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Might of nature!

Nature has been challenged through advances in technology, known as the brainchild of the West! However, though serene and quiet, 'Mother Nature' has been annoyed. Her reply though insignificant in her terms has reminded us of Mother Nature's might and power, that shook the so-called mighty Western countries to its very economic roots in no uncertain terms!

A forgotten, unknown volcano, in far away Iceland, unknown to practically every one on earth, woke from her sleep, and left us her calling card!

This little event (in Nature's terms) practically dismantled aviation, the brand new toy of human civilization for the time being, during which "Mother Nature" expressed her mild warning!

The volcanic dust over most of Europe, last month brought down civil aviation-- the 'crown of Western technology'-- the 'crown of Western technology' mode of the West, in fact its communication 'artery', was in tatters,

with none knowing when it would be resumed! It reminded us of the might of the 'forgotten volcano'--unknown and underestimated! It brought down all the 'Western mechanical birds', both civil and military, back to their nests! Virtually, the air corridor was shut.

Next was the Gulf of Mexico; where our technology enabled us to rob

'Mother Nature' of her boud fluids! For some times, we felt proud of what we did, we now call it "the curse of nature" as we tend to say for any 'accident' It then let off "Mother Nature's" violent and fiery cough (explosion in scientific terms) that tore the needle driven in 'Mother

Nature's' belly! Now we have a big problem on our hands, with many wise heads scratching on how to cure this deliberate hurt to nature!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

seen in front of schools which make the school premises very much unhealthy.

Shafeen Mahmood
Little Jewels School
Chittagong

Youngsters and entertainment

After the landslide success of 'Close-up 1', hundreds of reality shows have been started in different television channels of Bangladesh. In the earlier stage, it was based on music competitions and the target group was, more or less, youngsters. It has been diversified very rapidly and the range of participants has also been widening. Now rickshaw-pullers, construction workers, garment employees, kids and band groups under so many categories are running to be the champions. Moreover, competitions on dancing, acting, reciting, taking challenges, magic show, etc are being included as items.

But I think these are not helping the youngsters, as they are losing too much time on non-academic pursuits. Md. Abdul Hamid
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Business Administration
Shahjalal University

Let's accomplish our part

Huge query for us: "What are we doing to facilitate constructing a fresh and superior earth?" We should not censure the politicians. We should not censure those around us. We should not censure our parents or our surroundings.

Mother Teresa understood it so much better than we ever could: "If every one of us would only sweep up their own doorstep, the entire earth would be clean." fine.

Blaming others is excusing yourself. Telling yourself that you as an army of one cannot have an influence is giving away your supremacy. A couple of college kids got their hands on empty school buses and drove them into New Orleans when everybody else said the city was unapproachable. A frail man named Mohandas Gandhi freed a whole nation. A college student named Richard Branson took a few schemes to begin a record label on a shoestring that has since morphed into the Virgin Empire. We are all flesh and bones cut from the similar cloth.

As far as the current subject of Vanity Fair is concerned, Jennifer Aniston said that she gives herself one day to play victim after a difficult occasion. Following that day of feeling sorry for herself and powerless, she wakes up and takes possession over the way her life looks. And if she doesn't like a piece of it she sets about to alter it. That's indi-

vidual leadership.

Therefore, all we are to do is finishing our respective duties and responsibilities in a concrete manner and thus gradually true growth would be noticed.

Shohag Mostafij
MBA
University of Dhaka

Show some Commitment

We are really bored to see our national cricket team losing matches, one after another. It is really tough for a cricket-lover to recall the last win that filled our heart. In cricket world, Bangladesh is no more a child. It is no more fine to see them tottering across the world without any win. Compared to any other countries, players in our national team are not getting less. We, the taxpayers, are paying a huge sum for them. But it's our bad luck that we can't see any consistence performance.

