

# Will BCL answer why the boy had to die?



PHOTO: STAR

Are we living in a civilised world? How much more innocent people should suffer because of some "culprits"? I was utterly shocked when I read in the newspaper about a 10-year-old boy getting killed in a gun battle between two factions of Chhatra League at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in Mymensingh. What a shame! Time has come to question whether student politics should at all exist in our country. Instead of

bringing honour it has rather brought violence, shame and disrespect. More and more these student groups are becoming violent and ruthless. Why had this boy of 10 to be the victim of senselessness? Will the parents of the hapless boy get justice under the present government?

**Minhaj Ahmed**  
*Uttara  
Dhaka*

## Abolish age limit for jobs

It is with great interest that I noticed a couple of letters published in The Daily Star last Friday regarding the demands by the Shadharan Chhatra Parishad that the government should raise the age limits for government jobs.

I believe it is a valid issue; however, the solution the students are requesting is incorrect. The answer is not to raise the age limit to a new number, but to eliminate the age restriction completely. There is no reason that a young person is automatically more fit to fill these roles than an older one. In fact, an older applicant could be better positioned because they may be able to bring some applicable knowledge such as administrative experience to the position. If the government wants to put in restrictions on who can apply, they should be achievement-based factors such as particular degrees completed or a certain level of experience. Simply eliminating a pool of potential applicants due to an arbitrary factor such as age is nothing but discrimination.

Neil Taylor, *On e-mail*

## We sincerely thank PM

The 22nd January will remain one of the most memorable and a historical day for the nation as the first verdict against a collaborator of Pakistani occupation forces was delivered from International Crimes Tribunal-2. The judges showed unprecedented discretion as well as bravery in delivering their maiden verdict sentencing Abul Kalam Azad (Bachchu Razakar) to death by hanging. Charges like killing, rape, abduction, torture and arson, and genocide were brought against the convict and all proved to be true except one. The historic judgment was given accordingly.

Surprisingly enough, it took us four decades to try a war criminal. Prior to this, the successive governments after the assassination of Bangabandhu took no action against the war criminals. Instead, they withdrew all the cases against the war criminals and rehabilitated them. Such is the irony of an independent nation. But our premier Sheikh Hasina, according to her commitment to the nation, rid the nation of the stigma by bringing some most notorious war criminals under the trial process through forming ICT. As one verdict has been delivered, we hope the verdicts in other eight cases will come soon too. We express our cordial thanks to the premier for her courage.

**Md. Sairul Islam**  
*Lecturer in English  
Jahangirpur Girls' School and College*



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**Why should we celebrate this verdict?**  
Because it helps us to understand what Bangladesh is supposed to be  
*(January 23, 2013)*

**S. Rahman**  
We can celebrate the verdict, but where is the accused? Find the accused and then I will be satisfied with the verdict.

**An observer**  
I want war crimes trial without any controversy. What is the reason for this trial after 40 years? Why did not Sheikh Mujib initiate this trial during his three and a half years' rule?

**Dev Saha**  
Great! But, I am hardly in any celebrating mood. The man was rehabilitated before by known patrons and now who knows what holds for this fugitive in future. May be, he will be forgiven again with

another political change in the country.

**Md. Musa**  
Excellent commentary. It expresses the thoughts of the vast majority of Bangladeshi people. Khaleda Zia and BNP's roles in this regard may be shocking, but not surprising. They are the ones who are behind full rehabilitation of war criminals in our society.

**Mosifur**  
I am very happy today and waiting for the verdict of Ghulam Azam's case.

**Neutral**  
Thanks, Mahfuz Anam. You have rewritten the history of the ordinary men, women

and children who sacrificed their lives and dignity for freedom.

**Sheikh Monirul Islam, Opee**  
I would really celebrate when we shall be able to issue int'l warrant to arrest those from Pakistani occupation forces who committed those crimes against humanity and Bangladesh.

**Shamsul Alam**  
Thank you so much, Mr Anam. You have read the minds and expressed rightly the feelings of millions of Bangalees whose families had been victims of the atrocities of Razakars in 1971. Still active, these Rajakars are spending millions of dollars abroad for lobbying in favour of Jamaat and against the AL. We all, including the media should be extra-cautious about their conspiracies.

**Nick**  
A very good start; let's now complete the trials of the rest of the culprits.

**Piplu**  
I am not agreeing with the writer. This tribunal is

guided by Awami League government.

**Shahab**  
A brilliant piece of commentary. It is truly sad to note that our new generation is being told a distorted history of how Bangladesh came into being. How those notorious collaborators who opposed the creation of Bangladesh has been comfortably established in the mainstream politics and allowed to mislead people.

