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Assaulting teachers



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Being the son of a teacher, it is quite impossible for me to turn a blind eye to the humiliation that primary schoolteachers had to go through last week. Teaching is a noble profession and primary schoolteachers lay the foundation of our education. Primary schoolteachers are highly paid in other countries. But sadly, in our country teachers are not given enough salary to live a decent life. Our government had given assurance to the registered non-govt. primary school teachers to regularise their jobs before the last election. But after coming to power, they forgot the matter.

These poor and helpless primary schoolteachers, finding no other alternative, came to Dhaka to remind the government of their demands. They were going to the prime minister's office to submit a memorandum to press home their demands, leading a peaceful procession. They were neither aggressive nor vandalising any vehicles. Nevertheless, they have been attacked and lathi-charged by the police as if the procession was brought out by the opposition party. Not only that, they used hot water to disperse the procession. More than ten teachers were injured and one died eventually. We protest this brutality in the strongest terms.

Our prime minister and education minister could have sat with them for finding a solution at the very outset. But they did not do this. Why? Was it because they are poor, helpless and half-fed teachers? But have they (our ministers) forgotten that these ill-fated teachers taught them in their early life?

Md. Musfikur Rahman Jony
 Baneswar, Rajshahi

Recruitment in Bangladesh Railway

Bangladesh Railway is recruiting around 12000 people in different categories of job. This recruitment should not be like the previous one where millions of taka were taken as bribes from dishonest job seekers. I hope this time only the qualified and honest people will be selected for the job. I would request the railway ministry to conduct the whole process of recruitment online so that everything remains transparent. All the high officials of the railway department including the general manager should be vigilant so that no one can take a single taka from the job seekers. It is known to all that railway is the most corrupt sector in Bangladesh. If this corruption cannot be curbed, then the day is not far when railway communication will not exist in Bangladesh.

Kazi Mizanur Rahman
 Gulshan -2, Dhaka

Directors sans shares!

The Hon. High Court's decision published in all dailies on 22nd. May endorsed the notification of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), that sponsor directors must have minimum specified shareholding in the company they endorse. This is quite logical and justified and in my personal opinion the minimum shareholding should be more than what SEC has laid down.

One fails to imagine how sponsor directors have no share liability of the company they sponsor, while they are free to guide and direct the sponsored company to purchase goods and services from sources, or reduce selling prices. In either manner, the sponsor directors could have a profit motive. Such negative and subjective decision making by these directors can lead to losses for the new company, while fattening the purse of the sponsor directors!

Ex company director

Stop sick politics!

No need to explain why people consider present politics as 'sick politics.' People are frustrated over the politics of confrontation. Every sector like education, health, police, judiciary and civil administration are on the verge of ruin because of partisan appointments. Presently, forced disappearances have become a grave concern among people. It has also become an issue of political confrontation between the ruling party and the opposition. The opposition blames the government for the disappearances of their leaders. On the other hand, the ruling alliances blame the opposition for intentionally making it a political issue. Recently Rashed Khan Menon and Hasanul Haque Inu, two lawmakers of the ruling alliance, made a valuable comment that Jamaat-e-Islami had started the politics of killing and disappearance during the Liberation War, which later got institutionalised by the law enforcers under different governments. No doubt, people want to get rid of this sick politics, but how?

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain recently called upon the country's conscious citizens and civic, professional and women organisations to create national unity to tackle sick politics. I hope that the conscious citizens of the country will not keep mum any more and form a united platform to raise their voices against sick politics before it is too late.

Mobarak Ali
 RK Mission Road
 Gopibagh, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

An open letter to Tamim Iqbal

Heartiest congratulations on your consecutive 4 half centuries during the Asia Cup. Despite being under tremendous pressure, you achieved this feat. You played with a mature head on your shoulders and displayed patience as you built your innings.

You've learned to play along the ground instead of hitting in the air which could easily be caught. You've learned how to hit the ball in the gaps and take runs with ease. You've also learned how to control your sudden rush of blood and stay at the crease for long periods.

However, after reaching the half century, you seemed satisfied with your innings and had less desire to continue. You seemed to lose your hunger for runs and your need to stay at the crease. During the final of the Asia Cup, as long as you remained at the crease, Bangladesh hoped to win. It was only after you got out, wickets began to fall at regular intervals and Bangladesh ended up short and lost the match.

Please do not take it for granted that other batsmen coming after you will perform as well as you have done and complete the job. Therefore, it is my suggestion that you remain hungry for runs and stay at the crease as long as possible and make more centuries. You have the gift and potential to be the next Tendulkar and take Bangladesh cricket to a new level.

