

Clarion Call

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The Mystery Of The Sun



Our Freedom Struggle Period

Ashraf Al Deen



BUILDING HEIGHT AND STAKEHOLDER'S INTERESTS' DEBATE IN DAP



Cicada 3301





Writings Wanted

Dear Readers,

This is the Editorial Board calling out to every creative mind out there. **Clarion Call** is a brand new magazine which dedicates its efforts to support the new and blooming writers and to be frank, want to be writers, from all over the country by publishing their pieces on a nation-wide platform. Our question to you: What do you think? Do you have a thought, you want to share with the world?

Then Clarion Call is your open canvas! We give the paint brush to your hand to color and grace this platform. So, confused as you may be, here is a short list of topics as guidelines for you:

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 - B. Self-defense/Health
 - C. Fashion Trends
 - D. Art and Culture
02. At a Glance
 - A. Movie reviews
 - B. Book Reviews
 - C. Art
 - D. Domestic & International Affairs
 - E. Jokes & Anecdotes
03. Biography of personalities
04. Story, article and poem (Write about your favorite person's life)
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06. Campus life (Your School's Event News, life at your school, or simply your school's profile)
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08. Smart Study (Your ways of studying effectively)
09. Picture corner (Send in your landmark clicks!)
10. Readers views (Write your letters and views about the magazine to the Board of Editors and the reply will be published in the next issue)
11. Recent news (Any recent event around the world that interests you)
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13. Cartoon comics (Draw and Submit, we will publish)
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Contents



Our Freedom Struggle Period

Ashraf Al Deen-04

Islamization in Bengal

Tahmid Al Muddassir Chowdhury-12

O Merciful

Md.Tamzidul Islam (Ovi)-17

The Death Games

Zohin Raunaq Karim-18

The Mystery Of The Sun

Collected-21

Cicada 3301

Adeena Hasan-26

Building Height And Stakeholder's Interests' Debate In Dap

Professor Dr. Adil Mohammed Khan-32

Smart Study

Saad Abdullah Sakafi-37

Art - 42

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From the
Desk of
Editor

After suffering multidimensional damages on almost every fronts of life due to almost 2-year long global pandemic the world is trying to recoil and come back to life! We are no exception to this situation. After a gap of one complete year, Clarion Call is now in the hands of the readers with its 10th issue (May 2023). However, we shall now try to be more regular than ever because the readers have got a loving demand for Clarion Call.

We have just celebrated our day of independence. After 51 years it has now become essential to record the history of our struggle for freedom verbatim from those who saw it really happening, before we lose those witnesses. Correct and authentic history is a matter of pride for any Nation. On this account we have an article titled “Our Freedom Struggle Period” by the editor himself.

In this issue we have few good and mind-boggling articles and write-ups from our students and new writers. To mention a few: 'Cicada 3301: one of the internet's greatest mysteries' by Adina Hassan; We have few drawings and a poetry too.

We have celebrated 21st February as the International Mother Language Day, with pride and honor! This make it imperative that everyone of us respect our own mother language Bangla to the fullest. That can only be done by learning Bangla in a way that when we speak we must try to speak the most correct form of Bangla and not mixing it up with the words of other languages. And when we write we must be able to express ourselves in the most developed form of Bangla language. Only a good reading habit will help us develop ourselves and get into those habits. We celebrated International Labour Day on 1st May, reminding us that we must get rid of rampant Child Labour in our country. Not that the children who are compelled to work due to bad economic conditions will lose the jobs and go hungry! Rather, we need to make social arrangements to send them back to schools and create necessary economic help.

We sincerely thank our contributors and hope that more and better articles in future will adorn the Clarion Call.

Hope you enjoy this issue.

Ashraf Al Deen



Memories



Our Freedom Struggle Period

By Ashraf Al Deen

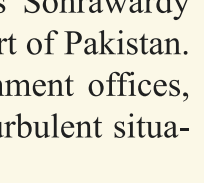
Our freedom struggle period

After the bloody and deadly night of March 25, 1971, a large section of the student population and the Bengali-speaking members of the trained forces started organizing for the armed struggle for the independence of Bangladesh. Although its seeds were planted much earlier than the visible results. That's a different topic of our glorious history.

After passing SSC in 1969, I got myself admitted in Government Intermediate College (now known as Govt. Mohsin College) at Chittagong in science group. I was a second year student in February 1971. February was a month full of activities and excitement for college students like us. It was the month of famous language movement of 1952. We used to be very busy in various activities centered around the observance of the Language Day. I had my passion for cultural activities and for us to be directly involved in politics our family had a great deal of restrictions! Bringing out a good magazine on the occasion of Language Day that year was the focal point of all our activities, me and some of my friends.

To meet the financial requirements for publishing the magazine it was essential to collect advertisements from different companies and business centers, which was indeed a very difficult task. This work made me ill while peddling around in the commercial area of Agrabad all day. So I had to leave my city home with blood dysentery and go to our village home for better treatment and rest. As a result, I was absent from all activities of 21st February celebration of our college!

In the meantime, the arena of politics was heated up with the absolute victory of the then Awami League in the elections of the 1970 and the central government of Pakistan's pretext for handing over power. Most of the students left the classroom and many of them joined the street processions and protests! Some groundbreaking events took place in the first week of March. The non-cooperation movement started all over the province (the then East Pakistan). On March 2, a section of Dhaka University students hoisted the flag of independent Bangladesh, which was a dire situation and a serious political challenge for the then undivided Pakistan! On March 7, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave a groundbreaking speech at the historic Race Course Maidan (later renamed as Sohrawardy Uddyan). The central government had no control over the eastern part of Pakistan. Not only schools, colleges and universities, but also in the government offices, everyone was absent. It was total non-cooperation and a resultant turbulent situation across the country!



The then President of Pakistan General Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the elected leader of the majority of the people of West Pakistan, came to Dhaka for reconciliation and talks with the undisputed leader of East Pakistan, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The talks held at Hotel Intercontinental at Shahbag in the provincial capital Dhaka. However, all effort of negotiation failed. The leaders of West Pakistan withdrew and soon after the terrible incident of 25th March occurred. The invading forces started the fratricide under the name "Operation Searchlight" by firing indiscriminately on sleeping policemen at Rajarbagh Police Line and on common people in different parts of Dhaka. Killings took place in various other parts of the province. Instantly this news spread all over (then East Pakistan or present) Bangladesh. Dissatisfaction and reaction of Bengali speaking army, BDR and policemen stationed in various places and cantonments/barracks of the province started.

Our village home was just a few hundred yards from the Gomdandi railway station, on the Chittagong - Dohazari route. As I said earlier, I was there at our village home. On the morning of March 26, we noticed a large gathering of people dressed in khaki in the Gomdandi railway station area. At that time the Army, BDR and Police forces all wore the same khaki uniform. I approached to the periphery of our home, where there was a boundary *khal*, to get a better look. I saw a lot of khaki-clad people gathered in the station area where train passengers were supposed to gather. My whole body was thrilled with excitement. Surely a new situation has arisen! The station area is just across a piece of land from the point where I was standing. In no time I appeared there. I saw a good number of NCOs and soldiers led by a few officer-JCOs. They have come here from Sholashahar railway station after crossing Kalurghat and walking all night along the railway track. I knew that there was a Pakiisani Army camp near Sholashahar railway station, where 'CDA Market' has come up now. Many a times I would see them running past our colony, Mehedi-bag Govt Colony- where I used to live, wearing uniform for morning exercise! So I felt a kind of closeness and got to know many things by talking.

The identity of the army in the Sholashahar Camp was: 8 East Bengal Regiment. Last night (midnight on the 25th of March 1971) they revolted! Their non-Bengali Commanding Officer was besieged and their Second-in-Command, Major Ziaur Rahman, declared mutiny. So they left the camp and went out in search of a new place and came here after a long journey. They are quite careful that now the regular army of the Pakistan government is their opponent! We reached out to help the heroes who took up such a big challenge. Many of our age group gathered there by then. We all helped in carrying heavy weapons and ammunition etc. by hand.

Considering the communication system of this area with Chittagong city and other aspects of security, they set up camp at Gomadandi Model High School. Our house is on one side of the wide school ground and the school building on the other side. My father was one of the main founders and patrons of this school. In short, our family bonded with this camp which lasted only 10-12 days. We have seen Major Zia, the head of this group, several times. He was busy most of the time in Chittagong city and Kalurghat area. The then Major Shaukat Ali, Captain Oli Ahmed, Second Lieutenant Mahfuzur Rahman - we saw them all and remember them. Check-posts were set up at various places for the security of this army. The biggest check post was at 'Gomadandi Phultali' on the Kalurghat-Patiya highway. We were all busy and active to ensure that not even a single non-Bengali or Pakistani spy could enter the area.

