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Trial of war criminals



VAHID ADNIAN / DRINKNEWS

It is very interesting and frustrating as well to listen to the following hot debate every day on the media. The issues are a. trial of war criminals b. declaration of independence. On the issue (a) my question is, is it not a clear fact that millions of people were brutally killed and lost their dignity in the hands of the identified and self confessed killers who opposed the independence of Bangladesh physically with arms? Those who were born at least in the 60's clearly remember those dark days of our history.

The killers did not bother to move from door to door and sought international sanction to kill innocent men, women and children in Bangladesh. Why we are begging every day to start the trial and so eager to maintain some kind of standard accepted by a section of our intelligentsia and the international community. The way some of our politicians and members of so called civil society are behaving in front of the media, one would simply ask them where are you from...?

On the issue (b), yes, we had heard the declaration by late Ziaur Rahman on the air even after March 27. I feel disgusted to state the actual content, but my question is, what impact it had

and why it was necessary for an army major to read the declaration of independence? Does it mean without his declaration, Bangladesh would not achieve independence? On the other hand, if you see the history after August 15, 1975 and his assuming power; is not it crystal clear why he made that declaration and what kind of dream he had?

Whatever he had done was just to undo the spirit of war liberation and ultimately turn Bangladesh into a fanatic fatalist country under the cover of religion. I have no doubt that he had so much political acumen to steer his ideology without the help of external mentors and support. He himself killed his own effort by deviating from the true path of the war of liberation.

We all know the history of Mogul rule in India. If you put Humayun's rule before Babar, the dynasty is put to question, I believe. This is where we are struggling and some well-identified groups are successfully playing the game. The political space that is being opened due to failure of the tested politicians, will either accommodate the military dictatorship or Islamic revolution like Iran.

A citizen, On e-mail

Power failures

As one of the inhabitants of a small district town of Bangladesh, Bogra, I have been experiencing for the past few days an acute power crisis.

I believe the general people of all other districts of Bangladesh are experiencing the same.

Frequent power failures hamper daily activities. Moreover, students of schools, colleges and universities cannot prepare their lessons which is, in a sense, a great loss for the country.

The countrymen still remember that the Bangladesh Awami League promised in its election campaign development of the country and making it 'Digital Bangladesh.'

The government knows well that the key to any development of a country is its energy resource.

Therefore, the government should take effective steps to increase energy generation and supply.

Kshitish Chandra Milan

Assistant Teacher
BograYMCA Public School
Bogra

Politics and religion

We came to know that the present government is going to impose a ban on the religion-based parties in the country.

It is true that some people are trying to exploit the religious sentiments of people to attain their goals.

But because of their heinous activities, the government shouldn't or can not punish the innocent. Moreover, all of us follow our respective religion. The government should punish those who are trying to use religion as a political tool. But it must not ban all the religion based parties.

Habibur Rashid Ismail

Jamea Rahmania Madrasa
Chittagong

Devdas today

Sarat Chandra Chatterjee has remained immortal for his creative genius. There are several masterpieces written by him. Among these, Devdas is very significant for several reasons. Today like the writer himself, the character Devdas has become very familiar to us.

In this country, a film was made on Devdas. Very soon, another film is going to be made. The director is our Chashi Nazrul Islam. This time, Sakib Khan, the King Khan of this country, is going to play the role of Devdas. Congratulations Sakib Khan! I am sure, like Bulbul's Devdas, this Devdas would also be a hit. I am also sure in future more films will be made based upon this character.

Why is it so touchy? This question often shakes my mind. Is there a Devdas dwelling in the heart of every person? Are we all Devdas to some extent? Why do we sympathise with this person? The time when Devdas was written, society was rigid. Even today, society is not very flexible.

The colour of rigidity may change but its extent is very difficult to wipe out. Still there are many parents who do not try to understand the minds of their children.

Though the parents love their children very much, yet they often miscalculate the choice of their children. Is there a gap of understanding? Or is there a clash between the authorities? It is very difficult to answer.

Let us now think why did Devdas suffer? Who are responsible for his tragic consequence? Is he or the society? Undoubtedly, Devdas himself is responsible. He could at least try to forget Parvati and search for a new life. Whatever it may be, there are many Devdases

Last but not the least, I have a message for the young generation.

Enjoy the movie Devdas, read the novel Devdas, love the character Devdas, but never follow the footsteps of Devdas!
Pradip Das
Lecturer
BHP, CRP

Name game

I am very disturbed to learn that we need to pay a large sum to change the name of the airport.

I just cannot accept such wastage of public funds. This was not in the election pledge of the AL. People gave mandate to the present government to implement their programmes. We want to see results on those fronts.

I believe the government has no right to spoil this huge amount on such a useless issue.

Interestingly, the government can implement some of their pledged programmes with less than this sum.

I am so frustrated to observe this huge drain of public funds. If we do not raise our voice, then we will be liable to ourselves as well as those less fortunate individuals whose life could be improved by proper utilization of public funds.

Taslimul Hoque
Lalmatia, Dhaka

Well done,

Honourable PM!

