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# Bijoy Mela

The concluding month of the year, December, brings for us the message of achieving freedom, the taste of emancipation from the regimentation of Pakistani rule. After the bloodbath of nine months, we obtained the 'triumph' and since then have been celebrating this month with deep respect and solidarity. On the eve of this month, the people of all districts arrange various functions keeping this month's glory ahead. Bijoy Mela is one of them. In this month, since independence, our inner souls dance with joy round the duration of the fair where on one side of the stage the martyred sons are remembered, and

on the other side the arrangement and buzz of the fair get the upper hand.

But during the tenure of the previous government, the celebration of Bijoy Mela ebbed a little bit, which still torments our mind seeing the declining interest in arranging this festival. But now, when the AL govt. came to power, we, the residents of Chittagong, once again get the ray of hope watching the Bijoy Mela beginning on the soil of Chittagong. We hope that Bijoy Mela will come to us at the end of every year and we should discern that it is not a political issue.

**Bipra Kanungo**  
Momin Road, Chittagong



## Is human safety universal?

Is human safety universal? Realists, and later neo-realists, have seen safety as merely incomplete as well as provisional, for the reason that "war is expected." They consider the world anarchical. Since they consider the state as the ultimate power, therefore, safety is destined to be "national safety." It presupposes a set of mechanisms to defend a state so that it can continue as a political unit. They include defence against attacks and pressure from outside as well as against any event that could gravely intimidate a country's ruling government from inside. As such attacks can take place anytime, they call for force. When there is neither war nor other armed disagreement, a state is hypothetically "safe" or "at peace." Southeast Asia calls it "comprehensive security." Many non-state actors, including the non-government organisations (NGOs), propagate this idea. Inclusive security goes further, and presupposes customary military pressure, internal aggression and racial conflicts.

The September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Centre in New York, led scholars to reconsider their theories of global relations, particularly relating to aggression conducted by non-state actors towards not only states but towards the common citizen. In 1994, the UN adopted its Human Development Report. Since then, the idea of human security has been attracting the academic world as well as governments. The slogan "freedom from fear and freedom from wants" also became popular at that time. Comprehensive security focuses on the well-being of the human race—not just the safety of the citizens of a particular state.

**Mohammad Rajja**  
Gono Bishwabidyalay  
Savar, Dhaka

## Build the nation

No wonder as a nation we are proud to have several achievements. One of the biggest achievements is our independence. The extensive nine months' bloody war and sacrifice of the lives of millions of people including awful torture on men, women and

children ultimately led to the glorious victory in 1971.

We are celebrating the month of our victory "December." In this month as a member of the new generation, I would like to humbly request every citizen not to waste any more time and come forward to build the nation anew.

**Shohag Mostafij**  
MBA-Stream: Strategic & International Management (SIM)  
University of Dhaka

## Agreat man

I commend Pope Benedict XVI for signing a decree recognizing the late Pope John Paul II's life of "heroic virtue." Pope John Paul II, a man of deep faith, will one day be canonized a saint by the Catholic Church! The Holy Father was an inspiration and a model witness to the life of Christ; a Shepherd of Truth immersed in profound humility and immense love for both God and man.

His many writings and tireless, world-wide pilgrimages of faith were a source of strength, encouragement, confidence, optimism and

enlightenment not only to Catholics but also to all men of good will.

A champion of the poor and ardent exponent of Christian unity, the Polish Pontiff was in many and such capacities as teaching, governing and sanctifying, both a beacon of light and salt of the earth.

Alongside his historic role in the fall of Communism, John Paul II was the world's most influential and uncompromising defender of the dignity of human life. His tenacious pleas for the development of a "culture of life" and parallel denunciations of the "culture of death" have been instrumental in rallying opposition to war, terrorism, abortion, euthanasia, contraception, homosexuality, and embryonic-tissue research.

