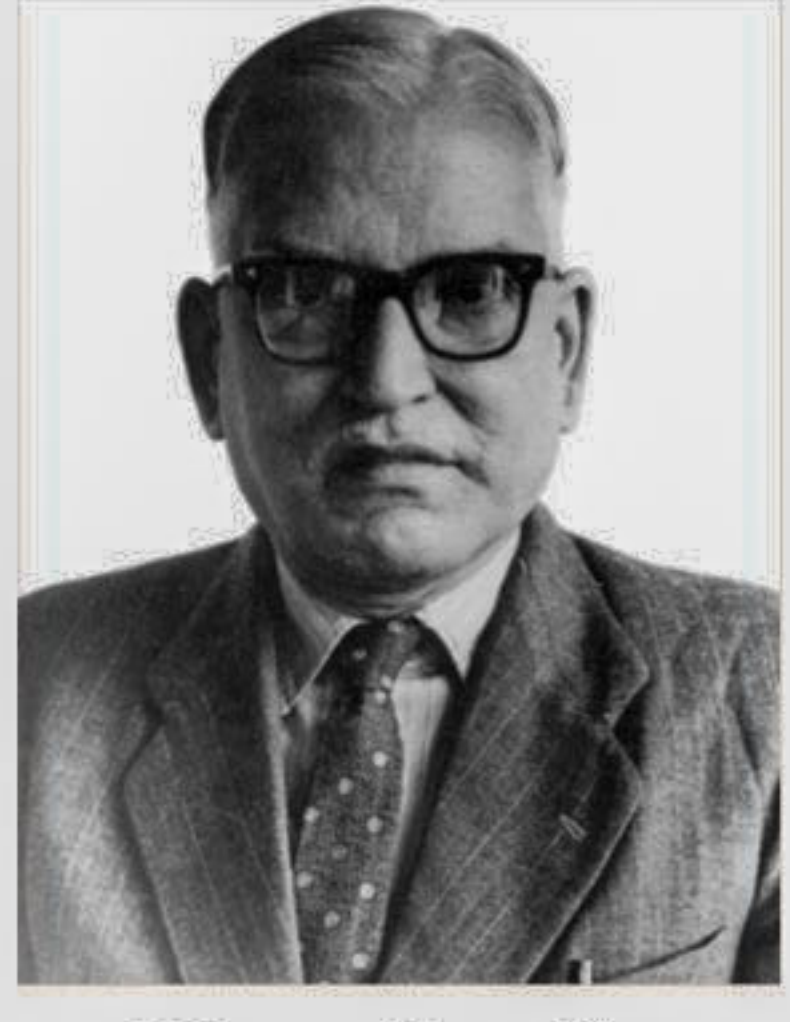


The cry of Joy Bangla



MUHAMMAD ENAMUL HUQ
 EXACTLY 214 years after Bangla's sun of independence set in the mango grove of Polashi in Behrampur on

December 1971 will realise the truth of my statement to the very core of their hearts. Was not just a political slogan; it was the mantra *Joy Bangla* or *isme azam* of our liberation movement. There was also one purpose for this mantra and that was the attainment of an objective. The same goes for *isme azam*. The sole goal of this mantra or *isme azam* was to gain the independence of the country and to carefully nurture this earned freedom.



Muhammad Enamul Huq
 (September 20, 1902 - February 16, 1982)

The person who discovered this mantra was the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. When Sheikh *saab* uttered this *isme azam* in his amazingly baritone voice, the infallible mantra was echoed and reverberated by millions of voices at the speed of light from one end of the country to another. The latent conscience of their hearts was awakened while their suppressed realisation was resuscitated. They realised that they

were not limited to the identity of a Hindu, Buddhist, Christian or Muslim - they were Bangalis, they belonged to this country. A small segment of selfish, treacherous people openly or implicitly opposed the mantra of *Joy Bangla* by giving it a fictitious spin and claiming it to be un-Islamic. They are trying to be friendly with us now but their ideologies haven't yet been completely annihilated. In the guise of patriotism and violent nationalism, many amongst them make public appearances in different organisations and areas of the country. They've forgotten that everything that glitters is not gold; taking a rope as a snake is just an illusion, not the truth; the days of deception are now over; the citizens of the country have awakened. In the past the countrymen had foiled all their hostile attempts; at present all their visible and invisible attempts will also fail.

