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## Rebel Poet

May 25 was the birth anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Throughout his life, he fought for humanity. His works are our national assets. He believed in equality and universal brotherhood. He was above all kinds of narrowness.

But this man suffered a lot. Poverty never left him. The early death of his son Bulbul broke his heart. He also had to face harsh criticism. Despite heartless criticism, his popularity as "Rebel Poet" rose sharply.

He believed in religious harmony. He said in his editorial in "Yuga Bani", "Come brother Hindu! Come Muslim! Come Buddhist! Come Christian! Let us forsake all smallness, all lies, all selfishness."

We love him and his philosophy.

Pradip Das  
Lecturer  
BHPI, CRP



## Joy and Tarique

The perpetuation of the dynasty rules and the culture of obeying two leaders of the Mujib & Zia families have become the norm in our politics. Bangabandhu & Zia, by dedicating their lives to the freedom struggle, earned the right to lead the country. But the same cannot be said about the later day Sheikhs and Zias. As long as the ruling and opposition parties retain their outdated, feudal organisational structures, where sycophancy, nepotism, and ad-holism rule, a revival of their past glory will be a far cry. So can Joy and Tarique as leaders help?

How much Joy and Tarique, with practically no experience or real experiences in ground level politics, will be able to understand a country struggling to recover from the agrarian crisis is anybody's guess. If they were so keen on entering politics they should have started from the grass-roots.

Anyhow, the induction of both Joy and Tarique come as a welcome change. Their leadership promise to be dynamic. While they still need to hone up their political skills, parties will be glad to get new and young leaders with a broad vision and a zest for public service.

Gopal Sengupta  
Canada

## Why hartal?

I was deeply shocked to read in almost all the newspapers that the main opposition party called hartal for 27 June. I did not understand why the opposition party called the hartal as they are mostly responsible for all the current problems of our country.

Therefore, I would like to request our opposition leader to cancel the hartal.

Md. Salauddin Chowdhury  
NSU

## Flouted traffic rules?

I was driving through New Market intersection a few days ago in a hurry to pick my son from a Dhanmondi school at a piercing hot midnoon. Suddenly, a traffic policeman signalled me to stop my car. Though I was in an extreme hurry, yet I did not ignore the dictum of the law enforcer. He showed me a paper with the allegation of violating traffic rules a few days ago. I defied the allegation as my car on the said date was in a garage for necessary repair for a few days. The traffic man instantly started a noisy fracas with me.

I was in such a hurry that I could not sustain the arguments and asked how much I needed to pay. He asked Tk. 2,000 only! I haggled. For a single 'offence' the highest fine is Tk. 1000.00. He offered me an ingratiating smile without caring about my disgust. Avoiding any further rant, I tucked Tk. 1500.00 into his hand and whisked away with utmost nausea and abhorrence.

## Criminal behaviour

A local English daily reported on the matter on 22nd. May. It was a disgusting and deplorable criminal act. More so is the impotence of the law enforcing units of Police and Rab who in this matter seems to be 'sucking their thumbs', although police had apprehended a few persons! Are the law enforcers a party to the crime, given their indifference to it? Can they not take any initiative?

Had they seriously desired,

they could have nipped it in the bud! Another report from Brahmanbaria published alongside it reinforces my doubt about the sincerity of the Rajshahi law protectors! In Brahmanbaria, as your report suggested, both the local 'chieftains or matbors' and the police were indifferent.

The police even did not record any FIR and took cognizance of the matter only at the persuasion of the 'Mohila Ainjibi Shamity'!

Shame on the official, who heads the police there, and is responsible for law and order in that area! May be 'he hears no evil, sees no evil and so does no evil'; like apprehending such criminals!

In this matter, arrests should be non-bailable, and degrees of punishment must be drastically increased to put a stop to such criminal behaviour!

S.A. Mansoor  
Dhaka

## Khaleda's call and public reaction

On 19 May Khaleda Zia called a dawn to dusk hartal for 27 June for what she called, electricity, gas and water for Dhakaites. In her public speech, she told the nation that the present government has done nothing during the last one year or so. The supply of electricity, water and gas that people are enjoying at present are her own legacy. This government has not added any unit of those utilities.

This clearly indicates that she has left a legacy of short supply and peoples' present sufferings are the result of her failures. So, calling for a hartal for adequate supply of above utilities is unnecessary blaming game.

The country's pundits have expressed mixed reac-

tion on her hartal call. Dr. Akbar Ali, former adviser, has criticised Begum Zia for this untimely hartal call. He said that no such situation has been created in the country for which she could call hartal. He apprehended return of confrontational politics in the country. Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed, former chief of TIB, has said that "hartal" is a democratic right and anyone can exercise that democratic right at any time. My question is, can this right be exercised by anyone just for satisfying his/her personal ego or his/her ill feelings against his/her rival politicians?

