

# The fall of Allende

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

IN the early hours of 11 September 1973, Chile's military led by the army chief, General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, overthrew the democratically elected government of President Salvador Allende Gossens. In the three years preceding the coup, the government, the first socialist administration elected to office through popular support, had run into a series of problems that left Allende and his team reeling. And the fault for the chaos lay not with Allende but with those who had actively conspired to keep him from being elected. Allende had been elected to office with just 36.2 per cent of the vote. The day was 4 September 1970.

It was, as Ariel Dorfman was to note later, a moment of baptism for Allende as Chile's leader. And yet the Nixon administration had not given up its goal of undermining the new Chilean government. The CIA went into the job of organising people against Allende, through recruiting agents in Santiago, and pumping in money to elements ready and willing to destabilise the administration. Alongside that went propaganda against the Allende government's 'attempts' to turn democratic Chile into a fortress of Marxism. President Allende ward off all such attempts bravely, through drawing attention to the US-led campaign against the people of Chile and through employing all diplomatic means to explain to the outside world that democracy under the Marxists was safe in his country. He sent the young and articulate Orlando Letelier to Washington as ambassador in the hope that Letelier would be able to explain to Americans the causes behind the nationalisation programme that had been launched in Santiago. To Paris, as ambassador, went the eminent poet Pablo Neruda.

None of the moves made by Allende helped. Increased funding by the CIA only reinforced Allende's enemies. Steps were also taken to influence the Chilean military into moving against the government. Trade unions were drawn into the anti-Allende camp and truck drivers brought transport movement to a halt all across the country. As all of this went on, the wives of Chile's military officers took the unprecedented step of confronting the army chief, General Carlos Prats, and berating him over his 'failure' to take action to 'save' the nation. Prats resigned on 22 August 1973. He was replaced the next day by General Augusto Pinochet, considered an Allende loyalist. Ironically, no sooner had Pinochet taken control of the army than he went into the business of planning the coup against Allende.

The first moves toward the coup were taken at 4 a.m. on 11 September. In

Santiago, at 6.20, President Allende was awakened with news that a coup led by his new army chief was in progress. Within the following hour, the military sent a message to Allende offering to let him leave the country. The president spurned the offer. The air force systematically strafed the palace and hit its targets with precision. By 9 a.m. Santiago passed into the hands of the army. A half hour later, President Allende made what would turn out to be his final broadcast to the nation. He pledged to fight on to uphold constitutional government in Chile. Sometime later, he appeared on the balcony of La Moneda, an AK-47 in his hands and a helmet on his head. Moments later, he went back in. It was the last the world would see of Salvador Allende. By early afternoon, he was dead. After an autopsy



From left: Salvador Allende and Pablo Neruda

that really was not, Allende's body was buried in his ancestral village. However, no stone or any other sign marked his grave. The coup leaders wanted no trace to be left of the dead president. Allende was sixty five when his life came to an end.

In the days following the coup, terror took over Chile. Thousands of people were rounded up by the soldiers and detained in the local stadium. Many of them were murdered. Officially, the number for those who died from the excesses of the military regime was 3,192. Many more simply disappeared. Hundreds of Chileans, many of them prominent citizens, went into exile in neighbouring countries and in Europe. Carlos Prats left the country and moved on to Argentina. Orlando Letelier, the former envoy who was Allende's last defence minister, had been seized on the morning of the coup and tortured over the next twelve months before being freed and allowed to leave Chile. He would eventu-

ally make his way to the United States. The poet Pablo Neruda, ailing at the time of the coup, would be dishonoured by soldiers ransacking his home. Within days of the coup, he would die. The popular singer Victor Jara, a vocal supporter of the Allende government, was picked up by the army and murdered in the very Santiago stadium where he had once roused his fans to ecstasy with his music.

Salvador Allende's widow would make her way out of Chile. The dead president's cousin, the writer Isabel Allende too would leave the country and settle abroad. Agents of the Chilean intelligence organisation DINA murdered General Carlos Prats and his wife through blowing up their car in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 30 September 1974. Two years later, on 21 September 1976, Orlando Letelier, busy

marshalling support for Chilean democrats in the United States, was blown up in Washington by DINA agents acting with assistance from their American friends.

