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An endangered film!



I read a very depressing piece by Kausar Islam Ayon titled "Will the film Ora Egarojon be erased from history?" on your Internet edition. It is unacceptable that this could be allowed to happen. I remember seeing the film when I was very young on BTV, and it touched me greatly. It brings home the Liberation War to people, young and old, in a very compelling way.

I would like to get in touch with the producer, Mr. Sohail Rana, and see if there is any way one can help so that the film is saved. I am currently studying in the USA, but I have contacts, and I can also raise the funds required to digitally remaster the film, and do whatever else is necessary to save it. I am, of course, only guessing that this is what needs to be done, and so would like to get in touch with Mr. Rana himself if that would be possible. A mailing address or email address would be great!

Ashirul
One-mail

No more subversion, please

Today in our beloved country an intolerable political situation is prevailing. The political parties of our country are using hartal as an implement with a view to ousting the government. But they will not gain any benefit out of this violent course. People are suffering and hartal has a crippling effect on the economy.

We should work out how much time and money we are losing due to the hartals. There are hundreds of thousands of unemployed youths in the country and the hartal is only reducing our ability to absorb them. It is high time to look into the issue and bring back sanity to politics.

Arif Hossain
DU

Road accidents

Now-a-days road accident is very common in our country. It is a sad truth that it is increasing at an alarming rate. Five SSC examinees lost their lives in a road accident in Sitakunda on 13 March. It is just an example of the thousands of accidents that occur every year in our country. These accidents take place because of the lack of consciousness among people. Moreover, drivers have a tendency to break the rules.

I think it is time to make our roads safe. For this to happen, the government and all concerned should come forward to launch a social movement with the objective of making the roads safer.

Hillol Saha
BN College
CTG

Crossing a road

The greatest problem, difficulty, pain, pang and risk of a Dhaka city pedestrian, man or woman, young or old, is how, when and where he/she can cross a road from one side to the opposite side? Like wild elephants, Royal Bengal Tigers, rhinos, buffaloes, foxes, bears and monkeys motor vehicles double-deckers, buses, trucks, cars, tempos, CNG scooters and rickshaws are running on the main roads and streets of Dhaka one after another, obstructing the movement of the pedestrians trying to cross a road. Where is the Zebra Crossing at Motijheel Commercial Area, Rampura Road, Malibagh Road, Jatrabari Road, Tejaoga Road, North South Road, Topkhana Road, Nawabpur Road, Mirpur Road, Airport Road, Mohakhali Road, Folder Street/Rankin Street, Eskaton Road, Sher-e-Bangla Road, Hatkhola Road and so on and so forth? If there are a few untracked Zebra Crossings in some places, they are unplanned, neither protected nor controlled. The running vehicles never stop before any Zebra Crossing to enable the pedestrians to cross the road from one side to another safely.

What a treacherous and disastrous situation city pedestrians are facing every time they try to cross a road. Do or die to cross from one side of the road to another to reach your destination, or keep standing under the sun or rain for hours together. Moreover, most of the city roads and streets are partitioned with varieties of high and flat road dividers and road islands which make the pedestrians face a dangerous situation while crossing a road.

Do the authorities concerned, the Ministry of Communication, Department of Roads and Highways, Dhaka City Corporation and Dhaka Metropolitan Police ever feel, think and realise the problems and difficulties that the pedestrians are facing all the time?

We demand of our government to ensure safety and security of the pedestrians of Dhaka city while crossing roads and streets amidst inefficient road traffic control. Would the authorities concerned come forward with definite 'Yes' or 'No' pragmatic steps to mitigate the untold sufferings of the pedestrians?

How can we overcome the

Himalayan problem of crossing a road amidst ferocious, berserk, notorious and eccentric motor vehicle driving? By constructing high foot over-bridges and underpasses like BB Avenue, Gabtali and Karwanbazar? No, never, those have proved to be useless. We need clearly marked Zebra Crossings and small size underpasses on all important roads and streets.

OH Kabir
Hare Street, Wari, Dhaka

IBA admission and transparency

When poor souls like us don't have the money to get admitted to any of

these 51 private universities for an MBA course, we look towards the cheapest in price and the top in quality Business School of the country, definitely the Institute of Business Administration, also called IBA.

One of the toughest competition is held in this Institute. The competition rate is 1 : 40 in MBA programme and 1 : 70 for the BBA programme. It's like a challenge to face an admission test in a well reputed institution like this. In this case, a person like me with an excellent GMAT score (good enough to compete for any Top Business School of the world) definitely feel positive for an admission attempt. For two consecutive years, I attended the written test part, but failed to qualify successfully in the Viva. As a person working in the HR Department of a leading organisation, and conducting Interviews and participating in Recruitment and Selection Process, I must say, I am confident enough to face any interviews successfully.

