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## Punish the killers of 1971

The nation will always be indebted to the victims of the 1971 genocide until we punish all those who were responsible for the indiscriminate killings. The trial and punishment must be given to all that not only pulled the trigger but also those who helped, abated and aided the Pakistani Military Junta in the process of eliminating the Bengalees.

No matter how long it takes, the trial of those killers has to be held. There can be no debate on the question of whether the Pakistan Army committed 'genocide' or not in Bangladesh. It is also a fact that many Bengalees (members of Razakar, Al-Shams and Al-Badr ) played a vital role in the planning and execution of that genocide. In the last 36 years many of those responsible have not only been identified but unfortunately rehabilitated and given very powerful positions. Many became ministers of the Republic and were given the honor of flying the national flag in their cars. The time has come for us to move forward of course, but we need to put the dark past in the right perspective. That can only be done if we bring to justice those responsible for the worst crime committed in the later part of the last century. The Nazi criminals are still being hunted, tried and punished. Let us not forget those who bled to death to give us freedom. The dead will never rest in peace while their killers move around freely. It is our obligation to the nation, society and the world to end

that dark episode in our history.

The most unfortunate part of our history is from 14 December till January 31 1972. As the Mukti Bahini along with the Indian Army began to crack the Pakistani defence and claim one victory after another, the Pakistan forces along with their local agents began to select and eliminate the intellectuals in different towns all over Bangladesh including Dhaka. Teachers, professors, journalists, doctors, engineers, bureaucrats and any one who they felt would be an asset to the new born nation were picked up by them and eliminated in the most barbaric way. The killing that began on March 25 was indiscriminate. Although they were picky at the end as I mentioned but initially they randomly killed whoever they felt like. They burnt down villages and mahallas with rage killing the innocent and raping the women who survived. They looted whatever valuables they found. It was a nightmare we can never forget and at the same time it is a glorious part of our history because we fought back and liberated ourselves.

Under the present caretaker government we feel like being reborn and I would ardently hope that the process of the 1971 genocide trial will also begin. A special tribunal should be set up immediately and given the responsibility to proceed with the investigation and trial.

**Akku Chowdhury, On e-mail**

### Contain noise pollution

Residents of Dhaka still have to put up with deafening noise of vehicular horns and do not feel the difference in noise quality, despite the recent clamp down on horn-happy motorists. On February 16, the DMP seemed to wake up finally and made a move to enforce an age-old law banning vehicular horns in certain areas of the city. While the general public appreciated the effort, they were a bit taken aback and disappointed to notice the careless attitude of the DoE (Department of Environment) on the matter.

In a bid to bring the city's noise level down , the DMP decided to implement the Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1983 that forbids honking horns within 200 yards of places of worship, educational institutes, hospitals, courts, and offices. The DMP banned honking horns on the VIP Road between the stretch of Sonargaon intersection and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University intersection. The DMP started to file cases against the offenders from February 22. As of March 20 , a total of 3,184 cases were filed. During the last couple of days, they seized 719 hydraulic horns as well. The DoE, on the contrary, has been busy for years formulating new rules to fight noise pollution. Finally in September last year, it finalised a set of rules against pollution. And to everyone's surprise, it did not incorporate the biggest polluter-vehicular horns into the new set of rules. The DoE's activities and responsibilities seem to be limited to formulating rules only as there has been no sign of any effort to implement the new rules.

People should be aware of the rules and penalties. Doctors say, "Constant exposure to noise can cause different problems which include loss of hearing, cardiac problems, sleeping disorder, various psychological problems and problems with unborn babies."

So let's all help the authorities

concerned to stop noise pollution.

**Sharmin Rashid**  
Department of English  
Lalmatia Girls College, Dhaka

### Distortion of history

Distortion of the history of our Liberation War by certain so-called intellectuals is a crime. Distortion of historical facts have, in fact, divided the nation into two groups--Liberation supporters and those opposed to it. The army chief has rightly said that after 36 years of our liberation war we could not even recognise our father of the nation. We fully agree with him. This has happened due to those people who tried to educate our children with lies.

**A reader, On e-mail**

### Software Fair

Don't you ever wish you had a software which could enable you to receive and send e-mails in Bengali? Are you determined to get rid of all the scrappy paperwork or records you have been keeping of the boarders in your house or hostel? Do you want to cut the costs of buying an expensive trainer board (a device which can check the integrity of other electric circuits) in your hardware firm? Or just find out about long lost friends?

All you needed to do was check out the Software Fair going on in Northern University in their Iqbal Road campus between February 27 and 28.

The two day long fair has opened the frontiers of challenge & competition for its students.

An essay writing competition was also in progress. The topic obviously had to be technology based and the winner was chosen by Prof. Dr Akramuzaman of the department of Physics, Jahangirnagar University.

In another laboratory, a programming contest was on, in which students were required to solve five mathematical problems.

The final day started with judges placing the works of our going-to-be programmers under the micro-

scope. The students learned a great deal from their mentors about how to make their software more user-friendly & efficient.

