To What Extent Is Our Economy Safe?

On April 10 "The Star Magazine" printed two articles on the existing economic downturn. One was on the garments industries and the other was on the remittance flow. To solve the problems of garments industries Prof. M.A.Taslim said it was better to restructure the garments industries rather than to give them financial and planning support from the government. But I think he didn't keep in mind that the restructuring isn't possible overnight especially where there is a great recession going on in the world. Now we have to survive at first and then can we think about restructuring. The government must take the initiative right now to shield our main export industry for the next four to five months. Because this industry contributes about 70% of our export, any collapse in this sector would set off a domino effect and bring our economy crashing down

The other article was "The Economy, Safe Now". Prof. Anu Mohammad said that the country's economy is safe for now. But I respectfully disagree with him. Because our main export industry is now in trouble. Indeed, some of the garments industries have started laying off workers already. Others are having trouble paying salaries because weak demand from foreign buyers. Also our migrant workers who were abroad are starting to come back home. For the above reasons our remittance inflow will be badly hit and the pinch will be felt soon. Overall, our economy is very much vulnerable now. Yes, we have weathered the storm better than some countries so far, but there is no room for complacency. We must act right away with well thought out measures to save it from deterioration.

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An Impartial Trial

After reading the letter written by Syed Mohammad Ali titled "Stories of war criminals" published (April 10, 2009) in The Star magazine, I cannot but thank him for his concern about justice and fairness when it comes to war crime trials. This should not become a political tool to eliminate opponents. It is now a national demand for war criminals to be tried and punished, and without such trials the sacrifice of the martyrs will not be properly honoured. But careful attention must be given to due process and the rule of law. After observing the events of the last few months, I feel compelled to say that the government is viewing all things through a political lens even though they have performed some admirable acts.

The nation wants to see the actual war criminals brought to justice. But we do not wish to see a political witch hunt that might destabilise the country. I, therefore, hope the government will keep our war of liberation above their narrow political interest.

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Our Fragile Ecosystems

I am a private student, studying A levels in Dhaka. As a wildlife enthusiast, I wanted to express my appreciation for the article titled 'Life in the Beautiful Jungle' written by Julfikar Ali Malik in the recent weekend issue. I just wanted to make a suggestion for any future articles on environment. Along with the very significant endeavour to spread awareness regarding the dangerous situation faced by our environment due to climate change, which is always beautifully done by your writers, I would really appreciate it if your future articles also stressed on how we, the common public, could contribute directly to preserving our threatened wildlife. A lot of people know the present risks our ecosystems face but have little idea of what to do about this.

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