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Victory Day: an observation



A very positive thing happened this VICTORY DAY: no banners and no slogans. In future banners and slogans must be done away with. And the events proved beyond doubt that year after year Bangladesh produces some of the best planned events in the world. This land is brimming with talent. The level of culture and design of events this year was just impeccable.

And now another piece of news. A War Crime Tribunal would be welcome if it helped to heal the gaping wound in the nation. Three million people were killed, hundreds of thousands of women and children raped, and millions injured, and billions of dollars lost to the economy at the hands of Punjabi dominated pre-1971 Pakistani Army, civil servants and its political leaders- that can never be allowed to be forgotten. Sadly, the wound cannot be healed since it was the first government of Bangladesh that could not bring the cowardly Pakistani rapists and killers to justice.

Please tell me why I may be wrong. A correction would be most welcome.

Taslima, One-mail

Population planning

Mahmood's letter on the matter (Nov.30) was all about family planning than anything else. However, in Bangladesh context; resettlement or relocating families is out of question. I firmly believe that we must again go for a population management (coined by Mahmood) programme with determination and full mobilisation; if needed with the support of the armed forces as and where needed.

I believe our target should be "Zero", not one; particularly at the low income level of the population; where growth levels are far above "two". Regarding studies, I wonder how it can help; we all know that our population is astronomically large, and our land area more or

less constant. I am sure the government is fully aware of the situation without any further verbose reports and endless tabulated data. The fact of life is seen, felt and heard everywhere.

The most appropriate method in my opinion would be to give injections that can stop fertility; if not permanently; at least say for ten years. Maybe there are other effective methods, which can be practised. However, it will need international support, both financial and logistic, to implement this vast programme which should reach all our villages.

But the crux of the issue is, who will bell the cat? Politicians will love to have this programme, as opportunities are always there to line their pockets; directly or indirectly.

Pocket-lining is a subject on which our politicians and their side-kicks are past masters. After all it is their principal aim and objective in the guise of "Desh Sheba" and other catchy slogans and speeches, which they simply love to deliver! That is our biggest drawback; and frankly I have no solution for it. S.A. Mansoor Dhaka

University teachers

Since our teachers cannot be disciplined by the law, and that they cannot discipline themselves, the only recourse for the people of Bangladesh is to impose upon them the discipline of the market.

The public universities should be privatised: once private, they

will charge market rates, and teachers won't be able to moonlight as politicians and shut down the institutions.

They will have to compete for market share; in short, they will have to start earning their living, like the rest of us, instead of being subsidised by the rest of us.

We, the people, want an end to subsidised campus politics.

Iftekar Sayeed
Dhanmandi, Dhaka

Sidrvictims

I read with great interest the article by Farida Akhter on the above subject as it appeared in The Daily Star on 17 December. The author has aptly echoed the feelings and sentiments of many of us.

Following the recent devastations in vast areas of the coastal districts, we have heard our parents and grand-parents say how we, the solvent people, can be of help to the poor Sidr victims.

This was a right question raised when we were about to perform sacrifice through observance of the holy Eid-ul-Azha.

Ajwaad Zaman
Cantonment English School
Chittagong

Thoughts on korbani

God desired to test the submissiveness of his messenger and the messenger dreamed that he ought to sacrifice his dearest. It was his own flesh and blood his SON.

I serve deference, as the apostle of God was about to sacrifice his willing son the irenic hands of God played its tricks. The child was saved. This is how the religious ritual of "sacrifice" got rooted.

Now, to my mind, we must go through a deserving and painful introspection as to the nature of our sacrifice! God, indeed, asked for the dearest.....

Mohammad Aktaruzzaman, MD (Dr. Zaman)
Wake Allergy Asthma & Sinus Center, PA
Wake Forest, North Carolina

Privatisation of Rupali Bank

We have heard about Rupali Bank being privatised. The government took the decision to sell its shares to the private entrepreneurs. In the tender, a Saudi royal family member won the bid. But the lengthy process and the sluggish reaction of Saudis affected the privatisation of the bank. This is also affecting the share market.

So it is necessary to take prompt action in this respect.
Nasir, Dhaka



Sidr: A recurring misfortune?

In 1991, I experienced the destruction of Cyclone Gorky. At that time I felt how much insecure we people were. Today when I see the sufferings of the Sidr-affected people and areas, I still find people being helpless facing the crude wrath of nature. This is indeed very unfortunate. Years passed since Gorky, we still remain as vulnerable as we were. Bangladesh being a delta with most of its parts in coastal areas, will face natural disasters like cyclone, hurricane or even tsunami very often. Therefore, we must fortify ourselves to fight such calamities. There should be public awareness campaigns for disaster management in these coastal areas.

throughout the year. People of these coastal areas should be trained on safeguarding themselves along with their belongings such as cattle during the disaster. There should also be clear understanding and knowledge on the needful to be done after the crisis. Adequate number of cyclone centres should be developed in these areas. All schools, colleges, mosques or other infrastructure should be developed in such a way so that they can serve as shelters during the disaster period. We expect relief operation to go ahead in order for people in the cyclone battered areas to return to a semblance of normalcy. I have been informed by a newspaper

that 14 million people are yet out of shelter or rescue coverage. This is indeed shocking! I urge the government, the private sector and NGOs to identify the poor of these coastal areas and rehabilitate them with enough resources to fight back. The weather forecasting team should be more efficient and updated to deliver the right news at the right time. I earnestly wish that our countrymen were resilient and capable enough to fight such recurring misfortune anytime anywhere in the years to come. May the Almighty bless all the victims with patience and courage.

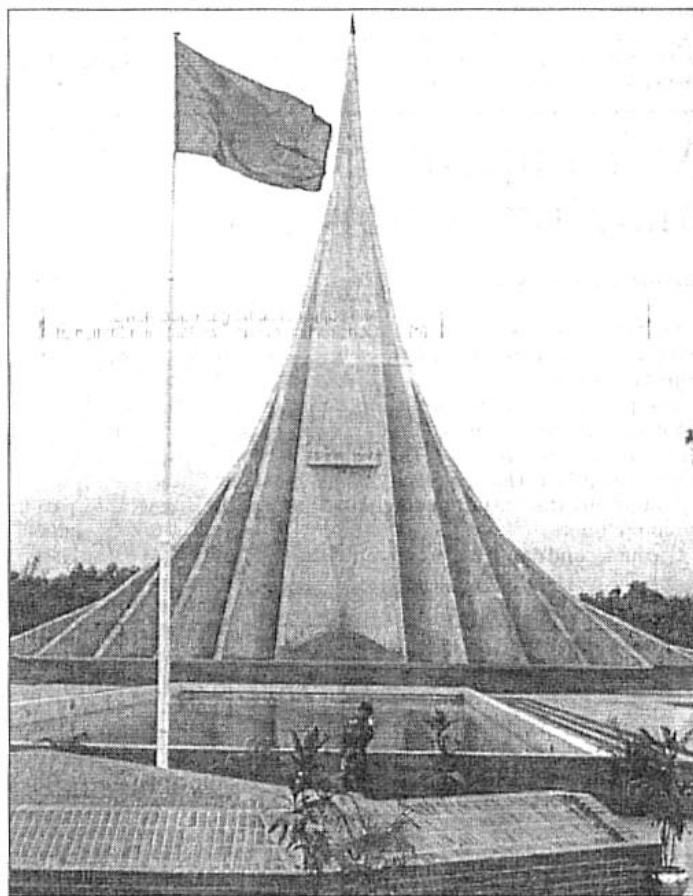
Rahnuma Hadi
Dhanmandi, Dhaka

Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority

Setu Bhaban
New Airport Road, Banani
Dhaka-1212
Web Site: www.jmba.gov.bd

Invitation of Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Communications, (MoC).				
2	Agency	Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA).				
3	Procuring entity name	Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA).				
4	Procuring entity code	Nil.				
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.				
6	Invitation for	Construction of security fencing around the trail segment area of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Area, Bhuapur, Tangail during the year 2007-2008.				
7	Invitation Ref No.	Tech/JB-22/2007-624				
8	Date	Dated:				
KEY INFORMATION						
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.				
FUNDING INFORMATION						
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB/JMBA.				
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Nil.				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION						
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	Not applicable.				
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	Not applicable.				
14	Tender package No.	1 (one).				
15	Tender package name	Construction of security fencing around the trail segment area of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Area, Bhuapur, Tangail.				
16	Tender publication date	Date: December 27, 2007	Time:			
17	Tender last selling date	Date: January 20, 2008	Time: During office hours.			
18	Tender closing date and time	Date: January 21, 2008	Time: 12:00 noon.			
19	Tender opening date and time	Date: January 21, 2008	Time: 12.30pm.			
20	Name & address of the office					
	-Selling tender document	Assistant Director, Accounts Section, JMBA, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.				
	-Receiving tender documents	Conference Room, JMBA, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.				
	-Opening tender documents	Conference Room, JMBA, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.				
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	13/01/2008. To be presided by the undersigned.				
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER						
22	Eligibility of tenderer	i) Potential tenderers who have experience in similar type of works: at least 1(one) No of value not less than Tk. 02 (two) lakh during the last 5 (five) years.				
		ii) The intending tenderers shall have to apply through their letterhead to the Executive Engineer (Road & Bridge), JMBA to obtain permission for the issuance of the tender documents.				
23	Brief description of the works	Construction of security fencing around the trail segment area of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Area, Bhuapur, Tangail during the year 2007-2008.				
24	Brief description of related services	Nil.				
	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
25	1	Construction of security fencing around the trail segment area of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Area, Bhuapur, Tangail, during the year 2007-2008	Bhuapur	500.00	12,500.00	1.5 months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS						
26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Liaquat Ali.				
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer (Road & Bridge), JMBA.				
28	Address of official inviting tender	Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.				
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No: 8854720			Fax No: 9888414	
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders.					
			Md Liaquat Ali Executive Engineer (Roads & Bridge)			
GD-4710						



