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Get to the root of the problem



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

At present we all are victims of adulterated food. After the biggest supermarkets have been penalised for storing adulterated food items, we are quite at a loss whom to trust. I read in The Daily Star and many other newspapers and saw on the TV channels how BSTI and City Corporation seized adulterated foods but I never saw any reports on how the sellers are getting these harmful chemicals. If the authorities are so concerned about the health of the general people, why don't they ban the use of these chemicals? Every citizen has the right to eat fresh food. The government should now look for the root of the problem before we are destroyed by these chemicals.

Shafeen Mahmood
Class X (Commerce)
Little Jewels School
Chittagong

Field day for grabbers and looters

Once it was alleged that 22 families owned the whole country. Bad governance and corruption continued with succeeding governments, each of whom added a zero to the 22 (220, then 2,200 ---). Then there was a bloody war through which the then-Eastern Wing won independence. In the newly independent country the tradition continued. Whether despotic or pseudo-democratic, the zeros continued to be added as relatives, cronies, henchmen, camp-followers etc swelled.

Today, thousands of families exist, spreading corruption even to the grassroots level. Their bosses are required to frequently distribute huge funds to retain their loyalty. The peanuts from extortion, tender-trading, mugging, contracting, trade unionism etc no longer suffice to satisfy their insatiable appetites. The Frankenstein needs big bucks now!

The 2011 multi-million taka stock market scam has already been digested; The 'Railgate' exposed prematurely by the driver, is now dead. The juicy morsel from WB has slipped through the 'patriot's' fingers. Now where is the next penny to come from? Dusting old files, the bright lads found a veritable treasure trove owned by 8.3 million poor women benefiting about 40 million of our marginalized countrymen.

Many sane citizens have expressed their disapproval and protest against such unilateral action.

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Punish those who poison food

Adulteration of fish, foods and fruits is a growing concern among the Bangladeshis. In a report and at a roundtable discussion, both published in your newspaper recently, nothing came out about the steps or action to take or

about amendment in the relevant law to be made for punishing the people behind the crime. It's already late to save our future generation. Nowadays cancer is attacking young children too. Adulterated food is everywhere. I am just wondering why the authorities concerned are silent, even after seeing the daily reports in newspapers and other media.

It is a common practice in a developed country to remove the intestine of a fish as soon as it is caught. If we do the same, fish will not rot. Already a lot of time has been wasted. The government should enact strict laws to punish the adulterators. Otherwise, deadly cancer in Bangladesh will become one of the leading causes of mortality.

Dr. A.H.M. Waliul Islam
Fellow, Invasive & Interventional Cardiology (NCVC, Japan),
Specialist-Clinical & Interventional Cardiology
Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

Hats off to journalists

Being a journalist is not one of those easy jobs and not everyone can be a journalist. Journalists all over the world deserve to be recognised for all their hard work round the clock. They are the true unsung heroes who are quietly working behind the curtains. But unfortunately they are also the ones who have to pay the price for unravelling all those illegal activities in the underworld. They are the class of people in our society who are dedicated to their work and are always busy bringing facts about our society to the surface. However, not everybody thinks like this and so they cannot accept facts. Recently many incidents took place where journalists were attacked due to their bold writing which irked various interest groups. Despite the displeasure of some vested quarters, journalists are still devoted to their work. Hats off to all those journalists.

Tahmid Samiul Mowla
Student of Grade X

Rehabilitate beggars

In Bangladesh, beggars are here, beggars are there and beggars are everywhere". But beggars were not born as beggars. Circumstances in life pushed them to the streets. They are citizens of Bangladesh and have every right to live a decent life. It is the duty of the government to eliminate the beggars by rehabilitating them. A few months back, the ministry of social affairs took steps to rehabilitate the beggars by providing them with rickshaws, rickshaw vans, sewing machines etc. This was a noble decision. I asked many people who were begging in the streets whether they heard about the step taken by our government to rehabilitate them and in reply some told me that these were bogus, others never heard of it and a few of them told me that they visited the venue for help but were driven away by police. Nobody could tell me what the NGOs responsible for taking care of the poor are doing. I understand that lots of money is being donated by rich countries for the poor in Bangladesh and wealthy people at home also donate in Zakat fund. But why then there are people still begging on the streets?

Kazi Mizanur Rahman
Gulshan, Dhaka

Involve locals to monitor road works

In most foreign countries, rocks, stones, pebbles and sufficient quantity of bitumen are used for durable and strong roads. On the contrary, we use ordinary bricks, cheap brick chips and small quantity of bitumen for building and repairing roads and streets. As a result, those are damaged within 3-6 months causing a huge loss to the public exchequer and suffering of the people.

We suggest the following measures for the construction and repair of our roads:

- * The government officials, engineers concerned and contractors must ensure supply of high standard bricks.

- * Brick chips must be soaked with water and cement.

- * Sufficient quantity of pebbles and bitumen have to be used before final carpeting and coating.

