

Practice of Democracy

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I doubt how good democracy is for Bangladesh. It reminds me of the sayings of Aristotle: "Democracy is the government of fools." Moreover, the democracy of Bangladesh don't serve its majority - the down-trodden people. I don't want to prescribe anything - but my personal feeling is that Bangladesh needs a leader like Maulana Bhasani or Siraj Sikhdar or Fidel Castro to lead a popular revolution guaranteeing Food, Housing and Education for all and a popular dictator; because Bangladeshi people are so behind that we don't have the time to waste on a democratic system.

Infact, I went to Bangladesh few months ago after a long absence (almost 7 years). Utterly disappointing is the fact that I didn't see much improvement of the fate of our (economically poor) people. Off course I saw lots of shiny cars but I also saw lot more hapless people. And corruption is sickening. From airport to GPO (I tried to get a mailbox) everyone expected bribe implicitly. After getting

used to the not-so-corrupt day to day amenities in America, it was painful. I was seriously considering going back to Bangladesh for good. But analyzing logically, it seems to me that it will be fairly impossible to work in Bangladesh without being part of this corrupt system. Can we just have a revolution and setup a 800 number to report corruption (with ample proofs) and send the corrupt to the firing squad? Is it too difficult to clean up Bangladesh?

From my experience in Japan, I learned that if Japan with over 65% inhabitable lands and practically no natural resources (except manpower) can become the richest nation in the world, why can't Bangladesh? Bangladesh has lots of manpower and even some other natural resources like water, gas, oil etc. My conclusion is that: the reason of our problem is our manpower. We just don't have enough self-respect as a Japanese would have! Their practice of Harikiri is the proof. Whereas our votes for the corrupt politicians and practice of corruption prove otherwise.

Water sharing accord A unique achievement

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It was a demand of time to come to an agreement with India on water sharing arrangement. Bangladesh suffered economically and environmentally during the past two decades due to shortage of water supply caused by Farakka barrage. Water is needed by India as well. A bilateral arrangement was necessary for maintaining the equity of sharing water, which could not be arrived at due to the absence of sincerity from both the government, and mistrust between them. Recent comments made by the political parties about India, particularly who were in power in the immediate past, can reflect attitude and extent of relationship.

This should be remembered that the need was from Bangladesh side, not from India. So, it was unlikely that India should come forward, unless they are pursued, and motivated properly. The issue was

bilateral, and claiming our right in the international forum could yield nothing.

It was observed that after coming the new government, a concerted effort was taken immediately to make a friendly relationship with India, and initiative was taken to resolve all the bilateral issues. The initiative has yielded a unique result: an agreement has been signed and Bangladesh is expected to get its proper share of water.

Bangladesh is not an isolated island. All the nations, irrespective of developed or developing, requires cooperation from all the nation states. International cooperation, regional cooperation, and bilateral cooperation, all are the preconditions for development. Which are the countries, and what are their colour, race, and religion etc. are immaterial nowadays. I can understand that the present government has realised this vital principle of development.

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Expatriates' comments on "Share Market"

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Don't curb the curb market!

On a recent trip to dhaka I was able to observe the curb market in operation in front of the dhaka stock exchange (incidentally the word is 'curb' and not 'kerb'), there on the sidewalk buyers, sellers, and dealers of shares mingled, argued, haggled, and traded shares. street vendors sold tea, cigarettes, dse quotation sheets, form 117 for transfer of shares and debentures, and annual reports. here ordinary bangladeshis were buying and selling shares like we buy and sell anything else. since the share market did not go to the bangladeshis the bangladeshis had come to the share market.

This is an encouraging and healthy development for our country and one which must be nurtured and allowed to grow and flourish. of course the regulation of the market must be extended to protect investors in such a market structure, but I am afraid that entrenched and vested interests may see the curb market as a threat and be tempted to regulate the curb market out of existence. this to me would be a tragedy for them and for the country.

