



PHOTO: STAR

We can also wait.....

It took six World Cups for Sachin Tendulkar to finally fulfill his dream and it took 28 years for India to lift the trophy again. I remember in the 1996 edition, the entire Indian team was dependent on him. In 1999, came Ganguly and Dravid to ease some burden but yet expectation from Sachin was sky high. In 2003, India started gaining some balance and in 2007 despite their poor campaign, they were pre-tournament favourites. And in 2011, they had players

like Gambhir, Kohli, Raina who could carry the weight. It takes time for a cricketing nation to reach the top spot. Arjuna Ranatunga said in an interview that he and Arvinda struggled for 16 years to finally become champions in 1996. Our media should not put undue pressure on our national cricketers. The hype they create raises too many expectations. Patience will pay for sure.

Wasif Wahed, *On e-mail*

Exorbitant fares

I am a resident of Dhanmondi, I have a small business in Shahbag. Like other days, this morning I got up early and went to the local bus counter. When I reached the counter, I found a small crowd there. Some people were quarreling with the ticket seller. After a while I understood that it was because of the hike of the ticket prices. The ticket seller said that the price of CNG has almost doubled and they had no other option but to raise the ticket price. The people were flabbergasted by this sudden notice. However, the question is why and how did the country suddenly fall into such a gas crisis that it led the authorities to hike the price? The bus owners, CNG/taxi drivers, and even rickshawallas (though they have no business with CNG) took this opportunity and charged high fares. I think it is just the beginning. The food prices will rise soon because of CNG price hike, which was seen in the past.

Md. Nazmul Hasan
Shankar, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank's bizarre moves

Bangladesh Bank implements fiscal policies and is the watch-dog over institutions dealing in money. To date they have performed admirably.

Lately, they have failed twice. First, commercial banks were allowed into the stock market beyond their prescribed limits. Consequently share values flew high only to crash. In between, people intimately connected with the capital and money markets made fortunes, leaving millions pauperized. Will the inevitable "action" on the probe be mere eye-wash?

Secondly, more serious, is their sudden awakening from slumber to "sack" a person who alone has brought more prestige to our country than the whole bunch of 'luminaries' together. How could they allow a person to preside and run a peoples' bank "unlawfully" for 10 years? What incompetence? Before sacking him, shouldn't the FMs and Governors of BB from 2000 to 2011 be asked to show cause and shouldn't some senior heads in Banking Control roll?

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Bravo, Julian Assange!

We have learnt from various media outlets that WikiLeaks founder 39-year-old world-famous Australian hacker, Julian Assange has been awarded with the Sydney Peace Foundation's gold medal. The organization, affiliated with the University of Sydney, said the prize was awarded for his 'exceptional courage in pursuit of human rights.' It is a prestigious honor which has previously been won by Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama.

It may be mentioned that some American politicians said WikiLeaks should be defined as an international terrorist organization. However, the foundation's director Professor Stuart Rees said, "We think the struggle for peace with justice inevitably involves conflict, inevitably involves controversy." "We think that Julian Assange and WikiLeaks have brought about what we think is a watershed in journalism and in freedom of information and potentially in politics."

We also hope like Julian that this award will make explicit the link between peace and justice.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Two shocking resignations

We have seen two significant as well as shocking resignation events published in The Daily Star on 13th May. One is about Nobel laureate Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus who brought Bangladesh back to the seat of glory again in 40 years after Independence. Perhaps this unlucky man has forgotten that we already have lost all sense of shame as a nation. In fact, this is an example of personal envy and a conflict between power and fame. And, we all know that power has won the race ultimately. Dr. Yunus is now a global personality. So our expatriate citizens will fall in an embarrassing situation in the days to come. Another resignation event is about Honorable Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman who has been ignored for the two consecutive times in appointment of Chief Justice. Everybody knows the reason behind this. But this is not a good practice at all and an impediment to establish an independent judiciary in its true sense.

Shadhin Rahamam
Rahman Nagar
Chittagong

Livelihood of coastal people



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

The livelihoods of millions of people in coastal areas are getting from bad to worse day by day. They are living below the poverty line. There are three reasons behind their untold sufferings i.e. i) Natural calamities like cyclones, tidal bores; ii) Poverty, unemployment, lack of medical care and treatment; and iii) No easy or suitable means of communication from coastal area to upazila/district headquarters.

Hardly our ministers, MPs, DCs, higher govt. officials, and also our political leaders visit the coastal areas. We would request all concerned to move forward and do something good for socio-economic welfare of our coastal people.

O.H. Kabir
Wari
Dhaka

Honourable PM, please show courage

It is alleged that Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, out of frustration and deep anguish, once said, "Everyone gets gold mines, I have got thieves mines." But I wonder what he would have said about the present condition of the country if he was alive. The thieves' mines are also producing robbers, murderers, rapists, hijackers, swindlers and criminals of all sorts.

His daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has failed completely to contain the criminal activities; people are passing their days cowering in fear. Home Ministry's attitude is baffling, when lootings, killings, arsons and many other heinous crimes are increasing day by day. Home Minister Sahara Khatun is placidly declaring that law and order is better than before.

We request the PM to take the matter seriously and like her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, show the courage to call 'a spade a spade'.

We have noticed that many activists of Awami League are engaged in un-lawful activities, people are afraid to lodge complaints against them and even if they go to the police, most of the times, the police do not record the cases.

Nur Jahan, Chittagong

Why play football?

Let's park cars!

