The resignation that shook the nation

President Chowdhury's resignation, BNP

mantra and democ-

on something as insubstantial as not visiting Ziaur Rahman's grave on his death anniversary or inadequately praising his role in 1971 demonstrates a sense of insecurity and absolutism in the ruling circles Anyone not subscribing to the selfindulgent BNP mantra risks suffering at the hands of over-zealous

It seems that the party seniors succumbed to pressures from the so-called 'Young Turks' in ingratiate themselves to the party Chairperson. BNP should learn from the mistakes of its predecessor to see that fixation over non-issues is only self-defeating in the long run. It is noteworthy Ziaur Rahman in his lifetime never claimed sole credit for our glorious 1971 war, in fact he eulogised Bangabandhu for being

If there is one silver lining in this tragic episode of our country's history, it is Dr. Chowdhury's decision to relinquish his position in an an extraordinary case given our nation's history of leaders irrationally clinging to power instead respectfully quitting elected office. The country's only ray of hope is that there are still a few people of Dr. Chowdhury's temperament in our they may not be inclined to provide public service but their existence itself is reason for the nation's

ment of Dr. Chowdhury does not augur well for our hard-earned democracy. The government should realise its two-thirds majority is to provide good governance and not to establish its brand of BNP mantra.

Toricelli Arman

Bravo! We create

President from his office successfully!

His offence was.... he tried to honour his post by being neutral. By the dismal departure of Prof. B.

parliament by being its legislators and what not? It can be assumed that the next President will make visiting the graveyard of the founder leader of the party he is elected from a regular practice to avoid the fate of his predecessor.

Kazi Ishtiaque Mirpur, Dhaka

demand for the resignation of the President is nothing less than a slap on our faces by the young MPs. I voted for a BNP of Saifur Rahman, Dr. Moyeen Khan, MK Anwar etc. I didn't vote for a dictatorship of Hawa

remaining gentlemen who still have their dignity is to form a splinter

time because, as God is my witness,

I'd rather prefer AL obsessed with the late Bangabandhu than be served by Hawa Bhaban.

Lowest political

parliamentary committee to ask the President to resign has left me stunned. Those of us who thought AL government was bad are watching with sheer disbelief the foolishness of this government. Not only are they unable to take decisions that actually matters to the country, they are unthinkably out of touch with the pulse of the people. I think all conscientious citizens of Bangladesh who had the last breath of hope that Khaleda Zia is a little different and more mature a politician and a better person than Sheikh Hasina will be extremely sad at this development. Undoubtedly the last three days will go down as the lowest point of our political

mindless gibberish about DNA test for Zia's dead body. This was fol-

Cronyism, homicide and rape are the hallmarks of the honeymoon period of BNP led coalition government. Yet, some sycophantic and die-hard legislators of BNP raised voice to impeach the Honorable President of the Republic.

Okay, Article 52 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is earmarked for ' Impeachment of the President." Eruditely. I think the juvenile MPs of BNP have no knowledge about the Constitution, especially "impeachment."

I implore the BNP mandarins to scrutinise the AL poll debacle and take decisions sagely. Otherwise, people will jilt, if need arises.

Molla Mohammad Shaheen

The news and the DS editorial caused a whirlwind in my mind. It seems we are living in an unreal world. Now, with hindsight I feel like kicking myself for siding against AL last October. They did not criticise the then President after he visited the grave of late President Ziaur Rahman. Not, at least, publicly.

Dhanmondi, Dhaka

National crisis avoided?

The Opposition Party, Awami League has termed the resignation of the President as a 'national crisis'. I disagree with them. On the contrary by resigning, Bodrudduzza Choudhury has prevented the country from entering into a 'national crisis'.

There was no need for resigna-

tion and the BNP Parliamentary Party was wrong to demand the President's resignation. However, the fact remains, the parliamentary party of the BNP did pass a resolution asking the President to resign. If the President had ignored this call, which he could very well have done, would most certainly have led to a bitter and acrimonious relationship between the president and the government. This would not only have been unhealthy for democracy but devastating for the future stability of the country.

Mr. Chowdhury has done the most honourable thing. By avoiding confrontation with the government he has demonstrated his commitment and respect for democracy. By

mount to cheating the nation?

country or the party? Was his position of party or of rather country?

