

Forgive me

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"I am guilty. Bangladesh's people loved me a lot. Many were fans. Many believed in me. And I feel guilty. I hope the country forgives me for what I have done," said the hugely talented but enigmatic Ashraful, who was visibly trying to rein in his emotions while speaking.

Ashraful has enthralled cricket fans on many occasions during his inconsistent career, but over the last few days has been in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. The country's sports fraternity was rocked by the revelation by a leading Bangla daily that Ashraful -- while being grilled by the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) -- confessed his involvement in match-fixing not only in the Bangladesh Premier League T20, but also in international cricket since the early days of his career.

Thus opened the darkest chapter in Bangladesh sports history.

When asked why he had confessed so late, the former captain said, "ACSU never called me in the last 12 years. And so when they called me and I had done a few wrong things, I decided to tell them everything. I helped them in whatever way I could for the sake of cricket.

"I don't want to feel guilty, so I have bared all. I have made a lot of mistakes in my 12-year career, and for the sake of cricket, I have decided to tell everyone the truth. But apart from this I have always wanted to per-

form well in cricket," he continued.

He was however not willing to disclose the details of his confession regarding the involvement of other cricketers and fixing in international cricket. "I can't say anything regarding the former cricketers. I have told everything to the ACSU. I can't say anything to the media now. I haven't given any such information to any daily. I had spoken to someone I considered a big brother, and he betrayed me."

The under-fire cricketer finally broke down when answering a question about whether he would miss cricket, especially after returning to form this year.

"Obviously, I batted very well this year..." his voice trailed off as he started crying and immediately left the scene, leaving millions of his fans feeling betrayed and cheated by their beloved hero.

Ashraful started his career on the brightest of notes by making a hundred on Test debut against Sri Lanka in 2001, becoming the youngest Test centurion in the process. He played 61 Tests and captained the national side in 13 Test matches, 38 ODIs and 11 T20Is between 2007 and 2009. During a career which extended from 2001 to 2013, he scored 2,737 runs in Test matches at an average of 24. He has also played 177 ODIs and scored 3,468 runs at an average of 22.23 but in the month of June 2013 his all cricketing statistics took the backseat.

BCB president Nazmul

Hassan Papon was not willing to give the final verdict on Ashraful's future before receiving the full reports from the ACSU. "Because Ashraful has confessed, I think he will not be able to participate in cricket-related activities. Ashraful told me personally that he confessed, and ACSU has also said that he confessed. From what I know he has confessed regarding BPL and because he has done that, we will keep him away from cricket. But I still don't know if there's enough evidence or not; we will come to know after the report."

So the legal wrangling may go on and on, but with the public confession from Ashraful himself, it is now beyond doubt that the once-loved batsman will go down as a villain in Bangladesh's cricket history.

Tiananmen vigil held in Hong Kong

BBC ONLINE

Tens of thousands of people in Hong Kong have held a vigil to mark the 24th anniversary of the Tiananmen protests and massacre in Beijing.

The annual vigil took place in the rain, with many participants holding candles under umbrellas.

Hong Kong, a former British colony, is the only place in China to hold such public commemorations.

On the mainland, security for the anniversary was tight and activists were told to stay at home.

DCC polls face further delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The elections to the Dhaka north and south city corporations have been deferred again, this time until after Eid-ul-Fitr, because of the short period before the Eid.

"We do not have enough time..." said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday. "It would not be wise to hold such important elections in this short span of time."

The Election Commission will announce the schedule for the polls after the Eid, the CEC told reporters at the EC Secretariat in the capital.

The polls may be held between Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha, he added.

If the elections are held before Eid-ul-Fitr, the candidates will not get enough time for electoral campaigns and the commission for making preparations. There

is no legal barrier to holding the elections before Eid-ul-Fitr, he said.

The announcement of the schedule and the election are usually 40 to 45 days apart, said Rakibuddin. "We do not have that much time before Ramadan and it is not possible to hold the elections during the month."

The month of Ramadan begins in the second week of the next month.

Holding the polls after Eid-ul-Fitr will not affect the general election, the CEC mentioned.

The next parliamentary election is supposed to be held between October 27 this year and January 24 the next year.

The last election to the undivided Dhaka City Corporation was held in 2002 and its tenure expired on May 14, 2007. The government split the DCC into two in November 2011.

Mojaheed's trial

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date for delivering judgement or keep the case waiting for a verdict.

The defence have completed their closing arguments in 15 hours spread over seven days, while the prosecution did it in nine and a quarter hours in four days.

Mojaheed, a former technocrat minister of the last BNP-led alliance government, was indicted on seven charges, including murder, genocide and conspiracy to kill intellectuals during the Liberation War in 1971.

