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# Observing March 25 in a befitting manner



March 25 is a red-letter day in the history of Bangladesh. On the night of March 25 in 1971, the Pak occupation army let loose a reign of terror on the people of Dhaka. On that day and the days that followed millions of people were mercilessly killed all over the country. The way March 25 is celebrated in Bangladesh is perhaps not correct.

It should rather be observed as a day of mourning, grieving and praying for the salvation of the departed souls who were killed by the barbarous Pak occupation army.

Many a traumatised women and children were left in a vulnerable condition after their husbands and parents were killed. Most of these women and children, now grown up, live in a pitiable condition at the mercy of others with no dependable source of a livelihood.

Instead of spending millions of taka for fanfare and merrymaking in celebrating March 25, everybody including the government should come forward to do something for these helpless people.

It would be more befitting and worthwhile to do something for the welfare of these helpless people and pray for the salvation of those who died. By fanfare and merrymaking do we not mock at the fallen lives? It is never too late to correct and rectify.

Let us encourage the future generation in doing the right thing, observing March 25 in a befitting manner, keeping in mind the sacrifice of millions of lives that made us an independent nation. We can perhaps celebrate Victory Day on December 16 with fanfare.

**Saleh Mohammad Ayub**

Houston, Texas

USA

## Neutrality of speaker in JS

The speech of Abdul Hamid, the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) at the concluding day of the twelfth session of the Ninth Parliament Sangsad on March 29, 2012 has surprised us. The way he delivered his speech accusing the leader of the opposition (especially his body language) gave the impression that he was speaking as the leader of the House and that he was not at all neutral.

He strongly criticised the Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia and her deputies for boycotting parliament afresh and questioning his neutrality. The speaker in his speech noted that Khaleda Zia did not specify a model outlining the caretaker government while speaking in parliament on March 19, 2012. My question to the speaker: is it his business to discuss under what form of government the next parliamentary election will be held?

The speaker also questioned the behaviour of the opposition MPs and that of another BNP MP, Rehana Akhter Ranu, who made vulgar speech at parliament. In this context, may I ask the speaker- why he allowed the prime minister, her ministers and MPs to use indecent, vulgar and abusive language in parliament against Late President Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia in a free style in absence of the opposition MPs during last one year which we witnessed on BTv?

Why did he not expunge those indecent remarks and gave a blank cheque to the ruling party MPs and the prime minister in this regard? We also witnessed at our dismay that while ruling party MPs used this type of abuse in parliament, he allowed them further time to speak exceeding the scheduled time i.e. he encouraged them in doing so.

The speaker in his speech said that he is the only speaker to have maintained neutrality in the parliament since the country's independence. He further said that even many developed democratic countries do not have the example, he set by maintaining neutrality.

He spoke very high of himself. But in reality it is quite reverse.

**Md. Ataur Rahman**

Former Senior Banker

Dhanmondi

Dhaka

## BCB should complain

I believe BCB is completely right in complaining about the incident that took place during the final match of the Asia Cup. Mahmudullah's complaint was genuine and the umpire even warned the Pakistani player about the obstruction. If this was intentionally done, then this was not the first time Pakistani players did this against Bangladesh. During a previous tour when Bangladesh was playing in Pakistan, Rashid Latif had to cheat to win against Bangladesh and only after BCB had lodged a complaint, he was stripped of his captaincy and removed from the team. If the BCB does not put this incident on record now, I believe this will happen again and again.

**Aminur Rahim**

New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka

## Democratic principles trampled

We have never seen in our life a political party in power uses so openly and daringly all the power at its disposal to thwart simply a political rally called by the opposition! The government actions centering round BNP rally of the March 12 have left such a negative impression on the public mind that many of them now consider the ruling Awami League as a fascist party in a democratic garb. In a democratic set-up, can a government trample basic democratic principles under foot in this way?

**Md. Mohsin Ali**

Senior Assistant Secretary (Retd.)

Nutan Courtpara, Kushtia

## Regulate the drug market

The prices of medicines have suddenly gone up to 25 to 30% and it seems there is no regulatory body to control it. How can the drug manufacturers raise the price to such an extent, disregarding the plight of the consumers?

We earnestly request the authorities concerned to please come forward and regulate the medicine market.

**Sirajul Islam**

# No to Tipaimukh Dam



"We would not allow India to construct the Tipaimukh Dam, if it adversely impacts on Bangladesh," the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told a rally organised by the Awami League-led 14-party grand alliance at the Government Madrasa ground in Sylhet city on March 24, 2012. In the rally she also mentioned that her government has already told India to include Bangladeshi representatives in a feasibility study group to look whether it would adversely affect Bangladesh and about the assurance of India that they would not do anything harmful for Bangladesh. It is difficult to understand why the prime minister is in doubt about the adverse impact of the said Tipaimukh dam. She should realise the simple fact that all rivers, canals, mountains and hills, mangrove forests or even the deserts were created by the Creator for the benefits and survival of all living creatures on earth and any alteration in this arrangement of the Creator is bound to impact the environment in any form or other.

