

The Daily Star Seminar

Vision of the Young

Star Report

A number of young professionals and students under the age of 29, at a seminar on "Vision of the Young" organised by The Daily Star in collaboration with the Independent University of Bangladesh, Rotary International and North South University, on December 17, emphasised on a stable economy and a healthy political environment where political parties would play a constructive role through logic and honesty.

Envisaging a Bangladesh after 10 years, they also stressed the need for uprooting corruption and terrorism from the society, empowerment of women, giving greater emphasis on science and technology and education and creation of bigger job opportunities to boost the nation's growth.

Moderated by Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, the Seminar was held at the Jatiya Press Club.

The participants included: Naureen Khan, student of IUB, Chowdhury Kased of NSU, drama artists Taukir Ahmed and Afsana Mimi, entrepreneur Syed Nasim Elahi, poet Tirtha Saha, Dr Shapnil Mahtab, student Zaid Almer Khan, journalists Gemini Wahaz and Munni Saha, engineer Kamrul Ahsan, film director Rafi Hossain, writer Alim Aziz, Dhaka University students Anwar Sadat and Mahbub Tarek and a former DU student Zahedi.

Dr Majid Khan of IUB and AM Mahboob of Rotary International were present at the seminar which was attended by a large number of young people.

Drawing a future vision of Bangladesh, Naureen Khan, a student of the IUB, said, "we students don't want politics in the future."

Focusing on the current trends in the politics of the country she said, "Twenty five years in the life of a nation is too short a time. We expected democracy to flourish or matters like repeal of the black law. But our expectations remained unfulfilled because of the selfish politics." She added, "in the future, we need examples of good politics."



Naureen Khan

Naureen noted, "Student politics should never be involved with national politics. The IUB has a students' union without any political representation. I would request all other universities to unite and introduce similar student unions and improve the campus environment."

Chowdhury Kased, a student of NSU, said, "I dream of a flawless society which will boost our self-esteem. The society will not look down on its people on the basis of rich or poor. We underestimate ourselves. This should go."

He said that the dignity of labour should be upheld so that the gap between rich and poor is reduced, "work opportunities should be available for all and one should not look down on any work, even if it is small."



Chowdhury Kased

"We should also learn to respect our hard earned freedom by being responsible. The spirit of the Liberation War should be inside our vein, so that whatever we do would be guided by a broad and liberal perspective," Kased pointed out. He added, "Our attitude towards learning and speaking English should broaden."

Drama artist Taukir Ahmed said, "We Bangladeshis hardly care about punctuality. If you are punctual, we assume you are not busy. If you are late, you are perceived as an important person."

"Let us change this attitude by maintaining punctuality at the individual level," he said,

adding "we drama artists have set this trend by beginning our dramas in time."

Taukir, who is also an architect, notes that in the next 10 years, cultural activists should work on the cultural identity of the country so that it does not get merged with other cultures.



Taukir Ahmed

Everything should be done on the perspective of country's historical reality so that our cultural identity can be reflected in whole world in a different angle, the popular drama artist mentioned. "We have our own plays and architecture to work upon," he added.

"Lack of professionalism and punctuality in our society causes many problems which could be resolved easily, he said adding that "when we go abroad to attend a course or a seminar then we are punctual but in our country we seldom maintain it."

Country's huge manpower can be utilised by setting up more and more Export Processing Zones (EPZs), he suggested.

Drama artist Afsana Mimi began with a note of dissatisfaction about the politicians and politics. "There had hardly been any stable politics since the birth of the nation. The involvement of the common people in politics was also less."

"Politics seems to me as a kind of business which is ruining the country," she said. "Unfortunately, politics have gone to the hands of the most substandard type of people."