His chief defence counsel Abdul Razzaq and another counsel Imran Siddiq yesterday placed their submissions mainly on "joint criminal enterprise," "persecution," "extermination," and "aiding and abetting".

INTELLECTUALS' KILLING NOT GENOCIDE: DEFENCE

At one point of the arguments, the tribunal asked the defence, "Was the intellectuals' killing genocide?"

According to Section 3 (2) (C) (i) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, genocide is an act of killing members, with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, of a national, ethnic, racial, religious or political group.

Razzaq said the prosecution had mentioned the "intellectuals" as "national group", but "intellectuals" could not fall under the purview of a "national group".

"Intellectuals cannot be incorporated with any of the groups [mentioned in the definition of genocide]," said Razzaq.

At that point, the court said, "The intention of the intellectuals' killings was to destroy Bangalee nationals."

Razzaq replied, "But group requirement is absent here. It could be counted as murder or crimes against humanity, not as genocide."

Prosecutor Tureen Afroz, in her replies, however, said the intellectuals were part of the whole Bangalee nation.

"There was an intention to destroy the Bangalee nationals and among them, intellectuals were killed on priority basis to impair the nation intellectually," she added.

Historical records say that anticipating defeat, the

Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators, especially Al-Badr, picked up leading Bangalee intellectuals and professionals and killed them en masse to cripple the new nation.

There is a specific charge against Mojaheed in connection with the intellectuals' killings.

MOJAHEED INNOCENT: RAZZAQ

In the last part of his arguments, Razzaq said the charges brought against Mojaheed were "politically motivated" and "below standard".

"The prosecution have failed to prove the charges brought against Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed," said Razzaq, adding, "He is an innocent man... a public figure."

Razzaq sought some time for Mojaheed to say something, but the tribunal asked Razzaq to talk with his client and tell the tribunal what he wanted to say.

MEDIA TRIAL: MOJAHEED

Razzaq, on behalf of Mojaheed, said, "He [Mojaheed] is a helpless man. The prosecution are very powerful and have written against him. There is so much propaganda against him [Mojaheed]. This is a trial by media, conviction by media."

He is a Bangladeshi citizen by birth and is now 66. But he has no fundamental rights. His fundamental rights were taken away, said Razzaq.

"He [Mojaheed] is totally innocent. He has to face trial only for his political beliefs," he added.

PROSECUTION REFUTE

Tureen Afroz in her replies categorically refuted Mojaheed's comments and said it was the prosecution's burden to prove the charges which they were doing.

"If it was a media trial, why was [the defence] repeatedly asking for 'hard evidence', even though the concept of 'hard evidence' is never heard of in the entire jurisprudence of international criminal law," she said.

There is no instance of technical rules of evidence being used in any war crimes trial across the world, she added.

After her 23-minute submission, the tribunal adjourned proceedings until today.

MUEEN, ASHRAF Charge hearing starts June 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed June 16 for commencing hearings on charge framing against alleged Al-Badr leaders Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan.

According to the prosecution, Mueen-Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman, both fugitives, were "involved" in the abduction, torture and killing of 18 people, including Dhaka University teachers and journalists, on December 10-15, 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan fixed the date after the state-appointed defence informed them that they had collected the relevant documents.

As the tribunal began its proceedings at 10:40am, prosecutor Sahidur Rahman informed the judges that they had supplied the copy of formal charges and other documents to the registrar's office as per the court's order.

The state-appointed lawyers -- Abdus Shukur Khan and Salma Hai Tuny -- also told the court that they had already collected the necessary documents.

On May 27, the tribunal decided to go for the trial of the duo in absentia, as its attempts to have the accused

in court had failed. On April 25, the prosecution pressed 16 charges of war crimes against Mueen and Ashrafuzzaman.

According to the formal charges, Mueen, who is in the UK, acted as the operation-in-charge of Al-Badr, while Ashrafuzzaman, now in the USA, was the chief executor of the infamous force.

Al-Badr was an "action section" and "armed wing" of Jamaat and was formed mainly with the activists of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat, the tribunal has said in a recent verdict.

ICT-1

The defence of war crimes accused Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury yesterday said martyr Nutan Chandra Singh's son Sotya was proposer of Salahuddin's name at the 1979 election.

Defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena asked investigation officer Nurul Islam whether he had known about it.

"I don't know," Nurul replied, adding, "Another son of Nutan, Praphulla Ranjan Sinha, denied it during investigation."

According to the third of 23 charges pressed against Salahuddin, the war crimes accused led a band of Pakistan occupation army troops to

Kundeshwari Oushadhalaya of Gohira in Chittagong and entered Nutan's house on April 13, 1971.

At Salahuddin's instructions, the army shot him. The war crimes accused fired two to three rounds of bullets to confirm the victim's death.

Earlier, Praphulla deposed before the Tribunal-1 on his father's killing.