It is quite pleasing to see the qualitative changes that the present government has brought under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina in the last one year. Her role in climate change dialogue, improving the economic and political relationship with India and China - the two big world's power-, defusing tensions with Myanmar and her government's persistent efforts to improve the infrastructure development such as road, gas and electricity in lifting economic condition of the country certainly deserves much appreciation. The schemes to improve the traffic congestion and rivers around Dhaka city, rehabilitating beggars through employment creation, curbing the politics of militants, trial of war criminals and a corruption free cabinet are some of the notable achievements of the present government. The country will grow and reach the level of middle-income countries sooner than expected if our governments continue performing like this. I would urge the people to support the government and give them the credit for their genuine efforts to improve the condition of Bangladesh, as everybody expects recognition of his or her good work. This should also be a lesson for others who are willing to lead the country in future as the true and patriot leaders act to improve the fate of common people, not of themselves. Also, no minister has the courage to engage in corruption if the leader does not endorse it.

We wish you all the best!!
Dr. Abdul Moyeen
Melbourne, Australia

Gulshan Park

I am responding to Joost Kurstjens' letter of March 19. Fortunately, it seems there is nothing to worry about! I also was concerned about the fate of Gulshan Park but, upon inquiry, was told that a major cleaning is taking place. The pond will be refilled with rainwater so we can only hope that the monsoon will start earlier than it did last year.

I did not think that the water was very clean - nor the park premises. While fish somehow survive, on occasion the water looks really polluted. The park users, no matter how well educated, continue to litter both the pond and the green area. Therefore, this letter also serves as a plea to others to please think about how lovely the park would look without any litter at all!

Suzanne Sarkar
Gulshan 2, Dhaka

God save Biman

We must thank Capt Alamgir Sattar for his concern and prayer about the national flag carrier.

It seems to have caught the attention of many a discerning reader of your daily. Capt Sattar is a freedom fighter and is one of the founding fathers

"Crossfire"

An interesting presentation on crossfire was heard from a photo journalist of international repute on Channel i talk show-- Ajker Sangbadptra. This is no doubt a third dimension of the problem. The photographer apparently has deep insight into this extra judicial killings in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world today.

He has done his job quite well in getting international media support to help motivate the policy makers and the people and create an action-oriented policy to stop crossfire in Bangladesh.

I think we are missing the vital alternative proposal from all our conscience keepers, i.e. how to stop this process. I would be more hopeful if the photographer could show us some positive snapshots, how to stop the practice and the process. I hope he would think about the same and come back in the media.

I am toying up with an idea as to

how to address the issue. We will have to take alternate steps to stop the process. These includes a. legal step, b. motivation for Rab not to kill. They are trained to kill the enemy as soon as they feel insecure, it is very difficult to change the mindset, c. the international community, so both-ered by the crossfire, must show us a plan of action to stop the process, mere lip service would not help.

The same applies to human rights groups in Bangladesh and whoever is concerned about extra judicial killings should give a plan to stop the same.

I have an idea. I would recommend the setting up of a group of specialists who should be embedded with the Rab operation to follow exactly what is happening during the encounter. The embedded persons should preferably be journalists, trained foreign observers and local human rights group members.

Quadir, USA



AMDADUL HUQ / DRINKNEWS

of the Airline. He is rightly placed to tell us all about the birth and history of Biman. But what he does not tell us is their inability to liberate themselves from the "rotten legacy" of undermining the fellow members of the cabin and other ground services, and of dividing, and dominating the airline for self-aggrandisement as was prevalent in the then PIA.

Perhaps, all of them wanted to occupy the "left seat" of the nascent Biman, all of them at a time, it was a turf war!

A Biman official
Dhaka

Allelopathy

Recently, a school student asked me the meaning of the word 'Allelopathy' which was required for composing an essay on environment friendly agriculture. I think it would be helpful for others if I reproduce here the reply I had given to that student.

The word Allelopathy has a similarity with another word Allopathy. Both the words

originated from Greek. Allelopathy is an agrochemical process wherein plants release some chemicals (called allelochemicals) that are toxic in nature. These chemicals leave a detrimental effect on neighbouring plants or its own sharing the same habitat.

Of course allelochemicals also have positive effects on plant growth if used scientifically which can control weeds. Thus it can reduce the use of hazardous chemical weedicides, herbicides, etc. towards ensuring environment friendly agriculture. Allelopathy was earlier found in agricultural practice by Theophrastus (285 to 372 BC).

Allelopathy is a term coined by Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy. Allopathy is a way of medical practice.

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

Preserve potatoes

For the last couple of years, in harvesting season the government of Bangladesh has been providing supportive price to rice growers as price goes too low in harvesting time.

The government purchases rice and paddy in different surplus rice growing areas. On the other hand, during the lean season when price goes too high the government releases that purchased rice at reasonable price to bring down the price and reduce suffering of general public. Both the interests of growers as well as consumers

are well taken care of.

This strategy is essential for potato growers as well. Recently, most of the national newspapers reported that about ten million metric tons of potato has been produced in current season throughout Bangladesh, which is the highest quantity ever produced here.

Harvesting season of potato is closing. Growers are getting Tk 5.00 to Tk 6.00 per kg but the consumers are purchasing that at Tk 13.00 to Tk 14.00 in retail markets. Only three million metric tons of

potato could be stored in existing cold storages. That is, a big quantity of potato will rot owing to lack of storage facilities.

In general, consumers have to purchase potato at a very high price. As an instance, it can be recalled that last year one kg potato was sold even at Tk 34.00 in Dhaka city retail markets but the hard working poor growers did not get the high price.

The government should intervene and set up 65 cold storages in 65 districts.

The cold storages could be constructed by and operated under the management of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC).

It would help provide price support to growers, save a good quantity from rotting and maintain a reasonable price level for the consumers. A portion of the capacity of the cold storages may also be used to store potato seeds of BADC, which is very much essential for having the targeted production regularly.

Md Ashraf Hossain
Central Bashabo
Dhaka



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