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## Bulbul Ahmed's passing



Veteran actor Bulbul Ahmed has left us forever. It is shocking news for all cinema lovers of Bangladesh. This death would definitely create a huge vacuum in the cultural arena of our country. He possessed a unique personality. He was a perfect gentleman.

Popularly known as Devdas, he achieved this name through his natural acting in the film "Devdas". Long time ago, I watched his film "Mahanayak".

To sum up, Bulbul Ahmed was not only an idol for any rising actor but also for any ordinary man both for his sound professional as well as personal life.

Pradip Das, Lecturer  
BHPI, CRP

## Higher education

Recently, the HSC results were published across the country with more than 1.5 percent increase in percentage of passing compared to the previous year. However, many of them have come out with outstanding success scoring GPA-5. But the shocking news for those students is that all of them cannot get admission in good universities.

The following steps can be taken to upgrade the quality of higher education in the country:

The standard of education under the NU should be upgraded allocating more funds.

Scholarships should be given to the poor and brilliant students to encourage them to follow the right track in life.

Private universities should increase their seats and they should provide scholarships to the poor and meritorious students.

Eng. Md Meheub Haque  
BUET

## Tourism potential of Sylhet

Sylhet division is known for natural beauty. There are opportunities to focus on its beauty. These natural sceneries attract Bangladeshi people as well as foreigners. It is a matter of regret that such places lost their appeal due to lack of proper care.

The issue should be addressed by the decision makers.

Md. Masum Billah  
Department of Business  
Administration  
SUST, Sylhet

## A boy of vision!

It was a very worthwhile initiative taken by a class ten student, Krishna Jaldas, living in a fishing village in Mirersarai, where there are no primary schools within a few miles of the village! He has opened a school for teaching basic literacy in the yard in front of his hut!

Despite having no desk or benches, no room or even a roof overhead, he is teaching under the open sky. This is an inspiring dynamic effort of the young school student in providing the much needed "education for all", which the government is trying to pro-

vide!

It is a great personal initiative. He deserves recognition by the government and gratitude for making a very worthwhile nation building effort, all on his own! The nation needs to know about it, so that others may be encouraged. I would request all our dailies and both public and private TV channels and radios to highlight this singular achievement of a class ten student!

This will hopefully encourage other individuals or groups to promote education for the poor and needy in their own locality, so that we have "education for all", all over Bangladesh!  
S.A. Mansoor  
Dhaka

## Higher education in UK

I completed my BBA from North South University. After completing my graduation, I decided to apply to some well-reputed UK universities for my masters. Upon applying, I've got a few unconditional offers as well as CAS to study Masters in well-reputed UK universities (For instance: Essex University, Coventry University, University of Hull). Most of the courses will commence in the last week of September.

From last February, UKBA has stopped receiving any VISA application from Bangladeshi students due to the huge number of applications where some of the agents and students used false documents to obtain visa. Since then the visa issuing has been stopped for all the students. Here the point arises, what will happen to the authentic students who have been waiting for a year to study in well-reputed UK universities? Should they suffer for the wrongdoing of some agency or fake students? I am afraid, if UKBA doesn't open it by July, many genuine students like us will suffer a lot and their dream to pursue a UK university degree will not be fulfilled.

Thereby request the education ministry of Bangladesh and the British High Commission to take necessary initiatives so that UKBA may consider this situation and withdraw the suspension at least for genuine students as soon as possible.

Rudro  
Dhaka

## Winning by chance!

There are two expressions -- By Chance and By Choice. Bangladesh wins in cricket By Chance.

Opponents win against Bangladesh by choice. When Bangladesh win it is an "UPSET" when it loses it is "PRESET" [expected result]. Nigeria has banned their players from international football because of their poor performance in the World Cup. Should we go for this option?

Spain took eighty years to get the Cup. How much time will we take to have a shot at it?  
Dr Shameem Hassan  
New DOHS Mohakhali  
Dhaka

## BCL and AL leaders

AL leaders are speaking their minds. One of them disowned Chhatra League's wanton barbarism all over the country. Another frank and blunt leader expressed the whole truth that instead of wasting energy through infighting, the Chhatra League should take on the opposition which, he hinted, will greatly complement the government's repressive action against the people. Actually, the AL wants a Bangladesh where everybody will support whatever they do.