I know, no one will dare to venture out on that day for his own security, because Khaleda's men will rule the Dhaka streets with sticks and arms and will break anything that moves. At the end of the day, Begum Zia will declare "a great success and thank the people" for compliance". Please tell us what should we feel about it at the end of the day. Please advise the politicians to exercise "democratic rights" in democratic manners. Every citizen has a democratic right and others have no right to deny it by using force.

Shafiqul Islam, NY

## Nuclear power generation

The setting up of atomic power station has become the crying need as the people of Bangladesh are facing many problems over the years due to the shortage of power generation. Power generation has become the key index for the continuous development of a nation. For example, we can cite China where the production of power generation is doubling every year and the country has already secured the position of the 2nd largest economy after USA. Needless to say, power generation ensures the rapid growth of production and hence takes the pivotal role to boost the GDP of the country.

According to statistics, Bangladesh is a country having only 3000 to 3500 MW power generation but our demand is more than 5000 MW. The deficit of power generation is around 3,000MW. There is no controversy that power sector is the driving force for the continuous development of a country, especially for a least developed country like Bangladesh. Considering the projected demand, it is advisable for the govt to step onwards for setting up the atomic power station. The recent visit of foreign minister Dr. Dipu Moni to Russia will open a new horizon of bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Russia. As a least developed country, Bangladesh would

benefited in different ways. Making the frame-work deal with Russia, setting up of an atomic power station would be possible and that would contribute to lessening load shedding as well as meeting the projected demand of the country.

Eng. Md Meheub Haque  
BUET

## Dress code in Islam

In an article entitled "Religion and women" published in The Daily Star on May 18, 2010, columnist Mr. Chaklader Mahboob-ul Alam commented, "As far as the dress code is concerned, the Holy Quran requires both men and women to dress and behave modestly. Nowhere does it ask women to wear burkha (full veils)."

Regarding the dress code and the behaviour of men and women, the Holy Quran states, "Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that will make for greater purity for them: and Allah is well acquainted with all that they do. And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands."

This guidance is the order of the Creator Almighty Allah and no one can bring any modification to it. There may be difference of opinion about interpretation of the words and verses for which we are to accept the explanations by the Islamic scholars. Moreover, all Muslims must accept that there is nothing to be reformed in Islam. It is a complete code of human life and is not limited to any age.

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

## Smoking

As a matter of fact, we all know about the ill-effects of cigarette smoking and tobacco use but a smoker really is helpless against this menacing addiction. When he has to, he 'will' smoke. The 'Will' is associated with the short-term effects. Let us see the quick-effects of a cigarette smoke that makes a man physically and mentally dependent on it.

Nervous system and brain activities are quickened for a few minutes by the stimulation caused by smoke.

One cigarette quickly increases blood pressure and heart beat rate. At the same time blood flow to the body's end points is reduced giving numbness to the areas like fingers and toes.

Hunger, taste and olfactory senses are weakened. Dizziness is also experienced in many cases.

While the smokers enjoy the short-term effects, what about the long-term effects which, most of the time, are irreversible? Smoking actually increases the risk of suffering from life-threatening diseases even if a person quits it in the later years of his life.

So, we should give up smoking.  
Md. Tanjil  
Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies  
University of Chittagong

## Moral development of children

A child is compared to a bud in which the potentiality of sweet smell is concealed. Usually a bud needs a favourable environment to be bloomed well; like a child needs a good family environment and care to be developed morally. Here, moral development means learning of good manners or behaviour and formation of character immaculately.

The family is considered the dominant and effective place for the moral development of children. The foundation of children's behaviours is laid in accordance with family members' behaviours. Family members' bad behaviours or characters impede the moral development of children.

M Faisal Saleh  
Chunati Hakimia Kamil  
(MA) Madrasa  
Lohagara  
Chittagong

## Summer and load shedding

As the summer is in, the power situation has taken a turn for the worse. In other words, we are facing a multitude of problems because of frequent disruption of power. The students are suffering as they cannot read at night. The miseries of patients in different hospitals are increasing manifold, as the electricity plays hide and seek. Production in different factories are being hampered because of power cuts.

Simply put, the power situation has not improved at all. The demand of electricity is ever rising while the supply is not enough to meet the requirement. And it is in summer that the demand reaches the peak. We the city dwellers are suffering because of frequent disruption of power supply. The situation calls for immediate action.

