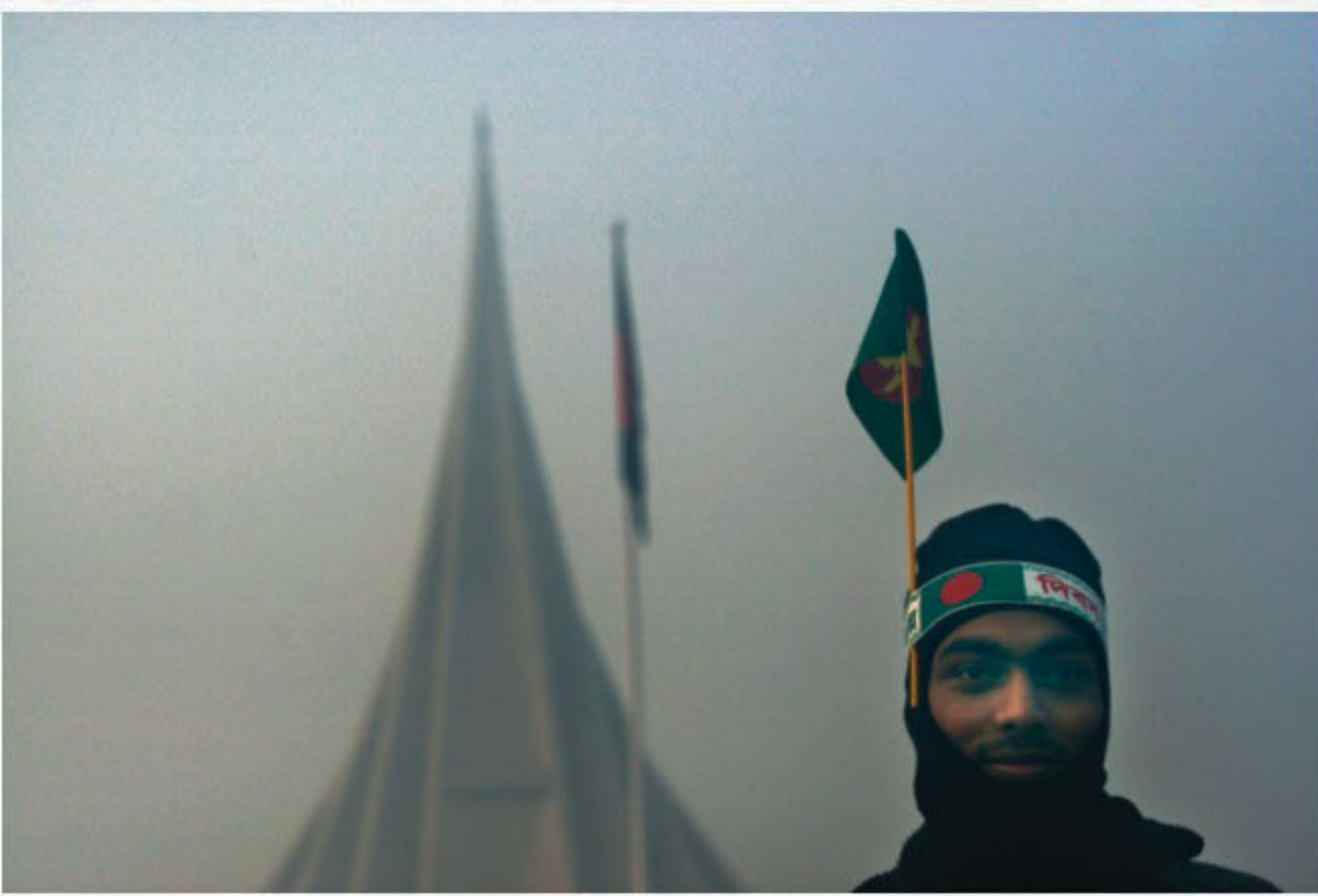


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 200 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Waking up with the Spirit of Liberation



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

Once again it is confirmed that if we wish we can defeat the strongest opponent. Bangladesh is getting stronger in every department of the game--fielding, bowling and batting. Actually, this happens when a nation forges ahead with a vision and dream. It seems we are once again waking up with our spirit of the Liberation War. Very confident after securing maritime areas, the government is dealing with India like our present cricket team who are measuring up to people's expectation. Consecutive comprehensive win is no fluke; rather playing their hearts out has become our team's habit. What we have to do now is apply this spirit in eradicating corruption from every sector of our country. Only then the nation will prosper and the people of the world will look at us with respect.

