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Agriculture sans border



MUNIR UZZAMAN / DRKNEWS

Climate change has now become an influencing factor on the process of maintaining the balance between crop production and food consumption. As an induction of wide-scale industrialisation, land available for agriculture is shrinking day by day. Pressure of population is also posing a threat to sustaining agricultural productivity. There are many other factors hindering the growth of agricultural production. In this critical situation, what is to do to raise agricultural productivity? Agricultural productivity is the efficacy of agricultural inputs (farm workforce, land, water, seed, fertiliser, etc.) to be transformed into outputs (crop production, income generation, etc.)

In my opinion, agriculture should be made a business sans border. All the countries of the world should share their respective agricultural resources which include soil, water, labour, capital, technology and technocrats on an international basis for increasing food production through concerted efforts. Arable uncultivated land plus barren land should be leased out for cultivation to countries that lack agricultural land for increasing food production thereby raising agricultural productivity.
Professor M Zahidul Haque
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

A noble decision

The government has extended maternity leave to six months from the previous duration of three months. We welcome the decision. According to the child specialists, infants' vulnerability to various diseases will decrease drastically if exclusive breast feeding is continued for six months. Nowadays women in our society are participating in income generating activities. Extended maternity leave will allow the working women to take care of their babies properly. Breast feeding for six months will develop their immune system and infant mortality rate will be reduced. I urge the government to monitor whether this law is being implemented in all organizations.
Tashrif Billah
Dept. of EEE
BUET

Our participation at Assam Trade Fair

Our local financial daily reported on January 18th about our participation at the International Trade Fair at Guwahati, Assam; where Bangladesh is a partner country. In the report it was stated that we will be having 50 stalls in the fair and that only our art and culture will be displayed! It was disappointing to note, that according to the report, nothing was mentioned about inclusion of the food, medicines, cosmetics and other consumer goods manufactured in Bangladesh being exhibited and sold in the fair! This was an excellent opportunity to exhibit our range of products that can find ready market in Assam, and help to expand our export trade to our neighbours. Priority wise, in my opinion, this is more important than displaying only our art and culture. Our Commerce Ministry must wake up and see to it that all our products, consumer and household goods, like food and confectionery, stationery, sanitary, decorative tiles and other household and office products also are well represented in the Trade Fair; so that we showcase all our exportable products to the potential export market in Assam!
Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Time to retrospect

"Blood will have blood." said William Shakespeare. And the holy Bible says "The nations have fallen into the pit they dug for others. Their own feet have been caught in the trap they set."
Now we understand how true those sayings are. From the very inception AL government shocked the gullible peoples of ours who hoped a change. But people soon saw blood in the hand of the incumbent. The line of poor people queuing for OMS lengthened. Our flowers and gardens got molested, maimed and humiliated by the eve teasers whose crimes were downplayed by the government. The merit was molested by might and muscle. When crime has overtaken their own people they punish the police who always remained the hands and arms of successive government. I think now is the time for the police to retrospect and be assertive to gain some semblance of respectability for them.
AS
On e-mail

ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

We know that the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 is going to be hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. This is the first time that Bangladesh has gained the opportunity to host such a show piece event, we are also very proud and honoured. Another positive thing is that the Bangladesh National Cricket Team has made its way to the 14 nation tournament out of 104 Cricket playing entrants. Hosting the 3rd biggest sporting event is an opportunity to boost a country's tourism potentials and a chance to promote the nation's economic aspects by attracting foreign investment. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) launched a public road show called 'Catch Bangladesh Catch' around the country in all 64 districts. I would like to thank the LOC and BCB for its efforts to make the World Cup a success. I wish good luck to our Tigers, they always have our support.
Ahnaaf Ahmad
The Aga Khan School
Uttara, Dhaka



Mayhem in Munshiganj Cop killed, 100 others injured as over 30,000 people stage violent protest against airport in Arial Beel (February 1, 2011)

An airport should not be a priority of Bangladesh when people are hard-pressed with so many problems. Government should pay attention to supply food, produce energy, improve law and order situation and bring down the prices of essentials. I think another serious problem is the population. If the airport is built, the land for farming and for people's livelihood will be reduced.
Anonymous
Hasina administration needs to address the issue of skyrocket of food price, nagging electricity crisis, gas crunch and ensure the security of public life. At this juncture, do we need ambitious project that will cost TK-50,000 crore or so? To inscribe Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's name in a plaque of airport at the cost of panorama of cultivated land, beel, pond, aquatic and avian sanctuary only exposed the government's parochial interest. If any political party try to instigate

the protesters they should know violence only beget bloodbath, loss of life and uncertainty in public life.
Nasirullah Mridha
Dear Honorable Prime Minister, We have so many productive sectors other than only the (proposed) airport to invest in. We can't purchase our basic food items due to high price. Please pay attention to poor people.
Mohammad Hafiz-ur-Rashid Khan
It has been reported that PM may decide to build the airport somewhere else. We vehemently oppose the construction of another airport by using any land, because we do not need any more airports. The PM should abandon the idea of constructing any more airports in Bangladesh.
Anonymous
It is not necessary to build a new airport in Bangladesh. Government must modernise the existing

Best wishes to The Daily Star

I am a regular reader of The Daily Star. My best wishes to The Daily Star for its successful completion of twenty years. The newspaper has achieved a unique place in the arena of news media. It has initiated many new and innovative programmes such as English in Schools. It has drawn our attention to prevent environmental pollution. Science & Life page also attracts me a lot. I hope The Daily Star will carry on such educative programmes for the benefit of the students.
Md. Fuad Hasan
B.L. Govt. High School
Sirajganj

DSE ban on telecasting

It is very unfortunate to learn that the managing committee of Dhaka Stock Exchange has put a ban on telecasting of share trading by ETV. The act of closing the ETV office on the DSE premises is tantamount to defying the law established by the present government. I urge the authorities concerned to lift the ban immediately in the greater interest of the millions of investors all over the country.
Humayun Hyder
Zikatola, Dhaka

How to destroy your enemy!!

