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Return teachers their due social status



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers are supposed to give direction to the country but it is others who give direction to the teachers here in Bangladesh. Treated as inferior class in our country, teachers are left out from all kinds of decision-making process.

On the other hand, as money is considered the determining factor of a person's status in our country, everybody hankers after it madly. Teachers are also not above this trend. That is why most teachers are found making money selling education privately depriving the respective educational institutions of their service.

The unplanned growth of schools and colleges has also created problems. So many institutions are mushrooming in Bangladesh. Most of those institutions have more staff members than the number of students. In this way, the government is incurring a heavy financial loss with low return, while there are so many long MPO-starved institutions across the country where so many teachers have serving since long without pay. As a result, result their family members are suffering immeasurably. The cash-starved government, on the other hand, is having difficulty sanctioning MPO to them.

I think the government must stop newer institutions from sprouting until the existing ones are fully provided with adequate educational and financial support. Another bad trend prevailing in the non-government education institutions is election of management bodies where in most cases uneducated and corrupt people are getting elected. This is wreaking havoc on the development fund of those institutions. Their unholy influence over the institutions is increasing. I think once we give the teachers proper status in society and recruit only good ones, all the ills in education will go without much effort.

The government must allocate the highest amount of money to education and make proper use of it by building an excellent physical and intellectual infrastructure for education.

Abdus Subhan
On e-mail

Passengers at CNG drivers' mercy

One of the major transportation services of Dhaka city is in turmoil as the CNG drivers are still not obeying laws. They don't go by the meter. Although early in this year there had been strong movement against this misconduct of the drivers, the CNG auto rickshaw drivers are back to charging a lump sum from their passengers which is usually way too much than what the normal fare would be if they used the meter.

Talking to students of North South University which is located at Baridhara, we found that one has to pay Tk 250-300 to come to Baridhara from Dhanmondi and Tk 300-350 when returning home. Talking to the CNG drivers we found out that the owners of the CNG auto rickshaws are forcing the drivers to pay Tk 800-1000 per day and most owners do not care how the CNG auto rickshaw drivers get that amount of money. The situation gets further frustrating as at peak hours like at 5pm. It is almost impossible to get a CNG auto rickshaw at that time. Even after half an hour's waiting at major points like Gulshan, Banani, Kakoli, Motijheel, Mogbazar, Karwan Bazar and Mohakhali there's no success. Worse still, most CNG drivers refuse to go to the destination a passenger may want to go.

Law against such acts of misconduct by drivers is not being enforced. The question is: are the police providing enough support to the public when complaints of such misconducts are reported? Secondly, who to blame -- the CNG auto rickshaw owners or the drivers? Lastly, is the public to blame? (as they have been exploited by the CNG drivers for so many years but don't even bother to complain to the authorities)

Musa, Sabrin and Shourov
East West University
Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

Make wealth information of candidates public

Thanks to Shakhawat Liton for his report on 22nd October under the heading "People kept in the dark."

Liton mentioned in his report that "Electoral laws made it possible for the people to know about the wealth of all candidates contesting the 2008 parliamentary polls". So far my memory goes, the then EC did not make it public even after the election. So it's also the EC's fault. The EC being a neutral constitutional body could publish the statements submitted to it before the election or even after the election, as per the law. This may also be done before the next election.

When the contestants of the next election will submit their wealth statements to the EC, it should make it public. If it is done, people will be able to cast their votes judiciously.

Md. Habib Mansur
Mymensingh

Joint probe into border killings necessary

Day by day the India-Bangladesh border is becoming a death trap for the Bangladeshi people. At present not one day goes by without any Bangladeshi getting killed by BSF on the border. Moreover, India advises us to say the word 'death' instead of 'killing'. Previously, the BSF chief said that the BSF men should not be held guilty for these killings. These extra-judicial killings are a violation of human rights. India is always giving us word that they will take necessary steps to stop border killing. But in reality we see the opposite. They are not sincere in keeping their promises.

It is very necessary to conduct a joint investigation into the matter. If we let these incidents of killing go un-investigated and the responsible BSF men unpunished, the number of killing will be increasing.

Jabunnaheer

Why these atrocities against Rakhine Muslims?



PHOTO: AFP

I am writing this letter to condemn the recent attacks on the Muslims made by the Buddhists in Myanmar. The recent attacks on the Rohingyas were heinous and the way the government of Myanmar is handling the situation is very appalling.

The Buddhists also set fire to two mosques in Western Myanmar. If we have sound knowledge about both the religions, then we would know that both the religions teach of peace and living in harmony with one another.

Through this letter I also condemn the imprisonment of a Bangladeshi in the USA. I do not know why the practicing Muslims are always targeted in the US. There are a lot of innocent Muslims imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay only on the basis of mere suspicion. Iraq has been destroyed on the basis of a mere suspicion against Saddam Hussein of possessing illegal arms.

