

Int'l Day for Elimination of Violence against Women



The International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on November 25 every year as per the UN resolution adopted on December 17, 1999. The aim of the day is to raise awareness against violence against women including domestic violence. The day also marks the beginning of a 16-day period of activism against gender violence which starts on November 25 and ends on December 10, the International Human Rights Day.

This day is associated with the sad memories of three Mirabal sisters in the Dominican Republic, who were brutally assassinated in 1960 on the directives of the then Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. The Mirabals were farmers in the Dominican Republic whose three educated and well-cultured daughters Patria, Minerva, and Maria Teresa got involved in politics and relentlessly fought for democracy and women's liberty. All of them were assassinated on November 25, 1960. Since then women activists across the world have been

observing November 25 as the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women.

It is really unfortunate that gender violence is still rampant in all parts of the world. But violence against women must be stopped in order to create a decent society based on true cultural and religious ethics.
Professor M Zahidul Haque
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka

Jamaat-Shibir's madness

It was awful that Jamaat-Shibir men could overpower police, snatched their rifles, and used those to beat them up. The more shocking news was, Jamaat-Shibir men tried to kill a policeman by burning him alive in Bogra on 12th November. And on 13th November, the Shibir men beat the cops brutally and tried to slit a Jubo League leader's throat in the city. The law minister also came under their attack. How come they could be so organized, frenzied and virulent? As we knew from the media and the police reports, they launched their campaign of violence to foil the war crimes trial. The message is all clear that they have both muscle and money to achieve their ends. Ideologically, Jamaat-Shibir is no different from the Islamist militants. The whole nation needs to rise against Shibir and their nefarious activities.

A. H. Dewan
South Kafrul
Dhaka Cant., Dhaka

Make parliament effective

Recently, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said that our national parliament is getting ineffective day by day. About 97% members of our parliament are connected with negative activities. They are also involved in various crimes. The report also showed that the opposition members of the parliament had boycotted about 80% parliament meetings. But as parliament members, they are enjoying 100% privileges from the country. TIB said that boycotting parliament needs to be stopped by making law. It is high time we changed these practices.

If we want to make our parliament effective, we have to bring the opposition MPs back to parliament at any cost. If the parliament remains ineffective, would not the country lag behind?
Zannatul Ferdous Usha
Taronj Pilot Girls' High School

Rickshaw movement on Kakrail and Bailey Roads



Parents taking their children to Wills Little Flower School, Viqarunnisa Noon School and other schools and colleges at Kakrail and Bailey Road area from Purana Paltan, Bijoynagar and Motijheel are extremely happy and grateful to the traffic authorities for allowing rickshaws on these roads. We hope the traffic authorities will continue to allow rickshaws on these roads. Without rickshaws, it becomes very difficult for the parents to take their children to school.
K. V. Moinuddin, Purana Paltan, Dhaka

Tofayel Ahmed on Tritiomatra

Seasoned politician Tofayel Ahmed appeared on Tritiomatra on the occasion of historic Jail Killing Day on November 3, 2012 and gave a vivid description of the untold sufferings he went through at different locations during those difficult times. What drew my attention most is his candid response to the question put forward by Zillur Rahman at the conclusion: "The mission for Bangladesh is far from being achieved even after 40 years into independence."

My question is, will it ever be achieved, as I fail to see any silver lining in the cloud?
Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Houston, Texas, USA

Flaws in our education system

Good grades cannot really guarantee one a good job. In fact, a person's achievements in the academia do not always reflect in their career. As puzzling as this may seem, but unfortunately it is true.

As a service holder, it is my belief that the prevailing education system in our country is hardly compatible with the requirements of current job market. The learning is mostly confined to the textbooks. Few students bother to think about the real world applications of a particular knowledge.

People often claim that there are not enough jobs for all. Employers have quite a different view though. They say that there are not enough deserving candidates for the existing jobs. They feel all our academic endeavours do little to shape us for the real world challenges. They want people who have skill extending beyond bookish learning and who do not hesitate to test their potential.

Many renowned educational institutions divide students into science, business and arts groups depending on their examination scores. But the correct way of choosing a subject should be one's interest and ability. Before choosing a field of study, we must ponder over what we want to become and what should we do to become so.