Did he wait for the constitutional explanation from the experts? If

no, then how did he try to save the nascent democracy of the

country as he claims? Or rather he tried to save the embarrass-

ment of his party of which he is so much loyal to? What came first

before what? Isn't this sort of claim from such a position tanta-

The news report says there has been bone of contentions

between PM and B Chowdhury regarding the issues like: ex-

president's not saying "Bangladesh Zindabad" after his official

deliberations, his not querying about PM's health progress while

she away in USA for medical reason, his son giving a grand recep-

tion to opposition leader Sheikh Hasina at his local constituency,

Munshigonj, his taking up of the large chunk of TV coverage and

finally his not visiting Zia's graveyard. All these things show that it

was political crisis inside the party itself and nothing else. Why on

earth should we regret over his resignation when it had nothing to

do with the betterment or well being of the country or democracy

- Hasina tried to fish in the troubled water by terming the situation a

national crises. Oh! What a shame! Has she already forgotten the

drama they staged with the former President Shabuddin Ahmed?

whatsoever rather a nasty political mud slinging?

- Why do we still vote for such politicians?

believe that he had gone when the going is good.

Now it poses a question in our mind whether there is any constitutional provision for asking a democratically elected President, as he was not charged with any treason or act which may be construed as detrimental to the security or prejudicial to the interest of the country. BNP parliamentary party brought about some sort of an allegation against the president and asked him to resign or face, according to some over agile BNP law makers. impeachment. Well, with a brute majority and absence of mainstream opposition from the national assembly, it would have been possible to impeach Mr. Chowdhury, but the question, which baffles me as to what, would have

been the charge against him?. Once he was made the President, he as per constitution did not belong to the party but to the nation. How far it was legal for the BNP lawmakers to pass an illegal resolution? The issue may give the constitutional experts some food of thought. Meanwhile the so called lawmakers may have their laugh for the success they attained but we would wait to see who has the last laugh- the parliamentary law mak-

Everybody I know voted for BNP in the last elections. Now all those people are kicking themselves for making such a mistake. I think I speak for the anguish of all those people who voted for a change and are now astounded by this raving madness. My sincerest apologies to Sheikh Hasina, she was relatively harmless after all.

D Quixote

What is the truth?

The people of Bangladesh would like the honourable Prime Minister to tell us the truth about ditching President Chowdhury. The President of a country cannot be forced to resign for getting more television coverage on BTV. We could have understood if it was CNN or the BBC. They have blamed him for trying to be neutral! Bangladesh is no BNP. And if you readers think the resignation was unconstitutional, let it stand. After all, we live in Bangla-

The shadow is no more....

The critics on the walls of the dailies followed by vigour of the conscience left me no room to wrangle regarding the forceful resignation of the President. It seems the road of politics as of BNP, has veered awkwardly and chosen the path to a dead end.

Only the other day our nation top charted the list of the "Most Corrupted Countries of the World". And it happened to be on the AL's shoulder as they were on the steering wheel. The leaders of the ruling party members have confirmed the load off AL's tired shoulder after such an undemocratic and perverted way of taking the good Doctor down. The Doctor has over shadowed the Prime Minister through his verve towards his duties and responsibilities as a President. The PM has fallen into a queue of an orthodox pattern of simple identity

A citizen

New development in politics

There are two developments that took place in our national level in the last few days. President Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury took a very bold, moral step and ultimately resigned. It takes more than moral courage to take such a decision. BNP did not only ditch President Chowdhury, they even threatened him with impeachment. It was really a nasty game in all respect. But, he will always remain a respected politician in the history of Bangladesh. He did not become a 'chamcha' to hang on to power.

The other development was--Tareq Zia, son of PM Khaleda Zia became Joint Secretary of BNP though he virtually runs the country.

Anwar Chowdhury

President Zia.

after the budget.

ing off the trough.

to wonder why they did it.

I am certain that Mr. Sircar

will be more than obedient in

paying his due obeisance to

As a matter of fact the les-

son is clear, if you want to be in

the BNP, then never forget that

it is first and last a personality

It is amazing that PM

Khaleda Zia after her month-

long-tax payer-funded trip to

NY along with her family and

entourage found time to make

this her first major decision

The philosopher Home

Minister is still there, the jumbo

cabinet still bloated and feed-

But this brings me back to

my conundrum, why? Well

there's one clue, Tareq

Rahman was mentioned

prominently in the meeting of

the Young BNP politicians.