Zabed Wali  
Pahartali, Chittagong



PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

## Traffic at NCCRHD gate

Every day of the week, except Friday, thousands of patients, their attendants, medical students and on-duty physicians and other professionals and visitors who have business at the hospital and the medical college have to cross the Mirpur road on foot or by car to enter the hospital and college premises from early morning to evening. The Mirpur road in front of the hospital is always filled up with all types of speeding motor vehicles, especially the big buses which never slow down to allow the pedestrians and physicians' cars to enter the hospital and college. Every entrant to the hospital has to risk his/her life and fear damage of the vehicle in their attempts to enter. Considering the arrogance of the bus drivers and reckless driving of cars, people and physicians cross the road and enter the hospital at great risk of being run over. There is a traffic signal but all bus and car drivers disregard it.

Like all people who come to the hospital for receiving health care services, I myself as a physician working in that hospital find it extremely hazardous to enter the premises in such anarchic traffic.

The DMP has not posted any traffic policeman at this important crossing.

Through your newspaper, I'd request the DMP commissioner to give his attention to the problem I mentioned above and immediately post a traffic policeman in front of the hospital main gate to facilitate easy entry of cars to the hospital in the absence of non-functional traffic signals.

Dr Nazneen Eshaque  
Senior Consultant  
NCCRHD, Suhrawardy  
Hospital Complex  
Dhaka

## Ideological warfare!

The two major political parties are fighting out their last ideological war with records of respective political history. We are innocent watchers of the events since early 50's. The independence movements which began back in 1952 and ended in 1971 all belong to the ordinary "lungi clad" people and not to any Generals; rather the war was against the Generals, internally grown or externally directed. The leadership came from the politicians and not from any Generals. Unfortunately, the Generals have succeeded in taking away the democratic rights of the people time and again during the last 39 years.

We belong to the third party of people's rights. It is a very crucial moment for us to be well guarded and ensure that the religious fundamentalists cannot take the opportunity to pave their way for an Islamic revolution, a long term dream

of their allies who are anticipating soldiers of foreign country to create trouble spots prevailing in some Muslim majority countries. Unfortunately, the trouble-makers belong to their club who anticipate and see that foreign elements might be seen again to start the trouble. Who are they? The record is just opposite to their belief.

The ideological fight is now open and clear. There will be no end to it until the third party of the people intervene and stop the troublemakers once and for all.

We believe in peace and democracy. We do not endorse religious politics.

Quadir  
California, USA

## Tough tussle

The newly elected UZ Chairmen are fighting for their basic rights, vis a vis the existing role of the concerned MP in their constituency.

The problem was well analysed by Prof Ahmed A Azad in The Daily Star of 22nd April 2010. He proposed that the problem might be solved to a large extent if the MPs were elected on district basis, rather than based on upazilas. The chairmen are elected on local basis.

A debate in parliament would be in public interest. It is time for change; and better start the thinking process now, than later. Metropolis Dhaka is suffering from a surfeit of centralisation; which is also affecting the city corporation activities (overcrowding, operation and maintenance). The message of the time is decentralization; diverting more activities to the divisional and district headquarters, thereby discouraging unnecessary trips to Dhaka.

There is a have-not mentality in politics, public and social affairs in the LDCs, due to lack of opportunities in development activities, and low standards of living (especially in the rural areas). The political outputs are rather subjective, and party-oriented. This basic mentality and approach have to be changed through national leadership. The latter is in short supply. The game is: to manipulate the occasion; or, rise to the occasion (through self sacrifice). It looks like we achieved freedom in a very short period of mere nine months!

A Mawaz  
Dhaka

## Hawking's time machine

The subject is a difficult one; I bought the book and had to abandon it only after reading seven pages. How am I going to travel through time machine to the future? Prof. Hawking talked extensively about God particle which is beyond our imagination. How small is small and I am already scratching my head to figure out just a billion-trillion-trillionth of a centimetre.

## Material quest?



WWW.SMH.COM.AU



WWW.DAILYMAL.CO.UK

Advertising to children has become big business in recent years. All around the world, children spend a lot of time watching television. Such prolonged hours of TV expose them to various advertisements, convincing them to buy. As kids are becoming more powerful consumers, marketers are targeting them more bluntly. Advertisers are letting their imagination run wild using catchy jingles, dances and cartoons, portraying mysterious worlds, implying false reality. Young children have difficulty

distinguishing between advertisements and reality, and may not understand that ads are there with pure intention to sell something for profit. Additionally, many parents feel guilty about buying products for their child but they worry that by constantly saying "no" they will increase their child's depression. Parents, meanwhile, in their earnestness to give the best to their children may go a bit overboard with their generosity and give in to their endless demands.

A growing, even insatiable

desire for material goods is always dominating the minds of children. Nowadays, marketers see children as an economic resource only to be exploited for greater profit. Studies on "materialism" show that individuals highly focused on materialistic values also report less satisfaction with life. Advertisements have immense control over the minds of young children and are shaping our future as a materialistic society.

Tanha Kashfia Kate  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka