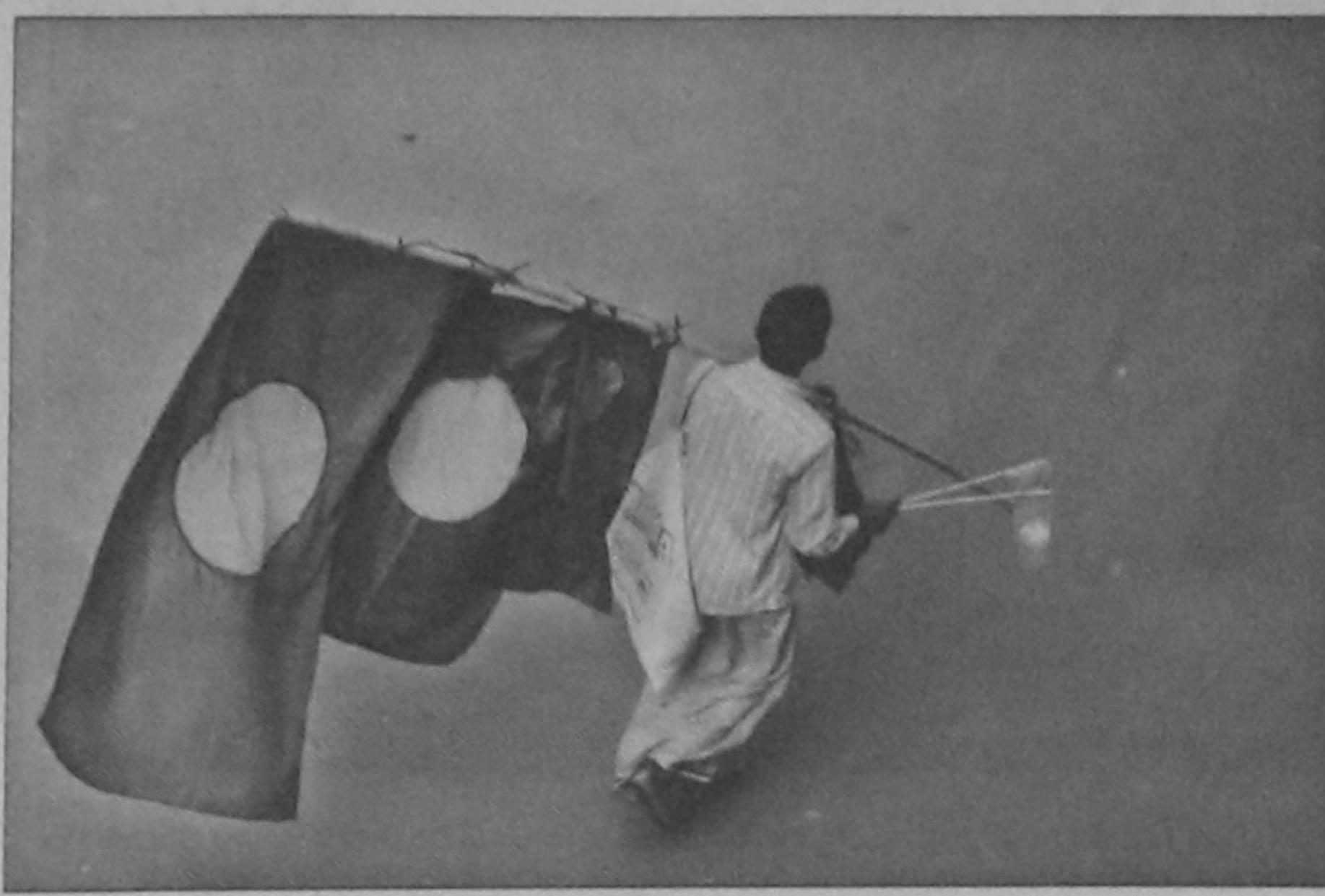


No loser on Victory Day!



A.MAHAD / DRUKNEWS

Many associations and clubs organise and host friendly tournaments to celebrate the Victory Day. Usually these tournaments start a few days ahead of time and conclude on December 16. There is a thin layer of irony in this arrangement. As with all tournaments, only one emerges as the victor, leaving many tournament participants as losers on the Victory Day.

