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# Fight acid violence by implementing law



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Nowadays incidents of acid throwing are rampant in our country. In most cases, the victims succumb to injuries. And those who survive have to live a very miserable life. I am from Noakhali. In Noakhali there are many victims of acid violence. Majeda is one of them. She was 17-year-old and seven months pregnant when a man threw acid at her over a land dispute. The law enforcement agencies could not identify the attacker. Two days after the attack, Majeda was brought to Dhaka for treatment. This was in July 2010. Both her eyeballs were hanging out of her eyes and were badly burnt and her face was hideously disfigured. Shortly after arriving at the hospital, she gave

birth prematurely to a boy.

These crimes cannot be stopped overnight. First of all, law and order situation of the country should be improved. Law enforcing authorities should always be alert and the criminals should be sternly dealt with. Exemplary punishment should be meted out to the criminals.

The government has already formulated a law to try the acid throwers. According to this law, the highest punishment is death penalty. We hope this law will be implemented.

**Shawline Hossain**  
Mechanical and Production Engineering  
Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

## Khaleda Zia's op-ed in Washington Times

I read with disappointment the op-ed penned by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the Washington Times. The disappointment is not due to the content of the article, since much of it is accurate, notwithstanding the usual verbal theatrics launched in response by the party in power. Rather, I am saddened because the former premier missed a great opportunity to tell us how she would govern differently if she replaced the incumbent at the next polls.

The fact is that the opposition leader's accusations can easily be cast at her own multiple tenures in power: centralized absolutism, using the police, lower judiciary, and civil servants as appendages of the ruling party, throttling dissent with police brutality, and a culture of unaccountable vandalism led by 'student' and 'youth' wings of the ruling party.

I have read the op-ed a few times and failed to find a single commitment from the former prime minister about how she will, in concrete terms, be different from the current prime minister when it comes to developing a structural democratic culture in Bangladesh. Seems to be simply a matter of sour grapes, which I am certain, will come from the other side if elections result in a change of government in the near future.

**Esam Sohail**  
Kansas, USA

## Senior JU students shouldn't harass freshers

Freshers of Jahangirnagar University are being harassed physically and mentally in the name of 'ragging' by the senior students. Meritorious students come here from across the country for higher education. They should not be harassed in this way. This may affect them badly and leave a permanent scar on their minds. This can not be a right attitude towards the fresher.

In Dhaka University, senior students are very helpful to the junior students. The JU authorities should look into this matter. And senior students should stop harassing the junior students, become friendly with them, and help them in their need.

**Misbah Uddin Sumon**  
Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management

## Ensure clean environment for all

There is no gainsaying the importance of clean environment but we are rampantly polluting it in different ways. Brick kilns are being built flouting the law. It is a big polluter of environment. And these are constructed grabbing cultivable land. The brick fields emit noxious smokes and affect other lands next to it. People working at brick fields are endangering their lives by inhaling the poisonous air. The owners of these brick fields are thus destroying the environment with impunity. The reason is these greedy people have connections in high places.

I urge the authorities to come forward and take immediate action against these illegal brick field operators and thus ensure clean environment.

**Md. Golam Mostofa**  
Dept. of International Business  
University of Dhaka



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

## Give harsh punishment to women molesters

In recent times, violence against women has increased at an alarming rate in society. It is unfortunate that women fall victim to violence like rape, murder, mental and physical torture, etc. This is because people are less aware of women's rights. There are men who consider women mere objects. Women's rights are only on paper, not in practice. I think if the rapists are given harsher punishment, violence against women will decrease. At the same time, government should increase employment opportunities for women so that they can be self-dependent and fight for their rights.

**Miton Kumar Gupto**  
Phulbari, Dinajpur

## Teachers should not get involved in politics

A few years ago very few teachers of higher educational institutions were engaged in active politics for petty interests. But now they are increasingly being involved in politics. Their politics is ruining the academic atmosphere of the institutions. What is annoying is that some of them are holding the paramount positions of the institutions.

Teaching is not only a profession but also a mission. An ideal teacher gives his students not only bookish lessons but also proper training to become worthy and responsible citizens of the state. They always keep them on the right track. The nation repose trust in them in building useful citizens to cope with new challenges.

So, our humble request to the respected teachers is not to get involved in politics only for petty self-interests.

