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PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIB

Ministries at loggerheads!

An eye-opening report was published in a local English daily on 21st December, highlighting the infighting between ministries. It is an example of time wasting by the bureaucracy at the cost of national interest! Quite rightly, the energy ministry views the procrastination by the law ministry in violation of specific government directive asking all ministries concerned to expedite files related to matters of power and energy on 'urgent' basis, as stated

by the energy ministry. Does the nipping law ministry care? Despite the energy ministry's twice clarifying the queries of the law ministry, it has again asked the energy ministry for clarification, reportedly, on some 'trifling matters,' as stated by energy ministry officials publicly. Since the matter is of public interest, and the energy situation in Bangladesh is desperate, these smack of willful disruption by certain officials, who are acting against

national interests. Why not the officials of the two ministries at the highest level sit across the table with a high ranking official of the government audit body and sort out the issue, and identify the root of this delay.

Readers' opinion, and your follow up of this particular issue, will be an eye opener for the public suffering from continued shortage of energy.

S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Poor Bangladeshi cattle traders!

Through these columns, may I please ask those who defended the action of the BSF killing of a Bangladeshi cattle trader on December 18, 2010, which appeared in these columns recently, how you would like to defend the shooting of a Bangladeshi fish farmer who was injured by the BSF at Baikari. His condition is stated to be serious and is not out of danger.

Would you also like to brand this poor fish farmer as a smuggler?

Well, according to some, those killed in the BSF action were not cattle traders but cattle smugglers. Now, may I please ask how many of you have ever heard of a hensidyl smuggler being killed by the BSF, when Bangladesh is flooded by Indian phensidyl, which I believe is a banned

item in this country? The answer is probably none; furthermore, Yaba tablets are also being smuggled into Bangladesh from India in large numbers. Besides, it is a blessing for India to have beef eating Bangladeshis as their neighbour.

Be it trade or smuggling, India is making big bucks out of this cattle business and the poor Bangladeshi cattle traders are losing their lives!

Saleh Ayub
One-mail

High Court's directives

Road accident is a very common phenomenon in our country. Mozammel Hossain, a freedom fighter, journalist and playwright, lost his life in a road crash, leaving his wife and children behind.

His wife filed a case claiming compensation against the

owner of the vehicle. The Hon'ble High Court, after hearing both parties, not only awarded compensation to the deceased's family but also directed suggestions to the government.

The High Court suggests, among many other things that only punishing the wrong doers do not at all bring any fruitful result.

The government should not issue driving license to anybody who has no education or basic qualification to be a driver, but to a person who has at least some education, as education makes a man a bit responsible.

Now it is the duty of the government to show respect to the suggestions of the High Court and take necessary measures accordingly. G.M. Mahmudun Nabi
Student
Dept. of Law
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Military-crazy!

A well written historical essay was published in a local English daily on December 16. The essay recounted the background of the military designed and based government that dooms Pakistan even today. Though visibly we got away from it we could not divorce the uncalled for military interference in civil government. No doubt that Bangladesh army was the killer of Sheikh Mujib, and Zia knew all about it and did not do anything to stop it!

As stated in the article, the role of the military is still undefined, and like the 'Sword of Damocles' it hangs over every civil government of Bangladesh! Will it ever end? The moot question remains: who will bell the cat?

Meanwhile, in the name of defense, we waste over fifty percent of our budget on the armed forces! Can we trim down the waste in defense? We should rather spend our resources to establish meaningful foreign relations with our powerful neighbours. Otherwise, our history will follow the path of an AC electrical current's wave pattern between martial and civil governments, alternating at unknown frequency!

A civilian
Dhaka

Another battle is needed

The Holy Ashura was observed on 10th Mubarram across the country commemorating the sacrifice of Imam Hossain along with his family members and friends in the battle of Karbala. That battle and

martyrdom became inevitable to save the truth from the falsehood and the good from the evil.

But, the fact is that nobody now remembers the names that killed Imam Hossain, but thousands of people visit the shrine and monument of Imam Hossain and his family members at Karbala in Iraq every day, paying their homage to him.

The incident of Karbala is very much relevant to us. We achieved independence through a bloody battle. We were able to drive away the evil only to give place to home-grown evil, evil of corruption and misrule. So, we need another battle, another Karbala, when all the freedom fighters will become united to drive away those few corrupt and crooked to usher in the long cherished Shonar Bangla dream by our founding fathers.

Abdus Subhan
Lalpur, Natore

Honeymoon period of the government?

I don't know what to say about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comment that her government's honeymoon period is over, after being in power for nearly two years, and subsequently the editorial of The Daily Star in this context.

The editorial published on December 21, 2010, said that "PM's awareness about public criticism is wise. Reaction to critics will reveal actual mindset. Sensing public mood accurately, if perhaps a little belatedly, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has come up with words of caution for her colleagues..."