Meanwhile, from the Kalurghat transmitting center of "Radio Pakistan, Chittagong", because the main radio station in Agrabad was occupied by the Pakistanis, Major Zia declared independence; First in his own name and later on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and it influenced and inspired the entire nation enormously. In the midst of utter confusion as if the whole Nation found direction about the future course of action! Major Zia's declaration of "We Revolt" in front of his troops at midnight on the 25th, as heard from the brave freedom fighters of the 8th East Bengal Regiment, has now reached the entire nation through the ether and, needless to say, all the people got involved, for that moment at least, in the revolt. I personally felt that it really happened, directly or indirectly. Not to mention about the young people like us!

It was by no means an easy matter to stand up and declare rebellion against an established government like that of Pakistan with all kinds of security forces, various government institutions and numerous officers and employees! As a result, a big and terrible attack was feared at every moment. Everyone's day was spent through uncertainty and fear! Ten days later a very powerful warship of the Pakistan Navy, probably the PNS Babur, anchored in Chittagong port. Major Zia probably decided to move his camp considering the range of its heavy artillery. Matters were conducted in great secrecy. We found it out after the work was quietly done. The radio transmitter was taken from Kalurghat to India via Kanungopara of Boalkhali and crossed the border to India at Farua, and it started broadcasting the program called **Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra** and started the liberation war in the media. Meanwhile, the 8th East Bengal Regiment with its contingents crossed the border into India on the same route for self-defense and necessary preparation for future offensive. Faced with a huge and well trained force there was no other alternative!

All the excitement in my mind was suddenly silenced! I felt a kind of emptiness inside me. With my level of intelligence, I understood that my very dear country was then involved in a long-lasting conflict and fratricidal war! In private discussions, many people had personal idea that this war will not end so easily! Because, at that point of global scenario, we had the long and ongoing war in Vietnam for more than 11 years as an example!

I am now telling the incident of the evening when Major Zia left the camp with his party. After Maghrib prayers we all brothers and sisters were sitting quietly with our father. The overall situation of the country was tensed and uncertain! A little later our eldest brother entered the house with a 303 rifle and 10 bullets. Our eldest brother was a diploma engineer. He served in Satkania and worked for independence. He was in touch with Major Zia. He told our father that Major Zia had called him to the camp and explained the situation. "If Pakistani warship shelled this camp" he said, "your house would not be spared from its damage." So he requested our father through our brother that the family should move elsewhere for safety and leave this house vacant. He also conveyed *salam* to our father and said that he left this rifle with ten bullets for the safety of our family. Father was pleased to hear this, but he did not even allow our brother to sit down, and said: "You hurry and thank him and return this rifle with the bullets. Because, they will fight and they need it the most! I do not need this rifle now for the safety of me or my family." Our brother left hurriedly. Shejo bhai (my immediate elder brother) and I were in the same class and we thought it wouldn't be a bad idea to keep the rifle at home! After all, we could have a weapon to fight! But according to the family rules, we had no say in the decision of our father! After a while our brother returned and informed that there was no one in the camp. They are all gone. Immediately I was happy thinking that the rifle would find a place at home. But alas! Father gave clear instruction to our brother saying: "There is no need to keep weapons in my house. You give them to your friends who are involved in the liberation war." Later, our brother did the same thing.

The busy streets and political atmosphere of non-cooperation as was seen in February and March changed completely by early April '71. The liberation war, albeit on a small scale, has begun and freedom fighters are trying to organize themselves mainly in the border areas and some remote areas in the interior of the country. On the other hand, the Pakistani government started curfews and arrests to establish control over the province. Strict instructions were given to everyone to attend the government offices. Mills and factories, schools and colleges were opened. Newspaper publication started again. Although many of the officials and journalists were not supporters of the government of Pakistan, they started commuting

and working in the office for the sake of their jobs and to protect their families. Realizing the dire situation, many of the politicians crossed the border before and immediately after the 25th March to seek safety in neighboring India. A large number of people from the border region took refuge in India fearing for their lives. India opened numerous refugee camps for them. The government in exile was formed and the work of the liberation war began in various ways. Many people fled the cities to the countryside and the country is clearly at war! However, the government of Pakistan wanted to prove to the outside world that normalcy prevailed in the country. India continued to work intensively in support of Bangladesh in the international arena and the BBC Bengali section, in particular, continued to broadcast news of Bangladesh's liberation war to the world.

As the Pakistan Army did not have sufficient number of soldiers to conduct province-wide operations, they raised the massive Razakar Bahini as an auxiliary organization to augment their numbers. The members of Razakar were hastily organized untrained uneducated rural laborers, supplied by the Muslim League, the largest political party committed to the integrity of Pakistan at the time, and to some extent by other political parties supporting Pakistan govt. In every Thana 'peace committee's were formed to tackle pro-liberation forces and under the initiative and pressure of the Pakistan government. Some joined these committees voluntarily and others were forced under the circumstances. Clearly, the people were divided into two groups: pro-liberation war and against liberation war. It's an unfortunate and pathetic situation for any peace-loving people! An unhealthy atmosphere prevailed. No one speaks the mind and no one can be trusted! It became difficult to confirm who is a friend and who is a spy in the guise of a friend! The Pakistan Army started burning village after village as an operation against the freedom fighters. This policy back fired, and most of the young men, who had no political identity, feeling totally unsecured in his own home left the country for the border areas and directly transformed into freedom fighters. Since the beginning of the liberation war, most of the time, these groups of unknown youths have fought bravely as freedom fighters shoulder to shoulder with Army-BDR-Police members with little training and raw courage. I heard and read that youths with party identity were still busy organizing and training. Some, however, participated in the war towards the end.

Me and my Shejo bhai, Saifuddin Khaled (Peyru) studying in the same class, Intermediate Second Year, were very close. Since at that period we did not have any class or any work, we used to think and discuss about war all the time! After thinking about what should be done and what will happen to the country and our future, we both decided to leave the country. If not, we will have to spend our lives in the fear of being captured or picked up any time by Pakistani soldiers or Razakars!

However, that was a very tough and difficult decision to make.

So we thought we'd talk to a mentor and we were wrong! Because our elderly mentor told our father that we both decided to leave the country! Father summoned both of us and ruled that such a decision would have dire consequences for our entire family and our home itself! We are total six brothers and all young, besides we have five female members in the family. He commanded us to think of everyone's safety. He also informed that it will be very important to work with the pro-liberation forces and we can do that very carefully. "As we are not in any political pole, no such decision will be right for us"- Father reminded us. "Otherwise, the Pakistani forces will jump on us and destroy everything!" Although he nodded in agreement with our father, we two brothers remained stuck to our decision and waited to leave home at any opportune moment.

A few days later, I woke up in the morning and saw that Shejo bhai was not at home! Right in front of our house is the Thana headquarters and there is the Razakar camp and the peace committee office. There is no way to tell anyone that a boy from our family has gone to the liberation war! Everyone at home suspected me and started questioning: When did he go? Where did he go? You know everything! etc. I had a hard time explaining to them that I didn't know anything. It was more painful for me to think that Shejo bhai left me and went alone in the liberation war! After the departure of Shejo bhai, a curfew-order was imposed on me at home! I can't go from the back room to the front room, the squealing starts. On the other hand, what to talk about others, even none of the relatives can be told that Shejo bhai is gone! Instead, everyone has to tell various lies to hide the fact. For the sake of self-defense, we had to prove more openly that we are not in any politics! We are a simple working family and we rather support the government of Pakistan! We keep saying that Shejo bhai has gone to uncle's house! A few days later we will say, he has gone to our aunt's house. After that we started saying that he has gone to the city for attending the classes. Father and two of our elder brothers joined their respective government jobs.

I myself started visiting the college occasionally. But for people of our age it was very dangerous to go out! Because, at any time they can come and take one as the Mukti Bahini suspect! That was a dire situation. Again and again I thought, it would be better if Shajo bhai took me with him! Leaving the whole family in danger it's not possible now, I consoled myself. It might have been possible if our house was in a remote area instead of in vicinity of the thana headquarters!

At that time, the picture used to be: A Pakistani flag flying in the front of our house.

Father and brothers are going to work for the government of Pakistan. But again, at times freedom fighters would come from the back of the house at night to eat and drink with our elder brothers and eave quietly. Another picture is: every day we will listen to **Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra** in the center of the house under a few blankets to muffle the sound, though the radio was always at very low volume. This radio programs and news broadcasts were the inspiration and life-line for us. Our hidden and exposed lives were unbelievably diverse! Sitting in the present day and reading or listening to the stories of fake freedom fighters one cannot even guess what was the life and reality then!