The Pinochet dictatorship kept tight control over Chile till 1990, when General Pinochet left office, albeit after ensuring immunity for himself and his men over the 1973 coup and subsequent measures taken by his regime. In his later years, Pinochet became a target of human rights groups around the world and at one point was arrested in London upon a warrant issued by a Spanish court. Eventually allowed to go back home by the British government, he saw a resurgent Chilean democracy strip him of his immunity and charge him with human rights violations during his years as dictator. He died, aged 91, in December 2006.

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# The touch of the alchemists !

SHAHNOOR WAHID

WHO says we no more study pure science subjects like physics and chemistry? If not physics, chemistry is being studied with great enthusiasm, even by half educated village traders who do wholesale business on the side line. Food is their favourite area of study. Look at these extremely talented businessmen-cum-chemists working hard to apply their knowledge of chemistry in shady shops to keep our fruits, fishes, meat, milk and grains from decaying fast. Not only they save our precious food from decaying, they even do more! They apply another variety of chemicals to ensure that the chemically treated fish, chicken, eggs, banana, apple, milk etc., stay longer on the shelves. What a service to humanity! These scientists travelled far and wide to take lessons in chemistry and then dedicated their lives to the service of fellow humans.

These lungi-clad alchemists spraying chemicals on food and fruit to change their natural properties remind us of their old world counterparts who dived in the science of chemistry in backyard makeshift laboratories. During those days, their first and foremost occupation was to create gold from other base metals. A great deal is written about this in books. We may quote a little from the Internet (Wikipedia) to have some idea about the pioneers in this branch of science and how they might have influenced our lungi-clad chemists.

Quote: "The defining objectives of alchemy are varied but historically have typically included one or more of the following goals: the creation of the fabled philosopher's stone; the ability to transmute base metals into the noble metals (gold or silver); and development of an elixir of life, which would confer youth and longevity.

...Alchemy played a significant role in the development of early modern science. It is recognized as a protoscience that contributed to the development of modern chemistry and medicine. Alchemists developed a structure of basic laboratory techniques, theory, terminology, and experimental method, some of which are still in use today.

...Modern discussions of alchemy are generally split into an examination of its exoteric practical applications and its esoteric aspects. The former is pursued by historians of the physical sciences who have examined the subject in terms of protochemistry, medicine, and charlatanism. The latter interests psychologists, spiritual and new age communities, hermetic philosophers, and historians of esotericism.

Scientific apparatus in the alchemist's workshop, 1580.

...Practical applications of alchemy produced a wide range of contributions to medicine and the physical sciences. The alchemist Robert Boyle is credited as being the father of chemistry. Paracelsian iatrochemistry emphasized the medicinal application of alchemy (continued in plant alchemy, or spagyric). Studies of alchemy also influenced Isaac Newton's theory of gravity. Academic historical research supports that the

alchemists were searching for a material substance using physical methods.

...It is a popular belief that alchemists made contributions to the "chemical" industries of the day—ore testing and refining, metalworking, production of gunpowder, ink, dyes, paints, cosmetics, leather tanning, ceramics, glass manufacture, preparation of extracts, liquors, and so on (it seems that the preparation of aqua vitae, the "water of life", was a fairly popular "experiment" among European alchemists). Alchemists contributed distillation to Western Europe. The attempts of alchemists to arrange information on substances, so as to clarify and anticipate the products of their chemical reactions, resulted in early conceptions of chemical elements and the first rudimentary periodic tables. They learned how to extract metals from ores, and how to compose many types of inorganic acids and bases.

...During the 17th century, practical alchemists started to disappear in favor of its younger offshoot chemistry, as it was renamed by Robert Boyle, the "father of modern chemistry". In his book, The Skeptical Chemist, Boyle attacked Paracelsus and the natural philosophy of Aristotle, which was taught at universities. However, Boyle's biographers, in their emphasis that he laid the foundations of modern chemistry, neglect how steadily he clung to the scholastic sciences and to alchemy, in theory, practice and doctrine. The decline of alchemy continued in the 18th century with the birth of modern chemistry, which provided a more precise and reliable framework within a new view of the universe based on rational materialism." Quote ends.