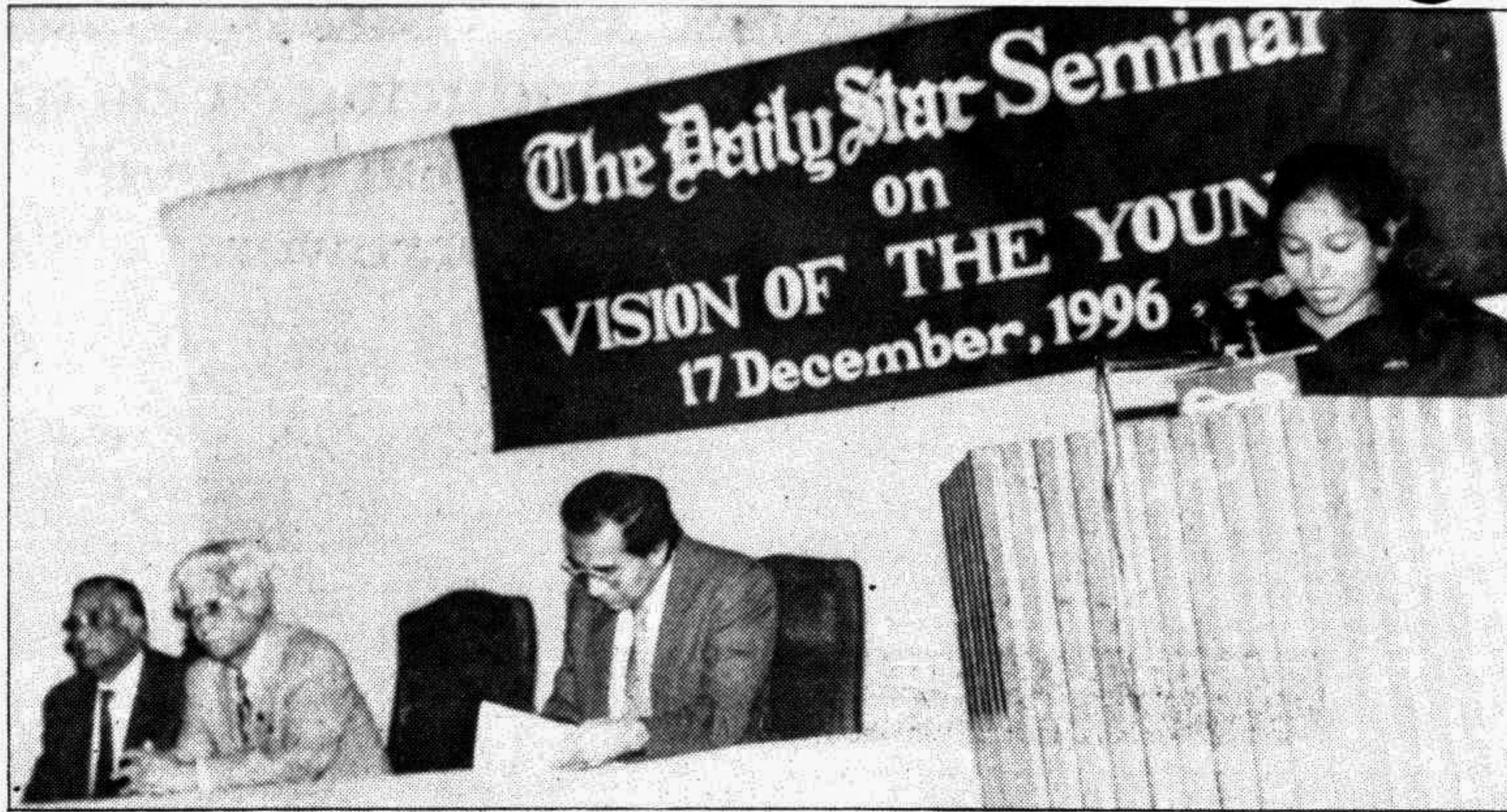


Afsana Mimi

"The political parties were opposing each other for the sake of opposition. They never care for appreciation of any good work done by their opponents. Their common attitude is 'only I am good' in this country."

"A politician is supposed to have the most desirable qualities and personality. Unfortunately that is totally absent in most of our politicians," Mimi observed, "you can not expect them to fulfill your dreams."

She envisaged a Bangladesh after 10 years where politics would be stable and rational.



