

# Plumbing into Pak audacity

PLEASURE IS ALL MINE



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

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 have been kept uninformed or with a bias under a news blackout 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 massed through a deliberate ethnic cleansing or subjugation pogrom, gave complete impunity to the tyrannical hierarchy of the Pakistani establishment.

Even if Justice Hamudur 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 retired 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



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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 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 though 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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# Thank Heavens for Victory!

HUMOROUSLY YOURS



NAVEED MAHBUB

T HANKHeavens for Victory Day! A long overdue respite from marathon hartals and oborodhs. So, we wait till Christmas Day for the next weekday break from hartals. Luck may have it that this XMAS may very well see a hartal, given that SSC and O-Level XAMS have consistently seen hartals.

We have thus maintained a steady course on the path to stunting the intellectual growth of our children, thus ensuring that they grow up to be just as smart as the decision makers of today. We just need to tweak the motivational slogans on education from "Ishwar Chandra Biddya Shagor studied under a street lamp and walked five miles to school" to "The ideal student studies inside a mosquito net and walks through a battlefield to go to school."

For braving it to school amidst cocktails and burning buses, give these kids not a Golden A, but a Bolden A. Extra credits for well written essays on A Journey During Hartal.

We have indeed brought one of Madiba's lessons home: "Education is the most powerful weapon." As it is a weapon, we must destroy this WMD -- Weapon of Mass Development.

Another trajectory that remains solid is Elections 2014. It's F&F -- destined to be Free and Fair, contested by Friends and Family, protested by the Fast and the Furious, by means of Fire and Fear.

Many have already won their seats uncontested. Whether this election holds or not, it is a great resume (CV) builder -- for a nominal amount spent on registrations, here is their bragging rights till eternity: '(former) MP.'

So, USA asks Bangladesh to explain how the 2014 elections will really take place. Bangladesh's response: "Just like the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics."

Meanwhile, the country, far from shutting down, adapts and hops along: REHAB goes into rehab, thanks to a drastic drop

in apartment sales.

Following the mass SMS from Bangkok Hospital, a local hospital may contemplate modifying its marketing campaign: "We are in a safe zone, not affected by hartal and are fully functional as long as you are able to pay. We are located only 200 yards from where the oborodh orders are generated. In the unlikely event of our ambulance getting pelted and you are further injured while on your way here, you will receive a 20% discount on stitches."

Coca Cola remains committed to its corporate social responsibilities by pulling out of Tabani Beverage, thus putting a squeeze on the production of Molotov cocktails.

Export in one sector remains strong -- arson. It is successfully exported to Singapore's Little India.

Finally, tourism sees a bright light. The hottest deal in town: "Win a free trip to Singapore or Malaysia -- just join the polls and then pull out of it a few days later."

Thus, every day IS a victory day -- victory of the commoners in defying doggedness, destruction and even death. And so, just like THE Victory Day, each day deserves to be spared from hartal and oborodh.

While this thought marinates among our elders, the question remains, what is the future? Well, nobody knows. But one thing is for sure, Bangladesh's greatest days are ahead of it.

And the past? We don't know that either, as the history books keep getting re-written. Again, one thing is for sure, that Bangladesh's greatest days are behind it.

It is right now, that is the problem, and has always been. While there is a cause and an effect for everything, for what is happening now in Bangladesh, there is a cause and a cause. It is only a question of time that this is fixed organically. It is then, that we will say adieu to what comedian Pervez Suman says, "a government OFF the people, BYE the people, FAR the people."

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# Bravo, Awami League!

ASIF NAZRUL

N O 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 ingenious 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.

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# Pakistan's admission of Mollah's guilt

SHARIER KHAN

P AKISTAN'S Federal Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan's condemnation of the hanging of Quader Mollah for his war crimes of 1971 actually reinforces the proof that Mollah was indeed a collaborator of the Pakistanis and a war criminal, and that he should have stayed back in Pakistan.

This is what the Pak minister said on Friday: "Abdul Quader Mollah was undoubtedly hanged because of his loyalty and solidarity with Pakistan in 1971. Till the very end before the creation of Bangladesh, he (Mollah) remained supporter of a united Pakistan and today every Pakistani is saddened and grieved by his death."

Nisar Ali Khan's underlying tone was that Mollah's support for Pakistan was heroic and laudable. But he should have also explained why, in the first place, there was a situation in 1971 where a patriotic Pakistani needed to protect the solidarity of his country and prevent it from falling apart. Pakistan was not disintegrating before March 1971. What had happened? Who was responsible for such a situation?