Learning is a never ending process, hence it is wise not to bank on the bookish achievements. We must break free from the confines of the current education system and think out of the box.
Farha Diba
Pallabi
Mirpur, Dhaka

Nobel prize not so cheap

Many Bangladeshis assume that Nobel prize is equivalent to prizes given to the winner of any game. Bangladeshi people should be ashamed when a senior minister of the cabinet speaks in dismissive terms about an internationally reputed and respected person who is the lone Nobel laureate our country. The senior minister himself is a respected person of the country but we cannot respect him unless he comments decently. Another minister claims that anyone who loves sandwich and coffee can win a Nobel prize if he/she wishes so. This minister is another respected person and he deserves sympathy from each and every citizen of Bangladesh as he is the son of a highly respected person and first prime minister of Bangladesh in exile, who was killed brutally in Dhaka Central Jail 37 years ago in this month of the year. We all pray to Almighty Allah for his departed soul.

We should never feel jealous if any of our fellow citizens is chosen for an international award and brings honour for our country. Rather we should respect him and cooperate with him so that he can serve our country.

Kazi Rahman

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My fault, but none alerted me

Tazreen MD tells Star (November 29, 2012)

Anonymous
Being the owner of Tazreen Fashions Ltd., Delowar Hossain cannot shrug off his responsibility in any way. As he could set up such a big factory and run it, he must be intelligent enough to understand the building's faulty plan and lack of security for the workers.

Translucent
Clearly, this person is not fit to run an RMG factory. BGMEA and the government agencies must also admit their faults for not identifying the absence of emergency exits.

Muneera
'I didn't know' is a ridiculous excuse. Why was he in the business if he didn't know how to ensure safety of the people working for him? But he certainly knew how to make money out of them!

Anonymous
So now he is pretending he didn't know that there should have been an emergency exit for 200 people huddled inside a badly wired windowless facility? He is smart enough to deal with

Wal-Mart
Wal-Mart and sell garments to the US but don't know that there are safety regulations that need to be followed! Mr. Delowar, YOU ARE A MURDERER! You closed the doors and didn't let people escape because your assets are more important to you than human lives.

Dr. M. Badruddoja
All the claims of Delowar are baseless. He is a murderer and he should be tried in the criminal court of justice.

Mohammad Jamal
My question is how a factory gets operating license in Bangladesh without being inspected by the government. Many families are devastated because of this terrible accident. The government and the factory owner should take joint effort to compensate the bereaved families. The government should make it mandatory for all factories to have emergency fire exits. Failing to take this corrective action will affect our garment exports to US and Europe.

Saleh Md. Shahriar
My question to Delowar: How are you sure that the tragedy

Horror of Ashulia garment fire



The tragedy at Tazreen Fashions in Ashulia was of such a magnitude that we have to gasp with horror and deep anguish. One hundred and eleven workers were burnt to death... it was like hell broke loose. We shudder to think about the agony of those who died. Death is inevitable, but to die in such a way is most unfortunate. We pray for the departed souls and for the families of the deceased. May the Almighty give them strength to bear it.
Nur Jahan, Chittagong

Traffic police's cavalier attitude

That day while I was strolling along the road after offering my Asr prayer in the Masjid, I witnessed three policemen passing by on a motorbike in a leisurely pace. None of them had helmets on. According to traffic law, more than two persons can not ride on a motorbike. It is the duty of the people connected to the law enforcement agencies to abide by the traffic rules and encourage people to follow them. If the traffic police do not follow the rules, how do they expect the public to follow the rules?
Sakib Ahmed

Light of hope for Alzheimer's patients!

We have learnt from the recent "Science & Life" page of this daily that researchers have shown for the first time that embryonic stem cells that they have programmed to develop into neurons can integrate into existing brain circuits and fire patterns of electrical activity that are critical for consciousness and neural network activity. The research team transplanted human stem cell-derived neurons into a rodent hippocampus, the brain's information-processing centre. Then they specially activated the transplanted neurons with optogenetic stimulation, a relatively new technique that combines light and genetics to precisely control cellular behaviour in living tissues or animals.

So it is clear that scientists are successful in making neurons and other brain cells from stem cells. But now, the challenge for them is to get these neurons to properly function when transplanted to the host. However, medical scientists had



nothing to do about the Alzheimer's disease in the past. The scientists as well as we are looking forward to the day when stem cells might be used to replace the dying brain cells in the treatment of this disease and other neurodegenerative conditions. May the researchers concerned be successful in this research!
Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

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