If Tamim Iqbal is playing a good innings, the others will be busy to come and go out of the wicket. They are always in a competition to stay less time than others at the crease. It seems they have left something important in dressing room or in their house. If Ashraf reaches 30-40, he feels that it's enough for today, and now this is the time to blow up the bowlers. And eventually he is caught or bowled without getting a second chance. May be Musfique will follow the same path. Shakib and Riyad may raise some hope but it will soon be dashed. Better you can get some unorthodox but marvellous shots from the tail-enders. They can give you reason for spending your time in front of the TV set. Seeing the performance of national cricketers in the just concluded national T20 League, we are really in fear that they may lose a match even to Afghanistan. The Afghans may force the Tigers to kiss the dust. It would be a great shame for us, for our millionaire national players. Players from the war-ravaged country are really showing their guts whereas our players love to surrender meekly.

Personal commitment of a player is a must to give something to a team, a nation, a country. Ataul Gani Sumon
Uttara, Dhaka

Justice and judges

News and photos were published in the print media that those two justices waiting for 'oath taking' were allegedly facing some charges. One of them was a suspect in a murder case and before completion of his trial the case was withdrawn on an executive order. Right after two days of the withdrawal, he was appointed as a justice of the apex court.

The other appointee was reported to have kicked the court-door of the Chief Justice. His photo was published in the newspapers. He also never denied the allegations.

When any confusion arises regarding anybody, he should not be given the duties of a judge. It is an accepted motto of the justice system.

Kash Shaf
Purana Paltan
Dhaka

Nothing has changed

We have totally forgotten the title that we earned just a year ago or so. The people who were charged with corruption during the last CTG do not want to be charged again, not even in future. They want their path to be smooth to continue as they were doing. So, the watchman must be kept under control, that is the decision of the present government.

The DS editorial under the above title on 28th April is a good reminder if it comes into force. We remember, at one point during the CTG rule, people were very happy and wishing the CTG to continue for many more years just because the big fish were being netted by ACC and their corruption stories were being unveiled to the people. The people were watching with great interest how the big fish along with their wives and

Children on motorbikes



In Bangladesh, you would often see parents riding on motorbikes with their children, despite knowing the fact how fatal this can be if any accident occurs.

In our country people are hopping on motorcycles more, as a cheaper way of commuting and for fun. But there is no doubt that the vulnerability of motorcyclists, on just two wheels and without the benefit of a four wheeled vehicle's crash protection, is one of the major reasons they are disproportionately involved in casualty figures. Motorcycle accidents can cause more danger than any other accidents.

Obviously, motorcyclists are very vulnerable because of the lack of protection and the fact that they only have two wheels to keep the bike on the road. If a bike crosses a manhole or some oily patch on the road, it becomes difficult to keep control of the bike. Also the injuries you are likely to sustain will be a lot worse than a car accident.

Here's a typical disaster in the making, one that I've seen far too frequently. A motorcyclist rides down the street with a kid sitting in front of him, a helmet four sizes too large bouncing

around on the child's head, its little hands trying to hold onto the gas tank or the rider's legs. The kid interferes with the rider's control of the bike, the first strike against them.

What's going to happen if the rider must stop quickly? Will he grab the child with one arm, and thereby probably lose control of the bike if he really has to panic stop, or will he keep control of the bike and watch the kid fly off the front of the bike? Neither option bodes well for the child.

In Bangladesh, motorcycle accidents are unfortunately very common. As a motorcycle rider you are 40 times more likely to be killed than car drivers or passengers. You are more likely to be killed on a motorbike than any other means of transport.

There are so many deaths every year and only the bereaved families know the pain of losing their loved ones. Can't we stop putting young children's lives at stake? Can't we legally ban children from riding on motorbikes?

Badal Hasib
SIBT University, Sylhet

Islam

Mr. Zafar Sobhan wrote a post-editorial in The Daily Star on April 23, 2010 where he mentioned a new term "Bengali Islam" that was introduced to the region by Sufis. He also suggests that the Islamic parties should honour and abide by this Bengali Islam which is not hostile to Bengali culture and that will help those Islamic parties to win the hearts and minds of ordinary Bangladeshis.