"People will not suffer from their actions," Afsana Mimi said. "The politicians will respect each other."

Syed Nasim Elahi, an entrepreneur, said that he dreamt of a society where people would be able to dream and expect more.

"We have a tendency of avoiding a problem instead of facing it. We want a standard set of behaviour in our society but we don't want to set it ourselves," he said. "Let us set our own standard."

Criticising politicians he said, "The less we depend on politicians, the better it is for us. During the caretaker government's regime, we have marked the traffic system to improve. But as soon as the political government came to power, the traffic system worsened. Why? What is wrong with our politicians? We have to send the nation a message."

Regarding student politics he said that the real students refrained from student politics. But a paltry five per cent students dominated the educational institutions. "We bow to whatever they wish. Why can't we ignore them and disallow student politics? Because we are afraid of them!"



Syed Nasim Elahi

"I dream of a Bangladesh where our prides will be resurrected. Now we don't talk about the matters which make us proud," Nasim Elahi said giving example of some industrial products like ceramics, leather and sophisticated garments which earned Bangladesh international fame.

He expressed his frustrations about not utilising the manpower resources of the soil even after 25 years of independence. "Whenever there is a project, there is a foreign consultant. But we have our own experts, why don't we utilise them?"

He regretted that even after so many years of independence the political parties could not agree on the history of the country. "If we need to go forward, we have to agree on a base point," he stressed.

Emphasising on expansion of the base of democracy he said, "Unless we utilise the people's power we always remain at least 50 years behind the modern world and would be termed as a 'bottomless basket'."

Dr Shapnil Mahtab, a physician of the IJGMR, said, "The primary, secondary and tertiary health system should be improved so that in the next 10 years the prime objective — health for all — is actually achieved."

He observed that the current primary health care system at the thana level was not properly equipped to meet the needs of the people. "It is said that doctors do not attend thana health complex regularly. But the truth is, even if they did, they could hardly improve the service to the patients going there."



Dr Shapnil Mahtab

He said the thana health complexes were so inadequately equipped that doctors often had to refer their patients to district hospitals for tests or even simple treatments. "If the government really wants to achieve its goal of health for all, it will have to improve the technical facilities at the thana level so that they can actually serve the people."

"In addition, doctors do not get a proper salary to stick to their jobs sincerely. They earn much less than a private practitioner. Their salary should be increased to make their jobs rewarding and lucrative."

He felt that the secondary and tertiary health system, covering district level hospitals, private hospitals and clinics and practitioners, should also improve.

Zaid Almer Khan, a student, said, "I dream of a Bangladesh where equity of income distribution would be ensured and where the interests of every individual will be protected. Nobody should be cheated."



Zaid Almer Khan

He said that the future government would be more people and would render a wider spectrum of social services to the people, at consumer level, the government should have a mechanism to ensure just prices for the customers.

"Corruption is one thing which, I feel, is holding back the country's development process. It should be uprooted completely in the next 10

years," he added. He said the future politics of the country should shun communalism and terrorism while it would uphold women's empowerment.

Gemini Wahaz, a consultant with an international organisation and a journalist, focused on the current problems saying, "Our main problem is that problems are not being solved with a proper vision in mind. Let there be imagination in solving the decade-old problems."

She observed that the age-old legal system remained to be revised for long in order to make it pro-people. "Even as a privileged citizen, I am afraid of this legal system. So are million others. And the poor ones, if they ever fall in the hands of the law, undergo untold miseries. We all know it. But we don't come up with a solution."



Gemini Wahaz

She added that the current legal system was not friendly towards women in particular.

"I also see the absence of any thinking or a drive for science and technology. People working in these fields do not get proper incentives, therefore they are highly demoralised," Gemini observed.

She opined that a significant improvement of the economy could be ensured by bringing women to outward activities by ensuring their safety.

Young poet Tirtha Saha said that "I dream for my country how it could raise its head in the world community with dignity and honour."

"The country should be free from all sorts of terrorism in order to make it a glorious nation," he said adding that there should not be any place for anti-liberation forces.