The two-day fair beckoned the emergence of a whole new breed of software engineers & programmers.

**Wrishi Thakur Raphael**  
Dhaka

### Expatriates' MP

The economy of Bangladesh depends to a great extent on the money remitted by the expatriates living in the Middle East, America, Australia and Europe. So it is time for the nation to give them the opportunity to select a parliament member. Expatriates from Bangladesh should be given the voting right in the coming general election to elect their own representative (MP) in the national assembly to represent their interests. It will improve the image of Bangladesh as a developing country in the world.

There must be two reserve seats in the parliament for the expatriates.

One MP from Europe, America, Australia, and Canada.

One MP from the Middle East.

1.All Bangladeshis living in a foreign country must register themselves with the respective Bangladesh embassies.

2.Candidates must put their CV, experiences and references online with scanned copies of their educational certificates and experiences.

3.Candidates must not be allowed to represent any political party in Bangladesh; politically they must be neutral. Their main duty will be to represent the interest of the expatriates in Bangladesh like investment, housing, public relations, travel, and to advise the Bangladesh government on job possibilities for Bangladeshis in a foreign country, to help Bangladeshi students to study in a foreign university and to help the expatriates who would like to come back to Bangladesh permanently.

**Dr. Farid Majumder**  
Software Engineer, Germany

### Sheikh Hasina's claim

I strongly oppose Sheikh Hasina's repeated claim of speaking for the people of Bangladesh. It is a well known fact that most Bangladeshis rejected the Awami League and the BNP and their brand of politics and are willing to give the caretaker government the benefit of doubt. We have seen enough in the name of the people.

Please let them stay in peace for a while before the next elected government resumes business as usual with their hartals and murders in broad daylight.

It is an irony that these leaders talk about democracy while they don't practise it even within their own party.

**M.A.Kalam**  
On e-mail

### Tigers on top

Congratulations to our valiant boys on their great success against the giant Proteas. Surely, they deserve the loudest of applauses as they swung back quite amazingly after two heavy defeats at the hands of Australia and New Zealand. As the critics were already having their lips licked, the Tigers once again got up from their slumber and roared to create panic for yet another top side in the world. Hats off to the rising stars of our country!

Hardly anyone would have believed that the Tigers would bounce back in such an awesome fashion. The stage was set for a spirited young brigade of talents to show the world what they are capable of. As the 22-year old Ashrafal bludgeoned his way to scoring a vigilant yet blistering 87, it was up to the spinners to make life difficult for the South African batsmen on a slowing wicket.

Dancing to the tunes of Calypso, this squad of nineteens and twenties surely has more flare to display to the world.

**Md. Sabbir Saadat**  
European Standard School (ESS)

### “Dr. Yunus and the future of Bangladesh”

I agree wholeheartedly that Dr. Yunus and his political party Nagorik Shakti is the only hope left for Bangladesh and its people. Dr. Yunus has the perfect credentials for the job of leading the nation and cleaning up the mess created by the political parties which had run our country and devoured all the resources in the last 36 years. They had also corrupted the social fabric of this country, where it became the norm to amass wealth by corrupt means, "Ghush" (bribe, graft) became an acceptable way of life, truth and honesty became unacceptable; honest people were thought to be stupid.

But now if Dr. Yunus comes to lead our country it will be our last chance as a nation to survive with dignity in the international arena. But we should also not forget that to have a healthy democracy there should be an opposition in parliament, and we should not forget the present caretaker government's historic achievement in containing corruption and bringing order to this nation, and preparing it for real democracy!

**Shaheen Karim**  
Computer Systems Officer  
CTT Support Unit  
TAFE NSW - Western Sydney Region

### Vitiated social milieu

When we look at the pictures of the arrested people we see a sure sign of guilt in their faces. Only a few days ago they were roaming around boastfully as if nothing could touch them. They were not afraid of any action against them by the government.

When we hear of the corruption allegations and arrest of some people from "respectable families", we wonder what made them to come down to such a low level!

This brings us to conclude that only two things can stop them from such dirty acts:

- One is "fear". Fear of disclosure and punishment in the present world

- The other is "conscience", fear of the Almighty in the world-after.

But most of the above people doing such things have none, neither fear nor conscience.

An unhealthy atmosphere has been created in our country by all the governments who "ruled" our homeland for the past 36 years. People became corrupt living in this unhealthy atmosphere, as if it were a contagious disease. There was no "ideal" and people "imitated" the corrupt all around them and mainly the people at the top.

To eliminate this we have to create a "healthy atmosphere" in our country. The present CTG is trying to drive away the unhealthy elements. But at the same time they should look out for "honest" people and invite them to come forward and do something actively. We have to introduce "true" education imparted by "decent" teachers right from the childhood where our children will learn honesty, truthfulness and tolerance.