Colonel (retired) Z. R. M. Ashraf Uddin, psc, G, (alias Ashraf Al Deen); Editor, Clarion Call; Chief advisor, Society for Student Development; Advisor, Policy Research Center Bangladesh Research Fellow, International Institute of Law & Diplomacy.



Islamization in BENGAL

By Tahmid Al Muddassir Chowdhury

Currently, we see Bangladesh as a Muslim-majority country. But if we think a little deeper, we will see that the majority of people in Bangladesh are Muslims, but most of the surrounding areas are not Muslim-majority. Now the question is that the whole of India has been ruled by Muslim rulers for a long time, so why are Muslims in majority in Bengal but not in other parts of India? I will try to find the answer to this question in today's discussion.

The first census was conducted in Bengal in 1872 and the results of this census showed that about 50% of the people in the province of Bengal were Muslims and most of the parts of Bengal except West Bengal. Before this census, it was estimated that the majority of the people of Bengal were Hindus and Muslims were not more than 20-22%. On the other hand, the number of Muslims in the whole of India was 21.4%, and the number of Muslims in Bengal was higher than in other regions of India. The results of this census surprised everyone and gave rise to new questions and discussions. How and why Islamization was possible in the Bengal region became an important topic of discussion among the educated Bengalis of that time. Even today this discussion is still going on. From Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay to Ahmad Chofa, Ahmad Sharif, Golam Murshid, Dr. Sirajul Islam, Richard Eaton, Asim Roy, Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, and many others. All mentioned have tried to establish their own opinions and thoughts.

Through this writing, we will try to understand the process of the Islamization of Bengal. At present, some circles have started raising questions about the new Islamization process of Bengal in order to implement anti-Muslim politics and the Hindutva

agenda in Bangladesh. One of the important objectives of this article is to refute

1.

One genre of historians holds that most Muslims in Bangladesh are not descendants of converted local Hindus. They believe that the native Hindus of Bangladesh have not converted in large numbers. So according to them the majority of Muslims is not a puzzle at all. The reason the majority of Muslims in Bengal is that the noble Muslims who came from West Asia settled here.

Proponents of this theory are some Muslim historians. These are Khondkar Fazle Rabbi, Dr. Abdur Rahim, and Dr. Mohr Ali A major reason for the emergence of this theory is believed to be a superiority complex as the idea that lower caste Hindus converted to Islam is used by many Hindu researchers to belittle Muslims. Henry Beverley, based on ethnographic analysis, shows that Muslims here share a striking similarity in physical structure, behavior, and manners with the lower-caste Hindus, and he concludes that the success of Islamization here was due to the conversion of the lower-caste Hindus. On the other hand, the gist of the arguments put forward in favor of this theory is that during the Muslim rule in Bengal many soldiers came from West Asia and stayed in Bengal. Dr. Abdur Rahim shows that between 1220 and 1756 AD, 337,000 Muslim soldiers came to Bengal and remained there afterward. Dr. Abdur Rahim claims that there are significantly more Muslims from Central Asia than converts.

A major problem with the first theory is that most of the Muslim soldiers who came from Central Asia during this period could not settle due to the hostile climate. Moreover, the profession of the people of the Bengal region was agriculture, it was impossible for these incoming soldiers to survive through agricultural work in a completely new environment.

2.

Historians of the second genre believe that Islam has been spread all over the world by the force of the sword, and Bangladesh is no exception. The Muslim rulers converted the local Hindus to Islam forcibly and with special privileges. these allegations. The theories related to Islamization are:

There is no truth in this theory because the Muslim rulers here never had a clear desire to spread religion and they always kept the policy of governance away from religion for their own needs. Historically, there has not been much of a trend toward proselytizing among Muslim rulers. Some of them established mosques and madrasas, but Islamic thought was not seen much among them. Now it is not assumed that

the rulers in the Bengal region forcibly made Muslims of other religions, in that case, we would have had an example of mass migration in Bengal at that time, but there is no evidence of such migration in the history of Bengal. There is no evidence of such conversions in history, but there is evidence of persecution of Buddhists under the Sen dynasty and of Hindus under the Pala dynasty, and evidence of mass migration during that time. Moreover, since the Muslim rulers themselves were outsiders, they had to rely on the local Hindu influential people to run the state, so even if they wanted to, it was not possible for them to force the Hindus. But there is no denying that at that time some people converted to gain the sympathy and extra support of the rulers. Because of this, the acceptability of this theory has decreased to a large extent.

3.

A third genre of historians holds that a major reason for the success of the spread of Islam in Bengal was the exploitation of the lower caste Hindus by the upper caste Hindus in Bengal. Islam does not believe in racism and strives to create brotherhood among all people. This is the equality of Islam the message of brotherhood inspired many Hindus, so they converted to Islam.

This theory provides a good explanation of Islamization. But the question is, apart from East Bengal, the caste system was prevalent in West Bengal and also in other parts of India, then why Islam did not achieve so much success there? If the lower caste Hindus had converted to Islam to escape persecution, the entire Bengal would have been Islamized in a short time, not four hundred years or more. So, it is not entirely true that the lower caste Hindus embraced Islam only to escape from the upper caste Hindus.

4.

Fourthly, historians of another genre believe that when Muslim rule was established in Bengal, most of the people of East Bengal believed in Buddhism. Hindus persecuted Buddhists. The Buddhists of East Bengal converted to Islam to escape the persecution of the Hindus. Therefore, the Muslim majority is seen in East Bengal. A major weakness of this theory is that if the Buddhists had converted to Islam to protect themselves from Hindu persecution, the conversion process would have been completed soon after Muslim rule was established in Bengal in the thirteenth century. But there is no historical evidence of such conversion. We see that during the rule of Buddhist rulers and Hindu rulers the followers of the majority religion here changed very quickly but it did not happen during Islam.

5.

Historians of the fifth genre believe that Muslim Sufis, dervishes, and pirs (saints) preached Islam in Bangladesh. Inspired by their spiritual power, people accepted Islam in droves. The weakness of this theory is that Muslim Sufis, dervishes, and pirs (saints) did not come only to Bengal province with the message of Islam, they went all over India. Why these pirs (saints) succeeded only in Bengal but failed in other parts of India, is also not given any explanation.

This theory is partially true but a major weakness of this theory is that it cannot explain why Pirs (saints) were successful in East Bengal but not in other regions including West Bengal.

So, the question is how is the Islamization process completed here? Sufi monks started coming to Bengal around the seventh and eighth centuries. At first, they arrived by sea with Arab traders, but gradually it became overland. Before the conquest of Bengal by Ikhtiyar Uddin Mohammad Bin Bakhtiyar Khilji, Islam became known here due to the tireless efforts of the Sufis and mixing with the common people. They married the women of the region and settled down and spread Islam.

On the other hand, the common people here were the lower-caste Hindus who were exploited and oppressed by the upper-caste Hindus. Ordinary Hindus had to live through many hardships. They were called untouchables, i.e., those who could not be touched, even stepping on their shadow was considered a sin. Moreover, natural calamities like floods, drought, river erosion, and fear of wild animals were very common at that time.

In this situation, the Pirs (saints) here not only show themselves as religious leaders but also lead socially. They took strong steps to deal with these social problems. Richard Eaton in *Rise of Islam and the Bengal Frontier* and Asim Roy in *The Islamic Syncretistic tradition in Bengal* show this character of Pirs (saints) and see Pirs (saints) as the cause of success.

They show that new settlements led by pirs (saints) were created after river erosion creating new habitats here and seeing pirs (saints) as a source of supernatural power rather than just another human being. This special character of Pirs (saints) made it easy for them to spread Islam here. On the other hand, ordinary Hindus were quick to accept Islam as Pirs (saints) taught the beauty of Islam and see everyone as equal above caste.

Here the lower caste Hindus were able to convert to Islam easily because the society and villages here were linear rather than clustered, and even if they left Hinduism,

they would be ostracized. But this did not work in the Bengal region as they could easily migrate to the other side including the swampy areas. Moreover, he (outcasted person) could have easily taken help from the pirs. Akbar Ali Khan in his book *Success of Islamic Propagation in Bengal* showed that the village system in other parts of India was completely different from the Bengal region and this simple linear village system played a special role in the propagation of Islam. In the villages of West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh, it was almost impossible for an outcast to survive because they were interdependent and had O-shaped villages alongside the neighboring villages. As a result, he (outcasted person) stopped eating and working completely. On the other hand, in the Bengal region, the villages were separate and the villages were 'I' Shaped. As a result, if someone was expelled from society, he could go and live in another region.

The purpose of this writing is to respond to the propaganda of the anti-Islamic circle about Islam promotion in Bengal and to make our young generation aware of self-identity.

Tahmid Al Muddassir Chowdhury, Student, World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka.

O Merciful!