In my 1992 paper (<http://munshi.sonom.edu/working/monterey.html>) I noted that a serious structural weakness in Bangladesh capital markets was the virtual absence of a retail function. a well developed capital market is a mechanism through which the savings of households can flow into investments in real productive assets. it also acts as a gateway for easy flow of foreign portfolio investment into the country. but in the long run foreign investment and trading among a handful of dhaka elite can have only a limited impact on the growth and liquidity of capital markets in Bangladesh. for the market to mature it must find a way to reach the people.

Although the dse has not

been proactive in this regard, the people have miraculously found the dse by themselves and through the curb market they will be able to bail it out and extend the market's reach. Growth of institutions such as the curb market will build the market's retail function, and with proper guidance and regulation, the growth in the retail function will result in growth of capital markets and that in turn will bring new economic prosperity to the country. By the way, our nascent capital market will get a big boost if the government stops dragging its feet and brings privatized national enterprises to the market.

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I used to purchase share in Bangladesh I am aware of the harassment done by the members of the stock exchange I have lost nearly 1 million TK for some activities done by this illiterate members of Dhaka Stock Exchange. So if we want to improve the share market of Bangladesh we have to appoint new members with sufficient knowledge. Now we have only 195 members in the Dhaka Stock Exchange we have to increase it to 600 we also have to establish the National Stock Exchange and make the share market more flexible. So that prices of share can not increase or decrease at a higher level. Think of Singer Bangladesh Ltd. It is a trading company it has no ground to go at price 24000 TK. It is totally created by the members of the share. is now priced around 10000. A lot of people lost everything by investing in this Singer. That is another reason that foreign investors does not come to Bangladesh because there calculation is perfect but Stock Exchange of Bangladesh does not go along with there calculation it is totally a reumer based share market.

So in other hand we have to improve the share market into an information based share market. Regulation must be im-

posed that every company which is listed in the Stock Exchange must send financial report of the company to the shareholder after every three month not once in a year so that the shareholder will know details about the company.

These steps that I have described must be taken immediately to improve the standered of the share market in Bangladesh.

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Bangladesh Share Market has launched to World Share Market - when I first learned this news in January 1995 I was delighted. And I heard few days ago that Bangladesh Share Market is in real trouble. The share holders are counting whether they are going to get their invested money back or not. There are companies in papers but not in real. How come our authority let this thing happen? What's are they doing?

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Central Bank Should Stay Out of Stock Market

It's an unwise decision on the part of Bangladesh's government to offer loans via Central Bank to the stock traders. They are doing it in the name of aiding "Liquidity in the Market." We think it's a foolish move of the Hasina Administration. We know too well the mentality of our unscrupulous businessmen and stock traders. In the past these people have taken huge loans from the commercial and Industrial Development Banks without paying a nickel to the creditors. The results wreaked havoc to the economy of Bangladesh. an emerging nation. The question is: Should we allow it to happen again?

The nation has suffered enough from the misguided economic policies of the past governments. How many times do we have to repeat the mis-

takes of the past? We think it is about the time that our government follow a path of economic austerity and refrain from promulgating these dubious policies. The present policy of giving loans to the stock traders is bound to fuel speculation in the financial markets in Dhaka and Chittagong. One thing Dhaka Stock Exchange does not need is "Speculation." We have enough of that in the investment communities due to ignorance, lack of education and superstitions.

As reported, some small stock traders have sold their lands to finance their investments in the market. These risk-takers are following a standard practice of shifting assets from real-estate to financial assets with the hope of a better return of their capital. In a 'Bull Market' these stock traders will be rewarded handsomely, whereas, in a 'Bear Market' the same investor will be punished mercilessly. And the latter is what has happened recently in Bangladesh. Some stock traders have complained bitterly about losing money in the down-drift of the market. Now consider the Central Bank getting into the act at this juncture. By providing loans to the stock market novices or dabblers, the government will be taking undue risks which they shouldn't be taking. In the event of a loss these traders will declare themselves bankrupt and walk away from the loan. The end result will be loss for the Central Bank. There is, however, another scenario under which the dabbler makes huge windfall profits in a rising market. In this case, he pockets both the profit and principal, and vanishes into the thin air. Who is loser then? The policy makers in Bangladesh should think twice before implementing a decision like this one. There is still time to revoke or annul the decision. It will save the nation an enormous sum of money, and at the same time squash speculation from the financial market.