That day I couldn't stay in the teacher's staff room because I saw some Chhatra League leaders watching TV sitting on the sofa meant for the teachers. What's more, they did not even think it necessary to stand up in a gesture of honour.

The other day some Chhatra League leaders cornered one of their activists into the physics department and beat him mercilessly in the very presence of the teachers.

The incident left the department badly damaged but when the teachers tried to point to the real culprit to the police the culprits were ready with their blood stained hands to humiliate the teachers in the very presence of police. Only tell me, what is happening in this country?

Has the government sold its soul for some cheap pleasure of oppressing people?

Abdus Subhan  
One-mail

## BNP and Tarique

I have gone through the above captioned letter written by Dr. Shameem of New DHS, Dhaka on 14 July. I agree with him that it is an opportunity for the BNP to bring their 'Rising Sun of the East' out clean by winning the legal battle. Not only this money laundering case which the CTG started against him, there are many more stories and gossips against Tarique which need to be cleared from the public knowledge. The BNP reportedly believe that Mr. Tarique Zia is a talented future leader of Bangladesh who will be able to lead his country in the right direction.

As per the public reading, excepting BNP supporters, Tarique's talent and IQ level are yet to be proved. His known companions have hazy backgrounds. He earned his reputation as king of 'Hawa Bhaban' and 'Mr. 10%' during the 4-party alliance government.

If he wants to take our leadership, he should come home, face the challenges of cases and prove his innocence. I believe this is a golden opportunity for him now. Mere publicity by his mother's party men will not restore his image in Bangladesh.

Let's wait and see what he does.  
Shafiqul Islam, NY

## Sex education

Issues like rape, sexual abuse of boys and girls, STD/AIDS, abortions, etc., need to be addressed urgently. For this, it is important to make our children aware of what sex is. They have to get proper information on it. A curriculum that will not offend the sensibilities of Bangladeshis should include the scientific, social, and religious aspects of sex. Not all parents can discuss sex openly with their children. The school environment is ideal. Moreover, notwithstanding the recent study on child abuse, I believe that the solution for it does not lie in sex education. It lies in imparting moral values and handing out severe punishment to the perpetrators of crimes against children. Sex education will not help in preventing perversion. What is actually needed is the revival of moral science as a compulsory subject from class X. Lessons on good habits, duties of the individual to the family, society and the country and so on can be included in the syllabus. It is only by strengthening the moral values and character of individuals that a society can be saved from human predators. So, let us concentrate on educating the adults.

On the other hand/alternatively, instead of directly introducing sex education in schools, it would perhaps be better to introduce comprehensive health education. It can deal with the causes, effects, and prevention of all diseases. Through this programme, behavioural aspects can be addressed. The cultural context needs to be borne in mind while implementing a public policy. People have problem in allowing their children to learn about sexual issues openly. Why not call them health issues and tactfully handle them in schools?  
Gopal Sengupta  
Canada

## Freedom lovers or bigots?

The approval by France's lower house of parliament to ban Islamic veil shows once again what a bunch of hypocrites these "liberated" people are. Justice Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said it was a victory for democracy and freedom against all the oppressions. Oh really? Ms Marie's comments would make more sense if they were made in Afghanistan against the Taliban. These comments are totally inappropriate for women who are living in France which is a fully independent, democratic, nuclear-capable, UN veto-holding, freedom-loving and peace-loving country!

What these anti-Muslim bigots forget is that no one is forcing these women to wear veils, they have "chosen" to do so. Why is it when western women choose to walk naked or half naked, they call it "liberation", yet when other women exercise the same freedom and choose to wear veils, it suddenly becomes a threat to freedom and democracy!

Genuine freedom-lovers and truly liberated people will never go to other people and say we have the rights to have certain things but you don't and whatever we do is right and better but whatever you do is wrong and backward. These are the behaviours of hypocrites, bigots and bullies.

Oldham  
UK

## Peaceful life

A person can attain mental tranquillity amid his/her noble work as s/he performs anything for the sake of the welfare of humankind.

Our next generations follow us like 'as you sow, so you reap.' Everyone should, therefore, keep doing noble work to lead a peaceful life everywhere, above all for attaining the satisfaction of Allah and the Rasul (SM).

