

#RealTalk



# NO MOJA, NO LOSS- JUST A SONG

(This is just a song for you to sing along. No truth has been told. Just a song. No fun has been made either. Move along and no one needs to be arrested.)



**Verse 1**

So now, we have come down to this.  
No more telling the truth because the Kings and Queens can't be dissed.  
No more screens to hold undiluted views  
No longer can we dream of unbiased news.

The whistleblowers scared, the soldiers of the pen are running.  
The ink is going dry but the bullets run high, so they keep gunning.

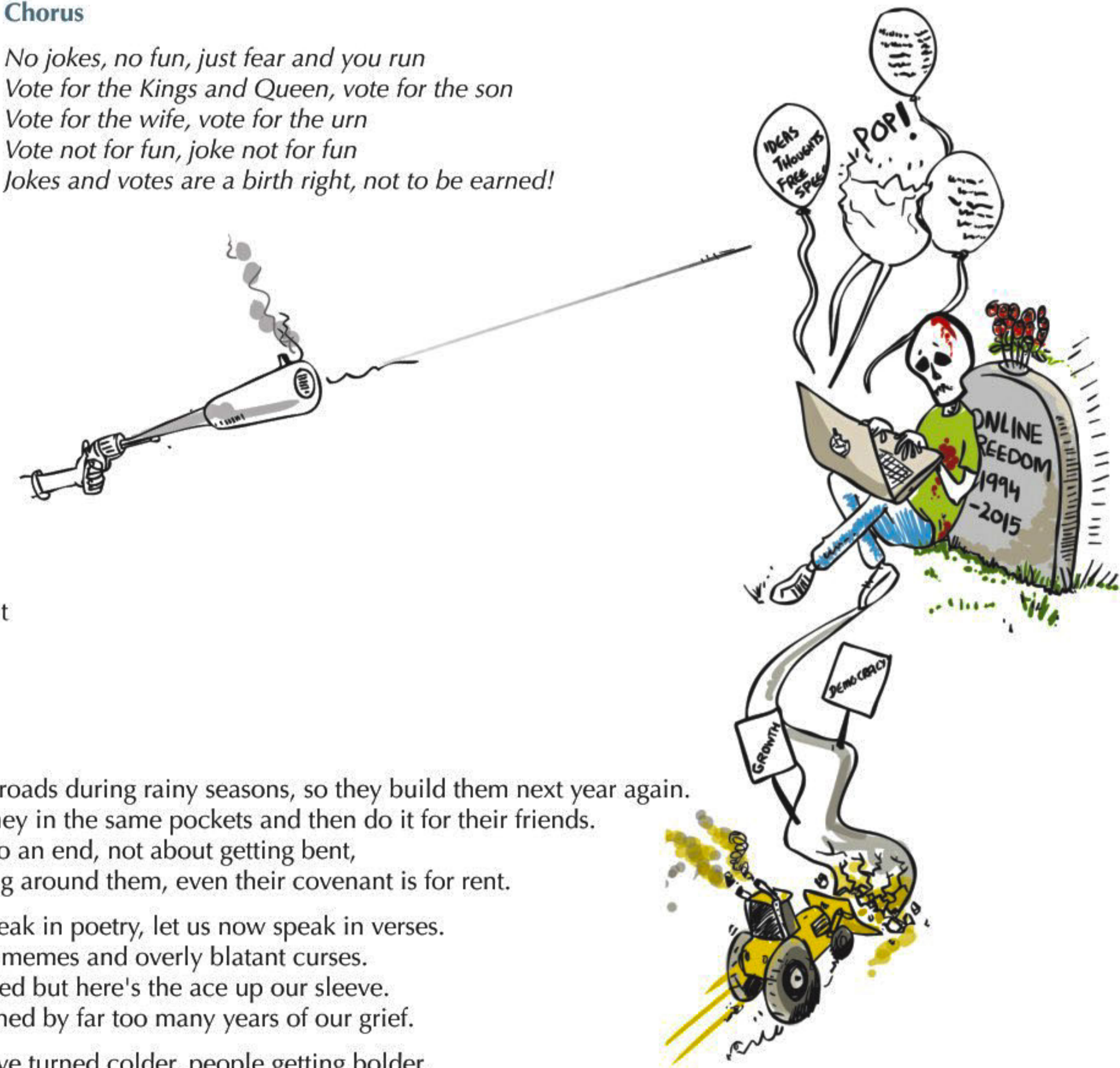
Keyboard thumpers get shot, kidnapped or become victims of the bully.  
They give birth to new bogeymen to keep us stupid, fully.  
Extremists and foreign conspiracies from far ashore keep us on our toes.  
Keep changing the statements and we really never know our foes.

