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Archaeological sites

Bangladesh is a land of many Archaeological sites of prehistoric period and heritage. Our main three archaeological sites are situated in Paharpur, Mahastangarh, and Mainamati. Paharpur is a valley situated in Naogaon district, three miles on the west of Jamalganj railway station. Mahastangarh is in the district of Bogra and is situated on the west bank of the Karatoya river. And Mainamati is an exclusive site of ancient Buddhist culture. It was accidentally discovered by the British military during the Second World War (1939-1945) in the course of trench digging at Mainamati, six miles west of Comilla. Numerous terracotta plaques are found in Paharpur, Mahastangarh and Mainamati sites. These plaques decorate the faces of the walls. The terracotta plaques are incredibly charming and beautiful.

Every terracotta plaque relates to some event of that time.

Every year many tourists from home and abroad visit these sites. These sites have great tourism value. If these are maintained with care, the sites can be a source of revenue earning for the government. But today many tourists are not interested to see these sites, because of the problems that they face there.

The worst thing is lack of security. The sites are infested with anti-social elements who can be a source of constant worry to the visitors.

The authorities concerned should look into the matter and take necessary measures to make sure that visitors feel safe at the archaeological sites which are indeed a prized possession for any nation.

Md. Shahriar Parvez
Banani, Dhaka-1213



Paharpur

The need is real sacrifice

During Eid, we all must take care of the poor and unfortunate people. Avoid luxury of any kind as it's against the teachings of your religion. Also think in terms of real sacrifice from the core of your heart for the poor people -- not some money to buy an animal and slaughter it. Distribute a good amount of the meat to the poor around you. Don't be greedy -- as we have to sacrifice that greediness and selfishness from our hearts.

Let's absorb the 'spirit' of Eid and be guided by it throughout the year. Anonymous lecturer, Dux

Teaching grammar

I have a little disagreement with Khan Md. Iqbal Hossain, (The Daily Star 21/1/2005). As English teachers we should teach basic principles of grammar to make a good foundation for learning English, both spoken and written. It is like that a young kid has to learn grammar first and foremost, and then learn language. Is it sensible? What should we do in learning mother tongue? Definitely, we do not do so. The child learns the language naturally imitating mum and dad. Therefore, should we not follow the natural way of learning a language- the sophisticated English language? "Sir, why didn't you come to teach me tomorrow?" It is a minor fault, it can be corrected without making the child knowing his/her fault, the teacher could say, "I didn't come to teach you yesterday because....." That's a very normal process of correcting and helping the child to learn a language spontaneously.

Learn language first. I think as a teacher we should not keep anything in front of them that acts as an obstacle (GRAMMAR) in his/her learning process. Child psychologists agree with that. Is it possible for the teachers to be a little friendlier with boys and girls ignoring their minor shortcomings?
Bijoy Mohan Goswami
Instructor, Comilla P.T.I.
Comilla

Restriction on car purchase

The traffic jam as it appears nowadays in Dhaka city is unbearable. It is obviously unacceptable in this modern age of speedy movement and faster accomplishment of an assignment to get irritated in a traffic jam. We should not forget time is money. Besides, development partners coming to our country observed traffic congestion as an impediment to investment. This capital city should ensure an easy

traffic system along with its beautification keeping it clean and green. One of the measures, as I feel, is to impose restriction on the purchase of a car, be it new or old. Presently, second-hand cars could be purchased from Manik Mia Avenue old car market at a very cheap price. At the same time, a lot of cars are being imported evading taxes through different means including under-invoicing. Restrictions could be imposed through direct and indirect tax measures. There should be in-depth checking while issuing a driving licence. Frequent traffic weeks should be arranged to check the fitness of cars along with verification of the tenure of licence. Routes and speed should be specified for the movement of cars. In Singapore, it is very difficult to buy a car even for wealthy people. In New York, it is not so easy to be a driver of a car. It is, therefore, imperative for a city like Dhaka to impose restrictions urgently. In fact, rickshaw-

pullers have raised this point while they were asked to vacate the route in front of New Market a few days back.

This is the time to act. Any delay will create lots of problems.
Kumar Prithwiraj Nath
One-mail

Bravo, Tigers!

It was so very pleasant to see Bangladesh achieve their maiden Test series victory. They set an example of patience, talent and mental and physical strength. They gave us the moment we had waited for since they had entered the longer version of the game. I heartily congratulate on this occasion the Bangladesh Cricket Board and coach Whatmore, captain Habibul Bashar, vice-captain Rajin Saleh, Javed Omar, Nafis Iqbal and the undisputed and talented Haque Jr. and Rafique and all others.

Hope they would convert this Test

series win soon into a World Cup victory!

