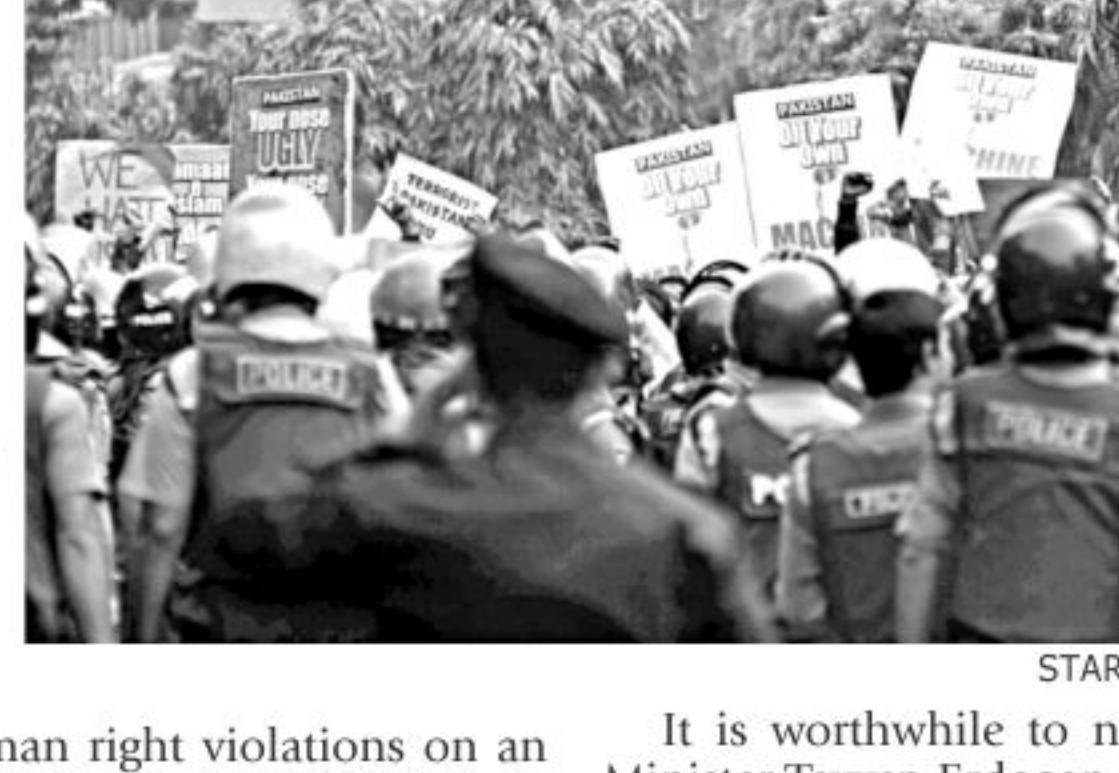


# Plumbing into Pak audacity

A skin-deep look at the sensational Pak interloping cannot be instructive enough about the way a Saarc partner persists in myopia towards Bangladesh.

Pakistan assembly having passed a resolution expressing concern over Quader Mollah's execution and its angry denunciation in Bangladesh has catapulted an uneasy bilateral relationship on to an abnormality trajectory.

Pakistan comes through as a country which once deciding on a course of action does not bother to look sideways to be adjustable to something that goes against its ingrained prejudices taking a plunge headlong. A people who had been kept uninformed or with a bias under a news blackout



STAR

over the Pak army's misdeeds in 1971 can only have a warped sense of history. Some of its intelligentsia who have had their antenna high over foreign news broadcasts knew what was going on inside Bangladesh. But a public opinion generally uncritical of the army's operations in Bangladesh or couldn't care less about how Bangalees were being massacred through a deliberate ethnic cleansing or subjugation pogrom, gave complete impunity to the tyrannical hierarchy of the Pakistani establishment.

Even if Justice Hamidur Rahman's report on Pak debacle which named a number of military officers as being directly culpable for worst form of human right violations on an unarmed people was acted on, at least some form of justice would have been delivered to the victims. But Bhutto who had instituted the investigation commission threw away its operative findings into the waste paper bin. He just rested some officials.

One cannot fail to note that the reaction from Islamabad did not come from any individual, spokesman or organisation but from mainstream elected leadership. This makes it all the more irksome. Even though the resolution was moved by Pak Jamaat-e-Islami it was unanimously carried in both Pakistan national assembly and the Punjab legislature, the citadel of political power in the country. Imran who once added voice to the campaign fragmentarily staged by belated conscientious objectors to seek apology from Bangladesh played to the tune of a borrowed view from a defence lawyer.

