

Brutal crimes shake society again

BITTER TRUTH



MD. ASADULLAH KHAN

THE murder of a mother and daughter in Chittagong, the murder of Rinvi, a brilliant student in Narsingdi by her spurned suitor Al-Amin, the killing of a college teacher in Cox's bazaar, and businessman in Sylhet in recent time and a host of other ghastly murders, robbery and rape incidents in different parts of the country indicates an alarming trend of violence stalking the nation. Even minor children are not spared. In Chittagong, four children were killed along with their mothers during the last one year because the perpetrators feared that they might have recognized them and reveal their identity to the police, if they were kept alive. An inevitable crisis resulting from greed, jealousy, restlessness, the devilish nature of politics and deteriorating moral standards of all sections of the populace, are reasons behind this terrifying trend. Youngsters, mostly dropouts from schools and having no work or business to do, are out on the streets with guns and daggers or acid bottles with such devilish intentions. The apathy of the society to this escalating crisis and failure of the state to address this problem is most appalling. The menacing trend of the social disorder, and killing of neighbour's minor child or a business friend on the flimsiest pretext either for money or grabbing business or political rivalry are the deadliest urban upheavals in the country. With each day bringing more incidents of heinous murder, rape, torture, extortion and robbery to light, the list could be dauntingly endless. In the morning of May 9, we learnt of the shocking incident: Babita (21), a just married girl in Lohagara upazila of Narail district was tied to a tree and beaten mercilessly by her husband Shafiqul, now working in the Sylhet Bangladesh

Army Regiment and seven others of his relatives. The incident that took place on April 30 was hushed up because of the influence of village 'matobbars' and came to light through a Facebook exposition. The local police station did not initially record the complaint lodged by the victim's relations and took up the diary after the incident created resentment in the village through publicity on the social media. The High Court in the meantime on a writ petition filed by Advocate Manzil

only ominous but a chilling symbol of the breakdown of our moral fabric and social values. Shockingly, women in the age group of 16-30 are living under constant threat to their lives and in several cases, wary of humiliation, they have chosen to end their lives. According to a report published in a Bangla daily on May 11, unable to bear the humiliating teasing and comments day in and day out by Shaon, a hoodlum and son of Motaleb Howladar of the same village, Sathi Akter (14), a



INQUIR.COM

Murshid on behalf of Human Rights, and Peace for Bangladesh has directed the local administration and police to arrest the attackers within 48 hours and submit a report by May 18 informing the steps taken in this regard. What is most unfortunate is that every time such barbaric incidents take place, the apex court of the country has to clamp down on the recalcitrant law enforcement agency in the country for proper handling of such issues. Reports of such macabre crimes are not

class nine student of Charmuguria girls' high school, ended her life by swallowing pesticide. It is hard to comprehend the violence - the anger, jealousy, and plain sadism that can drive these derailed youths to commit acts of unimaginable horror. How, for instance, are we to understand the evil spite of Rathin (23), of a Gopalganj village, who crept into the bamboo hut of a college girl in the same locality in the middle of the night, poured concentrated sulfuric acid on

her face and neck and walked away as she woke up screaming—all because she refused to marry him?

Unhappily, as the government has started its journey toward building a democratic governance, it continues to face the most harrowing time with so many criminal actions jeopardising governance and development initiatives. The government would possibly admit that the track record of the law enforcement agencies is not anything inspiring. It is not enough that policy directives are framed, it is important that these are implemented and complied with by those in charge of police administration without malice, fear or favour, and of necessity without delay.

In fact, gruesome incidents of violence, murder, rape, and abduction have started to stalk the country in a manner that nobody could comprehend. On May 7, extortionists shot a teacher of Sher-e-Bangla agricultural university in Mohammadpur at 11 am in the city and decamped with 7 lakh 80 thousand taka he was carrying in a bag to deposit in a bank.

Things have gone so wrong in the country because the governments all along did not understand the meaning of governance. The country had become a "soft" state revealing itself to be completely incapable of fighting the forces of violence and terror. True, the patronage of criminals by politicians in the past and a demoralised police force pushed up the crime graph in the country. Very often and on too many occasions, the question of cadre politics, partisan interest have hamstrung police investigation and the judicial process. On the other hand, we have till now a justice system so flawed that we have yet to bring to justice those who committed crimes years before. Unhappily, the release of the hardened criminals after a protracted trial because of the loopholes in the FIR or GD entry so emboldens them that they dare to threaten the relatives of victims with dire consequences should they proceed with the trial.

