

Spring adds colour, zeal

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slogans such as, "Boshonter kalo daag, ei Boshonte muchhe jak" (let the black spot of the spring be wiped out this spring).

According to the demonstrators, the "black spot" is Jamaat-e-Islami, the party that actively opposed the country's Liberation War and six of whose top leaders are now being tried for war crimes.

Men and women flocked to the protest venue, vowing to make it the season of reawakening and renewal. Songs turned into slogans, slogans songs -- all tuned to the demand for a just trial of the war criminals.

Garlands and crowns made with spring flowers lend the sombre air of Shahbagh a festive look, without compromising the seriousness of the cause. Marigolds, roses and green leaves were used to transform the streets into colourful canvases to express the sentiments of the protestors.

"Even the cuckoo sang songs of resistance this year," said a university student, dressed in a yellow sari. The words "We want death sentence" were inscribed on one of her cheeks and "Pahela Boshonto" on the other.

Instrumental music played at Fine Arts' Bakultola, only a few yards away from the Shahbagh intersection, heralded the beginning of spring at 7:00 in the morning. As usual, the day's programme began with the rendering of the national anthem.

A cultural programme began at 3:00pm with protest songs and poetry recitations and continued through the evening, as thousands of people gathered. Some stopped by the demonstration to and from Bokultola and TSC where they went for the spring celebrations. Others remained at Shahbagh all

day, refusing to take a break even to enjoy the events of the new season.

Fakir Alamgir, Subir Nandi and singers from Chhayanaut, among others, engaged the crowd with renditions of patriotic and inspirational songs.

A one-minute silence was observed from 7:00pm to commemorate the sacrifices of those who lost their lives during the Liberation War, the women who were raped, and those killed by Jamaat-Shibir since the independence. The silence was broken by the emotive renditions of violin, during which the whole crowd stood still.

Following the one-minute silence, a large portrait of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam was unveiled near the main stage of the protest venue.

Later in the evening, Selina Hayat Ivy, mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation, joined the movement to express her solidarity.

In the morning, representatives of the Shahbagh protest and different student groups placed wreaths at Shaheed Minar in remembrance of Debashis Bhattacharya Rupam, a Chhatra Moitree member who was killed by Shibir on Pahela Falgun in 1995.

The movement began on February 5, soon after a war crimes tribunal sentenced Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah to life term in prison for crimes against humanity during the 1971 war. The protest was initiated by Bloggers and Online Activist Network, but it soon turned into a mass movement. Within days, it spread to other parts of the country, with the call for capital punishment to all war criminals getting louder and louder.

Yesterday, the organisers urged all to participate in a candlelight vigil from wherever they are at 7:00pm today to eradicate darkness

from people's minds and from the country.

They also thanked the Jatiya Press Club for cancelling the membership of Jamaat leaders Quader Mollah and Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

Belal Mohammad, one of the founders and organisers of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, expressed solidarity with the protesters.

Actor Bonya Mirza, media personality Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu, singer Krishnokoli, among others, came to Shahbagh to lend their support.

The gift

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all women really want for Valentine's Day is a hug.

Given the choice, nine in ten women would choose a thoughtful, romantic gesture over a luxury gift of diamonds.

While many men believe jewellery and lingerie is the way to a woman's heart, most women would be happy with something that costs nothing such as a loving cuddle or a handwritten poem.

The study found that a quarter of women would like their partner to write them a romantic poem, while eight per cent are hoping for a passionate embrace.

But not every woman will be satisfied with a humble hug.

A quarter of the female respondents to the British Heart Foundation (BHF) survey revealed they would love to be whisked away for a luxury trip abroad this Valentine's Day.

BHF Retail Director Mike Taylor said: "This survey shows you don't have to spend large sums of money to woo your other half this Valentine's Day.

"In fact, romantic gestures like writing a love note or even just a hug can make your partner's day."

DU students

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question. According to him, no less an individual than Yusuf Ali Chowdhury, general secretary of the East Pakistan Muslim League, was disturbed by the governor general's comments.

Chowdhury agreed with Chief Minister Nurul Amin that no one in the ruling circles was aware that Nazimuddin would make such a statement.

Interestingly, not Bangla but Urdu was the language spoken in the Dhaka Nawab family. Nazimuddin could not speak Bangla. But the speech he delivered at the public meeting had been prepared in Bangla written in the Urdu script, by Mizanur Rahman, a senior Bangalee government official in Karachi.

In the post-speech period, Aziz Ahmed, the non-Bangalee chief secretary of the provincial government, told Nurul Amin that he had not seen the text of the governor general's speech, but if he had, he would have advised Nazimuddin against making his remarks on the state language issue.

Aziz Ahmed would later serve as foreign secretary in the Ayub regime, working under Foreign Minister ZA Bhutto, who would appoint him minister of state for foreign affairs in post-1971 Pakistan.

The Dhaka University State Language Committee of Action called a meeting on the campus on 29 January 1952 to censure Nazimuddin over his comments. The next day, the East Pakistan Muslim Students' League, at a meeting at Dhaka University, severely criticised the governor general over his remarks and renewed the call for Bangla to be adopted as a state language of Pakistan.

