

PHOTO: AFP

Freeing Rapists

Before the Shahbag movement caught the attention of the national media and people alike, violence against women and girls was a hot topic thanks to the Delhi Rape case that captured the world's attention. Cases of gang-rapes and the rape of minors were repeatedly featuring in our newspapers but with regret, I have observed how they have become old news.

In "Why Do Rapists Get Bail?", published 8 February 2013, the writer revealed many worrying facts about our current legal system which has relatively no accountability when a suspect on bail commits another crime, sometimes graver than what they were initially charged with. She highlights the example of a six-year-old girl, whose attempted rapist, once on bail, found her again only to rape and kill her. This is completely unacceptable and should be at the front of the public's eyes. Laws that cannot be enforced or flaws in the system that put our women and girls at risk need to be dealt with or else criminals will continue to feel at liberty to rely on a system that grants them bail regardless of the severity of their crimes or intentions. As one of the lawyers in the article has said, the accused get bail and often abscond! This is not the point of getting the privilege of bail.

Rohima Begum
Uttara, Dhaka

Learning from Literature

I would like to praise the writers of "Strategy Lessons", a *Life of Pi* review published last week. Having not read the book or seen the film, I was in the dark as to the story's contents. All I knew was of some controversy the author had a few years back when accusations of plagiarism surfaced. Despite that, the book was the winner of a Man Booker prize and has now hit the silver screen.

To review the book/film through its lessons in strategy was an interesting and enlightening read. It highlights the transferable skills one learns from difficult situations – though I suspect not many can say they've learnt from being stuck on a boat with a Royal Bengal Tiger!

Advice such as keeping an open mind, embracing risks and change and focusing on the big picture are things we can all learn from and incorporate in our professional and personal lives. What I have learnt from the review is to read literature and view films with a discerning eye for how it can make me a better person or worker in today's difficult times. That at least, will make doing pleasurable things such as going to the cinema or reading on a weekend seem perfectly sensible!

Md Tariq Ahmed
Gazipur