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PHOTO: KAMOL DAS

"The story of life is quicker than the wink of an eye, the story of love is hello and goodbye...until we meet again"

— Jimi Hendrix

SNAPSHOT

OPINION

Throughout this year Bangladesh has been in a spell of targeted killings and assassinations, one after the other, has shocked its people and the world as well. While law enforcers are still in the dark about the killing of the atheist bloggers, two foreign nationals

damage our country's image and can also have adverse impacts on diplomatic relations.

The government must take immediate steps to arrest and try the assailants. Italy and Japan are two countries that are among Bangladesh's most cooperative

friendly country had to die in Bangladesh due to lack of proper safety measures in one of country's most secured area.

Japan's cooperation and contribution for Bangladesh's economic growth is also remarkable. According to a report by Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

relationships, which will be very harmful for our country's development. Recently Japan's top spokesperson has expressed outrage over the killing of its citizen in Bangladesh. However, it is we; the Bangladeshis, who should be outraged for our government's inaction and should be ashamed of such unfortunate incidents. Till now, October 6, 2015, the law enforcers have failed to arrest any of the assailants and could not make any progress in the investigation. The political leaders are blaming each other and making ridiculous comments on such globally significant issues, making our nation a laughing stock.

THE VICTIMS OF IMPUNITY

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

have recently been killed. The victims are Caesure Tavella, an Italian citizen and the project manager of ICCO, the Interchurch organisation for development cooperation, and Kunio Hoshi, a Japanese citizen who was researching on a new breed of grass in a remote area of Bangladesh. It is very unfortunate that these people have been killed in the country where they had come to serve its people.

Following these brutal murders, some of the world's most renowned security analysts have apprehended that Bangladesh has become a breeding ground of much feared militant organisations, like Islamic State (IS) and Al Qaeda, although Bangladesh has been firmly denying such claim.

Upon this apprehension, many of the foreign missions in Bangladesh have issued security alert for their citizens staying in Bangladesh. Recently 17 foreigners have been taken to Dhaka from Jessore in fear of similar kinds of attacks, and the Australian Cricket Team has also withdrawn its Bangladesh tour. When the country is panic stricken, our Prime Minister commented, "The US government didn't announce red alert when two Bangladeshi nationals were killed in New York a few years ago. Other diplomatic missions also didn't issue any such alert for their citizens. I don't know why some diplomatic missions in Dhaka did this," according to a report published in The Daily Star

Again, H T Imam, political adviser to Bangladesh's Prime Minister commented, "The killed citizen is not Japanese, and he is a Bangladeshi potato merchant," according to a report by Deutsche Welle Bengali Service. It is needless to say that these kinds of irresponsible comments from such national figures irreparably



PHOTO: AFP

developmental partners. Italy has been one of the most significant buyers of Bangladeshi products such as leather goods, readymade garments, agro products etc. Recently, the bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Italy has increased up to 200 percent. Italy has also been running a wide range of development activities in Bangladesh. It is shameful for us that a citizen from such a

Japan is the 11th largest export market of Bangladesh and the exports make up 26 percent of all Japanese import from the least developed countries. Japan is also the one of the largest donors and investors in Bangladeshi development projects.

Irresponsible comments regarding these unfortunate incidents and the negligence in arresting and trying the criminals can certainly damage such significant bilateral

This cannot be continued. We must stop this culture of impunity where criminals can always find a safe route after committing crimes no matter how heinous it is. This notorious tendency has destroyed our law and order and has given us a society of injustice and indifference. We should remember the classical quote, "To stand by silence and indifference is the greatest crime of all."

MAILBOX

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PHOTO: KAZI TAHSSIN AGAZ APURBO

"The Night Time Chronicles"

The spotlight published last week (October 2, 2015) in the *Star Weekend* was a great read. The stories of the late night workers were really intriguing and through their stories we got to know their lifestyles quite closely. As a university student, I also like to do most of my tasks late at night as night is full of tranquillity and composure. As there is no distraction, I can give my full attention to the tasks. As for wandering, working-class people, they play an important role in our society. Some of them guard and protect our property while street vendors continue their businesses till late night giving people refreshments whenever needed. These hardworking people keep themselves awake to give us a sound and tranquil sleep. Thanks a lot to the *Star weekend* for turning the spotlight towards this unheard issue.