It is no wonder that Bangladesh tops the list of corrupt countries for several consecutive years. The government's refusal to acknowledge the corruption report came to us as nothing but a routine move. Besides, they always suspect the accuracy of the Transparency Report. But recent trends and these surprising things now let us defy the authenticity of its assertion.

When corruption tends to corrupt the Corruption Bureau, we just think about the poorly paid civil servants and bureaucrats, who have no other choice, when they themselves have to get their job after donating (!) a large sum of money.

When I approached the IBA admission committee, they refused to talk to me over telephone.

In this regard, I hope The Daily Star will initiate a fact finding mission, and also desire that the Dhaka University authorities will maintain traditional values and transparency in the admission process.

Tanya Khan
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Renovate BCS

Public Service Commission, an authorised body of the Ministry of Establishment, is going to conduct the 25th BCS examinations. The jobs under BCS cadres are lucrative in Bangladesh. That is why almost all the university graduates have a huge crush on the BCS. But if we anatomise the recruitment procedures of the BCS, we find many shortcomings in it. For better output from our civil service, the

Favourite singer



I simply love Moushumi Bhoumik's songs. When I heard that she was coming to Dhaka to perform in some charity shows, I just got eccentric. By 'the wings of poesy', I imagined the dark, silent auditorium, the spot line, under the light one of the greatest musical maestros standing in front of me, the magical tune floating all over. But the first slap came when the programme was rescheduled from 9 and 10 to 16 and 17 March. Any way I did not lose hope, nor did her thousands of fans. I managed to get the ticket and was eagerly waiting for the auspicious day. Suddenly, everything turned upside down. The authorities did not permit her to stage the programme in spite of her arriving here. Thousands of music lovers became extremely disappointed because the sermon came all of a sudden. They took such a step but failed to judge how shameful it was for a democratic (?) nation! Would they publish a clarifying note on the matter?

Rifat Mahub
Department of English, DU

BCS should be modernised.

As English is a lingua franca, it must be emphasised in the examination process. Optional subjects should be cancelled to minimise discrimination among the students of different schools. Finally, all kinds of quota system should be abolished.

Molla Mohammad Shaheen
Dept of English, Dhaka University

Real Bollywood stuff!

There was a time when we produced Bangla films that could easily match their Bollywood counterparts. Not any more. However, I have just found something in the DS report "BNP men lay siege to cop station, try to snatch leaders", 16 March, that is showing promise.

When I was reading this report, it sounded like pure Bollywood stuff. It is difficult to believe that this is happening in real life in our country. Instead of police holding the thugs, the thugs -- supported and armed by our own government would you believe it? -- seizing the whole police station. Amazing plot! So I am saying, why not utilise this great "Bangla phenomenon" and let's put these forward in a competition with Bollywood. Since we can't match Bollywood films, we will use real-life situations like the one above and judges will decide who, the Bollywood directors or Bangladeshi hoodlums, have the most thrilling "plot!"

We have won many respected awards from TI and I see no reason why we should stop winning now.

Azad Miah
Oldham, UK

No communication, no improvement

You have a BMW car but there is no road to drive it. Will it be possible to run your car? Obviously not. You just think about the opposite situation. Still the answer is no. So you need both to complete the cycle.

Once you have money, it is easy to buy a car overnight. But if you have money, it is not possible to build a road overnight. If you want to develop a country, you have to establish better communication. Better communication brings better development.

Very few people of our country are using computer. Most of them are students, service holders and business people. The persons who are working with computer are mostly single users. Among the computer users, few people are familiar with multi-user environment and Internet. So we can get a clear picture about the communication infrastructure of our country. Here we discuss the current communication infrastructure of financial organisations.

More than a hundred financial organisations are operating in our country. Among these fifty-two are banks. Still most of the banks (public and private banks) are not working online. In the twenty-first century, people need to bring hand cash to travel from one place to another in our country. In other countries in the world, people need to bring plastic cards (VISA, Master, ATM etc.) only. People can pay their utilities bills; can check their account status from home. Currently, a few private banks are running online banking system. Some private banks like NCC Bank, Dhaka Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank are trying to implement

Grace of cricket

March 13 was a general holiday in Pakistan as the Indian cricket team had flown to Pakistan after 15 long years to play a complete series. The fanatic cricket fans of this subcontinent finally had some good news to cheer about. As Shoaib Akhtar ran in with the white cricket ball with his express velocity, the iceberg started melting.

The rest of the story is known to the world by now. It was the most fantastic limited over match, at least for the thirsty subcontinent fans. The display of pride, ego, patriotism, professionalism and above all sportsmanship gave this match a remarkable space in the memories of cricket fans. Though it was India who came out triumphant at the end of the day but it was the game of cricket which won the hearts of millions, transcending the boundaries of religions, castes and languages.

