



The trial is more important than the accused

Here we publish a letter written by Kamruddin Ahmad to the Law Minister on November 21, 1972. Kamruddin Ahmad was a Language Movement hero, politician, lawyer and diplomat.

KAMRUDDIN AHMAD

BANGLADESH has suffered in 1971 but the extent of suffering has not been brought on record for the future historians. It was unfortunate that a Court of Inquiry was not set up. In this connection the writer addressed a letter to the Law Minister on 21.11.72 and quoting a portion of that letter here would not be out of place. The writer inter alia wrote:

I strongly feel that I should let you have my views regarding the trials of collaborators. I am not very sure if you are taking direct interest and sufficient care with regard to the conducting of these cases by Public Prosecutors. The way the trial of Dr. A.M. Malik was conducted has disappointed many. It seemed to me that emphasis was laid more on how to secure the conviction than to bring on records how the capitalist-imperialism of the latest type fully revealed itself in the Policy of the Military Regime of Yahya-Tikka Khan. I am afraid we have lost a unique opportunity to expose Pakistan and reactionary force in the country which should have been the political purpose of the trials. "Mr. Sirajul Haq's eloquence during the arguments do not form part of court records. For the coming generations and for students of history Dr. Malik's statement U/S 342 would find more important place than submissions of Messrs. Sirajul Haq and Ataur Rahman Khan.

"In the collaborators' trials people are

concerned with the evidence of cold-blooded genocide, mass murder and torture. It is never expected that all murderers will ever be caught and it is accepted that many murderers will continue to live with us for the next quarter of a century as respectable citizens. But the world must know what modus operandi the capitalist-Militarism adopted in Bangladesh 'for the final solution of Bangalee problem.'

"The world is still waiting to know how the Razakars became a symbol of terror, a privileged group with sinister power, how Al-Badar, the executive of murders, caused the death of hundreds of intellectuals who were mostly innocent and non-belligerent. There is difference between war crimes and activities of collaborators. The trials of collaborators are not just to secure punishments of the criminals and murderers but to ensure that the same may not happen again in the foreseeable future. The more trials there are lesser the chance of the revival of militarism and fanaticism. In war crimes the general defence is 'I acted strictly under orders. I swear that I helped many people' -- but the collaborators cannot have that plea.

"You have to take note of public reaction. The question generally posed is 'Do we have to rake up the past, piling new hatred upon old?' It is because most people want to forget as they do the nightmares to enable them to live again. They like to surround themselves with a protected shell, trying hard not to think of what happened during those ten months.

They are convinced that Military Regime's crimes can never be avenged. They cannot be atoned for. Even if all the War criminals and collaborators could be brought to trial, which is unlikely, it would not balance the enormity of their crimes. Three million dead, a hundred thousand women violated, thousands of children killed, how could such crimes be balanced by earthly justice? Our Penal Code recognizes the crime of murder -- murder of one person, or two or fifty or possibly a thousand but the systematic extermination of three million people blasts the framework of all Law. One thousand dead is catastrophe three million dead is only statistics.

The people insist that every nation has its collaborators. It was typically diabolical touch on the part of Tikka-Niazi-Forman Ali military coterie to force Bangalees to kill their own people. These arguments, I have no doubt in mind, are the result of an acute sense of guilt in those persons who know much more than they now admit.

The trial, therefore, is more important than the accused. These trials are only attempts to create a symbolic memorial to the dead and perhaps provide a warning against future excesses. We owe it to our dead to tell the living what had happened and thus call the conscience of the world. We would like to establish a historical record while the memory of the eye-witnesses was still fresh."

Source : Kamruddin Ahmad, A Socio Political History of Bengal, Published by Pioneer Press, 1975.



Kamruddin Ahmad (1912-1982)

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An unacceptable move from a leader

RAIHAN JAMIL

IN her most recent press conference, Khaleda Zia, leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), read her prepared statement by stating the significance of March in Bangladesh's history. She respectfully remembered the sacrifices of the millions of people for the birth of our beloved Bangladesh. She mentioned how the founder of her party BNP, her late husband Ziaur Rahman, started our Liberation War with his declaration of independence. Khaleda Zia's opening remarks were well accepted by the members of the press present there.

But is this what we have witnessed lately in her actions and activities?

February 21 holds deep meaning and significance for the Bangla speaking population around the globe. Since that fateful day of 1952, Bangalis around the globe have celebrated

February 21 ('Ekushey') every year, as a day to celebrate the Bangla language, culture, and traditions. It has been customary that our head of state and all key political leaders, along with thousands of people, pay their respects to the Language Movement martyrs.

However, for the first time ever in BNP's history, its leader did not visit the Shaheed Minar this year. In the past three decades or so that Khaleda Zia had been its leader, BNP has always maintained its presence on this national event and day in Bangladesh's history and tradition. Khaleda Zia paid due respect to the martyrs of Ekushey when she was a PM, when she was a leader of the opposition, and even when her party got relegated to neither the ruling nor the opposition in the parliament. She and her party cited her safety as the key reason for this action, or rather inaction. Interestingly, it is her party-led 20-party alliance that has called the blockade and hartals since

the beginning of January 2015. The newspapers have reported that all the violence committed since then has been primarily by her party members and supporters. However, as Khaleda Zia is never keen on having a question, and answer session after her 'press conferences,' the journalists attending the event could not ask her about this. The leaders of BNP need to understand the difference between a press conference and a prepared statement reading that could have been easily e-mailed to the media, or read by a party clerk.

To make matters worse, Khaleda Zia decided not to visit the National Memorial -- Smriti Shoudho -- in Savar to commemorate our Independence Day on March 26 this year. This was more than shocking for Bangladeshis all around the world, as our independence goes beyond the political narrowness of leaders regardless of their party affiliations. She again cited "unnatural" conditions in

the country for this inaction.