Dhaka Day by Day

Not One-of-a-kind

by Ayesha Fariha



The fashion industry is expanding everyday, and so too are the egos of both the established and the budding fashion designers. Almost every single one of them proclaim or insist that he/she makes "one-of-a-kind" outfits. What is worse is that they actually find willing, sometimes even desperate, buyers for these "one-of-a-kind" ensembles. How gullible can people be! How can an outfit be "one-of-a-kind" when there are hundreds of designers, and when most of them do not stray from the A-line cut, with embroidery/block patterns on the edge of the sleeves, neckline, and hemlines?

To be able to produce a "one-of-a-kind" one needs, to begin with, a formal training in sewing, cutting, design. One also needs detailed knowledge of the sources of material and the technical differences between the varieties of fabrics. Further, and most importantly, one requires imagination and creativity. Discipline in the arts - painting, sketching, computer graphics, and so on and so forth, is a great asset if one is interested in creating unique articles of clothing. In fact, if one has talent, then a course in fashion designing may not even

be necessary if one can find a good tailor.

Let's face it, except for a handful, no (so called) designer in this country possesses the skill or the experience to create an original design. And even of the select few, how many of them have come up with something that we have never before seen in our lives? Our local designers choose a design out of an Indian or Pakistani magazine, alter it somewhat, and then reproduce (via a tailor) the altered design in a vast array of colours. They then refer to each different coloured outfit as a "one-of-a-kind". Sometimes they make trips to neighbouring countries to purchase materials, loose pieces of embroidered cloth, or embroidered borders, all of which are available in the hundreds, and use these in more "unique" ensembles. Some are just shameless - they simply copy another's design.

Whatever the case is, one cannot help but applaud our "designers". They sell their clothes with extremely high mark-ups and make good money. If people are willing to buy into the "one-of-a-kind" stores, then why not?

Silver Jubilee as a moral teaching

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Twenty five years have been passed but we remain the same. We are very proud of our independent country which we call Bangladesh. But what lesson we learnt from our independence. I think nothing but a zero. I don't know why the Bangladesh people looks back all the time. Yes, of course I am proud of my country and for the independence which we got af-

ter nine months war. But if we want to develop we have to look for our future. I don't mean that we have to forget our independence which we got after much difficulty but have to learn the lesson from that. The time has already came for us to do something. There are lot to do. We every one know that education is the backbone of a nation. But our backbone has broken. We need peace, Education, love, help, honesty, judgement and merit. These will be our oath for Silver jubilee.

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The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Wednesday 29th January
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement
3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Patriotic songs 3:20 Recitation from the Geeta 3:25 Drama Serial: Samarpan 4:30 Cartoon film: Top Cat 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Mahe Ramadan 5:40 Geetabitan: Tagore Song 6:10 Marier Katha 6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 8:00 News in Bangla 8:45 Package Drama 10:00 News in English 10:25 Muk-tadhara 11:30 News in Bangla 11:20 Thursday's programme 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:10 BBC World Newsnight 7:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 8:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 9:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05 World Focus: The Earth in Balance 11:00 BBC Newsday 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 Horizon -- The Day The Earth Melted 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Film '97 4:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC World Headlines 6:15 Panorama 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 World Focus: The Earth in Balance 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: The Firing Line 10:30 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Top Gear 4:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Hours 5:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Hours

CHANNEL V

6:30am Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Jump Start VJ



Planet Ruby on Channel (V) tonight at 8 pm

Alessandra 10:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00am Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30 First Day First Show 3:00 The Hard Rock Featuring David Hasselhoff 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 5:00pm Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey 8:00 Planet Ruby 9:00 The Vibe 9:30 Videocon Mangita Hai 10:00 First Day First Show 10:30 Soul Curry 11:00 House Of Noise VJ Luke 12:00am Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 Haysah 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 V Spot 5:30 Speak Easy

STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninasad 7:30 Star News 8:00 Sky Business News and Agneda 8:30 Star News 9:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:00 Ciao Italia 10:30 E! Extreme Close-Up 11:00 Kate & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 House Of Cards 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Meri Awaz Suno (Hindi Serial) 3:30

Buniyaad (Hindi Serial) 4:00 Kya Baat Hain (Hindi Serial) 4:30 Land of the Giants 5:30 Adventures of Black Beauty 6:00 Kate & Allie 6:30pm Ciao Italia 7:00 Hindi Serial: The Movie Show 9:30 Double Bill: Thomas Howell Secret Admirer 18 (Hindi Subtitles) 11:00 India Star Five 11:30 Double Bill: C Thomas Howell That Night 18 1:30 Thriller: The Silence Of The Lambs 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 Future Shock: Dead-End Drive-in 18 5:30 Film Club: Mississippi Burning 15 (Arabic Subtitles)

STAR SPORTS

7:30am Trans World Sport 8:30 Indian Football Bharat Petroleum Santosh Trophy Final From Jabalpur 11:00 The 1997 Australian Open Day 14 Men's Singles Final 2:30 Trans World Sport-4 4:00 ITTF Pro Tour English Open 2nd Semi Final 5:00 Asia Sports Show 18 5:30 India Star Of South Africa Triangular Series

South Africa vs Zimbabwe
From Cape Town South Africa
3:00 Best Of Volvo China Open
Final 4:30 That Kickboxing
Highlights

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Family: Gulliver's Travels G 9:30 Classics: Above Us The Waves 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Family: Bach And Broccoli PG (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Comedy: Porridge (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Adventure: Final Judgement 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 5:30 Family: The Great Land Of Small PG (Hindi Subtitles) 6:45 The Preview 7:30 Adventure: Golden Needles 15 9:00 The Great Escape 7:30 Star News 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 Barnard Guest House (Hindi Serial) 9:00 Tehkikat 9:30 Star News 10:00 Allo Allo 10:30 The X Files 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 1:30 L A Law 2:30 Picket Fence 3:30 Quincy 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 Barnaby Jones



Picket Fences on Star Plus tonight at 2-30 am

ZEE TV

5:30 Surtal 6:00 The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 ZED 8:30 Through the Gears 9:00 Helpine 9:30 Gaane Anjaane 10:00 Lakme Khutsurat 10:30 Suhana Salar 11:00 Pakeezah 11:30 Shapath 12:00 Sur Taal 12:30 Nirma Ahaa/Hi Zindagi Bye Zindagi 1:00 ZED 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:00 Hum Paanch 2:30 Tara 3:00 Raahaat 3:30 Celeste 4:00 Suno Bhai Sadho 4:30 Dhara Zaika Ka Salar 5:00 ZED 5:30 Hum Zameen 6:00 Cartoon 6:30 All Out for No Loss 7:00 Gaane Anjane 7:30 Raahaat 8:00 V3+Zara Si Zhaiak 8:30 Mast Mast Hai Zindagi 9:00 Apcolite Aap Ki Pasand 9:30 Andaz 10:00 Parampara Andaz 10:30 News 11:00 Parampara 11:30 Aap Ki Adalat 12:00 Sailaab 12:30 Campus 1:00 Hasrateen 1:30 Raahat 2:00 Shakti 2:30 TMM 3:30 Tara 4:30 Insight 5:00 Jagran

EL TV

6:30 Devotional 7:30 Taranne

8:30 Hanste Hanste 9:30 Ajeeb Dastan 10:30 Dance Mania 11:00 V3+ 11:30 Kam 12:00

People's Club 12:30 Upanyas 1:00 Bengali Serial 1:30 Bengali Serial 2:00 Special 3:00 Filmi Cha At 3:30 Kal Bhi Aaj Bhi 4:30 Liberty Public Demand 5:30 Special 6:30 Kal Bhi Aaj