A wise old saying "If you want to totally destroy your enemy, make him your friend" is very apt when it comes to dealing with all forms of oppression. Enemies oppress, friends do not! The prejudices we are born with, soon degenerate into oppression as we grow up in our so-called modern but so very materialistic society. Both the West and the East practice oppression based on sex, colour, language, ethnicity, illiteracy, disability, corruption, envy, greed, jealousy, power, stigmas, superstition and above all poverty. The difference lies in the constitutional protection

that most of the democratic societies in the West have for their citizens, whereas the poorer countries are bereft of these in practice even when there are constitutional guarantees. Friendship without any strings is the first step towards forging alliances. Our archaic customs, traditions, norms and habits must be changed before our work as a friend to the extreme poor is crowned with success and they take their rightful place in the mainstream.
Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1
Dhaka

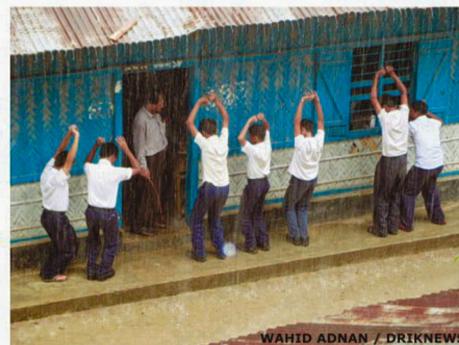
BSF cowardice

A fifteen-year-old girl named Felani died a pathetic death on the border. This death shocked the whole country. A fifteen-year-old teenaged girl can be anything but a criminal. It's really very shocking. We all should stand beside her father. We strongly believe that the whole incident would be investigated and the criminals would be punished. BSF should bear in mind that killing a helpless girl does not show bravery.
Pradip Das
A lecturer
BHPI, CRP

British crown and Prince Charles

Prince Charles now believes that he may not be able to wear the British Crown during his lifetime which could allow him to sit on the English Throne. Most people of Great Britain and its colonies which are the most civilised and sensible part of the world are of impression that Prince Charles should not become King after his mother which he does not deserve to be. Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II maintained the aristocracy of the royal crown and did nothing that could insult the sanctity of the crown and for that she is loved and respected by the British people till today.
Kazi Mizanur Rahman
Banani
Dhaka

No more punishment, please



WAHID ADNAN / DRKNEWS

We offer our sincere congratulations to the High Court for declaring corporal punishment illegal in all its inhuman forms such as caning, beating, chaining, forced haircut and confinement, in all schools primary, secondary and madrassas.

HC described corporal punishment as "a clear violation of children's fundamental rights to life and liberty" and warned teachers. During the successful campaign by Sir Frank Peters to abolish corporal punishment in Bangladesh (for which we sincerely thank him), he pointed out many truths about its long-time horrific effects. He logically answered many questions that we as parents had avoided for decades. When my wife and I read his views last year, it opened our eyes and we started to view the situation differently. We wrote a letter to the headmaster and all teachers for banning corporal punishment. We also told them the length of our boys' hair is a family matter. The result is we now have two happy sons. As the new school year approaches, we urge all parents to write to the headmasters as we did. This will send the message to the teachers that their behaviour is under observation.
Altaf Uddin, Uttara, Dhaka

International Airport in Dhaka and upgrade all services within the airport. This will save public exchequer.
Mohammad Rahman

Bangladesh already has 3 international and 18 domestic airports, we don't need anymore airport and waste money. Dhaka and Sylhet has international flight facilities, Chittagong airport can also operate international flight like emirates, gulf air, etc.
People need food, clothes, house, gas electricity, water. 18 airports are more than enough for a 56000 square mile country.
Sham

It is fully unnecessary to build up a new airport in our country. The sanctioned amount for the new airport may be used to reduce food crisis for our citizens by importing rice.
Md. Amzad Hossain

If Bangladesh can spare 50000 crore of Taka for airport construction which is not necessary now, it should transfer this money to the fund meant for poverty alleviation. People will be served better in this way.
Anonymous

1. Bangladesh needs a standard airport but officials still don't know how to manage existing ones.
2. current one could be updated in a cost effective way.
Dr. Karim

The general mass has no interest in this new airport. The govt. should not try to force the people to accept it.
Shahriar Kabir

No airport at the cost of people's livelihood! There is always pressure of population and they have to be fed. Everyday the land available for farming is taken away by building new houses, both in the cities and in the rural areas, and erosion. People need food and not airports.
Anonymous

Planning to build a second Airport around Dhaka is ridiculous, when the existing one is almost idle all day, sometimes it gives a deserted look. We need more roads, flyovers, etc. GOB must seriously think and not waste the country's meager resources.
Stanford Pereira

This is outrageous!
Seems, Arial Beel is turning into the Govt's Nandigram (West Bengal)! Let's all be driven by common sense, logic and not whim!
Rover

Bluntly put, Bangladesh does not need another airport. Please expand the existing one and make it more efficient. Arial Beel and other natural habitats need protection and preservation!
Dev Saha

We all know that a lot of people are going to suffer! Yes the poor will be given a few pence and told to move on!! A few ruling MP and their family will become stinking rich!! This beel produces a lot of food for lakhs of people! It also sucks all the flood water out of towns and cities near to it! Where will the flood water go? When you build a airport on this water body?
Humyun Khan