

“Newspapers reflect the very conscience of a people”

Here we reproduce the speech given by Hon'ble President Abdul Hamid at the inaugural programme of The Daily Star's silver jubilee celebrations

ASSALAMU Alaikum. Rokia Afzal Rahman, respected chairperson of the celebration of 25th anniversary of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, invited distinguished guests from home and abroad, honoured representatives of the media and ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to be present at the 25th anniversary programme of The Daily Star. This is indeed a remarkable achievement for a national daily. On this occasion, I want to congratulate all the journalists and staff of the newspaper.

February is the month of our glorious language movement. It seems Bangalees are the only nation in the world who had to sacrifice lives for their mother language. At the start of my speech I remember the language martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the language movement, whose sacrifice invigorated the struggle for self-governance including the right to mother language.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the glorious independence on March 26, 1971 after crossing various ups and downs. Under his leadership after a nine month long armed Liberation War we earned our much coveted independence. Today I remember the great architect of the independence Father of the Nation Bangabandhu with high respect. I also recall the heroic martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the democratic movement including the glorious Liberation War.

Ladies and gentlemen, a newspaper is the mirror of a country, as they reflect the very conscience of a people.

During the Pakistan period, newspapers of the land stood courageously against the oppression and discrimination of the Bengali people by West Pakistani ruling cliques, vocally asserting the common man's demand for the right to freedom. During the Liberation War, the international media were instrumental in creating global public opinion in favour of the cause of our freedom struggle. After independence, newspapers devoted their creative energy to the rebuilding of the war-torn nation. In all these years, most newspapers have maintained a secular and democratic stand and played a patriotic role at various critical moments of the country. They voiced the woes of the downtrodden people of the



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clearly mentioned in the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. In this end besides enacting the Right to Information Law the government has been giving all-out cooperation so that the media can be run independently. It has to be kept in mind that independence does not mean doing whatever one wishes or disorder. Nobody has been given the licence to intervene in another's right in the name of ensuring one's own right. So you will have to be cautious in discharging your duties. You will have to exercise self censorship. You will remain alert so that no one from the outside can interfere in the work of the mass media.

The government believes in freedom of the press. We want newspapers to exercise this freedom responsibly to serve the country. Any attack against the press is also a great threat for democracy. Journalists have to unite and fight against these ill forces.

Terrorism and militancy are now not limited to the boundary of any country. It is now a global problem. The mass media will have to equip itself with latest technology to resist and unearth various technology-based organised crime in the international and local arena including global terrorism in this age of globalisation. The mass media will also have to play its role so that no one can do anything evil by misusing religion. At the moment all the media and especially the newspapers must work together to fight extremism and terrorist activities. Bangladesh is a land of moderation and religious harmony and we will never compromise with this tradition.

I want to conclude by saying that the responsible and professional practice of the press serve people with correct information and help to enhance their knowledge and awareness. Newspapers also delve into various issues concerning the nation and find solutions. I hope that all newspapers will continue to contribute to the development of the country through responsible journalism. They need to play a pro-active role in preserving the democracy and upholding the values of the Constitution of the country.

Let The Daily Star go forward in future and their endeavour to bring welfare to the country and the nation continue.

I wish the 25th anniversary programme of The Daily Star all the success.
Khoda Hafez. May Bangladesh Live Forever.

society to establish their rights. Their intellectual input, to planning and implementation of various development policies such as women's empowerment, poverty reduction, urban and rural development, is well-recognised.

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Respected audience, English language dailies have a special place in our media scene. They have connected the country with the global audience and brightened the image of the country by highlighting our successes. Among

these English dailies, The Daily Star deserves special mention. Through their impartial and investigative reporting and analysis, they have carved a special place in the hearts of people both at home and abroad. Besides publishing news and opinions, The Daily Star is also very committed to social causes.

They have been very active in the causes of tackling climate change, saving rivers and environment, protecting the rights of children and women and various development issues. They have been organising roundtables and discussions on various national issues, where experts and practitioners from various fields get the opportunity to share their ideas. As part of what they consider to be their social duty, this newspaper helps create awareness on various critical issues among mass people.

Every year, The Daily Star honours distinguished persons from different fields, particularly business, climate change and arts and entertainment. Honours such as the DHL Business Award, the HSBC Climate Award and Standard Chartered Celebrating Life programmes, organised by The Daily Star with such global brands, recognise the contributions of those who endeavour to achieve excellence in their respective fields. As an initiative to motivate students, The Daily Star has been awarding top performing students of O-Level and A-level since the past 16 years. Their efforts

go further beyond awards though, as they have always strived to bring into light various initiatives by young entrepreneurs, encouraging the youth population of the country to contribute to the country. I applaud these initiatives and hope that The Daily Star will continue in their endeavours.

