
Photo: AFP

Let Us Stand United

The saddest and the most heinous incident of killing army personnel by the degenerate BDR Jawans on 25th February has put a deep scar on the collective psyche of the people of the country. We are shocked to the extent of getting completely numb at the brutal incident, which by now has opened, after a series of turns in the unfolding of bizarre and awesome phases, new dimensions that encompass the security of the country. Experts think, our PM also informed us that it wasn't a mere case of mutiny on the part of the BDR jawans, it was a strategically-designed plot to destabilise the country, to shake the morale of our disciplined army. They are desperate to rewrite, in black colour, our glorious liberation of 1971. Our secular stance and values, our efforts and success to usher in democracy in our land is what the eyesore for these anti-liberation forces at work.

Deaths of so many army personnel, and the way their dead bodies were found in the sewerage and the mass graves are difficult to even witness on the TV screen or on the news.

At such a crucial juncture of time, we all, namely the political leaders of all should show a high sense of responsibility and restraint; stopping the blame-game that is, to our collective awe, at work to deteriorate the situation further.

Let us, stay united on the interest of the nation keeping in mind the words of wisdom: "Eternal vigilance is the prize of liberty."

Rafiqul Islam Rime
Agrabad, Chittagong

We Deeply Mourn

The massacre of 25th February in Pilkhana, Dhaka is truly a tragedy in the history of Bangladesh. It was something that we were not at all ready for, especially when a democratic government elected merely two months ago are in power. What we have lost is totally indescribable. It's a huge loss not only for our armed forces but also for our country. Although the initial steps taken by the government is truly praiseworthy, since there was no better alternative to a peaceful bloodless solution of this ghastly incident what we have lost will never return again. But now it's time to act, it's time to decide. We want justice for those army officers who lost their lives. I hope that the government will do it's level best to ensure that the BDR soldiers who were involved in this hostile act get strict punishment.

Abu Mohammad Mahdin
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

No Peace in the Hills Yet

What has been depicted in the article 'No Peace in the Hills Yet' (February 27, 2009) is worthy of praise. Of course it is a matter of pain and worry that after more than 1 years of signing of the Peace Accord the people of the Hill still seek peace. In the article the writer tries to reveal some painful incidents where violation of human rights is very clear. So what will happen now? I know that some indigenous people do not build their houses on permanent and long standing structures in fear. I agree with the writer that the major dispute between the Bangalis and the indigenous communities is the land problem. As the most crucial clauses in the Accord including the land problem still remain unimplemented, the dispute is still there. Sometimes it gets worse and gets the media's attention.

From the article we can deduce that both the Bangalis and Paharis are not happy with their situation. The indigenous people want to live in their land and the settlers want to return to their homes in the plain lands. So mid why is there so much politics? The presence of the Army personnel (I pray for the salvation of the departed souls in the BDR tragedy) in such high numbers violates the Peace Accord.

Tritan Chakma
Khulna Medical College, Khulna

Sandals or Barefoot?

The 'Voice Box' in your February 13 issue of Star Magazine publishes two opposing voices on the same issue. Achhia, the garment factory worker states that the factory authorities prevent her from wearing sandals; and she is made to go barefoot when she goes out for food during the break. This is a statement of fact, as far as one can see. In contrast, the director (Production) of the factory where she works, states that the workers prefer to go out barefoot. This statement is based on his opinion, which could well be subjective and seems biased. It could quite possibly be based on statements gathered or dictated to illiterate women workers and coerced from them to support his statement, and give it a legal cover!

I would urge our human rights groups to investigate this matter and take it up legally and bring to book the management of Tex Tech Company Ltd, where this incident took place because this is a matter of violation of the rights of Achhia.

S. A. Mansoor
Dhaka