**N. G. Chaudhury**  
Luxembourg

### Extend Atish Dipanker Avenue

The caretaker government is taking many bold steps, which will benefit the people for a long time to come. Some of these steps relate to easing the problems of vehicular traffic movement in the capital city. In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the Adviser in charge of the Ministry of Communications to kindly take the necessary steps for extending the Atish Dipanker Avenue (popularly known as "Biswa Road") from Malibag rail-crossing and connect it with the Pantha Path Link Road. To implement this scheme some privately- owned buildings will have to be demolished requiring payment of a good amount of money as compensation.

But this payment will be 'money well spent' considering the benefits accruing from the project.

**Abu Abdullah**  
Karwan Bazar, Dhaka

### “Extraaa” trouble

I appreciated reading Mohammad Islam's article "Mandira hurts Tigers' sentiments" on the Star Sport (March 27, 2007). It is not comprehensible why Set Max is allowing such gibberish to go on live. I personally feel that Mandira Bedi has no quality whatsoever to host such a show. How Charu Sharma, Ayaz Memon and the others put up with her I don't know but she really needs to learn what to say when and how. Bangladesh's performance excelled India's in each and every department and that is why the latter lost and it was not a fluke. The way Mandira expressed her views in that show really tells a different story. In the match between Bangladesh and Bermuda also, her remark was objectionable when she quipped on a quiz question that was related to Bangladesh's track record in the World Cup.

She can be a talk-show awards or dance competition host, but nothing more than that. I believe all cricket lovers will agree with me.

**Fuad**  
On e-mail

### 'A culture of hate and spite'

This refers to the article by Hana Shams Ahmed in the Independence Day Special issue. The writer deserves our thanks for bringing forth an issue of immense

import for our national polity. In fact, the 'politics of hate and spite' often leading to a political culture of vulgarity and violence has been the mainstay of our politics and the nation as a whole had to pay a very heavy price in terms of loss of invaluable state and private property as well as innocent human lives. The irony was that a crop of undeserving politicians successfully implanted the culture of hatred and violence in the mindsets of the unsuspecting people and thereby dividing the nation vertically into two opposing camps.

While appreciating the effort of the writer in highlighting the deeds and misdeeds of the opposing camps, rather their leadership, I feel constrained to point out the fact that the author was not exactly 'calling a spade a spade', as the situation so demands. Instead, she resorted to 'the art of balancing'; a ploy more often than not resorted to by our 'progressive intellectuals' in their political writings. Some acts or incidents were reported by the writer which are not exactly to the dictates of history; rather these were simply a distortion of facts. Allow me to cite one: removal of Bangabandhu's portraits follow-

ing 2001 general election was not followed by placement of the portraits of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman. It is also a fact of history that the incumbent government at that time appealed to the 'angry' public not to defile the 'other one'. Such acts of political tolerance should not be downplayed. We need to be objective and honest and in so doing, we can help inculcate the elements of tolerance and fair play in our body-politic.

Such a course of action is perhaps the need of the hour; particularly at a time when we are most probably writing obituary notes for our erstwhile leaderships!

**Ahmed Ghani**  
Dhaka

### Our rights

We must support democracy and good governance.

Because we are living in a democratic environment we need to respect the constitution and the national flag. What else can we do?

We can show people the path to social justice and gender development.

We can make people aware of the constitutional issues and the right to good living.

The rule of democracy maintains that we must pay heed to people's words and views since we need to care for them.

**Romel Barua**  
Dhaka

### General's statement

Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed's statement regarding the founding father (Nation has failed to recognize father of nation: Gen Moeen, The Daily Star, 3/28/2007) is of utmost significance. This removes the most divisive issue from the political scene. This will remove the AL's monopoly on Bangabandhu. The next thing should be a single comment honouring all the sector commanders, freedom fighters who belonged to the armed forces and all freedom fighters in general.

It is also imperative to issue a statement recognising that Ziaur Rahman led the country through a very critical period and restored multi-party democracy.

This will bury all the past issues and usher in a new era of politics based on issues, rather than past events or personalities.

**Mahboobul Alem**  
Meadows Court, Fremont



Bangladesh has 125,000 small and large poultry firms producing 250 million broilers and 6 billion eggs annually, with an annual turnover of \$750 million. About four million Bangladeshis are directly or indirectly associated with poultry farming.

As four million Bangladeshis are directly or indirectly associated with poultry farming, it shows how backward we are as a country since we could not do anything to protect the industry from bird flu.

"If we had the appropriate technology we could confirm the outbreak of the virus at least two-weeks earlier," a veterinary expert said, asking not to be identified.

A UN official said they suspected bird flu had been raging in the country for several weeks or months before the authorities could confirm it.

Bangladesh needed equipment and training for the staff at the laboratory, another official of the fisheries and livestock ministry said.

Samples are sent to the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute but the laboratory cannot do the full range of testing needed to confirm the presence of the H5N1 bird flu virus.

Samples have to be sent to Bangkok for confirmation, a costly and time-consuming step.

Wake up Bangladesh and its so called experts on science and technology and think about the future.

**Sayed Rahman**  
Founder, BANGLA IT