Protectors of the realm's boundaries massacred over lentils and some rice,  
Famine and other simplistic notions for simple Bangalee minds keep them on the ice;  
Isn't that just very nice? Now before you eat, say the magic words and twice!

Eyes wide open but the mind is going blind  
Seeking for the truth in the bag of lies and we find,  
Everything they told us is a lie by design  
That's why we must now choose to rhyme, put our grievances in proses.  
Give them the thorns to cut them with, but disguise them with roses.

**Chorus**

*No jokes, no fun, just fear and you run  
Vote for the Kings and Queen, vote for the son  
Vote for the wife, vote for the urn  
Vote not for fun, joke not for fun  
Jokes and votes are a birth right, not to be earned!*



**Verse 3**

So they build roads during rainy seasons, so they build them next year again.  
Put more money in the same pockets and then do it for their friends.  
Just a means to an end, not about getting bent,  
Like everything around them, even their covenant is for rent.

Let us now speak in poetry, let us now speak in verses.  
They only get memes and overly blatant curses.  
They are twisted but here's the ace up our sleeve.  
We are hardened by far too many years of our grief.

Our hearts have turned colder, people getting bolder.  
Find us all on Facebook, Twitter, Skype and all you'll get are many folders.

How many can you hack though?  
The whole concept is plain whack though.  
If you fear your own people, isn't that a sign that you need to make your exit through the back door?

Democracy is still alive, though we didn't get to vote.  
In a land of so many rivers, in your unending wisdom you figured we'd want the boat.  
Why we need bridges, why need tigers and the deer?  
When we can get a nuclear power plant and you can double up the fear?

But it isn't the common people in fear now, it's the "others" who are worried.  
This is strictly for my deshi gang, we are too used to getting buried.

So listen and listen good, all my daughters and my sons,  
We maybe a joke right now, but don't go on "making" fun!

MC Dushtu Chele up out

**Chorus x (fades)**

**Verse 2**

We mustn't speak of corruption, mustn't make fun of the various statements.  
Even wax lyrical in hushed tones that too locked in our basements.  
But wait gents, we don't even have basements,  
Just basic leaders leading by the strength of our payments.

Did it only take two kings to save us?  
Look at what they gave us!  
An independent land, and a land for a language more famous.

And then some folks put the true fighters to the sword.  
Without that Targaryen-type name, our people got bored.

We brought back babes and gave new life to new leaders.  
Without merit or experience, fresh off their feeders.  
Sure they made a mess of it, sure it wasn't good.  
We said we need water, they went and begged from the neighborhood.

They said, "you can't have the fresh water, but we'll give you more of the ocean"  
They gave sunscreen in the winter and summer was for lotion.

All the bridges and highways that don't work was all also part of glorious foresight  
Stamp out old corruption with new ones was part of their core fight.  
Servants to serve us but they said no longer can we accuse them.  
Give them all your money and you still can't use them  
Wait a minute, why couldn't we choose them?  
Who decides who serves us, the system gets confusin'.

Which evil do you want, number one or number two?  
The system works like a dual monarchy, did nobody tell you?