Stressing the need for education for all, Tirtha observed that though the literacy rate has been risen during the recent past the country did not get



Tirtha Saha

much benefit from it as brain-drain could not be stopped.

"To stop brain-drain, consciousness should be created among the mass people as well as job opportunities should be increased," he said.

"If there is scope for better job in the country people may not leave for getting employed abroad," Tirtha noted. He underlined the need for reaching computer education up to primary school level so that the knowledge gap between town and village could be minimised.

Rafi Hossain observed that with specific policy decisions and well devised target, the country could fast reach a praiseworthy level of development. "To ensure a fast process of development our policymakers should emphasise on scientific approach to all socio-economic programmes," he added.

Criticising the present political situation Rafi said, "It is universal that there will be fight for power in politics but there should also be some sort of tolerance."

Politicians hardly make any constructive discussion, he noted. "Everybody criticises the activities of his rival but with much void about the genuine flaws of his opponent," Rafi said. "Constructive criticism can dramatically improve the quality of politics in our country."



Rafi Hossain

Rafi noted, "It is also important that we care about the environmental degradation that is taking place across the country. A good environment helps the young to be imaginative. We must take all-out measures to ensure a healthy environment for the future."

Rafi observed, "Our attitude towards anything appears to be vague. It should be more scientific. For this reason, a greater emphasis should be given on our education system." He added that until and unless our attitude towards science is changed the country would continue to be underdeveloped.

Munni Saha, a young journalist, observed that even after 25 years of independence, the social attitude towards women working at the field level remained unchanged.

"As a female journalist, I feel unwanted in many places I visit. Therefore, I have to be selective about the assignments I cover — limiting the utilisation of my capabilities," she said.

Demanding safety and security at working place she said that if there was no security for the women in the society the future generation might refrain themselves from coming to various adventurous profession

including journalism. She said, "We want to live in such a society where everyone can express his/her belief and thinking freely."

"In the past we could not talk freely or raise our voice due to various obstruction from the government and society; even we could not raise the slogan 'Joi Bangla' which was very pathetic to many people," she noted.

There should be a change in our attitude towards women, she said raising the question "Why I would not be able to work only because I am a woman?"

She also criticised holding seminar and symposium because, according to her, it does not produce any concrete result. "There are so many seminars and symposiums in the city now-a-days we are fed up with the 'benefit' of these meaningless talks," Munni added.



Munni Saha

She asked the privileged section of the society to take initiatives to do something for the country's thousands of poor women.

Alim Aziz said, "Our society is still passing through the ideas and culture of mediaeval times while the world is passing through the satellite age."

Expressing frustration about politics he said, "I expect nothing from our political leaders. But for a better Bangladesh we should try ourselves to improve everything."



Alim Aziz

Remembering his childhood experience, Aziz regretted that nowadays the satellite culture had swept over the mind of the nation and the country's folk culture was getting lost.

Blaming the previous generation for failing to give proper guidance to the youths, he said, "The young generation is being derailed because of the failure of the elder section of society to guide them imaginatively."

Alim Aziz further said that due to lack of working spirit in younger generation, "They spend their times in gossiping and wasting huge money," Aziz regretted, "work is the bottom of their list of priority."

Anwar Sadat, a student of Economics in the Dhaka University, noted that the country's economy could not go up because of recent population boom. He thinks that sectors related to non-traditional items and services would flourish in the next decade.



Anwar Sadat

Importance should be given on import of machinery and raw materials in this regard, Sadat observed. He opposed the government's policy to intro-

duce free economy in the country before building a strong foundation of industrialisation.

"Unless we raise the quality of our products up to a certain level we would not survive in the competitive market of the world," Anwar said.

In India till the recent times, their governments protect their local industries against imported goods. Now their industries have reached a level of international standard. This very lesson could be applied to our economy too," he added.

Anwar suggested that to meet the demand of time government should take massive programme for creating more job opportunities in the country.

"Nobody can stop our development if we can uproot corruption and increase the level of education," he said adding that the Gramscian Check can be an example of development area.