The writer is a columnist of The Daily Star. E-mail : aukhandk@gmail.com

The country had become a "soft" state revealing itself to be completely incapable of fighting the forces of violence and terror. True, the patronage of criminals by politicians in the past and a demoralised police force pushed up the crime graph in the country.

The ball is *not* in my court

If the perpetrators of the law and order situation are from the camp we do not see eye to eye (not because all politicians wear dark glasses), then we heave a sigh of relief because we will be above blame, realising little that either way our nation is one more step closer to going to the dogs.

CHINTITO SINCE 1995



NIZAMUDDIN AHMED

demarcation of which can subjectively mean a difference as huge as being a tiger inside one's own territory and a kitten outside. However, his *saatranj ka khiladi* deportment, as claimed by students, after learning of the wicked act in his own front yard was improper as a teacher and as a learned citizen. What would have been his best move? No chess moves will be considered. (A) Find out if his university students are in any danger or creating any problem, (B) Bring the matter to the notice of the

THE Dhaka University proctor is perhaps excusing himself from all Pahela Baishakh culpabilities because the unprecedented crime took place 'outside' his university *elaka*, the

Vice-Chancellor, (C) Take measures to involve the law because his university's image is threatened.

Perchance if an act of criminal nature, laced with any degree of *jhabela*, takes place on a road (or a river) that divides two neighbouring police stations, the victim has had it; the push and pull begins in deciding which *thana* has the jurisdiction to take up his left arm and which the right, and if matters are least rewarding how competitive they can be to avoid taking up the case.

You hear people yelling and shrieking, furniture toppling, more shouting, thuds and then eerie silence in an apartment in your building. What is your best move? (A) Knock on the door of the apartment seemingly under attack, (B) Press the calling bell and cough loudly because it could be a marital row, (C) Stay where you are and take cover under a doorsill; after all it is ten in the morning and they say an earthquake is imminent. No prizes for the right answer.

You are driving at cruising speed

along a highway. The car in front of you is too slow to your liking. You honk and honk. Grrrr! The car gathers speed, and in an attempt to give you pass veers so much to the left that it crashes into a three-wheeler, whose passengers are thrown off and are bleeding profusely on the tarmac. You press on the accelerator, and give not more than a left glance to catch a glimpse of the driver of the car you pushed, yes you, slumped on the steering wheel. What is your best move? You guessed right, move. Your logic: (A) Neither of the vehicles are your responsibility, (B) Honk does not necessarily mean the driver had to give you pass, you wouldn't, (C) Roads should be wider because you pay tax.

A news item concerning a public disturbance by political elements makes the headlines. Damage to property and critical injuries have occurred. Gunshots and death perhaps. One of our first reactions is 'who done it?' If the culprits belong to the party we support even if from

afar, then we immediately bring out the 'outsider' tag and squarely blame the opposition because (A) they have infiltrated into our ranks for pecuniary benefits, (B) this is typically their signature work, (C) our boys were never so bad.

On the other hand, if the perpetrators of the law and order situation are from the camp we do not see eye to eye (not because all politicians wear dark glasses), then we heave a sigh of relief because we will be above blame, realising little that either way our nation is one more step closer to going to the dogs.

Those of us who own/use cars are very particular about keeping the inside of our vehicle neat and tidy. We most usually blame the city mayor for the filth on the streets, not perhaps ever stopping to think that we may have made our contributions too. Since we are in our protected space costing lakhs, we consider it totally justified to soil the street that costs crores. Our brazen actions include throwing out of the window

tissue papers and foil packs and water bottles and banana peels and worn out sandals and the day's newspaper and well-used diapers because (A) the inside is air-conditioned, (B) there is only that much space inside, (C) the outside is someone else's court.

My mother is not in this hospital before which the signboard reads 'hospital' and I know patients need quiet from my twenty visits to Singapore and three to the USA. Oh! What a system they have there, I tell everyone. But, because this is Bangladesh (A) I shall blast my car's loud horn as many times as I feel is right to make the b-----d puller move his rickshaw, (B) I shall open the car window and up the volume to maximum, so that Dhaka-bashis can hear this fabulous new release, (C) there is no system here.