Mohammed Fahim Hara
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ACC: an eyewash?

The Independent Anti Corruption Commission is a timely initiative taken by the government to combat the increasing corruption at all levels in our society, which leads to mal-administration and bad governance. But the question arises in the present context that whether the ACC will be able to play a significant role to uproot corruption. Some loopholes have already been identified in its constitution and basic structure which might jeopardise its activities and make it a play doll in the hands of the executive. At present, the ACC is taking time to start its activities and it seems that government is not co-operating with it anyway.

The people of Bangladesh do not want to observe any eyewash by the government in the name of the Independent Anti Corruption Commission. They want results, which are uncertain still now.

Therefore, it is the sole desire of all citizens that the ACC will work in full swing very soon and thereby eradicate corruption as well as white collar crimes from all segments of the society.

Sonia Ahmed Shompa
Dept of Law, DU

Missed call

Who does not know that missed call has become a public nuisance these days? It has been requested by Grameen network not to give missed call cause it creates network disturbance. Giving missed call to known/unknown persons is not only a bad habit but also a source of irritation. Only the people who are suffering can say how it feels to be sufferers! May be it's a great source of fun to some people, but a public media must not give it too much coverage and importance. The movie "Wrong number" shows some girls disturbing people by giving them missed calls for fun, one of them captures a man and at last she meets him by chance. There are some pranksters (or hunters?) who love these kind of fun, will cross the limit if they get encouragement from the moviemakers or TV channels.

Eventually, those retards will think that by doing cinematic things (as shown in the movie "Wrong number") they will meet their dream boy/girl very easily and as a result the innocent boys and girls will be their target (or hunted?).

The moviemakers, script writers and producers should be careful about these things.
Cantara Wali Ruhi
Dhaka

Cricket and political culture

There are similarities in political and cricket cultures in Dhaka. Both are in infancy or toddling stage, but the cricket boys have scored a point against the active over zealous politicians by winning the first ever Test match recently.

This type of break is not yet visible in our polluted political culture. The reason is simple: one is motivated and concentrated on winning, while the majority of the politicians concentrate on personal gains, and not on team effort for public service. The open and hidden goals and objectives are different. The politicians are rather more keen on taking advantage of the situation (misuse of power and influence), than deliver

ing public service. Ad hoc publicity stunts do not establish now national foundations.

One of the weaknesses of our Test batsmen is that they are conditioned to ODI technique, and lack the patience for five day Test matches. This temperament has to be cultivated. Shedding bad habits (generally speaking) is a difficult and laborious task, needing time, patience and concentration, as involuntary habits have to be replaced with new inputs in the memory system. For analyses the coach and the seniors are there, but the practice and the performance are in the actual field play at the individual level. The boys get the messages, but the rest is up to them. It is the old tussle between theory and practice.

What is cross bat in politics? Something like the crossfire in RAB operations (although not that violent)? We have to play more with the straight bat in all spheres of public life. The politicians always know once side of the coin; for two reasons, they think they can get away with it, and that the public won't catch them in their nefarious hide-and-seek game. There are two shortcomings: lack of moral courage, and absence of a sacrificing spirit. These two weaknesses cannot be eradicated or reduced unless the culture of short-cuts (to artificial quick success and gain) are discouraged. There are few genuine leaders around to set examples. One cynic thought that the Tsunami was to teach a divine lesson to the errant groups indulging in civil war for decades.

There is a lot to learn from playing cricket, as it is a practice of playing the game of life. The politicians play the game of the season, and of location and circumstances (opportunists) taking one stance while in power, and another while hibernating in the opposition. This double standard is totally unsuitable for public service. The constancy has to be there for retaining public confidence in the near future (coming elections), and on long-term basis (voter loyalty for a particular party). The top leadership need long term foresight and judgement.

There is another tricky philosophy. Don't play to win, play better, and the winning will take care of itself. It is like having money, forgetting that it is easier to earn than to spend judiciously.

Our New Year looks promising, thanks to the cricket boys.

AZ, Dhaka

Worried about Chintito?

I was quite surprised by the letter to the Editor on January 20 by Arefin from St. Joseph College. He accused Chintito of being too pessimistic and of telling people not to dream. I really don't know where he got such an idea from, as there was no reference to any particular write-up of Chintito. I think such an allegation is rather unfair. Chintito is often very critical of social evils and more so of political misdemeanors. But being self-critical does not mean one is pessimistic. In fact, Chintito's columns clearly show that he is a very patriotic person who does believe in the dream called Bangladesh. He just happens to point out all the obstacles that stay in the way of achieving it.

Arefin perhaps should re-read the articles before he makes such sweeping, uncharitable comments.
MA Rashid
Banani

Lost and found 4,000 vehicles!