I pray for his well-deserved heavenly reward that is promised by the Giver of every gift to his good and faithful servants.

**Paul Kokoski**  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Canada

## Honour the FFs

The month of December is well-known for our Victory Day. We achieved the victory on 16 December, 1971, after nine months of Liberation War, fought by our brave freedom fighters. Bangladesh was born in a sea of blood of the martyrs. We celebrated our 38th Victory Day on 16 December.

We, the people of Bangladesh, salute the heroes. On behalf of the people, I would like to suggest that a separate graveyard be set up in the capital for our freedom fighters.

The government may kindly consider my suggestion.

**Mohammad Anwarul Quadir**  
Advocate and Journalist  
Naogaon

## Garment factory mayhem

MAK Azad's news report published on 17 December based on the investigation carried out by a high-powered probe body concludes that directly, as well as indirectly, the blame lies with the factory owners, whom the report holds responsible for the events that precipitated the violence, un-necessarily!

The owners flouted the Labour Law and Standing Order Act, on two serious counts! Firstly, they did not give the mandatory notice on time for closing the factory. Compounding this felony, they also did not ensure that the workers were paid! These directly led to violence; and logically the owners must be held responsible and be asked by the authorities to pay all necessary compensation to all the people killed and

injured.

Secondly, as pointed out in the probe, why were hundreds of rounds of live ammunition used by the law enforcing authorities? Also why were rubber bullets, and tear gas not used to contain the situation? According to the probe body, the police measures amounted to excesses! The reasonable doubt however remains if this was not the result of any unholy link between the factory owners and the local police authorities! This matter needs to be thoroughly investigated.

Most unfortunate is the disregard for law by the factory owners. All the sad events that happened were triggered by this disregard for law. For this, the factory owners can not escape punishment!

**Acitizen**

**One-mail**

## Climate summit and Bangladesh

No success has been achieved at the climate summit in Copenhagen. Head of the governments or representatives from at least 194 countries gathered together to reach understanding on some points, to reduce carbon emission, and to work out how all the vulnerable countries would get payment as compensation. But the demand of developed and developing countries could not be harmonised at all during the summit.

The summit ended up by fulfilling the developed nations' demand of keeping global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, and only holding out further hope for the developing countries, which is obviously deceitful.

All the leaders from around the world were busy during the summit to deliver their good speeches. No government from any country of the world was able to submit any project or proposal against the climate change and its effects, that the funds they receive would be spent on.

**Mahmud Ali Kabir**  
Ex-BSS correspondent, Social worker  
Gopalganj

## Recruitment by banks

A job in a bank has become very popular nowadays. Many students after completing their masters or MBA want to be employed in both categories of banking Job (GOVT&PRIVATE). The bankers' recruitment committee usually want to have their candidates to have 50% marks or second class at every academic level. But there lies a competition among private banks. They want certain GPA grading or class. Some banks seek 1st class holders at every level. The students of English dept.



# Israel issue

More than sixty years have passed since the USA and the UK created the state of Israel within the state of Palestine under the 'two-state' utopian theory -- Israel for the immigrant Jews and Palestine for the native Arab Muslims and Christians to divide and rule the Middle East.

The immigrant Jews declared unilateral independence of Israel in 1948 and the USA and the UK promptly accorded it recognition. But the White House and 10, Downing Street ignored the independence of Palestine. Since then millions of Palestinians are languishing and perishing under the steamroller of oppression, suppression and occupation of the Israeli Jews.

The fact is that the state of Israel was wiped out from the map of the world about 2500 years ago due to internal feud among the Jews themselves, invasion of Israel by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans and many other cogent reasons.

At last, after the World War II, under

military and strategic reasons, if not full political hegemony of the USA, the re-emergence of Israel was ensured in 1948.

The 'two-state' solution for comprehensive peace after years of so called negotiations, meetings, discussions and even assurances and promises by present President of the USA Barack Obama are a complete fiasco.