During cross-examination for the second day, the investigation officer said he had no knowledge about how many people under five police stations -- Boalmari, Rauzan, Hathazari, Kotwali and Panchlaish -- had left Bangladesh for India before March 25, 1971.

He also could not say how many of them returned to Bangladesh after independence.

Hena said Salauddin was the health minister during the Ershad regime and resigned from Jatiya Party in 1988 and formed the National Democratic Party. During the anti-Ershad movement Salauddin was the coordinator of BNP and Awami League.

The witness said he had no knowledge about these.

The proceedings of the case were adjourned until today.

Awareness

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every Juma prayers, according to home ministry sources.

At the meeting yesterday, an intelligence agency reported that recently it had conducted an investigation on 1,84,885 mosques across the country and found only 20,021 mosques delivering the model speech before Juma prayers.

The madrasa authorities neither deliver the speech nor do they play the national anthem before classes.

Against this backdrop, the committee yesterday asked all deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers to prepare reports on whether the model speech was being delivered in their areas and submit the

reports to the committee within three months, said a source at the meeting.

Emerging from the meeting, Shamsul Haque Tuku, state minister for home, told reporters that Bangladesh Bank had called for steps so that banks and financial institutions spared a certain percentage of profits for eradicating militancy.

Held at the ministry, the meeting also decided to set up a monitoring cell to check propaganda on websites.

Chiefs of police, Rapid Action Battalion, Border Guard Bangladesh, officials from education, religion and information ministries, among others, attended the meeting.

China told N Korea to give up nuke tests

REUTERS, Beijing

China told an envoy of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un that Pyongyang should stop conducting nuclear and missile tests, but the North showed little sign of heeding the request, said a source with knowledge of the talks held late last month.

Kim dispatched Choe Ryong-hae, vice chairman of the country's top military body, to explain North Korea's recent actions but he got a lukewarm reception from his Chinese hosts, said the source, who has close ties to Beijing and Pyongyang.

200 MPs for tobacco

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Chowdhury, lawmaker from the ruling Awami League. If any product is injurious to health and causes damage to the economy and environment, its use must be deterred, he added.

Only the tobacco companies will benefit if tax is reduced while others will be losers, said Chowdhury, adding that findings in other countries had shown that tax increases played a significant role in controlling use of tobacco.

Food security, the environment and public health are threatened by tobacco, said Shefali Mamtaj, a lawmaker from the reserved seats for women.

"Thousands of trees are being burnt for processing tobacco while people die or face disabilities due to tobacco consumption," she said in her letter.

"The most effective way to have the use of tobacco reduced is to raise the price of tobacco through tax increase," said Abul Barakat, chief adviser of Human Development Research Centre (HDRC).

According to a research conducted by HDRC and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, The government can earn extra revenue of Tk 720

crore by increasing Tk 4.95 tax on the retail price of a bidi packet containing 25 sticks. This will reduce the number of adult bidi smokers by 34 lakh and prevent another 35 lakh from smoking.

And if the tax on a packet of 10 cigarette sticks is increased by Tk 34, it will earn the country additional Tk 1500 crore in tax revenue and at the same time discourage 70 lakh youth from smoking.

Asked about the position of the NBR in this regard, its chief Ghulam Hussain told The Daily Star that tobacco was harmful for health but refused to disclose whether tax on tobacco products would be increased or not.

In a recent pre-budget discussion, he expressed his surprise at so many lawmakers' plea for waiving tax on bidi.

There are 15 percent VAT (value added tax) and different SDs on bidi, cigarette, jora and gul.

The last time the government increased SD on bidi is in the 2008-09 fiscal budget; from 17.5 percent to 20 percent. However, SDs on cigarette, gul and jorda has been upped in the following budgets.

Both taxation and price slabs of different tobacco

items are very complicated and tobacco companies benefit from that system, NBR sources said.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) studies, the prices of cigarette, bidi and other tobacco products in Bangladesh are considered the lowest in the world. It recommended increasing both tax and prices of tobacco products to reduce their consumption.

As many as 57,000 people die while 3.82 lakh become disabled because of tobacco consumption. Tk 11,000 crore is spent every year in Bangladesh for treating people who suffer from tobacco related diseases, says the World Bank.

Anti-tobacco campaigners say tobacco companies become very active every year ahead of the budget in dissuading the government from increasing tax on tobacco products. They also manipulate statistics and the number of workers employed in the tobacco factories.

Tobacco companies have claimed that more than 2 million workers are employed in their factories. But as per some independent studies, about 65,000 workers work in 117 factories.

Longest German

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compound nouns, which frequently become so cumbersome they have to be reduced to abbreviations.

Professor Anatol Stefanowitsch, a linguistics expert at the Free University of Berlin, told the German news agency dpa that the beef labelling law was the longest "authentic" word in the German language.