Dear journalist friends, We are now citizens of an independent country. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamt of golden Bengal, free of hunger and poverty, alongside establishing an independent and sovereign state. The country has been marching towards development and progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. You will have to come forward to take this journey of development further. The courage to call white what is white and describe black as such can take a journalist to the peak of his professional excellence.

You will criticise the government and that includes me. However, you have to keep in mind that it should be based on facts; in no way should it be biased. Constructive criticism can play an important role in taking right decisions while running the government and building the nation. Free flow of information and freedom of expression is important in proper development of mass media. It has been

The return of the native



MILIA ALI

AS the flight made a rocky landing on the uneven runway of Dhaka's Shahjalal airport, I felt a rush of excitement at the prospect of coming "home". I eagerly stepped out of the plane and was immediately greeted by a giant mosquito that landed on my nose. "Welcome to Bangladesh," it buzzed! Yes, here I was in the country of my birth, looking forward to the happy reunions with friends and family, the pleasant evenings of *Rabindra sangheet*, feisty debates on politics, cricket and culture, all made more interesting due to that essential element of spontaneity that one feels in one's familiar environment.

The line at the "Foreign Passport" desk was short. "This is going to be a quick exit," I thought to myself, placing my two passports on the counter. I had recently obtained a second passport because there were no more visa pages in the first. The officer saw the "No Visa Required" (NVR) stamp on the original,

shook his head and pronounced, "You need a new visa." Stunned, I asked why. "Because your passport has expired." "But it hasn't," I explained rather agitatedly, "I got the second one only for additional pages." "Sorry, madam. You need a visa on the new one," came the terse response. I pleaded for five minutes trying to rationalise that all other visas in the old document were still valid so why not this one. But he was adamant. "Please get a temporary 'Visa on Arrival'," he said dismissively. And that was that.

I noticed disapproving eyes staring at me – the other passengers probably thought that I had done something grossly illegal. Cutting a sorry figure with my disheveled appearance and a mosquito bite on the tip of my nose, I headed toward the "Visa On Arrival" counter. Seeing the long, intimidating line, my euphoria of coming home dissipated into a strong sense of rejection. On an impulse, I walked to an officer standing next to the counter and explained my situation, asking him for help. Not usually good at faking emotions, I must have succeeded this time in looking like the "Khalamma (aunt) in distress". He took me aside, made me fill out an application, guided me to the cashier's desk for paying the fee and walked me

back to the visa counter. He asked the man at the desk to process my visa while the line was waiting – thank God no one protested. I passed customs saying, "Nothing to declare", without a smile, and snapped at the guy who offered to help with my luggage trolley. In summary, it was hardly the ideal homecoming. But I had received my first lesson of re-orientation in Bangladesh – "don't try using logic to argue your case – just find a suitable shortcut and get the work done".

On my way home, I began reflecting on the frustrating experience and realised that I was angrier with myself than at the officer who had refused me entry. There were three things I had done that were uncharacteristic of me – things that are on my "never to do" list. I had argued with the immigration official who had interpreted the rules (that perhaps contained confusing shades of grey) the way he understood them. I had jumped the cue to expedite my visa and was unnecessarily rude to the man who was trying to help me with my bags hoping to earn a few honest takas. The point is, I would never have dared argue with the immigration in

any other country. And in the US I patiently wait in line for 20 minutes just to pay for a \$10 T-shirt. I also make a point of being nice and kind to the less fortunate. What, then, had triggered these negative reactions at the Dhaka airport? Was it a lack of faith in the system or the instinct for survival in a hierarchical structure where the meek are always left behind? If so, what right do I have to be critical of those who break traffic rules and find shortcuts through bribes and/or contacts to achieve their ends? Perhaps they are also victims of the same insecurities and doubts that I had suffered.

There may be yet another explanation

for my erratic behavior. No matter what passport you carry, there is a certain sense of entitlement that you nurture for the country of your birth. A feeling that you will always have a place there and you have inviolable rights. My passport may define my nationality, but my identity will always be linked to my roots in Bangladesh. Standing helpless at the airport arrival lounge, I felt as if someone had snatched my identity away from me. And I needed to "steal" it back... like the fire that Prometheus stole from the gods in ancient Greek mythology. But in the process I may have burnt my fingers!