Abdus Subhan
Ishwardi Govt. College

Fast deteriorating law and order

Our home minister had pledged to arrest the killers of journalist couple Sagar and Runi within 48 hours. This time limit is now steadily approaching 48 days, but the police failed miserably to trace out the criminals! It appears that heinous crimes like burglary, mugging, robbery, murder etc are suddenly on the rise. Situation is so grave that even a foreign diplomat has been killed in the capital's diplomatic zone recently!
Ironically enough, law-enforcers are now-a-days seen to be extremely busy thwarting political programmes of the opposition by chasing, beating and arresting its activists and supporters! Perhaps, to the law enforcing agencies this is more important and 'rewarding' than safe-guarding the life and property of the people! The sooner the persons at the helm of affairs realise the danger of such an utter disorder in the law and order situation of the country, the better for the government and the people.

Md. Mohsin Ali
Nutan Courtpara, Kushtia

Shahadat the weak link

Why did Mushfiq choose Shahadat to bowl the last over? Everybody knows what an expensive bowler he is. Even if Mahmudullah had bowled the last over, it would not have yielded 19 runs in the Asia Cup final. What a waste! I believe the Asia Cup was lost due to Shahadat's poor bowling. He must improve his bowling if he wants to remain in the team!

Aminur Rahim

'Democracy of, by and for the party!'

This refers to the recent political trends and dreams of major political parties in Bangladesh. The ruling party and sycophancy will forever remain inseparable. Sadly, the grand old party of Bangladesh seems to be stripped of ideas, ideals and ideology and all that it can offer to the nation is just another member of the Sheikh dynasty, who appears to be a product of excessive hype and grand publicity. This party is like an elephant that does not know its strength. Now that it has realised its strength, it can be confident of winning the general elections on its own. This party's leader waxes eloquent on meritocracy without realising that it cannot be brought about by an individual anywhere, however powerful and influential s/he is.

It is only collective consciousness that can breed meritocracy. An imposed leader will only fail in his/her efforts to usher in any meaningful turnaround. How does one describe the political drama and dream a comic opera or Greek tragedy? Whatever it is, it clearly shows the depths to which politics has plunged. Democracy in Bangladesh has come to mean a government by, of and for the political parties. There is no place for the people. The Bangladeshi democracy is run by families. Most parties, including the Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jatiya Party, subscribe to dynastic politics. Can we therefore be called the dynastic democratic republic of Bangladesh?

Gopal Sengupta
Canada



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS

An open letter to Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia

A few years ago, I wrote two open letters to Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia that were published in The Daily Star. Now I again feel the urge to write a common letter to these two leaders who have been dictating the destiny of 16 million people of this country. My questions to the two most powerful ladies are:

Why are you not practising democracy in your own parties and thus stifling evolution of any new leadership although you know you are not immortal?

Why do you not talk or even look at each other which is sign of mutual mistrust whereas protection of our national interest in many vital issues needs your consensus and united effort?

Why can you not be hard on your 'violent cadres,' although you know what harm they do to your reputation?

You are calling each other a foreign agent and a liar. If the people are to believe both of you, then what happens to the truth?

Both of you resort to parliament boycott while in opposition, but shamelessly keep on enjoying all financial and other benefits that parliament members enjoy. It's clearly an unethical act and practiced in violation of your election promises.

People are too confused and worried as they do not know the facts behind the incidents ranging from August bombings and BDR tragedy to Sagar-Runi and Saudi diplomat killings. Would you please just practice a fundamental principle of "telling the truth always" that will also benefit you personally when you will be summoned before the Court of the all powerful and all knowing Judge!

Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque
East Rampur, Dhaka

Fuel from refuse and waste

The article by Ali and Rahman related to this subject and published by you on March 17 is informative and interesting for the readers. The presentation of the Clean Development Mechanism's (CDM) scope and its present status in Bangladesh was appreciated.

The matter related to exploitation of 'Landfill Gas' has remained stuck up for quite sometimes, if I recollect. Why this delay while Bangladesh is suffering from scarcity of natural gas? Will this delay continue till 'posterity'? At least, the 'Composting Project' has started, which could be an additional fuel that can be used with some modification of the boiler firing system in existing gas or coal-fired power plants. This presents a good opportunity in Dhaka and Chittagong, where sizable quantities of municipal solid refuse is generated daily.

In line with this, why do not we proceed for the generation of methane gas from human solid waste which is quite a viable option? WASA should go all out for this project, as it can generate sizable extra revenue for them.

In our overall national interest, we should not delay implementation of these available prospects for generating fuel from refuse and waste.



PHOTO: AFP

Shakib the great

The little master hit his 100th century and Bangladesh is playing mind-blowing cricket which is exactly what we were waiting to watch for so long. We are amazed at the performance of our brave boys. Shakib is a great player. People used to say that Sachin has done the impossible possible and no one will be able to break his record. But this is not true anymore. Shakib is only 22. He will go a long way. I hope he will hit his 200th century in his long career. Shakib has regained his position of number one all-rounder in the ODI cricket. All-rounder means great at bowling, batting and fielding. On the other hand, Sachin is only good at batting and he is called the Batting Master. We all pray for Shakib.

