

Patriotism in crisis

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It has been a widespread debate that how patriotic we are as a nation (Bangladesh). There are lot of examples up there which profoundly indicate that we used to be a great fighter for patriotism and we dedicated our all effort to achieve the taste of sovereignty in 1971 as an independent country in the world. No doubt, our patriotism was in highest point during that period (1948 to 1971).

In the course of time (onwards 1971---) we had lot of ups and down as young nation, stepping up bit by bit to uphold the real value of sovereignty.

Now there would be a need to analyse some complexity of the theme of patriotism which we are facing as compatriots and expatriates as a part of everyday life. It is not possible to define patriotism in small words but its widespread meaning lies beyond our imagination which reflects the path of every citizen and their contribution or achievement (small or bigger scale) at home and abroad.

Nowadays in social, political, religious or individual issues, there are lot of examples striking from very top level (Ruling, opposition or government party) to lower part in some various organisation (with or without political banner) at home or abroad involved in clashes and huge disagreements which are damaging our real values and unleashing a very bleak picture to uphold our patriotism as a young nation.

Some very sad and unexpected incidents are happening in our community forum, one of which occurred most recently in Lakemba with very unfortunate chaos and abuse that caused police present and shows our abnormality and disrespects our core patriotic zeal as nation. It's all about individual's power grab practice, nothing noble up there to honour our social goal to be proud of us as an individual. These sorts of incident are happening even in community holy mosques which also end up with police interference and most likely have gone to court. There are thousands of internal divisions (even in five men organisation), backbiting and humiliation all over the social, political and some cases religious networks which are becoming a laughing stock in terms of patriotism and values. There are lot of neutral gentle men and women out there who really wants to show their interest in social involvement locally but it impossible to involve in this of atmosphere in larger scale. At the end of the day this sort of segregation and lack of loyalty are taking us backwards in some respects. Sometimes it clearly shows that this whole scenario is reflecting the similar image and practice from our top hierarchy where all the matters should dealt with greater transparency and national interest, not for power grab or individual interests.

It is now time to deal with the issues in a broader spectrum with greater respect and unity, not to be influenced by godfathers and political guardians who maybe not the right person to follow their political or social ethics. A political leader in recent times may not be a milestone (where they should be) to follow where it's come to the point of patriotism and dedication.

The points I tried to establish so far may be little confusing but it's all come to the core point where patriotism is falling behind and put a big question mark on patriotism in our everyday of social and political arena.

In reality it is not always the bleak picture as stated above but there lot of dedicated people out there, showing their utmost sacrifice and working silently towards our identity and making us proud as nation. We cried with joy when Professor Yunus achieved an ultimate honour (awarded Noble prize), amazed to read to read the childhood story of current Bangladesh Bank governor and also enlightened with joy to see lot poor people who spontaneously contributing live in remote village with great deal of patriotism and honour.

It is not next time or tomorrow, right now is the time where we should put aside all the narrowness and disagreement and try to give our real effort (in smaller or bigger scale) to enrich our patriotic portfolio and be proud of being a citizen of Bangladesh with dignity and respect.