Today, we are awakened and free thanks to the inspiration of *Joy Bangla*. This inspiration helped us create a new history in the world; a new and astonishing history. Who has ever heard of a nation being successful in announcing its independence without any expectations of earning its freedom with limited arms? With the exception of a few Bibhishans and Mir Zafars, which country can claim that its population of seventy million people (except the remaining half million who were traitors) stood firm against the enemy by involving themselves with the liberation movement? 3 million people of the country, including the elderly, students, adolescents, teenagers and innocent children, laid their lives for the sake of the country's freedom. Which country in the world earned its independence in nine months after defeating a brutal and vile occupation army that consisted of a

quarter million well-educated, well-equipped soldiers who had the most modern arms and ammunition? Which country forced the commander of its enemy country, who boasted of his gallantry all over the world, to surrender trembling and shaking like a coward to his foes, along with his 95,000 warring soldiers? Just six months after their independence, which state earned the recognition of every superpower, save one, along with 57 other states of the world? And which new state of the world has been successful in establishing a unanimous constitution and ordinance in the very language of the country's citizens within a year of independence? All of this is an inseparable part of an unimaginable and unprecedented history of the Bangali nation.

It goes without saying that the poignant political cry of *Joy Bangla* formed the magic words or the key to the forever closed doors of history. This mantra was adopted as the slogan of the new-born state in Mujibnagar of Meherpur in the district of Kushtia on April 17, 1971. The independent, sovereign state of Bangladesh was born. Even though the role *Joy Bangla* played since that time until eight months later was not a ceaseless one, it played an important, indispensable part as a great source of inspiration that ignited genuine patriotism amongst people. That's why *Joy Bangla* is now considered a main ingredient in our liberation movement. If the history of our liberation movement is penned without the appropriate mention of this ingredient, then it will never be considered as a correct or complete account of history.

The writer was a famous researcher, litterateur and educationist.
 Source: *Bengali, Bangladesh and Bangabandhu*, Monaem Sarkar, February 2000.

Why aren't you talking?



AHMEDE HUSSAIN

BANGLADESH cricket team's victory against the much-fancied English side in the ICC Cricket World Cup has given the nation an opportunity to unite behind the national team. It is indeed a rare occasion, the kind that is capable of uniting the country behind a single event.

Despite this brief moment of agreement, the present political stalemate that has entered the third month this week shows no sign of subsiding soon. Even though the scale and ferocity of Molotov cocktail attacks on public transport, it seems, have abated a little, there are reasons to believe that the situation might flare up again sooner rather than later. There are reasons for us to feel pessimistic. The crux of the problem lies in the animosity that both the ruling Awami League (AL) and the BNP have towards each other. Bangladesh's two major political parties indeed suffer from a lack of trust, which is one of the reasons why the caretaker government system was introduced in the first place.

Three free and fair general elections have taken place since it was incorporated into the constitution in 1996; and given the acrimonious relationship between both the parties, it is not at all surprising that the BNP refuses to participate in the election while the AL remains in power. And it would have been the other way round too, if the AL was in the opposition and an Election Commission was holding the election, with Khaleda Zia at the helm.

In fact, the Awami League refused to join the polls in 1996; it, along with Jatya Party and Jamaat, boycotted the election under Khaleda and instead launched a turbulent 'non-cooperation movement' that had witnessed the introduction of the caretaker government system a couple of months later. The BNP is following the AL's footsteps closely, and a low scale insurgency-like situation that we have witnessed in the last couple of months might go on.

Unlike what the AL government thinks, the present crisis is not a law and order issue alone. It is a political issue, and it needs to have a political solution. Bangladesh's recent political history tells us that the BNP-Jamaat alliance enjoys the support of around 30% of voters. Disenfranchising such a huge swathe of voters can never bring anything good to the country.

It is indeed surprising that the AL has so far refused to even sit with the BNP to bring a negotiated settlement to the crisis. To make matters even more grievous, the government has put some of the senior leaders of the party in prison on charges that range from torching vehicles to vandalising public and private properties. Given that most of the arrested BNP stalwarts are in their early and late sixties, it is no less than funny that they would be charged with crimes that require a certain level of physical fitness that people in our country at that age do not have.

Befuddling too is the government's refusal to let the BNP hold any public meeting in the capital. Once burnt twice shy; after the Hefajat incident of 2013, the AL may have been afraid of any large opposition gathering in Dhaka. That does not explain why even the small BNP processions are routinely resisted. Are we to believe that the government wants to divest the country of any dissenting voice?

It is also not clear, too, as to why the BNP is continuing with its non-stop blockade and weekday strike that has only been punctuated by the week-ends.

It is time that both the AL and BNP create an atmosphere congenial for holding a dialogue over the modalities of the next general election. As the party in power, the AL has to take the initial initiative of building confidence, and a primary mediation by a third party can also be considered. For its turn, the BNP has to withdraw the blockade and strike and will have to join the negotiating table.

At this critical juncture in its history, Bangladesh needs to create a national consensus on issues, which, besides the next general election, should incorporate issues related to the country's future. It should be an all-party conference which needs to be participated by the civil society leaders too.