Limon Sarker
SSC examinee
Betil M.L. High school
Shirajganj

A day of Sangsad session with opposition

It is a regular event for us to enjoy all unparliamentarily activities by our MPs in the Sangsad. The recurring actions of our MPs on whom we bestow our trust fail us. After a series of rallies on the street, which brought forth a wave of tension all over the country, we welcome the Opposition's decision of joining the parliament. But instead of fulfilling our expectation of a fruitful JS session they wallow in trivial scuffle. So it becomes predictable for us what is coming next. The frustration rises high when we find they (MPs) don't bother that we are watching.

Santu Das, Dhaka

Hurling abuse in parliament

Parliament is not a place for abusing and dishonouring the members of other parties. As a concerned citizen, I think actions should be taken against those MPs for their inappropriate acts, from the highest authorities. Lack of actions may only add fuel to such hostility in the future.

Let Mashrafe offer his best

On 14th March, Mr. Aminur Rahim wrote about how Mashrafe had let his team down by bowling poorly. I respect his feelings and to be honest, I also felt dejected and disappointed when Bangladesh squandered away a chance to defeat a giant in world cricket. However, blaming only Mashrafe for the debacle is not right. First of all, Mashrafe was not the only one who bowled poorly. Shafiul Islam was more expensive and did not also get a wicket. Not only that, Mashrafe has said it again and again that he does not want to bowl in the slog overs. In the matches, Mr. Aminur Rahim mentioned, Mashrafe bowled well upfront with the new ball but was taken apart in the slog overs. Was it not the captain's duty to let Mashrafe bowl in the initial overs and someone else in the final overs? In addition, Mashrafe came back after a one-year layoff due to injury. And a bit nervousness is not unexpected from a player coming back after such a long-



PHOTO: AFP

time injury. Mashrafe is a strong player and he has proved it time and again. He still has got a lot to offer.
Tauhidul Islam Khan
The Aga Khan School, Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined "30 hurt as AL, BNP activists clash at National Memorial"

A Bangladeshi expat

Unbelievable! One must be appalled to see this image - where hooligans go on a rampage while men from law enforcement agencies stand by and watch.

Anonymous

This is how we pay respect? They should fight each other on TV and sell tickets to the event. Bravo BNP, bravo AL!

Rch

I think this man in the back page picture is an AL activist--looks like police are also giving him support. What a shame!

Ahsan

Is this the new trend to celebrate the Independence Day? We the older generation is totally out of touch with this new form of celebration. We destroyed arms depots of Pak army to secure our country's freedom, but now this young generation is vandalising our buses and cars. This is for what and for whose freedom?

Shubarna

What is the future that we have charted out for our next generation?

Jahid

What's going on in our country? Is it called independence? Is it how people should celebrate an occasion like this? Shame on the political parties!

Mohsin

This incident is the reflection of soured relation between the two parties. It can be said that the two parties especially AL has failed completely to unify people as it is directed to create schism and achieve political gain which is an ultimate blunder.

Shimul

Yes, the 'men in uniform could do little', because the people who were vandalising cars belonged to the ruling party. Is it the spirit of the Liberation War? We know very well that the police are quite harsh with the opposition party's activists.

Mizanur Rahman

The Awami League leaders say they are serious about protecting human lives and properties, but we see here that an AL man is destroying a car in front of army and police. If this condition continues in the country, will Awami League be able to come to power again?

Adnan

Cool...now we have the army personnel watching with pleasure.

Anonymous

Two main parties should be banned for the sake of the country.

Anonymous

This is pathetic. Our democracy is held hostage by these two parties and it must be rescued by us.

Truth Teller

It is clearly seen in the photo that the police and the army personnel are not trying to prevent the man from damaging the vehicle. Shame on them!

Pakistan should beg apology

I am deeply shocked to see a picture in The Daily Star of March 23, 2012 with the following caption: "Premises of this mosque at Gobinda village in Pabna town witnessed the most unimaginable barbarity on March 26 in 1971 when the Pakistan occupation army opened fire at the people taking part in janaza prayers as part of a deceased villager's funeral."

What a pity! Pakistanis consider themselves as practicing Muslims but the heinous crimes their army personnel had committed on the innocent Muslim population here are beyond the codes of Islam. I wonder if the people of Pakistan have by now realised what sort of barbarity their savage soldiers had done in Bangladesh. They should beg an unconditional apology to the Bangladeshis for the brutal acts they committed in 1971.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University