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"Proper" Bangla

It is true that we Bangladeshis are the only nation in the world who sacrificed their lives for our mother language, which is Bangla. After long 56 years, what we have achieved is a question to many including myself as far as speaking Bangla is concerned. Majority of Bangladeshis hardly speak Bangla in their daily life. What we all speak is some sort of distorted Bangla in local (Ancholik) accent. One can understand it when someone is at home with the family members using the local language, but I do not understand why the top politicians, the teachers, the economists and the journalists and high government officials fail to speak "shuddho

Bangla/proper Bangla". This is evident when we watch the talk shows on TV and watch interviews, 98% of the participants talk in their local accent. Which at times is not understandable.

It is not very difficult to speak proper Bangla. Proper Bangla is a very sweet/flowery language and sounds very nice.

Will the TV authorities concerned pay some attention, when they take interviews or arrange talk shows, to make sure that the entire conversation takes place in proper Bangla.

Sohel Ahmed
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Hospitals or death traps?

Bangladesh earned fame in terms of establishing some well-equipped reputed hospitals. Some of them are highly expensive and one has to pay through the nose. Still people try to admit their dear ones in such hospitals with the hope of getting better medicare. Alas! The doctors here pay little attention to the past history of the disease and remain concerned only with the present complaints of the patients. As such it further deteriorates the condition of patients. So instead of being cured, mostly the patients return home unwell due to improper treatment. The so-called consultants have manifold explanations in support of their misdeeds.

Now readers, it's a harrowing tale of a chronic liver disease patient who had no liver problems (as he was under constant supervision of a liver specialist of P.G. hospital) for the last couple of years and he was leading a normal life following some restrictions. Suddenly, he developed a knee joint pain and visited a big and famous hospital.

In spite of explaining about his previous liver disease the reputed orthopaedic consultant treated him with high pain killer 'Tramadol' whose leaflet suggests forbidden for liver disease sufferers. After admission the patient's whole body tests (MRI, heart, lung, CT scan and ultrasound) was done and more or less the reports were alright. Even ultrasound showed no fluid in the peritoneal cavity. However, with the intake of painkiller the patient's general condition deteriorated. After two weeks' stay in the hospital the condition partly improved but he developed fluid in the peritoneal cavity.

The question arises, why the fluid accumulated while he was under the supervision of renowned doctors in a "world class" hospital? The fluid was absent in first ultrasound report. Under such condition the patient was released with some medical advice. The patient developed some complications and was again advised to get admitted. During admission the consultant asked several questions which the patient replied correctly and was in complete sense. Even he took his lunch in the afternoon. To our utter disappointment, the treatment offered to the patient created a havoc---he started vomiting incessantly.

The consultant never visited the patient which he ought to do in case of a private hospital. Although the patient's condition was deteriorating but he was in sense and was shifted to surgical ICU. The Consultant on the following morning reported that the multi-system of the patient failed, he was in coma and the chance of survival was little. Such comment seemed unbelievable. This may be due to improper treatment which affected the whole body function, otherwise a patient could not be on the verge of death because of multi-system failure overnight or after 16-18 hours of admission when the patient had full sense and proper orientation of speech. Shifting to ICU indicated more care but instead of that, in this World Class hospital full of so-called renowned physicians, 'ICU' was a "Death Trap".

My aim is to alert readers about our hospitals. The Hippocratic Oath for medical practitioners turns out to be meaningless, as after achieving higher degrees they become money making machines only.

Apurbo Rahman
One-mail

Attack on RU VC and teachers
It is learnt from the newspaper that Shibir cadres assaulted the RU acting VC and some other teachers on 08 July, 2008, when they went to request the Shibir men to withdraw a road barricade on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at Binodpur Bazar in Rajshahi. This attack was outrageous and has been condemned by all.

I cannot believe that students can physically assault their teachers over any issue. This attack has shocked not only me but also thousands of people. Any attack on teachers is tantamount to an attack on parents. Even Shibir men claim themselves as the preachers and protectors of Islam. My humble (i) question to them is, does Islam ever allow attack on teachers? I strongly protest this attack and demand exemplary punishment to the Shibir cadres who are responsible for this attack.