Bhi 7:00 Bangla Serial 7:30 Bangla Serial 8:00 TBA 8:30 Mast Mast Show 9:00 The Moov Usha Uthup Show 9:30 Amar Prem 10:00 Top Of The Tops 10:30 Hindi Feature Film 1:30 Sur Sargam 2:30 Pyar Hi Pyar 3:30 Jevan Ki Rang

PTV

8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/ Hamd/Neat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Mansoobajaat

Barai Khud Katalat 9:00 Sur Savana & Sehra Ka Salar & Sada-E-Kasim 9:40 Shana Ba Shana 9:50 Aaj Ki Kitaab-Aik Nazm 10:05 Boor Kay Ladoo 10:30 English Film: Chip And Dale 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Ali Baba (Drama Serial) 11:35 Naghmazaar (Drama Serial) 12:00noon Urdu Khal 12:55 Qura-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Gichan (Drama Serial) 2:00 Inteha (Drama Serial) 2:50 The Earth Revealed 3:20 Arashi Puda 3:40 Natural World 4:35 How Things Work 5:00 Yeh Munk In Hae 5:25 Hamara Sehat 5:55 Kitab Quiz 6:25 Aioo Courses 7:00 Taranum 7:05 Felix The Cat 7:30 Such Gup 7:45 English News 8:00 Morven Gold Raceway 8:25 Jawan Rang 8:55 PTV Gold 9:20 Break for Headline News 9:20

Aap Ki Anwar Maqsood 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial News 11:00 Tes Aasmaan 12:00 NYPD Blue 12:45 Khas Khabrain Close down

DD 7

10:30 Janmadin 10:35 Classical Music 11:00 Folk Song 11:15 Adhunik Gaan 11:30 Classical Music 12:30 Monorama Cabin Trishna (Serial) 2:30 Comedy Quiz (Serial) 3:00 Teen Kanaya 3:30 Chhakrasm Sava (Serial) 5:05 Nepali Programme 5:30 News 5:35 Chiching Fank 6:00 Palli Katha 6:30 Eto Tuku Basa (Serial) 7:00 Drama 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Sapthakhi 8:20 Light Instrumental 8:30 Gopal Vaar (Serial) 9:00 Janmabhumi (Serial) 9:30 Monorama Cabin (Serial) 10:00 Bengali Movie

Club Film Show 1:00 Closed

SONY ET

8:30 Rangleela Re 9:00 The Three Stooges 9:30 Dennis The Menace 10:00 Dream Of Jeannie 10:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 11:00 Jeevan Mithu (Serial) 11:30 Panchan 12:00 The Nipko Rasoi Show 12:30 Aahat 1:00 SKP 1:30 The Young And The Restless 2:30pm Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 5:30 The Three Stooges 6:00 Dennis The Menace 6:30 Rangleela Re 7:00 Premier 7:30 Dream Of Jeannie 8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 Faasle/Take-5 (Film Magazine) 9:00 Boogi Woogi 9:30 Anarh (Serial) 10:00 TGAAB/Baat Ek Raaz Ki 10:30 O'Maria (Comedy serial) 11:00 The Young And The Restless 11:30

Cine Prime-Hindi Feature Film 1:00 Janekaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed

ZEE CINEMA

6:45 Songs 7:00 Vishwasgath 8:00 Like Pa Ikka 9:30 Gaon Hamara Shehar Tumara (Raendra, Rekha) 12:15 Reuns 12:30 Insaaf Mein Karoonga (Rajesh K, Tina) 3:15 Box Office 3:45 Dharum Aur Kanon (Dharmendra, Rajesh K) 6:30 Jai Baba Ramdev 9:15 Cinema Cinema 9:30 Zandu Film Baatein 10:00 Amar Akbar Anthony (Amitabh B, Vinod K, Rishi K, Parveen B) 12:45 Gaddar (Vinod K, Yogita B) 3:30 Movies Magic Magic 4:00 Fauji (Vikram, Rita N)

Tom and Jerry



By Hanna-Barbera

DRAWN BY JOHN MCLUSKY

IAN FLEMING'S

James Bond