After the meeting, the EPMSL activists marched to the residence of the chief minister, where they chanted slogans advocating Bangla as a state language. They also called for a strike at all educational institutions in Dhaka for 4 February 1952.

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Joy Bangla & BNP's worry

FROM PAGE 1
many days.

For the BNP, whose record on the war crimes trial has remained shrouded in mystery, for reasons of its political alliance with the very men now on trial for crimes against humanity, it is a matter of damned if it does and damned if it doesn't. It cannot express solidarity with the young because that would mean repudiating its fanatical allies the Jamaat. And if it disowns the Jamaat, a big chunk of its politics will simply cave in.

Interestingly, the BNP appears driven by a need for a face-saving way out of its dilemma. Its leaders say they understand the grievances being voiced at Projonmo Chottor, but they are worried by the repeated chanting of Joy Bangla by the young. They smell something of the partisan in that chanting of the Bangalee nationalist slogan.

The BNP, either through a deliberate negation of history or a plain demonstration of pique, has suggested that questions and confusion have arisen around Joy Bangla, a slogan which, in its view, lost general acceptability in post-Liberation times owing to what it calls the partisan nature of the government in power after 1971.

For the BNP and for everyone uncomfortable with Joy Bangla, these are the facts behind a slogan that carried us through our War of Liberation and still underpins our sovereign status as a nation.

The Joy Bangla slogan first acquired currency following the successful mass upsurge against the Ayub Khan regime in 1969. In the following year, when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made it known that the general elections scheduled for the end of 1970 would be a referendum on the Six-Point Programme of the Awami League, Joy Bangla took on a wider dimension as a Bangla slogan.

The intensity of Joy Bangla went up by leaps and bounds in March 1971 when the Yahya-Bhutto conspiracy to prevent power from being handed over to the Awami League first became obvious. Joy Bangla became a militant

Bengali slogan chanted across the length and breadth of the province. And in the nine months of the war, Bangladesh's freedom fighters went into battle raising full-throated Joy Bangla slogans. The record, in printed documents and video footage, is out there.

Joy Bangla, therefore, has been giving a distinctive non-partisan and nationalistic flavour to the Bangalee ethos since the late 1960s and is an unmistakable symbol of Bangalee nationalism. Contrary to the BNP's argument that it lost general acceptability in post-liberation times, Joy Bangla was first undermined by the murderous regime which brought Khondokar Moshtaque and the assassins of Bangabandhu to power in August 1975.

Moshtaque used the old, Pakistan-style slogan "Bangladesh Zindabad" in his very first broadcast as usurper-president. The "zindabad" idea was then picked up by the nation's first military ruler Ziaur Rahman, who also made sure, as martial law administrator, that the secular spirit of the constitution was removed and replaced by invocations of a communal nature. General Ershad and then Khaleda Zia and their political friends upheld "zindabad" despite the fact that it was Joy Bangla which continued to exercise a hold on the public imagination.

The conclusion is simple and crystal clear. Joy Bangla, first raised as a slogan by the Awami League, went on to acquire absolute public acceptability through the crucible of mass movements against Pakistani political machinations and then through the fire and fury of war in 1971.

"Zindabad", on the other hand, has been a calculated move by men seizing power by extra-constitutional means and their camp followers to dilute the significance of the Bangalee nationalist struggle. Many of these camp followers, by the way, took part in the war singing the Joy Bangla slogan.

The BNP would do well to acknowledge the message coming out of Projonmo Chottor -- that when the young men and

women gathered there rend the air with chants of Joy Bangla, they are not thinking of partisan politics but only reliving those great historical emotions which defined, and still define, our place in the world.

Wide coverage

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have been anywhere from 100,000 to 500,000," it said.

The New York Times (NYT) writes: Huge daily demonstrations in the heart of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, are upending the nation's politics and illustrating how heavily the country's bloody past still weighs on its present.

"Thousands of protesters, most of them college students and other young people, demonstrated again on Tuesday, fuelled by broad public anger over a recent ruling by the country's special war crimes tribunal that they say was too lenient," said the US-based newspaper in a report yesterday.

"Politics in Bangladesh Jolted by Daily Demonstrations" was the headline of the report.

The report said "At the Shahbagh protests, thousands of people pledged to boycott the Jamaat party and its related businesses, and a delegation of protest leaders presented the Bangladeshi Parliament with a list of demands, including that laws be changed so that Mr Mollah's life sentence can be appealed."

Political analysts in Bangladesh say the youth demonstrations reflect broad public disenchantment with the usual style of Bangladeshi politics, it said.

Debashis Bhattacharya, a Bangladeshi economist and former United Nations diplomat, said the demands for tough sentencing reflected a broader public desire for closure on the 1971 war, in which rapes and assaults of women were common and an estimated three million people were killed, it added.

HC summons

FROM PAGE 20
District Public Prosecutor (PP) Khandaker Abdul Mannan to appear before it on February 20 to explain whether his office had opposed the bail orders at the lower court.