Md Zillur Rahman
Dhaka

Harassment in government offices

Harassment in the government institutions is a very common in our country. We live in a free country but when we have to go to the government offices, we at once forget about the feeling of freedom due to the rude behaviour of the government officials. We hoped that this government would change the situation, but they disappointed us. It is really sad to know that even a peon can harass a common citizen easily. It is because there is no transparency in the activities of government institutions. Without transparency, it will be impossible to think about a welfare state. We see that still so many corrupt officials have been retained in their respective jobs and they seem to be above the law. This kind of disparity encourages corruption all the way. Such indulgence always delivers a negative message for our next generation. The prime condition of a welfare state is social justice. The government's attitude should never be negative but we see here the situation is totally different. When a government official does anything offensive, the government will try hard to save him from the allegation and sometimes we saw that such officials were rewarded for their misdeeds. It shows that we are really a failed state.

Mohammad Anisur Rahman
Abdul Gani Road, Pahartali
Chittagong

End politics of violence

I am an international student working part time for a security company. It's a twelve hour night shift. Today I am in a construction site. Whenever I am in a construction site I am really bored. But nowadays I have a laptop and mobile broadband modem. I can listen to music, have a peep in youtube, and, most important of all, I can browse all the newspapers from Bangladesh. Before the introduction of Internet, I was isolated from my beloved country. As a full time student, life for me is very

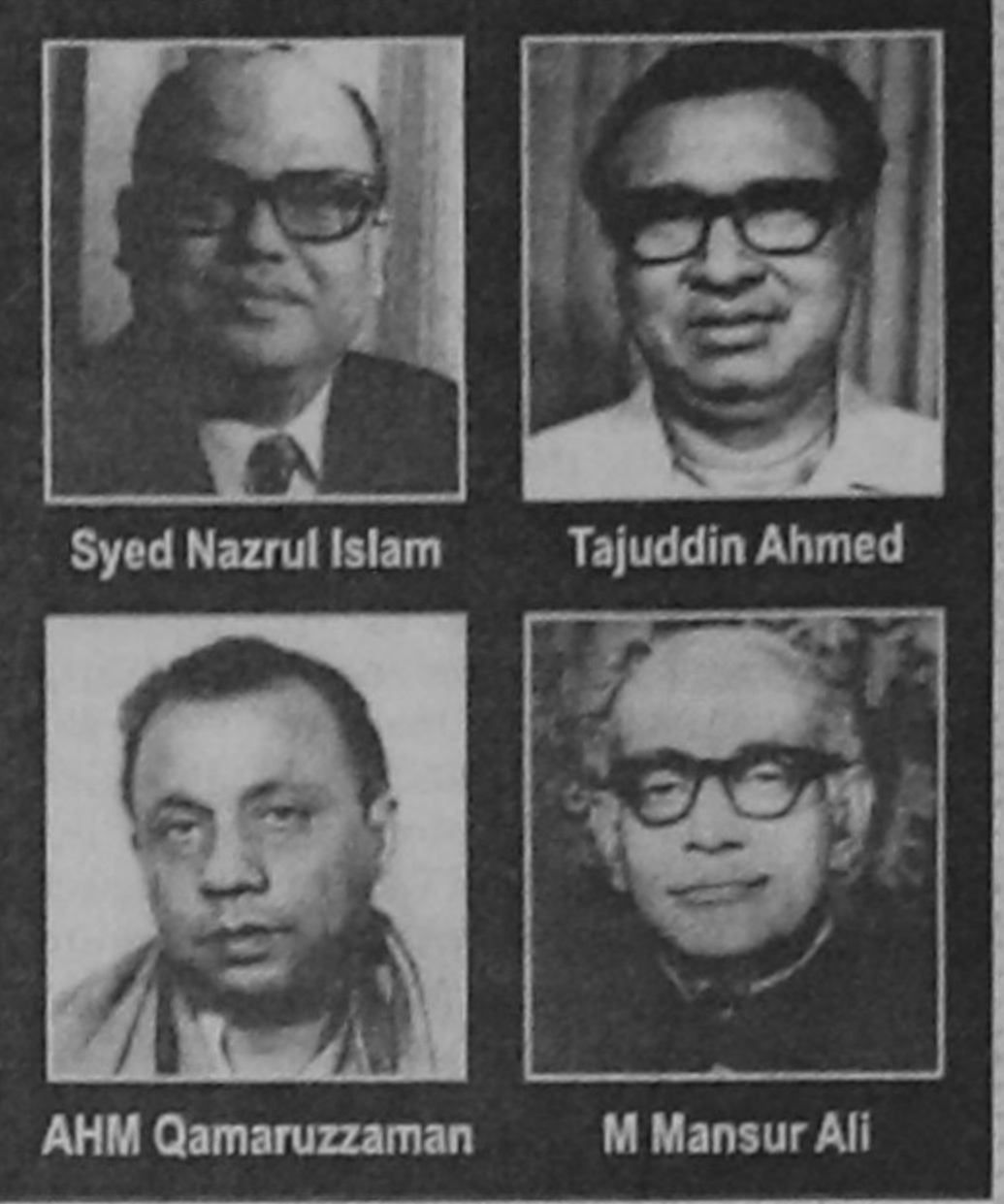
Who killed the leaders?