- * Two or three residents of the area concerned may be included in the team along with the government officials and engineers for monitoring the public works.

O H Kabir
Wari, Dhaka

Decentralise administration



PHOTO: WAHID ADNAN/ DRINKNEWS

It is rather shocking to see scores of people sitting, lying on the bare floor of Kamalapur Railway Station in an effort to obtain a ticket to reach them to their destinations during ensuing Eid holidays. People back at home have become familiar with these situations, so they do not have the feeling of remorse. It is something unthinkable here in the United States. People usually come across such a situation only when disaster strikes.

I am not aware of whether people of other Islamic countries also experience such a situation prior to Eid holidays. I can not but wonder whether these festivities are meant to cause sufferings to the people or not. Perhaps, Bangladesh is the only country in the world that experiences such a situation, which is man-made and can easily be overcome. Only the good intention and its implementation by the government will be good enough to overcome such a perilous situation.

Dhaka, being the capital of Bangladesh since colonial times, continues to be the source of all economic activities of the country and as such people throng the capital.

Honestly speaking, no government since emergence of Bangladesh has taken any positive initiative towards administrative decentralisation which would in turn ensure decent;isation of economic activities throughout the country in the last forty years. Concentrating only on Dhaka is by no means good ; it is simply increasing the problems faced by its residents and making Dhaka an unliveable city.

Without any further delay, the government pursue the policy of administrative decentralisation in the greater interest of the nation. It will not only drastically reduce the magnitude of problems faced by the city dwellers but will also usher in a new era of economic and social development in the country.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Houston, Texas, USA

Olympians' concern for child malnutrition

We have learnt from the media that British Prime Minister David Cameron has urged international action to tackle malnutrition across the globe. Taking advantage of the large number of foreign officials gathered in London for the Olympic Games, Prime Minister Cameron has called on world powers to save 25 million children from stunted growth over the next four years.

However, noted Olympians including world famous athletes have signed an open letter urging Cameron to fire the starting gun on the biggest ever push against hunger and malnutrition. The letter says, "As athletes, we know how essential nutritious food is for people to flourish physically and mentally." Anyway, how unfortunate it is that despite the abundance of food world-wide, one person in seven goes to bed hungry every night and it is children who are often hit hardest.

Experts say that one in three child deaths are linked to malnutrition; and 171 million children are so malnourished by the age of two that they can never physically recover. Even if malnourished children are able to fight off sickness and infection in their earliest years, their bodies and minds never fully develop.

Anyway, we offer our cordial thanks to the British premier for his timely call for boosting world power's efforts to tackle malnutrition throughout the world. In this context, we also urge the Olympians, the world powers along with international community to set a comprehensive program for eradicating malnutrition. It would really make the Olympic Games delightful to the millions of children who suffer from malnutrition.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR



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Bangabandhu's men - on Aug 15 and after

(August 15, 2012)

Syed Gias Uddin
Politics of this country has a long history of treachery.

Deep Purple Blue
Thanks for the write-up.

Saleh Md Shahriar
The South Asian states are characterized by the politics of assassination.

Morshed Ali
Good research work by Badrul Ahsan.

Rocky Sinha
Though we are a small country, our history is bloody and brutal. It is time for us to enhance our patriotism and learn from the past to

build a civilised nation.

Translucent
We need another patriotic leader like Bangabandhu now who can unify the nation just like 1971.

A Choudhury
It is the most shocking assassination in the history of Bangladesh.

Nick
Why didn't General Shafiullah come to the aid of Bangabandhu?

Saleh Md Shahriar
Some of the persons known as Bangabandhu's men were extremely greedy for power. The ambition, and

drive for capturing the state power were so acute in them that they did not even hesitate to brutally kill Bangabandhu.

Dev Saha
It was a vase of butchery that killed the founder of the country with all his family members. What revolution did they really produce?

Koyes, UK
That was truly a dark time for the country.

Naabaj
The killing of Bangabandhu was an international conspiracy by those who were defeated by our heroic freedom fighters.

Nafis Ahmed
Where was the Rakkhi Bahini- the dubious force, that was supposed to protect the Father of the Nation?

Raz
I am very happy that this plain truth has been written after so many years. We have forgotten these few beneficiaries of Mujib's death. Thank you again for

reminding us of these facts, which is especially needed for the young generation.

Zaman
We should learn from the past and secure the future and independence of our beloved country which is in need of good and honest politicians.

Anonymous
It was an armed revolution - the change of the government by force.

Asma
So Awami Leaguers themselves killed Sheikh Mujib and were the immediate beneficiaries of the killing?

Rukhsana
Sad that the Awami Leaguers killed their own leader.

Nick
It seems that from 1971 onwards most of our leaders were not true patriots. They were mostly interested in their self-preservation rather than the development of our nation. The true patriots were the four leaders killed in jail and a few others like Tofail Ahmed who did not