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Let's welcome 2013 with hope



PHOTO: AFP

The New Year is not far away. What is our expectation from this year? It is really difficult to forget the painful events that occurred in 2012. Firstly, the murder of Bishwajit had shaken our heart. One thing is very noticeable that a rickshaw puller named Md. Ripon took the responsibility to take the victim to the hospital. To me, he is not only a rickshaw puller but also a preacher of humanity. Secondly, we also cannot forget the tragic incident

that took the lives of so many children in USA. Thirdly, the gang rape of a student in Delhi triggered huge protest. Lakhs of people came to the street to protest. We should work together to stop such gruesome incidents. Let us welcome the New Year with love, hope and enthusiasm.

Pradip Das
On e-mail

Is it violation of our constitution?

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took salute at the Victory Day parade at the National Parade Square on 16th December 2012 as President Zillur Rahman was ill and set to leave for the UK for treatment. Traditionally, the president takes salute on Victory Day and the prime minister observes it as a guest. Article 54 of our constitution clearly says, "If the president is unable to discharge the functions of his office on account of absence, illness or any other cause, the speaker shall discharge those functions."

Why was the speaker barred from taking salute at the great national event of Victory Day parade and under what authority the prime minister performed the duty of the president?

Is this a violation of our constitution or not? Would our constitution and legal experts kindly enlighten us on the matter?

O.H. Kabir
Dhaka

Auction of our cricket players!

A few days ago a local TV channel was telecasting live the players' auction of the second edition of Bangladesh Premier League T-20. The person anchoring the event was frequently using words like "this player is sold at the price of this amount, that player is sold at that amount," etc., and the players who were not hired by any team were termed as 'unsold'. The programme in which the players were being hired was titled 'auction'.

In the past when there was slavery, people were 'sold' as slaves in auctions or in open markets at different prices. The slaves who could not be sold were termed as 'unsold slaves' by the owners of the slaves.

Could not they use the words 'hired' instead of 'sold'; 'not hired' instead of 'unsold'; and 'hiring' instead of 'auction' preferring positive terms to negative or primitive expressions?

Mohammad Rukanuddin
Assistant Professor of English
Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology
Dhaka

Bishwajit killers must be punished



Thousands of people have seen Bishwajit's killing on TV. After the shocking incident we came to know through the media that Bishwajit's killers belonged to the ruling party backed Chhatra League (BCL). We have also read in the newspapers that the killers attended other BCL-organised processions that day. One was also seen at a birthday party of a BCL leader. So there is no doubt about the identity of the killers. After the terrible incident, our home minister has tried to implicate BNP and Jamat men in the incident. The PMO office note has also claimed that the killers are not BCL men. Now the arrested killers have confessed that they belong to BCL. We came to know that on the morning of 9th December, an anti-blockade procession was led by Jagannath University BCL president and gen-

eral secretary. Bishwajit was attacked by the BCL activists who took part in that anti-blockade procession. We need to punish the masterminds behind the incident who instigated the killing. The arrest of the killers should not be mere eye-wash. They should get their due punishment for the crime they committed. The police should be instructed to arrest all the masterminds along with the killers. So far they have not arrested any of the masterminds. The home minister and the statement from PM office would also hamper the trial of the killers. People doubt that there would be a fair trial and punishment.

M.A. Kasem
Mohammadpur
Dhaka

Rid the police department of corrupt officials

Thanks to The Daily Star for publishing the news on the illicit activities of SI Mamun in its December 24 issue. It's very sad to learn that the SI took Tk 20,000 as bribe from a 98-year-old woman who paid him the money by selling all her belongings for the release of her son who was arrested for no reason. Nowadays, people with higher educational background are entering the police department and so we are expecting better behaviour and performances from them. But unfortunately, quite often we come across such negative news about them. The Police department should initiate a strong drive to identify all the bad people in the department and get rid of them for public interest and their own good.

S. M. Khalequez Zaman
Mirpur
Dhaka



PHOTO: AFP

It's time to take a u-turn

The Buriganga flows bearing all the filths of our filthy living. All kinds of solid, human, chemically hazardous waste and garbage are dumped into this river. I wonder whether having a clean wide Buriganga, edged with good walkable beautiful footpaths is an impossible dream. Can't we make the corrupt take a u-turn for a better way of life? We do not want to see people dying under falling flyovers. We do not want to see another bloody killing, shocking abduction, highway robbery and bank looting, or another case of public fleecing to fatten a few.

Let us all decide to be good from this moment. Bangladesh claims our unwavering honesty, foresightedness and undivided patriotic zeal.

Abdus Subhan
Ishwardi Govt. College
Ishwardi

Nominate honest politicians

Serving people and serving humanity should be the aim of the politicians. But we live in a country where everyone is busy making their own profit, no matter what the means is. Joining a political party ensures long-term advantages and that's why some unscrupulous businessmen are getting involved in politics. The problem arises when they misuse political power to make their ill-motivated plans successful. The political parties should only give nominations to the honest, sincere and, most importantly, educated candidates in the upcoming national elections. Because only honest politicians can ensure a fair poll and represent the common people.

Md. Ahsanul Kabir Palash
Department of Marketing

READERS respond

Here are some comments that we received in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Same old formula"

Sengupta, Canada

Is this the national convention or reunion of party leaders and activists? As a long established political party how come it has flouted the party charter as well as RPO?

S Ahmad

It is a family matter, so why complain? Nothing can change the scenario until people change themselves.

Md. Afzal

When they do not practice democracy even at party level, how can we expect them to practice democracy at national level?

Opeemonir

According to Dr Mahathir Mohammad, if new stocks do not join a political party on regular basis, dynamism in their political direction will soon start stalling and finally political extinction becomes only natural with time. We must take lesson from it.

Dr. Abu Sayeed Dipak

Congratulations! There is no other alternative for Sheikh Hasina. Syed Ashraf is more acceptable than others as General Secretary.

Asad Zaman

No wonder AL re-elected Hasina and Ashraf as its president and GS respectively. What is surprising is that too many commentators have marked this election as undemocratic, dictatorial, a matter of maintaining dynastic control and so on. However, if the party members or councillors express their acquiescence in favour of those proposed candidates (and do not complain or protest against the candidates or election procedure), then it could be considered a democratic election.

Look at the United Nations, 5 countries that enjoy the veto power dictate the majority! So why do we bother about AL? (Just a political party that only re-elected two of its very important persons)

Faisal

I am not sure why these parties bother to have such mock councils. Who are they trying to kid? There really was no need to hold any election for the top 2 posts. Who is going to challenge them anyway?

Translucent

I congratulate Sheikh Hasina on being re-elected as the leader of Awami League for the seventh time. Either she is extremely good to have achieved this feat or all the alternatives are extremely bad. What does this tell us about the future of this country?

Raja Mahbub

We need to amend our constitution so that no individual can be elected more than twice in the general election. I am fed up seeing this kind of undemocratic process in our political parties. Question is how long will our people have to endure this?

Shafiq Ahmad

Only God knows when we will see democracy in these parties.

Kamrul Manir

It is really unfortunate for the nation and the country as a whole.