The writer is a Tagore exponent.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders has published through e-GP portal.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	Tender submission deadline
1	46808	GD-11 Single Lot	Supply and commissioning of 1 (one) cusec Low Lift Pump (LLP) sets for Irrigation in Barisal, Jhalokathi, Patuakhali and Barguna Districts.	18.02.2016; 14:00
2	46970	GD-11 (2) Single Lot	Supply and commissioning of 2 (two) cusec Low Lift Pump (LLP) sets for Irrigation in Barisal, Jhalokathi, Patuakhali and Barguna Districts.	18.02.2016; 14:00
3	46967	WD-04 Single Lot	Construction of 200 MT Seed Processing and Preservation Center including dryer chamber with machine room and ancillary works at BADC Dholua Fertilizer Godown Complex in Barguna.	22.02.2016; 14:00

The interested persons/firms/contractor may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tenders. These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Abdul Kader

Project Director (Joint Secretary)

Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP)

GD-364

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

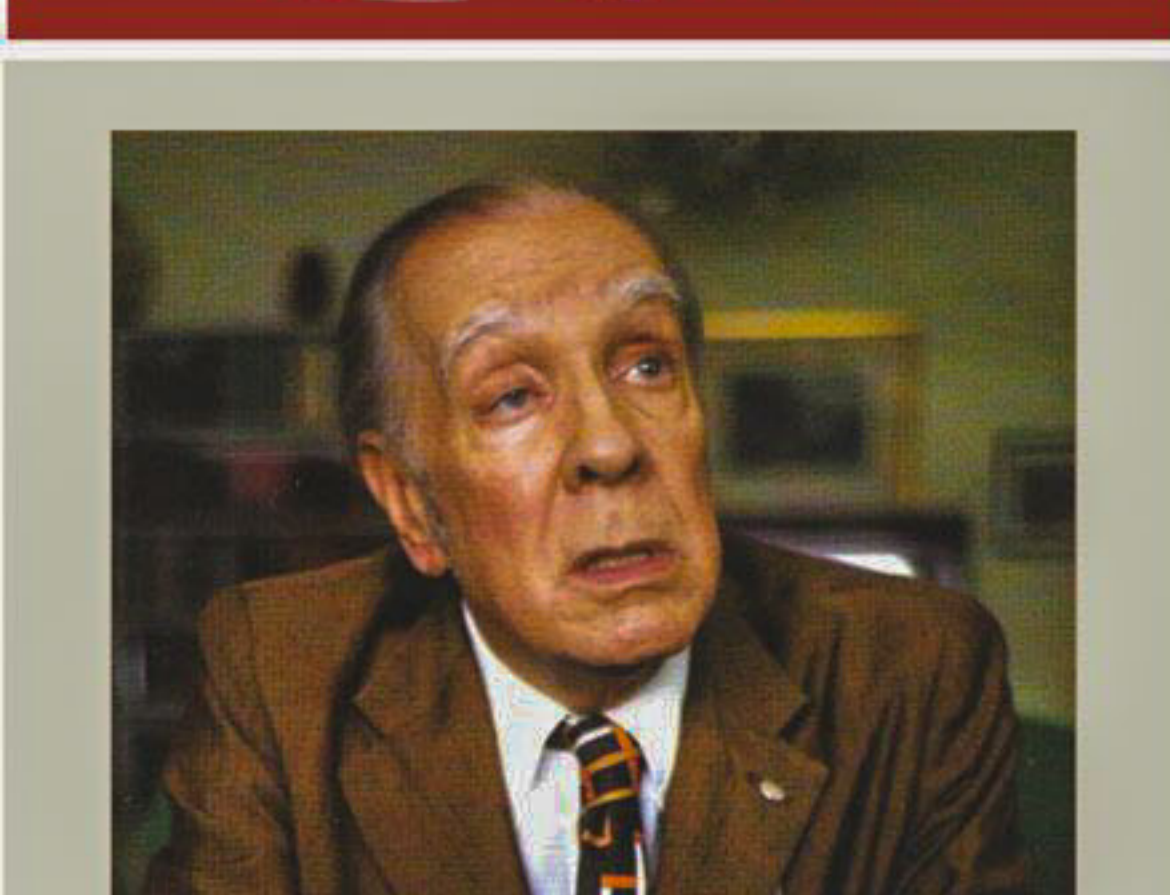
- ACROSS**
1 First person
5 School group
10 Old Italian currency
11 Ventilate
13 Rapper-turned actor
14 Leave empty
15 Capitol VIP
17 Groan inducer
18 Wall street workers
19 Anger
20 Cereal bit
21 Come together
22 Tempest
25 Hand makeup
26 Newspaper section
27 Sluggish need
28 Turn bad
29 Castle part
33 Binary base
34 Busy
35 Stay
37 best Picture winner in 2013
38 Go by
39 Tooth part
- DOWN**
1 Celebroster
2 Kitchen gadget
3 Sports setting
4 Bullfight participants
5 Frolic
6 Tale tellers
7 Curved path
8 More melo-dramatic
9 Sewed, surgically
12 Principles
16 Bulls or Bears
21 Notorious spy
22 "No Exit" playwright
23 Mason's tools
24 Footstool
25 Shopping aid
27 Flag
29 Modeling asset
30 Juan of Argentina
31 Incite
32 Horn sounds
36 Zoo creature



YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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

QUOTABLE Quote



JORGE LUIS BORGES

Life itself is a quotation.