Therefore, it is my request to you not to take this gift and potential for granted and give it all you've got and do the best you can. I wish you the best for the upcoming tours. Make us proud with your magic once again.

Aminur Rahim
 New DOHS
 Mohakhali, Dhaka



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Intellectuals' reaction to police attack on teachers

Fifteen highly respected intellectuals of the country in a statement have expressed their reaction to the atrocious attack by the members of the law enforcing agency on the primary schoolteachers who tried to bring out a rally in Dhaka recently. They expressed their grief and shock terming the police action as 'violent' and demanded trial of the members of the police force responsible for the heinous act. They added that the law enforcers of the country needed proper training on human rights in order to deter them from acting violently and inhumanly. They further suggested that the teachers' demands be considered for the well-being of the nation's education sector.

The signatories to the statement are not only highly respected citizens but also the conscience of the nation. Therefore, we hope the incumbent government will pay heed to the intellectuals' voice without any delay.

Mohammad Rukanuddin
 Assistant Professor of English
 Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology
 Dhaka

Kids' gallery in parliament!

I was alarmed to learn that a separate gallery will be constructed in the parliament exclusively for children so that they can watch parliament session live and learn its rules and regulations.

In this turbulent society, parents try very hard to keep the young minds of their children away from the elements of bad influence. Unfortunately, the bad elements are everywhere the curse words used in heated discussion on roadside tea stalls, quarrel inside a jam-packed 'local' bus or the advertisements like 'dimag ki batti jalade' or 'uski pas kar hey...' in the media -- which teach us that resorting to unfair means is the passport to quick success.

Our lawmakers have turned the 'Noble Shangsad' for hurling all kinds of expletives at one another. They indulge in sycophancy, etc., rather than sticking to parliamentary rules and regulations. I wonder any conscious parent in her/his right mind will dare take their kids anywhere near the parliament.

Saif
 Dhaka

Deplorable condition of private universities



PHOTO: STAR

Recently we came to know the news that most of the private universities are run by 80% of the necessary number of lecturers. They have a very few assistant professors, associate professors and professors. It was learnt from the report that renowned private universities have also been running their courses by only a few professors and associate professors and assistant professors.

It is quite understandable that their motto of imparting quality education to the students will be greatly affected due to inadequacy of experienced teachers in their institutions. In their employment notice they used to say that they would recruit those persons who completed their Graduation and MA from North American Universities. But the stark reality is that most of the private universities recruit teachers graduating from our public universities having even no teaching and research experience. Sometimes students having bad results are also taken as lecturers on political consideration.

Much to the frustration of the nation, in some universities there is only one permanent teacher in a department. Some of the private universities are just giving the certificates without ensuring the fact that curricula and syllabuses are 100% taught and evaluation is done according to UGC's recommended format.

In view of the above, the UGC and ministry of education should be more alert in their monitoring and supervision of the private universities and take pragmatic steps so that students get quality education and nation gets quality citizens. Only then the country will progress steadily.

Jasim
 Jurain, Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's *The Daily Star* news report headlined "3 lens men assaulted"

Dr Islam

We are not surprised, it's just one of the regular inhuman acts committed by many of our law enforcers.

Md. Nazrul Islam

The police department has already lost its acceptability to the common people. The police are in no way considered the protector of people's rights. Only suspension or withdrawal from one place to another can not be the proper action for reducing such unlawful activities of the policemen. They need to be put under trial for violating human rights.

NDS

If this is the way the police consider appropriate to handle the on-duty photo journalists, then what awaits the common citizens in this so-called democratic country? We think these particular police personnel do not represent the entire police force. We wait to see whether our view is correct.

Farhana

How long we will see these types of torture and oppression? By assaulting journalists and opposition leaders, police officers are showing their cruelty which is very undemocratic and inhuman.

M. Hasan

Assaulting the general people, politicians and journalists and beating them up brutally by the police personnel have become a daily affair in our country. Such misdeeds must be stopped. They must be brought under law. I request the honourable home minister and the authorities concerned to take rigid action against the offenders.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

Police assaulting the photo journalists proves that the morality of the policemen has plunged into a deep gorge.

Amdem, USA

It is evident that police have become very powerful in Bangladesh. There are several reasons for this: 1) Police has been given a wide range of power. 2) Police has been politicised and is being used by the government against the political opposition. 3) Police force has been recruited from among the members of BCL who believe in their superiority and are supported by the government.

N. Alamgir

The police force in Bangladesh does not have the ability to solve any case. They have failed to solve the cases like Sagar-Runi, Lokman and Saudi diplomat murder and thousands of other cases. Professionally, they have totally failed. How inefficient they are! They just can apply their brutal power on journalists and on the common people. I highly condemn this police force and ask the responsible ministry