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Pakistan failed to reciprocate

The Pakistan-South Africa series is on. After beating Bangladesh both in the one-day and the test series, Pakistan lovers are in hyper mood. I too was a strong supporter of the Pakistan cricket team before Bangladesh-Pakistan cricket series kicked off.

I now hate Pakistan because the PCB and many Pakistani players demonstrated unsavoury behaviour towards the Bangladeshi team both in and out of the field. Following are some evidence.

Pakistani cricket captain, Rashid Latif, sported some non sports-man like attitude in the field. During a test (Multan) he tricked off Alok Kapali. This was confirmed by the TV replay of the match. For this misdeed he was suspended for five

Pakistan in such a tense match, most of the viewers were leaving the TV room silently rather than clapping to express joy. This showed their sympathy for the Pakistanis. This trend may continue when India-Pakistan cricket series (if it is held) begins.

Such being our feeling for Pakistan, isn't it a shame that the Pakistan cricket team failed to reciprocate in a similar manner?

Md Fayaz Ahmed
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AL strategy self-defeating

I highly appreciate and strongly endorse the views of AZ, published under the above caption in your esteemed daily dated October 1,

road.

During the rainy season, the sorrows of pedestrians know no bounds. City Corporation seems to be interested in taking big projects worth more than crores of takas for unknown reasons. Over-seeing the repair of the Manik Nagar main approach Road should become a priority of the DCC now.

An immediate attention of the higher authority is drawn to this public inconvenience.

Delwar Hossain
Manik Nagar
Dhaka

Democracy: Bangladesh Style!

Though the morning of 7th October was rainy, it stood out as a special occasion for Bangladesh because of the largest gathering of the parlia-

leaders to sit on the same platform and talk their grievances out?

Imagine how nice it would have felt to the people of our country and to the foreign delegates had the PM inaugurated the CPA sharing the same dais with the opposition leader.

How can we claim that we're a democracy if such differences pull apart our treasury and the opposition toward different directions?

Kalyankar
Dhaka

Executives deny justice to judges

On 27.08.2003, the government appointed Mr. Justice Khondker Musa Khaled as a permanent judge of the High Court Division. 02.07.2003 was his last working day as an additional judge. That is, he has been confirmed after one month and 25 days of the expiry of his tenure as an additional judge.

That is an exceptional decision on the part of the government. Mr. Khaled is fortunate enough though, and we congratulate him. Thanks to the government for such a generous decision, but the decision of non confirmation of Mr. Khaled was quite unfortunate.

In order to remove the Judges mercilessly from the High Court Division, who were appointed during the rule of the AL, the government did not even confirm the services of some of the good judges. Those unfortunate judges include Mr. Justice Munsurul Haque Chawdhury, Mr. Justice Marziul Haque, Mr. Justice Hasan Fozz Siddique and Mr. Justice Nizamul Haque.

They are the worst victims of the change of our political regime. Undoubtedly, their appointments were better than those being done presently, a fact the government can confirm by talking to people in the Supreme Court premises. Lawyers and Newspapers raised a barrage of protests against such non-confirmations. Some of them are compelled to file writ petition against such unacceptable decision of the government. Such is the extent of executive interference over our Judiciary.

Between 01.10.1983 to 10.04.1993, the Government of India appointed 547 additional judges but did not confirm 5 due to specific allegations. Our government did not confirm 15 out of 30. The honourable chief Justice, the judicial head of the country, recommended confirmation for all of them. Government chose to ignore his recommendation.

When Ayub Khan ignored the recommendation of Chief Justice Murshed, Justice Murshed resigned instantly. That was the reaction of a Chief Justice. Definitely our Chief Justice digested the same because the time has changed.

Anik Rohman
Ayn Research Centre

The gravity of the situation

Our over-enthusiastic politicians have to learn one lesson from the intermittent launch disasters. Keep your centre of gravity low to preserve a stable equilibrium.

What is this centre of gravity? Any college textbook has the definition, but it is the application of it in our daily life that matters most. We are weak in applied science because concern for money and stomach keeps us preoccupied. Our focus is more on the self than on public service.

The centre of gravity can be likened with the centre of a circle. Where is the centre of this vast universe? No one knows. Lately even the scientists tend to conjecture that hyper-space has no centre. The definition of time is also getting more and more complex, as mysticism leaks into science in the society, and becomes a culture, good or bad. Our local culture is changing, but the leaders are shy to point it out, as detached views are avoided. Negative collusion prevails in the society. It is malice, not goodwill.

During our lifetime we have met with some mature and wise personalities who never seem to be ruffled or excited (inner capacity pouring a glass of water into the sea does not change the level of the sea). This calmness (of the mountains and the deep sea) is foreboding to ordinary minds, and generates some mysterious kind of respect and humility. Ambition destroys such ambience. These personalities are the real hidden leaders, and their centre of gravity is low. Make a list of self-effacing politicians, here and abroad.

Keep a low profile, and search parties would be active. Too much publicity spoils the service mood. Political commercialisation is the style of the day. Philosophy is not a dry subject, but it is there in the background as cementing bonds. It determines the approach to an issue the rest are nuts and bolts

(technical). Before entering the jungle, the recommendation is to go around the perimeter for a reconnaissance. It is necessary to listen to second and third opinions while planning public services. This is universally recognised approach "service before self."

We are familiar with the aphorism "Give away the profits, and retain the losses". Can a leader follow his people? Yes, he follows the wishes of the people, and leads to its realisation. In Dhaka, the other side of the coin is missing. There is a subtle difference, which only personal equations can illuminate. While facing people, is it necessary to put up a front? The heart of the matter is not in the front it is in the back-ground!

Apart from the centre of gravity issue, there are some other pre qualifications for success in public life; the silent practice of self-sacrifice and to be willing to suffer for principles. These virtues must have public visibility for credibility sake. There is no purging without personal suffering, although the latter has several forms.

AMahseen
On mail

CPA lesson: Leave protocol to those who know

I have followed with shame the way the parliament secretariat has handled the important CPA meeting. The mishandling was primarily in protocol arrangements. It is no wonder that the Parliament Secretariat landed in such difficulties for state protocol.

The protocol for multinational conferences are specialised functions that one needs to learn and the Secretariat had none of such training or professionalism. State protocol and protocol for important international conferences where Government level VIPs attend are functions performed by professionals, especially by people trained for such duties.

Most Governments let their Foreign Ministry handle such affairs or where other Ministries do the job, training is imparted to the staff in protocol and protocol practices.

Unfortunately, in Bangladesh, there seems to be a wrong perception that diplomacy, protocol and conduct of relations bilaterally and multilaterally are just anybody's business for which no training or professionalism is needed. With the CPA, we have found this out at the cost of national humiliation.

I think it is time to induct some professionalism in our Government. We have a Foreign Ministry with a foreign service cadre that is generally perceived, albeit wrongly, to have no real work. These officers in the Foreign Ministry are professionals whose services should be taken for the sake of the country.

The PM should make it mandatory that whenever an international conference such as the CPA is held in Bangladesh, the Foreign Ministry is assigned with the responsibility to organize and implement all matters related to protocol.

Imagine one of the Whips and the Parliament Secretary moving about like orphans while the Secretary General of the Commonwealth is herded to a third rate hotel and the former telling the reporters that they were not responsible for the flap. Then, the Speaker hastens to the Hotel to find the Commonwealth Secretary General sleeping. This was indeed an unintended error, but one that had truncated our already blotted international image. With Foreign Ministry in charge, I doubt if any of these could have happened.

Shahjahan Ahmed
Dhanmandi
Dhaka

What have we got to lose!

That Bangladesh is the most corrupt nation comes as no surprise.

Reaction of the ruling party will be something along the following lines: legacy of the previous administration has been so murky that it will take more time to clean the mess. The main opposition too will react in the likes of the following: the ruling party has yet again caused to embarrass our country and failed to arrest corruption.

The aforementioned will be prelude to yet another meaningless episode of beating about the bush instead of working in a bipartisan manner to address the issue of corruption cleansing.

Question is whether funds should be raised or not to bribe TI (Transparency International) for anything but number one spot among nations deemed to be corrupt. Answer is: only a nation let down by its politicians can come up with such a ridiculous idea out of sheer frustration. But then what have we got to lose!

Najmul Halim, Dhaka

Scoring a hat-trick in corruption

The world in the eyes of a utopian



Peace lost in the peace-process!