Two years is quite a long period, how could the editorial term it 'a little belatedly'? Taking responsibility of a country and its people is no joke, is there any sense in wasting time, like in a honeymoon?

People have been fed up with this government long ago, mismanagement is in every sector, and appointment of ruling party men in many places has made the situation even more complicated. It is a fact that difficult time seems longer, so the last two years when people had to suffer many hardships, seemed much longer to them.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Honest politicians

Our politicians forget their election pledges after being elected. They become busy with their personal gains. The honest politicians who are able to serve the nation remain far behind in the election race, as they have no black money to buy votes.

We achieved independence in 1971, but still most of our people can't make both ends meet. A large number of people are unemployed. Many freedom fighters are begging from door to door. Paradoxically, the evil forces are now established in the country.

We need honest politicians who will work for the betterment of the country. Zafar Alam Bhuiyan
Lecturer of Fashion Design
Shanto-Mariam University
of Creative Technology

'Larry King Live' signs off

In the last episode of Larry King Live on CNN, I saw how nicely, humorously and wisely, a finale was made enjoyable and memorable.

King has conducted some 40,000 interviews with politicians, athletes, entertainers and other newsmakers in long 25 years.

To bid this show good-bye many political and cultural celebrities including present and ex-president of the USA took part in the show.

We saw how the profound issues were brought into discussions in an easy manner by Larry King. Really, he showed us the way of presenting a programme of this type.

His style and role in the talk show has

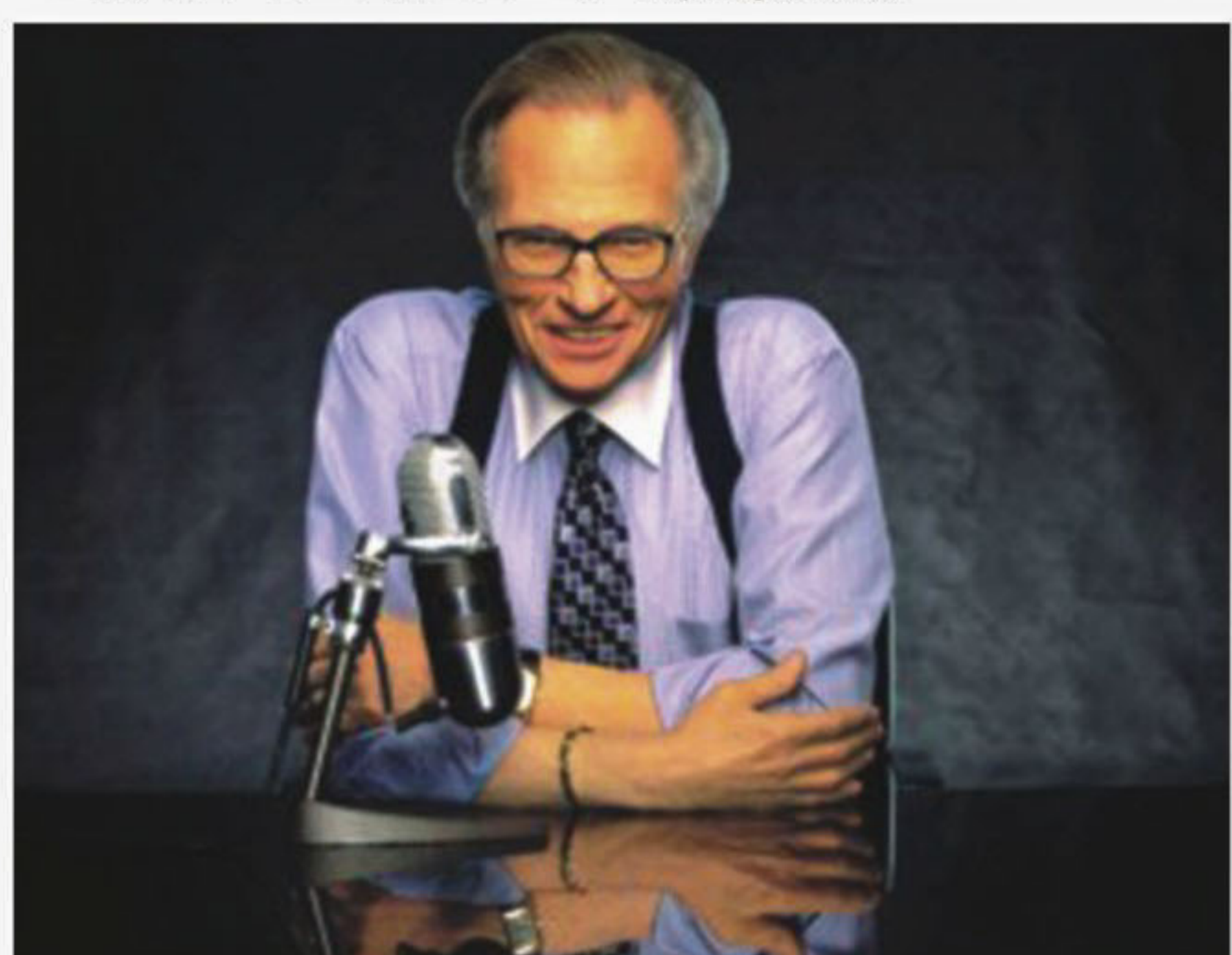
made him a mentor of many TV presenters all over the world.