**Salahuddin Ahmed**  
We are eagerly waiting to see the other verdicts.

**Mozammel Khan**  
Wonderful comments and observations, reflecting the thoughts of the millions. Let us hope that this is the beginning of the end of the moral burdens that the nation has been carrying for the last four decades.

**Niloufar Sarker**  
Congratulations, Mr Anam, for your commentary that reflects the true sentiments of all patriotic Bangladeshis.

**Truth Teller**

## Check corruption, rein in BCL

Padma bridge is the long cherished dream of the people but the dream now appears to be very distant. The World Bank has told the government again and again to take action against those involved in corruption but the government did not pay heed to any of the allegations brought by the World Bank. The government has left no stone unturned to save a particular minister. The PM even called him a 'patriot'. Earlier we saw that the vociferous railway minister was very adept at articulating his views against corruption. But the midnight drama at the Pikhana has left the people of the country dumb-founded. And he still remains a minister. But this very government has taken nefarious measures to undermine the country's lone Nobel laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus. The sooner the government realises its mistakes and takes measures to control the all-engulfing corruption, the better for the country. This government has done many remarkable works: the first verdict of ICT has just been announced, remittance flow has increased, etc. but all its good deeds have been eclipsed by corruption and the excesses committed by BCL.

**Md. Nahid Iftekhhar**  
*Muradpur, Chittagong*

## Devise proper HR development policy

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. About 1100 people live per square kilometre and the population growth rate is 1.34 percent per annum which adds 1.8 to 2.0 million people every year. Currently, more than 35 percent of the population is below 15 years. In the slums of the capital and other cities, we see that these people are deprived of basic amenities of life. It is very common that children of poor families start going to school only to drop out the next year.

Many of our young people remain illiterate and grow without acquiring any working skills. These uneducated and unskilled young people certainly become a burden for the nation. By ensuring basic education and skill training for them, they can be turned into valuable asset. Given that the population growth rate in the developed countries is negative, Bangladesh can avail the opportunity by filling the gaps and earn foreign currencies by exporting its human capital. The only prerequisite is proper human resource development policy and its rightful implementation.

**M.A. Kashem**  
*Mohammadpur, Dhaka*

## Free Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir

The government is acting in a very strange fashion and has shown its fear and uneasiness by imprisoning Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, the acting general secretary of BNP on false charges. He is not getting bail and the charges brought against him are so ridiculous that people feel outraged.

When wanted terrorists like Bikash and as many as 22 hardcore criminals, all death convicts, have been released from prison secretly, how could a soft-spoken gentleman like Fakhru Islam Alamgir remain behind bars? He is denied bail and more charges are being brought against him. The government must come to its senses and try to feel the pulse of the people. It is becoming more unpopular due to the suicidal steps it is taking.

Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir should not become so enthusiastic to show his efficiency. He should cool down and try to listen to people. Otherwise he will do more harm than good to the government he is serving.

**Nur Jahan**

# Avoid junk food, keep away obesity

I refer to the news published in The Daily Star on the 5th of January 2013 titled "Obesity bigger health crisis than hunger." It seems that it is better to remain hungry than becoming obese. Obese people are at a greater risk of getting afflicted with various diseases than the hungry people. Eating junk food and drinks and doing no exercise invite obesity for kids. Obesity also creates heart disease, diabetes and kidney diseases. The number of obese children is on the rise in the urban areas of Bangladesh. Parents and teachers can discuss this issue with children and make them aware of the bad impacts of junk food and electronic gadgets. This will change their food habits and other bad practices and thus the number of obese children will decrease in Bangladesh.

**Shafkat Rahman**  
*Class - III  
BIAM Laboratory School  
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SOURCE: INTERNET

## Stop cruelty against girls

What was the fault of the 10-year-old girl? It was the age of playing with friends and going to school. But she left school, used to help her mother after her father's death. She was not aware of the cruel world. Punishing those criminals with death sentences will not be enough. Let us (people, government and the law enforcement agencies) try to stop these crimes forever and ensure a safe life for girls.

**Shakila Yeasmin Suchana**  
*Dept. of Criminology and Police Science*

# Save local and migratory birds

Guests are those who deserve to get special care and hospitality. But in Bangladesh hunting the guest birds during winter is a very common scene. Though there are laws prohibiting hunting and selling of guest birds in the open market, the hunting spree has not stopped. The punishment of hunting and selling migratory birds is jail term and fines. Birds and other wild animals directly and indirectly keep our ecology balanced. We have already lost many kinds of exotic birds. It is high time we came forward and protected the local and migratory birds of our country.

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PHOTO: WRITER