One Victory Day tournament has a solution for this irony. This year, Mini-Golf Greens of Uttara Sector 13 organised a mini-golf tournament where no one would be a loser on the Victory Day! The logistics of the tournament were simple and somewhat innovative.

Noushi Rahman
Associate Professor, Pace University
New York, US

Dr. Noazesh Ahmed

We were deeply shocked at the sudden demise of one of our alumni, the celebrated photography icon, an ardent nature lover Dr. Noazesh Ahmed.

Dr. Noazesh Ahmed was one of the earlier students of our university when it was called the 'East Pakistan Agricultural Institute'. His outstanding accomplishments in the field of science, art, and culture will remain a source of inspiration to all the graduates and students of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University. We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

True leader

The people of this country never put so much trust in any person other than the prime minister's father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Raman.

The nation feels that the PM's personal tragedy, which recently saw the light of justice, is now overshadowed by many tragedies the nation has experienced since the death of her family members.

Bangladesh now needs a stateswoman to lead the nation, which has been made to cry over and over again since its birth. PM Sheikh

Hasina perhaps has the right opportunity and the scope.

For the nation to trust her and her team she should make governance transparent and, above all, accountable. She has to be honest to herself and proceed with caution, for administering the nation now calls for wisdom, sagacity, tolerance and forgiveness. The style and manner of articulation on the floor of parliament must at all times befit a PM and she should be very cautious about the deliberations. She has to shun the blame game and so called conspiracy theories which will be self-defeating. Sycophants should be made to take the backseat.

I believe she can do it and the nation will be behind her.

Of ornamental seats

The matter of using enormous ornamental chairs for leaders has been a shameful culture in our country for years now and so, it was with a sense of relief that we saw our prime minister rejecting this unseemly seating arrangement for a more normal chair at par with other signatories at a public event recently. The leaders probably do not ask for this special /preferential treatment. It is more likely the result of over-enthusiastic arrangements made by obsequious sycophants, there being no dearth of them in our society. We only hope that good sense will prevail and we

the public will be spared the agony of watching leaders sitting on grotesquely designed throne-like seats while others around take a lower seating position.

After all, it is not the seat but words and actions that elevate a person to a position of respect.

Dr Arifa Rahman
Professor
University of Dhaka

Pertinent points

One can proceed in one's creativity only on the basis of one's cultural moorings. Science grows indigenously. Understanding requires connecting to a previous experience, a reference point. Suppose you are asked to explain the feelings that you develop if you live on the moon. You obviously cannot tell because you simply do not have that experience. Advanced, sophisticated technology has been made a basic need for scientific research today. As a result, the environment of research and the day-to-day environment of the vast majority have been divorced. Einstein, Dalton and many others did not have at their disposal any sophisticated machinery. Their approach was totally deductive.

We do not lack manpower or resources. What we lack is the political will to convert our Research & Development (R&D) roadmap into actions. What can one expect from our ruling class which has set no minimum standards of education

for itself to occupy seats in the Legislature or Parliament? We have top economists at the helm of affairs dictating our financial policies. Unless our educated class and the doyens of industry and agricultural sectors enter the political mainstream, quality R&D in Bangladesh will remain a dream.

Avik Sengupta
Biochemistry
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Souls of the valiant

Do you hear them? They are everywhere around you. Bullet separated souls from bodies, nothing more. Struggle and inspiration is flowing with the same force and power since 1971.

Our fighters of 1971 still hear the arrival note of freedom and sovereignty, at every moment of their lives. They can see the footprint of freedom on the chest of dead bodies of their company they fought together, on their raped sisters and mothers, even on the hungry stomach of sufferers.

We do have faith in December 16. We believe that our victory was not only from bloodsuckers, rather from all ills that the nation suffered from.

Let's promise together, "The blood of freedom fighters won't go in vein."

Istiaq Ahmed Raihan

Dhaka City College

BNP council

Different people are giving different opinions from their own angles on the just concluded BNP Council which the party could hold after 16 years and that too, to meet the requirements of EC.

DS has carried an editorial on the issue expressing the paper's cautious optimism as well as some failings of the council.

The council might have given some satisfactions to some while it has disappointed many. We belong to the later group not because we are supporters of opposite group but as neutral citizens hoping for qualitative changes in our country's politics. As per DS editorial the holding of council itself is a good beginning and hopefully, if continued in future, will escort us to the door of required qualitative changes.