By Md. Tamzidul Islam (Ovi)

First I bow, O Merciful One,
You are a world without motion.
You created man
Ashraful Makhlukat,
You have made the wire as you wish.
All the arrangements of this beautiful Mohir
You have created for the benefit of human beings.
You are the creator of the universe,
You are also the owner of the Day of Judgment;
Nothing happens without your help
Cover everything with a sheet of forgiveness.
The birds are created,
Only your tasbeeh flies away.
The moon, the sun, the youth have made the world full
Blessed are you who have done everything with mercy.
As much as I look around, two eyes match
I am always busy praising you.
All praise is yours, O Merciful!
This world is full of your mercy.



THE DEATH GAMES

By Zohin Raunaq Karim

Momoka, a very serious FPS gamer girl who lives in a huge apartment in Tokyo. Her dad is a very rich businessman running his own tech company. He didn't care about his daughter at all even if she would fail her exams. Her mom was a simple housewife, who also didn't care about her success or failure. Last night while gaming she had a lot of Red Bull and coffee and the over dose of caffeine made her feel dizzy. The next day while in bed Momoka's mother told her to go to the grocery store and buy some butter and milk little did she know that Momoka was not feeling well after the overdose of caffeine, instead she got into deep sleep this is when her deam started, On the way to the store she met her friends Quinan and Ezika. They were very good friends with Momoka. Suddenly they heard fire-works up the sky Momoka and her friends were scared so Momoka they ran to a public toilet to hide and when they came out they saw nothing, the whole city was empty and the grocery store led sign **said:-**

'The Death Game Starts Now'

Three phones had poured down from the sky with Google maps on but the phones had no network but had wifi and there was a navigator pinned to a certain location. Quinan said *'What do we do now!'* just then Momoka interrupted *'we can follow the map navigator and see what happens next as there is no one except the three of us'*.

They followed the navigator which lead them to an abandoned building, it was completely empty they went inside and they saw lasers covering the exit so Momoka took Quinan's cap and threw it through the laser door just for clarification if they would be able to escape. She saw the cap burn into a powdered mess. This basically shocked them just then Ezika shouted 'I would rather die than play this game' so she ran through the laser door and it immediately went through her head and she had perished.

The only playes left were Momoka and Quinan. So they went inside the building and saw that the elevator had a screen saying **'GAMES ARE ON THE FIRST FLOOR'**. They went upstairs and found the floor was an obstacle course filled to the brim with traps other dangerous objects. The game **said:-**

'Games Are On The First Floor'.

They went upstairs and found the floor was an obstacle course filled to the brim with traps other dangerous objects. The game **said:-**

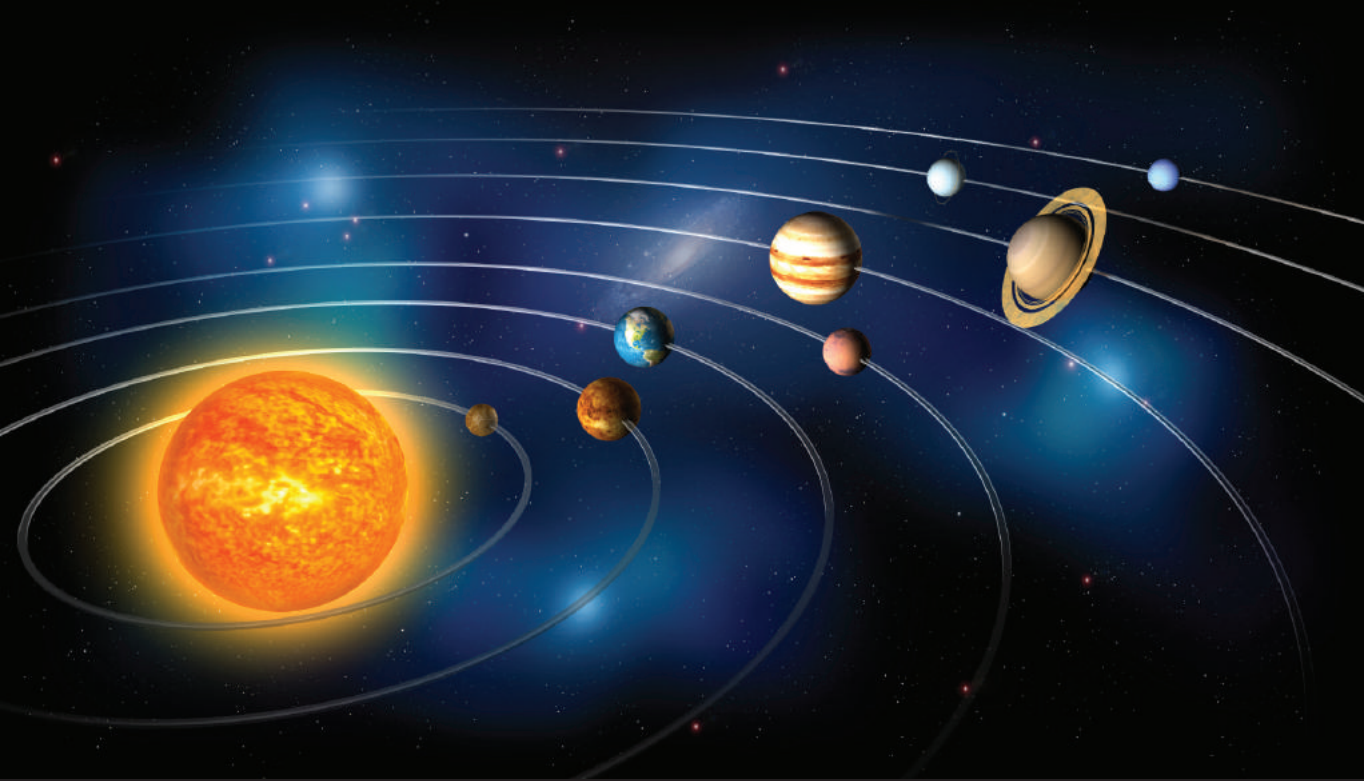
*'You guys may begin you have only 1 hour
Remaining to finish all the death games'.*

First stage was a jumping course where they had to jump from wall to wall above 14 feet tall cobras which would eat them the second they would wait for a long time; this game was all about physical strength. Momoka jumped above the cobras and so did Quinan but he waited a second long on the last jumping wall and had been swallowed by a cobra.

Momoka was all alone now. The second course began; it was about a game of sharp shooting. She had to get 5 bulls eye at 5 targets. Momoka was good at sharp shooting all because of FPS games that taught her to be precise while shooting at targets. It was easy for her to win, she shot all the targets with ease.

Finally it was time for the last task which was a game of tag. There would be a player with a MP40. The tagger would try to kill Momoka but the only way to win was to kill the tagger. Momoka knew she would win this as FPS games taught her the way to kill others with no fear. She then was shifted to another building with the help of teleportation then only with 30 munities left, the game began Momoka saw the tagger and began to shoot this was a big mistake this way the tagger got to know where Momoka was and Momoka took this chance and waited in the corner of the staircase for the tagger to kill her. The second she heard footsteps near her she started shooting in the head of the tagger and that was it. She successfully finishes the games and then her phone rings she picks it up and a robotic voice starts **talking-**

'Congratulation on the completion of the game now go to the basement of the house to get your grand prize of one hundred thousnd.'



The Mystery Of The Sun



Fig.1. Solar System

Although we have heard multiple fascinating stories, I am to contemplate that we have no strong idea about the substance of the sun which is yielded from the sun. Not only the sun but also all of the planets have been created by it. Several scientists conceive that about 99.9999% of the matter of space is established by it. The sun is our nearest star and we rely on its energy to live on the earth. It was formed about 4.6 billion years ago and this substance is available from the earth creating time but the strange matter is you will be able to fit 1.3 million earth in the sun or you will be able to fit eleven thousand nine hundred ninety earth in the sun. It's large but the star is larger than the sun. Really, it's a fascinating matter but the history of space science means something odd. Besides, an interesting matter is the mass of the sun 99.8% of the solar system and 0.2% comes from Jupiter which exhibits that another planet's mass is zero in the solar system. If we would like to know the sun properly, we should remain aware of the solar system. The solar system is the gravitationally bound system of the sun or the objects that orbit it. I am optimistic that you know about gravity since it has been included in your textbook science in classes eight to nine. Now, I would like to share another fact, you might have heard the names of

the substance hydrogen and oxygen but you might not know that 74% mass of the sun comes from hydrogen substance and 24% comes from helium substance but the remaining 2% is included trace amount of iron, nickel, oxygen and all other substance we have in the solar system. So, we would know that the solar system is mostly made of hydrogen but if we can take the 50 closest stars within 17 light-years of the earth, the sun would be the 4th brightest star in absolute terms. You have read about the light year in physics.