Israel is a Frankenstein and sycophant of the USA. The US backed road map, a peace plan that calls for a Palestine state living side by side with Israel, has been violated by Israel, which has made comprehensive peace in the Middle East impossible.

The UNO, the USA, the UK, China, Brazil, France, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Malaysia, Iran, India, Egypt and Bangladesh must play a greater role in international efforts to reach an agreement on Middle East peace and independence of Palestine.

**OH Kabir**  
Dhaka

are victimised because of such demand. It is very tough & sometimes very difficult to get first class at every level.

The authorities concerned should consider the point raised by me.

**Md. Raihanul Azim**  
Dept. of English Language & literature  
International Islamic University Chittagong

## Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar is a potential gold mine and a potential foreign exchange earner in Bangladesh. It is essential to develop Cox's Bazar into an attractive city in order to attract more tourists, especially from foreign countries. A proper tourist industry should be set up and well educated and groomed people should be trained on how to handle, speak and help tourists.

The Cox's Bazar airport must also be developed and

made international so that tourists can fly in and out of Cox's Bazar directly.

**Aminur Rahim**  
New DOHS, Dhaka

## Research activities

Research activities should be the top priority of a university. A university is not the place for only conducting classes and exams.

I think that the main task of a university is to conduct researches on various aspects of our life. Only research activities can ensure the quality of a university. So far I know, on the basis of research activities, the ranking of a university is being determined across the globe. I have already passed four years in DU. In my times, I could not get any research results that created curiosity among us.

A research gives us a new dimension of thoughts. I can never think of a university

without research activities. Should we be concerned over it or not?

**Md. Taherul Islam**  
Institute of Social Welfare and Research  
DU

## BNP council

The BNP has just completed their customized council with much complacency. What is the net result? To me, "The new BNP" is back to the old "Haowa Bhaban", just keep this in mind and proceed to challenge the party in power by developing a liberal democratic image; also accept the reality of today's politics in Bangladesh in your "new BNP".

The anti-Indian stand looks more like a demonstration of communal politics, than anything else.

**Quadir**  
California, USA

## ONLINE VOICES

Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

### Nawaz Sharif on 1971

Says disrespect for democracy led to Bangladesh's creation. (December 17, 2009)

What a candid admission by a fully undemocratic man! Why does he say it now?

**S.Ahmad**

Mr. Sharif's comments are very much true and relevant in today's Bangladesh, rather unfortunately. The present government in its words and deeds has proved it!

**Nasir Tarafder**

Good realisation. If military rulers did not commit atrocities, massive genocide, Bangladeshis would not go for armed resistance. Nawaz Sharif and other sensible political leaders may make Pakistan government apologise for the heinous acts of 1971---murder, rape, looting and arson. The Pakistan government, as a noble gesture, must help Bangladesh in conducting a fair trial of war criminals. It must also restrain the ISI from hatching any conspiracy in Bangladesh.

**Saleque Sufi**

We are happy that we are no more a part of Pakistan, but it's good for their leadership to acknowledge their crime.

**Enamul Huq**

Mr. Sharif and other Paki supporters in Bangladesh and Pakistan must understand that we are not the same nation, we have different cultures and languages and it is stupid to unite a country by military

democracy and a policy based on religion. Why not Pakis join with Saudi Arabia or Afghanistan as one country? Our leaders after 1947 did have lack of vision and education.

**Baz**

Pakistan Muslim League chief Nawaz Sharif (PML-N) was right when he said that undemocratic attitudes and disrespect for democracy of the Pakistani political leaders were causes that led to the creation of Bangladesh. The Pakistani leaders never tried to understand the minds of the people of the then East Pakistan. The new generation of Bangladeshis should know these historical facts.

**Mobaidul Huq**

Pakistan must hand over 55% of our legal share of the then Pakistan's assets as we were 55% of the population. This must be paid back with interest. Bangladesh should take its claim to the International Court of Justice.