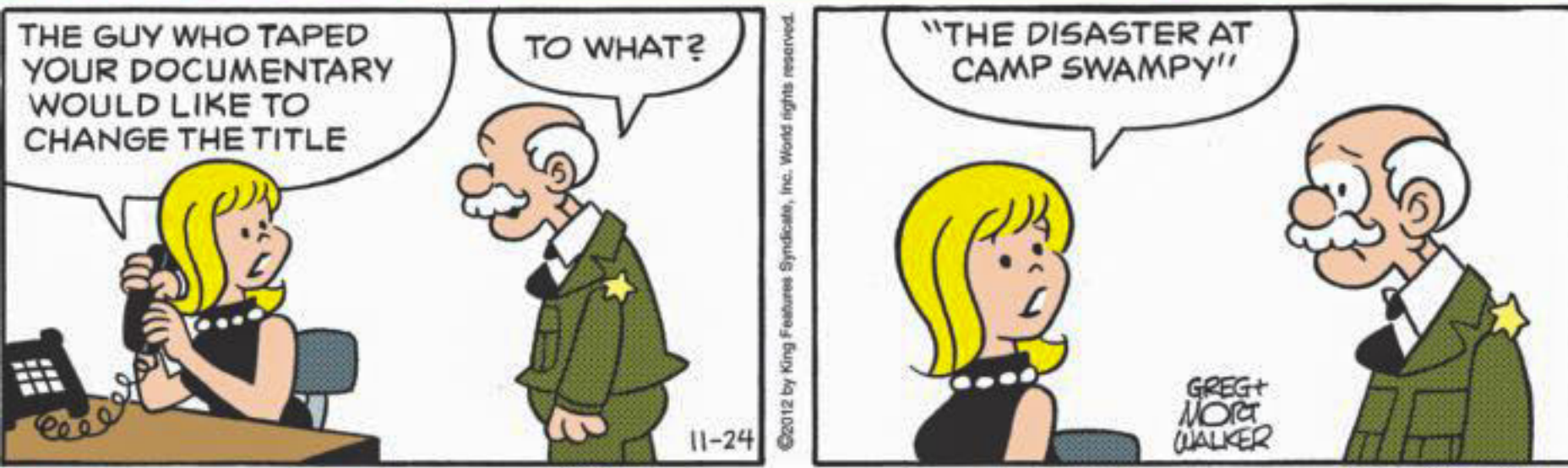
So, we have learned a few things about the "chemistry forefathers" and their work as given in the Net. What is interesting in the context of Bangladesh is the fact that though most of the food growers and traders at the field level dropped out of school before getting any certificate, they have taken the trouble of taking some lessons on chemistry which they apply to food items with great devotion. Big traders would even employ a chemistry graduate or two to ensure that chemicals are applied in right quantity so their businesses can flourish, and bring in more profit.

Now, this more profit thing has another side of the story we never looked at. These businessmen-cum-alchemists with their golden touch are keeping the wheels of economy turning, generating plenty of money, employing jobless people, hiring chemistry graduates and thereby contributing to the economy of the country! Aha! So, you see how unfortunate they are! All their efforts to make your mango look ripe, banana look yellow, fish look fresh, eggs look yummy are going in vain! They should be garlanded for their service to humanity! Oh, there is yet another side of the story we overlooked. They should be recommended for bigger awards for their contribution to shortening our life in this war-torn, disease infested world through slow poisoning us with chemicals! Another service to the humanity, indeed! Bravo brothers.

