

Passing away of Pop Guru



PHOTO: STAR

A human who is not humble is not a great human. A man who is not modest in his lifestyle is not a great man. A man who is not steady in success is not a great man. A man who is not compassionate is not a great man. A man who is not indifferent to earthly possessions is not a great man. Azam Khan, the initiator of Bengali Pop music, is a great man assessed by all the above standards. He had awesome simplicity and mannerism even as a hugely successful and tremendously popular person. He loved people and sang for the people in simple language and tune that touched the hearts of millions. This freedom fighter singer was a very simple man in every aspect of his life. He never attempted to acquire the mannerism in

language or posture of an intellectual sage like many others riding on the wings of success. He remained a singer and a commoner to everybody, the rich and poor; small and big. The greatness of this great soul, whom all of us would miss all our lives, was his unpretentious manner. 'Greatness lies in simplicity' was amply demonstrated by Azam Khan. May God grant him an equally lofty position in hereafter and grant his family the strength to endure the great loss. **Mir Mahboob Ali**
*Former Senior Executive
The Bangladesh Observer
Coordination Manager, HKI
Executive Director
IFP, B*

CTG system

We think the continuation of the Caretaker Government system is necessary because it is very important in keeping up the responsibility and purity of the work. Moreover, it may play a great role in ending corruption, autocracy, etc. **Habibur Rashid Ismail**
Chittagong

Awaiting another killing?

A year ago a BUET student named Khondokar Shah Alam was killed in a road accident on BUET campus. Students went berserk in a bid to bring the criminals to book. The aggrieved teachers of the university along with the students demanded for sufficient speed breakers and controlled movement of vehicles in the campus. The killing of such brilliant students on the campus has never been a rarity. Shammi Akhtar Happy, a student of Psychology department was killed at Shahbag as a bus had run over her on May 28, 2005. After her death, angry students went on rampage demanding speed bumpers at Shahbag. Authorities placed few speed breakers at Shahbag. Since then, to my knowledge, no students were killed at Shahbag in road accident. At every entry point to the university campus there's a signboard. These signboards read- movement of vehicles on campus is banned except for cycle, rickshaw, motorcycle and car. But not only heavy passenger-vehicles but also goods-laden trucks very often invade the campus even during class hours and it's only a matter of time before another grave accident takes place. We want the authorities to take necessary and effective measures in this regard. Otherwise this indifference will cost another meritorious life. **Abu Saleh Muhammad Fakhrul Islam**
*Dept of Applied Chemistry of Chemical Engineering
University of Dhaka*

Portrait of a 'mumin'

In the light of Islam we are given to understand that mumin is a person who has absolute faith in the Almighty, His Prophets, His Angels, His holy books, all His creations and the hereafter. A mumin would not be afraid of anything, not even death, rather the whole world would be afraid of him even if he is all alone. A mumin under no circumstances would compromise with the evil. Do we have anybody that fits in the description of a mumin? Perhaps not, it has been manifested many a time throughout the world whenever it was put to test. The cause for Islam has been forsaken by the Muslims since long. Islam has been tainted time and again by none other than the Muslims themselves. The Muslims have moved far away from the principals of Islam. It rather appears that the world is getting ready for the arrival of the Messiah from the seventh heaven, who according to popular religious beliefs shall rescue mankind from evil with the help of the Almighty. Until such times the people shall continue to suffer in so many different ways. **Saleh Ayub**
On e-mail

NATO killing

NATO has again killed civilians in Afghanistan. Since the invasion by western forces, civilian killings have become a daily routine. Why is the chief of the International Criminal Court (ICC) keeping silent over this carnage? Why cannot he order an investigation and

put those responsible on trial for crimes against humanity? Are there two different types of human beings one in Darfur and the others in Afghanistan, Kashmir, Palestine, Pakistan? **Muhammed Jamil Ather**
Karachi, Pakistan



