

Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 200 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Strong protests against insult to prophet (pbuh)



PHOTO: AFP

In the wake of violence that erupted in Egypt and Libya over a controversial film on Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), one of my American friends has asked why Muslims always react violently over any controversy over Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Well, I believe not only my friend but also millions of people around the world probably have the same question. In order to dig deeper down to find the correct answer, we first have to understand where Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) stands in the minds of all believing Muslims. It is not only blasphemous to insult and associate the prophet (pbuh) with something slanderous but at the same time Muslims have a very high place and utmost respect for their prophet. As a matter of fact, from theological perspective Muslims are supposed to love and respect their prophet more than their parents.

But irrespective of their level of love for the prophet, Muslims are not supposed to react in such a way. There are two reasons for that. First, if the Muslims deeply study the life of their beloved prophet (pbuh), they cannot find a single incident in prophet's (pbuh) life where he acted in a similar way when he was slandered personally, especially during the time in Mecca. Instead, there are numerous incidents where his arch enemies were impressed by his kindness and magnanimity. This made those non-believers embrace Islam. He used to deal with these people with great wisdom that God blessed him with. Therefore this kind of reaction by some Muslims in a way exposes their very ignorance about the life and work of their beloved prophet. Second, this kind of act or reaction (without wisdom) confirms the negative propaganda that enemies of Islam are trying to propagate about the Muslims.

There is no doubt that what was shown in the film is objectionable and Muslims ought to protest this kind of religious bigotry (in the name of free speech). But the way they are doing it is counterproductive. Better education, economic self-sufficiency, good leadership and broader unity among the Muslim Ummah are more important to fight against this kind of religious bigotry and spread the message of our beloved prophet (pbuh) than violence and hot headedness.

Zafar Hadi
 California, USA

Was that cricket?

A staff correspondent's write up, published in the 'sports pages' of a local English daily on 11th. September, about Shahriar Nafees' crude behaviour in India, was 'just not cricket!' He must realise that cricket is fundamentally a gentleman's game, played by well behaved and sober persons, and such ugly demonstration of ill behaviour just can not be allowed on the cricket field, despite any provocation.

It is indeed a sad and serious matter, and reflects adversely on our national character, and that too outside the country. As a dedicated admirer of the game, his rude and crude behaviour just can not be ignored. One person cannot tarnish our image by his rowdy and ugly acts. In all seriousness, I feel he should be banned from playing cricket, to set an example, so that such ill and crude behaviour is nipped in the bud once and for all.

Cricket Enthusiast

Will the situation change?

Mr Obaidul Quader has forsaken the comfort of air conditioned office and is making frequent surprise visits to different railway stations to ensure that general people get proper service. The common people have welcomed his efforts.

Mr Quader has realised that at least two things have to be implemented: Increasing the price of train tickets and evicting the illegal structures on railway land.

Eviction of illegal structures is facing hurdles as the owners of the illegal structures are influential people. But the ticket price hike has been smoothly implemented and general people are paying 150% extra for travelling in the same shabby locomotives.

Surprise visits, slapping public servants, etc., might score points for the next general election, but the real change will remain a distant dream. Influential illegal occupants will 'manage' different quarters and keep their illegal structures. The common people will suffer, as usual.

Saif, Dhaka



PHOTO: AMERUL RAJIV

EC must monitor RPO strictly

The Representation of the People Order, 1972 (RPO) is the core electoral legal framework of Bangladesh. Some new provisions were made during the time of the last caretaker government in view of modernising the RPO, such as, bringing transparency in selection of candidates by the political parties. Later, the law was passed in the parliament in 2009 with amendment.

However, we hoped that new RPO provisions would ensure intra-party democracy but the way of nomination of Simin Hossain Rimi for Gazipur-4 constituency recently dismayed us. Awami League did not listen to any suggestions regarding this nomination from the grassroots level committees and it was clear that the decision was taken by the party high-ups.

The revised law states that a political party has "to finalise nomination of candidate by central parliamentary board of the party from the panels prepared by the members of the ward, union, thana, upazila or district committee... of constituency concerned."

An article by Md. Abdul Alim entitled "Analysis of RPO: Does the law ensure governance in candidate selection?" published recently in this daily pointed at many aspects and the authorities concerned should consider his opinions.

In this context, I would like to mention another good new RPO provision that says a person is disqualified (not applicable for independent candidate) for election if he/she has not been a member of a registered party for three years.

We hope political parties would be sincere to abide by the RPO provisions and the Election Commission (EC) would be vigilant against any loopholes created with an ulterior motive by the parties.

Mobarak Ali
 RK Mission Road
 Gopibagh, Dhaka

Ban Indian TV channels

The conscious people of the country have been demanding imposing a ban on the foreign channels, especially Indian TV channels in Bangladesh for a long time. These channels have bad impacts on our culture and values.