PHOTO: AFP

With the dawn of the 21st century, the mankind has high hopes that this century would bring in a poverty free peaceful world where each one of us would help our fellow human beings. The insufferable degradation of poorer nations would be brought down to a tolerable level, which is an attainable objective.

The world has allowed the Palestinian issue to burn for the last fifty six years, which resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives in an area far off from New York. This resulted in a chain of events with dire consequences for all nations. Injustice and cruelty anywhere is a threat to peace everywhere.

"The greatest fact in the story of man on earth is not his material achievements, the empires he has built and broken, but the growth of his soul

from age to age in its search for truth and goodness. Those who take part in this soul-searching adventure secure an enduring place in the history of human culture" (Radhakrishnan).

Another cruel event in the history of mankind is the tragedy of Saddam Hossain's Iraq, and the war that rages there. Once a prosperous nation, Iraq now languishes under dire poverty and beggary. If we believe in the value of humanness, truth, justice, fair-play etc. and, if these attributes have any meaning to us, the whole of mankind should unite and rise to save the only planet that we have. The six billion people of this earth must not sacrifice their conscience to the forces of evil.

Shahabuddin Mahtab
Gulshan,
Dhaka

Bangladesh has scored a hat trick in corruption. As per the CPI 2003 of the Transparency International, Bangladesh has excelled over all the countries of the globe. Bangladesh's score is 1.3 out of 10, according to the CPI.

I heard the interview of Peter Eigen, chairman of the TI. He told that the TI report was authentic and empirical. In fact, we have to think

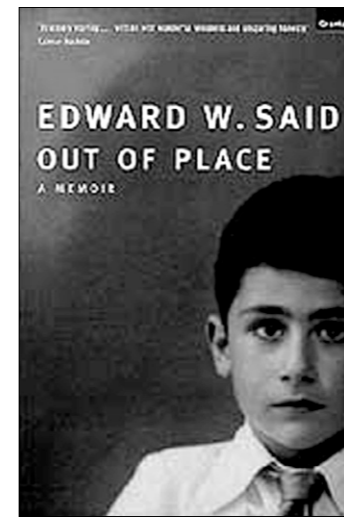
hard to overcome this disgrace. But how can we do so? To eradicate corruption, the administration needs to be depoliticised; Politics decriminalised; BNP and AL should stop blame each other, and so on. The onus to arrest corrupt practice is on all of us.

We, the citizens of this country, should wage a crusade against bribery which rests at the root of all

corruption. If we fail to pulverise corruption now, FDI and foreign aids will dwindle further. I dream of a corruption free Bangladesh.

Molla Mohammad Shaheen
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Edward Said and his philosophy



opportunity of reading his other books. Said differentiated between the 'Orientalist' and the 'Oriental'. Latter is global, while the Orientalist operates at the narrow local level.

He brought a new type of discipline in the study of orientalism. The latter term was coined by the West (according to him). [The East is East, and the West is West, and never the twin shall meet].

Now there is a subdivision in the West: the United States of America Vs. the rest of the world. Watch the EU reaction to the Iraq invasion. Edward said is here to stay in the books for a long, long time. His deep analyses have deft diplomacy, and he is never provoking. "All cultures impose corrections upon raw reality, changing it from free floating objects into units of knowledge" (p. 67, paperback edition). Traffic lights in the social jungles. Now the West is imposing itself upon the East. Compare the data: USA,

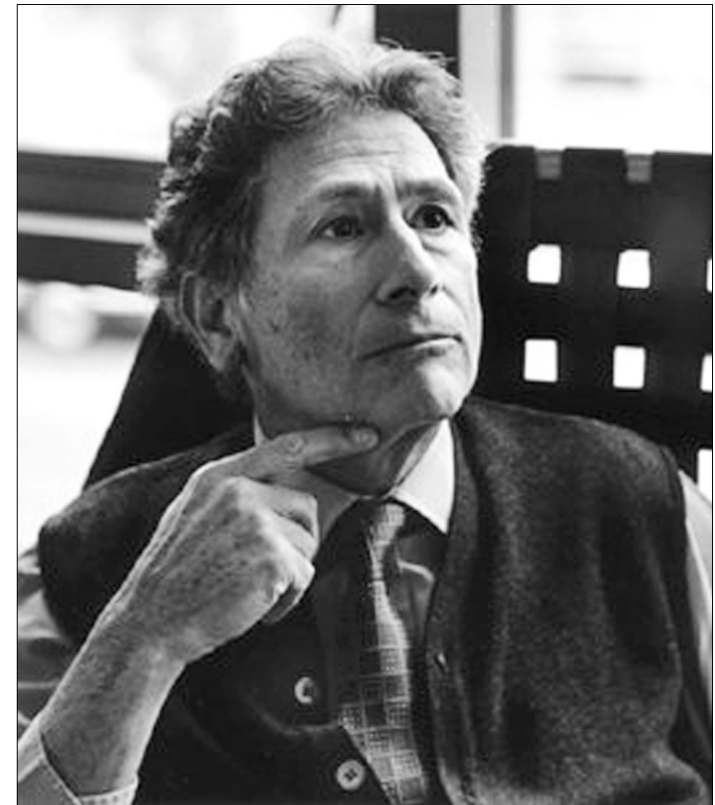
225 years; the East 7,000 years. The huge gap in vision can be explained.