PHOTO: AFP

We need CTG

The photo published on 12th May in the front page of your newspaper titled "Back to Square One" proves how much we need a caretaker government. I would like to mention here that my husband was allotted a plot at Baridhara J-block by Rajuk in 1986. We got the plot in 2002 due to the initiative taken by the CTG under Justice Latifur Rahman. But my husband was not alive to see it. I shall ever remain grateful to the then CTG. **Nurus Sabah**
Bashundhara, Dhaka

Law vs. courtesy

Recently I read an interesting report in the daily 'Arab News' titled "Learn from UK how law is applied to Obama!" that the City Hall in London has asked US President Barack Obama, who visited the city recently, to pay the congestion charge of £10 for each vehicle in his motorcade. If the President refuses to pay the charges then it will be raised to £120 per vehicle. But I wonder how the London City Hall could be so rude and impolite to their State guest, that is, the US President Barack Obama? It's hard for me to believe Londoners could be so impatient to spare some time on the street in honor of a guest. The reporter in Arab News, Abdullah Aljamili has very nicely highlighted the Arab tradition of honoring a guest, particularly the foreign ones. Not only in Arab countries but this is the tradition in all the countries of the world including Bangladesh. Well, the norm of halting traffic is maintained to allow a foreign dignitary's motorcade pass comfortably mainly for two reason, viz. avoiding hassle and for security. If not in exaggeration, I think, President Obama's lawyer can also move with the same amount of fines imposed upon London City Hall for the anticipated security lapses, had traffic not been halted during passing of President Obama and his motorcade through the streets of London? This will equalize the treatment. **Professor M Zahidul Haque**
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka

Ease Dhaka's woes

Kamalapur Railway Station with its spacious passenger terminal made us think that we have arrived at a great city but the moment we entered the city we got disillusioned because we were to face the narrow roads clogged with slow moving vehicles. When I saw cars moving swiftly with 'nation building people' in them along the airport road, I felt elated but when I was in the gridlock I could not but ponder over the doomed future of this city. We love this city because it has produced and cradled so many good souls. Kazi Nazrul Islam is lying here, Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque and Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy sleep here, Ziaur Rahman, a pious honest leader, has found his deserving place in the majestic Sangsad Bhaban area. Dhaka is now a mega city. We are proud of it but the successive government's failure to ease her woes has come to a breaking point. I wonder why the government dillydallies to clean the Buriganga of all illegal constructions and pollution. Cannot we have spacious toll roads built by private companies? People are ready to give money for better service. We can solve the electricity problem if we can make it a profit generating sector. Will the government stop bickering with its rival and concentrate on the welfare of the people? **Abdus Subhan**
*Lalpur
Natore*



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS



School for scoundrels?

The students of Pathor Gata High School, Kholiajani, Tangail, are complaining that their learning space is uncomfortably cramped and miserable since the headmaster Md. Dobir Uddin has commandeered the largest classroom and turned it into his family home where he and his wife live! The adjacent area has also been partitioned so that he and his family can enjoy more security and privacy. Teachers are not happy, but dare not speak out against this illegal enterprise in fear of losing their jobs. The appropriate authorities- local

and national- are asked to investigate and rectify this matter immediately for the benefit of the students and the greater benefit of Bangladesh. One can't help but wonder about the example that's being set to the hundreds of pupils at the school and what lessons they are learning. Perhaps it's at schools like this the notorious land-grabbers learned their despicable tricks of the trade! **Ali Akbar**
*Pathor Gata High School
Kholiajani
Tangail*

Sheesha should be banned

On May 10th, 2011 Sindh Assembly approved a resolution to ban smoking 'Sheesha' in hotels, restaurants and other open places. This was the most shocking news for the young generation of Pakistan. But no one took it seriously and people are enjoying sheesha with their friends. Each sheesha session typically lasts more than 40 minutes. In an hour-long smoking session of hookah, users consume about 100 to 200 times the smoke of a single cigarette. In a 45-minute smoking session a typical smoker would inhale 1.7 times the nicotine of a single cigarette. The water used to filter the smoke does not remove harmful cancer-causing chemicals as is believed by some. So it should be banned completely. **Mahad Naveed**
University of Karachi

