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## Poor jute marketing strategy!



FIROZ GAZI/ DRINKNEWS

This year farmers have sown jute on 20% more land after seeing its good price in the previous year.

But it is unfortunate that raw jute price fell by 23 percent this season as reported in a local daily. So the farmers, especially those who have grown jute on leased land, will incur loss.

The reason of this price-fall, reportedly, is the present large stockpiles and low demand from foreign buyers. It is said that among the foreign buyers the Middle East, North African countries and Turkey buy 66 percent of Bangladeshi yarn to use as a raw material to make carpets.

The authority shows that debt crisis in Europe and the ongoing unrest in the Middle East dampened the demand for this environment-friendly fiber. But is it sure and are we really promoting our jute with a rich marketing strategy to explore new markets at home and abroad.

**Mobarak Ali**  
RK Mission Road  
Gopibagh, Dhaka

### How can we stop it?

The neighbouring area of Bakshi Bazar area is very important as it hold several educational institutions like BUET, Begum Badrunnessa College, Dr. Shahidullah College, two educational boards (Dhaka and Madrasa), residence and premises of Dhaka Aalia Madrasa. Inside the playground of Alia Madrasa, the magistrates carry out judicial activities of the convicts of the Dhaka Central Jail. The media personalities assemble here every now and then.

Just the west of Aalia Madrasa playground, there is a lane that leads to Chawkbazar, the oldest and the biggest business hub of the city. The lane is safe at daylight. But with the onset of evening, the place plunders into darkness as there are no lights on either sides of the lane. Snatchers, drug addicts and other miscreants become active at night. A few days back, snatchers took away 15 lakh taka from a businessman. Snatching of a mobile phone from a boy followed. Muggers (probably they are drug addicts) ran away with several pieces of new clothes and money from an old lady. How can we get relief from such miscreants? If Dhaka City Corporation authority ensured lights in the lane and members of law enforcing agency increased patrolling in the area, I believe, the situation would be safer at night.

**Salman Islam Sadib**  
Maple Leaf International School  
Dhaka

### Power generation with imported fuel

The consumption of power per person in any country is considered as a yardstick of development.

But in the context of Bangladesh, we cannot afford to generate electricity with the costly "Rental Power" generator.

A decade back, Bangladesh used to import oil to the tune of 25- 28 lakhs tonne where about 60% of the total was diesel and of which 70% was for agriculture for running of tubewells to cater for the needs of irrigation.

Now, we understand annual import of petroleum will rise to the level of 69 -70 lakhs tonne and rental power alone will require about 22lakhs tonne per year for quick generation of power and which will ultimately burden the user. The international price of petroleum is the most unstable commodity and none of our cost calculations can accommodate the variant nature of price.

We, therefore, need to harness our great reserve of coal and with urgent priority to formulate coal policy with the help of national and international expertise to generate power with coal.

The coal generation power plant will reduce the cost to half or even less.

The statistics shows that, for generation of power coal is used as fuel as much as 81% by China, 76% by Australia, 94% by south Africa, 64% by India while the U.K's consumption is not readily available.

We feel that, by the process of rental power plant the country is jumping from fry pan to fire.

**Sirajul Islam**  
Paribagh, Dhaka

### Metro Rail

I read with interest the post editorial captioned 'Metro rail and the public interest' by Syed Badrul Ahsan (DS- 12th October). I fully agree with the views aired by him and would like to add a few relevant points. The aim of the metro railway system is to ease the unbearable intolerable crippling traffic jam and accord alternate pathways for public movement. By opposing the alignment thru' Bijoy Sarani BAF officials have arrogantly ignored the supreme public interest. They have come up with some lame and untenable excuses and suggested alternate difficult routes.

For all practical purposes old Tejgaon airport is an almost abandoned one. The airport is sometimes used for flying small aircraft. When was the last time an emergency and war situation arose in Bangladesh and BAF was pressed into combat operations? The answer is in the negative. Considering the geographical location of Bangladesh, and with friendly countries around, such situations are very unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future. Bangladesh is no longer a part of Pakistan that is always at loggerheads with India.

We urge the democratic government and Prime Minister to prevail upon BAF and approve the Bijoy Sarani route for better and speedy implementation of the Metro project.

**Dr. SN Mamoon, On e-mail**

### Execution of Bangladeshis

I had to recoil with deep shock and pain by learning about the eight Bangladeshis being executed in Saudi Arabia in a medieval way, they were beheaded in public for killing one person. We despise this act.

Why Bangladesh government failed to do anything to save those people from this horrible fate is not clear. We learnt that five more Bangladeshis are on death row in Saudi Arabia. We urge the government to become active and save them. The government must not waste time and pursue the matter immediately.

If any citizen of western countries murders someone in Saudi Arabia for some reason or other, will that person be executed in this manner? I am sure Saudi Arabia will not dare to punish him in this way.

**Nur Jahan**

### Rejoinder to the editorial styled 'The vanishing acts'

The editorial styled 'The vanishing acts' published in The Daily Star on 4 October 2011 has come to our notice. While appreciating your timely effort to highlight the serious human rights concern in regard to 'disappearance', we noticed that the editorial has misquoted the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission in writing-

'This phenomenon certainly worrying and we strongly endorse the sentiments of the rights body as well as the Chairman of the NHRC, that the matter has taken an alarming proportion after the assumption of office by the AL led grand alliance.'

The NHRC chairman has termed the situation alarming but did not mentioned that it has taken an alarming proportion after the assumption of office by the AL led grand alliance, as the Commission does not have any statistics to claim so. In this regard, let's highlight the report by your reporter Rashidul Hassan titled- Rights worry over 'disappearances', published on Monday, October 3, 2011, on which your editorial is based. The report reads-

Speaking at a discussion in the capital yesterday, Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman said, "We are concerned over police and Rab personnel taking away people. Some just disappear while some end up being bodies dumped on roads.

