

Hats off to Latifur Rahman



It is a matter of great joy that one of the leading businessmen of our country has been given the “Oslo Business for Peace Award, 2012” (Also known as the Nobel in business) for contributing to society by doing ethical business. The present business environment has become highly competitive. And the business organisations do not bother about society nowadays. Mr. Latifur Rahman has showed us that even in these days of decaying ethics and morals, a business organisation can be profitably established through honesty and hard work. The societal marketing concept suggests that business must be operated by way of keeping three factors in mind -- profit, customers' needs and of course society. Until and unless a company is fully guided by these principles, it would not be able to add value to society and to itself in the long run. Hats off to Latifur Rahman!

Khondoker Rezwan Tanvir
Department of Business Administration
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology
Sylhet

Israel USA's Middle Eastern outpost

Md. Belal's essay about Iran and Israel published in your daily on May 26th does not call a spade a spade! Between the two countries, in my opinion, only Israel bites at the behest of USA, while Iran barks at USA's provocations and threats. The factual reality is much more related to the subjectivity of US interests! Israel is armed, totally supported and sustained by the world's lone superpower to carry out its dirty deeds to enable USA to corner the rich Middle East, which holds the world's biggest hydro carbon reserve. Given this scenario, whenever the opportunity of an excuse presents itself, Israel bites off any available territory from its Middle East neighbours! Now Iran is its prime target. Israel is waiting for the excuse to attack Iran and finish it off. It is the only oil rich neighbour which though near Israel, has not yet been subjugated by it like Lebanon, Egypt and Syria, among others.

Talking of strategic matters, Israel is USA's most important partner to control the proven Middle East energy resources as well as the unexplored potential of many mineral riches. Further, Israel enjoys the enviable position of being the world's only superpower's loyal and trusted watchdog!
Armchair strategist
Dhaka

Remove your glasses, home minister

Home Minister Sahara Khatun seems to be an exceptional person, she never loses her composure. When the country has become a haven for criminals, people are cowering with fear not knowing how to remain safe, she placidly announces that everything is under control, that law and order is better than ever before. Former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad rightly said "Ghore thakle khoon, rastay thakle goom". We request her to remove the glasses through which all things seem rosy to her. Once she removes the glasses, she will notice that it is dark and gloomy.

Ensure minimum wage for tea workers

It is surprising that a tea worker in Bangladesh gets Tk 45 for a day's work. How can the tea garden owners pay such extremely low wage to their workers in a democratic country? On the other hand, it is not understood how the government of Bangladesh could approve this wage? In Bangladesh a day labourer gets Tk 200 to Tk 400 in the agriculture sector along with one meal for one day's work. The wage varies from season to season. But none can imagine a day labourer getting less than Tk 200 a day. The tea companies have been making millions of taka profit every year but have been depriving the workers of minimum reasonable wage. Most of our industrialists have one thing in common -- they deprive their workers of proper wage. Till today they are not ready to recognise the contributions of the labourers at their ventures. We saw that government had to intervene to increase the minimum wage of the garment workers. But even today they are not getting reasonable wage. I would urge the government to fix the minimum reasonable wage for the tea workers. Bangladesh government must protect the basic interest of its citizens, even if they are poor tea workers.
Mohammad Ashraf Hossain
Ramna, Dhaka



Criminal attack on foreigners

There is reliable evidence of a sharp increase in the numbers of foreigners being attacked by Bangladeshi men cruising in cars around Gulshan and Baridhara, looking for those walking or in rickshaws. The attacks can be vicious and cause physical injuries and trauma. I hear that two foreigners were in such a state of shock that their employers sent them back to their home countries and excused them the second year of their contracts. Of course, travellers suffer this sort of attack all over the city. What about a handsome reward being offered to anyone taking a photo, or sending an immediate report of suspicious vehicles, resulting in an arrest? Many roads are lined with houses outside which guards have little else to do but stare at the road! Many have cell-phones that take photos and eyes in their heads that can read number plates. Those afraid that 'involvement' might involve them being attacked, only need to show a little courage. Could there be a publicised and 'dedicated' number for such attacks to be reported? It goes without saying that leather bags should be put inside plastic ones, any large quantities of money put in a security belt or zipped inner pocket and nice jewellery pocketed. As my old Headmistress used to say, 'Thou shalt not put temptation in people's way.' These attacks would not take place if previous ones had not been profitable. Otherwise, do those of us who are not always in a car have to start carrying defensive weapons? My walking stick is a good lathi but I doubt if it would be effective!

Angela Robinson
Gulshan
Dhaka

Curse of Indian serials

It is a shame that even after 41 years of independence, we do not care about our identity and indulge in watching foreign culture. However, many foreign channels like BBC, CNN and National Geographic Channel help us enrich our knowledge. But I don't understand how Indian serials help us. Isn't it a pure waste of time to watch these useless programmes? The time could be utilised with some more constructive works. These serials teach one to be vile and meddlesome about one's private matters. They also portray a negative image of women and vilify them for every disaster. But Bangladeshi women seem to enjoy it. Such is the unfortunate state of affairs. I ask everybody, especially women who are fond of Indian serials, to refrain from watching such programmes.
Tauhidul Islam
Uttara
Dhaka

Independence of judiciary



Hartal is avoidable if...

