

Beware of hate-mongers

Nakoula Bassely Nakoula was never arrested by the California Police for producing the movie "Innocence of Muslims" which desecrated the religion of Islam and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



PHOTO: AFP

He was rather taken into police custody to check on his probation for check-kiting scheme in June 2010, for which he served imprisonment for a period of 12 months against sentencing to a period of 21 months.

Ridiculing or desecrating one's religion is not considered an act of offence or blasphemy in the United States where this Egyptian Coptic Christian lives, perhaps because they know pretty well that the Muslims would never desecrate the religion of others as their Prophets (peace be upon them all) are also well revered by them as has been commanded by Allah Almighty in the holy Quran. Without having to believe them as Prophets (peace be upon them), one is not considered to be a Muslim according to Islam.

Nakoula Bassely Nakoula, is now in the fear of his life for disgracing the Prophet of Allah (SWT) in a very slanderous manner. He (SM) has been depicted in the video in the most slanderous manner possible. Nakoula Bassely Nakoula perhaps produced this video with the sole intention of creating unrest among the believers of different faiths in this world, which has resulted in the hate killing of apparent innocent people in the US Embassy in Benghazi and scores of others throughout the globe. This evil person has succeeded in accomplishing his desired goal of brewing hatred among the people of different faiths in the world and also in branding the Muslims as terrorists, which is absolutely undesirable. All the peace loving people of the world should always be on their guard against such evil schemes of the evil mongers.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Houston, Texas
USA

Save Zak and Mika

Zak and Mika are two baby harp seals now living at a Quebec aquarium in Canada. During the last tourist season they entertained the tourists a lot. Now the tourist season is over. Since they are no more of any commercial importance, the authorities are reportedly planning to kill them. What a cruel decision!

Harp seal (also called Saddleback seal) is a species of earless seal native to the northernmost Atlantic Ocean and parts of the Arctic Ocean. Because of their great commercial importance, hundreds of thousands of harp seals are getting killed every year.

Care2 is the largest online community empowering people to lead a healthy and green life. While taking action on important causes (of which this writer is also a member), it collected more than 100,000 signatures who have saved Zak and Mika from getting killed on September 15.

Now unfortunately, the Aquarium des Iles is demanding \$73,000 from the public, within six days, for temporary care until Zak and Mika are either placed or released. What I strongly feel is that Zak and Mika have already paid the price of their lives to the Aquarium people by providing entertainments to the tourists during the last tourist season.

In order to save the two baby seals, Care2 is going to submit a petition containing signatures of more than 100,000 people to Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, requesting him to take immediate action to save the lives of the two innocent baby seals, Zak and Mika.

We are hopeful that the minister will take appropriate action to rescue the two seals and help them survive.

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

Why tax evasion so rampant?

In many countries of Europe and North America each member of work force has an allotted Social Security number wherein a certain portion of tax collected from him/her is deposited to be ultimately paid back periodically during retirement and/or when the person becomes infirm, because this is a time when income wanes but expenses on living and medical bill soar. This stimulus works to encourage payment of tax a person is her/his youth.

Shortage of ambulance service

If the critically ill patients are not taken to hospitals on time they may lose their lives. There are many patients whose lives could have been saved if the ambulances had arrived on time.

Though the ambulances come and carry the patients to hospitals, many patients suffer due to no basic life support facilities in the ambulances. According to a study, only 10 percent of patients arrive at hospitals by ambulances. Among the total patients, 54 per cent arrive by taxi, 14 per cent by bus, 11 per cent by private vehicles and the rest by other means of transportation.

The study reveals the real picture of ambulance services in the country.

Miton Kumar Gupta
Phulbari Technical & BM Institute
Phulbari
Dinajpur



PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

Is this freedom of expression?

A few decades ago British writer Salman Rushdie stirred the world writing the book "Satanic Verses," through which he hurt millions of Muslims. Our Taslima Nasreen also became famous home and abroad by attacking the male and particularly Islam.