In connection with this, I would like to mention a verse from the Holy Quran that says, "It is He Who has sent His Apostle with Guidance and the Religion of Truth that he may proclaim it over all religions even though the Pagans may detest-61:9." In explaining the meaning of this verse, the renowned translator A. Yusuf Ali writes, "There is really only one true Religion, the Message of submission to the Will of Allah: this is called Islam. It was the religion preached by Moses and Jesus; it was the religion of Abraham, Noah, and all the prophets, by whatever name it may be called. If people corrupt that

pure light, and call their religions by different names, we must bear with them, and we may allow the names for convenience. But Truth must prevail over all."

May Almighty Allah guide us all to understand and accept the Religion of Truth i.e. Islam.

Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque
Khalishpur R/A, Khulna

Don't miss the signals

Nature is alerting us. But we are deaf, we are not listening. It's going to be a great threat to our life. If we don't secure the nature, our life will be ruined.

Our government accepted a proposal for the world environmental protection organisation. But personally I don't see any activities undertaken. Why? Dhaka and other divisions have a huge number of generators. Aren't they doing a great harm to our environment? The government is telling us that they would build echo systematized energy making generators. But I don't think that these steps will be taken. Doesn't

this environment belong to us?

I think the following steps would help:

1. Remove all the generators and build an environment friendly electricity power system.
2. Every big building should be converted into an echo systematized building.
3. Every park should be free from illegal establishments.
4. And they should make some awareness advertisements for the people.
5. Stop cutting the forests.
6. Clean the rivers and evict the illegal grabbers.

Dravid Zaman
Student
Government Laboratory High School
Dhaka

Everyday Experience

Everyday when I walk down the streets, I see something very bad--garbage cans. Their speciality is nasty smell. Sometimes I see most of the garbage outside the cans. So, the footpaths become dirty.

Nowadays these are also

Twenty20 cricket

The third ICC World Twenty20 tournament began on 30/04/10 in the West Indies. Every cricket fan around the world was looking forward to this tournament after the exciting events which unfolded through the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, which was one of the watershed moments in international cricket, and the second edition which took place last year in England where Pakistan was crowned Champions.

They took the title off bitter rivals India. The spotlight was on the Caribbean islands as to how well they could host this international sporting event after the debacle of the ICC (ODI) World Cup in 2007 which was heavily criticised for being over-commercialised (lacklustre atmosphere due to smaller crowds as a result of exorbitant ticket price) and poor organisation throughout the tournament, which culminated in the farcical ending of the tournament where the final match between eventual champions Australia and Sri Lanka was suspended due to "bad light". The onus is on the West Indies to put up a better show as it was a brave move by the ICC to give them another crack at the whip in hosting this World Cup.

India are the favourites to win the World Cup despite their disappointing performance in England last year in which they were knocked out by the hosts at the Super 8s stage of the competition. They will again be led by the impressive Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who led the Chennai Super Kings in becoming Champions at this year's scandal-ridden Indian Premier League (IPL), and have arguably the best batting line-up in the competition with the likes of Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina and inspirational skipper Dhoni in their ranks. The major worry for India is the huge expectations that they carry from their cricket-mad nation where the sport is followed like a religion.



The defending champions Pakistan are currently in a mess after captain Younus Khan and Mohammad Yousuf were indefinitely banned and several other key players suspended. They are now led by the controversial Shahid Afridi, who is undoubtedly one of the best all-rounders in T20 cricket, but unlike Younus, who led the team to the triumph last year, is hardly a role-model leader.

Aranya Syed
London

ment. The water quality also depends on effluent types and discharge quantity from different types of industries, types of agrochemicals used in agriculture, and seasonal water flow and dilution capability of the river system.

Buriganga is a typical example of serious surface water pollution in our country. In the present situation this river carries wastewater during the months of November to April (the dry season), becoming toxic. The level of pollution is so high that no aquatic species can survive in it and the situation is getting worse day by day.