Mahbub Tareq, also a student of Dhaka University, said, "It is a tragedy that we do not know what do we actually need."

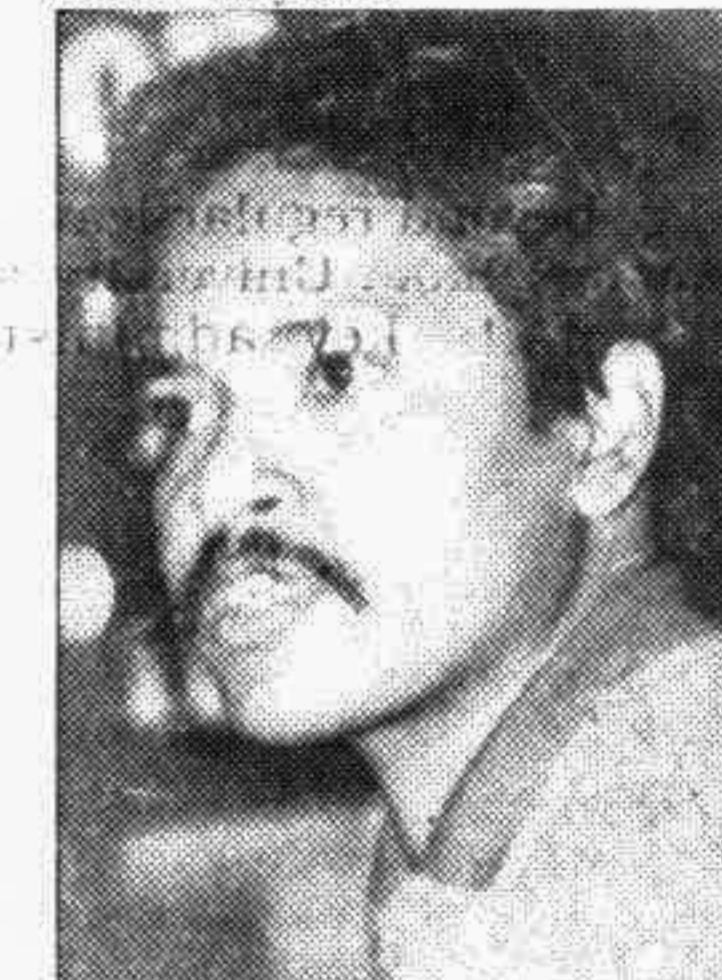
According to him the level of politics in our country could not be raised due to lack of morality and true ideal.



Mahbub Tareq

To gain in the election a major political party raised the slogan of "Bismillah" before election and forgot it after the election. Tareq noted with the demand for a country where morality should be strong.

Zahedi, a former student of the Dhaka University, demanded educated and honest student politics. "I was a student of the Mohsin Hall. I have seen these political activists and terrorists closely. Believe me it serves no purpose of the students. We would be better off without it. Considering the current economic development and the trend of student politics I strongly believe that student politics should be banned for at least 10 years."



Zahedi

Suggesting unification of all education systems he said that up to a certain level unified education system can produce better result. Zahedi also expressed views in favour of privatisation of education system.

As there is no longer any difference of opinion among the parties on the economic system of the country the political parties can sit together and decide a stable economic system for the next decade. "By this he meant 'Our economy will become stable even though governments would continue to change'."



Kamrul Ahsan

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Monday 13th January
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes.)

BTV

3:00 Opening announcement
4:00 Quran Programme summary
3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Patriotic song 3:20 Recitation from the Bible 3:25 Cartoon Film: The Lone Ranger 3:50 Rerelease of selected programmes
4:45 Educational programme
5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Doan Charpa 5:50 Sports programme
6:30 Anu Paramnu
6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 7:25 Band show 8:00 News in Bangla 8:45 Package Drama 10:00 News in English 10:30 Janamat 10:50 Comedy series: Semelind 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Tuesday's programme 11:40 Close down

BBC

07:00 BBC Newsroom inc.

