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## Surrender sites of Pakistan army

After long nine months of genocide, rapes, arsons, loots, plunders and a short 13 days' 'war', Pakistan Army Eastern Commander Lt. General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi ('Tiger') surrendered unconditionally on behalf of his 93 thousands war criminals and country at a public ceremony at Dhaka Ramna Race Course (now named Suhrawardy Uddan) to the Bangladesh and Indian joint command on 16 December 1971. Since the end of Second World War it is the largest surrender of any army. Also, this is one of the fastest surrender in military history.

However, 1971 surrender of Pakistan Army in Bangladesh was eventful. As a military custom each Pakistan army division, Air, Navy, para military forces surrendered separately after General Niazi. Outside Dhaka before and after 16 December, in order to save life many Pakistani units (division to company) surrendered to the advancing local joint command at public ceremonies by laying down their weapons/ badges of rank and by signing the instruments of surrender. For communication problem surrender of some units were delayed. A few units ignored the surrender of General Niazi. Some Bihari (paramilitary) gangs and other elements were active in pockets of Dhaka (Mirpur), North Bengal and Chittagong Hill Tracts until February 1972 and after 'negotiation' surrendered their arms.

Pakistan Army 107 Brigade commander Brigadier Malik Hayat Khan with his four thousand soldiers surrendered at a public ceremony in Khulna on 17th December. Chittagong people witnessed Pakistani surrender on 18 December. Four thousand Pakistani soldiers surrendered at Naogaon on 20 December.

Construction works of 'Shadhinata Stambha' monument complex has restarted at the historic Suhrawardy Udyana to commemorate the 7th March speech of Bangabandhu and 16th December capitulation of the occupation Pakistan Army. We would



request the government to identify and mark all Pakistan Army public surrender sites in Bangladesh. From India and other countries all surrender documents copies/ photographs/ videos can be collected and displayed. Living witnesses should also be video recorded.

These public surrender sites will serve as the graveyards of Pakistan Army's unsuccessful ambition to permanently colonise Bangladesh through a genocide.

M Emad

Oxford, UK

**Crowded cities**  
The country is turning into the land of the rich and the poor. Lots of people move to the towns every day leaving of the villages. As a result, the cities are getting crowded. But though they come to town in search of food and work for living, sometimes their dreams are not fulfilled.

We have to bring the whole thing within the purview of a long term plan that will stop the town-ward swirl of people and create better living conditions in the cities.

Bipra Kanungo  
Momin Road, Chittagong

**Attention: Apollo Hospital**  
In the past, following consultation, a patient used to get the prescription directly from the doctor at the Apollo Hospital. Patient had the choice either to purchase the medicine from Apollo's Pharmacy or to buy outside. But now Apollo doctors send all prescriptions through their Local Area Network to their Pharmacy Billing.

There are only two counters at the Pharmacy Billing with computers working at a snail's pace for the thousands of patients visiting Apollo every day. As a result, while my wife spent hardly ten minutes with the Consultant reviewing the test reports, I had to stand in the queue one and a quarter hour to get a printout of the prescription (for purchase

In spite of this, the poor people who cannot afford to buy winter clothes are the great sufferers. We should extend our helping hand to them. Thus, we can enjoy winter.

Mohammad Zia-ul-Haque

Eng. department

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### Triumph of judiciary

The Supreme Court verdict on Bangabandhu murder case has debunked Gladstone's adage "Justice delayed, justice denied". We had to wait for long 34 years to get justice. Many nefarious machinations were taken to scupper the process of the trial. The Indemnity Ordinance was the first step in this regard. The villainous politicians were very active to save the self-declared killers of Bangabandhu that was very unfortunate for our country.

Ultimately their attempts did not succeed ultimately. The apex court of Bangladesh played its due role boldly and responsibly. We cannot but grieve to the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for its landmark judgement. Now, the government should take necessary steps to execute the verdict as soon as possible. Besides, it is imperative for the incumbent government to make diplomatic endeavours to extradite the convicts who are hiding in different countries. If the govt. succeeds in bringing back the ringleaders to Bangladesh through the diplomatic process, it will be a great victory for the nation. We hope the AL led government will leave no stone unturned to materialize the SC verdict for the sake of rule of law.