Our four National Leaders, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali, and AHM Qamaruzzaman (we remember them with due respect) were killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. But only one man is responsible for their deaths! It's heartbreaking and shameful news undermining the sacrifice of the leaders who laid down their lives for our country.

Everybody knows what the truth is!! The HC bench repeatedly claimed that the investigation into the Jail Killing case had not been done properly. It is necessary to find out the faults in investigation. We, the new generation, want justice to be established in society.

Mohammad Ariful Islam
Seoul National University
South Korea

THE SLAIN LEADERS



educated and sensible. They are straightforward and bold. We need them at least for a decade. The campus incident is not an isolated one. It is an indication that we are going back to the pre-11/11 days.

Please do something and please don't let the innocent people be the victims of those selfish politicians again.

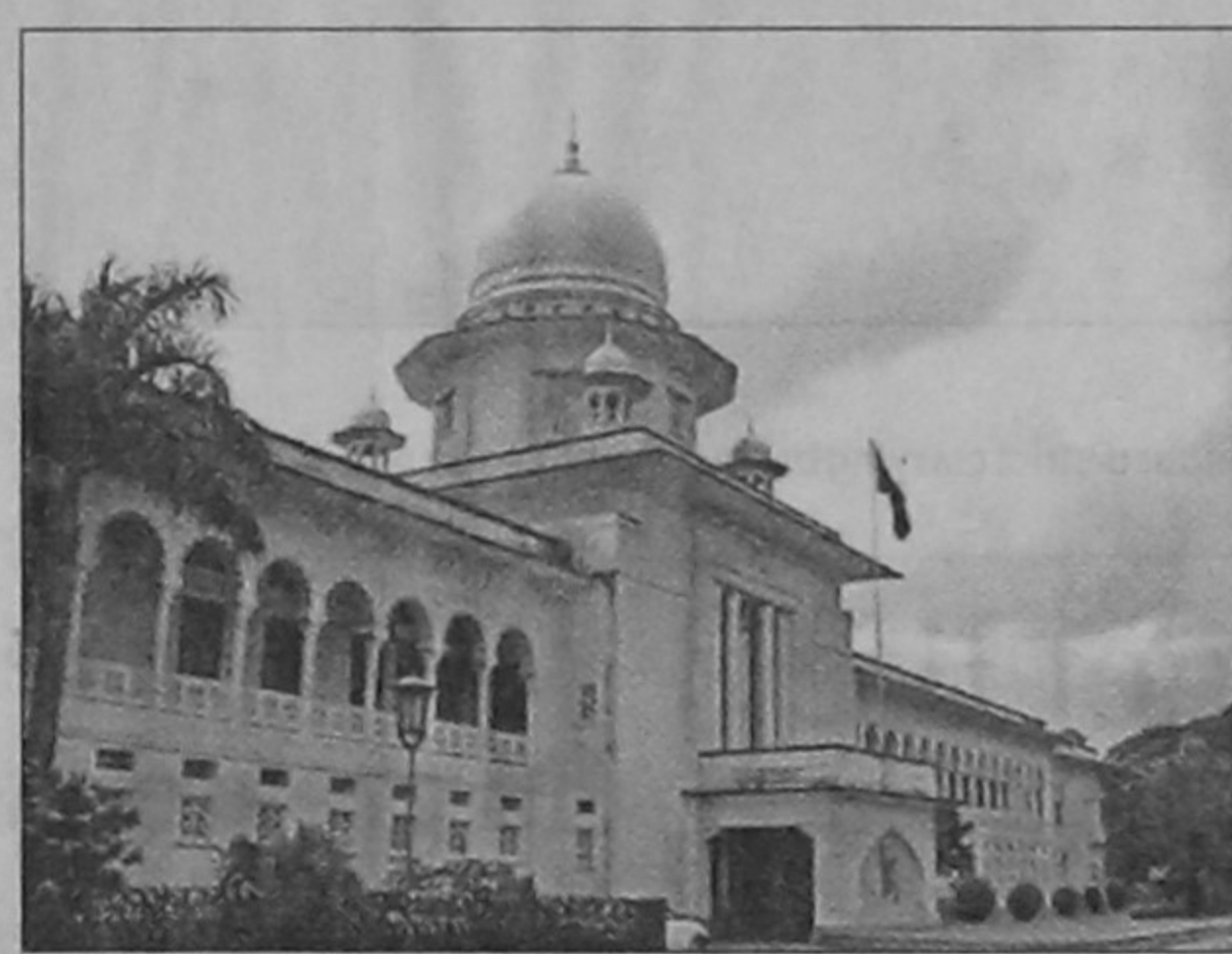
Suman
Newcastle, UK

Landslide

Landslide is a common affair in our country, particularly in the rainy season. A few days ago 11 people died in Chittagong. Recently, such a collapse occurred in Moheshkhali. So, undoubtedly it is a matter of major concern for us. We expect that the authorities will address the issue with due sense of urgency.

Rezaul haque mostafa chowdhury
Dept. of Microbiology
University of Chittagong

HC verdict