World Business Report/Asia Today 24 Hours 10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05 The Money Programme 11:00 BBC Newsday inc. 02:00 BBC World News 02:15 The Money Programme (r) 03:00 BBC World News 03:30 Time Out: Top Gear 04:30 BBC Newsdesk 06:00 BBC News Headlines 06:05 World Focus: Assignment 07:00 BBC World News 09:15 The Money Programme 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 12:00 The World Today 02:00 BBC World Headlines 02:05 The Money Programme 02:50 Building Sightings 03:00 BBC World News 03:30 Time Out: The Travel Show -- Holiday 04:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Hours

CHANNEL V

6:00am Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Jump Start VJ Alessandra 10:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30 First Day First Show 3:00 Sansui Mangla Hai 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 5:30 Big Bang 6:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey 8:00 Planet Ruby 9:00 BPL Oye! 10:00 First Day First Show 10:30 Launchpad VJ Samira 11:00 The Ride 11:30 Over The Edge 12:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 Heyrah 2:00 Frame by Frame 3:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Asian Top 20 VJ Trey

STAR PLUS

6:00am Home and Away 6:30 The Sullivans 7:00 Aerobics Oz

Style 7:30 Star News 8:00 Sky News 8:30 Star News 9:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:00 Ann Willan's Look And Cook 10:30 Videofashion: Heart Of Milan 11:00 Kate & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Dynasty 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Lifetime 3:30 Buniyaad 4:00 Home and Away 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 Black Beauty 6:00 Kate & Allie 6:30 Ann Willan's Look And Cook 7:00 The Amul India Show 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 9:00 Imtilhan 9:30 Star News 10:00 Yes Minister 10:30 House Of Cards 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00 Santa Barbara 12:05 The Files 2:00 Star Trek 3:00 Quincy 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:00 Barnaby Jones

STAR SPORTS

6:00am Live The 1997 Australian Open Day 1 From Melbourne, Australia 12:00 NBA

Game Of The Week New Youstons @ Chicago 2:00 Live The 1997 Australian Open Night 1 From Melbourne, Australia 6:00 World Tour HiL 6:30 Trans World Sport 7:30 Volvo Showjumping 1996/97 8:30 Australian Open Day 1 Highlights 9:30 Asia Sport Show 10:00 Canadian Professional Figure Skating Championships From Corel Centre, Ottawa, Canada 12:00 Volvo Showjumping 1996/97 1:00 Trans World Sport 2:30 Chinese Taipei Badminton Open 1997 1st & 2nd Semi Finals From Taipei

STAR MOVIES

7:30 Adventure: Kidnapped 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Comedy: Porridge 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Family: The Peanut Butter Solution PG (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Comedy: Short Changed 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Comedy: Dream Date 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Classic: Ill Met

By Moonlight PG (Hindi Subtitles) 6:30 Film Fiction: Sons And Lovers 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:00 Int'l Film Fest Of India Highlights 9:30 This Week That Year 10:00 Comedy: She-Devil 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Thriller: Cinema: Fellini's Intervista (English Subtitles) 1:30 Thriller: Rainbow Drive 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 Thriller: The Silence of the Lambs 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 5:30 Film Club: Barton Fink 15 (Arabic Subtitles)

ZEE TV

5:30 Surtal 6:00 News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 ZED 8:30 Dream Merchants 9:00 Hum Zameen 9:30 Gaane Anjaane 10:00 Salkat 10:30 Positive Health Show 11:00 Daak Ghar Apna Ghar 11:30 Nirma Aahaa/Tee Kamaan 12:00 Suno Suno Tring Tring 12:30 Celeste 1:00 ZED 1:30 Asian Sky Show 2:00 Hum Paanch 2:30 Tara 3:00 Raahat 3:30 Mere Ghar Ana Zindagi 4:00 Pakeezah 4:30