Molla Mohammad Shaheen

Lecturer, Dept. of English

Leading University, Sylhet

### Bad example

It is most unfortunate that still party clout and favouritism take precedence over the 'rule of law' to be equally dispensed with. The waiver of conviction of Mr. Akbar, son of an AL leader, by the President is a glaringly bad example.

The AL or Mohajote government is failing to deliver fair play and by that, together with many other inequities/inadequacies, it is going downhill, paving the way for the opposition to take to streets.

Dowran Hafiz

Auliabab, Dohar, Dhaka

### Launch capsizes

It is refreshing to see that the government has decided to take stern actions against those responsible for the recent launch capsizes in Bholia. If the authorities mean what they say, and are willing to follow through with it without bias or prejudice, it will set a precedence worth following.

Is the government also willing to look into, and take similar actions for the countless road mishaps, launch capsizes and train derailments that have been taking place over the last 38 years? Or is this particular launch capsizes a case of "special interest"?

What about all the lives that have been lost till now? And what about those who caused all the deaths through negligence and irresponsibility? A truck runs over a rickshaw, kills everyone in it, and then the driver of the truck makes good his escape. It is news which appears only once on the pages of a newspaper and is then buried and forgotten forever. We don't care because those in the rickshaw were not one of ours. Or maybe because those the dead leave behind discover that justice is not meant for all. I am yet to see a single fleeing truck driver being made to justify his misdeed. It is the same story with those (at every level) who mismanage movement over water, rail and in the air.

The accepted norm for those who could not care less about the lives being lost is "You can wrong, and not be held responsible". Is this the standard we have set for ourselves?

Dr. C. Zaman

Ottawa

Canada

### Firing range in forests

After going through a series of reports on depleting Modhupur forests in The Daily Star, I visited the forest and became frustrated seeing the destroyed forests. But it was another surprising matter for me to see a BAF firing range in Rasulpur area of the forests. What is the effect of sounds of bombing by aircrafts on the animals of the forests?

Pradyut Kumar Saha

Sukrabard, Dhaka

## Slow moving rickshaws



AMADUL HUQ / DRIKNEWS

Transports play an important role in carrying people and goods from one place to another. It may be both speedy and slow transports. Rickshaw is one of them and unfortunately it is one of the causes of traffic jam. It causes traffic jam in the narrow lanes in the city area, especially in Dhaka city. Scooters are also responsible for traffic jam. As a result, traffic jam is a common phenomenon in our city life. It is also so acute in almost all the urban areas of Bangladesh. So, to lead a traffic jam-free life rickshaws and

scooters should be removed from the towns.

Moreover, two flyovers one from Gulistan to Babu Bazar Bridge and another one from the same place to Jatrabari are very much necessary to avoid traffic jam. I would like to thank the govt. for taking such kind of steps. Actually, the people don't like to see any kind of traffic jam any more.

Md. Abdus Salam

Senior Assistant Teacher

Joypara Pilot High School

Joypara, Dohar, Dhaka

### Susang Durgapur

Susang Durgapur situated in one of the districts of Bangladesh called Netrakona is 182 km from Dhaka. It is a genuine natural splendour of woodland river & hills where the Garos and other tribals reside. One can easily take pleasure in boating in the river, seeing the green bushes around, climbing hills etc. Wild elephants at times comes from the jungle. However, going to Susang Durgapur is bothersome for both the domestic and overseas tourists because of the communication problem in this area. Nonetheless, especially during winter, Durgapur is crowded with many tourists.

It is my firm conviction that development of the communications system and availability of transport including adequate number of hotels, motels, guest houses etc could certainly lead to the arrival of many local and international tourists in Susang Durgapur. It is such an exotic place! As a matter of fact, Susang Durgapur can be one of the most attractive destinations for the visitors.

Shohag Mustafij  
MBA (Strategic & International Management)  
University of Dhaka

### HM Ershad

I was surprised when I found the former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad all of a sudden transformed himself from a poet to a columnist. His article 'Untold story of Grameen Bank' gave me new information about the contribution of late General M.A. Munim, his wife Prof. Ayesha Akter Munim and even a new insight on President Ershad.

President Ershad suffered a lot for his decisions and actions. As a poet, he must have been inspired by his sufferings to write more poems.

