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Tree Plantation

The expression “Tree Plantation” implies the significance of trees in our lives. Tree plantation refers to the process of planting trees in large numbers in a planned and systematic manner to maintain ecological balance and enhance environmental sustainability. It is a crucial activity aimed at restoring degraded ecosystems, reducing air pollution, and combating climate change by increasing greenhouse effect. Trees are the most important and useful of all the elements of our environment. Our existence on earth is impossible without trees because the life-saving oxygen that we breathe in is supplied by trees. Besides, by absorbing harmful carbon dioxide trees are helping to keep the air fresh. We get various types of fruits, foods, wood, shade and flowers from trees. Trees prevent air pollution, river erosion and natural disasters. They cause rainfall which helps our farmers grow better crops. Trees play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. Many valuable medicines are prepared from the leaves, roots and barks of trees. The tree adds to the beauty of nature. But this life-saving element is being cut down at random for various purposes all the year round. So, it is a great threat to our existence on earth. Specially, the developing countries like Bangladesh become greatly affected by deforestation. To maintain ecological balance, a country needs 25% to 30% of its total land as forest area. However, in Bangladesh, the forest area covers only 15.58% of the total land. As a result, tree plantation project is a must in our country. It is high time we made tree plantation programme successful for our greater interest. June and July are the best time for planting trees. We can make the world greener, safer, better and happier by effective tree plantation programme and forest conservation.

Traffic Jam

Traffic jam is an acute problem in all towns and cities in Bangladesh. Traffic jam is a long line of vehicles that cannot move or can only move slowly because there is so much traffic on the road. It is almost a regular phenomenon of the big cities and towns. The population is increasing rapidly and the increased number of vehicles are needed for the movement and transportation of the people. Narrowness of the roads, unlicensed and uncontrolled vehicles, reluctance to obey the traffic rules by the drivers, overtaking tendencies, etc. are the main causes of traffic jam. Weak traffic control system is also largely responsible for it. It wastes our valuable time. It hampers our work. It causes great sufferings to the dying patients carried in ambulance. It blocks the movements of fire brigade vehicles. It makes us helpless in emergency. When caught in a traffic jam, we simply get stuck up at one place. We cannot move forward; we cannot move backward either. We have to wait and look at our watch. Due to traffic congestion in Dhaka, approximately 8.2 million work hours are wasted every day. According to research conducted by BUET, this traffic congestion results in an annual financial loss of around 50,000 crore taka. Traffic rules should be imposed strictly so that the drivers are bound to obey them. Sufficient traffic police should be posted on important points. Training programmes for the drivers can be arranged to make them aware of the traffic rules. Roads should be widened so as to accommodate the increasing number of vehicles and facilitate their movement. After doing all these things, we can hope to have a good traffic system for our easy and comfortable movement.

My Recent Visit to a Place of Historical Interest

Historical place means a place which bears the testimony to history. We, almost all, have a strong desire to visit historical places. Obviously, it has great educative as well as cultural value. By visiting historical places, we can learn much about the past culture and tradition. I also have a curiosity to visit historical places. Last month, I decided to visit Bagerhat, a great historical place of Bangladesh. As our college was closed, it was a great opportunity for me. I along with my friend Adnan went there. At first, we visited the Mazar of Khan Jahan Ali in Bagerhat. We know that Hazrat Khan Jahan Ali came here from Delhi to preach Islam in mid-15th century. He died on 25th October 1459. The Mazar of Khan Jahan Ali stands on a raised ground. The tomb is made of cut out stones. There were many things to see and enjoyed exploring around. In front of the Mazar, there is a big tank and there are some crocodiles in it. When the caretaker calls them, they come near the bank. It is very interesting to see such sight. Sometimes, the visitors give the crocodiles something to eat.

Then we visited the Shat Gambuj Mosque. It stands on sixty pillars and has seventy-seven domes. It looks very beautiful and is known across the country for its beauty and fascinating architecture. It bears the testimony of Mughal taste and Arabic architecture of the middle age. The visit really widened my outlook. It has inspired me to visit other historical places of our country. It was, indeed, a rewarding trip and the memories of this trip will remain ever fresh in my mind.

July Revolution

The July Revolution, also known as the Students–People's uprising, was a mass protest in Bangladesh in 2024 that led to the downfall of the government. The revolution was a response to a Supreme Court decision that reinstated a quota system for public jobs. July revolution means the outbreak of massive protests and demonstrations on the contentious issue of the country's quota system in government jobs. The quota system, designed to ensure equitable representation for disadvantaged groups, has become a flashpoint for debates on fairness, meritocracy, and social justice in Bangladesh. Among them, the freedom fighter quota that is the reservation of government jobs for the dependents of the freedom fighters was established to honour their contribution to Bangladesh's Independence War in 1971. The leaders of July Movement showed their concerns that the policy was being misused and was creating a new form of injustice. They highlighted growing frustrations among students and job seekers who felt that the quota system was hindering merit-based selection. However, the movement surged in 2018 with students flooding the streets demanding reform. A series of large-scale protests erupted across the country forcing the government to abolish the quota system in public service jobs. The government also eliminated all forms of quotas in government employment. However, the crisis began on June 5, 2024, following the filing of a writ petition by a group of relatives of the war veterans. The High Court of Bangladesh, perceived to be supportive of the PM Sheikh Hasina, reinstated the controversial quota system, terming the government's decision to scrap the quotas of 2018 as "unconstitutional, illegal, and ineffective." Immediately student-led protests, initially peaceful, erupted across the country. The protests that began in early July were modest in size but consistently maintained, occasionally encouraging violence from individuals reportedly aligned with the ruling Awami League and its student faction Bangladesh Chhatra League. However, violent clashes between students and the police, occurred contributing to the movement turning into a non-cooperation campaign leading to the fall of the Hasina government.