Could it be that BNP is setting

up the Presidency for Khaleda

Great expectations!



Had we set our aspirations too high when we expected that after our PM got back from the US she would streamline the cabinet to bring some degree of normalcy in the affairs of the country, specially Law and Order?

What has been done instead? The President has been ousted! His fault was he had shown "neutrality" in the office of Presidency, which demanded him to be neutral! His fault was he had shown more allegiance to the country than the "party

And what was the Leader of the Opposition doing, just before this bizarre incident took place, while we were expecting her to go back to the parliament? Out of thin air she brought about another senseless debate- this time it was about DNA testing of the late President Ziaur Rahman!

Can't we expect from any one of them to deal with the real and serious issues, which affect the lives of the common peo-

A Distressed Observer Chittagong

politicians believe in sycophancy they fail to differentiate between respect and worship.

I congratulate the immediatepast President Chowdhury for three

1. For upholding democracy. He took the decision to resign as soon as he heard that most of his party men lost faith in him, which is very rare or uncommon in our politics. 2. He did not want to remain in power by hook or by crook like the party chiefs of our major political

3. He has proved that he is not a sycophant, but a man of principle.

Iqbal Ahmed New Eskaton, Dhaka

Political culture

The nation observed how President B Chowdhury had to quit as per decision of the lawmakers of BNP.

From the very childhood we learnt that the President of a country is above everything and he should act as a neutral person.

Before taking oath, the President had to resign from BNP, why? It is because though the ruling party decides who would be the President once the person takes oath, he must act neutrally and not as a party person. That is exactly what B Chowdhury was doing. But he had to pay the price for trying to be neutral!

It was very unfortunate to see how Awami League blamed the past President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. And now it's Badruddoza Chowdhury's turn.

our country isn't it?

Haroon Rashid

What's happening inside BNP? It shocked me to see the acrimoni-

Opposition Sk. Hasina on June 18 in the JS for her remarks regarding the late President Ziaur Rahman, So did the mobilisation of Young BNP MPs to threaten AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury of impeachment at the BNP Parliamentary Party(PP) meeting. Although most people are frustrated at the decline of the law and order situation regarding which little has been done, I am deeply disappointed seeing the over active reaction of BNP parliamentarian on this matter. Our political parties when in power forget that their role should not exactly be the same as when they were in the opposition, rather it should be of a conciliatory mood. Prof. Chowdhury was trying to walk the middle path and what he was trying to do was really a wel-

BNP promised unity of all sections of society during their election campaign, a new direction keeping aside the legacy of past to rebuild the country but the decision of the BNP PP is inconsistent with that promise and pledge. This is unfortu-

But I am confident history won't forget the wisdom, courage and statesmanship shown by Prof. AQM B. Chowdhury, I congratulate him. He is definitely one of the competent sons of this soil

Mirpur, Dhaka

Another undemocratic act of BNP

and undemocratic norms practised by the AL government.

remove B. Chowdhury from the position of the President.

BNP has no right to remove or request to resign the President of the country because though they elected him he is no longer a party leader but the President of the

After gaining power, the hardliners appeared to become intolerant towards the honest people of the

BNP and the "Young Turks"

regime change in Bangladesh. Is it too soon to hope that AL will be able to cobble together

I've had enough of BNP. Let's go back to Sheikh Hasina and her foibles. It's better than the dictatorship of BNP. I would also request the paper to stop calling the Hawa Bhaban MP's "Young Turks". That is an insult to Ataturk and his achievements, ones that this pathetic government can never emulate.

MA, Dhaka

Politicisation of presidency

presidency by a party, I begin

We want to see such practice of

neutrality in the coming years. Maruf Hassan

BNP's power distribution plan

BNP's dictatorship is coming along quite well isn't it? No sooner is Badruddoza out that Tareq Rahman becomes the Joint Secretary General. Essentially he's now the number two in BNP and officially the first in line to succeed Khaleda Zia.