"We never wanted this Bangladesh. This cannot be the spirit of our Liberation War; this is certainly violation of human rights."

"Human rights cannot be protected without assistance from the state. Unfortunately, the state itself violates human rights, and yet we have to turn to it for redressing the situation," said a lamenting Mizanur.

Under this circumstance, we think the editorial might provide rather a wrong message. At this point we would like to make it clear that no doubt 'disappearance' is a matter of concern and continuous news on 'involuntary disappearance' is a serious human rights concern. The NHRC do not assess the situation with numbers, rather we consider a single case is also a serious human rights violation and we sought for the number 'O' in this regard.

We thank you for your continuous support.

**Shamim Ahmed**  
Secretary (Acting)  
National Human Rights Commission, Dhaka

### Opening new banks

There are enough banks to maintain the economic strength of this country. Permission to open new private banks will only introduce bad competition and exploitations of the employees. It is crystal clear that black money holders will be the shareholders of these banks and permission will be given on the basis of political consideration. Perhaps the government is going to destroy the only functioning banking sector like the share market. Instead of giving new banks the government needs to expand the existing banks with all out monitoring that will be the appropriate step to save our economy.

**Mohammad Zahidul Islam**  
Senior Officer  
Pubali Bank Ltd  
Shariatpur Branch  
Shariatpur

## Save the Taj



PHOTO: AFP

According to news reports recently published in different national dailies, the glorious Taj Mahal is now on the verge of collapse due to its rotting foundations. Reports say that cracks have appeared in many parts of the tomb and the four minarets are showing signs of tilting. Historians and environmentalists are of the opinions that if necessary retrofitting works are not done at the foundation of the Tajmahal, the magnificent monument, may collapse within two to five years!

The Taj Mahal, one of the greatest architectural wonders of the world, does not belong to India alone, rather it is a precious treasure of human civilization. We urge the Indian government to take immediate steps for starting repair work of the Taj Mahal. We also urge UNESCO and other world bodies to provide with the necessary technical expertise to save this gem of world heritage.

**Md Mohsin Ali**  
Nutan Courtpara  
Kushtia

Since beginning of this century the global economy has been passing through a very hard time. Huge fiscal deficit, downgrading of sovereign debt, bank's credit etc. are some of the major factors contributing to making this situation. USA and some leading EU nations are primarily responsible for the mess.

However, my point of contention is not this phenomenon isolated from the very fundamental cause.

The vital question is how interwoven global financial system of trade and transaction ends up with such a grim fate leading to virtual collapse of almost all leading economies of the world! This shows some serious weakness of dysfunction inherent within the system itself. Statistics reveal that the system, over decades, widened further divide between the rich and the poor, made rich richer and poor poorer, relentlessly multiplied number of poor men and women, brought about unemployment, hunger, disease, death, homelessness, disparity, conflict, environmental disaster and so on and so forth all around the world.

Therefore, logically speaking, unless there is a paradigm shift, existing global financial system, whether some economies at some point come up with good showing, offers no sustained hope to overwhelming majority of the world population.

**SA Samad**  
General Manager( Retd.)  
Janata Bank  
Boro Moghbazar, Dhaka

## READERS respond

*Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "2 other financiers now opt to 'wait'"*

#### New Horizon

That is disheartening news for Bangladesh. Yet, Bangladeshi people are looking forward to building the bridge.

#### Manzoor Ashraf

It will be a great shame if WB and other creditors withdraw funds for this project and also it will be harmful for our national interests.

#### Rasel

We are worried about the future of Padma Bridge. The government is talking so much, but doing nothing for the betterment of the country. We are waiting eagerly to watch the government's steps against corruption.

#### Husna

Being a poor country, we should not be addicted to loans which can turn Bangladesh into Greece. We should use our own money and develop the country gradually. This way, we can avoid paying astronomically high interest rates.

#### Dr Islam

Apparently it seems we are not getting enough cooperation from the donors for our Padma Bridge project; but finance it in a different way. Transparency is the demand of the whole nation. It could be a blessing in disguise. We want the country free from corruption.

#### Freeman

We see in different newspapers that the Communications Minister Abul Hossain engaged himself in corrupt practices through his daughter's trading company. Every time we see that as soon as one becomes a minister, one starts a number of trading enterprises with relatives, sons and daughters. This is a shame for our country.

#### Eddo Brandis

That is the face of AL government. The chief gave a speech of no-tolerance against graft in USA recently so that development associates remained assured of her government's sincerity. She said she would not sit with BNP chief as they are corrupt. AL chief just used camouflage to do something in hiding and at the same time send a warning message to the media not to write about her minister's corruption.

#### Anonymous Bangalee

Bangladesh must learn some lessons from this: do not ignore the donors when you need their help. It must learn the skills of diplomacy. Saying something bluntly without realizing its consequences may do a lot of harm to the country. Secondly, the international community has been asking for transparency in its activities. Bangladesh has been ranked as the most corrupted country in the world. Try to get out of it and the sooner it is the better.

#### Upfront

The country's development is almost halted by the action of the donors by postponing/delaying the assistance programme for the Padma Bridge project. Our internal politics is playing its game, while the people are paying the price. This is a project loan tied up with goods and services and the people's money will be spent to repay the loan.

My request to the communication minister would be to kindly resign and then fight and give prove that you are honest and not involved in any corrupt practice in dealing with the project.

## Waiting upon global economy



PHOTO: AFP