



PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

IN SEARCH OF HUMANITY

Someone knocked on our door at 3pm one day. When I opened the door, I saw a girl of around 15 years standing with a bag on her shoulders, crying profusely. I asked her what happened and she replied that she was in search for work as she had run away from the house where she worked as a house help. She claimed that her employers have been ill-treating her since the last three years and she couldn't tolerate this anymore. She further said that her employers wouldn't let her contact her parents back home. I learnt that she belonged to Noakhali, my hometown, but she didn't have any contact details of anyone there. She kept requesting me to employ her

as a maid but when I went to discuss this matter with my brother, he firmly refused. When I asked whether we should at least inform the police, he said that it would make matters worse for us. After I reluctantly refused to employ her in our home, she started knocking on all of our neighbours' houses in hopes of finding a new job. At that moment I felt very sad for her but we could not understand whether we should believe her or not. Two or three hours later, I heard a public announcement and it was for that girl. Some people were searching for a girl who fit the description of the girl we'd just met. At that time we realised that the girl was probably telling the truth. I felt very ashamed that we couldn't help her because we didn't believe her. It's sad that we are losing our trust on one another with every passing day.

Shoujonma
Via email

I recently got a phone call from my uncle who informed me about the sudden death of a relative. He had died of heart failure. We all have immense trust on the ambulance that transports a patient to the hospital during a medical emergency. But what do you do when this very vehicle turns against you? As soon as the driver and his assistant learnt that the patient had died and taking him to the hospital would be futile, they stopped the ambulance and callously left the lifeless body

Non-existent

stranded on the highway. The tears of the departed's loved ones didn't melt their hearts. A tempo was arranged later to take the body after three long hours. We can't even sue these two people or the organisation they worked for. We just have to accept this as a reality and agree to the fact that nowadays there

is no place for the word "humanity" because humanity is non-existent.

Hridita Saha
United International University, Dhaka

Write
to Mita



SHAHEEN ANAM



Dear Mita,
I am a girl studying in class 9, and have only one and a half years left till my O-levels. I used to be one of the brightest students of my class. Everyone had high hopes from me and they still do. I want to be an engineer after I complete my studies. I don't know what changed but I don't feel as sincerely about my studies any longer. All of my friends are doing very well in school as well as in their personal life. When I see that they are happy with their lives, I feel like a pathetic loser. I feel like I have failed and can't do anything. I try to study but cannot concentrate. After a while, I start Facebooking or chatting with my friends. I don't know how I can return to my old self and be a good student. I want to get good results and make my parents proud. How can I force myself to concentrate on my studies? Please help.

No Focus

Dear Focus,
You are just going through a phase which will soon pass. Since you are still determined to succeed there should not be a problem. It is only a matter of time when you will return to your old self. Continue to have self belief and determination to overcome the present problem. You might also want to analyze the reason for this sudden lack of motivation. It could be some family matter or misunderstanding with friends. There must be something that is bothering you prompting this behaviour. Facebook and chatting is fine and only natural at your age but should not take you away from the fundamental work you have. That is to work hard, stay focused towards your goal. Finally, only you can help yourself, just believe that you can do it.

Dear Mita,
I am a twenty-six-year-old man, who is an introvert, working in a national research organisation. I haven't been involved in a relationship and haven't even thought about getting into a relationship. Lately, however, I've been feeling lonely and find myself losing interest in my work. I realise that I need a girlfriend with whom I can share my feelings. My problem is that I don't get much scope to meet women because of my job nature. I don't want to get married yet because I need more time to establish myself but I would really like to meet someone new and get to know them better. Please help me.

Lonely

Dear Lonely,
Everyone needs companionship and someone to share their joys and sorrows with. This is natural and it is high time you realized it. If you don't get scope to meet women then please ask your friends or relatives. There are many people who just love introducing people with the hope that this will blossom into romance and later marriage. You don't want to get married not which is fine for now, but it is not too early to start thinking about it. Who knows the girlfriend that you are planning to meet may one day turn out to be your life partner. Being an introvert should not be a problem as there are many your women who are also shy and waiting to meet someone like you.