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## BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



## HENRY

by Don Trachte



## CROSSWORD

by Thomas Joseph

ACROSS  
1 Sticky situation  
7 Sound system  
11 Syrian language  
12 Do magazine work  
13 Restitution after war  
15 Letter stroke  
16 Start the bidding  
18 Ham or lamb  
21 Not spicy  
22 Bathroom fixture

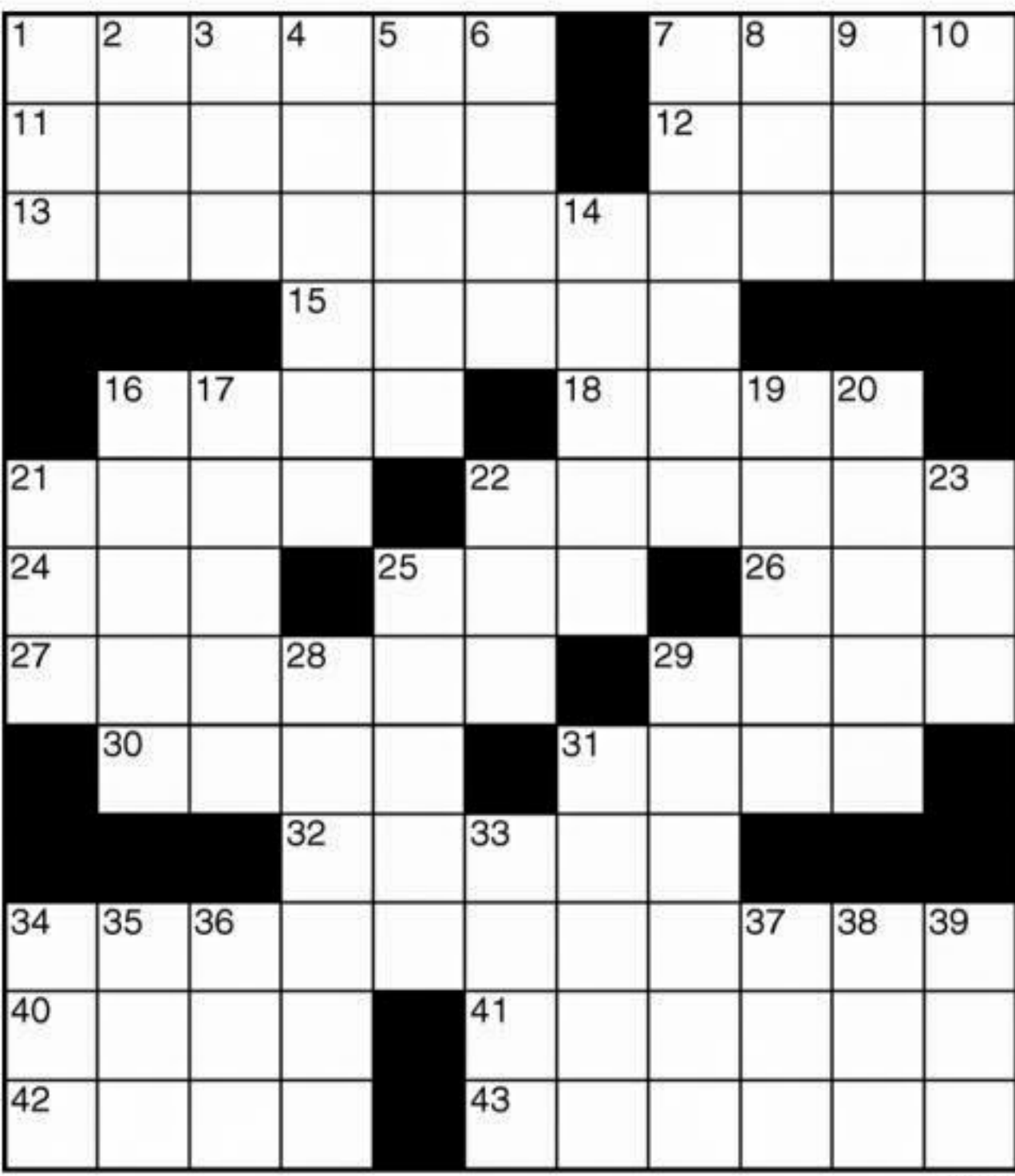
24 In the style of  
25 Feeling down  
26 Life story, for short  
27 Muscle connector  
29 Go it alone  
30 Coral structure  
31 Old salts  
32 Explorer John  
34 Printer's color negatives  
40 Parched  
41 C.S. Lewisland

