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Justice must prevail



JASHIM SALAM / DRINKNEWS

History has hardly seen the like of the calculated annihilations of the intellectuals by their own people which happened in our country in 1971. The pictures of disfigured dead bodies and the mass killing sites are stark reminders of the heinous crimes the collaborators committed just two days before our victory, obviously with a motive to make the new nation crippled. They had also involved themselves in the genocide the Pakistani occupation forces carried out during the whole period of our Liberation War when three million people were killed. They were the members of Rajakar, Al-Badr, and Al-Shams and belonged to Jamaat-e-Islami, Nizam-e-Islam and Muslim League.

Of the many, immediately after liberation, Maulana Farid Ahmed of Nizam-e-Islam was lynched by the mob

for his anti-Bangladesh role. Prof. Golam Azam would have met the same fate if he did not make his escape to Pakistan. Maulana Abdul Matin escaped public wrath by publicly apologizing to Bangabandhu and promising not to do politics in the country. FQ Chowdhury saved himself by going to jail. Later, Begum Zia accorded citizenship to Golam Azam and made his associates members of her cabinet. Regrettably, when all preparations are made for holding the trial of war criminals, BNP is coming in the way with all its might.

We are indebted to the martyred intellectuals and freedom fighters for their supreme sacrifices for the nation. The war criminals must be brought to justice.

A. H. Dewan
South Kafrul
Dhaka Cantt., Dhaka

Cultural dominance

Undoubtedly, Shahrukh Khan is one of the most famous heroes in India. Recently, he along with his troupe performed gorgeously in Dhaka. The event was organised by some private organisation. Definitely, the cultural heritage and costumes of our country are pretty different than that of Mumbai. We must keep in mind that foreign cultural elements are gradually infesting our showbiz. People are more willing to accept foreign films, songs, etc., being exposed to them. Thus, our native cultural products are being neglected.

I would like to urge the authorities concerned to think deeply about cultural domination before arranging such programmes.

Tashrif Billah
Student, EEE, BUET

Our dormitories

I am just ending my university life. The most painful experience of my university life was living in the dormitory.

The most talented students of the country get admitted to Dhaka University. It is assumed that university students are more capable of doing something for the country's betterment than others. The students need facilities relating to studies for doing that.

But they get no required facilities in the dorms. Most of them do not have a suitable study place and even a sleeping place. They do not get a nutritious

meal. Most of the residents of the dorms suffer from malnutrition. Without having nutritious meal, study and sleeping place and other required facilities, how can we become successful and competent to serve the nation?

I humbly request the university authorities to do the needful in this regard.

Md. Taherul Islam
MSS
Institute of Social Welfare & Research (ISWR)
University of Dhaka

Electricity from coal gasification

There has been no follow-up news on the interesting and important news report by

Shamim Jahangir on the matter since last reported in your daily on 4th November. In our national interest, I feel as far as the report goes, we should take up this offer to set up an experimental 10MW power plant, based on coal gasification of the rather deep Jamalpur coal seam; which lies 500 to 1000 metres below the surface! Given the depth of the coal seam, possibly power generation by gasification should be a cost effective option for power generation, rather than mining it, in my opinion.

As reported, the Power, Energy & Mineral Resources Ministry had formed a 9-member committee to scrutinise the proposal around June 2010. Over five months have gone, and many cups of tea in the committee may have been consumed, but the findings are still elusive! Or, is it a state secret, not meant for the ears of taxpayers and prospective buyers of electric power? What is the result of the (expert!) scrutiny? Or, are we not to question why?

Frankly speaking, why should we not go ahead with the 10MW demonstration plant to be set up by the proposer, without any obligation on our part, if it is not successful? May we, the power consumers, kindly request the government to throw some light on the matter? Or is the proposal still passing through the 500 to 1000 layers of bureaucracy, not visible to the eye?

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

60th anniversary of Holy Cross College

On December 18, 2010 I attended the 60th Anniversary programmes of Holy Cross College as a former student. Words are not enough to express my happiness to be a part of this educational institution. The college authorities arranged the grandest occasion with disciplined preparations. Arrangements of chairs according to batches in the pavilion next to the college field were set systematically, volunteers' services were highly noticeable and the performers enthralled us with their singing and beautiful presentations. With scintillating words and loud clapping the celebrations won the hearts of thousands present there as the audience. All of us were very much thrilled meeting with old friends. The great occasion ended with the

hearty meal and unforgettable photo sessions.