Liljal Khena Khazana 5:00 ZED 5:30 Akbar Biral 6:00 Cartoon 6:30 Love Stories 7:00 ZED 7:30 Raahat 8:00 V3+Zara Si Jhalak 8:30 TVS Sa Re Ga Ma/Jhalak 9:30 Campus 10:00 Parivartan 10:30 News 11:00 Daraar 11:30 Close Up Antakshari 12:00 Parivartan 12:30 Andaz 1:00 Malabar Hill 1:30 Raahat 2:00 Commander 4:00 Index 4:30 All Out For No Loss 5:00 Jagran

PTV

8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Abb Pata Challa 9:05 Khat Famaish 9:20 Sargam Sargam 9:45 Ilaah-Bill-Ghiza Pakistan 10:05 Shab Daigh 10:35 English Film: Gool Troop 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 The Saint (Roger Moore) 12:00 Shama (Drama Serial) 12:55pm Quraan-e-Hakeem (Drama Serial) 1:15 Ankaar (1:02 Bismillah) 1:15 Ankaar (1:02 Bismillah) 2:00 Shehraz (Drama Serial) 2:50 The Face Of Culture 3:15

Roushni 3:30 Paimaney 4:00 Ghardani

DD 7

10:30 Jammadin 10:35 Education Programme 11:00 Nazrul-gil 11:15 Folk Songs 12:30 Monorama Cabin 1:00 Janani 1:30 Trishna 2:30 Bai Chande Ki Anandey 3:00 Bai Hari (Serial) 3:30 Bangla Cinema Romantic Juti 5:05 Nepali Programme 5:30 News 5:35 Desh Bidesher Khela 6:00 Palla Katha 6:30 Batayan (Drama Serial) 6:55 Bhangyan (Serial) 7:30 Bangla Sambad 7:55 Dinandan 8:00 Gan Sudhu Gan 9:00 Janani 9:30 Monorama Cabin Film Show Bengali Movie Club Film Show 1:00 Closed

Cover Story-Hostel (Serial) 1:00 Jane Kaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji 1:30 The Young And The Restless (Eng. Serial) 2:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 5:30 The Three Stooges 6:00 Dennis The Menace 6:30 Yaadon Ki Baar 7:00 Premier 7:30 I Dream of Jeannie 8:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 Star Xpressi 9:00 Jevan Mirtu (Serial) 9:30 Yeh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti (Comedy Serial) 10:00 Chamatkar (Drama Serial) 10:30 Ghaay 11:00 The Young And The Restless 12:30 O'Maria (Serial) 1:00 Pehli Mulakat 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed

EL TV

12:30 Dance Dance 1:30 Chad Chad 2:30 Anarso Hande 3:30 Aaya Sawan 4:30 Rekha Special 5:30 Dance Dance 6:30 Chad Chad 7:30 Hanste Hanste 8:30 Aaya Sawan 9:30 Rekha Special 10:30 Intezar 11:00 Teri Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup 11:30

Vipul Ka Amar Prem 12:00 Manoranjan 12:30 Song Yatra 1:00 Special Naam Gum Jayega 1:30 Rishley 2:00 Sharmi Kapoor 3:00 Shatranj 3:30 Abhineri 4:00 Brigadier Bahwan Bahwan 4:30 Boropul The Real Countdown 5:00 Talash 5:30 Dard-E-Dil 6:30 Kinetic Its My Choice 7:00 Tarannum 7:30 Nukkad 8:00 Navras 8:20 Kinetic Pride Haven Pal

ZEE CINEMA

6:45 Songs 7:00 Jeene Ki Saaza 9:00 Box Office 9:30 Aaj Ki Taza Khabar (Radha Saha, Kiran K) 12:15 Reruns 12:30 Neend Hamari Khawab Tumhare 3:15 Ikke Pe Ikka 3:45 Salma (Raj Babbar, Salma Agha) 6:30 Dholu Maru (Gujarati week) 9:15 Cinema Cinema 9:30 Chalo Cinema 10:00 Milan (Sunil Dutt, Nutan) 12:45 Bagwat (Dharmendra, Hema Malini) 3:30 First Take 4:00 Ehsaan (Joy Mukherjee, Anjana)