Not surprisingly, Quader Mollah was owned up as one of their own with loyalty for a united Pakistan till his last breath, an accurate characterisation of the man. Little did it matter with them that

Mollah was a Bangladeshi citizen and convicted according to the law of the land. Any criticism of a legal action against our own citizen for his proven diabolic crimes, especially by his one-time benefactor and protagonist, is the crudest form of intrusion imaginable into the internal affairs of a sovereign country.

The supreme irony is, architects of the infamous Pak resolution blame us for 'reopening an old wound' but it is them that are stoking it to fester by their uncalled for sympathy for someone who committed crimes against humanity. Whereas we are striving to heal the scars on the bereaved members of the martyred families, it is the perpetrator who is being glorified as Shaheed-e-Pakistan!

All said and done, there is an underlay of ulterior motives that come forth in full view if you try and fathom it. Some implications can be read into their action which far from being impulsive, are deliberately designed to achieve some political ends. In the first place, India has made no bones about its stakes in Bangladesh as the next door neighbour and Pakistan perhaps felt that it couldn't be left behind, it needs to extend a hand to its perceived Islamist constituency in Bangladesh.

Quite clearly, it has been closely following the developments in Bangladesh politics which has been receiving a good deal of attention of various world powers including USA, EU and China. Pakistan so far keeping remote from the goings-on of appearing on the scene with a thought of appearing on the scene with a noisy bang.

Pakistan foreign ministry's website records a concern that the war crimes trials in Bangladesh have "added to the current instability" in the country. The ministry nevertheless wishes the "brotherly people of Bangladesh well," rather a left-handed good wish if you will in the latest context.

It is worthwhile to note that Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan put in a word with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina not to go ahead with Mollah's execution. The Bangladesh prime minister not complying with the request has received further flak from Turkish government.

Particularly preposterous is the Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag's remarks: "History will never remember well those who executed Mollah or had the chance to prevent his execution but did not, just as how Turkey does not remember well those who executed former Prime Minister Adnan Menderes, former Foreign Minister Fatin Rustu Zorlu and former Finance Minister Hasan Polatkan [who were executed following the May 27, 1960 military coup]. The analogy is as high-strung as it is irrelevant.

Contrary to the spirit, however, Turkey is considering reintroduction of capital punishment to deal with the Kurdish rebels.

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## Bravo, Awami League!

ASIF NAZRUL  
A voter. Election Day is yet to arrive. Yet, AL-led grand alliance has been elected for the next five years! AL is the only party in this world that has set a record of winning elections without voters, candidates or election. Dear AL leaders, please accept our congratulations.

No word is enough to describe the magnificence of this election victory. To make it happen the AL has turned the Grand Alliance government into an all-party government, has made Raushan Ershad and Rashed Khan Menon take oath together, refused to accept resignation letters from Jatiya Party (JP) ministers considering it to be an infantile exercise. To make the victory comprehensive, the Election Commission (EC) has accepted withdrawal of candidature of AL candidates with backdate. But the same EC had refused to accept the withdrawal of candidature by Ershad and his party candidates though they had appealed within the due time. EC has forced the symbol of plough on the JP candidates who were unwilling to participate in the election and had failed to withdraw their candidature. On the other hand, AL has taken on board with open arms JSD and Workers Party willing to merge within the AL. The EC, formed by a search committee, has thus worked out an innovative formula to accomplish elections without any election. The AL has been the wisest in comprehending this ingenuous capacity of the EC. We hail the prudence and farsightedness of AL leaders.

Many more dubious acts have been resorted to in order to complete this victory. To make it happen, Rab, meant for suppressing insurgency, has discovered that Ershad was ill; soon another agency may discover his mental illness. This march of victory has torn apart Ershad's half a century-long family life; entrusted Raushan Ershad with a ministry that holds in high reverence the memory of Shaheed Milon; exposed the nation to an important debate of whether Kazi Zafar is Mir Zafar or Mir Madan. This victory has subsumed the leftist leaders within AL who otherwise usually often lost their election deposits. Many candidates have withdrawn their candidature to make room for the elec-

tion of people who are famous as godfathers and drug dealers. A hybrid party named BNF has emerged through this process. We want to hail the architects of this victory.