For many peace-loving people of this crisis-prone subcontinent, this series is not just all about cricket. For the people of Bangladesh, with two nuclear-capable states adjacent to this country, this series is a giant step forward for establishing peace and stability in this region. After the fall of Berlin Wall and evolution of the European Union, the world is moving more and more toward collective existence and removal of boundaries and obstructions among the countries within the same piece of surface. The US quest for a free trade treaty within North America and Canada is one more example of this sort.

We earnestly hope that this cricket series will not be confined to cricket or the election campaign of the BJP, but it'll expand to ensure peace for billions of people in this region. The presence of Prianka and Rahul in the gallery definitely inspired people to dream of a new beginning for Indo-Pak relations and a new sunrise in this subcontinent.

Md Bashar Farhad, Mirpur, Dhaka



PHOTO: AFP

online banking software. The private banks which are trying to implement the online banking software are very much worried about communication. Without communication infrastructure, it is not possible to run the online banking software. The foreign banks are running the online banking software, but they are facing lots of problems with communication.

Banks are spending a lot of money for communication. If it is possible to ensure the unique, reliable and less expensive communication media for the financial organisations, we can enjoy online banking facilities in our country. Any government or private organisation also can establish a countrywide

network. If that goal is achieved, the network company as well as financial organisations and other companies will be benefited.

We hope the government will concentrate on improving the communication infrastructure, so that people can think globally.

Engr. Md. Rafiqul Islam
NCC Bank Ltd, Motijheel

Flawed roads

I have noticed with increasing concern the arbitrary and dangerous changes in the road dividers, unnecessary broadening of the islands and the resultant narrowing of the main lanes.

I would like to bring to your attention the chaotic traffic situa-

tion that exists at the ZIA roundabout during rush hours. The mayor was saying the other day on television that the DCC now has a new engineering division to look into ways of easing traffic congestion in the capital. But, unfortunately, new island construction and unplanned roundabout construction are creating big traffic problems.

The roundabout at the entrance of ZIA is obstructing the traffic movement between Dhaka and Uttara. The roundabout, in my opinion, has a totally flawed design and is lopsided. This may lead to major highway disasters in future.

Dr. SZaman Mozumder
Gulshan 1, Dhaka

A heinous attack

In 1971, 30 lakh people died in their noble mission of liberating our country. But now it seems the freedom has been wasted to a great extent. The attack on Dr. Azad and all such incidents bear enough testimony to the truth that we have failed to build the nation that we fought for.

It is the government's duty to bring the attackers to justice.

Dr. Mustafa Abdur Rahim
Dhaka

Politicisation of the attack on Dr. Azad

Dr. Humayun Azad was attacked by some unknown assailants recently, which hit the headlines in all the national dailies. The attack was very unfortunate but perhaps not very surprising, since religious extremists are making their presence felt in many areas of our national life. How barbaric! After the attack on this eminent writer and linguist at the Bangla-Academy premises on 27 February, the country has become turbulent and people from all walks of life have been condemning this dastardly crime.

It is very sad that some self-seeking organisations are trying to have the benefit of "utility maximisation" from this gruesome incident. Both the ruling party and the opposition have their own way to criticise each other, instead of being united for meting out exemplary punishment to the culprits. Now the capture of the assailants seems to be a far cry. The government supporters beat up the students when their beloved teacher was fighting for his life at the CMH. I think it was a very normal reaction when the students became furious at the unspeakable attack on their teacher. But the government should not have tried to stop them from

expressing their outrage.

We condemn the attack on Dr. Azad and on the students of Dhaka University and urge all the parties not to politicise this issue for their own benefit. We hope he will recover fully and continue his fight against fanaticism and fundamentalism.

ABM Shafiqul Islam
Dept. of English,
Jahangirnagar University

The bigots

Religious bigots have been demonstrating their sinister extremism over the last few years. Their ugly design has caused so many casualties in recent times. The views they hold amount to infringement upon human rights. People shivered in fear when they witnessed the decapitated bodies, following the barbaric attack during the

Pahela Baishak celebrations a couple of years back. They are divided into different groups but share the same mission. Their most recent onslaught was carried out on the free-thinker, Dr Humayun Azad.

These fanatics are moving freely and their hideouts are yet to be unearthed. Now-a-days they are pouncing on the Ahmadiya community. According to them, Ahmadiyas have stigmatised Islam and in the face of their continuous pressure the people belonging to Ahmadiya community are living in fear and in rural areas they have been ostracised in some cases. Time has come to take stern steps to wipe out the zealots who are a threat to society as a whole.