Using dangerous chemicals in fruits

From the recent reports published in the newspapers we learnt that a large number of fruits and vegetable traders are using various types of dangerous chemicals to ripen fruits and prolong the life of vegetables which the public are purchasing and consuming daily. It is most unfortunate that the Health Ministry is not taking any measure against these traders who are slowly killing our people. We expect that the govt. would take URGENT ACTION against these culprits. **Mrs. M. Reza**
Hatirpul, Ramna, Dhaka

Recruitment business of Sonali Bank

At present Sonali Bank Ltd has a vacancy of about 12500 positions. To fill up the vacancy partly, they invited applications for the position of senior officers, officers and officers (cash) in the 3rd quarter of 2010. About 3,00,000 candidates competed in the 1st round of written test in the 1st week of November 2010, and the candidates who passed the 1st round sat for the 2nd round of written test in the last week of November 2010. Since then, the bank authority is silent. We recently knew about the corruption done by a section of unscrupulous bank officials, middlemen and some politically nominated directors of the bank who do not possess any qualification for the banking business. These directors have engaged their middlemen to collect money from the successful candidates, that is Tk. 5-6 lac for the position of senior officer, Tk. 3 lac for officer and Tk. 2-3 lac for officer (cash). The response from the candidates not being up to the expectation of the corrupt directors, they are now killing time. As a result of this delay in recruitment, most of the understaffed branches of the bank throughout the country are unable to cope with their day to day works. This is an open secret now. We request the Honorable Finance Minister to intervene in the matter urgently, punish the corrupt officials and ensure 100% transparency in the recruitment process. **Md. Raqibul Hasan**
Andarkilla, Chittagong



ONLINE VOICES

Readers' instant comments on
The Daily Star Online reports.
Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

No one-sided decision
PM says BNP needs to give JS its formula even if next 2 polls are held under caretaker system
(Tuesday, June 7, 2011)

We do not expect any miracle to happen in favor of democracy in Bangladesh unless the system of political legacy and one person rule of the party are eliminated by popular pressure. **Faqrul**
At first the PM should establish herself with the general public as a person who keeps her promises before any one can take her words for true. Unfortunately, her many broken promises in the past have made people skeptical about her. **Cooper in NY**
Avoiding useless argument, they should talk about people's welfare. **Payer Mohammad**
I think first the PM should declare that caretaker government will conduct the next two general elections. Then a solution may come through discussion among the main political parties. **Abu Zubair**
We appreciate PM's apprehension. BNP must act by joining

and giving their formula in parliament. There will be no solution in streets. If BNP does not understand this simple reality, then they will be dumped. General people are concerned now. **Khan Sharif Raihan**
BNP has already forwarded their opinions regarding CG. Now AL should concentrate on something else. **Md. Russell Talukder**

It appears to be very difficult to depend on the statements of the Prime Minister. Days before, she affirmed about no room for caretaker system after Supreme Court's verdict; but now she differs on her own decision mentioning that opposition needs to submit formula to hold two next elections under caretaker government. The PM suffers from indecision. **Abul Kashem**
To avoid repetition of 2007-8, the two major political parties must agree to a dialogue to thrash out the details of the

format of the next two caretaker government and measures to strengthen the EC. Meanwhile, the AL-led government should express its support for CT govt. system for the next two general elections, and incorporate the same in the contemplated amended constitution even if BNP does not participate in the parliamentary proceedings. **Dr. Iftikhar-ul-Awwal**
There are some irritable experiences by which politicians and general people have suffered much during 1/11 caretaker govt. So, nobody wants to go back. The new system must be introduced because the election cannot be free, fair under any ruling party's govt. As the selection of a neutral person is not possible, the election commission's proposal of caretaker govt. can be accepted in this regard. **Sujan**
The attendance of BNP in JS is not a condition for holding the election under the caretaker government. This is the order of the Supreme Court. The PM should accept the judgment in