

Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Adivasis in trouble

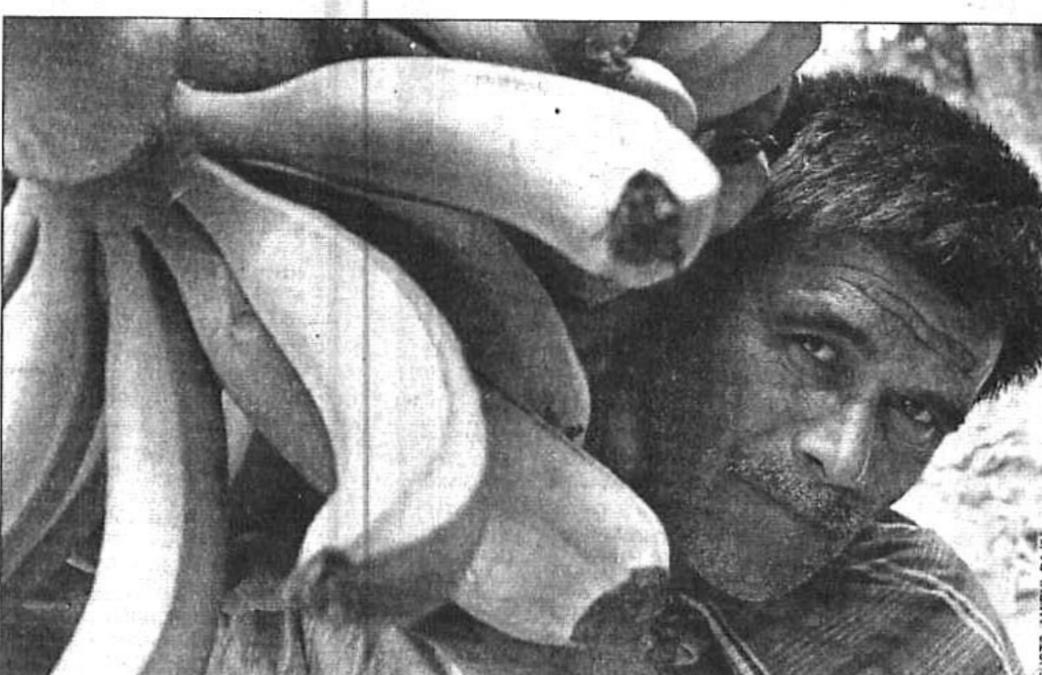
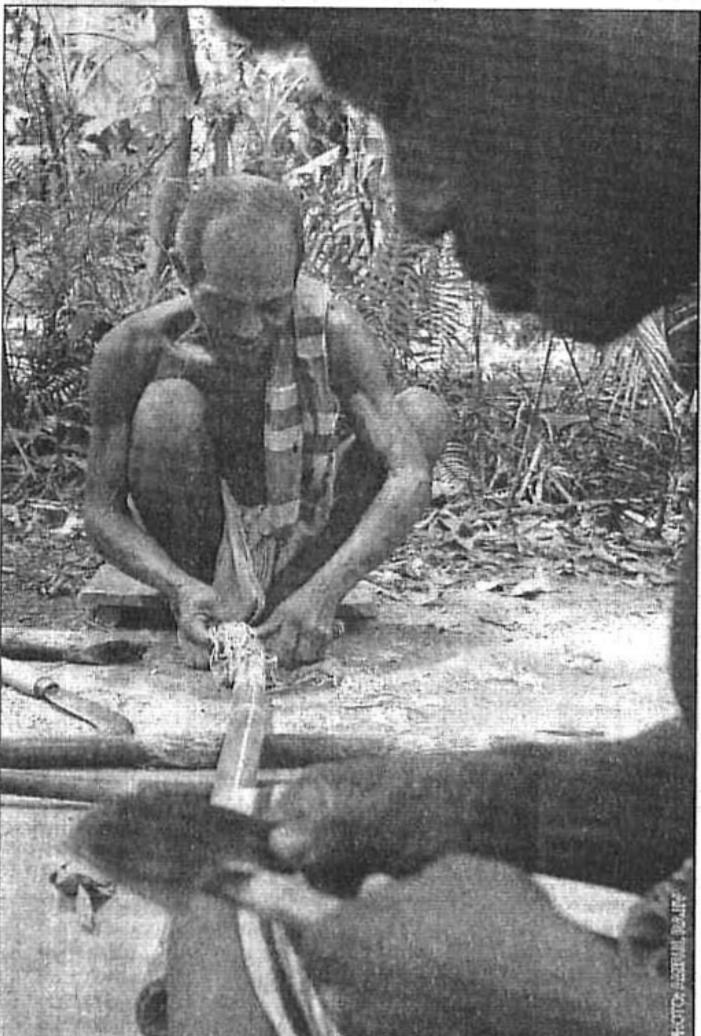


PHOTO: AMRUL RAY

Twenty thousand Garo Adivasi people of Modhupur Gahr under Tangail District in Bangladesh are living there for more than 600 years. Their life and culture are very close to the nature, earth, and the forests. The beauty of the area is now being destroyed by the Forest Department. The Forest Department with the help of

the law enforcers is destroying their crops, paddy fields, houses, banana plantations and pineapple orchards in the name of biodiversity and environment preservation. The Forest Department has destroyed 330 acres of banana plantations. Indigenous People love forests and their culture is dependent on

nature and forest but the so-called development now endangers their very existence.

The government should immediately look into the matter and save the indigenous people.
Nisharon Nokrek
On e-mail

armed forces are our own people and still we have a big gap between us. Why do we have to arrange seminars on improvement of civilian-military relationship after 35 years of independence? This is an irony.

I face questions on every occasion (abroad) by others who did not see Ershad rule why did we topple Ershad when so-called politicians are doing even worse.

The question does not have an easy answer. I was very optimistic when the

Bangladesh too. Why can't we do it? Why can't we attract investors? Why and how does, even war-torn Vietnam passes Bangladesh? In order to achieve a goal we must have a vision first and it never occurred to me that we had one in the last 35 years.

The biggest disappointment to me is the role of university teachers. They behaved like submissive people and I know they are becoming corrupt too. Because of the widespread financial and moral corruption, they cannot talk

interpret this as a planned attempt to curb their independence. This culminated in mindless violence.

Without creating turbulence, students should master the art of peaceful demonstration. They seem to take it for granted that vandalism is the only way to achieve their goals. Most importantly, the police must be blamed for exacerbating the predicament by firing teargas shells, charging and beating up the students. How exactly was that supposed to bring the situation under control? The ramifications was that students throughout the country engaged in protest in unison against the state of emergency.

The repercussions are delaying of exams, suspension of classes, strikes etc.

Ananya Das
East Basaboo, Dhaka

When I was a student of the then Ahsanullah Engineering College, we had the proud privilege of operating the first independent voice transmitter-- broadcasting in Bangla!

Students by nature are volatile; more so in the playing field and that too in their home ground! Trying to be tough and haughty is nothing but a recipe for trouble and conflict. Unfortunately, responsible people ignored the maxim "As you sow, so you reap". To add insult to injury, the police was let loose to teach the students a lesson. The caretakers have failed to take care; when it was most needed.

Counter attack is no solution to cover up misdeeds.

Asenior citizen

Dhaka

Calm down

The students of the many universities who joined the recent violence should calm down and behave responsibly. Their actions are a shame to the nation and to the educational institutions they represent.

The main losers in the last 6 months of caretaker government have been the corrupt and the power hungry. In the last 36 years, this is the first time that the corrupt are facing the consequences of

their actions.

So who are the students fighting for? To bring back the corrupt in the name of democracy? Our state university students have become unruly. A degree that should take 4 years, takes 6 years in these universities. There is a minority of students who play politics and ruin the education system. These are the bullies who have no respect for education or for teachers. But what is disgraceful is that the so-called democratic parties like the AL and the BNP use innocent students to play their dirty political games.

It is time the students started thinking about the country, instead of the AL or the BNP.
M. Raheem
New York City, US

Vat on education

Believe it or not the government has imposed 4.5% VAT on English medium education. No such tax on Bengali, Arabic or even Sanskrit medium education, just English medium. Isn't it funny?

Won't it create a sense of frustration amongst the parents who want their children to be educated via English language which is the most widely accepted language in the world?

Fayaz Khan
On e-mail

Ship accidents

Of late lighter age vessels are sinking out in the bay harming the economy and endangering our shipping lanes. All those lighter age ships sinking are either too old or otherwise not authorised to ply in the bay. The M series vessels are not legally authorised to ply out of inland waters if not permitted by the authorities to cross the bay. Such permissions are given to relatively bigger, stronger and properly maintained vessels. But due to negligence of enforcing agencies, most unworthy vessels cross the channel and sometimes meet with accidents causing loss of life and property.

The government should immediately stop plying of vessels beyond their authorised routes.

M.S. Huq
Uttara Model Town
Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.

I pray for his early recovery.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the government move to ensure better treatment for him.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Language
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural
University, Dhaka

It is really shocking that one of your photo journalists, Showkat Jamil, had met with a tragic accident while on his professional duty.