Imran Ahmed
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

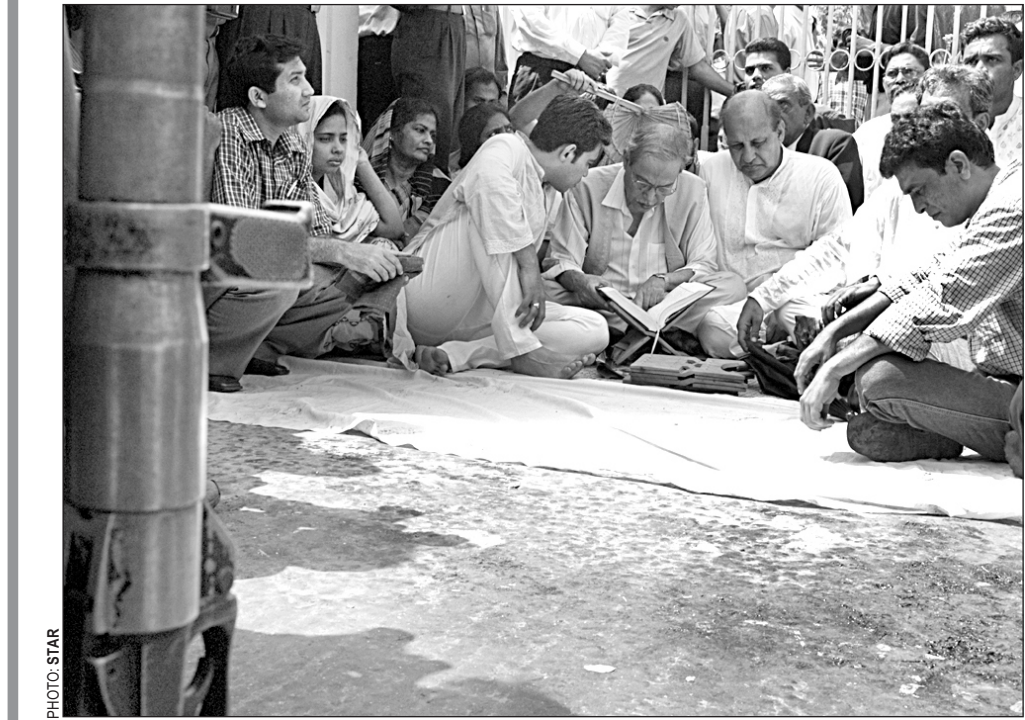


PHOTO: STAR

Hunger strike

I have read in one of the internet versions of a Dhaka daily (with photograph) that the participation in the much trumpeted hunger strike organised by the "Tritio Dhara" has been rather disappointing. Other political parties should take lessons from it.

The damage that has been done is this: for the first time, I may be wrong, the Supreme Court premises has been allowed for picketing. There is no reason to believe that other parties won't follow suit.

I humbly suggest that a corner, perhaps in the Suhrawardy Uddayan, like the Hyde Park Speakers' Corner in London, may be set aside for such mini-gatherings and speech making. It can be very interesting and indeed entertaining for the general public to spend some afternoon recess as we see in the Hyde Park. I know it cannot be done overnight because we are not used to such freedom but if crimes can be committed so freely what's wrong if people are allowed to speak freely and listen freely about their concerns and hopes in life?

I hope the authorities will take my humble suggestion seriously.

Fayaz Khan
One-mail

Democratic pluralism?

BNP always claims that its founder Ziaur Rahman was the pioneer of democratic pluralism in Bangladesh. If that is true, why did the party's hoodlums attack former

president Badruddoza Chowdhury's alternative stream meeting? According to our constitution, Article 36 gives the freedom of movement, Article 37 gives the freedom of assembly and Article 39 guarantees the right to express views and judgement. But, unfortunately, the BNP did not honour any of the above mentioned rights in case of Bodruddoza Chowdhury's alternative stream and the concerned law enforcers failed to give them the security that they needed. The police not only failed to protect them, but they also helped the unknown thugs who were out to foil the rally and the meeting. However, the BNP high command did not reprimand the hoodlums which amounted to patronising the disruptive elements.

As a result, BNP musclemen vandalised Major (Rtd) Mannan's beverage factory in Savar and stopped several garment factories in Chittagong. The BNP leaders berate the Awami League for hartal (even though it called hartal during the AL regime), as it destroys the national economy. But does vandalism help the economy in any way? Is it the symbol of democratic pluralism?

During the AL regime, the AL did the same with Bangabir Kader Siddiky when he formed his new party "Krishok Sramik Janata League". The AL got their results in the last JS elections. People don't forget anything, the political parties should bear in mind.

Md. Zillur Rahaman
Gandaria, Dhaka