Does the Pak minister want to say that some miscreants led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman imposed a war on Pakistan from March 25, 1971? Does he want to say that it was the soldiers of Bangabandhu who opened fire on the sleeping students of Dhaka University and on the general people that night? Who were the people who were trying to destroy a united Pakistan?

The minister should have also made public Mollah's heroic actions proving his loyalty to Pakistan and how he tried to save its unity. Did Mollah try to stop the 'miscreants' of Bangabandhu by holding dialogues? Was he involved in a peaceful campaign to make the people understand why Pakistan should stay united and not support the freedom fighters? Did Mollah try to protect the innocent and fight the oppressors?

If we accept Nisar Ali Khan's sentiments that Mollah was innocent, then every freedom fighter of the country is guilty of trying to break free from Pakistan. In that case, we would also have to assume that none from West Pakistan did anything wrong during that time. Pakistan was great, and it was we, the Bengalis, who were unpatriotic. And since Pakistan never said sorry for the atrocities of 1971, we would have to assume that the country faults us -- the people

of Bangladesh -- for the war.

Nisar feels saddened by the hanging of Mollah as, according to him, this has opened up the old "wounds." Those wounds are being carried by Pakistan, and according to him, Bangladesh has no wounds. If we must believe the Pak minister, the Bengalis here either had not suffered any loss of life, property or trauma, or whatever sufferings they endured were well-deserved.

If we accept his sentiments, then Mollah's victims, the women and children, were also heroic -- because he had to kill them to protect the country's unity. These women and children were threats to Pakistan's unity.

And if we must believe that Mollah never killed anyone and that we spun a myth, then once again the Pak Minister must explain what great things did Mollah do for saving Pakistan which made him so iconic that today Pakistan feels saddened by his "judicial killing".

Pakistanis like Nisar Ali Khan or Imran Khan (who later joined the condemnation separately) would surely not understand what went on here on the soil of Bangladesh, because they were more than a thousand miles away in the west, enjoying an easy life while Bangladesh was burning.

Pakistan was one country in two different places and their people were never really united because of the distance. But of course, there were people like Quader Mollah whose body lived in this part and his mind in the other. Therefore, the Pakistanis feel sorry for them when they are hanged for their crimes against humanity.

Since the independence of Bangladesh, this is the first time Pakistan has condemned a hanging of a criminal -- a war criminal. It had never condemned the killing of Bangabandhu, the killing of four leaders in jail, or for that matter anyone. By condemning the hanging of Mollah, Pakistan has proven that Jamaat's politics till date has been influenced by Pakistan. Their senior leaders were never patriotic and they do not belong in Bangladesh.

What the Pak minister said is actually a confession that till now it had not accepted a liberated Bangladesh and its independent political existence. So far, those who opposed Bangladesh's independence are Pakistan's heroes. And therefore, what we hear about Jamaat and Islamist groups getting support in various ways from Pakistan, are perhaps all true.

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

1 Calflength 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 Dipping

24 Ship poles

25 Kitten sound

26 Punny 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

**DOWN**

1 List of choices

2 Qom's country

3 Purplish bloom

4 Put out

5 October birthstone

6 Head brews

7 Became frosted

8 Coq au vin

9 Ref. wk.

10 Singer

11 Orbi son

16 Sturgeon eggs

19 1620 ship

20 Baby sitter's bane

21 Pharaoh symbols

22 Concert boosters

23 Answering machine sound

28 Didn't release

29 Singer Gomez

30 Flicer's father

31 Dogpatch creator

35 Wilds

36 Visitor to Oz

37 Downhill glider

38 Fire remnant

39 Port spot

40 Heady brew

Yesterday's answer

11-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

JEHPMO TA ZEO KHR VD KTDO.

HPC ZEVAO REV KVVN VPKQ

ZV ZEO FHAZ VG FGOAOPZ

HGO JOGZHTP ZV LTAA ZEO

DXZXGO.—UVEP D. NOPPOCQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I NEVER MAKE THE MISTAKE OF ARGUING WITH PEOPLE FOR WHOSE OPINIONS I HAVE NO RESPECT.

- EDWARD GIBBON

A XYDLBAAXR 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 KTDO.

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- EDWARD GIBBON

BEETLE BAILEY



HENRY



by Mort Walker



by Don Trachte

# QUOTABLE Quote

"Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming."

John Wooden