**Chorus x 2**



**INITIATIVE**

An organisation named 'Lighter' by youngsters, may sound negative to nearly everyone. But in this case, the chronicle of 'Lighter' is not at all negative. Today, many of us assume that our young generation neither cares about the welfare of our country, nor much about our bold history, but to our surprise, a group of young students from different colleges and universities have formed a non-profit organisation named 'Lighter Youth Foundation' to turn all that negativity around. And their journey is continuing forward in full swing.

Since its inception on September 01, 2014, Lighter Youth Foundation has been working relentlessly to bring a sustainable transformation in our society, especially by helping the underprivileged people of our country. At first, they formed a small group of devoted young volunteers and decided on what they want to do. When most of their ideas were harmonised, they officially launched the organisation with approximately twenty five members. And today, it's a big group of 210 dedicated



# LET THERE BE LIGHT

NILIMA JAHAN

PHOTO COURTESY: LIGHTER YOUTH FOUNDATION



young personalities with the same mindset - set to do something for the society, as well as for the country. They usually name their tasks as different missions, like- Mission Erendabari, Mission Warmth, Mission 1971, Mission 21, Mission Self-reliance, Mission Saghata and many more.

In 2014, Mission 1971 (16 December, 2014) was the most significant and challenging event held by the foundation. They traced five freedom fighters of Kulaura Upazila of Moulvibazar (Sector-04 of liberation war), and heard about their miseries from the villagers. After the liberation war, Safar Ali, a valiant hero of '71, used to earn his livelihood by pulling a rickshaw. After hearing his story, Lighter arranged a grocery shop in his house, so that in the last stage of life, he could support his family with a little convenience. Also, Lighter raised funds for treating the infection on his right hand. Ajit Ranjan Acharya, another hero of '71, was provided with a house as he had been living in his brother's house since the liberation war. "I just want to thank the Lighter Foundation for their initiative. Now, at least I have a proper shelter for me and my family", says Ajit Ranjan Acharya.

Before the independence, Nimai Roy worked in a tea

garden. After fighting painstakingly hard during the war, he returned to his workplace since he didn't receive any help from anyone, though primarily, he was made many promises by different organisations. On 16 December, 2014, Lighter Youth Foundation built another grocery store for him so that he could support his family. Sree Horendra Mohan Das was also given a house by the team. Dipak Chakrabarty wanted to see his daughter become a barrister, but his financial condition did not allow for that to happen. Hence, Lighter Foundation took all responsibilities for his daughter's education.

After the success of Mission 1971, they came up with 'Mission 21' for February, 2015. They built a 'Shaheed Minar' at M K Rahmania Govt Primary School, Madan Hat, Hathazari, Chittagong. "It may sound quite unusual that there was no 'Shaheed Minar' in our area before. But in reality, Lighter Youth Foundation built one here for the first time. Being quite delighted with their activities, I have decided to become a member of the foundation", says Syeda Nilufar, a teacher of the school. "We also arranged a cultural programme and competition on 21st February in this school. We provided them with prizes including the children's book 'Birsreshtha' written by

Jahanara Imam and posters of our 7 'Birsresthas' ", says Mukhtar Ibn Rafique, founder of the Lighter Foundation.

The next noteworthy mission was "Mission Self-reliance". It was basically for 26 March, 2015. Jewel Dev, the eldest son of freedom fighter Subhash Basu, was a rickshaw puller. "I saved some money to buy my own rickshaw, but a sudden accident ruffled everything", he says. This year, on Independence Day, the members of Lighter Foundation managed to provide him with a new rickshaw, with their pocket money.

Apart from these, with the monthly member fees (101 taka) and people's donations, the foundation distributed relief among 600 families who were affected by the flood, of Saghata Upazilla, Gaibandha and 510 families of Erendabari union, of the same districts. They provided, rice, pulse, oral saline, water purifying tablets, match boxes and candles to the victims.

This year, the team is planning on helping 13 freedom fighters and hence, is working on collecting money for them. They yearn to go a long way in the future and strongly believe, with the combined efforts of the young minds as well as the people of the country, bringing light is not an impossible task at all.