



# Behind every successful women's team, there are men

Behind every successful women's team, there's a team of men



MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Behind every successful women's team, there is a team of even more successful men.

This has been the oft-heard refrain after the Bangladesh Under-19 women's football team won the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship.

*"If we did not play a part in subjugating women for so many decades, they would not have cultivated that fighting spirit, that will to break out of shackles because they have literally done that while growing up," the leader added. "It's unfair, because men did not have to do that. So their results won't be as good."*

After the women yet again showed the more celebrated men's teams how it is done, it inevitably led to people talking about how much better the women's teams are, even though they spent half their lives in the kitchen and not on the sporting field.

But some men have had enough as they find their kitchens un-womanned empty and their dinner tables empty.

"Look, this football stadium was built by a successful construction team of men. Even the football these girls have been kicking since the start of the match was made by some men. These women wouldn't win unless men did all these things," a man said after popping out from behind a poster of the women's team hoisting the championship.

Whether it is cricket or football, women have been bossing men in terms of results for the last few years. It has increased not only the expectations of the people of Bangladesh from women's teams, but has raised concerns among those who are fond of saying that a woman's

place is in the kitchen.

"We empowered our women and you can clearly see the results achieved by our U-19 girls!" a local leader said in a public programme titled "Why you should marry your daughters off before 18".

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A group of people in different comment sections has been protesting why girls are given sole credit of winning the trophy while there were so many men behind them. "Will women be grateful ever? We empowered them, they won and then they took the full credit! What a day-night robbery!" a commenter fumed.

A regular commuter of a local bus seemed crystal clear about men's contribution behind successful women.

"Every day, I sit behind women's seats in the bus. So many successful women sat before me, but none has ever admitted my presence behind her. What an ungrateful race!"

# Local comedians hurt by criticism, declare war on sub-editors worldwide

*In an unprecedented event, a prominent group of local stand-up comedians were hurt brutally from a deadly criticism hurled at them by a good-for-nothing journalist usually found squatting at Karwan Bazar.*

## FACEBOOK LIVE CORRESPONDENT

On Wednesday morning, Zarif Rifat, a sub-editor at The Quarterly Moon newspaper, announced that he's starting a crowdfunding campaign to make prominent stand-up comedian Rashnan Shadab quit stand up comedy for good. Zarif, a 20 something zoomer, demanded with a straight face that all standup comedians in the country, including Shadab, must give up comedy altogether and start political commentary at once.

Understandably, netizens were outraged by the audacity. "How dare someone as insignificant as a sub-editor hurl hurtful comments like that towards revered public intellectuals like Shadab? We need a zero-tolerance policy against yellow journalists like Zarif," said one furious netizen to this correspondent.

The Stand-up Comedians Guild of Bangladesh strongly condemned this uncalled-for attack against Shadab. In an impromptu Facebook live session arranged shortly after the campaign announcement, prominent members of the guild expressed utter disappointment at the state of journalism in the country.

"How can you expect us to continue with stand-up comedy if you keep criticising our performances? You must clap, encourage and appreciate us for years so we can grow slowly," said one of the speakers. "We have feelings too, you know," said another speaker who joined the live session from his private jet.

In the live session, the speakers demanded that sub-editors like Zarif should be worried



about their own future instead. "What is even a sub-editor? Not an editor, not a reporter, what is it even? We don't need such redundant jobs in this country. All sub-editors in the world are hereby cancelled. Please go find other jobs that pay a decent wage," said one of the concerned speakers.

When contacted, Shadab—the original victim—appeared rather nonchalant about the whole fiasco. "Look, I have a thick skin.

I don't care much about two-bit journos and their opinions," he said. "But you must also understand that we don't do stand-up comedies for people like him. We make comedies for educated, well-researched people who know the history and nuances of stand-up comedy. Please learn about stand-up comedy first and then register as our audience," he added.

Zarif Rifat, the journalist in question,

however, could not be reached at the time of filing this report. According to sources, he was quickly fired by The Quarterly Moon right after the controversial post.

He was reportedly last seen roaming around Karwan Bazar, asking for a free Chalao ride home. Zarif presumably did not have a single penny in his pocket, as insider sources have revealed that The Quarterly Moon did not pay him in cash, but only in exposures.

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