Samiul Rajjul
North South University, Dhaka

Existing Crisis in Local Buses

I would like to thank the writer for writing article (published on October 2, 2015) on such an important issue. Whenever government takes steps to remove ramshackles, unfit vehicles from Dhaka's road, the commuters have to suffer excruciatingly due to the intolerable transport crisis. Again, each and every time the government increases fuel price, it is again the helpless citizens of Dhaka who have to pay excessive fare for riding those unfit and totally unusable vehicles. If steps are not taken immediately, I think Dhaka will become an uninhabitable city only for this intense transport crisis.

Sarah Farhana
Niketan, Dhaka

The Third Gender

If we consider our society as a family, then all of us who live together should treat each other as family members. However, we have failed to do so. We have discriminatory approaches towards many of our members especially towards the people belonging to the third gender, known as hijras. They have the same rights like us but they are jobless because and they don't get any opportunities. National Identification (ID) card is our symbol of nationality but they are deprived of it. Certainly, they often do some unwanted activities for their income but we have never asked why they do it. They can't start any business because they don't have any social status. We have many things to do for them but we don't do. However, if we can only change our outlook towards them, it can make a big difference.

Md Shariful Islam
Demra, Dhaka

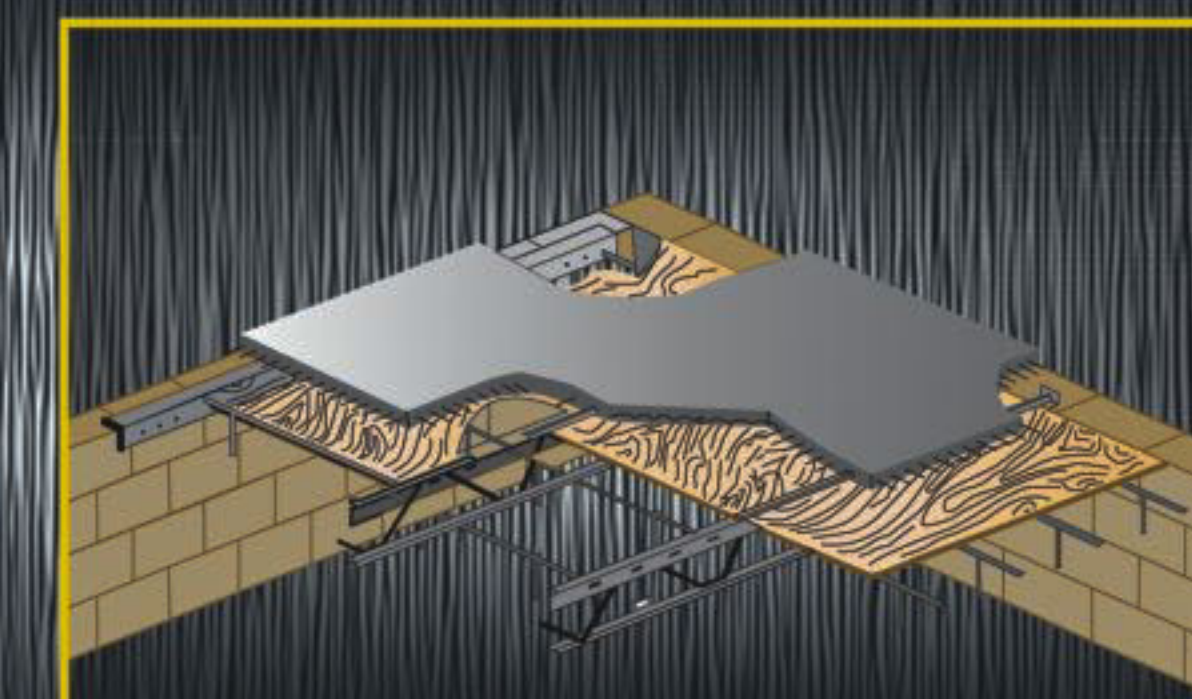


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