We can just think of the consequences of hill cuttings at Chittagong. Bangladesh has been already suffering from the damaging impact of Farakka Barrage built by India. Without waiting for any study result on the matter, the Bangladesh government must take up the issue with India and stop all activities or projects aimed to change the natural course of the common rivers and if necessary we should go to International Court in the light of our past bitter experiences with our friendly neighbour. The government must know that this is a national issue and it has no right to make any compromise on national interest.

**Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque**

East Rampur, Dhaka

# Iraq: A civilisation destroyed

March 20 marks the 9th year of invasion of a land on false excuses to remove a dictator no longer required by the imperial invaders. People of Iraq suffered for years under dictatorship, and were then forced to live under an exported democracy, which has been enforced through bombings, killings and plundering of its natural resources.

The UN's 'justice' first caused the deaths of thousands of children due to sanction on Iraq, and then this international body kept silent about the invasion of the land by the US and its allies. Newborns in Fallujah show abnormal birth defects as a result of using depleted uranium. The crimes of Abu Ghraib prison have already exposed the ugly face of the imperialist occupiers. To date, ordinary citizens in Iraq are suffering from the carnage that the war of terror has brought upon them. At the advent of this war, the Western imperialist had claimed that they would bring 'Freedom' and 'Democracy'. And the world has already seen what they meant.

Iraq has seen both dictatorship and democracy, and neither has liberated its citizens. However, this has not always been the case. Historically, the region of Iraq was once the center of a great civilisation.

Baghdad was one of the finest and largest planned cities of its time, built in 762 by Caliph Al Mansur. The city also eclipsed 'Ctesiphon', the capital of Persian Empire. Under the Caliphate, the House of Wisdom was established, which was dedicated to translate Greek, Syriac and Persian works into Arabic. Scholars from all over the Caliphate used to converge in Baghdad for this scholarly work. Moreover, it was in Tikrit, where Saladin Ayubi was born.

Today while Iraq has the world's 4th largest oil reserves, its government struggles to even provide basic amenities to the population. Quite clearly, the political system sponsored by the West, be it democracy or dictatorship has



failed. And if lessons are to be learned from history, Caliphate is the political system, which had made the region of Iraq and beyond a global power and a cradle of civilisation to reckon with.

**Syed Shariq**

Lahore, Pakistan

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Judge sets an example"

### Truth Teller

Thanks to Justice Bazlur Rahman for setting the example. I hope other officials of Bangladesh government will follow his example.

### Roald

This type of incident is unheard of nowadays.

### Md. Forhad Hossain Bappy

We feel proud to have someone like him as our judge and we hope that our political leaders will follow this example.

### Mohsin

The honourable judge set an example that may encourage top officials to save money for this poor nation.

### Rch

Thanks to Justice Bazlur Rahman. He made his point clear -- hats off to him and shame on others who could not stick to their moral high ground.

### Ahmed

Hope fellow judges will learn how to get respect from others. In particular the judge who a few months back had forced Biman management to upgrade his ticket causing delay and sufferings to other passengers. Later, he also summoned Biman officials including the captain of that flight.

### An observer

I thank the judge for his goodness. Why do the press not follow-up the case of other judge and tell public the ordeal the pilot and the flight had to undergo for not upgrading an economy class ticket to business class?

### Jumana Sarwar

I fly across the Atlantic on business trip on regular basis and our company's protocol provides me business class and I happily enjoy this. But I could not imagine on a private trip I would or could threaten any official to upgrade my ticket from economy to business class. The judge has followed the protocol.

### N. Alamgir

Hats off to Justice Bazlur Rahman. Such integrity is rare in Bangladesh. I am sure he has set an example among all Bangladeshis who look for and demand privileges which they are not entitled to. I am sure if Bangladesh had more such persons, the country's fate would have been quite different.

### Kishwar Khan

I salute Justice Bazlur Rahman for his exemplary stand which should actually be a normal affair. Hope this will be a lesson for others to follow.

### Mong Ching

Justice Bazlur Rahman is an exception to the corrupt people's representatives who run the country not by rule, but by their 'illegitimate' political clout. I salute him.

### Anonymous

With our confidence gradually going down on the legal system, especially the court, this incident gives some ray of hope! My heartiest felicitations to the honourable Justice

## Plight of Economics final year students

We got admitted in Economics Dept. of Dhaka University in 2007/08 session. Our first year class started on 1st April 2008. Our 4-year long graduation degree was scheduled to be completed this April. But still now we don't know when our final year exam will start.

Our batch-mates of BBA and other departments of social science faculty have already completed their graduation.

They are now sitting for various job exams. As they have completed their graduation in time, they are now able to participate in the next 33rd BCS exams. It's very pathetic that we have to wait for another year for appearing at the next BCS exams.

The negligence of our department teachers is responsible for this session jam. They are involved in various NGO-projects. They also work as part time teachers in the private universities as well as consultants in various firms. They cannot complete their courses or take exams in time. This is very unfortunate.

**Md. Yeasir Arafat Nadim**

4th year, Dept. of Economics

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