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A Nobel Laureate becomes global personality

Our Hon. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni asserted on Friday 04 March, 2011 that the removal of Dr. Muhammad Yunus from the top position of Grameen Bank will not strain Bangladesh's diplomatic relations with the United States terming the removal decision a domestic issue which has been taken in accordance with law.

Well, I think there is no justification for getting so much concerned about whoever thinking or saying what about Dr. Yunus or the govt. decision since the action has been taken as per the law of the country.

Meanwhile, many would agree with me that when someone gets a Nobel Prize, s/he becomes a global personality. And it is to be noted that the esteemed Nobel Committee decides the award through a lengthy process. As such, USA and other country's concern are genuine in respect of Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

Removal of Prof Yunus

The nation that does not revere its jewels is a doomed nation. Dr Yunus has brought so much pride, and so much joy for the whole nation, yet he finds himself out of favour with the government within five years of winning the Nobel Prize. He has conceived, groomed and brought Grameen Bank to where it is now. Grameen Bank is the product of his blood and sweat. Millions of people around the world know of Bangladesh and show some respect for Bangladesh because of Dr Yunus.

In a country where the political process is far from perfection, and in a society where corruption is rampant, the government through Bangladesh Bank finds it expedient to separate Dr Yunus from his child. When the government utilises employment rules (age limit) to remove him from Grameen Bank, have politicians in Bangladesh ever thought of their retirement? It is quite common in the western world for politicians to retire, but not in Bangladesh.

Abandoned in Libya!

That was the fate of our workers, as reported in Palma's front page column in your daily on 3rd March, that records the stark failure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Expatriate Ministry! Our workers were, as reported, left destitute, helpless and hungry! Even desperate telephone calls were countered with false promises. Meanwhile, as stated by our workers who suffered there, Thailand, Vietnam and even Nepal could remove their workers to safe place from near the Egyptian borders and gave them food, shelter and safety, before sending them home! Our unfortunate workers were left helpless, hungry and lost in the desert!

Since our bureaucrats, bound within the boundaries of files, notes and approvals, are totally impotent in taking any positive physical action with our resources, note was sent to IOM, and their job was done! QED. What could be done, was done by IOM.

Shame on the government who are busy in getting the expatriate's foreign exchange, but when their desperate help is needed, only reassurance and advice (not to leave Libya) are dished out from air-conditioned ministry offices in Dhaka! Will any one be punished or taken to task for this shortcoming? No, they will probably be moved up! Why? It is for saving GOB money for not doing anything physical for rescuing our stranded fellow citizens in troubled Libya!

Helpless Bangladeshi
Dhaka



PHOTO: AFP

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star report headlined "Anti-graft hope hinges on JS"

Abu Zubair

It seems that government don't want a strong ACC, because every day it may do corruption through its different political wings with the help of some government officials.

NRB

I am honestly baffled by this. How can the elected representatives claim to represent the people when all they are doing is giving themselves legal cover for their own misdeed? This proposed change will make them the overlord of Bangladesh where they will be above the law and be free to steal as much as possible under the protection of the law. Only in Bangladesh can you use the law to steal and plunder.

Md Russell Talukder

Introducing such a law by the present government may, in fact, eliminate the difference between the government formed by the collaborators of Pakistan in 1971 and the government formed by freedom fighters, as it will create unlawful discrimination among the people of a democratic and independent country.

Anonymous

I found a ridiculous argument of the government regarding why government permission is necessary for filing a case against the government officers: They do secret work. Monetary transactions are always done in secret. Actually, the point is not secret work but bribe. ACC will not interfere in the secrecy; it will interfere when money is taken secretly.

Md Sharif Hasan Limon

The amendment initiated with an ill motive and ended up with that objective. Present government with its unprecedented majority could really make a strong ACC for the future, which is urgent for development. However, they used it to secure something that is open secret.

Anonymous

Bangladesh is one of the top corrupt countries of the world. Corruption has become an integral part of our daily life. Corrupts are not being punished but attempts have been under way to reward them by making the ACC an ineffective institution.

Our government could consider, among others, the following issues before any amendment to the existing ACC law: (1) who are making corruption in Bangladesh? (2) The background behind corruption (3) How to punish corrupts? (4) What type of institution we need so that corrupts would no longer escape from their wrong doings? (5) What type of legal framework we need to arrest and punish the corrupt and (6) Expectation of general mass concerning combating corruption. It is time to demand an effective, strong, and independent ACC and thereby to eradicate corruption from Bangladesh.

Dr Mokhesur Rahman

The nation expects a stronger ACC.

Md SI Bhuiyan

Who cares whether the act is right or wrong? The aim is to keep the bureaucrats and government officials immune to the law.

Dr Karim

We know most deeds and agreements made by the secretariat for the last few decades had not served the nation. We need to analyse those past deeds.

Very sad, indeed

Usually, the people of Bangladesh are very friendly and cooperative. But, the incident that occurred on Friday was very sad. A few aggressive people threw stones towards the bus which was carrying the cricketers of West Indies. It was a very shocking news for the Bangladeshis abroad. As a host country, it is our duty to ensure the foreign players' security.

I would like to request all Bangladeshis not to act like this again.

Riddik Choudhury
England

Contamination of the water bodies

The front page picture of The Daily Star on February 28, 2011 says it all. Rivers and canals are like the veins in a human body which serve as a life line for a particular region. The country has become the victim of greed and lust of some people in the absence of a true patriotic leader/ government.

Can you imagine putting toxic chemicals into your veins? What would be the consequence?