Once he stated about the current generation talk show hosts, "They are more interested in lecturing their guests than listening to them."

However, Larry King Live is going to be replaced by a new show named 'Piers Morgan Tonight' which will be hosted by a former British newspaper editor and a television personality, Piers Morgan. The show will go on air from January 2011.

Goodbye, Larry King and welcome, Piers Morgan!

Mobarak Ali
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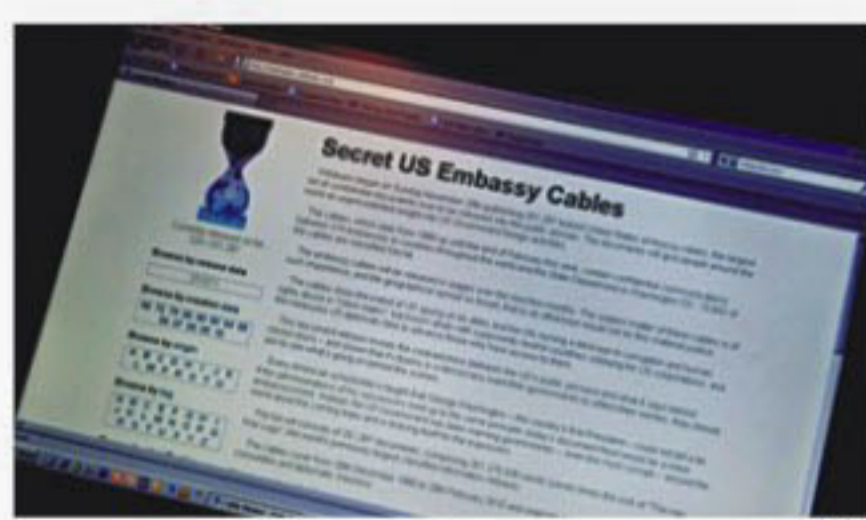


Truth will come out

Whatever the US administration and its friends may say about Julian Assange, the majority of people in the world are with him. Yes, most of the world leaders are hiding many things from their own people.

WikiLeaks' message is that truth will be out one day whatever precautions we may take to suppress it.

The WikiLeaks revelations, it is argued, endanger the lives of some people. What about the threat posed by secret deals and arms sales, and the efforts to create enmity between nations leading to conflicts that might



AFP

kill many innocent human beings? If you suppress Assange or WikiLeaks another WikiLeaks will emerge. That is the nature of this world. Nobody can hide the truth forever.

Muhamed Jamil Ather
Karachi, Pakistan



Destructive politics

In the democratic process hartal is a right for any political party or group, no doubt, but it doesn't mean that they have the license to make the country a battlefield.

There may be a lot of debates about different issues, but that shouldn't be considered as a point for clash, rather the politicians should discuss these issues in a proper way. For example, whether we are Bangalee or Bangladeshi - has been a matter of debate to the politicians for long.

It is very clear that as a nation we are Bengali, and we have a history of thousand years; but after our independence in 1971, we got a new country- Bangladesh, and we are now recognised as Bangladeshi.

We are a brave nation and have a glorious past. Now, everyone should participate in the process of development, keeping in mind Vision - 2021, in order to build a happy and prosperous nation.

In conclusion, I want to say that all issues should be settled in the parliament where people have sent their representatives casting their valuable votes to make law and direct the nation in the right way, not to fight on the street. We should follow our constitution and the path of democracy to achieve our goals.

Md. Zahidul Islam (Milton)
A student of Law



PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

Pride and (extreme) prejudice

I have read the article entitled, 'Pride and (extreme) prejudice' on Dr. Yunus, written by Naeem Mohaiemen, published in your paper on 15th December. It is not a surprise that author, a member of Drishtipat, would write something like that about Dr. Yunus.

The Drishtipat writers always present Bangladesh in a bleak light in their arti-

cles (read their articles published in the Forum), because they think it's the easy and best way to draw the attention of and receive applause from the readers. What is sad is that they think, if not pretend, they are writing for the well-being of Bangladesh.

What good are they doing to the country by portraying the country negatively?

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Dhaka