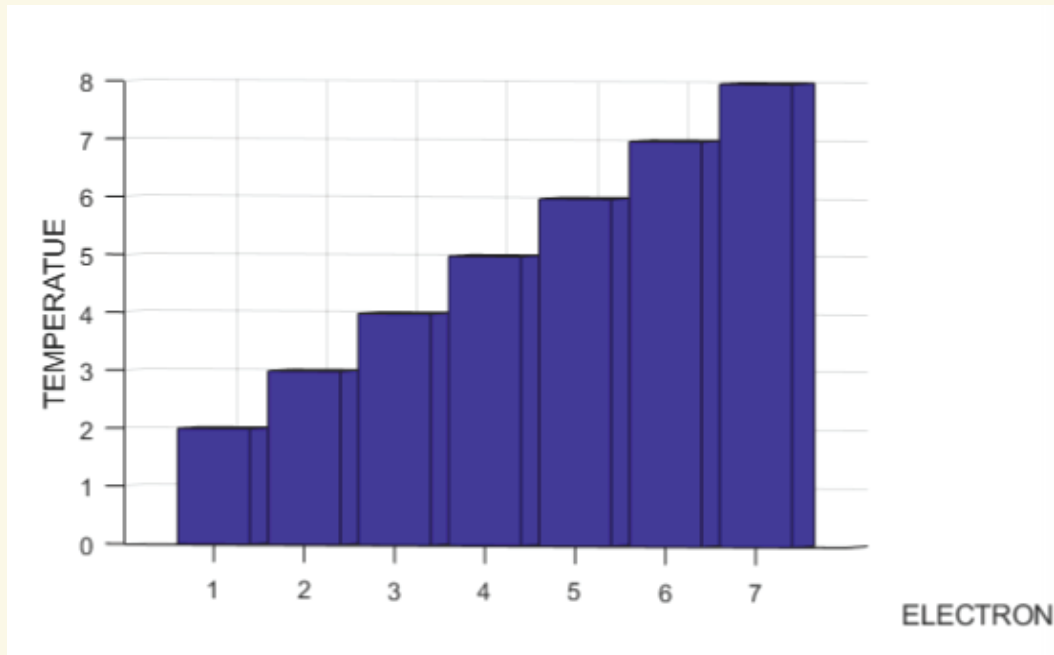


Fig.2 showing the variation of potential structure plasma temperature with increasing electrons.

It is a unit of astronomical distance which understands the travels of light in one year. It might be 9.4607×10^{12} km (about 6 million miles). At the beginning of my writing, I said that I will talk about the mystery of a new substance that is produced by the sun but I have started writing about the sun although it's correlated with it. Our mystery substance name is plasma which is called the 4th state of matter. Typically, it gets to 3000 or 4000 Kelvin temperature. Since the surface of the sun has a research temperature of 6000 Kelvin, that's for us to find out plasma in a very easy way but another planet's temperature can reach about 1 million Kelvin. For this reason, several authors contemplate that space is created by Plasma. Presently many authors are researching plasma so that it can be used to make our daily life and I am to think that it's possible in the near future. We know the use of solid, liquid,

and gases, like ice, water, and steam but we do not know if we heat gas. We can find out a new property called plasma which has been called the 4th state of matter in the previous line. It's a quasi-neutral gas. Plasma is made up of atoms or molecules that are excited with energy. If we can excite electrons in dust grains so that the electrons are free, then we have electrons and positive ions that are called plasma. If we get plasma available, we have to heat the gas up to a high temperature, so high that the variation of the molecule will break off an electron. If we get up to like 1500 or 2500 degrees, there will be a bit of plasma there. We can create plasma for a little time on our earth but its use is not available. Typically, it is using fluorescent light bulbs, plasma screen TVs, and neon signs. Sometimes lightning discharge occurs from the sky, we can see it as a lightning flash but do we know why it occurs? That flash is one kind of electrical current, which heats the ordinary gas up to a very high temperature and emits electrons from the gas for making plasma columns. Consequently, we can say that the flashing light of the sky is the outcome of plasma and it conducts electricity.

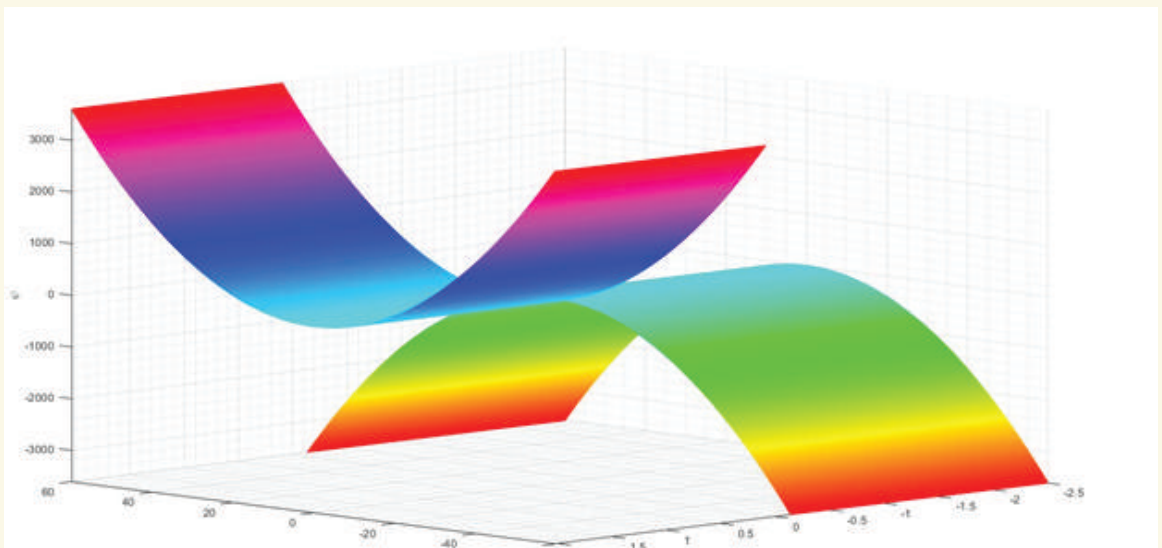


Fig.3 . 3D graph for positive light ion temperature

Since this temperature is very available in space, the solar system, we can say plasma world and I contemplate that it will be able to determine black holes. Since diverse scientists have proved sound waves from plasma, I am to realize that we will be able to keep connectivity with astronomers by applying plasma systems. Although my current research interest is in this field. Now, Unmagnetized plasma

is a hot topic of plasma research. Unmagnetized plasma is considered for disequilibrium magnetic field and this plasma supports high-frequency electromagnetic waves. It shows the plasma as a simple dielectric due to the response of the electrons only where ions are generally considered immobile. If we include thermal effects in the plasma dynamics it's called thermal plasma.

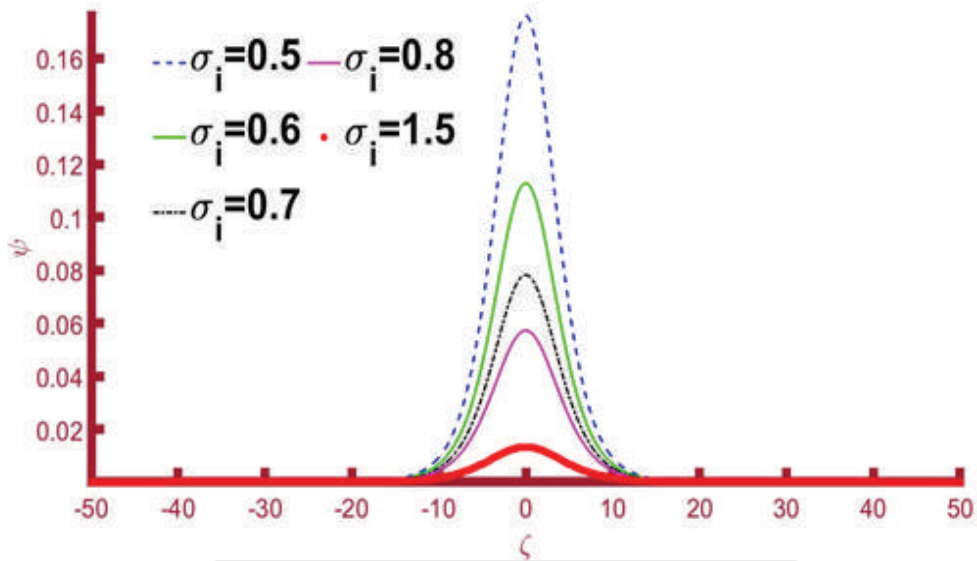


Fig4. 2D graph for positive light ion temperature

We can find out thermal plasma in acoustic wave phenomena on account of various sorts of sound waves, and there are some particles moving at the phase velocity due to the thermal distribution of kinetic phenomena. Unmagnetized collisions and identical dusty plasmas are the most fundamental characteristics of dust acoustic wave modes. Professor A. A Mamun is a renowned researcher in this field.