42 Carry on, as war  
43 Nodding, perhaps

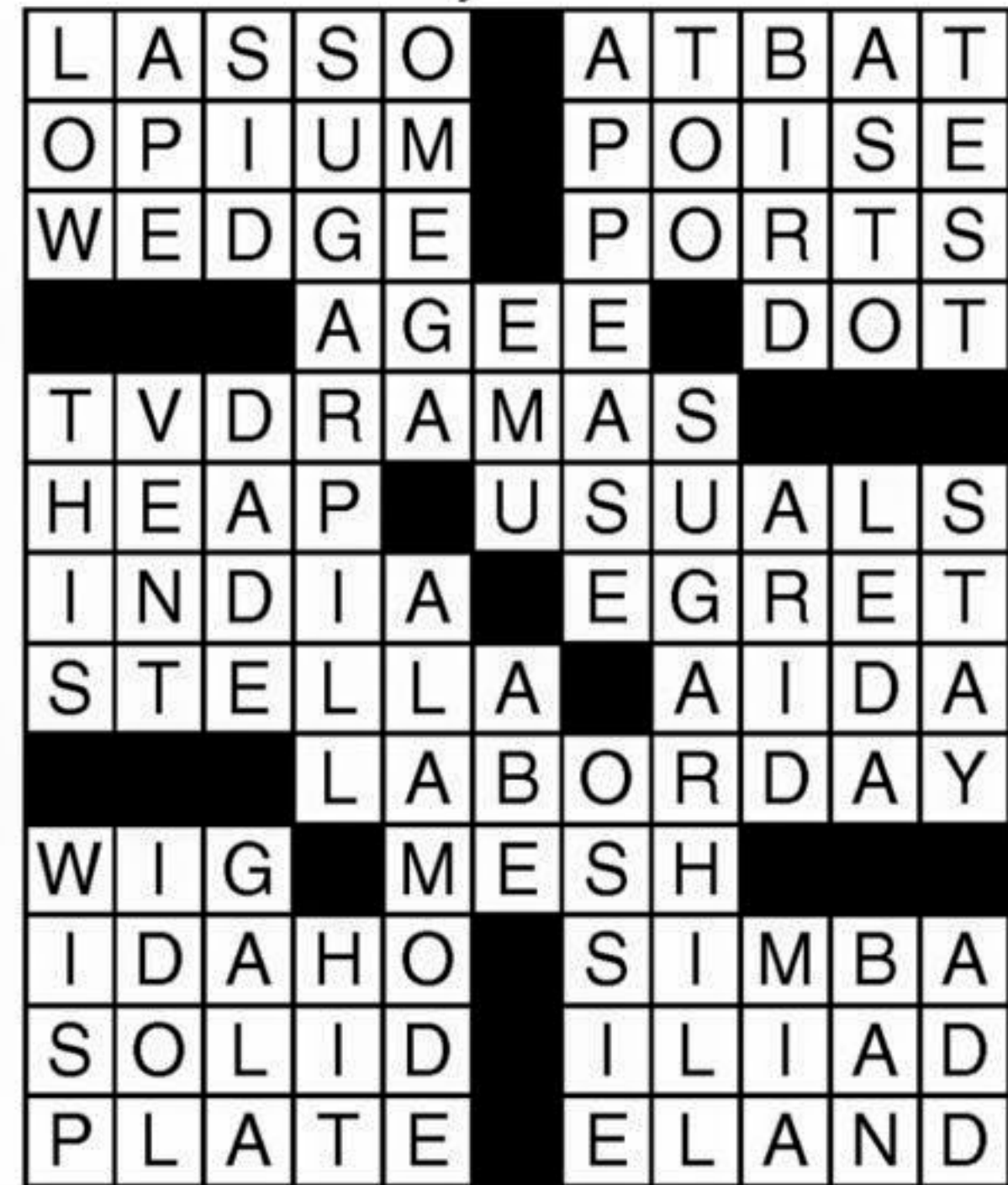
DOWN  
1 Spoil  
2 Mine rock  
3 Grammys category  
4 Humbled  
5 Squad car sound  
6 Surgery souvenir  
7 Young cow