Reburial issue

May I take this opportunity to compliment Gen. Moeen U. Ahmed for all the good work he has been doing. However, I write this letter not just to praise him but to broach the subject of reburial of the seven Birshresthos. I would like to request him to reconsider his proposal to re-bury the Birshresthos at the Jatiyo Smriti Shoudha. I have the highest regard for the heroes and all the fellow comrades who gave their lives for the cause of our liberation. Being fully aware of the sensitivity of this matter, I would submit that a nation is larger than the glorious war of independence. Jatiyo Smriti Shoudha is not just about the Shahids of special ranks and honour roll; it is for all those who fought for the war - all those dead or alive. It is an icon of the entire nation. I am personally aware of many valiant freedom fighters - some dead and some alive who did not receive any gallantry award. No wonder, in many countries there are national memorials for the unknown soldiers.

In the United States of America, for example, you have the Arlington National Cemetery where all the war heroes are buried and you have the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial which stand apart in the National Mall, signifying separate chapters of their national narratives. Patriotism is more than one-stop shopping.

Today in Bangladesh a national consensus seems to be building on the trial of the war criminals. General Moeen can

leave a lasting legacy to the nation by throwing his weight behind this historic and just demand.

Habib Khondker
Professor, Abu Dhabi, UAE

We have come to learn that all the Birshresthos will be reburied near the National Monument at Savar. The reason, this will make it easy for us to show our respect. I am sorry, this is simply grotesque to me. These great souls sacrificed their lives for our future. They are all buried in Bangladesh soil. We should be thankful and respectful to them and their families and the cause they fought for. They did not say, "We will stay in Dhaka as going to villages will bring discomfort."

If someone cannot take the trouble of going to a remote place in Bangladesh to show his/her respect, then that's not needed. Recommendation to those: put pictures of the seven Birshresthos in your living room and avoid traffic.

If anything, the young generation should be sent to those villages and remote areas to feel that these people made the supreme sacrifice to change the lives of fellow people. The life in those villages has not changed, while we enjoy the luxury in Dhaka.

This project should be stopped. Please let them rest in peace in the tranquillity of villages. They should be far away from the corrupt ruling class of Dhaka.

M F Fakhrul
Cambridge

BPDB'S Local Tender Notice

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource/Power Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Dinajpur.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of 50,000 (fifty thousand) Metric Ton Coal for Barapukuria Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, BPDB, Barapukuria, Dinajpur.
7	Invitation for tenders Ref No	Pur-433/2007.
8	Date	24.12.07.
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	BPDB'S Revenue Budget.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.
14	Tender Package No	Not applicable.
15	Tender package name	Procurement of 50,000 (fifty thousand) Metric Ton Coal for Barapukuria Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, BPDB, Barapukuria, Dinajpur.
16	Tender publication date	24.12.2007.
17	Tender selling date	26.12.2007 to 20.01-2008.
18	Tender closing date and time	21.01.2008 at 11.00am.
19	Tender opening date and time	21.01.2008 at 11.30am.
20	Name & address of the office	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
	Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
	Selling tender document (other)	Note applicable.
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of tenderer	Renowned manufacturer/supplier.
23	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of 50,000 (fifty thousand) Metric Ton Coal for Barapukuria Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, BPDB, Barapukuria, Dinajpur.
24	Brief description of related services	N/A.
25	Price of tender document (BDT)	BDT 10,000.00 (ten thousand) as a Pay Order (non-refundable) from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Director of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.
26	Lot	Identification of lot
	Lot-A	Procurement of 50,000 (fifty thousand) Metric Ton Coal for Barapukuria Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, BPDB, Barapukuria, Dinajpur.
	Location	Barapukuria Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, BPDB, Barapukuria, Dinajpur.
	Tender security amount in BDT	BDT 40,000.00 (forty lac) only
	Completion time	03 (three) months from the date of signing of the contract. Details are furnished in the delivery schedule.
27	Validity of tender and tender security	150 (one hundred fifty) days and 178 (one hundred seventy eight) days respectively from the date of opening of tender.
28	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abdur Razzaque
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (In-Charge), Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
30	Address of official inviting tender	WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
31	Contact details of official inviting	Tel: + 88 02 9550532, Fax +88 02 7126151
32	Special instruction	Any tender received by the purchaser after the deadline for submission of tenders shall be declared late, will be rejected, and returned unopened to the tenderer. The purchaser reserves the right to accept any tender, to annul the tender process, or to reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to contract award.
33	The tender will be performed according to "The Public Procurement Regulations-2003".	
Biddyt/Jan-674 (4)/28-12-07 GD-4699		Md. Abdur Razzaque Director (In-Charge), Purchase BPDB, Dhaka