Rubab Abdullah Shukla
Residential Area
Dhaka Cantonment
Dhaka

One child policy

The PCP article (19 Dec) on China's economic development and taking out 500 million people out of poverty is indeed very interesting. Many political and economic policies and actions are cited for this, however, the most important and effective policy of 'One child per family' is completely ignored! This is the main reason for China's prosperity and this is why it is bound to lead mankind in near future in the global village.

Engineer Shafi Ahmed
London, UK

Playgrounds

There are many educational institutions in urban areas. Most of the institutions are situated in the buildings used for commercial purposes, with markets, shopping centres, etc., adjacent to them. And there is no playground in these institutions.

Playground is an essential part of any educational institution, because playing is a part of education. Playing is also good exercise and fresh entertainment.

So, I think, every educational institution should provide their students with playing facilities.

M.M. Parvej
Dept of Fisheries
Patuakhali Science and
Technology University

China-India relations

China's ambassador Zhang Yan has said the relations between China and India is fragile. I appreciate him for his aptness in choosing correct diplomatic adjective and obviously for his outspoken remark. India should take it positively bearing in mind that an outspoken enemy is better than a reserve friend. We hope Indian media and the gov. stakeholders will take it positively, and consider this a step to erase the misunderstanding between the two countries.

We now need a good political environment in our region. I think if this 'fragile' relationship can be transformed into a truly amicable relation, the

Power generation scene

The news published in The Daily Star on 12th December stated that our capacity of power generation is 6000 MW but only 4300 MW is being produced. The authorities blame the low quality equipment, old machines, etc. to hide the real reason behind this situation.

The reality is that there is dearth of skilled manpower, skilled technical management, necessary equipment and spare parts, etc. The authorities have no permission to shut down a power plant when needed which causes damage to the power plant machineries.

So, the best way to improve power generation is to remove the deficiencies. Otherwise, only by installing new power stations, the power generation situation will never improve. One new power plant will be installed and another old power plant will go out of order if we fail

to give attention to their maintenance.

An accident in the Ghorashal sixth unit 210 MW power plant recently caused serious damage to its generator and turbine. When it will run again is uncertain. Barapukuria 2x125 MW power plant, the only coal fired power plant in the country, is totally out of production at the moment causing serious power crisis in the northern part of the country. Siddhirganj 1x210 MW power plant has gone out of generation because of damaged boiler tubes, which was caused by sudden over pressure.

Only technical know-how and proper management can help sustaining power generation in these power plants and thus improve the power generation situation as a whole.

Md. Delwar Hossain
East Rampura, Dhaka



SHAFIQUL ISLAM KAJOL / DRINKNEWS

situation of the South and South-East Asia would be a dramatically changed one.

A peaceful ground would be created where this strategically important area could experience the true march towards development. By "win-win" approach, both can reap their best result.

We are looking forward to a good bi-lateral relation between them, as both of them are our neighbours.

Mithun Dip
Dept. of IR
Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall
Jahangirnagar University

A golden Bangladesh

At last, the present gov. headed by Sheikh Hasina has come forward to implement some important projects which will greatly benefit common people as well as help develop economic condition of the country.

It is very encouraging news that the projects like Padma Bridge, Dhaka - Chittagong 4 lane highway, modernization of Dhaka - Chittagong and Dhaka - Sylhet railway, further addition of 7000 MW power in power sector by 2013, construction of flyovers in Dhaka and Chittagong city and dredging of important rivers have already started. If these projects are implemented in time, the country's economy will have a better look.

Our father of the nation wanted to make a golden Bangladesh. He did his best

but failed due to non-cooperation of his own men. Now it is a big challenge before our Prime Minister to get all these projects implemented successfully, for which she must be careful and constantly supervise all these projects with top most priority.

If she becomes successful, her name will remain immortal in the hearts of common people.

Md. Mosharaf Hossain
On e-mail

Women empowerment

There is hardly any doubt that women these days are still striving for attaining their rights. Though they are contributing a lot to the society, they cannot reach their goals as a whole. However, it should be admitted that women are playing a great role in RMG sector which paves the way

for achieving the highest currency for the country.