It also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned and the five accused who obtained bail to explain within a week why the bails should not be cancelled.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Mahmudul Hoque

came up with the order and rule after hearing the petition filed challenging the bail orders.

Enus Ali Akond, a Supreme Court lawyer, had filed the petition under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) as public interest litigation on Tuesday on behalf of Nazim Ahmed, editor of the weekly Shoptoborno.

The petition stated that the judge had granted bail to the five accused illegally, as there was no legal provi-

sion for granting bail in such sensational cases at the stage of investigation.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder represented the government in the court.

Meanwhile, the court of Judge Abdul Majid yesterday rejected a bail petition filed by another accused in Parag abduction case Zahidul Ahsan. It said in the order that Zahidul, now in custody, had given confessional statement before the magistrate.



Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Chittagong, Bangladesh

জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

Invitation for International Re-Tender

01.	Ministry/Division	:	Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
02.	Agency	:	Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).
03.	Procuring entity name	:	Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited.
04.	Procuring entity district	:	Chittagong.
05.	Invitation for	:	Procurement of Calibration Equipment for different Bulk Customer Metering Station.
06.	Invitation Ref. No.	:	28.15.0000.111.06.001.13-02(Re-Tender).
07.	Date	:	06.02.2013
KEY INFORMATION			
08.	Procurement method	:	Open tendering method (single envelope tendering procedure).
09.	Budget and source of funds	:	KGDCL own fund, cash foreign exchange resource.
10.	Time limit to selling tender document	:	14.02.2013 to 13.03.2013 (during office hour).
11.	Tender last selling date	:	13.03.2013
		Date	Time
12.	Tender closing date & time	:	14.03.2013 1130 hrs. (BST)
13.	Tender opening date & time	:	14.03.2013 1145 hrs. (BST)
14.	Name & address of the office(s) Selling tender document	:	Tender documents will be available in the following KGDCL offices during office hour: a) Finance & Accounts Sub-Division, Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh. b) Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrobangla, Petrocentre (13 th Floor), 3, Kawan Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
15.	Receiving tender document	:	Purchase Sub-Division, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
16.	Opening tender document	:	Purchase Sub-Division, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
17.	Eligibility of tenderer	:	Reputed manufacturers/suppliers who have overseas track record/experience in supplying similar items for at least 05 (five) years and related evidences must be submitted along with the bid.
18.	Brief description of goods	:	Hydraulic Dead Weight Tester, Pneumatic Dead Weight Tester, Temperature Calibration Bath, Pneumatic Hand Pump, Digital Thermometer, Digital Pressure Calibrator.
19.	Price of tender document	:	US\$ 25.00 or Tk. 2,000.00 (non-refundable).
20.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Tender security amount
	Single lot	Calibration Equipment for different Bulk Customer Metering Station	US\$ 1,225.00 or Tk. 1,00,000.00
			60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of letter of credit
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
21.	Designation of official inviting tender	:	Deputy General Manager (Purchase).
22.	Contact details of official inviting tender	:	Deputy General Manager (Purchase), Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Tel: 031-2557460, Fax: 088-031-656090
23.	Special instruction	:	a) Tender must remain valid for 120 days after the date of tender submission. b) Should the submission date of tenders happen to fall on holiday, tenders shall be received and opened at the same time & place on the first subsequent working day.
24.	The tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Regulations-2008.		
25.	KGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.		

No question

FROM PAGE 1
it was looking for excuses for not joining the demonstration.

"They are trying to attract public attention by pretending to hail the uprising while actually doubting its intentions. They might as well have said they don't support the movement at all," said Abu Sayeed, an employee of a private organisation.

In a similar note, school-teacher Ahmed Rubel said he would have taken BNP's statement seriously had it joined the movement and then made the observations.

"It's easy to make such intellectual critique from outside," he added.

The BNP issued a press statement on Monday "hailing" the youth movement but criticising the spontaneous gathering of people for creating "serious confusion about [its] neutrality".

The party's allegation that the slogan 'Joy Bangla' had created confusion also was not received well by the people.

"People are shouting 'Joy Bangla', not 'Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu'; it is clear that the slogan is not associated with any particular party. By suggesting that it is, BNP itself is trying to create confusion and misunderstanding," said Muddassar Ahmed, a banker.

However, some people agreed with the party's demand that the movement should be addressing some other critical issues like extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, human rights violations and the government's alleged corruption and other misdeeds.

But they did not think BNP was in a position to voice these allegations.

"I think the crowd should be addressing other issues like Bishwajit and Sagar-Runi murder, Padma Bridge and corruption once the ongoing protest comes out successful. But BNP's intention behind saying these now is purely political," said Naziba Basher Meygha, a dance artiste.

Some people said the movement was launched to demand proper punishment to the war criminals and that should be its main focus.

"BNP's expectation of other demands to be raised here is unreasonable. As for the 'Joy Bangla' slogan, that was the slogan of our Liberation War and that's exactly why the youth at Shahbagh are using it," said Rokhsana Rahman Nipa, student of department of fine arts at Dhaka University.

"We know what to demand and when. The youth have awakened, but unfortunately our political parties haven't," Raisa Islam, a high school student, said