Here I am a bit pessimistic about the qualitative changes that we want in future. The council has endorsed the continuation of the incumbent president and created a new post of Senior Vice President for her son. "A man is known by his companion", the people of Bangladesh as a whole know the newly appointed SVP's companions. A school dropout, now facing many sorts of corruption charges including charges of money laundering cases, has been confirmed as the next

Chief of the BNP.

If the party returns to power, he will be our next prime minister or president.

The present president has expressed many dreams for this nation which were not new as well. We have been hearing her voices since she joined this party and also enjoyed some fruits that she delivered during her rule.

We do not want to go back to pre-one-eleven era. All political parties especially the AL, BNP etc. should bring in qualitative changes in their party leaderships who would lead us to become an honourable member of the League of Nations. Our pundits should help by airing their honest opinions.

Shafiqul Islam, NY

Whose Eid is it, anyway?

Before the Eid-ul-Azha festival I tried to collect two bus tickets for Paikgacha, Khulna, to observe the holy religious festival with our relatives there. The fare was heavily enhanced, yet I could not collect it then. So, I had to go home to meet my old parents three days after the festival, providing the same exorbitant fare. I asked them the reason behind the high fare. On the plea of paucity of passengers they took away the extra amount of money from me.

But I saw the bus full of passengers that day too. While I was coming back to Dhaka on 9 December i.e. 11 days after the Eid, the number of passengers was the same, but yet I had to pay the same cut-throat fare.

Does the government have any responsibility or plan in mind to stand beside the poor or middleclass hapless people of the country, if not always, at least on the occasion of any festival when there is compulsion to travel?

Nabila Tahsin
Dhaka

Role of EC

Good governance and running of the country depend on the fair play of the political parties, mainly by the political party forming the government and the political party in the opposition. Their fair play shall establish peace and prosperity. People can leave in peace and happiness. So it is very vital to make the political parties practise fair play within some sort of boundary lines and some set conditions.

In this respect, the Election Commission is the guardian who can set some rules and disciplines to monitor and control the activities of the political parties for good governance and running of the country to lead the country to peace and prosperity. A political party or any member of the party crossing the boundary lines and breaking the set rules will disqualify as

Publicising environment protection!

Nepal holding its cabinet meeting at 17,000 feet was the surprising news, published with photograph in all our dailies on 5 December. First, it was Maldives, now it is Nepal, each outdoing the other, to publicise the desperate need for environment protection and containing global warming!

Melting polar ice with corresponding rise in sea levels, will sink the Maldives Islands under the Indian Ocean! Similarly, melting of the ice-capped Himalayan mountains will flood southern Nepal, and their capital city may have to be relocated further up the Himalayas!

The result of the melting Himalayan ice cap and the rise in sea levels will also lead to the sinking of a large part of southern Bangladesh, including the world's largest mangrove forests the Sundarbans! This will indeed be a

catastrophe for Bangladesh. We must take all possible steps to minimise this adverse impact; if it cannot be totally avoided. Even today may be late to take corrective steps to save Bangladesh from the ravage of the sea, unfortunately created by man!

To highlight the matter, should we not hold a number of cabinet meetings, deep in the Sundarbans forests? This will emphasise the need for us to do whatever we can to reduce environment pollution that can help prevent the sinking of the Sundarbans and other southern lands under the Bay of Bengal! It may also highlight the need to build embankments and take all necessary steps to contain the regular seasonal flooding that has become a climatic epidemic for Bangladesh!

S.A. Mansoor

Dhaka



SHEIKH HASAN / DRUKNEWS

the party/members. It needs some machinery to chop up unwanted/unwarranted activities of the political parties. Against this backdrop, the provisions of the Representation of the People's order (RPO) was adopted which portrays the people's rights and desires. Tolerance and decency will be developed in the political culture and criminal activities and extortions will be banned. But we observe that the country's politics seems to have regained its old look, intolerance, unlawful activities by ruling party men, low observance of democratic practices within major political parties and parliament boycott by the opposition party.