Habibur Rashid Ismail  
Chittagong

## Dr. Kamal Hossain

On 14 July SBA's "Of Kamal Hossain...of what might have been" was interesting. A man like Kamal Hossain could not shine in our political sky!! There are many reasons someone can point out.

- 1) He landed on Awami leadership, not ascended.
- 2) After the crackdown by Pak army, he was supposed to go into hiding along with Barrister Amirul and Tajuddin Ahmed as per earlier directed by Bangabandhu. He failed instead, surrendered (Writings by Barrister Amir). Afterward "Charam patro" of Swadhin Bangla Betar fell heavily on him.
- 3) When he was foreign minister he strongly advocated for Bhutto's Bangladesh visit. There were strong objections from MOFA high officials. But he won and Bhutto visited with 125 people of whom most of them were from Pakistan's intelligence services! And Pakistanis re-established their lost "connections". Many say that was the beginning of 15th August!
- 4) During the anti-Ershad movements, he was found absent in the country whenever political tensions rose high. It was comical to the people.
- 5) He did not have the skill to communicate with the

## Tigers strike again



The win against England during the second ODI was indeed a great achievement and finally came after a long time. I believe our new wicketkeeper did a wonderful job behind the stumps and should be made a full time wicketkeeper. This will enable Mushfiqur Rahim to concentrate entirely on his batting. Md. Ashraf is not making any contribution to his team and should be dropped permanently. He seems to have forgotten how to play cricket. I also urge the Bangladesh cricket team to be hungrier for winning and not let the opposition just walk all over them. This is exactly what they did during the third ODI and it was not pleasant to watch. I feel that they should always fight till the end. The umpires also made some wrong decisions and ought to be scrutinized. I urge them to take a little time to analyse their decisions before lifting their finger. I would like to also urge Shakib Al-Hassan and Abdur Razzak to bowl as straight as possible. If the ball strays to the leg side, then it becomes very easy for the batsman to hit the ball hard. On

the whole, I feel it is time the Tigers stopped being minnows or underdogs.

Aminur Rahim  
New DOHS  
Mohakhali, Dhaka

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Having lost all the matches in Asia Cup by huge margins, many of us back home thought Bangladesh would face a tougher challenge against England in their home ground. After losing the first one-dayer, the Tigers bounced back in the second match winning it by 5 runs, thanks mainly to their spinners and an all round display by captain Mashrafe Mortaza. With that victory, the Tigers now had the great feeling of winning against all the Test playing nations in the limited version of the game.

Congratulations, Tigers! Millions of people in your country have lots of expectations when you play and we always feel proud of your success.

Choudhury Tausif  
Segun Bagicha  
Dhaka

workers.

6) He broke away from the Awami League to form Gono Forum and forgot the political fate of Salam Khan, Tarkabagish and others! Recently Oli Ahmed and B. Choudhury met the same fate after leaving the BNP.

7) He never won an election other than ruling party's by-elections.

8) He could never become people's man. And you cannot do politics without being a people's choice. And there Dr. Kamal Hossain failed. It is his failure!!

Dr. Q.S. Islam  
Shantinagar, Dhaka

## A train journey

Believe it or not. One can go to Dhaka from Uttara with only Tk 6 as travelling cost and comparatively within a short time. This was absurd to me till I travelled from Airport Railway Station to Kamalapur station by rail on 13 July at a cost of Tk 6 only.

This may sound incredible to many in this age of high living costs amidst soaring prices of daily necessities including transport costs, be it CNG, taxicab, minibus or so called road king buses.

Md. Lutfar Rahman  
Faculty of Business  
Administration  
IUBAT International  
University of Business  
Agriculture and Technology  
Dhaka

## Kuwaiti visa

Currently, (probably for a year or so), the Kuwait government is not issuing any work permit or visa to any Bangladeshi national in any category. It is worthwhile to mention that the bilateral relation between Kuwait and Bangladesh was always good since the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. As far as I know, Bangladesh imports most of its petroleum from Kuwait. On the other hand, thousands of Bangladeshi nationals are working in Kuwait at the moment. Most of them are workers and labourers. They are playing a great role in the GDP of Kuwait. During the Gulf War back in late 80's and early 90's, Bangladeshi workers played a big role in the reconstruction of Kuwait. At that time all other foreign workers, except Bangladeshis escaped due to the war.