Although the origin of substances is similar on every planet, they move towards their orbit. If they moved each other's orbits, the universe was destroyed at that moment of atomic collision. So ALLAH says `` ALLAH created the night and the day and created the sun and the moon; each swimming is an orbit'' [Surah Ambia, Verse No: 33]. Allah says in surah Yunus, `` It is He who has made the radiant and moon luminous and has fixed its course so that you may calculate years and date by it [verse No: 5].

We have a lot to learn about this mystery, especially when we conceive about how much there is out in the observable universe.

Cicada 3301

One of the Internet's Greatest Mysteries

By Adeena Hasan

The First Puzzle

On the 4th of January 2012, a user on 4chan posted an image on the website's infamous /b/random board. The anonymous author, who went by the name 3301, challenged its users to uncover a message hidden within the image. Unbeknownst to those who had stumbled across it, someone had just set in motion one of the most elaborate scavenger hunts the internet had ever seen. Within minutes of the image being posted, someone discovered that by opening the file with a text editor, a string of readable text could be found. This string contained a cipher that, once deciphered, formed the link to yet another image. At first, this appeared to be a dead end but using an application known as 'OutGuess' users were able to extract hidden information within the first image. This extracted information led to a subreddit containing information about a book called Mabinogion. The book, along with a code, could be used to uncover a phone number that, when called, played this pre-recorded message:

"Very good. You have done well. There are three prime numbers associated with the original final.jpg image. 3301 is one of them. You will have to find the other two. Multiply all three of these numbers together and add a .com on the end to find the next step. Good luck, goodbye."

By the following day, the initial image had been reposted all over the internet. A growing community of armchair detectives sought to unravel this elaborate puzzle but no one was quite sure what to make of it. What was this puzzle for? Who was behind it? What happens when you reach the end? Some naturally dismissed it as an elaborate joke while others perceived its complexity as evidence against it being the work of some troll. Rumors soon began to circulate that this could be the work of a secret society or intelligence agency intending to recruit individuals fluent in cryptography, stenography and similar fields.

The two numbers mentioned in the recording proved to be the dimensions of the original image. After multiplying the width and the height with 3301 and using the product as a web address, users were taken to a website. This website consisted of a countdown as well as the image of a cicada. When the countdown reached zero, the page was updated with a list of coordinates. The coordinates pointed to locations around the globe. These were 14 locations in five different countries including the United States, Australia and Japan. It was now up to participants living near the specified coordinates to venture outside. Those that believed Cicada to be the work of an organization now felt their beliefs had been justified. In their opinion, only some international collective possessed the means and resources to design a scavenger hunt of this magnitude. At each of these pinpointed locations was a poster of the cicada symbol and a QR code. This code led to an image, this image to a riddle, the riddle led to another book called Agrippa and this book led to a website. Here, however, the puzzle took an unexpected turn. Only a selected batch of first arrivals were accepted into the final stage of the puzzle. The site closed down with the message: We want the best, not the followers. The finalists were warned not to collaborate with others nor to share information about this private stage of the puzzle. Given that we know this, however, it's safe to assume not everyone heeded that warning. But those who did allegedly advanced through the final stages before reaching the very end of the puzzle. After about a month of silence, an image announcing the end of the puzzle was posted on the subreddit and just like that, the hunt was over. Cicada had supposedly found the "highly intelligent individuals" they were hunting for but what happened to them is a bit of a mystery.

The lack of any explanation was perceived by many as confirmation that the puzzle had been only a wild goose-chase intent on wasting everyone's time. After all, questions raised by the original image still remained unanswered. What was the puzzle for? Who was behind it? However, it later turned out to only be the beginning. Whoever was behind this had the foresight to include an authentication code known as a PGP signature alongside every clue. This let users verify that a message was actually from Cicada as opposed to some imposter seeking to derail or hijack the puzzle. Cicada had repeatedly warned of such "false paths" and insisted that any message lacking a valid PGP signature should be promptly discarded. That was why an image posted exactly a year and a day after the first caused quite a frenzy. After a year of lackluster imitations, that image finally matched the official PGP signature. Cicada was back for round two.

The Second Puzzle

The second puzzle was similar to the first: the image enclosed a message, the message led to a book, the book produced a link and gradually, the puzzle unfolded. At one point, a musical recording titled *The Estar Emergence* was discovered. Another clue led to a cryptic twitter account which in turn led to an image. This new image proved vital to the progression of the puzzle but why it included a runic set of alphabets would remain a mystery for quite some time. Much like its first counterpart, this second puzzle swelled into the real world with a list of coordinates once again compelling participants to take to the street in search of enigmatic posters. This time it was in 8 known locations in 4 different countries- Russia, the United States, Spain and Japan. Eventually, however, the trail went cold again. Another select group of first arrivals had been accepted into a final stage of the puzzle. Unlike the first puzzle, this second did not possess an official message from Cicada. The trail simply went cold and Cicada vanished again, leaving us no closer to an explanation. However, this was not the end.

The Third Puzzle

It was time for round three at the beginning to 2014. Yet again, an image enclosed a message, the message led to a book, the book to a link and it was mostly the same. The exception this time was that the puzzle seemed to revolve around a strange book. This book was titled *Liber Primus* (meaning “First Book” in Latin) and evidently, was authored by none other than Cicada. The runic alphabet discovered in 2013 finally made sense as *Liber Primus* was primarily penned in runes. Even so, the meaning of the translated pages were cryptic at best. This book consisted of several ideological and philosophical ideas and was seemingly Cicada's manifesto. Many have compared these strange writings to that of a cult. Nevertheless, the book also comprised a myriad of clues and codes. For instance, one page advised participants to seek out a website on the deep web but the site remains undiscovered as of yet. However, a significant portion of the book is still untranslated. The runic text on some pages seem to be obfuscated by layers and layers of encryption. As of yet, 19 of the 74 pages featuring runes have undergone successful translation. As 2015 passed without the launch of a new puzzle, many came to suspect that Cicada would only return when the *Liber Primus* was completed. This speculation was proven right in 2016 when Cicada resurfaced to encourage a reexamination of the book. Years have now gone by with minimal progress and near complete silence

from Cicada. And again, questions raised by the original image have long gone ignored. What is the purpose of these puzzles? Who is behind them?

The End

When the initial image appeared on 4chan back in 2012, many assumed Cicada to be an alternate reality game designed by a corporation to promote a service or product. However, the release of subsequent puzzles and the complete lack of commercialization has eliminated that possibility. If we choose to believe some of the leaked information from the private end stage of each puzzle, then we do gain some insight into who this group might be. For instance, at the end of the first puzzle, finalists allegedly received an email. In it, Cicada describe themselves as an “international group” who believe that privacy “is an inalienable right”. The email says that the aim of each puzzle is to recruit like-minded individuals in an effort to develop privacy-conscious solutions. The email concludes with three questions. The PGP signature, which would have confirmed the authenticity of the email, was conveniently removed by the leaker. Regardless of its legitimacy, however, one of the three questions stands out to be somewhat odd. It asks, “Do you believe that information should be free?” Assuming that the expected answer is yes, then the very first statement of the email - “*DO NOT SHARE THIS INFORMATION!*” - seems hypocritical. While the idea of a secret society recruiting people by means of elaborate cryptographic puzzles may seem a little absurd, it is not wholly unfounded. Governments and corporations alike have made use of similar recruitment techniques since at least World War Two. As for Cicada’s recruits, what about them? Why have we not heard from them?

The Recruits

The answer is, we have. The only problem is that separating a legitimate finalist from an imposter is virtually impossible. In 2015, in an interview with Rolling Stone, two of the alleged winners chronicled the events beyond the final stage. They said that after receiving an email from Cicada, they were taken to a forum on the dark web. Here they could communicate with some twenty other recruits as well as established members of Cicada. They were told that 3301 was started by a group of friends with common ideals about security, privacy and censorship. They shared a common goal: to fortify privacy and security in the Digital Age and ensure freedom of information. As “friends recruited friends”, Cicada 3301 quickly became a

decentralized international organization. The recruits were then tasked with developing software that fit the ideology of the group. But without the allure of a puzzle to be solved, the recruits quickly lost interest. By the end of 2012, all but one had left Cicada and a few months later, the site was gone. They never heard from Cicada again.

One of the two winners, a man named Markus Wanner, later elaborated further in a video by Youtuber Nox Populi. Furthermore, Nox Populi himself claims to be a winner of the second puzzle. After completing the second puzzle, he allegedly got his invitation from Cicada 3301. However, he was not invited to a website and instead told to be patient. Then around 2013, all of Nox Populi's communication with Cicada abruptly stopped. This was around the same time as when the website dedicated to the winners of the first puzzle was suddenly taken down. Nox Populi later contacted winners of the second puzzle to compare notes and experiences, which turned out to be identical.