My son does not go to this school ...

The author is a practising Architect at BashaBari Ltd., a Commonwealth Scholar and a Fellow, a Baden-Powell Fellow Scout Leader, and a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow-cum-Benefactor Rotarian

QUOTABLE Quote

Every empire, however, tells itself and the world that it is unlike all other empires, that its mission is not to plunder and control but to educate and liberate.

- Edward Said

BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



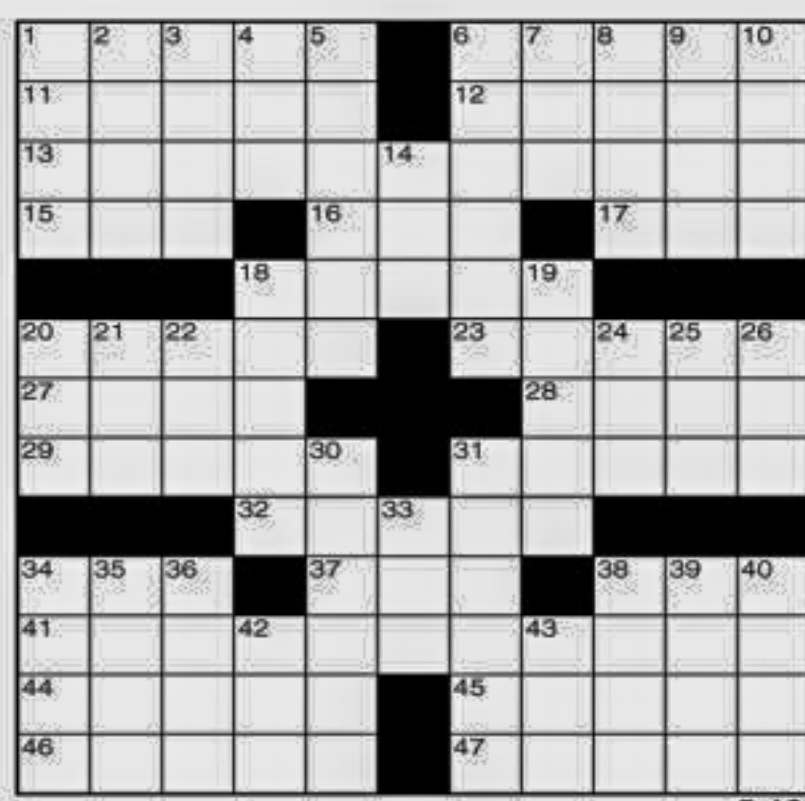
HENRY

by Don Trachte



CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- Fragrant wood
 - Book of maps
 - Sports setting
 - Hard to see
 - Hit for Jennifer Lopez
 - Court divider
 - Look upon
 - Price addition
 - Hoisting device
 - Lucifer
 - Become narrower
 - Wildly excited
 - Zilch
 - Train stop
 - Praline nut
 - Fleet-related
 - Buck's mate
 - Buddy
 - Deli meat
 - Hit for George Harrison
 - Mayflower name
 - Billiards shot
 - Finishes last
 - Foe
- DOWN**
- James of "The Godfather"
 - Pennsylvania port
 - Car scar
 - Tiny worker
 - Granola bit
 - Have an influence on
 - Letter after sigma
 - Pocket fuzz
 - Visitor to Siam
 - River of Hades
 - Toe Count
 - Hayride need
 - Greenish brown
 - Mournful
 - Bringer of wisdom
 - Summit
 - Chest muscle, for short
 - Memorable time
 - Harry's friend
 - Gimme putts
 - Royal home
 - Dyeing tub
 - Watch part
 - Norwegian city
 - Finishes
 - Employ
 - Proton's place
 - "Good heavens!"
 - Golf peg
 - Mythical piper



Yesterday's answer



Our customers speak for us...



The Grand Residence
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

“Seeing the radiance on my wife and son, I realize that I have made a fantastic decision. I thank bti for giving me such a wonderful home.”

Md. Zakaria
The Grand Residence, Flat-D8
Dhanmondi, Dhaka



REHAB MEMBERSHIP #001
ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED

www.btibd.com



building technology & ideas ltd.

in pursuit of excellence...