The law was considered a legitimate word by linguists because it appears in official texts.

But it never actually appeared in the dictionaries

because compilers of the standard German dictionary Duden judge words for inclusion based on their frequency of use.

The longest word with a dictionary entry, according to Duden is at 36 letters, **K r a f t f a h r z e u g - H a f t p f l i c h t v e r s i c h e r u n g**, motor vehicle liability insurance.

In theory, a German word can be infinitely long. Unlike in English, an extra concept can simply be added to the existing word indefinitely.

Such extended words are

sometimes known as Bandwurmwörter - "tape-worm words". In an essay on the German language, Mark Twain observed: "Some German words are so long that they have a perspective."

The longest word in the Oxford Dictionary of English is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis - at 45 letters.

Its definition is "an artificial long word said to mean a lung disease caused by inhaling very fine ash and sand dust."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh					
Office of the Project Director					
Secretariat for Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund Project					
Ministry of Environment and Forest					
Old Ban Bhaban, 6 th floor, 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1207					
Invitation for Tender (IFT)-Goods					
1	Ministry/Division			Ministry of Environment and Forests.	
2	Agency			N/A	
3	Procuring entity name			Project Director, Secretariat for Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund Project.	
4	Procuring entity code				
5	Procuring entity district			Dhaka.	
6	Invitation for			Procurement of chief executive chair, visitor chair, double sofa, center table, executive chair, drawer unit, keyboard tray conference table, conference chair and low height cabinet.	
7	Invitation Ref. No. & date			MoEF/BCCRF/Procurement under Package G3/17/2013/44, Date-02/06/2013.	
KEY INFORMATION					
8	Procurement method			National Competitive Bidding (NCB).	
FUNDING INFORMATION					
9	Budget & source of funds			Development Budget.	
10	Development partners (if applicable)			Trust Fund Administered by International Development Association (IDA).	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
11	Project/programme code			TF010526-BD.	
12	Tender package No.			MoEF-G3.	
13	Tender package name			Procurement of office furniture (chief executive chair, visitor chair, double sofa, center table, executive chair, drawer unit, keyboard tray, conference table, conference chair and low height cabinet).	
14	Tender publication date			On or before 05 June 2013.	
15	Tender last selling date			19 June 2013 during office hours.	
16	Tender closing date and time			20 June 2013 at 3:00pm.	
17	Tender opening date and time			20 June 2013 at 3:30pm. Tenderers and their representatives are allowed to attend.	
18	Name and address of the office selling tender document			Project Director, Secretariat for Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund Project, Old Ban Bhaban, 6 th Floor, 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
19	Name & address of the office receiving tender document			Project Director, Secretariat for Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund Project, Old Ban Bhaban, 6 th floor, 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
20	Name & address of the office opening tender document			Project Director, Secretariat for Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund Project, Old Ban Bhaban, 6 th Floor, 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)			Not applicable.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of tenderer			i) A tenderer must have 5 (five) years of overall experience in supply of office furniture and related services of which 3 (three) years in the supply of chief executive chair, visitor chair, double sofa, center table, executive chair, drawer unit, keyboard tray, conference table, conference chair and low height cabinet and related services for which this tender is invited. ii) The minimum amount of free funds (liquid assets)/credit facilities net of other contractual commitments of the successful tenderer shall be BDT 10 lac. iii) Tenderer must submit manufacturer/distributorship/reseller authorization in original form. iv) Tenderer shall have to submit company profile, trade licence, latest Income Tax clearance certificate & latest VAT clearance certificate with the tender. v) Tenderer shall have to fulfil the requirements of TDS & PCC.	
23	Brief description of goods & physical services			Procurement of office furniture (chief executive chair, visitor chair, double sofa, center table, executive chair, drawer unit, keyboard tray, conference table, conference chair and low height cabinet).	
24	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
	Single lot	Office Equipment	Dhaka	15,000.00	4 weeks from the date of contract signing
25	Price & form of price of tender document			BDT 500.00 (five hundred) only in the form of a Demand Draft/Pay-Order.	
26	Form of tender security			In the form of a Demand Draft/Pay-Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee on any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Project Director, Secretariat for Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund Project.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
27	Name of official inviting tender			Dr. Mohammad Nasiruddin.	
28	Designation of the official inviting tender			Project Director, Secretariat for Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund Project.	
29	Address of the official inviting tender			Old Ban Bhaban, 6 th Floor, 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
30	Contact detail of official inviting tender			Phone: +880-2-9540621; E-mail: nasbi21@gmail.com	
31	Special instruction			i) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders. ii) The provisions laid down in the PPR 2008 shall be in strict compliance.	
Project Director					
Secretariat for Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund Project					
Ministry of Environment and Forest					
GD-2220					