The main opposition party BNP tried to resist this new era of democracy. That's why police and Rab have cordoned off their office continuously. The old and senior leaders of BNP were taken on remand; others have left their homes and are out of contact. Under siege, the lonely and sick terrorist, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, was arrested from BNP office. Salahuddin, the dummy of Rizvi, has earned the fame of Laden for his expertise in sending video messages from hiding. Police has set up barricades on road crossings to save the identified enemy of this new democracy, Khaleda Zia, from public rage.

The PM has indicated that had the BNP joined the elections she would have also shared seats with them to make the free election more participatory. Khaleda Zia did not think likewise. Our PM is able to think of this unparalleled amity between AL and BNP.

In Bangladesh, election means play of black money and muscle power. To get rid of this ill practice, there are dozens of law and regulations, hundreds of roundtables that have produced many constitutional experts and political scientists. To make elections fair, huge amount of Dollars, Euro and Taka has been spent already, NGO industry has thrived, and many concept notes, proposals and in-depth reports have been produced. But control by black money and muscle power has not reduced a bit. In this great election, we succeeded in wiping out the disgrace in one stroke in more than 150 seats. In the seats where there will be one-sided elections, the scope of using black money and muscle power will be diminished. No one deserves more praise than AL for this innovative, unthinkable and extraordinary novelty of holding elections without election to suppress muscle power and black money.

This grand victory was not an easy. To resist this victory, insurgents of opposition parties have killed AL partisans by burning or stabbing them. Police and Rab are killing these insurgents indiscriminately; people's lives are lost in mysterious incidents. AL and

BNP are playing the blame game for hurling cocktails and petrol bomb.

The wiser section of our civil society is condemning only BNP-Jamaat's frenzy. And the other section is only pointing their fingers at intimidation by police and other law enforcing agencies. More progressive section of the media only publishes pictures of dead bodies of people burnt in cocktails hurled by terrorists. On the other hand, anti-government media publishes pictures of dead bodies of people killed by police.

How 'impartial' our civil society and media are has been exposed by the election frenzy. 'Conscious citizens' are now able to understand why our PM and AL leaders have been bashing such civil society and media. We, 'conscious citizens,' want to hail our leaders.

A senior AL leader once found in our PM a combination of Nelson Mandela, Abraham Lincoln and Mahatma Gandhi. Later, this broadminded admirer was awarded the President's medal. Now it seems that his compliments were not enough. Mandelas and Lincolns will not be able to think of such friendly elections. Collective effort from world famous political scientists, from Laski to Huntington, will not be able to create such a new melody of democracy. Our PM has reconstructed democracy in a new fashion. Let us try to comprehend her contribution with respect and with bowed head.

In this victory parade, hundreds of people have lost their lives, thousands have been injured, property valued crores of Taka lost. There are many more things to come in future. After so many sacrifices we have succeeded in upholding the constitution. Previously, no military or non-military or caretaker government took such risk to uphold the constitution. Only AL has succeeded in doing that. Disregarding all suggestions and proposals from home and abroad, AL has succeeded in upholding democracy and rights of our nation through holding an unprecedented election.

Let us praise AL government. Rejoice over AL's victory. Long live AL.

The writer is Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka. (This article first appeared in *Prothom Alo* on December 18, 2013.)

Yesterday's answer

Yesterday's answer

AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

On letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

JEHPMO TA ZEO KHR VD KTDQ

HPC ZEVAO REV KVNV VPKQ

ZV ZEO FHAZ VG FGOAOPZ

HGO JOGZHTP ZV LTAA ZEO

DXZXGGO.—UVEP D. NOPPOCQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I NEVER

MAKE THE MISTAKE OF

ARGUING WITH PEOPLE FOR

WHOSE OPINIONS I HAVE

NO RESPECT.

- EDWARD GIBBON

BY THOMAS JOSEPH

CROSS

1 Calf-length

skirt

5 Best

Picture of

1968

11 Historic

times

12 "Serpico"

star

13 Opposing

votes

14 Bureau

15 Opened

to the wind

17 Zodiac

sign

18 Cuban

dance

22 Dwelling

24 Ship

poles

25 Kitten

sound

26 Puppy

sound

27 Furtive

looks

30 Flat

floaters

32 Binge

33 Maximum

amount

34 Hybrid

fruits

38 Lets up

41 MP's

quarry

42 Like tears

43 Fountain

of jazz

44 Wild

laughter

45 Urge on

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