Dennis D. Datta  
Mirpur, Dhaka

### Rickshaw issue

The logic is simple. Eliminating rickshaws in Dhaka city would mean less people would migrate to Dhaka from the rural areas. This would be an effective way of controlling the population of Dhaka. This would also mean less crime in Dhaka as well as less traffic jam. As far as the rural areas go, the government will have to decentralize and develop the other cities in Bangladesh to create more opportunities for the people. Let's all move forward and try to keep up with the rest of the world.

Aminur Rahim  
New DOHS  
Mohakhali, Dhaka

### Nizami's fatwa

A couple of days earlier, there were news reports in some Bangla newspapers on Mr.

Matiur Rahman Nizami, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami.

He is reported to have given a

Fatwa, 'religious ruling' that

the present government's

initiative to try the war criminals are, in fact, acts of anti-

Muslim and anti-Islamic kind.

We do not know wherefrom he

brought these rulings of Islam

for the people of Bangladesh,

but we do hear the interpreta-

tions of the Holy Quran

which rather emphasize

severe punishments for

rapists, arsonists, killers,

unpatriotic citizens and

collaborators who work

against the motherland. In

Islam, the people who work

against their homeland,

support the occupiers and

invite the invaders are "non-

believers".

During the war of liberation in 1971, the present listed

war criminals were directly

involved in all the above

crimes. They raped our

women, they burnt many

houses, they killed Mukti

Bahini men, they actively

collaborated with the

Pakistani army, they helped

locate the houses of patriotic

liberation forces to loot and

burn for which they deserve

"capital punishment" accord-

ing to the Islamic law.

By delivering this sermon

Mr. Matiur Rahman Nizami

has, in fact, misinterpreted

Islam and tried to mislead

the Muslims. I demand that

Mr. Nizami quote the verses of

Islam wherein it has been said

that the trial of war criminals

amounts to an anti-Islamic activity. If he fails to quote he should be charged with misinterpretation of the Holy Koran or Islam because these are the people who are actively helping the destruction of Islam in the name of Jihad against infidels in Afghanistan, Pakistan and in other Muslim countries.

They do not want our sons and daughters to get modern education. They support education centres wherefrom they get easy recruits for their so-called Islamic Jihad. While Allah, the Merciful, Himself made education "Farz" or compulsory for all men and women, they support destruction of girl schools like Swat in Pakistan.

Let us all be cautious about these people to save Islam and Muslims all over the world.

Shafiqul Islam, NY

### Babri Mosque case

It is so horrible and sad to learn that Babri Mosque was demolished at the order of top BJP leaders in India, back in 1992. This news was revealed as an Indian newspaper was able to publish it on 23 November, 2009, before the Liberhan Commission was brought to Indian Parliament.

The issue became so hot as Indian parliamentarians were excited while they were discussing this very matter in parliament, when its winter session was on. Those learned parliamentarians demanded submission of Liberhan Commission report to parliament as quickly as possible.

The report was later submitted, but no action has been taken against those perpetrators yet.

Shame on those people who were involved in Babri Mosque demolition.

Mahmud Ali Kabir  
Ex-BSS correspondent  
Social worker  
Gopalganj

## Notebooks

One of the obstacles that is seen in the creative education system is guidebook and notebook. The main purpose of creative education system is to enhance creative thinking among the students. This education system mitigates the sole dependence of the students on memorizing. But if the guidebooks and notebooks are published the students are more likely to memorize the answers from those books. The teachers will also prepare question papers from such books. As a result, creativity among the students will not develop. Due to the existence of guidebooks and notebooks, the students study the textbooks very little. The students also try to pass through adopting unfair means. Realizing the truth, the government took the decision to ban guidebooks and notebooks. But publishers and sellers filed a writ petition against the government order. The High Court dismissed it and upheld the order. After that the Supreme Court stayed the High Court verdict following their petition. Getting the opportunity they published guidebooks and notebooks.

On 10 December, the SC upheld the HC verdict. The verdict is very significant and crucial for our education system.

So, I think the SC verdict is certainly praiseworthy and hope that the government will implement it and gradually ban guidebooks and notebooks at higher levels of education.

Md. Fuad Hasan

Sirajganj