This myopia comes through the materialistic lenses; that is why the economic theories of the West never last. 'Development Economics' had to be invented and the new assignment is the christening of the latest baby named the Third World (the majority live in Asia), with WTO prescriptions.

Edward Said mentions the role of William Jones (1784) in the formation of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in the dissemination of oriental scholarship to the West. The Society's latest project in Dhaka is the publication of an encyclopaedia on Bangladesh in Bangla and English, which are now available in compact discs for international study.

To know thyself, study the background of societies all over the world.

A M M A'abad, Dhaka



Edward W. Said

'The more I go to the West Bank and Gaza and Israel, the more impressed I am with the fact that Israeli Jews and Palestinians are irrevocably intertwined.'



PHOTO: AFP

matches and fired from captaincy.

The PCB also showed low minded attitude towards Bangladeshi players while arranging seats in the planes. They allocated economy class for our tigers but executive class for their own players. This is rare in the cricket arena, even in Bangladesh.

Their management team forced Bangladesh cricket manager to give interview in Urdu by questioning him in Urdu, rather than in English.

All these negative attitudes of the Pakistani team towards an underdog in the cricket world persuaded me to withdraw my supports for them.

As this is solely my personal point of view, I went to our hall TV room during Pakistan's first one-day match against South Africa to scrutinise my fellow supporter's attitude towards them. I observed to my utter surprise that Bangladesh has a huge pool of Pakistan cricket fans.

I must admit that I also noticed many of those spectators supporting South Africa instead of Pakistan. Most of them were clapping and enjoying when South Africa showed some better performance and Pakistan failed to do so. But watch how the story changed its plot. When South Africa got defeated by

2003.

To call a spade a spade needs great courage and wisdom. It is also a wonderful piece of objective journalism.

We feel that the Awami League is sinking deep in the whirlpool of atavism due to its poor leadership, arrogance and lack of vision.

The Awami League should neither suffer from a superiority complex nor an inferiority complex. It should learn to march forward with broad-mindedness, wisdom and tolerance.

OH Kabir
Hare Street, Wari
Dhaka

Will DCC mind to repair works?

The Manik Nagar Road (Extension of Gopibagh Road) needs immediate repair and carpeting. In Manik Nagar, though a slum area, a good number of well-to-do families settled down after the development of Khalpar area which now is considered as a good residential zone.

But the main approach from Rampura-Saidabad highway (Bisha Road) is so dilapidated due to sewerage line changing every year that ditches of all types cover the

mentarians from all commonwealth states in Dhaka.

But it is highly regrettable to note that the assembly of more than 500 MPs of 48 countries kicked off without the host country's opposition MPs presence. This has been unprecedented in the 92 years history of the CPA.

The Dhaka CPA conference will also be conspicuous by its absence of democratic values among the host country's politicians although the Prime Minister inaugurated it by declaring her desire for partnership to uphold global peace and prosperity.

Whatever misunderstanding and mistakes were made regarding the arrangement of the CPA, that was between the government and the opposition. The PM should have tried to solve it easily by making a phone call to the opposition leader. Would such an action have the PM's dignity destroyed or enrich her image among the people? Why could not the PM feel the necessity to make a phone call to the opposition leader directly before going to the inauguration meeting?

In India, the PM and the opposition leader work together. We yearn to see the same thing in our own country too. Is it not possible by our