“All the stories were the same,” he said, “we were invited to join 3301, then something happened and silence followed a request for patience.” Nox Populi alleged that there were roughly five people who completed the second puzzle in contrast to the twenty-odd winners of the first. In regard to who Cicada 3301 is, Nox believes they could be a remnant of the cyberpunk movement of the 1980s and 1990s. Essentially, Cicada could be a small group of activists advocating widespread use of strong cryptography and privacy-enhancing technologies but Nox admits there is no way to know for sure. While these chronicles cannot be verified, they do make a compelling argument to what Cicada is: a group of anonymous developers seeking to develop privacy-conscious applications by recruiting gifted individuals. Sure, it is not as enticing as a shadow government seeking global domination or any of the more fantastical theories but is certainly more plausible. We need to bear in mind that part of these puzzles would require more than one person to be solved. The posters popping up in different countries is pointed to as evidence that this must be the work of some international organization but even then, it would not be difficult for a private organization to hire random people around the world to install a few posters. However, the fact that no poster was discovered an hour away from the airport leads some to believe that one or multiple people travelled to these countries to put them up. After all, some of them were found within a walking distance of the nearest international airport.

Someone with a disposable income and enough time on their hands could create the illusion of a vast secret network spanning the globe. While this cannot be verified to be the case with Cicada 3301, it is nonetheless a possibility. Cicada made their last public statement in 2017, merely warning against disinformation. As for the current status of the third puzzle and the possibility of a fourth, they remain shrouded in mystery.



Cicada 3301



BUILDING HEIGHT AND STAKEHOLDER'S INTERESTS' DEBATE IN DAP

By Professor Dr. Adil Mohammed Khan

Photo : Dhaka, Bangladesh

Detailed Area Plan (2016-35) for Dhaka city has been approved recently which is a planning document to guide planning and development for Dhaka Mega city for coming years. We know physical planning is always a serious game in global context which involves various stakeholders who have various levels of financial and other stakes in it and there is no exception in it for Dhaka city. For a mega city like Dhaka, it is always a challenging task to prepare a plan and make everyone happy regarding the plans and proposals in urban plans. Therefore, DAP expectedly has drawn attention for many quarters of people and stakeholders as well. Detailed Area Plan for Dhaka city has many suggestions and proposals for making Dhaka livable for its urbanites' in the coming days, however there are surely some loopholes in the plans that should be discussed as well for ensuring best public interests. Ironically, for this recent DAP, the so called debate has been revolved around the height of the residential buildings in the name of Floor Area Ratio (FAR) values allocated for different urban areas for Dhaka city, mainly raised by building developers who have direct business stakes in it. Generally, FAR is a value determining building height and volume of development. This rule has that determines the gross floor area that can be built for a land area in different storeys of a building. However, this discussion

has paved the way to discuss the livability and sustainability of Dhaka city with greater emphasis as well.

So, let us come to the point of discussion – how urban planning determines the height and volume of residential building in an urban district or neighborhood. According to planning considerations, building volume and height in a residential neighborhood should be determined based on the factors like – level of urban area, facilities and amenities of the neighborhood, design population of the area, width of the access road, built environment character of the neighborhood, playground-park-open space-waterbody facilities, social-infrastructure and utility facilities etc.

However, road width and plot sizes has been generally considered for determining the Building height and volume in building regulations for urban areas in Bangladesh. According to the Building construction rules 1996, building height is generally determined by doubling the width of the access road adjacent to the plot that is still practiced in urban areas in Bangladesh except for Dhaka and Chittagong. These two cities have adopted Imarat Nirman Bidhimala 2008 which introduced FAR and MGC strategies for proposed FAR value ranging from 3.15 to 6.5 which is staggeringly higher value in relation to global planning exercise in various cities in the world for individual plot based development. This inflated FAR values has therefore detrimental impact on overall livability of Dhaka city.

In urban planning practices, plot based housing usually gets very small FAR value which generally ranges in between 1 to 2 and block based development are provided with relatively higher FAR according to the planning considerations and level of urban area. However, Dhaka Imarat Nirman Bidhimala' as conceptualized in 2006, indicated that FAR value should have variations and suggested that separate FAR values should be determined according to the character of the particular locality and urban area for Dhaka city.

It is an irony that it has taken so many long years to formulate the differential FAR values for different types and levels of urban areas for Dhaka city that has been suggested by Detailed Area Plan for Dhaka city 2022-35. And according to planning considerations, there are variations in the FAR values of different localities according to the prevailing planning considerations as proposed by DAP. According to planning standards and strategies, planned and developed areas have been recommended for relatively higher FAR and unplanned as well as organic areas have been provided with lower FAR, as proposed by DAP.

However, some quarters of population like real estate developers and building

professionals who have stakes in built up forms for their businesses have argued that land owners will suffer loss for lowering FAR values of some parts of urban areas. It is quite evident that if volume of building is regulated by planning regulations, some land owners have to incur some sort of loss in their housing business, that is the generally the excess of floor spaces that they could develop for providing rents and thereby accumulating financial gains. However, the arguments regarding the building heights that has been increased in the current DAP from the earlier DAP is also absent from this type of land owners. In addition, land owners do not have the arguments like livability and sustainability of the city that is already one of the least unlivable cities in the world and understandably they are not that much concerned about it.

It is quite expected from planners as well as from the perspectives from state and government to plan a city that will uphold the public interests, ensure collective well-being and increase the livability and quality of life in the city. That's why the protests from vested quarters, who are either land owners or developers or professionals linked with building development are not the true reflection of the majority of people residing in the urban areas of Dhaka city. Even some professionals and developers linked with building development, who have the true passion for the city and its livability, have applauded the recommendations of DAP regarding the FAR values and other propositions of DAP.

One major national daily has organized poll in last year when draft DAP has been published for public opinion, regarding the proposals on building heights as suggested in Draft DAP. Roughly 70 percent of the respondents has positively accepted the proposals regarding building heights and 30 percent has the other ideas. These are perhaps the true reflection of public opinion regarding the building height debate of DAP. Because common people who does not have any land title in the city, and they are the majority of the population, does not have any significant interests on the building height of the building. The things that these major quarters demands are affordable housing with better infrastructure and services and better quality of life. Ironically, real estate sector has little contribution in the housing for lower and lower middle income people in the country and this FAR or Building height debate centering DAP has no stake for housing of this strata of population. Rather, proposals for FAR incentives for including low income units in a building, is an excellent proposal that could go a long way to meet the demand for the formal housing of informal urban dwellers. However, there will be certain challenges and opportunities to work on it for rightly implementing this policy relating the stakes of low income people, who has the major demand for formal and affordable housing in Dhaka city.

We must keep in mind, higher FAR values at whatsoever extent only exacerbate the

prevailing disparity between land owners and landless urbanites in Dhaka city. Exceeding any FAR values that is generally 1-1.5, that can be termed as housing right of a land owner, will create disparity and discrimination and will pave a way for housing business for land owners that has been reflected in Dhaka city in the past. That's why in plot based housing development, even for a city like Singapore, the FAR value is around 1-1.5 or allows maximum two storey buildings. Regarding global planning practice of livable cities, if anyone or a developer want to build high-rise building, should usually have adequate amount of land like one bigha and minimum one acre for a block development.

So what about the claim of some quarters who are claiming that proposed FAR values have created disparities among different types of urban areas in the city. This claim has arguments and counter arguments as well. According to planning standards, it is quite obvious that planned areas will get higher FAR. And some factions are demanding to raise the FAR values of those areas which have lower values according to their wishes. Why are they not thinking other way round for increasing the livability of Dhaka? According to planning considerations, plot based development in the planned areas usually have lower 'Base FAR' for individual housing development, and FAR Incentives or bonuses can be provided for this developed areas with adequate facilities and amenities through purchasing Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), which is a planning strategy proposed by DAP as well. Therefore, from planning perspectives, all the planned areas of the DAP should have base FAR for 3 and any additional FAR values can be purchased from TDR. It will ensure some sort of parity among different urban areas as well as will contribute for increasing the environmental quality and livability of the city. Otherwise TDR strategies will not work properly for Dhaka city as well.

Another important points we are perhaps missing is that - the debate centering on FAR value and building heights of residential buildings is only focusing the issue of density of the city. However modern urban planning has gone far away from the concept of density alone and rather considering the development intensity of an area, public health and sustainability considerations of city and urban people. Development intensity is a planning concept that considers population density including volume of the development, FAR, MGC, feel and impact of the development in the neighborhood. Public health considerations include sunlight, air ventilation, indoor air quality whereas sustainability considers volume of construction impacting urban heat island, electricity consumptions through using Air Conditioners, Generators and other appliances that significantly contribute to climate change or ground water recharge issues etc. It is praiseworthy that DAP has applied this term 'Development Intensity' instead of 'Density Planning' in its document and

therefore we should argue on the broad spectrum of development intensity and city livability and sustainability rather just debating on how much floor spaces do the land owners will get to make their profits from their land.