**Khondaker Haque**

The simple thing is that you can't mix two different races together. I see Anglophone and Francophone don't match well in a civilized nation, Canada.

Pakistan is a paranoid nation now. A nation with countless complexities. A potential target of the Anti-Muslim gangs.

**SNH**

In the first 23 years, until 1971, the people of Bangladesh got their 'primary education' of GOVERNANCE under Pakistan. This is why current BD politicians operate the same way as Pakistani politicians today, and the system of governance is parallel in that political leaders of both nations are still not sure how exactly to run a democracy.

Both nations have parties that still operate like monarchies, in a corrupt, dictatorial, disoriented and feudal system of governance.

**Khaled Gazi**

Mr. Sufi, how can you expect Sharif to apologise to Bangladesh? Did he do it or say anything about it when he was the Pak PM? Out of power, this man can say anything he likes but how can you believe it?

**S.Ahmad**

It is time this issue was tabled in Pak Parliament to take a decision about the action taken by the Pak army in 1971 in erstwhile East Pakistan.

**Shafiqul Islam**

## Delwar slams move to rename ZIA (December 16, 2009)

Whatever Delwar said, all of it happened when they were in power. It seems he has forgotten it but people of Bangladesh never forget the wrong done.

**S.M. Abdul Haque**

When will this stop?  
**Dr. A. Ahmed**

Changing of names of well known establishments only generate problems and breed hate campaigns. If a govt wants to recognize a personality, it can build a new establishment to name after that personality. But creating one symbol erasing another means ill motive!

**Rubena Ahmed**

I completely agree with BNP Secretary

General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and it is ridiculous to change the name of Zia International Airport in Dhaka.

And when the BNP comes to power they will simply reverse it. This is very childish of the Awami League to think of such name change. Seems like the times the two leaders spent in jail did not do anything to lower the animosity between them.

**Manzoor Ashraf**

I don't know what prompted the AL to initiate the name changing of Zia International Airport, but certainly it is an unnecessary and unexpected move reminding us of a bully inviting trouble when he has no other business to conduct.

**Jumana Sarwar**

This political culture should be stopped. Someone has to show the courage and tell the country that it is not a big deal the way you name something. It is a big deal the way you handle things. Please stop this and lead the country in the way of progress.

**Ekram Chowdhury**

It's just a ploy of the government to divert the opposition parties' attention from the PM's forthcoming visit to India.

**Islam ms**

Ziaur Rahman was a smart, well educated leader who perfectly guided our nation and gave us a strong sense of nationalism (for which he had to pay his life).

We must remain thankful to Zia for strong nationalism. Zia laid down his life for our 'Bangladeshi' identity. Zia deserves the Airport name.

**A reader**

Wasn't it better to build a new international airport and name it whatever you want? ZIA is too small compared to other airports outside our country.

**Sakib**

Seriously, does the govt have nothing better to do?

**Anonymous**

# Biking



In the USA it is hard to find an 8 year old, a male or a female, who does not know how to bike. Though biking is not much used as a means of primary transportation, many people take their bikes out in the summer for recreational touring. In Holland bikes are used as a means of primary transportation by a large number of people. People use bikes to go to schools, to work, do shopping and visit friends all the time. Streets are designed as bike friendly and there are special rental and parking facilities for bikes in the city areas. In Bangladesh where most people either walk or ride rickshaws, biking could have been made popular if it could be made available to common people at an affordable price. Parents need to buy bikes for their children and encourage them to learn biking. Industries need to come up with full size, as well as, children's bikes, at lower costs to make this happen. The government may come forward with incentives to the industrialists who show interests in such venture to help at the early stages, until they become self supporting or profitable.

If biking can be made popular in this country of 140 million people, it will not only develop healthy generations, it will save time for millions and help speed up the economy as well as save foreign exchange.

**Enamul Huq**  
Michigan, USA