The general mass is behind the EC. We want a strong, tough and determined Election Commission (EC) for a better Bangladesh. **Md. Delwar Hossain**
East Rampura, Dhaka

my good luck that I could meet with the transsexuals for completing a research work. Before starting our research work, we had a strong belief that the transsexuals are very rough in nature. We thought that they are very much aggressive, quick-tempered and cranky. But after meeting, I understand that they are very much decent, well mannered and friendly. Since they have to face misbehaviour from the common people around them in every step of their life, they sometimes make aggressive and rough behaviour. They are helpless people because they do not have any secure place to go, any honourable work to do. They do not have even the right of the freedom of movement. People always tease them. They think that this type of odd-looking people have no right in society. They are simply a trash for the society. They cannot do any good thing for the society. But this is a wrong notion. Transsexuals are also human beings. They have some fundamental rights. Like others, they have also the right to freedom of thought, freedom of expressing opinion, right to property, right to work etc. If the government of our country gives proper attention about their development, it will be easy to change the miserable life of the transsexuals. We should realize their sorrows and help them make their lives easy.

Shanjida Shahab Uddin
Ishita

Student, Dhaka University

Combating climate change

The earth is getting warmer day by day and we are going to be in deep trouble. Nowadays the climate change has become a thorny issue across the world. On account of the melting of icebergs in Antarctica zone is that the large part of the earth may be extinct by the surge of water within 50 years unless proper steps are taken. For this, the world leaders have assembled in Copenhagen to convey the message of its grisly affect



upon the earth and to be alert regarding it. And it is reported that Bangladesh is now at a vulnerable juncture. Now what we, the people of the world, have to do is to follow the guidelines given by the scientists and to examine how much we are conscious about its implementation, otherwise we have to give up the hope of living on this earth.

Bipra Kanungo

Momin Road, Chittagong

What wonderful news! Here, the whole world is worried about climate change and desperate measures are being taken in order to reverse or at least slow down the effect and here the people of Bangladesh continue to cut trees! Even after the prime minister herself ordered an investigation, people continue to cut trees and get away with it. I think the so-called authorities are "Toothless" and should also be investigated. I just cannot accept the fact that all these trees were cut and nobody knew anything about it.

I am amazed that there are people in Bangladesh who have no love for their own country or its future. I urge all to change their attitude, otherwise we as a nation will head for disaster.

Minur Rahim

New DOHS
Mohakali, Dhaka

ONLINE VOICES

Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to [thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) to leave your comments.

Mixed reaction over Tarique's election

It was a move by a group of mid-level leaders that saw Tarique Rahman elected BNP's senior vice-chairman Tuesday, say some party sources. (December 10, 2009)

The people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders... tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger.

Gopal Sengupta

I am very frustrated that the BNP has not yet changed its mindset. On the other hand, some local and foreign quarters are investing (?) money in BNP's council - calculating that the BNP can return to power without changing its mindset. This country has no hope.

Dr. Khalid Moinuddin

May God bless Bangladesh and our innocent people! We are intelligent people, yet we do dumb things to put the mediocrity as our best choice.

Where are our best BNP minds hiding?

DR

We should all pray and clap for a smooth hereditary transition of the power. A hearty congratulation to all BNP supporters for choosing the best!

Goyeshwar Chandra Roy is a great asset for the BNP! Please, forgive me for my sarcasm.

Dev Saha

Tarique should respect the principles of his father, the late president Ziaur Rahman.

Harun Rashid

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Rubana Azim

This country desperately needs change but the changes need to be brought by the representatives of the people.

Dewan

Given the state and history of subcontinent's politics, it is understood that Tarique will lead the BNP in future.

However, Tarique and Khaleda Zia need to be aware of the *chamchas* who brought the party and the country down in the last 7 years. They do everything for themselves, no consideration for party or common people.

RK

It's unbelievable that even in the 21st century and in a democratic open country, adults can be brainwashed

Moreover, this will bring back the good image of the late President Ziaur Rahman, whom we respect as an honest and capable leader.

Iftekhar Ahmad

It is matter of shame that BNP councillors could not find a personality who is more eligible than Tarique Rahman. It is apprehended that the nation would suffer much in future.

Md Ashraf Hossain

Is he really corrupt? If yes, why and what is he doing outside the country instead of serving in Kashimpur Jail. If not then why isn't he cleared of all the charges?

Msa

He should be thrown out from the party. Forget about leading!

SNH

Not surprised at all, the party which was formed illegally with the money from public coffers can have an established king of the famous Hawa Bhaban as its leader!

Shayambadi

Tarique Rahman deserves the post of the senior vice chairman of the BNP. I am really glad as councillors elected him. The country people will welcome him when he returns from London.</p