Recently, I was offered a faculty position at a private university in Kuwait. The

university authorities had applied for my visa and they informed me that the immigration office denied issuing the visa just due to my being a 'Bangladeshi national'. Whatever may be the reason, it was very unfortunate for me and I consider myself unlucky.

Last week, I saw the news report in a local daily in Dhaka that Kuwait was going to recruit Bangladeshi workers along with doctors and engineers very soon. I hope things will be all right.

Dr. Abu Reza Mahmud  
Research Fellow  
Toyota, Japan

## The stark reality!

Bangladesh is the 8th largest country in the world in population where 150 million people are virtually elbowing each other in a land that is 134,000 sq km in area with a population density of more than 1100 people per sq km. Overpopulated! During independence in 1971, the population of Bangladesh was about 75 million. After 39 years, its population is more than doubled. The current estimate of population growth in the country is 1.75% a year. This means that the population of Bangladesh will double in the next 40 years. In spite of such an ominous situation, idealists may be quick to point out that Bangladesh is making improvements in education and healthcare, and most importantly has achieved a respectable economic growth rate of about 5 per cent a year in recent decades. Though true, such progress has had a very little impact on the overall poverty level in the country. Studies reveal that in real terms the poverty level in Bangladesh has not come down but gone up. The main reason for this incongruity is the rapid growth of the country's underprivileged population, whose unemployment rate remains extremely high for illiteracy. Since the poor uneducated people have no steady income, they customarily want more children as security and support in old age. They are also apt to get married early and produce children that they can't educate or even support. However, the great irony is that the children born in such a situation tend to breed more of the same year after year. This is precisely what's happening in Bangladesh right

now. The stark reality is that such a growth in population will not only put the future of Bangladesh in serious danger, it will indubitably have a profound impact on the rest of the world as well.

Tanha Kshifia Kate  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka

## Punishing children

I rarely write to newspapers, perhaps once every 10 years. However, there is much talk in Bangladesh about corporal punishment in schools, which compels me to write.

I don't know if I should congratulate Sir Frank Peters on his fine article and for bringing the 'hidden under the carpet' subject to the attention of the wider public, or condemn him for having awoken 'sleeping demons' inside my head horrific memories from my own early days at school.

We had a math teacher who could not have been normal.

Every morning without fail he would line us up, hit us with a stick, although we had done nothing wrong. Then he would tell us that it was to remind us of what was to come if we misbehaved.

That was only the beginning. If a pupil raised his head momentarily from studying his book and happened to catch his eye, he was severely punished for "time wasting". His sick joy was in beating us.

Hell couldn't be as bad. I suffered from skin allergies, rashes, pimples, headaches, sleepless nights and, above all, very low esteem in my youth because of him. Most Friday nights my skin would break out in blotches and an itchy rash, which made sleeping difficult.

I complained to my parents and my grandparents, but they didn't understand. They thought I was going through a phase of teenage rebellion. I tried talking to the headmaster once and he hit me for being malicious.

I felt totally isolated and could not see any way out. There are very few options for a child in Bangladesh who seeks help. I was so desperate and unhappy at times I felt it would not have mattered if I had died.

To read almost 25-years later that such cruelty and open abuse in Bangladesh schools still exist is heart-breaking.

Maj. Humayun Abed (Retd)  
Chelsea  
London, UK

## Kuakata tourist spot



WWW.BANGLAVIEW24

Kuakata is gradually attracting an increased number of tourists. It's a spectacular beach where one can have a sight of both the rising and setting sun. I have the experience of visiting Patong and Rawai beaches in Thailand. I found Kuakata not less attractive than those beaches. This is also a place from where tourists can visit the Sundarbans world's largest mangrove forests. Some private tour operators are already offering tour programmes.

Tourism development in Kuakata should be in a comprehensive manner. The government may set a guideline to control the unplanned establishment of hotels and motels like in Cox's Bazar.

Construction of a small-scale airport in Kuakata will push forward the tourism industry. This is necessary for an easy access of both domestic and international tourists. If the airport is developed here, influx of regional tourists from Nepal, Bhutan, China and eastern part of India will increase.

Cruise ships or tourist vessels service may be installed from Kuakata to Saint Martin's Island touching Sonadia and Moheshkhali on the way.  
Ziaul Haque, DM, BPC