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Honouring Bangladesh's foreign friends



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A friend in need is a friend indeed. Some foreign friends contributed a lot for the emancipation of Bangladesh from the clutches of Pakistani occupation forces during 1971. Some days ago Bangladesh honoured those foreign friends who strongly deserved to be honoured. Our heartfelt gratitude to the friends who came to Bangladesh to be honoured. It is a good initiative by the government to honour our foreign friends who made invaluable contribution during our war of independence. They (our foreign friends) drummed up support from world leaders and mobilised financial support from different organisations, countries and individuals and provided training to Mukti Bahini. On the other hand, some countries went against the birth of Bangladesh disregarding the just struggle of Bangalee people. Sadly, a section of Bangalee people helped the Pakistani army and committed all types of war crimes. They actually did not want the independence of Bangladesh. We are waiting to see due punishment to the Pakistani collaborators in this land. Without the help of our foreign friends, it would be difficult for the independent Bangladesh to claim its position on the world map. Finally, I would like to thank our government for taking such a noble initiative to honour the true friends of Bangladesh.

Md. Musfikur Rahman Jony
Baneswar, Rajshahi

Giving excess marks on answer scripts

The result of Secondary School Certificate Examination 2012 will be published very soon. Thanks to the initiatives taken by the successive two governments that quality of education has improved. Introducing creative method is a very praiseworthy initiative. Now the students have the opportunity to exhibit their potential talents. It compels the students to go through the entire textbooks.

To make this creative method effective, the government has already modified the textbooks to make those student-friendly. But there is still a serious drawback to examining the answer scripts. The examiners are instructed to give excess marks on answer scripts to increase the number of students getting golden GPA as well as to increase the number of passing students. Surely this tendency jeopardises the initiative to impart quality education. Students who are meritorious and industrious are losing their motivation to study hard when they see many a student are getting golden GPA who don't deserve it at all.

So it is high time the government and the authorities concerned took effective steps to improve the overall quality of education.

Saeed Iqbal
Lecturer in English
Millennium Scholastic School & College
Jahangirabad Cantonment, Bogra

Justice delayed, justice denied

There is a saying, 'Justice delayed is justice denied.' People already know that the no light would ever be shed over the journalist couple, Sagar-Runi murder. But the present move by the law enforcing agencies to exhume their dead bodies for viscera report surprises us. One does not need to be a criminologist to understand the necessity of viscera report. It was necessary at the beginning of the investigation. But we are optimistic and still keeping our hopes alive that the killers will be identified and punished soon.

Mizanur Rahman
MS student

Mind the education sector

Only a few years back, countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam were much like us. But now they are much ahead of us only because they gave the first priority to education and developed a huge skilled and enterprising population. On the other hand, the scene here in Bangladesh has been quite opposite.

The governments here treated education sector as unproductive and considered investment in it as wasted one. The salary and fringe benefits and its attendant prestige are very poor here. Small wonder the teaching profession could not attract good and talented people. Only those who failed to find any jobs elsewhere tried their luck in the education sector.

As a result, we have seen a sharp fall in the standard of education imparted to all levels. Besides, violence, corruption and faulty evaluation procedures have dragged education sector to a pit.

We have seen the government so long busy fighting unresponsive opposition parties keeping this vital sector unguarded and vulnerable. So we urge the prime minister to allocate highest amount of money and mind the nation's backbone, education.

Tinku
Lalpur, Natore



PHOTO: SHAFIQUL ALAM

Choose your career thoughtfully

A recent conference urged young people to choose careers that corresponded with the calling of their hearts and not go for 'the well-trodden paths'. This is surely only half-right and not kind.

My eldest brother saw a clown in a circus at 6 years old and heard his calling. In September, I return to the UK for his 80th birthday when clowns are coming from all over the world to help him celebrate! He has got to the top of his profession and lectures world-wide. But he could not earn a living doing that! He needed a parallel career in the family business to pay the mortgage and school fees!

How few are we lucky people who can say that our jobs are our true calling that fulfil our hearts' desire! Millions have to earn a living any way they can! Some young people have a passion for art, photography, the theatre, music etc - but the world does not owe you a living so you can do what YOU want to do! The 'Star Insight' has lovely stories of Bangladeshis who have earned their living on 'a well-trodden path' and (in their spare time and with their spare cash) created museums (the latest one!), developed new strains of rice and done amazing things!

Choose thoughtfully so that your life as a whole will face harsh realities but be lived to the full, serving your fellow man and celebrating and sustaining life. This is not easy and God bless all young people in the choices they make.

Angela Robinson
Gulshan, Dhaka

Missing Ilias Ali and some questions

The disappearance of Ilias Ali from near his house in Banani after midnight on April 18 along with his driver has raised many questions which are still unanswered! Why should members of the law-enforcing agencies abduct Ilias, a mid-level BNP leader from Sunamganj?

Was he a formidable political rival of any AL leader? We don't know yet. Is he still inside the country or sent abroad beyond the reach of government agencies, making it impossible for them to rescue him? As if to give credibility to the allegation brought earlier by the opposition, a slum boy has now appeared on the scene after about 10 days of the incident and claims that he saw four tall strong men at dead of night dragging Ilias Ali out of his car and left the place quickly! Can we trust him?

Why is Khaleda Zia enforcing hartals in a violent manner causing loss of lives and properties? Does she think that Ilias Ali would suddenly appear before her if hartals continue? What about the sufferings of the people? Nobody seems to care! The personal agenda of the

political leaders are all that matter. Even the HSC exams had to be postponed as they were not exempted from hartals resulting in inevitable sessions jam. Again, nobody seems to care!

Abul Mohsin
Siddheswari Circular Road
Dhaka

Nabbing killers of Sagar-Runi: Will it ever happen?

After two and a half months of their violent deaths, Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Runi's mortal remains were taken out of their graves for further investigation by RAB as police failed to shed any light on the crime. We are feeling very sad and thinking about the families of Sagar-Runi -- how painful and heart-breaking it must have been for them.

It has been said that steps were taken to make sure if the victims were drugged or poisoned before they were murdered with sharp weapons. We are bewildered with this revelation. How would it help to nab the killers is unfathomable. After the gruesome murder, police had collected all the evidences and said that significant progress was made and the killers would be caught any time but suddenly everything stopped and the law-enforcing agents admitted their failure to solve the mystery.

We demand that under no circumstance, the killers of Sagar-Runi are allowed to get away.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Remove session jam in national university

We are the students of national university. Our session was 2005-2006. Our Honour's final exams were scheduled to be held in 2009, according to our academic calendar. But it was held in September 2011 because of session jam. Now seven months have passed, but the results of our Honour's final exams have not been published as yet. In the meantime, we can not apply for jobs as our results have not been published. Even we can't take admission in Master's programme. So, we are losing invaluable time from our life.. It should be mentioned here that the private and public universities of Bangladesh are publishing their results in due time. Only the students of the national university are the sufferers. So we urge the authorities concerned to address the problem of session jams in the national university and ensure publishing of the Honours final exam results without further delay.

Md. Shamsuddin

Formulate law to save forests

According to a fact sheet of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), USA, each day 32,000 hectares of tropical forests are lost -- and illegal logging contributes to that -- causing an increase in heat-trapping emissions and the loss of biodiversity and habitat for endangered and threatened species.

In order to stop illegal logging and trade in illicit wood, the United States had passed an act called the "Lacey Act" which was amended in 2008 creating the world's first law to stop the import of illegal wood and wood products. This law has very effectively controlled illegal wood business not only in the United States but globally.

The UCS in a letter informed that a move is under way to bring some changes into the Lacey Act by the US Congress which will reduce the effectiveness of the law. It is sincerely expected that the US Congress would retain the Lacey Act in its effective form without bringing any relaxation to it. Other countries including Bangladesh can also formulate law in conjunction with the Lacey Act to control deforestation and contain illegal logging and trade of woods and forestry products.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka



PHOTO: DRINKNEWS



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Arrests, raids; leaders hiding Rizvi among 11 BNP leaders held; dozens of top opposition leaders sued for arson, bomb blast during hartal (Tuesday, May 1, 2012)

Whoever abducted Ilias Ali, find them and punish them according to the law.

Anonymous

Arresting the opposition party leaders randomly will only harden the movement of the opposition party. The people of our country by now have realised that it is easy for the government to harass the opposition leaders rather than finding the solution. Since the government has started arresting, it means it is not sincere to solve the problem.

Md. Bashir

The anarchy created in the name of hartal should not be tolerated. No one has the right to disrupt people's normal activities and livelihood. The

government must be tough against these anarchists.

Turja, Canada

I do not understand when Bangladeshi politicians will mature. One BNP leader has disappeared. This is a shame for the government because the government could not give security to the lives of the people. BNP could hold country-wide human chain to let the general people know about the failure of the AL government. Now, what is the result that BNP got by these violent protests? Burning cars can not be a part of protest.

Freeman

It is good to protest and oppose but not by putting millions of innocent lives in

jeopardy! I am not a fan of the Awami League or the BNP; I am just a neutral observer. The rule of law must prevail at all times. This senseless violence is not good either for the country, or for the people!

Rakeshfazal

No more hartal, please. Political parties should discuss the matter together.

Shamsunnahar

I think something fishy is going on when the opposition is not allowed to come on the road with any sort of procession. The more you try to oppress the opposition using the law enforcing agencies, the opposition will gain more politically. I fear the situation will be worse as warrant of arrest is being issued against almost all the prominent leaders of BNP. You just can't oppress and rule these days. The government has to take the opposition on board and run the country, otherwise worse days are not far off.

Md. Zakir Hossain

If anyone is involved in any kind of subversive activities, he/she should be charged and put on trial for the crime. However, this should not apply only

to the BNP leaders and their activists but also to the Awami League leaders, and their activists for their role before and on March 12, 2012. Photos published in various newspapers showed that Awami League leaders and activists were carrying deadly weapons alongside police as if they were a part of the police force.

Truth Teller

These attacks on vehicles should be condemned by all including the opposition leadership. Te government cannot also harass the opposition as it is undemocratic.

Manzoor Ashraf

Crossing the limit by calling hartal is a political blunder, as BNP didn't try any other peaceful means of protests. Opting for the extreme by BNP must have emboldened the government to take a tougher stance against its leaders.

BNP will lose politically if they try to create any attempt to destabilise the government, as people, no matter how badly the ruling party is performing, hate to see transition of power in any other manner except through proper and timely elections.