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Start a dialogue to end deadlock



PHOTO: STAR ARCHIVE

It seems to me that the present political conflict has started due to the abolition of caretaker government system by the AL government. AL argues that the court ordered the removal of the caretaker government system. AL also argues that CTG is an unelected government which contradicts the constitution. So there is no place for such kind of caretaker government in a democratic system. But we know that the court has opined that the next two general elections can be held under the caretaker system of government. So according to the court verdict, the government can easily organise the next general election under caretaker government.

AL had forced the BNP government to accept the caretaker system in 1996 but now AL is against that system, which is really surprising. It seems to me that there is no mutual trust among the political leaders. Now the main opposition is

moving forward with its one-point demand of removal of the AL-led government. So, it can be said that a serious political conflict is imminent. Awami League requested the opposition many times to come he parliament and raise their demand. On the other hand, BNP is saying that it wants dialogue but at the same time putting conditions for any dialogue.

Most of the people believe that for a free, fair and credible parliamentary election, caretaker or any form of neutral government is necessary. I think dialogue is the only way out and it can be held anywhere. I request the major political parties to sit together for a meaningful dialogue instead of violence. It is necessary to end the political deadlock.

M.A. Kashem
Mohammadpur
Dhaka

Hefajat's demands



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

It is really alarming that a few days back some Islamic clergy groups raised 13-point demands that remind me only of the pre-renaissance era of Europe. The demands are horrifying and draconian in the context of modern times. It is even beyond our imagination how they could raise such demands in this 21st century. Their demands such as men and women can't work together, boys and girls can't attend schools together, etc., are surprising. Even, as part of implementing their draconian demands, they beat up one female journalist while she was performing her duty. Does any religion permit it? Bangladeshi women have come out of the confinement of four-walls and are contributing to our national economy and GDP growth. We have a reputation that Bangladesh is much more advanced than other SAARC countries in terms of women empowerment. Among the UN declared Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), women empowerment is an important issue. But the demands raised by the Hefajat-e Islam and their attack on a female journalist tarnished our image abroad. Many Bangladeshi women work abroad and send remittance to Bangladesh that directly or indirectly also benefit those activists of Hefajat-e Islam. Therefore, their demands are surely to drag the country backward. Nobody can hefajat (save) any religion by unleashing violence across the country.

Ziaul Haque Howlader
A tourism development activist

Are we ready for Westminster type democracy?

Our prime minister visited the residence of British High Commissioner at Baridhara to attend a function on Saturday, 6 April. Three hours before her visit the lake-side park was closed and occupied by dozens of armed policemen and RAB personnel.

Couple of weeks ago, the British Prime Minister David Cameron was passing through a village in England with 2 policemen in his car and suddenly he heard the billowing sound of a sheep in distress. He got down from the car and with the help of policemen rescued the sheep stuck in thick mud in a road-side ditch.

In the constituency of Dinajpur-1, 50 % voters of Kaharol upazila are from minority community and 25% voters of another upazila Birganj are from the same community and perhaps for this reason, AL gave nomination to a minority candidate at the last general election. Now we find the elected MP moves around in his constituency with police escort. If a British MP asks for police escort, he or she will be asked to resign from the party and parliament. I wonder if the Westminster type of government is suitable for our country.

Reza Hussain
Baridhara
Dhaka

Disgusting Indian drama serials

No matter where you live -- in a city or a suburban area or in a village, if you pay a little attention to what people, especially women in Bangladesh watch on TV, you would be surprised. It would be an Indian drama serial, either in Bangla or in Hindi.

Almost all the serials show extra marital relations, multiple love affairs, conflict between daughter-in-laws and mother-in-laws, jealousy and many other bad qualities of humans in such a manner that most of the viewers would consider these behaviours important for leading a “smart” life. The directors only highlight the expensive clothing of the casts. Their appearances seem very artificial as they wear heavy make-up even when going to bed in the serials.

I believe we should wage a widespread social campaign to make people aware about this nuisance before it eats up basic fabric of our society.

Indrajit Kumar Das
Lecturer (English)
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Chittagong

“Lathi michhil” serves whose interest?