It is a well known fact that Dhaka city boasts the fewest number of playgrounds; five or six in Dhanmondi, three in Gulshan and Banani, and six more in the rest of the city. I happen to play football in one of those fields. Lately, playing football has become a hazard. Why? It's really hard to play football if cars are constantly coming inside the field to park. Why are cars parked in a playground? Because the local goons have a lot of power, and none of them really plays football, so the best thing to do is to earn some money by securing the field as a parking area. What should we do? Play while the field can still support sports?

Asifur Rahman Khan
Circuit House Road
Ramna, Dhaka

Trinamool triumphs



Mamata Banerjee storms Bengal and makes Buddhadev say goodbye to his long 34 years of ruling in West Bengal. Mamata express railed the Leftists off the track on Friday, the 13th of May 2011. Thus, the glossy red color of the Leftists will no longer shine in the corridors of West Bengal as it will be taken over by the green of Trinamool. It seems that the screaming of Ma, Mati and Manush by Mamata has really helped Trinamool in getting a landslide victory for her party. But it will be interesting to see how they counter hungry millions of West Bengal at present and also in the future. Although Leftists consider politics as their religion, their prayers were unheard by their voters. Democracy, which has got many wings, will have to be catered well by Mamata in order to make her party do well. Let us all keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best.

Zahid A. Choudhury
Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

Written and spoken English

I am of the view that the Bangladeshi need, among other things, increased exposure to written and spoken English. The Daily Star and other English-language dailies are dependable and cost-effective forums for facilitating, in part, such an exposure. To this end, The Daily Star, for instance, could allocate more space to editorial page columns and articles written by Bangladeshi writers. The increased spending could be sustained by known as well as novel revenue generators. As and when more write-ups get published in The Daily Star more frequently, this is likely to encourage people to keep writing in English. In today's world, we need ease, comfort, confidence and poise in English like we need oxygen in our body.

Professor Jamal Khan
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Dr. Yunus' place in history!

Ahmed's analytical and incisive, though rather emotional article on the matter, published in your pages on May 11th; is a 'must read' material for the decision makers in our government. The writer rationally states that punitive action against Dr. Yunus can in the long run be harmful for Bangladesh as he is the blue-eyed boy for those in the world who matter; naturally led by the USA; with the EU nor far behind! Ominous days lie ahead for us!

Will this be a "macro" example of our Government's "act in haste and repent at leisure" for us? One can only wonder!

So, now what? Will the 'Powers that Be' evolve a solution; or will it be the square root of minus one; which is an imaginary figure as per mathematical determination! All said and done; the suggestion of making him "ambassador at large" may be the taken, 'hook line and sinker'!

Yunus Watcher, Dhaka

NATO's action in Libya is condemnable
Killing of innocent people particularly children by any quarter is equal to an act of terrorism and barbarism. The way the NATO warplanes recently killed the Libyan dictator Gaddafi's innocent son and pre-teens grandchildren is barbaric and deserves condemnation in any score of human values. I would sincerely request the United Nations to apply any other simple way to compel Muammar Gaddafi to step down accepting the reality and rescue his own countrymen from being perished.

May God bless humans the insight to appreciate what is right and true.

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

The BCCI influence

Tony Greig, the famous cricket commentator has rightly said that BCCI has been influencing the International Cricket Council (ICC). I would like to draw attention of all readers that there might have been some arrangement between BCCI & ICC to make India the ICC world cup champions of 2011. Comments please!

CNG price hike



BD govt. has taken a bad decision; the CNG price is now Taka 25 per cubic meter. Govt. officials said that they would not consider lowering the price for the rich people. Last caretaker govt. increased the CNG price from Tk. 8.50 to Tk. 16.75. My question to the present AL govt. officials - what will you do for the poor people of Bangladesh with this extra revenue income? Govt. will earn 5 thousand crore taka by increasing this CNG price. It said that the CNG price is still lower than that of India and Pakistan. It is absolutely wrong information. I think by utilizing this opportunity, some people will make extra profits by increasing the transportation cost and food price. The govt. is taking big projects such as Elevated expressway, Padma Bridge etc. They are not interested in implementing small projects for the benefit of poor people. I request the rich people; please try to avoid using CNG. Please use other fuels at least 4 days a week for your cars to stop the corruption.

Tuhin, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Readers' instant comments on

The Daily Star Online reports.

Log on to thedadlystar.net to

leave your comments.

Farmers beam at Boro boom

Credit given to govt steps, good weather (May 19, 2011)

It's a common observable fact that the price of rice sharply increases when the production is not as much as expected to be. But this year we get a bumper harvest of Boro. Is this going to decrease the price of rice? The government didn't give any statement about this problem of common people. They should be happy when they can really make it possible to reduce the price of rice.

Farhana

It is undeniable that governments sure-footed decision to subsidise

the each ingredients of farming. At the same token, farmers should get some credits for their tireless efforts to make this things happen.

Nasirullah Mridha

This is really a great achievement of our hardworking farmers. Agriculture Minister deserves praise for her excellent supervision, co-operation and monitoring the entire agriculture sector.

Md. Abdul Hannan

Greetings to our farmers who have

made it possible. They are the heart of our nation. But if this production boom is unable to decrease the high rice price then their efforts and huge outputs would not be recognised by the rest of the citizen, where almost 43% live under the poverty line.

Iqbal Ehsan Shovon

Does anybody accord 'public reception' to our farming community?

Rover

Congratulation to farmers and govt. officials for their success. But this success has no value if we can't control overgrowing population. Population growth is our number one problem. A small country like Bangladesh should have eight million people rather than 16 million.

Kazi Rashidul

Great achievement for the government and amazing work by the farmers.