The judicial pronouncement of a bench of the High Court has curtailed the authority of the president to appoint the judges. By this judgment the court has ensured the freedom and prestige of the judicial department and has closed the door of the executive branch to exert influence on appointment of judges. This judgment is very important. In the past, we saw that every government exerted influence on all such matters. This tendency of the governments has created a lot of controversy. In these circumstances, such a verdict was much expected. So, we welcome this epoch-making verdict and hope that it will ensure the freedom of the judicial department.

Abdur Rahman
Chittagong

Close up 1 and democracy

The other day I was watching Close up 1, the talent hunt programme for singers that I very enthusiastically watch every year. The arrangement is satisfactory, for it accommodated public opinion with that of the experts. But I was dumfounded when I saw a singer, Tasmih, who in the opinion of the judges scored the highest while in the opinion of the viewers she scored poorly. It was the opposite for her competitor Robin who scored substantially less than Tasmih but received tremendous compassionate support of the viewers. Earlier, Robin had very wisely reminded the viewers not to vote for him just as a matter of sympathy for his being lame but to vote for him considering his performance. Viewers were not to heed to the appeal and the viewers' love for Robin overrode his appeal. Ultimately, the outstanding talent of Tasmih was subdued by the emotion of the viewers. This is an inherent flaw of democracy that nothing can be done against the popular opinion. However, in this talent hunt programme, I suppose measures were taken to weigh everything carefully to