The Daily Star investigative report on misuse of project cars titled "Freewheeling bigwigs" published on 17 January will definitely create a violent storm among the top bigwigs in the Secretariat and other associated departments. In no other country in the world, public servants and public representatives, in collusion with each other, squander public money at their sweet will on such a scale as witnessed in Bangladesh.

We know it, they know it, everyone knows it. But no one dared to expose it.

Many times in the past investigative reports on similar issues went to deaf ears, and in most cases the newspapers did not pursue the matter further. Can we this time see that this investigation by The Daily Star goes on, no matter what happens, until all the vehicles are returned to where they should be? If I am thinking in the same wavelength as the reporter, this time the goal of the investigation is clear, not abstract, so the success is measurable. It is a huge number of missing cars - let us see how many of them are returned and how long it takes.

We need an honest and brave media to support the ACC.
Khairul Hasan
Surrey, UK

Exam halls

Bangladesh is a developing country and our system of education is not good enough to be compared with that of the developed countries. In the districts we have only one or two government colleges. Every year our National Education Boards have to conduct several examinations for

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get more time to complete their courses. Thus we can prevent loss of valuable time.

Md. Zuliker Amin Babu
Barguna Govt College
Barguna

Two great poets

I am a student of English literature. Now I am going to say something about our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and Rabindranath Tagore. Both of them were known for their genius. One is not comparable with the other. But the real situation about Kazi Nazrul Islam is that we tend to neglect our National Poet. We are so much interested in Tagore but not in Nazrul. Tagore is one of the greatest poets in the history of world literature. He got Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for English translation



OSCAR Night

All movie lovers all over the world eagerly wait for one great moment every year. Although from Bangladesh we can't get the warmth and splendour of it. That's Oscar Night. Who wants to miss the splendid constellation of great stars from all over the world at the same place at a time? People all over the world get the opportunity to watch the great show live. You probably know that the Academy of Motion Picture of Arts and Science is going to announce the nominations for Oscar and give Oscars this year on 27th February for outstanding performances. We do not get the opportunity to enjoy the excitement and thrills of watching the Great Oscar Night live. What we watch is the recorded show a few weeks later. As a result we fail to enjoy it fully.

Our private TV channels can telecast the programme live. This would be just great!!!
Muftah Wali
Department of English
Jahangirnagar University

the students. Every examination takes more than one month. During this time our colleges remain closed because examinations can be held only in government colleges. That is why every year our colleges suspend their classes for 3-4 months. Moreover, there are festivals of various kinds when classes are not held.

So, if we want to improve our education system our government needs to build separate examination halls in every district where we can hold SSC, HSC and degree examinations.

It can help our national education system. And our students will

of 'Gitanjali'.

Nazrul spent the last days of his life on this soil. Thus Nazrul was closer to us than Tagore.

Now anyone can ask me, "Do not we read Rabindranath Tagore?" Of Course we read and respect him as a great literary figure. We must read the world class poets for enhancing our knowledge and show respect to them. But our National Poet should have a special position in our hearts.

S. Walid Ahmed
Department of English
Eastern University

Poor performance



PHOTO: AFP

The recent one day international loss made our Eid a sour one. Bangladesh are missing out the opportunity to improve their ODI status. I had thought earlier they would have wiped the Zimbabwean out, after having seen their performance against India, but I was totally wrong.

What on earth are they up to? Are they still suffering from the hangover of their

Test series victory? I still can't figure out why they are suffering from Taibu-phobia, and I think he is just any other player and he never seems like the class of Brian Lara or Tendulkar or Hayden. I think the whole team should get rid of Taibu-phobia and that would immensely help the team to snatch the one-day series as well.

This is a lifetime opportu-

nity and I believe Bangladesh team will never find any easier and weaker opponents like this Zimbabwean cricket team ever in future. So make full use of it. All that the team needs is a wake up call. I believe Mr. Whatmore is paying attention to it...

Badal Hasib
Lecturer
Royal Roads University

IRAQ'S DEMOCRACY

According to Mr. George Joker Bush's Dictionary "Iraq's Democracy is for the West by the West and of the West". I think what Arundhati Roy has said about the West-oriented free world democracy is very decisive for the upcoming Iraqi election and its democracy. She states, "Democracy has become little more than a hollow word, a pretty shell, emptied of all content or meaning. It can be whatever you want it to be. Democracy is the Free World's Whore, willing to dress up, dress down, willing to satisfy a whole range of taste, available to be used and abused at will." So I have no more comment on that issue, but if we agree with and support Bush's democracy in Iraq, then I think history would not forgive us.

Md. Harisur Rahman
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PHOTO: AFP