I felt very sad by the decision of 'lathi michhil' by the Gonojagoron Moncho. Who gave the 'go-ahead' to the so-called 'non-political', 'non-partisan' group named Gonojagoron mancho, which is naturally going to show their strength under the protection of the government? And we ask, who will be paid by the government to do something harmful, especially when some political parties are enforcing their 'hartal' programme?! May Allah help us!

A F Rahman
On e-mail

Revive tradition of halkhata

Pahela Baishakh, the Bengali New Year, was introduced by Emperor Akbar in 1556 in a bid to collect taxes from the people. Now Pahela Baishakh is the biggest cultural event in Bangladesh. Tourists of different countries come here to celebrate the colourful event along with the Bangladeshis. Wearing traditional dresses like Lungi-Panjabi and Saree, people join the Mongol Shovajatra and eat Panta- Elish -- our traditional food. Riding Nagordola, singing folk songs, and dancing to the tunes of our traditional songs are the mentionable activities of the day.

Rural people celebrate Pahela Baishakh with the opening of a new Halkhata (account book). But unfortunately, the tradition of initiating “Halkhata” is getting lost with the passage of time. If we can revive the culture of opening Halkhata as a major event in Pahela Baishakh, we hope it would attract a large number of foreign tourists also.

Shubho Nababarsho!

Misbah Uddin Sumon
Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management
Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall
University of Dhaka

Restore political stability to attain SDGs

Recently government okayed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Bangladesh. Areas like food security, gender issue, effective parliamentary democracy, etc. were given emphasis. We hope the country will achieve the status of a middle income country by the year 2021. But concerns arise whether it is possible at all when our politics is becoming more confrontational day by day. Without political stability it is not possible to achieve the goals. Political parties, different social organisations, businessmen and others must come forward to achieve the SDGs. Maintaining communal harmony is also important. We all must work together to achieve SDGs.

Hasan Khan
Dept of Sociology
University of Dhaka

PM must listen to the opposition

The hope of a peaceful solution to the political impasse is vanishing rapidly. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina clearly said in an interview with the BBC that she wants the election to be held with the ruling party in power. She said that under the ruling government 554 elections were held and many candidates of BNP have won in those elections, and so what is the need for a caretaker government? We have become tired of hearing this continuously.

Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said to the opposition political party: "Who are you to say that you will pull down this government? The people have elected it." Yes, we fully agree with him. But we want to ask him why not give people a chance to vote freely to select the party they want to see in power next. Why did the government abolish the caretaker system of government? If people love Awami League, they will surely come to power again.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina must come to an understanding with the opposition leader and save the country from being torn apart.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined “Amar Desh stops publication for now”

Rashid Ahmed
We have fantastic democracy in Bangladesh now.

ABM Mosleh Uddin
It seems to me that shutting down of Amar Desh is an authoritarian action on the part of the government which is desperate to stifle the opposition in bid to tackle its self-created problems. The step will remain a black mark in the country's democratic history.

Anonymous
It seems there is no democracy in Bangladesh. Most of the opposition leaders are in jail and they are being harassed continuously by the police. In a democracy opposition leaders are not dealt with like this. The arrest of Amar Desh editor and the shutting down of the newspaper is just a part of this whole undemocratic process.

A citizen
We condemn such undemocratic act by the government. Choking opposition's voice is not the way in a democracy.

Russel
Where is freedom of the press? It is not a good sign.

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined “Prof Yunus to receive US award tomorrow”

sl_jay1946
Dr. Yunus will at least urge GOB to expedite wrapping up the war crimes tribunal, awarding maximum penalty to the war criminals, now under trial!!

Trybestone
This award is given by the most powerful democratic nation in the world. And a highly intellectual person of Dr. Yunus' caliber knows the basics of not hindering the judicial process.

Ash C.
Thank you, Prof. Yunus, for giving us again a sense of tremendous pride at this hour of darkness in Bangladesh.

Feline.grace
With great power comes great responsibility. It's certainly good news that Dr. Yunus' name has spread all over the world.

Nixon
He is a great man of Bangladesh.

Dr. M. Huq
It is a very good news for all the people in Bangladesh. This is a great honour at the international level. We congratulate Prof. Yunus.

Ahmed Badruzzaman
He makes us proud. Bangladesh can really benefit from his international fame.

A reader
We are proud of him.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN