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The Ekushey Exile

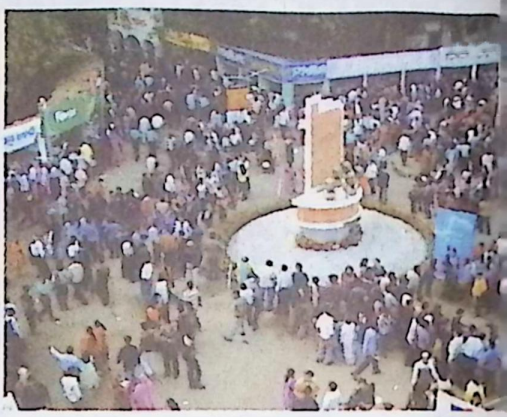
Looking at the Ekushey preparations, I was reminded of a Mela veteran who has not been able to physically attend in over two decades. Buried in most Bangla papers is the small news item that Taslima Nasrin's Indian visa has been extended by six months, in the face of tremendous opposition from one of the homegrown Indian militant Muslim groups.

Taslima today is a shadow of her previous self. Isolation from her original inspiration in Bangladesh, a life as a lost exile in Europe and now India has dried up her intellectual strength. When she talks/writes now, her analysis is weak and tone deaf. The result of an unproductive exile.

I remember a different Taslima. The unknown writer who exploded on the Dhaka scene in late 1980s. The topics she wrote about then may seem like retro-Feminism now, but at that time she was like a Molotov cocktail thrown into complacent Bangla *bhodrolok* society.

A long-time fan of Boi Mela, Taslima was one of the first to write about how the narrow confines and massive crowds had given cover to "eve teasers". In angry precise prose, she described the mathematics of invasive groping. Her essay inspired activists to form human chains at boi mela to protest male chauvinism.

Two decades after her rushed exile, no democratic government has asked her to return. But things could



be worse. Just ask Humayun Azad. Oh wait, you can't...

Naeem Mohaiemen
Dhanmondi

The Gloves are Off

I thank the writer of the article "The Gloves are Off" (February 1, 2008). He has highlighted the achievements of Adam Gilchrist's glittering career in a beautiful way. Though I myself am not an Australian fan but I cannot deny that Gilchrist has undoubtedly been one of the greatest wicket-keeper-cum-batsman to set foot on the cricketing world. His aggressive batting has always been a treat to watch. His sportsmanship quality is another praiseworthy feature of him. The cricket world will certainly miss this outstanding cricketer and without him cricket will be much less entertaining.

WasifWahed
Old Dohs

SUBMISSION GUIDELINE:

Letters to the Editor, Dhaka Diary and Write to Mita, with the writer's name and address, should be within 200 words. All articles should be within 1,200 words. A cover letter is not necessary, but every write-up should include the writer's name, phone number and email address (if any). While SWM welcomes unsolicited articles and photographs, it cannot accept the responsibility of their loss or damage. SWM does not return unsolicited articles and photos. Response time for unsolicited write-ups ranges from three weeks to two months. All articles submitted are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

All materials should be sent to: Star Weekend Magazine, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Fax: 880-2-8125155 or emailed to: <starweekendmag@gmail.com>

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