I have met a woman of this sector who is working in the most sensitive department - that is costing department. She is probably the first woman who is in this position at one of the leading garment manufacturing companies in Bangladesh.

Women are contributing much to the country which is not being seen apparently. Their ability always remains hidden to the government and other stakeholders.

It is an irony of fate that being a woman, our prime minister pays a little attention to their well being. The recent turbulence and instability in RMG sector have been cited by them for their ignorance.

So, we urge the government to consider this matter seriously.

Md. Zahid Hossain Mollik
Mugdapara
Dhaka

Cholera outbreak in Haiti



The cholera patients in Haiti are going through unbearable sufferings. On December 17, I have watched a news report on BBC about this. The cholera epidemic has claimed nearly 1200 lives. It has been almost a year since the epidemic started after the devastating earthquake hit the country. It has been alleged that the Nepalese UN peacekeeping mission have brought the disease there. Investigation is now going on. Haiti is in a big crisis. The international community must come forward to save Haiti from this disaster.

Anwar
Badda, Dhaka

Preserving Sino-Burman languages



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS

Chinese is the most dominant amongst the ethnic Mongolian languages in Asia. It is also a language spoken by the highest number of people in the world. There are about 30 different Mongolian Sino-Burman languages spoken by the Adivasi or indigenous people of this country, but their condition is pitiable.

It is said that the Garo language of Bangladesh is very closer to the Chinese language. This language is on the verge of extinction due to the dominance of Bangla. The new generation of children usually doesn't speak or know their mother language, as their parents don't speak the language any more.

The Chakma and Hajong languages have already lost their original form due to strong infusion of Bangla language. The language of the Rajbanshis has almost lost its Siro-Burman character and become a dialect of Bangla.

China as a leading Mongolian nation can help in establishing an Adivasi or indigenous language institute in Bangladesh, preferably in Dhaka, which may help in preserving and developing the indigenous languages of this country with special emphasis on Sino-Burman languages.

Khalique Moshreqi
Central road
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

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It's time to act

PM asks ministers, says 'honeymoon period' over, people now judging gov't. performance (December 20, 2010)

There is no honeymoon for elected officials. Their job is to start work from day 1.
Anonymous

Two years is too long a period of honeymoon for a life span of five years, is it not Prime Minister? One needs to choose correct word while expressing oneself and emphasizing views on an issue. Your record is very poor and priority of your administra-

tion is detrimental for the society at large.
T. Husain

That was a good gesture. Just a reminder, don't let your friends and family ruin it.
Mohammed Ibrahim

We appreciate the PM for the realisation, that 'honeymoon period' is over. In fact, for a country who has a lot of burning

issues to address, there should be no honeymoon period at all - even for a day. Hope the PM will be more vigilant about her different ministries' performances.
Dr. Islam

We agree with our Prime Minister. We need peaceful situation to work. Please make an acceptable policy so that everyone will show their patience for development of the country.
Md. Muslemur Rahman

So, even the PM agrees that they (i.e. the government) were in honeymoon all this time, and didn't care about the people of Bangladesh?
Alam

PM, your pragmatic leadership is necessary for the country and the nation. Please control the irregularities with your bold hand. You will get us, the common people, by your side.
Madam, please control your student and youth fronts.
A commoner

A commoner

Sheikh Hasina is very devoted to the development of the general people of Bangladesh. But she should not forget to keep her eyes on ministers and MPs.
Kazi Abul Firoz

It is good to know the PM is aware that the honeymoon period is over. We are still hearing a lot of talks, instructions, suspicions and hints of vengeance. None of them are steps for unifying the nation and building the country.
Shatyabadi

Well, this good realisation should have come long ago, at least one and a half year ago.
Shajedur Rahman

There is no improvement of electricity, gas and water crisis. Please, review the performance of the ministers.

I think ministers should talk less on TV and work more.
Muhammad Ali

Two year is too early to judge the implementation of the current government policies. Most policies take four/five years before the public can feel its effect. We should be patient and give the government time.
NA

Thanks to the PM. It's a right time to make our responsible ministers alert about their election pledges.
Bodruddoza

The alert level is now on yellow, the red might follow after January 6, 2011 with a change in the cabinet. Other actions anticipated are:

a. Pay a deeper attention to make the war crime tribunal more efficient, proactive and productive with visible output by March 26th, 2011.

b. Low performing ministries might see a shake up.
Faqrul quadir