

TALK SHOWS RUMPUS

BA Malik

Most TV talk shows present an ugly scene of a cock fight and hardly give an impression of a civilized debate. At times all participants begin to speak at the same time. It becomes a tamasha wherein every body is talking and no body is listening. The outcome looks like a replica of a fish market. The participants fail to understand that listening is more important than speaking. In a free style verbal wrestling, issues are pushed to the back burner. Issues and non issues are mixed up in mind boggling hotchpotch of stray ideas where logic and relevance are the principal casualties.

The celebrated anchor persons don't lag behind in this nasty game of verbal tug of war. The anchors are supposed to set the tone and tenor of the debate but they miserably fail in their duty as moderators. In fact the anchor generously add fuel to the fire by their frequent interruptions and issueless interventions. In one such programme at a private TV channel the talk show host shouts at the top of his vocal chords and eclipses every dogy else at the shouting spree.

The participating politician in these shouting matches cut a sorry figure and downgrade their image in the eyes of the horrified watchers. To improve the equality of talk shows the anchors and their guests should be given some guide lines on how to debate issues and how to conclude a discussion purposefully. We need a debate which is more rational than emotional. Logic and emotion are mutually exclusive. If speakers in a society can not discuss issues logically they should remain silent instead of spreading intellectual lawlessness and verbal pollution.