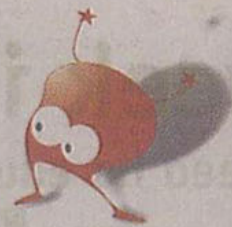




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The millennium regression goals of the politics of Bangladesh

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POLITICS in Bangladesh is unique and unprecedented to any other, and in one fine, quiet and peaceful *hartal* day, the 'superlatives' of the country suddenly decided, "Who the hell cares about the Millennium Summit? or the eight Millennium Development Goals that the world leaders of 189 countries has agreed upon? especially when we can have our own millennium goals; and best off all, goals which come to our own benefit." Thus the Millennium Regression Goals (MRG) was created. The MRG was set up in such a way that it can be followed by all parties, regardless of who are in power. The following is a detailed report of the MRG plans, set up as per regulations of the politics of Bangladesh:

Goal #1: Money by the people, to the people, for the people!

Money is the root of all evil, but money is the root of politics too. Henceforth, by Goal#1, it has been decided that money should be in the hands of people. Businesses should flourish and our country should prosper and no-people should have any shortages of money. Of course, we define people as those who live in big apartments, own a few BMWs, have haircuts of Tk.1,500, (our) son's and daughters and their in-laws, and of course persons (owning businesses) who can gift us 48 inch plasma TVs and free medical treatments etc. It does not matter that the gap between the poor and the top 5% rich people of the country has risen from 18% to 84% from 1990 to 2005. After all, the directors of the country has to be 'well fed' so that the country does not undergo any sort of corruption. It doesn't matter that around 45% (2004 estimated) of the population earn less than a dollar a day. Oh and it also does not matter how the money reaches the defined people.

Goal #2: Hunger problems must be eradicated!

There must be no hunger problems prevalent in any parts of the country, and thereby permission is given to produce foods using artificial fertilizers with no interference from the government as long as sufficient foods are produced. Of course the price of the foods will be

determined by the government and it does not really matter whether the poor can buy the food or not but that's a different problem. For now, sufficient food production is the target; and it does not also matter whether people die or have problems from eating them. Oh and don't mind the mobile courts, permission is given to beat and harness them to your will, and besides they don't visit *kacha bazaars*.

Goal #3: Water is life, and hence sufficient water should be available to everyone!

**ROAD TO RICHES
BY
RUNNING DOWN POVERTY**



As said, water is life. So, water should be available to everyone. Who cares if WASA cannot fulfill this task, we will pray to God so that it rains. Then no-one will have any water problems. There will be sufficient water everywhere... excess water in farm land drowning the crops and in roads mixing with the drain water (sewage blocks can be ignored) spreading diseases and where not. It does not matter whether households can get proper water to cook or to drink; our concern is to give them water, be it pure or impure.

Goal #4: The education must be more extended!

In order to actually make people intellectual, tertiary level education is most important. Hence, there should be enough universities in the country, public or private. On this basis, all requests to open new universities will be approved. Obviously, it does not matter whether the classes are taken under a tree shade or who takes the classes; what matters it that people get the education. Quantity over

quality is what is required. Maybe the literacy rate (of people aged 15 and over who can read and write) is only at around 43%, but that is why quantity is required; from north to south to east to west, universities are required everywhere. Oh and ignore the state of education available in rural areas.

Goal #5: Entertainment must be for all!

As TV is now the prime source of entertainment for most people in Bangladesh, it is our most diligent job to keep this most diverse and

active. Hence, permission is given to open new TV channels as per demand. However the criteria is that, the one opening the new TV channel must be one of the 'influential' people so that he/she is always well informed about all issues and what to show and what not to show. Certainly, new channels can be named from A-Z to *Kuddus* channel but the criteria must be maintained.

Goal #6: The spirit of the people must always be kept lively!

All hands on vehicles! Ehhh, we mean, spirit is an important factor in our daily day lives. Therefore, regular *hartals* and strikes and different *miculs* are greatly encouraged. It is not important to pay heed as to why the processions are being made, but it is vital that the spirit is high; whether roads have been blocked and a few rolls of tear gas were used or not is, of course, important. Nonetheless, a few broken vehicles are just the by-products.

Goal #7: All people have the right to know!

Correction to be made of the above Goal #7: "All people have the right to know *only what we want them to know*". Hence all media personnel and journalists are discouraged from getting too close to revealing what we don't want people to know. We undoubtedly do not like journalists, and any violation will result in severe punishment. The stopping of the *Kushtia Daily* and attacks on journalists was just an example. P.S. This Goal#7 should not be revealed to the public either.

Goal #8: The country should be like a family!

The people of the country should be like a family. Hence, the ones governing the country (political parties) should be also like a family, and we all know that families do have a few fights between themselves. Therefore, as family is given top priority, permission is given to fight for your family and do whatever is necessary (regardless of what happens to the country). Oh and family successors are always preferred.

The MDG were sought to be achieved by 2015, but as the politicians of Bangladesh are super-fast, their MRG has already been achieved by 2006. After all, they are the righteous one, honest and fair.