Dhaka

man of principle

B. Chowdhury-- a

dent Professor A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury was removed on silly grounds. It is the most unfortunate thing in the history of Bangladesh politics. Are placing wreath on the grave of Ziaur Rahman or not mentioning him as the announcer of Independence a great crime or a sin? No. of course not.

our respect to Ziaur Rahman and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for their contributions for Bangladesh and they are our national leaders. But that does not mean we will worship them. Respect and worship are two different things. But as most of our

Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Towhid,

right, is odd.

Cervantes

Dhaka

New blood, new leader?

Zia with Tareq Rahman as

PM? His ambitions are no

secret but the speed, with

which it's coming about, if I am

Neutrality is a popular term in politics. But in reality it is very risky to be neutrality.

reality they act the very opposite. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was the elected President of AL and they were proud to elect such a respected person for that honourable position. But in the long run Shahbuddin Ahmed also had to pay for being neutral. The same thing happened with Prof Badruddoza

neutral. Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury is the recent victim of BNP and AL leaders use the term 'neutrality' very frequently. But in

NOTICE

We have received a huge number of mails on this topic. We are publishing a selection today and another full-page tomorrow to assist

Peter

The news of a "smiling" Khaleda Zia

announcing the resolution of the

It started with Sheikh Hasina's

Dept. of English. DU

Sacking the President

Where was B. Chowdhury's real loyalty? resigned accordingly who he had been loyal to actually? The

I would like to draw the attention of our countrymen to the recent political drama staged by the ruling BNP. According to the newspaper reports the recent past President Mr. Chowdhury resigned following a request from BNPPP. In the backdrop of the event I would like to ask the countrymen the following questions:

- The top political leaders, regardless of the party affiliation, always claim that the interest of the country must come first before that of the party. When B Chowdhury listened to BNPPP request and



lowed by a round of foul mouthing in

the parliament, which termed

Hasina a "mad woman". Then it was

followed by this even more incredu-

lous decision of the ouster of the

President by the "Young Turks" of

the BNP. His fault was he had shown

"neutrality" in the office of Presi-

dency that demanded him to be

neutral! His fault was he had shown

more allegiance to the country than

the "party that created him". What is

even more shocking is the language

with which the BNP lawmakers

lambasted him. There was no

respect for the chair of the presi-

dency let alone respect for this man

this is we are all watching this

please stand up? I urge Dr. Kamal

Hossain, Dr. Muhammad Younus,

Justice Shahabuddin, Justice

Latifur Rahman to come forward

and form a third party. Time is right!

Help us and give us a new leader-

ship. You will be welcomed by all.

The country needs some sanity.\

Look before you leap

Asif Saleh

Opportunity for the Opposition

This time round BNP hasn't just shot itself in the feet, it has ampu-

government. For once ordinary people will support her as she,

ironically enough defends a BNP nominated President from his

incredible circus helplessly.

The most humiliating aspect of

Will the real leaders out there,

who sacrificed his life for this party.

Between Badruddoza, people and the party Want to know more

about Zia Lately there have been a lot of articles and editorials critically analysing Bangabandhu's mistakes. Most of these are attempts to set up a one party socialist dictatorship. As I was too young to have remembered those times, I come such revisionist writing. It is a breath of fresh air after five years of

our throats. '71 and as far as I am concerned the

Dhaka

The news of President Badruddoza Chowdhury's resignation was a bolt from the blue. I feel the entire nation was out of spirits for a day. We often watch in the movies that an innocent person is accused of being guilty of crime, but none can help him out though everyone know about his innocence. The President's case is like that. Though the whole nation condemns the act of asking him to resign on trifling grounds-- everyone feels handicapped. Cause none wants to play with fire. We, the citizen, cannot protest strongly against the misdeeds of the ruling party, as they fear the worse to

immediate-past President deserves our praise and we must be grateful Avub Korom Ali

Sheikh Hasina stuffing him down However the only articles I see these days on Zia primarily deal with who did what on 26th March coupled with the usual North Korean style "Heroic Great Leader" stuff our

matter can rest. But we've just lost our President to the legacy of that man. We should take this opportunity to learn more about his roles in the turbulent times just before and after Bangabandhu's assassination and during the coups and counter coups leading up to his seizing power. I want to know the true story of the Sepoy Mutiny that gave us President Zia. I also want put to rest the persistent rumours of numerous officers killed during those violent days leading to Zia's seizure of

Bolt from the blue

happen next. Is this democracy? Anyway in last six months we

enjoyed President Chowdhury's

eloquent speeches and learnt many

good things-- among which his

saying 'Say apni to strangers' was

the most outstanding advice which

we like to teach our children in the

school and at home. Finally on the

eve of his departure he taught us

how to be patient, decent and polite.