There is a Bangla adage "apna sheyan por boiragi" meaning to be well aware of one's own interest and indifferent to others' well-being. Our political parties prove this saying repeatedly by their actions. Hartal is nothing new in our country. No matter which party rules the country, the opposition parties always call hartal. They call hartal because their voices are not heard, they are not given the chance to talk. Sometimes hartal is necessary, sometimes it is unnecessary, while sometimes it is inevitable. But hartal can be avoided if the opposition is given the chance to talk freely.
Cantara Wali
On e-mail

Weather forecasting: Bangladesh style

The day before Pohela Boishakh the met office on a private TV channel warned of heavy shower on Pohela Boishakh especially in Dhaka city and also all over Bangladesh. But the sun shone with all its might on Pohela Boishakh and I had a revelation. So, this morning (16-05-2012) when I saw the news item 'Heat wave to continue for a week' on DS online edition, my heart was filled with joy. I knew at last we were going to have some respite from the ongoing hot weather. I knew a refreshing rain would come very soon. Indeed in the afternoon, a bout of shower cooled the atmosphere. We live in a poor country which lacks resources, technology etc. Surely the met office has its limitations. Maybe they should recruit some elder citizens from remote villages who can forecast better just by watching the sky.
Saif
Dhaka

Unfortunate Buriganga

Buriganga has already been made the waste disposal site of Dhaka. All the waste materials of the nearby areas are thrown into the river. The width of the river is decreasing day by day and the river has turned into a small canal. The land grabbers have taken possession of the river. A number of bamboo huts are being made every day on the river. The High Court has already declared these structures built on the river illegal. But the authorities seem to be inactive in demolishing them. The river is losing its glory day by day. If these illegal activities continue, the river will no longer exist in the future.
Abir Hossain
On e-mail

Supreme Court Bar Association president Jainul Abedin last week claimed that they are not capable of working independently due to the interference of the ruling party. It could be really a disappointing news for the people of Bangladesh if it is true. People will lose their trust in law if justice is not ensured. Independence of judiciary is a must for ensuring peace and justice in the society. Independence of judiciary is also a precondition for the smooth functioning of democracy. This claim may not be true, as the claim was made by a pro-BNP lawmaker. Maybe he has declared it in order to discredit the government which is a very common scene in our country. However, on 1st November 2007 the judiciary was separated from the executive so that it could function independently. Independence of judiciary means a fair and neutral judicial system which can afford to take its decisions without any interference of the executive branch of the government. Anyway, we hope that the statement made by the SCBA president would prove false and the judicial organ of the state will work independently. We hope justice for all in our country.
Md. Musfikur Rahman Jony
Baneswar, Rajshahi



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News Analysis

The minister, police & we (May 31, 2012)

The elaboration of the word POLICE is:
P-polite
O-obedient
L-loyal
I-intelligent
C-courageous
E-eager to help
Bangladesh police certainly don't know this.
Yamin Ibrahim

Police behaviour also takes its cue from the general political culture. As each political party cynically uses the police force for its own ends and involves them heavily in their political battles, the police also in consequence grow cynical and more brutal. It is basically the fault of their political masters.
Raihan Sharif

Why can't the media sue the police and/or state and get punitive damage? NY State had

to pay through its nose for its police brutality many times.
Imrul, USA

The minister's advice to the journalists to maintain a safe distance from the police points to the fact that government has lost the moral courage to ask the police to behave according to law. The government has been using the police force not to ensure the rule of law but to safeguard their self-interest. In any way, given the government's attitude to the rule of law, the advice to stay away from police is a timely one and better to follow, not only by the journalists but by the citizens at large.
NDS

Police should respect people and be aware of the latter's rights irrespective of their position. They may be journalists,

men or women, rich or poor etc. Instead of suggesting people that they should maintain a safe distance from the police, the minister could direct the police to be polite and respectful when dealing with the people.
Shah Asad Ahmed

Police are contributing a lot to make our society unstable. In an independent country our police force should work for the betterment of the public, but they have been used by the government for beating their opponents. It is really a shame that we pay taxes for maintaining such a force.
Saiful

In most of the third world countries when police force 'successfully' bashes the opposition on the street, they are rewarded with the immunity to commit crimes in the society-- something like give and take. Hopefully, we would not take that path.
Dr Islam

In fact, a war against journals has been declared.

Anonymous

This type of irresponsible comments and actions of the

administration are the root causes that have created the abusive culture that pervades today's law enforcement, judicial and administrative offices. Instead of holding the violators accountable, the government encourages the culture of violence. They forget that it is the people whom the government should serve and be accountable to.
Roni Rahman, USA

The majority of the people of Bangladesh think that the remark of the state minister is ridiculous. We do not know what is meant by saying "stay clear of the police". We usually find that police run from place to place where something is happening. They go after journalists, general people and the members of the opposition political parties and abuse them.
Anonymous

Is he out of his mind? Are the journalists not citizens of this country and supposed to be protected by the law enforcers?
Anonymous

One survey result shows 97.3% of the respondents said that the statement of the state minister for home affairs was ridiculous.