Anti-discriminatory Movement

Anti-discriminatory Movement 2024 is an epoch-making event in Bangladesh. This movement started when the High Court revived the quota system in government jobs, abolished in 2018 by ruling in favour of it. According to the so-called quota system, government jobs would be allocated to 30% of freedom fighters' relatives, 10% of districtwise candidates, 10% of women and 5% of marginalized groups and 1% of physically handicapped people. Thus, the rest 44% of the general students would get government jobs on merit. General students of the country finding it a great injustice in an independent country, got very agitated and formed this anti-discrimination organization on July 1, 2024. They demanded reformation of quota system in government jobs and retention of merit-based recruitment circular. They wanted exclusion of discriminatory quotas in all categories of government employment and bringing quotas to a minimum. According to their demand, disabled people and minority communities might be considered. From July 2 to 6, students held protests, human chains and road blockades in different parts of the country. On July 7, students stopped Dhaka's public transport and ran roadblock programme. Later the road blockade was extended across the country which is known as "Banglablockade" programme. During these programmes, Chhatra League and the police attacking the students tried to stop the movement. On July 14, when the protesting students presented a memorandum to President Md. Shahabuddin, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina termed the agitators as Razakars' grandsons and thus aggravated the situation. Then the movement grew stronger. On the night of 17 July, the student crowd announced complete shutdown programme. The situation got worse when the police began to kill students. The government announced curfew across the country and kept Internet off. It tried to stop the movement with an iron-hand. But the students across the country were adamant. When a great number of protesting students, common people from all walks of life joined the movement to express their solidarity, people from all walks of life joined the movement to express their solidarity, people and children were killed, people mass uprising which demanded the fall of the government. The movement turned into a from all walks of life joined the

movement to express their solidarity. And they adamantly ousted the government on 5 August. Thus, this movement is a great conquest on the part of the students.

MORAL DEGRADATION OF YOUNG GENERATION

Moral degradation of the young generation has become a pressing concern in modern society. As the backbone of a nation's future, the youth are increasingly drawn toward unethical behaviors and harmful influences, threatening the fabric of societal values and progress. Young generation is the main power for developing a nation. But in our country the activities, culture, lifestyle, etc. of a great majority of them distinctly show their moral erosion. Now they are seen involved in various immoral and destructive activities like terrorism, hijacking, child and female trafficking, adopting unfair means in exam, leakage of questions, drug business, adulteration of food, medicine, extortion, etc. Almost every day newspapers put up news of killing, raping, extorting, smuggling by young people across the country. Moreover, rape, killing, adultery, deception, etc. are increasing day by day. This picture is very depressing. The causes of moral erosion among the young people are lack of religion-based moral education and proper rearing, rampant corruption, poverty, unemployment, political instability, etc. Besides, internet-based smartphones are deteriorating the situation. Through this device young people being exposed to western culture of nudism and impiety are getting more depraved. However, we have to act against this evil trend unitedly. Parents, teachers, social and public media, religious organizations have to make a concerted effort to save the young generation from this evil. Otherwise, we are bound to face a hellish future.

FOLK MUSIC

Folk music, rooted in the traditions and cultures of specific communities, reflects the emotions, lifestyle, and heritage of people. It plays a vital role in preserving cultural identity and connecting generations through its simple yet profound melodies and themes. Music is the sounds that are pleasant or exciting to listen to. Therefore, the combination of folk song, folk dance and folk tune is called folk music. In short, folk music is the song, tune and dance of a particular community of a particular region. Folk music is not sophisticated because it is still uninfluenced by any modern musical instrument or classical rules. Rural folk are the contributors of folk music in Bangladesh. Folk music may be of different types. It is broadly divided into religious and secular groups. The components of folk songs are many; such as - Bhatiyali, Bhawaiya, Zari, Sari, Kabigaan, Baul song, Murshidi and Marfati which are the varieties of folk music found in our country. Some songs are on love, some are on separation, etc. Culture, festival, natural beauty, river, rural and riverine life — are the major themes and subject matters of folk songs. Some songs are to be sung by men, some by women, some individually and some in chorus. Bangladesh has a rich heritage of folk music with different varieties in different regions. Whatever may be the region or type, Bhatiyali is the most popular and widely sung song. The common instruments used in the folk music of Bangladesh are ektara, dotara, sitar, harmonium, flutes, etc. Folk music plays a great role in our social and cultural life. It represents social inequality, poverty, thoughts and ideas about the material world and the supernatural. It also reflects passionate love of the people in love. Folk music influences common people greatly.