search out for the best. This reminded me of the cardinal bottom line of democracy that in democracy majority must be granted and also the fact that democracy counts head equally not actually what is there in each and every head. Yet, in many countries arrangement is made to elect the best of the candidates. When in the developed countries most people are capable of making sound decisions regarding competence of a candidate, the situation is not the same in poor countries where majority of the population are illiterate. In imitating the developed countries we find in most cases that we elect the wrong candidates. Despite the unprecedented caution on the part of the administration in the recent local election, there was no significant change. In line with this, it can be presumed that in the parliamentary election also, after two years of preparation, no significant change shall occur. I think our emerging civic society should contemplate as to how to develop a democratic system by which we shall be able to elect the best candidate. No one should feel complacent that the American system is foolproof; it too needs periodic reform to address the time.

MZU Nasser
Banani, Dhaka

Delta policies, economics and politics

The delta regions in the world are fertile: low flat fertile lands, plenty of water, and natural fertiliser effect due to silt layers after periodic flooding. Farming and agriculture thrive; and the human fertility rate is also higher (higher density of population), providing plenty of human resources. How are we taking advantage of this natural situation?

The Bengal delta is one such region. It is noticed that some civic activist groups (in Bangladesh and West Bengal, India) oppose mega industrial development projects, as fertile agricultural land is taken over, and the people are displaced from their ancestral homes. The traditional, conservative minds of the displaced community are disturbed, and uncertainty prevails.

Therefore the question arises: what sort of awareness campaigns have to be mounted, so that industrial and mining development projects are made acceptable to the affected people. It is not a novel local situation; historians, politicians and economists have recorded such situations in various parts of the world through the centuries.

The awareness campaigns have to be undertaken in several sectors and levels: national, international, political, local. Such a coordination body is not visible in Dhaka today. The government plan some projects, and the negative reactions start piling up.

This is more so in Dhaka, as the parliament works in the absence of the opposition (the boycott syndrome); and the governance environment is corrupt. There are numerous NGO agencies in Bangladesh, and its campaigns and working modes certainly affect public opinion. Mega projects are delayed, regime to regime, for underhand bargaining (an open secret).

At present, the interim, non-political, non-elected caretaker regime in Dhaka is handicapped under various types of opposition campaigns to go ahead with vital and critical projects on emergency basis (like tackling the energy shortage).

It reveals that our top leadership in society (and in politics) are unable to tackle critical economic situations through pragmatic

solutions (that is why we had to invent this caretaker gov. concept).

We go about beating around the bush, and cannot enter the beautiful forest (Sundarbans) full of riches underground! We have everything, except one vital tool: national consensus.

A Mawaz
Dhaka

RPO provisions

I refer to your excellent editorial on this (26 August). I appreciate personally the provisions pertaining to front organisations, and foreign chapters. These are the most insidious ones that undermine the national character and are a bar to proper education and future of our country. Take for instance the most recent riot by JCD i.e. BNP student wing, which caused the death of one person and they vandalised many cars and buses in support of Tarique Rahman. Also many roads and highways throughout the land were blocked by the BNP student wing for hours causing immense trouble to the general public. Front organisations are the tools to exercise violent power without any responsibility and to corrupt the students.

Political chapters abroad are blurring the image of Bangladesh like a vampire draining out blood from a living body. I draw your attention to Barack Obama's refusal to say anything against George Bush when he was provoked many times by reporters during his recent visit to London. Obama drew the attention of journalists to the age old convention of 'unity abroad' and declined to say anything against either the Republican Party or George Bush or even John McCain! Ordinary Bangladeshi citizens and our leaders must learn from such examples and I welcome the requirement of disassociation of Bangladeshi political parties from foreign chapters as required by the EC.

Engineer Shafi Ahmed
London, UK

Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway

The very important Dhaka-Mymensingh highway is in precariously dilapidated condition. Hundreds of vehicles ply this road every day.

On either side of this highway from Dhaka to Mymensingh to Muktagacha to Jamalpur; Mymensingh to Haluaghat, Mymensingh to Netrokona, thousands of industrial establishments/ Agribusiness farms have sprung up. Several important educational institutions including three universities are located along this highway. Potholes, cavities and dykes make the road hazardous and time consuming, raising costs of human and commodity transportation. Many accidents took place on this road in the last couple of months. Repairing this highway is a crying need of the hour.