**Md. Hafizur Rahman**  
Milk Vita Road  
Mirpur, Dhaka

# We should abide by system and law

Every day I question myself how patriotic I am. How much service I delivered to this country today. And this little retrospection lifts me from idle sitting. Thus if we can keep the patriotic zeal burning in our minds, it will make us do our duties honestly. Let us be honest to the sunlight, water and air of this country, if not of the universe, and not be guided purely by petty personal or partisan desires. Look at other nations. They have surrendered to system not to the whims of party stalwarts. They are stopping before the red traffic light though there is no police around. Everywhere they are guided by patriotism and marching ahead on the road to prosperity in the absence of corruption. Their metro rails, numerous flyovers, suave traffic police, modern technology have rid their cities of tailbacks while we are here wallowing in the overcrowded city of smoke and filth.



PHOTO: STAR

Our classes are empty, institutions long closed due to bloody clashes. Where have all the students gone? They throng the party meetings and processions; they are on road points throwing lewd comments to the girls, at the corridors of power to partake of the black money. Where is the civil society? Have they become too civil to face the brute? We must know that the brute becomes helpless if the meek face it in overwhelming numbers. When will the people come to the street?

**Abdus Subhan**  
Ishwardi Govt. College  
Ishwardi

## Callousness of fire brigade authority!

Ali's front page report on Tarzeen Garments fire, published on 30th. January, very clearly exposed the carelessness of fire brigade authorities in issuing fire license to Tazreen garments. The DG of fire brigade must be held responsible for such criminal neglect resulting in the loss of many workers' lives. This has been rightly and in detail outlined by the President, Institute of Architects Bangladesh. The fire brigade top management has to be taken to task for their continued neglect.

Fire license, a serious safety prerequisite, has to be issued on the basis of physical verification and inspection of the factory premises, carried out at regular intervals against a factual check list, which has to be duly signed by fire brigade authorities and kept in their record!

The safety provisions need physical existence of safety stairs, emergency exits, and other spelled-out features. Importantly, fire resistant electric wiring and electrical equipment is spelled out for all hazardous operation involving fire risk.

At the end of the day, government should ensure that people for managing such responsible organisations are qualified and experienced.

**Engr. S.A. Mansoor**  
Dhaka

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's *The Daily Star* news report headlined "Twenty cops assaulted"

### Delewer

BNP ought to remember that regarding Jamaat, people are unanimous. Khaleda Zia, be prepared to face dire consequences for backing up Jamaat.

### Roni Rahman

When law enforcers and administration abuse their power by persecuting, beating, arresting and killing the political opponents, then at some point people take the law in their own hand. The government is responsible for failing to maintain the law and order.

### Naabaj

How strange! How could the supporters of war criminals who committed heinous crimes against humanity during the Liberation War to stop the birth of Bangladesh come out in daylight on the street to press home their illegal demand? If this is allowed with no deterrent punishment, very soon the supporters of all crimes will follow that and the country will plunge into serious anarchy which will destroy our democracy, peace, economic and social progress. People should come out to directly oppose these illegal activities.

### Mufassil Islam

Not too long ago, the AL leader called for 'logi boitha' movement to demand so-called justice and now the opposition adopted the same tactic.

### Misbah Uddin Sumon

We are really afraid of the future of Bangladesh. Politics is for the welfare of people, society and country. Today this theory is just a theory, not followed by the government or oppositions. That's why we are not safe anywhere. Last night two hand-made bombs were blasted in front of my university hall. Conscious people should create awareness among the public to avert political instability.

### Rohan Sudarsan

Police deserves this, for they are so politicised by the government.

### Kazi Salim

What happened to the CCTVs in Narayanganj? Are they working or not? Those cadres are looking like a killing squad in their outfits and actions. Police should get well prepared to face those cadres with all sorts of protective gears and weapons.

### Alex

Police officials of Bangladesh are acting like goons of the present government and harming the people. The scene of beating the police should be solace to those whom the police tortured.

### Asad

Why is the RAB so silent when police are so badly beaten up by the hooligans? It is disturbing to see the police officers or law enforcers are beaten unconscious by those hooligans. The law enforcers must use all sorts of non-lethal means such as water cannon, pepper spray and other effective means to restrain those violent law breakers.

### Md. Ismile

My salute to the Bangladesh Police for showing utmost restraint on the face of brutal attacks. Bangladesh Police has set an example for police all over the world. We stand by the families of all policemen and pray for their safety and