

Campaign against intellectual property infringement

On 13 June, 2015 Intellectual Property Association of Bangladesh (IPAB) had launched a campaign, titled 'RRBG- Nokol Rudhbo, Chorachalan Rukhbo, Rajossho Barabo, Desh Gorbo' at the ballroom of Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel Dhaka. Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed MP was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.

The event started off with a presentation by Md. Azizur Rahman FCS, Director General, IPAB. "Be it baby's food or cosmetics, every industry, and along with that the consumers, are suffering from duplicates," he pointed out. "This campaign hopes to raise awareness on counterfeit products, copyright infringement, smuggled products and duty evasion. To solve the problem, a multi-dimensional approach needs to be taken: credible research, awareness among all the stakeholders and segments of society, empowering enforcement agencies and the support of relevant ministries are all important."

After the presentation, an oath-taking session took place, where all the guests promised to stand against all acts of intellectual property infringement.

The event also launched a report, entitled

'Intellectual Property Rights in Businesses-Making Tools for Developing Bangladesh'.

Then, the floor was open for leaders of different sectors to speak up and present their challenges to the Commerce Minister.

For example, Abul Hayat, a notable actor, spoke about royalty rights. "Many decades ago, for a work I did on BTV, I got royalty from Karachi, since it was broadcasted there as well," Hayat remembers. "But nowadays, there are so many channels, but, after the contract has been signed, no matter how many times and wherever the programme runs, we don't see any royalty."

Maleka Khan, founder of Bangla Craft, was also present on the occasion and stressed the importance of everyone – from the government level to the consumers – to come forward to support Jamdani weavers. "You can proudly say that you belong to the land where Jamdani is woven," she said. "We must make sure that the weavers get their due recognition."

Bangladesh is working on its way to become a middle-income nation by 2021. And in order to do that, intellectual property infringement must be dealt with.

By M H Haider

FICTION

Flying alone



It was 25 minutes past 9 o'clock. The Dubai-bound Emirates Flight 584 should have left Dhaka 30 minutes ago, but the flight was being delayed. Saima, who was on board Flight 584, checked her watch at least 30 times in the last half-hour. Anyone could say by looking at her that she was nervous. Saima was fidgety – it was the first time the 20-year-old was flying alone – she was going to the US to attend college.

Saima looked to her front, sides and back. She was in discomfort even though the plane seat was roomy enough for someone with a small frame like hers. In her aisle seat, she was having a difficult time keeping her left arm safely away from the young man sitting next to her.

The young man, who was in his mid-20s, was also flying alone – it was his first time too. It was quite clear from his Bengali dialect that he hailed from one of the northern districts of Bangladesh.

"Perhaps Dinajpur," Saima thought.

Saima's guess was not wrong, for Kamal did live in Dinajpur all his life. She also learned from his conversation with another man that he was going to Dubai as a construction site worker.

Saima eyed the young man as he took his shoes and socks off after taking his seat on the

plane. He too was uncomfortable like her, but in a completely different way.

Kamal was not used to seeing city girls. Saima, who was in a pair of jeans and a white shirt, soon became the nucleus of his attention. His gazes made Saima even more jittery. She brought her hands close to her torso so they would not come in contact with her fellow passenger.

After half an hour on the ground when the plane finally began to taxi to the runway for takeoff, Saima forgot everything that was spinning inside her head: the annoying man sitting next to her, the 30-minute delay... everything. She began to experience a pang of separation, she felt as if the invisible thread that tied her heart to the land she was born in was severing.

The plane began a run on the runway, going faster and faster for a smooth takeoff. When the Boeing 777 finally lifted off, Saima closed her eyes and a tear rolled down her left cheek. The young man sitting next to her was still staring at her, but this time his eyes were moist and he too could feel the turbulence of emotions that tore at Saima's heart.

By Wara Karim

Photo: Collected



#ChooseBeautiful

Beauty and the beholder

They say beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. Who is the beholder, we ask? Who defines beauty? According to Dr Syed Md Saikh Imtiaz, Chairman of the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka, it is the time and era that defines what beauty is.

And in our day and age, media plays a huge role in setting the perception we hold. "The media

defines and redefines it. For example, a few decades ago, heroines were relatively plump, and the few extra pounds were found to be attractive. On the other hand, nowadays it seems being skinny is in," Imtiaz opines. But he doesn't stop there.

Engulfed by the messages delivered in the media that

portray certain shapes, sizes and colours as desirable, many women strive to conform to them. Therefore, it is no surprise that many women who cannot meet that set definition are low on confidence and self esteem.

Imtiaz believes that more region-specific research regarding the issue needs to be conducted in order to properly tackle the situation.

Meanwhile, he urges women to believe in themselves and be comfortable in their own skin. Proper parenting is important. A girl, when growing up, needs to be reassured that it is not outer beauty that determines who she is.

"To me, beauty is all about self-confidence," Imtiaz shared. "Being comfortable about who you are makes you beautiful." Self-esteem and happiness radiate beauty.

So we go back to where we had started: beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. And who ought to be the beholder, then? It is the woman herself, and not the media or the trends or the era we live in. "It is for you to decide the definition of beauty, and no one else," Imtiaz concluded.

Of course, there will be people who will say what they have to say. Do not pay heed to them. The authority of being the 'beholder' rests on you; and you can see yourself as beautiful and confident, or, you can fret about what others have to say.

Take a closer look at your inner self. Be your own judge.

By M H Haider

By Sazzad Ibne Sayed



Dr Syed Md Saikh Imtiaz, Chairman of the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka

So, how do you choose to define yourself?