And now a film entitled "Innocence of Muslims" has been produced by an Egyptian Coptic Christian, who depicted Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the Muslims negatively. Undoubtedly, the movie has been made with the intention to offend the religion of Islam and Muslims all over the world.

The Muslims around the world got furious and in an attack in Libya the US ambassador together with three other officials were killed. Obviously, the Muslims got hurt by this type of propaganda against our beloved Prophet (Pbuh) and our religion. But Allah has given us direction. An innocent man can not be held liable for another's deed. The four US officials have not been involved in making the movie. So, the attackers are also guilty according to the precepts of Islam.

In the name of freedom of expression, one can not hurt the religious sentiments of others. We also condemn the killing of innocent people in the name of religion. May Allah give us the strength to keep patience.

Rashid Harun
Dhaka

"Freedom to offend"?

Why is it that every protest or statement by Muslims is considered "extremist" and every degrading, most offensive and provocative remark against Islam, which is in essence a religion of peace and non-violence, is defended in the name of "freedom of expression" by certain quarters of western societies?

Syed Rayian A Zafar
Bashundhara, Dhaka

Now fruits are poisoned

Nowadays we see and hear news of adulteration of different types of food. But have we ever expected that fruits can be adulterated too? Many children are afraid of eating fruits due to adulteration. Kids who don't eat fruits have found a genuine excuse. Is money really so important that we should tamper with fruits? We can only hope the government and the people of Bangladesh would find a way to solve this problem.

Ahmed As Sami
Anandaniketan School

Deplorable condition of Lalbagh fort

Recently I along with my family members went to Lalbagh fort after about twenty five years. I was shocked to see the poor condition of the boundary of the fort and its surroundings. The southern side of the fort is blocked by high-rise buildings and the scenic river Buriganga cannot be seen from the fort anymore.

I do not know if the fort area has been illegally occupied by some miscreants.

O H Kabir
Dhaka



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



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Polls after JS dissolution

PM tells Sangsad, rejects BNP's demand for caretaker government system. *(September 20, 2012)*

Saleh Md. Shahriar

Who will be the chief of the interim government? What will be the nature of relationship between the president and the chief of government? Will the politicised administration be neutral during the interregnum? Will the election commission be subservient to the whims of the interim regime? These are the important questions to be politically resolved. Otherwise conflict is inevitable, which will adversely affect the socio-cultural and economic life of the citizens.

Demeer

While the whole country and the international communities (except some die-hard

Awami League advisers) support a neutral caretaker government for a fair and acceptable polls, the foolhardiness of the ruling government is sure to lead the country to chaos and violence.

Zahid Hasan

Awami League will have to agree to restore the caretaker government system. There is simply no other option.

Reaz Hassan

Under the present circumstances of trust deficit, no election under party government will be free, fair, neutral and credible. It is most likely that elections would be one-sided and fraudulent. To avoid political upheaval, a compro-

mise deal with the main opposition is a must. The onus is on the ruling party to initiate a dialogue with the opposition for an acceptable formula under which meaningful and credible elections may take place.

Translucent

The Westminster system of parliamentary democracy does not have to deal with corruption amongst its members and vote rigging in a massive scale!

Dr Islam

Not only different political parties but general people also want to see a fair poll without influence from any corner.

Sajib

People were happier during the caretaker governments because elected governments are too much corrupt.

Truth Teller

Just a few days ago, PM said that the upcoming general election would be held with the current parliament in place as stated in the fifteenth

amendment of the constitution. After taking a lot of heat, government is now yielding very slowly. Now, she has to amend the fifteenth amendment. Wait and see, the government will eventually give in to the popular demand of holding the upcoming general election under a 'neutral' government.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

PM's logic has foundation. But reality is when the partisan EC, administration's top-notch, is in perch and slanted towards Awami League, election rigging will be the foregone conclusion. The new EC could not even conduct bifurcated DCC election on time. How they would be able to carry out this huge task?

Ahmed, London

"I have nothing to say if they don't remember the bitter experience of the past caretaker governments." "Is there any guarantee that they (caretaker government) will not oppress the people again?" PM's comments indicate that government's current position against the CTG system is only