Professor Shamsul Alam Mohan
BAU, Mymensingh

Length of government service

A question has arisen regarding the length of government service. Like all other countries, it has really become necessary to raise the retirement age of government servants. The reasons behind it have already been discussed in many meetings, seminars etc. So there is nothing new to say about the reasons.

The truth of the matter is that the government is not acting promptly on the issue.
Eng. Adnin Tazri
Australia



Subversive politics

I am writing about the incident that took place on the Dhaka university campus and in the adjacent areas of it, following the news of Tarique Rahman's injury, which is totally unacceptable. The people who had vandalised the taxicab and set it on fire, that left one businessman dead, are the so-called students of the university. They remain in the university year after year as student to serve their political parties' interest.

We condemn all such subversive activities by the so-called students.
Anis Rahman
Shahidullah Hall
University of Dhaka

I am perplexed to hear about the DU students' demonstrating for Tarique Rahman's release. Have they forgotten what happened in the country during the BNP-Jamaat rule and what was Tarique's role?
Mohammed Rashed
One-mail

Whither Saarc?

Saarc having entered the 24th year of its existence is now a full grown youth. Unfortunately, Saarc hardly achieved anything whatsoever to go ga-ga over or write home about.

Ever since the inception of Saarc, the expectations were that Saarc would become a powerhouse like EU. Transit trade is the bottom line of EU's prosperity, involving various types of vehicles with consignments criss-crossing EU daily in thousands if not millions, generating billions of Euros in the EU countries.

Unless the caretaker gov provides transit to India, weaning Bangladesh towards a win-win culture of prosperity, Saarc will remain a perpetual talk shop or photo shop. The answers are blowing in the wind, is anyone listening?
Saljamaal
Firozshah, Ctg.

Our Asif, their Bindra

On the eve of participation in any international competition, the officials always say that it is not the prize, rather the participation is the main objective and spirit of the game. We have been hearing this since the independence of our country. And thus we are always satisfied with our dismal results in almost every competition. Our results are bad even in SAF games, let alone Commonwealth or Olympics.

But our Asif once secured gold from the Commonwealth Games and in that meet Indian shooter Bindra managed only the third position. But Bindra won the gold medal in the Beijing Olympics! Where is our Asif now? Some years back, he was beaten by some policeman. What can we expect from him now?

Do we have any right to expect positive results from our players?
Harun-or-Rashid
Sobhanbag, Dhaka

Detained BNP chief

I would like to comment on the much expected release of the immediate past prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia and her eldest son Tarique Rahman. From the very beginning of the anti corrup-

tion drive, the present military backed interim government arrested a large number of veteran politicians, including BNP, AL, Jamaat chiefs who were imprisoned for several months. AL president Sheikh Hasina along with Jamaat Amir Moullana Motiur Rahman Nizami were released after a couple of months. Unfortunately, BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia is yet to be released. What is going on?
Tonmoy Anowar
Student of DU

Uttara Gonobhavan

The historic Uttara Gonobhavan in neglected northern region, consisting of a total of sixteen districts, has been functioning as another presidential palace since the days of President Ayub Khan of Pakistan.

The credentials of some ambassadors were received by President Ayub Khan at this historic Uttara Gonobhavan, well-known to the diplomats of this region.

This attractive palace was once owned by Rani Bhavani of Natore district.

The father of our nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, also received the credentials of the ambassadors at this historic palace after Bangladesh came into being.

Such ceremonies have not been held here in the last three decades.

Would the caretaker government look into the matter?
Mohammad Anwarul Quadir
LLB
Advocate and Journalist
Masterpara, Chakdev
Naogaon

River erosion

It is important to know what steps are being taken to avoid the loss of land and maintain navigability of all the rivers round the year.

Dredging and riverbank protection are needed along with the rehabilitation of the victims of river erosion.
A reader, On e-mail