This utter sense of disrespect and disregard for the birth of Bangladesh is by no means acceptable or excusable for a two-time prime minister. One wonders how she came to this decision, or who gave her such advice, or why she stayed in her office in Gulshan rather than go to the National Memorial to pay her respects to the millions of martyrs of our Liberation War. Khaleda Zia, in complete disregard for the emotions and nationalism of the 160 million Bangladeshis, chose to abstain from going to Savar.

We categorically deplore this. It is an insult to the memories of our martyrs of 1971 and their families, and to the millions of Bangladeshis across the world. She has shown utter lack of common sense and patriotism with her inaction. She needs to know that it is okay to protest the corruption and mismanagement of the current Awami League government as she and her

party sees it. This is every citizen's democratic right to do so. But it is a profoundly disrespectful act to ignore our Independence Day.

Khaleda Zia needs to know that her fight should be against whatever grievances her party and its alliance may have against the ruling government and not the people of Bangladesh. The killing and bombings her party is continuing in the name of political protest is nothing short of terrorism against Bangladesh. And her refusal to attend the National Memorial on our Independence Day is unbecoming of an ex-PM of the country.

As a candidate for leading the country in future, Khaleda Zia should realise her blatant error in judgment, and make amends as soon as possible. The mayoral election is around the corner.

The writer is Assistant Professor, Zayed University, UAE and Co-researcher & Content Supervisor, Center for Bangladesh Genocide Research (CBGR).

CROSSWORD by Thomas Joseph

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| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Pond growth | 1 Copying |
| 6 Shade | 2 Auction unit |
| 11 Bonkers | 3 Be a success |
| 12 Find charming | 4 Writer Rice |
| 13 Be penitent | 5 Reaction to a fish story |
| 14 Not uniform | 6 Unbilled role |
| 15 Tony winner Ben | 7 Balder's father |
| 17 Low digit | 8 Smoked salmon |
| 19 Lennon's wife | 9 Mineyield |
| 20 Jazz composer | 10 Sunburned |
| Evans | 16 Playing field boundary |
| 23 Playwright Pinter | 17 George Bums film |
| 25 Fizzy drink | 18 Model Campbell |
| 26 Fly off the handle | 20 Be squandered |
| 28 Forget | 21 Menzel of "Frozen" |
| 29 Chant | 22 Tied a corset |
| 30 Really enjoy | 24 Granola bit |
| 31 Some crime evidence | 25 Retired jet |
| 32 Gum mass | 27 Fretting |
| 33 Cinco de Mayo event | 31 Rattle brained |
| 35 Tennis setting | 33 Greek group |
| 38 Designer's asset | 34 Yam |
| 41 Ball's co-star | 35 Truck part |
| 42 Rocker John | 36 Spanish gold |
| 43 Spoils | 37 First numero |
| 44 Sheds tears | 39 Acme |
| | 40 Print units |

Yesterday's answer

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CRYPTOQUOTE 2-16
BFR' GW FV BFRG FSV, HVJ BFR LVFS SYHZ BFR LVFS. HVJ BFR HGW ZYW DRB SYF' PP JWNQJW SYWGW ZF DF. - JG. XWRXX

Saturday's Cryptoquote: OH, IF IT BE TO CHOOSE AND CALL THEE MINE, LOVE, THOU ART EVERY DAY MY VALENTINE!
- THOMAS HOOD

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.

Faculty Search

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Eligibility: Applicants must have a Doctorate Degree in their respective fields from accredited universities. Preference will be given on the candidates who (1) have earned their Doctorate Degree from universities in North America, United Kingdom or Australia, (2) have substantial teaching experience (12 years) with a demonstrated record of effective teaching, (3) have demonstrated significant research that have led to publications in reputed national and international journals, and (4) is a proven leader capable of inspiring quality both in research and teaching. Must have at least 15 publications in standard and reputed academic journals. The applicant must have first classes/divisions in all examinations.

Associate Professor
School of Business Administration (Human Resources Management, Accounting, Management)

Eligibility: Applicants must have a Doctorate Degree in their respective fields from accredited universities. Candidates almost nearing completion of their doctorate degree are also encouraged to apply for the position of associate professor. Preference will be given on the candidates who (1) have earned their Doctorate Degree from universities in North America, United Kingdom or Australia, (2) have significant teaching experience (10 years) with a demonstrated record of effective teaching (3) have demonstrated research potential that have and/or will lead to publications in reputed national and international journals, and (4) is a team player that will strengthen the quality of research and teaching at EDU. Must have at least 07 publications in standard and reputed academic journals. The applicant must have first classes/divisions/equivalent CGPA in all examinations.

Assistant Professor
School of Business Administration (Human Resources Management, Accounting, Management)

Eligibility: Applicants must have a Doctorate Degree/ Master Degree in their respective fields from accredited universities. Minimum three years of professional experience as a Lecturer and at least 03 publications in standard academic journals is a must. The applicant must have first classes/divisions/equivalent CGPA (3.5 or above) in all examinations.

Lecturer
School of Business Administration (Human Resources Management, Accounting, Management)

Eligibility: Applicants for the position of Lecturer must have a Master's degree in their respective fields from accredited universities. Preference will be given on the candidates who (1) have earned their degrees from universities in North America, United Kingdom or Australia, (2) have significant teaching experience with a demonstrated record of effective teaching. The applicant must have first classes/divisions/equivalent CGPA (3.5 or above) in all examinations.

Application Deadline : April 10, 2015 **No hard copies will be accepted**

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