are not expected to have previous experience.

The new CEC may not have the same background as Barrister Moudud but it certainly does not make him "nimno storer (low grade)." With all due respect, I would request Barrister Moudud Ahmed to kindly clarify his statement.

F R Chowdhury, London



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

Join politics

Khaleda invites honest, meritorious people; top personalities want correction in politics (February 21, 2012)

We the people have been fooled by both the BNP and Awami League since the independence. Some dishonest politicians of both the parties have turned the country virtually into a safe haven for corruption and nepotism. Consequently, our growth has been held back and democratic practice is withering away. The BNP chief's intention may be honest, but her party's inner vicious circle would not let her intention to be materialised.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

Thank you for your good thinking!
Anonymous

Politics is not for the meritorious people in the current political situation. Politics in the universities has stifled the education process. Ban politics in the universities first. And also politics of dynasty must

stop. We want a meritorious and dynamic person as the next prime minister rather than her son.

Mohsin

Better late than never to start off with what she has so lately realised after having assessed the fallout of in the forty years of dirty politics by the two major political camps.

Mashudul haque

I think it is a good recommendation made by the opposition leader.

Anonymous

We have observed that many top personalities label their counterparts as corrupt, even though the court has not given any verdict yet. Such comments of the top personalities aggra-

vate the situation in society. They should stop making such remarks without any proof.

Mizan

The speech delivered by Khaleda Zia is a good one. Her confession of the mistakes made during her regime will make her favourite to the people. Let remorse arise in the minds of all political leaders.

Sihab Uddin

Just plain verbal invitation will not work. The BNP needs to create the framework and involve think tanks who will engage themselves in policy discussion as well as organisation building.

Roni Rahman

I agree with Khaleda Zia. It is time the honest and meritorious people took the leadership of the country including the position of prime minister and president.

Salam

We have heard the opposition leader making pro-people statements before every election, but things get quite the opposite after they go to power. People of Bangladesh are being fooled repeatedly by these two political parties (BNP and AL). How long will this continue?

Anonymous

Khaleda's appeal seems genuine. We have to have some hope. However, she may have to make some serious sacrifices. The corrupt people around her including her sons have to give way to others. I am not a follower of BNP but I think Khaleda Zia has some leadership qualities that are admirable. Now the question is will she really make the sacrifices to make room for honest new leaders to take over?

Riffat

Call for meritorious, honest and competent persons! Is she trying to say that her courtyard is devoid of those? Joke of the century!!

Jyothi

The call of the day is the retirement of these two women from politics asap. As long as they lead their respective parties, nobody can do any good for this country.

Anonymous K

No thanks. We have seen both of you ladies time and again. It's time for a change!

NA, Rajshahi

The honest and meritorious people will join politics, if all