As we would all agree, the time has come to take action to protect our rivers from further degradation, and before nature takes revenge on us.

Md. Tanjil
Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies
University of Chittagong

Kutubdia island

Kutubdia is at high risk due to continuous erosion and natural disasters. Initially, Kutubdia was a land of 250 square kilometres. Due to continuous erosion it lost 40% of its landmass to the sea by 1990. Now it is a land of 58 square kilometres only. More than 65% (area) of Kutubdia has been submerged by the sea in the last 100 years. The Water Development Board built 40 kilometres of embankment to protect Kutubdia from erosion, of which 24 kilometres was damaged in the cyclone of 1991. Under these conditions, the people of this island are at high risk of natural calamities and the risk is increasing day by day.

The issue must be addressed immediately. Abdullah Al Mamun
Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences
University of Chittagong

Better power Supply!

Since last Friday, we have not experienced any power failure. My heartfelt thanks to those, whose tireless efforts have made it happen. We would like to enjoy continuous uninterrupted power supply in the days to come.

Thanks once again to all those who have made it happen.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Kalabagan, Dhaka

Saarc summit

The 16th Saarc summit ended in the presence of the heads of states from Southeast Asian countries, focussing on making Saarc a powerful organisation for regional co-operation and understanding in the fields of social, cultural, commercial and technological development. It was held in Thimphu, the capital city of Bhutan in the presence of USA, UK, China, Australia, EU and Myanmar as the observer countries.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that Saarc could not play an effective role for 25 years since its inception in 1985 due to lack of mutual understanding and trust.

It is time the countries worked together to build a better future for people in the region.

Eng. Md Meheeb Haque
BUET

Cruel treatment

There are lots of problems in human life. Children are brought up in families in a peaceful ambience. But it is not visible in all families. The poor slum-dwellers in cities without the knowledge of over population continue to produce babies every year. When there are many children in a single family living in slums, there arises the problem of ill-treatment. The parents who have great responsibility to their offspring act irresponsibly. The parents exploit their children to promote family earnings. Here in most cases parents beat their children to force them to inhumane labour. Hence the victims become used to a deprived and oppressed life.

The issue must get attention from all sections of society.

Ahsan Uddin
Department of English
SUST, Sylhet

Controlling River pollution

Generally, our rivers are being polluted by the discharge of untreated industrial effluents and urban wastewater, agrochemicals, sewage water, storm runoff, solid waste dumping, oil spillage, sedimentation and encroach-

children were being carried in the prison vans to the red brick houses. The corrupts were abandoning the cash money and their cars on the road sides. Many left homes during chase for fear of being caught. I know some people even sold out their posh furniture and curtains to make their homes ordinary looking. Many left the country for fear of the ACC.

The same people are now trying to make law to catch and punish the ACC members. If required, we believe, they will suggest abolishing the department so that there could be no such watchdogs to watch their corruption. Corruption has been rooted out, yet our bureaucrats, politicians, police, customs, income tax etc. are not out of corruption zone. In reality, nothing has changed. The people believed the present party in power would keep their election pledge, and make ACC stronger, but the proposed law will disappoint every one.

The scale of corruption has not been reduced a bit. The famous meter readers, income tax and police boxes, file desks, case docks in courts are running as usual and nothing moves without jerk or push. How come?

The 4-party alliance government created Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) to catch the terrorists who were making the ruling alliance miserable. This has yielded good results in cubing terrorism.

The present government is also enjoying the fruits of that creation. But curbing the powers of ACC will be counter-productive and make lives of the present ruling party men miserable after their exit. So, they should be kept under surveillance of ACC for their own good.

Everyone knows, Bangladesh became champion consecutively for many years as the "most corrupt nation" in the world. The government may have been changed, but people have not been changed. Some of the very people who were running out of the country, selling their curtains and leaving their cash money at road-sides for fear of ACC, are now in power, some have even become lawmakers. They might have forgotten their past.

The government should not forget that time will not remain the same all the time. Shafiqul Islam, NY