Unfortunately, the Muslims around the globe are silent; no one is speaking against the aggression. Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) said, "Help your brother whether he is an oppressor or he is oppressed." His companions said, "We know how to help an oppressed, but how do we help an oppressor?" He (pbuh) replied, "Help the oppressor by making him refrain from oppressing people." May Allah Subhanuwataa'la give us the ability to follow the right path.

Anika Nawal Ahmed
Dhanmondi
Dhaka

A quarter of youths without education

A news item referring to a UNESCO report published in this daily recently says that Bangladesh has over eight million young people aged between 15 and 24 years. They never completed primary school and we are among the top five worst nations in this regard in the world. In addition, the GMR put the figure of illiterate adults in the world at 775 million. Of them, Bangladesh alone has 44 million, the fourth highest in the world. How can we think of our national progress keeping a quarter of the young people almost uneducated? The government should find out ways of solving this problem.

Anyway, it is said that poverty and lack of interest in studies are responsible for around 40 percent dropout at the primary level. This percentage can be reduced by making lessons attractive to the students. So the curricula should be updated. And teachers' role is very important in making the lessons attractive. So, teachers should be given proper training to take classes in an interesting way.

However, there is an encouraging piece of information in the study that Bangladesh is one of the only three low income countries where more girls are attending secondary schools than boys. Of course, this is a good achievement and this is largely due to the measures taken by the government to support girls' enrolment. So, why do the authorities not take up similar schemes to enable more boys obtain secondary education?

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Politics of gobbling up everything

The present government seems determined to create one crisis after another for themselves. On the pretext of taking over a bank-looter company, the authorities now propose to amend the Companies Act. With such amendment the government can take over any business enterprise with impunity. Even courts of law would have little to do against it. As the first reports were published, the business community was shocked. They registered serious protests against

the government move.

Public memory in Bangladesh is proverbially short and we have learnt nothing from history. We may recall that ruling party, in its first stint in power had gone for a spate of nationalization and taking over of financial institutions, the media, the industries and even small private businesses in 1971-75 period. Administrators in droves, committees, down to individuals were appointed to run them. This actually turned out to be a scheme for the 'legalized looting' of running businesses to provide the chamchas, camp-followers, etc. Within a short while, everything in sight was gobbled up. There is no trace of the flourishing private businesses of the Adamjees, Bawanys, Amins, Dadas, Adams and thousands of large, medium and small industries and businesses today.

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1
Dhaka

People have none to turn to

Justice is lost in Bangladesh. We know that if a person rings the police for emergency matter in the US, the police arrives in the scene in less than five minutes. On the other hand, if a person in Bangladesh calls police, police ask the person to come to the police station instead of going there themselves. Witnesses in courts are bribed, counterfeit evidences are produced, lawyers are threatened, and documents are falsified.

In a democratic country like Bangladesh, people have no freedom. People cast their votes for the politicians believing that they will develop the country. But, the politicians are corrupt and live largely on people's money. They never think about developing the poor country. Illiterate people are often in problem. Some doctors operate on patients for false reasons and take away their kidneys, livers, etc., without the patients' knowledge. There are many other injustices going on in Bangladesh and we all hope to overcome these problems.

Sakib Ahmed
Anandaniketan School
Sylhet

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's *The Daily Star* news report headlined "8 yrs in Indian jail for no offence"

Optimist

Let the whole world know about our best friend's behaviour towards our citizens. They have been released now but an irreversible damage has been done to Indo-Bangla relationship. Our government should seek compensation from India.

Barkat

I would say that these two are very lucky indeed. They should be thankful to Indian government for the simple reason that they are still alive. Almost every day Bangladeshis are killed by BSF and most of the time for no valid reason. At least they came back alive.

RCH

It is a shameful arrogance of power and disrespect to humanity.

Zubaid

Although their story is sad, they were arrested for a crime. If you are caught with counterfeit money in any country, you will get arrested. The question is, what were their friends and family doing for them?

Abdur Raquib, London

What on earth are we paying the High Commission staff for, if not to protect the interests of Bangladeshis abroad?

ShamimH

It is an antiquated provision of old English law to send people for a debt. These laws are no longer in the books in most western countries. These draconian laws should be removed from the penal codes of India.

Shibli

I feel really sorry for them. It is the failure of our government that it could not protect its citizens abroad. What a poor service people get from the Bangladesh embassies abroad! Everyone living overseas knows this.

Mufassil Islam

I have no doubt that when our leaders are too busy praising our relationship with India, India will simply overlook this tragedy. We have almost accepted that India can bully us at all levels and our Bangladeshi lives are cheap.

Ali

It is very painful and disturbing as well to read the story. But where did they get the fake Indian money? Didn't they know it was