The writer is the Editor of *The New Anthem* (Tranqubar; Delhi; 2009). He can be contacted at ahmedehussain@gmail

Let cricket unite the nation



They need our support and our prayers. The people are united behind our team but are they getting the right message? Why should the political parties announce separate programmes?

ABDUL MATIN

BANGLADESH has made history in cricket. For the first time they qualified to play in the quarterfinals of the ICC World Cup by defeating England at Adelaide. England, the birthplace of cricket, are now virtually out of the tournament. Fielding first, they made early breakthroughs by dismissing the Bangladesh openers but superb batting by Mahmudullah, Mushfiqur Rahim and Soumya Sarkar helped them to score a competitive total of 275 runs. Mahmudullah was the first Bangladesh batsman to score a century in the ICC World Cup. Mushfiqur was the second highest scorer with 89 runs against England. After a good start, England lost wickets almost at regular intervals. They were all out for 260 runs heralding our victory by 15 runs. Rubel Hossain took four decisive wickets, turning the match in favour of Bangladesh. Skipper Mashrafe Mortaza, proudly wearing a green

and red head-wrap, humbly dedicated the victory to the freedom fighters of our War of Independence.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the leader of the 20-party alliance Khaleda Zia congratulated the Bangladesh team. The prime minister urged the people to take out victory processions on Tuesday to celebrate Bangladesh's victory. In fact, the nation started the celebration soon after the fall of the last England batsman. There were scattered processions by joyful youngsters all over the capital city on Monday evening. Be it in a posh club in Gulshan or a street-side tea shop in a remote village, all the discussions now centre on cricket. The 20-party alliance announced holding of victory processions across the country to celebrate the victory and lifted the hartal for twelve hours from 6 am to 6 pm on Tuesday. The decision to relax the hartal was welcome even though they did not lift the blockade. The Awami League and its affiliated organisations

brought out separate processions to celebrate the occasion.

Our boys have so far done their job. Have we done ours? The victory against England is only the entry to the knock-out round. Our boys will face the real challenge when they meet their opponent in the quarterfinal. They need our support and our prayers. The people are united behind our team but are they getting the right message? Why should the political parties announce separate programmes? Should politics be involved in cricket? Should we not forget politics for the time being and celebrate the victory as citizens of Bangladesh? I am sure the present turmoil in Bangladesh is also distracting the attention of our players. How do they feel when they hear about torching of vehicles or deaths taking place here and there almost every day at home? Can they concentrate fully on the game?

The writer is a senior nuclear engineer.

QUOTABLE Quote
 The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.
 Alice Walker

CROSSWORD by Thomas Joseph

- ACROSS**
- Castle part.
 - "The Stranger" writer
 - Quite impressed
 - Dizzying designs
 - McCain's running mate
 - Less well done
 - Macrame bit
 - Racket
 - Big gulp
 - Solemn promise
 - Grenade part
 - Ma, for one
 - Brat's opposite
 - Met performer
 - Met performer
 - NFL Hall of Famer Marchetti
 - Opera set in Egypt
 - With skill
 - Blubbered
 - River of Arizona
 - Watchful
 - Tobacco acts
 - Greenish songbird
 - Finish
 - School paper
 - Piquant
- DOWN**
- Service reward
 - "Put-happy face"
 - Pink slip
 - Basketball star Patrick
 - Gambling mecca
 - Intimidate
 - John or Paul
 - Halftime entertainers
 - Bear in the sky
 - Goblet part
 - Foot feature
 - Health resorts
 - Skid Row resident
 - Met performer
 - Not nude
 - Potting need
 - Hectors home
 - Sudan neighbor
 - Pester
 - Unescorted
 - Surfer's ride
 - Yale students
 - Don Juan's mother
 - Stockings stuffer
 - Unconscious
 - Mole, e.g.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

G	O	D	S	P	U	L	P	I	T
I	D	E	A	O	N	E	I	D	A
R	O	M	P	K	L	A	X	O	N
D	R	O	P	T	E	E	A	D	
A	S	I	D	E	C	O	D	E	
B	O	O			V	I	E		
B	U	N	T	S	S	P	O	T	S
A	R	S	O	N	H	O	T		
U	P	T	A	K	E	T	O	M	E
S	U	I	T	E	S	I	N	O	N
A	T	M	O	S	T	A	S	K	S

CRYPTOQUOTE 1-30
 N EUOZHL USZ BD AKUJU N AMSIUZ IH VH, QBI MOLHEI MOAMFE USZ BD AKUJU N SUUZ IH QU
 -- ZHBVOME MZMLE

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SELFISHNESS MUST ALWAYS BE FORGIVEN, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE THERE IS NO HOPE OF A CURE. - JANE AUSTEN

A XYDLBAAXR 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.

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



HENRY by Don Trachte

