Mindless Hindsight

CHINTITO

Sad Horrible **Terrible** *Nrishongsho* **Unbearable**
Amanobik Disgusting Tragic Disastrous *Sickening*
Unimaginable Brutal Eerie Frightening Sinister
SATANIC Inhuman **Violent** Wild **Cruel** Sadistic
Heartless **Atrocious** Chilling *Jhawghonno* Dreadful
Appalling Alarming **Horrendous** Shocking *Barbaric*
Extreme TERRIFYING **Outrageous** Wicked
Foolhardy Unbelievable Painful Savagery
Intolerable Alarming Ruthless Cold-blooded

Call it whatever you want, the word has not yet been invented to represent the tale that unfolded that fateful Wednesday morning. Dawn broke as on any other day. The morning was just not the same. The world found out only too late. First news was of one dead. A civilian. A rickshaw-puller, some said. A boy, others rumoured. Even that turned out to be wrong.

No one knew what went on inside the hijacked plane.
You talk to the hijackers to save the living.
You send them food and water.
You plead to them to release the two heart patients taken hostage.
You request them to free the women and the children.
You are not supporting the hijackers.
You are trying to save lives.
You do not definitely bomb the aircraft.

You think bombing the aircraft was the best option AFTER all the facts have come to light, after the situation has come under control.

Flashback 1977. Date September 28. Location: Dhaka Tejgaon Airport, Bangladesh. Type: Hijacking. Passengers: 156 (excluding the hijackers). Crew: 14. Fatalities: 0. Survivors: 156 (excluding the hijackers). Operator: Japan Airlines. Flight: 472.

"The Douglas DC-8, en route from Paris to Haneda Airport in Tokyo with 156 people on board, stopped in Mumbai, India. Shortly after taking off from Mumbai, five armed JRA (Japan Red Army) members hijacked the aircraft and ordered it flown to Dhaka, Bangladesh. At Dhaka, the hijackers took the passengers and crew hostage, demanding $6 million and the release of 9 imprisoned JRA members.

On October 1, Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda announced that the Japanese government would accept the hijackers' demands, on the principle that 'human life outweighs the earth.' Six of the imprisoned JRA members were then released.

"A chartered Japan Airlines (JAL) flight carried the money and the six released JRA members to Dhaka, where the exchange took place on October 2. The hijackers released 118 passengers and crew members. On October 3, they flew to Kuwait City and Damascus, where they released 11 more hostages. Finally, the aircraft was flown to Algeria, where it was impounded by authorities and the remaining hostages were freed." (*Wikipedia*)

And now 2007, Tokyo, March 30.

"The Tokyo District Court sentenced former Japanese Red Army member Jun Nishikawa (56) to life imprisonment Friday over the 1977 hijacking of a Japan Airlines plane and the 1974 seizure of the French Embassy in The Hague.

"The hijacking was a cruel and inhumane act, threatening passengers and crew with guns and hand grenades and confining the hostages in the airliner for up to seven days," Presiding Judge Tsutomu Aoyagi said. "The terrorist challenges to law and order deserve strong condemnation, and the defendant's criminal responsibility is extremely heavy." (*Asian Political News*)

If this was done that would not have happened. If that was done this would have happened. These are good as emotional outbursts, but the fact remains we are stuck with what actually happened. Many with hindsight observations are basing their solutions on what has been revealed after the incident came under control. They must realise that decisions implemented were taken swiftly when much of the events remained in darkness. We should remember that 72 became 7 overnight. It was that much dark in there.

If they with hindsight meant business, the nation may have been benefited from their attack plan had they spoken out at the time? The media were looking for every bit of information from anyone, including the rebels.