There are some programmes in these channels that are completely destroying our tradition and faith. Mainly the young people are being influenced by those programmes. Many Bangladeshi youths speak Hindi among themselves nowadays. Moreover, both young and old women are addicted to the Hindi serials. We urge the government to ban these harmful Indian TV channels for our own good.

Mohammad Jashim Uddin
 Rupnagar

World First Aid Day and our responsibilities



PHOTO: STAR

Every year the second Saturday of September is observed as the "World First Aid Day" with the objective of raising awareness among people about how timely first aid can save lives. It was introduced in 2000 by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

This year the World First Aid Day has been observed on September 8. Like elsewhere in the world, Apollo Hospitals in Dhaka also formally observed the Day, which was appreciable.

Meanwhile, it is really painful to note that most hospitals and clinics decline to offer even emergency first aid to accident victims or otherwise physically injured persons because of the fear of being entangled in police case. Because of legal problems, the ordinary people or passers-by avoid offering help to accident victims.

If it is not possible to rectify the existing laws and regulations, the government may at least issue a directive asking hospitals and clinics to provide emergency first aid to accident and other victims of physical injuries before the victim's relatives or the persons who bring the victim to the hospital/clinic report the incident to the police.

We can not ignore or overlook our responsibilities to come forward in the aid of accident victims.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
 Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
 Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
 Dhaka

Integrity of poor mosque caretaker

Recently I lost my wallet twice within two months. After searching many places, I went to the mosque where I offer my prayers and asked the poor caretaker whether he found any money bag. He smiled and said yes. Both the times he returned my wallet. I offered him money to buy something for his children but he refused to take the money.

These two incidents raised some questions in my mind: who are actually at peace? People who earn large amount of money without thinking whether it is legal or illegal, or people who are happy with whatever meagre amount they earn honestly? People who use latest model cars (bought with illegal money) to go to office or people who go to office by bus and are satisfied? People whose sons and daughters dislike them for earning money illegally or people whose sons and daughters respect them though they are not financially well off but honest?

According to my personal experience, we feel very happy to say that our late father was an honest man although my mother had very hard times running our family.

I am not pointing at the politicians only. People of almost every profession are being misguided by their greed. However, I am hopeful that things will change by the leadership of an honest government. Let us try to bring change and we must remember that "every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."

Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain
 Microbiology Program
 BRAC University

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's *The Daily Star* news report headlined "MKA replaces Shahara"

Faiz ahmed

It is too late to replace Shahara.

Tausif

I think MK Alamgir will make a much better home minister than his predecessor.

Abul

Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir is not the right choice for home ministry.

Elihan, UK

We think the outcome will be zero except adding more expenses to the public exchequer by creating more ministries. There is absolutely nothing to hope for the poor nation.

Faiz Ahmed

It is wise to replace Shahara but we have to wait and see whether the decision is right or wrong.

Saleh Md. Shahriar

We welcome the new home minister. We hope he will leave no stone unturned to improve the law and order situation.

Mayen Uddin Tazim

Thanks to the prime minister for reshuffling the cabinet, especially the home ministry although it is too late. MKA was an experienced civil servant. I think he is absolutely the right person for this position.

Translucent

A reshuffle was long overdue. However, finance and industries ministers could have been replaced for stronger performers. Mostafa Faruque Mohammad and Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali come from the same stables and let's hope their performance is not the same too. Perhaps MKA could have been given the finance but I am sure he will do well in home ministry. Good luck!

A reader

Regarding Sagar-Runi killing, Sahara Khatun said within three days the murderers would be identified. But still now the law enforcing agencies could not detect the culprits. We expect the new home minister will do a real investigation into the case and give proper punishment to the criminals.

A citizen

The reshuffle is yet to be complete. We are disappointed because no change has been made in the finance ministry, the most controversial ministry of the ruling government because of share market scam, Padma bridge loan cancellation, Sonali Bank scam, inflation and so on.

Despite many controversies, again Sahara Khatun has been awarded the posts and telecommunication ministry, from where Rajiuddin Ahmed Razu has been removed. But why Razu is removed is not clear to us. However, we congratulate MK Alamgir, Hasanul Haq Inu and other newly appointed ministers. We want good service from them within this short period of time

Woes of National University students

National University is the largest centre of higher education in the country where more than two hundred thousand students are getting higher education. But session jam is one of the worst problems the students of NU are facing. Moreover, not holding the year final exams regularly, delay in publishing results, not having enough classrooms, lack of teachers, etc., are the obstacles in the way to ensure quality education. The national university students enter the job market two or three years later, compared to other public university students who are of the same batch. Seeing the situation of the national university it seems that there are no authorities to look after it. I, on behalf of the unfortunate students, urge the government to take necessary steps to solve these problems.

Badsha Solaiman
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 University of Dhaka