8 Swearing-in vow  
9 Shark feature  
10 "a deal!"  
14 Bashful  
16 Crude carrier  
17 Runwaysight  
19 Vine-covered shelter  
20 Works hard  
21 Small rug  
22 "Oh, wow!"  
23 Aussie hopper

25 Until now  
28 Century fraction  
29 Mocking work  
31 Add up  
33 Outlaws  
34 Carpentry tool  
35 Pitching stat  
36 Slopslurper  
37 Wallet bill  
38 Quick bite  
39 Utter



## Yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUOTE  
CLD KBCLXNGCH XM CLXED ALX  
CDKYL GE XMCDT KT XQECKYUD  
CX CLXED ALX AKCT CX UDKNT.  
-- YGYDNX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHAT YOU GET BY  
ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS IS NOT AS IMPORTANT  
AS WHAT YOU BECOME BY ACHIEVING YOUR  
GOALS.  
-ZIGZIGLAR

AXYDLBAAXR IS LONGFELLOW  
One 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.

আয়কর প্রবৃদ্ধি  
দেশ ও দেশের সমৃদ্ধি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড  
রাজস্ব ভবন, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০  
**আয়কর মেলা-২০১৪**  
তারিখ : বিভাগীয় শহরে ১৬-২২ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০১৪ এবং জেলা শহরে ১৬-২২ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০১৪  
(সুবিধাজনক যে কোন চার দিন)।  
সময় : সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা।

বিভাগ/ জেলার নাম	স্থান	বিভাগ/ জেলার নাম	স্থান
ঢাকা	অফিসার্স ক্লাব, বেইলী রোড, ঢাকা।	চট্টগ্রাম	সরকারী কার্যভবন-২, ১০ তলা ভবন সংলগ্ন মাঠ, আত্মাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম।
সিলেট	মোহাম্মদ আলী জিমেনেসিয়াম, সিলেট স্টেডিয়াম, সিলেট।	রাজশাহী	জাফর ইমাম টেনিস কমপ্লেক্স, রাজশাহী।
রংপুর	জেলা পরিষদ কমিউনিটি সেন্টার, রংপুর।	বরিশাল	অশ্বিনী কুমার টাউন হল, সদর রোড, বরিশাল
খুলনা	কর ভবন চত্বর, বয়রা, খুলনা।		

## আয়কর মেলায় করদাতাদের নিম্নলিখিত সেবা প্রদান করা হবে

- জেলা শহরগুলোতে ১৬ থেকে ২২ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০১৪ এর মধ্যে যে কোন চারদিন মেলা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। বিভিন্ন জেলার সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা আয়কর কার্যালয় থেকে মেলা অনুষ্ঠানের সময় ও তারিখ জেনে নেয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
- সম্মানিত করদাতাগণ আয়কর মেলায় তাঁদের ২০১৪-২০১৫ করবর্ষের আয়কর রিটার্ন জমা দিতে পারবেন।
- করদাতাদের কর তথ্য ও সব ধরনের সেবা সহজে পেতে আয়কর মেলায় ঢাকার প্রতিটি কর অঞ্চলের জন্য পৃথক বুথ স্থাপনা করা হবে।
- মেলায় e-TIN রেজিস্ট্রেশন বুথে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য প্রদান সাপেক্ষে নতুন করদাতাগণ e-TIN রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও বর্তমান করদাতাগণ রি-রেজিস্ট্রেশন করতে পারবেন।
- মেলায় জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের ওয়েবসাইট ([www.nbrepayment.org](http://www.nbrepayment.org)) ব্যবহার করে করদাতাগণ অনলাইনে নির্বিঘ্নে ও নিশ্চিন্তে তাঁদের প্রদেয় আয়কর প্রদান করতে পারবেন।
- মেলায় মহিলা, প্রতিবন্ধী ও গ্রীবীন করদাতাদের জন্য পৃথক কাউন্টার থাকবে।
- করদাতাগণ মেলায় স্থাপিত সোনালী ও জনতা ব্যাংকের বুথে তাদের আয়কর জমা দিতে পারবেন।
- করদাতাগণকে রিটার্ন পূরণে সহায়তা করার জন্য মেলায় আয়কর কর্মকর্তা পরিচালিত Help Desk থাকবে।