Beyond all questions he was the

President of well-balanced opin-

ions. May Allah bless him.

politicians seem so fond of. I have no doubts about his crucial role in

power.

deciding to go he has also put the interest of the nation before his own. Such act of decency is rarely

seen in Bangladesh politics. The

Md. Mashiul Azam Khan

Future of democracy Forcing a President to resign on such simple pretext of not visiting the grave of the founder of the ruling party on his death anniversary or not

arrogance of a brute majority, not the norms of basic democratic principles. If his removal is a signal from the ruling party to our future Presidents,

calling him the declarer of independ-

ence (questionable) only shows the

then we have every reason to worry about the future of our democracy.

We should be

considerate I wanted to assure the PM of our support during this critical time. She has undergone to major surgery in one month. Number one is her knee surgery and number two is the removal of a chronic pain in her back named B. Chowdhury. She has now proved her firm and complete control over her party. Dr. Chowdhury has also proved that he is not of the same mentality and make as the rest of BNP. This split has confirmed public opinion that B. Chowdhury is too sober, too honest and too polished to be a politician in today's

Bangladesh. That politics has become quite extinct and although the public has been aware of this fact for a while. B Chowdhury had to be yanked back into the real world by his excolleagues. Let's hope his son follows his father's footsteps because his party is not ready to build a gate for the opposition when they join parliament.

If Khaleda Zia wants to win a popularity contest with Dr. Chowdhury, her best bet would be to use all her energy into improving the law and order situation.

Naila Rahman

Banani, Dhaka

Last laugh

Janab A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhry acting like a perfect gentleman, which he always was, left the presidency and hence the Bangabhaban. He had to go because Khaleda Zia and her 'yes men' wanted him to go. I for one

law Mr. Chowdhurv. Benazir Ahmed Khan

ers of BNP or breaker of unknown

Bve B Chowdhury I salute B. Chowdhury for resigning. Actually, the term 'neutrality' is a myth now in our country. In every sphere, you have to take one side, otherwise, you have to bow out, humiliated. It is not necessary to mention names of those dignified personalities who are renowned for

their neutrality but conscientious

citizens should always respect

I think it's time we effect a

another Janatar Mancha?

As I am trying to digest this blatant politicisation of the

What will Begum Zia do with all

this power? Will she instil herself as President and her son as the PM? Maybe in that cabinet reshuffle we all have been waiting for Tareq Rahman will get his cabinet seat? I have an idea why not make him the

I strongly condemn the way Presi-

Yes, we should and must show

Neutrality: a joke!

Chowdhury.

Neutrality seems to be a joke in

ous criticism of the Leader of the parties or ministers.

Jkobir

On October 1, 2001 people of this country voted BNP and its alliance to power to get rid of terrorism

Unfortunately Khlaeda Zia appeared to have chosen to follow the undemocratic and corrupt factions of BNP. She made one of the most controversial persons as her parliamentary adviser. I am certain that Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury has more respect towards Late President Ziaur Rahman than the other BNP leaders who convinced Khaleda Zia to

country.

party. This is very frustrating. As a citizen of the country I have every right to demand punishment of the BNP leaders who removed our President in an undemocratic

Dr. Mahboob Hossain

the Government to gauge the public opinion on the issue.

Making mountain out of a molehill

sycophants.

our Founding Father. honourable manner. This is indeed society. Given the harsh realities

The resolution seeking impeach-

another precedent! After being declared by Transparency International as the most corrupt country in the world last year, we have just created history! We have been able to throw out our

Chowdhury, it has become more obvious that the species 'Gentlemen' is now more or less are on the verge of an extinct in the domain of Bangladesh politics. Listed terrorists, extortionists are to thrive now and to decorate our

Which BNP is this? BNP has truly gone mad. Their

The only option I see is for the

group. Otherwise let's hope AL wins next

tated itself. How better to show the voters with what regard the BNP MPs and leaders see us. As electoral fodder, to be forgotten because we made the mistake of handing over such a huge majority. Sheikh Hasina should take this golden opportunity to flail the

TAli

Dhaka