The aquatic lives have almost disappeared because of this ruthless contamination of the water bodies.

The poor living on the banks of such rivers are the worst victims of such contamination, as they have to depend directly on these contaminated water bodies. Then the entire nation is gradually affected. This contaminated water is used for different purposes like irrigation which affects the crops, bathing and feeding the cows and other domestic animals-- which in turn affect the end users, the people at large.

Saleh Ayub, On e-mail

Social safety net



SALIM MAHFUZ / DRINKNEWS

Any democratic pro-people government bears constitutional and moral obligations to create suitable conditions for the socially marginalised and extremely vulnerable population of the country so that they are able to at least live and die with minimum human dignity. Bangladesh, unfortunately, for various different reasons has been teeming with formidable number of such type of people both in urban and rural areas. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the government regardless of party divide to put in place institutionalised, class-specific, sustainable programmes to address this awful situation urgently.

Here I would like to short-list these people in following manner:

- Sick-retired employees in govt/semi-govt/autonomous bodies in dire financial condition.
- Unskilled workers in vast, varied and unregulated informal sectors of economy.
- Marginal and landless farmers.
- Infirm, homeless, terminally ill, physically disabled, mentally deranged poor people.
- Orphans, social victims.
- Drug addicts.

After nearly four decades of our independence any further denial to confront this vital national problem may, I am afraid, stoke anger, fuel crime and lawlessness at home and also greatly demean our national image abroad.

SA Samad
General Manager (Retd)
Janata Bank, Dhaka

Distant warning signal for Bangladesh

Even after four decades, the political leaders are not leaning their lessons. They think that they were invincible, and above the law, and public opinion. The political unrest in North African and Middle East countries, are signs of change, which might affect political cultures all over the world, including Bangladesh.

The dynasty rule culture in Bangladesh has to go. It has failed to generate national consensus. It is like living in the past, chanting and relying on past names. The current leaders get no credit, and it is not inspiring for the young generation. A developing nation has to look into the future, and to prepare the foundation based on present realities in this global village of today. The public awareness factor even

in the rural areas has increased tremendously in this digital age due to the immense popularity of mobile telephone.

Our politics today is mainly controlled by the two parties. This cannot last forever. Another important point is the geographical location of Bangladesh, which is sandwiched between India on the West and the East, and the high Himalayas on the North, and the Bay of Bengal in the South.

Therefore the neighbourly relations have to be pragmatic. There are landlocked smaller countries around Bangladesh, with the latter providing quick and cheaper port outlets. The transit facilities cannot be ignored.

Ours is a fertile land with lots of human resources; but the efficiency of the political governance is stalled at the lowest ebb. Why cannot we produce better leadership?
A Mawaz, Dhaka

What a shame!

It is a matter of great pride and honour that a part of World Cup Cricket 2011 is being held in Bangladesh. Nobody can deny that it is a great occasion for our nation known to many as a poor one fighting against natural calamities, wide spread corruption, over population and illiteracy. This World Cup Cricket has brought an opportunity for us to show the world that like others we have also our own culture, heritage and natural beauties.

What happened in the opening ceremony was a shame for the nation. The organisers should have realised that Bangladesh was not liberated to be used by other nation(s) to serve their interest. To be more specific, we, as a nation, are grateful to our neighbour India for their help in our Liberation War, but they should refrain from using Bangladesh in a way that reflects their national narrowness. It is the duty of our government to look after our national image.

Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque
Khalishpur R/A, Khulna

December 21, 2012

The world is passing through a very difficult time, unrest has erupted in many countries across the Middle East, natural calamities like floods, cyclones, earthquakes, forest fires are taking a huge toll of lives and properties all over the world, crimes of all sorts have gone up considerably.

From the internet I came to know of the 2012 end of the world predictions, which was put forward by many scholars who studied the end of Mayan long calendar. This Long Count calendar has lasted for five thousand one hundred and twenty five years, and although the end of the calendar leads to many different interpretations, one of the most popular beliefs is that at the end of this cycle, the world (or humanity's existence) will come to an abrupt end on December 21, 2012.

The current cycle of this calendar began on August 13th 3114 B.C. This marked the end of the last period and beginning of the current one. The cycle in which we are living is the thirteenth and the end of this cycle is one that has been considered to have a large level of importance to the Mayan people, which is why so many people have come to the conclusion that this cycle's end will mean the end of the world.

Now we can only wait and see what happens.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

What a victory!



PHOTO: AFP

Ireland's three wicket victory over mighty England at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore on Wednesday caused one of the major upsets in the cricketing history of the 2011 World Cup. Chasing a total of 327, Ireland at one stage was reeling at 111 losing five vital wickets. But it was wicketkeeper Kevin O'Brien who stole the limelight by knocking the fastest century in the history of World Cup that made him the absolute hero overnight. His majestic knock of 113 in just 63 balls paved the way for Ireland to clinch the upsetting victory.

At the beginning of the game we all assumed that this was going to be a repetition of the game that Sri Lanka played with Kenya the day before at

Premadasa Stadium. But Ireland proved that cricket is a game of uncertainty and anything can happen in this game. Should we say England was over confident or Ireland surely played a better game? We all are amazed at Ireland's spectacular performance.

I think Bangladesh team should watch the video of this game again and again with their coach and find out their areas of weakness. I think our middle order batsmen should improve their batting performance and our fielding got to get better.

Heartiest congratulations to Ireland for their awesome performance!
Humayun Hyder
Zikatola, Dhaka