Another argument regarding the claim that FAR value could not contain the density is baseless, because of the fact that dwelling unit per Katha has been recommended by DAP to contain density in its true sense. However, there is always a fact that all of these suggestions will require strong and impartial monitoring and governance of development authority and other government machineries of urban area. We can discourse on it on an another discussion surely. Another important fact that DAP has recommended for flat based or block based development instead of plot based development which can have enormous impact on planned development of the city preserving the agricultural land and waterbodies and thereby improving the sustainability of the city as well. In addition, proper implementation of this policy can reduce the disparity generating from plot based development which ultimately create land lords it its truest sense.

We believe city authority should welcome any suggestions for making the city livable and sustainable and promoting collective welfare. And the state and government should have clear idea about the business interests that will impede the livability and sustainability of the city. City is always a living entity and planning is always a serious game – however state has always the responsibility to uphold the public interest and collective well-being for its people, land and environment.

Professor Dr. Adil Mohammed Khan, Executive Director, Institute for Planning and Development; Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning Jahangirnagar University.

Smart Study

By Saad Abdullah Sakafi



If you're a student, you probably feel like this isn't enough.

Plus, you have other activities and commitments.

And you want to have a social life, too.

Wouldn't it be nice if you could study smarter (not harder), get good grades, and lead a balanced life?

Of course, it would.

I spent hours scouring scientific articles and research journals to find the best ways to learn more smartly and effectively just years ago. And I have got some common Q/As at the beginning. So, I am just sharing them with you guys.

» *But what does the smart study mean?*

It means studying in a smart mental way so that you spend less time on a vast amount of lessons you have. So, readers let jump to the text. Peruse through the whole text to get the techniques. I was not a lifelong straight-A* student myself since I applied these ways on me. I've personally applied almost all the tips outlined in this essay, so I can verify that they work.

» *What is the smart study?*

The main aim of education isn't to get straight A*'s. But learning how to learn is a vital life skill. A smart study helps you in both ways. We all have faced those exasperating situations where there is so much to study that one doesn't know where to begin and how to go about studying in a way that will utilize our energy, time, and resources to the maximum. A smart study guides us to study intelligently. To make the use of time effectively. It reduces stress, is efficient, and produces optimal results.

» *Are there any differences between studying hard and studying smart?*

Yes. Studying hard is time-consuming and stressful, whereas studying smart reduces stress, is efficient and produces optimal results. By studying smartly, you study less in a short time. Flick through to understand more about it.

» *Why smart study matter?*

Because it means we could all have been getting smarter this whole time. Instead, we seem to be stuck with the same old notions of how learning works. What's especially baffling is that these principles are quite easy to put into practice. Here's one: instead of sticking to one location, simply alternate the room where you study to remember new information better. Here's another: studying for one hour each night works; studying all weekend doesn't. Still, we haven't caught on. So from now on Study smarter, not harder! By actively developing good study skills and learning strategies, you will keep your motivation high and achieve your goals more easily and more efficiently. Good study skills can improve your ability to learn and retain knowledge.

The main aim of education isn't to get straight A*'s. But learning how to learn is a vital life skill.

Techniques for smart study:

Here are the tactics with what I'm about to tell you: these tactics may be new to you, but in psychology circles, most of them have been around for decades. For the effective study, preparation one needs to make study goals.

: Setting Study Goals :

SMART STUDY goal-setting is one of the most effective tools that can be used to achieve the study goals. According to the research done by The University of West Florida, the application of the **SMART** goals can enhance learning and contributes to the achievement of student learning outcomes.

● **Specific**

Specific goals are those that are well defined and clear. In the context of studies, it means to break your syllabus into smaller units and categories that are detailed. Vague or generalized goals are unhelpful because they don't provide sufficient direction.

● **Measurable**

Measurable goals mean that you identify exactly the different parameters that you want to achieve in the context of study goals. It means breaking your goals into measurable elements. A simple way of measuring your goals is to include precise chapters, modules, and a particular time frame to measure your degree of success. This could be done by dividing the modules on a daily, weekly, or even monthly basis.

● Achievable

Too often, I come across students who make study schedules but find it difficult to follow as they have set very high and unattainable goals/deadlines. This leads to them feeling discouraged resulting in them leaving the study schedule midway and with extremely low levels of self-confidence. And if the goals are too easy, it may result in the student getting bored easily and wasting time. So it's important to find a balance of setting challenging and yet attainable goals for yourself.

● Relevant/Realistic

Study goals need to be relevant to the direction of your study course or your career. This may differ with each student based on their aims and ambitions. Also, the study schedule should be designed in a way that makes these goals realistic for you. So comparing your study goals with your friend or a batch mate may not work as this is about your capabilities and each student has different factors to make these goals relevant to them.

● Time-based

Any goals that you make needs to have a deadline. When you are working on a deadline, your sense of urgency increases and it gives an accurate sense of the time duration it will take to complete your study goals. So keep deadlines for yourself and go after them. However, allow yourself some flexibility as well as being too stringent on the time duration of your goal setting may have the reverse effect and may hamper the learning process.

● Don't multitask.

The data is conclusive: Multitasking makes you less productive, more distracted, and *dumber*. The studies even show that people who claim to be good at multitasking aren't better at it than the average person. Effective students focus on just one thing at a time. So don't try to study while also intermittently replying to text messages, watching TV, and checking your Twitter feed.

● Simplify, summarize, and compress the information.

Use mnemonic devices like acronyms, as these are proven to increase learning efficiency.

Raging Martians Invaded Venus Using X-ray Guns (In order of increasing frequency, the electromagnetic spectrum is: Radio, Microwave, Infrared, Visible, Ultraviolet, X-rays, Gamma rays)

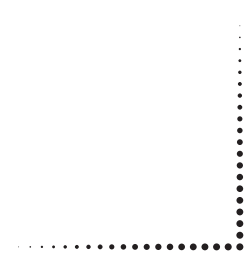
Stalactites grow from the top, while stalagmites grow from the ground. Besides, you could summarize the information into a comparison table, diagram, or mind map. These tools will help you learn the information much faster. Be sure you drink at least eight glasses of water a day. The bottom line So there you have it – effective, proven, and smart study techniques. This is a long essay that contains a lot of information. But don't feel overwhelmed, because there's no need to implement everything at one shot.

As the saying goes:

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

In the same way, to implement all 10 tips in this essay, do it one tip at a time. Focus on just one tip a week, or even one tip a month.

Once you've turned that tip into a consistent study habit, move on to the next one. Throughout the process, don't let the goal of getting straight A's become an unhealthy obsession. After all, education is about more than getting good grades. It's about the pursuit of excellence. It's about cultivating your strengths. And it's about learning and growing, so you can contribute more effectively. There's hard work involved, but I know you're up to the challenge.





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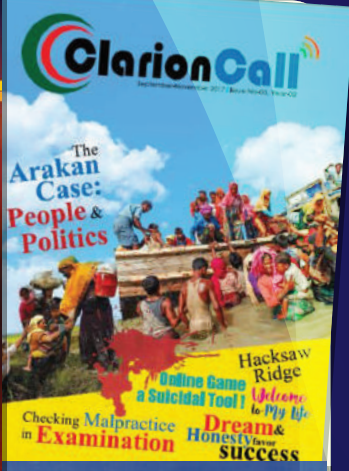


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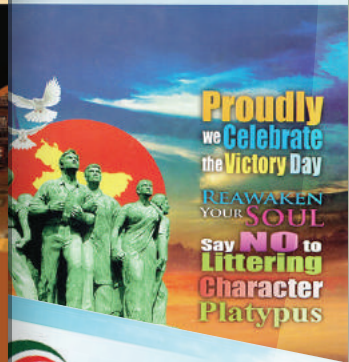
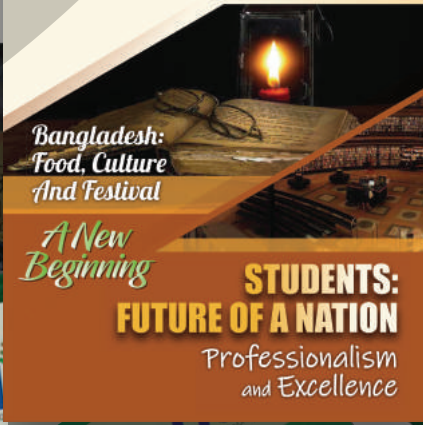
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