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# Some suggestions to resolve crisis in garment sector



A.M.AHAD / DRINKNEWS

Over the last thirty years, our garment industry has matured and stood on its own feet. The garment industry employs thousands of men and women and earns millions of dollars for Bangladesh. Undoubtedly, ours is a free market economy. But it does not mean that the garment factory owners may act for their own benefit ignoring the workers' rights and vice-versa.

If the garment industry collapses or closes down, thousands of people would become jobless and an economic catastrophe may befall our country.

In order to run our garment industry smoothly and efficiently and to save it from any ominous threat, we strongly feel and recommend that the following three steps, including others, if any, may be taken immediately by our government:

- i) A common service rules and regulations for all the garment factories may be made.
- ii) Owners of the garment factories may pay wages and overtime to the workers on or before the seventh day of each month and also the yearly bonus at least before the religious festival.
- iii) In case the owners of the garment factories fail to pay the wages, overtime and bonus, our ministry of industry may handover the failed garment factory to another successful garment factory owner or to any private individual through tender and auction.
- iv) Our ministry of industry may be held responsible for maintaining accountability, transparency, safety and security of all garment factories and the welfare of the workers and staff members of the factories.

O.H. Kabir  
 Wari, Dhaka

## NAM summit and our achievement

The whole world is in a deep turmoil due to myriads of problems. Economic recession in Europe, USA's ensuing election, Israel's fury over Iran's nuclear programme -- all these have made the world situation more volatile. Against this backdrop, NAM summit played a very important role. In the recently held summit, representatives from 100 nations participated. Iran organised the summit in the most befitting manner. The presence of these world leaders cast a deep impression over the hegemonic role of USA. However, for Bangladesh, it was a great success. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held bilateral discussions, talks and finally could seek the assistance of the developing countries. For Bangladesh, it is of utmost importance that Sheikh Hasina maintains a cordial relation both with the West and the Middle East. Maintaining a good relation can go a long way to resolve many crises.

Iran possesses the 3rd largest oil reserve in the whole world. As Bangladesh is an energy hungry country, Iran's assistance could resolve the issue to a great extent. Prime minister's bold step is appreciable in this regard despite tremendous pressure from the West. As a nation we preserve the pristine identity of an indomitable fighting force who would battle through all the odds. Let this spirit last forever.

Areebah Eshal Fiona  
 Student  
 North South University

# "Cops or criminals!"

Your headline of the photo-shot of August 29th's issue could not be better described. It's high time something was devised to control the illegal and inhuman attitude and behaviour of our so-called law enforcers. We remember too painfully the police atrocities of the past and recent past in and around the capital and one of the worst high-handedness of the police at the Niaz Stadium, Chittagong. People could not forget that torturous behaviour of the police who are employed for our protection and welfare.

We don't know when such rude and inhuman behaviour of the law enforcers of the state will stop? Perhaps it could have been controlled if exemplary punishment had been meted out to them. Better late than never. Those responsible must wake up without any further delay and take stock of the incidents and punish the perpetrators, so that no one dares to behave like this. This kind of attack by 6 to 8 policemen on an innocent pedestrian could even kill the victim!

We want full judicial inquiry right away and immediate suspension of those responsible for the incident. For witness, the copy of The Daily Star of August 29 may be produced.

A F Rahman  
 On e-mail



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Traffic discipline in Kolkata

While in Kolkata I liked the traffic discipline. All the drivers and pedestrians were very much conscious about maintaining traffic discipline. There occurred an accident during my stay in Kolkata when a CNG auto-rickshaw hit a child and injured her critically. The authorities promptly took action through imposing some new restrictions on auto-rickshaws.

But I really disliked the human-hauled rickshaws in Kolkata. True, this is a traditional occupation but it is really inhuman! I didn't ride on those rickshaws because it's painful to witness (mostly) barefooted men running on the street with heavily loaded rickshaws.

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

## WB loan and our ego

Following the Padma bridge loan cancellation by the World Bank, some revolutionary economists and social thinkers have been asserting that Bangladesh has both financial and technical capabilities to construct the bridge on her own. In fact, they are suggesting that our country can go on without borrowing from multinational lenders.

At this moment, China is the fifth largest and Brazil is the second largest borrowers of the World Bank. Bangladesh does not lend money to any other countries. But China has lent more money to other developing countries over the past two years than the World Bank. Still China understands the need of borrowing from the World Bank but our revolutionary economists do not.

Our neighbour India has given us one million dollar loan. And at present India is the sixth largest borrower of the World Bank. Our national prestige and patriotism are so high that we feel we do not need borrowing from outside for our development projects.

Some people say, not only we have the financial ability but we also have the technical ability to construct the Padma bridge. Chinese and Korean technologies are so good that the condition of Bangabandhu bridge and Meghna bridge has deteriorated in such a short time!

The British did not have the technology, so the Bhairab Railway Bridge and the Pakshi Railway Bridge, built by them about a hundred years ago, are still as strong as anything. A train can run on them in full speed. The Mughals have built the Mir Kadeem bridge in Munshiganj three hundred years ago, and still that bridge is usable, because they did not have the technology! We have the technology; so often we see news in the papers that bridges built twenty or thirty years back have become unusable.

Faruque Hasan  
 Uttara, Dhaka

# Resolve BUET crisis



PHOTO: STAR

The Teachers' Association of BUET had enforced a strike demanding resignation of the VC and Pro-VC. The prime minister had a meeting with the Teachers' Association delegate after nearly one month. She also issued directive to investigate anomalies against the administration. Since the investigation was perfunctory, the Teachers' Association decided to stick to their demands and resumed strike from 7th July. In this circumstance, the VC stealthily shut down BUET on 10th July.

Since then demonstrations have been going on demanding resignation of the VC and pro-VC. A memorandum was also submitted to the chancellor. But it seems he can not take any decision on the matter. Besides, the education minister initially gave assurances to resolve the BUET crisis. And finally, the HC issued a stay order on any agitation in BUET campus.

All these incidents prolonged the BUET crisis. And the outcome is, the students are suffering. No academic activities have been held for the last 50 days. Our term exam was scheduled to be held by mid September. Moreover, our contemporaries in other public and private universities are smoothly proceeding while we are lagging behind. In short, BUET is now entangled in a quagmire.

We fervently hope the classes will resume in the earliest possible time.

Anonymous student  
 On e-mail

## No more surcharge and levy, please

People of Bangladesh have already become sick and tired of the daily rise in prices of essential commodities. Moreover, the government is increasing the prices of utility services every few months and our finance minister has not left any stone unturned to find out new avenues for imposing tax on whichever sector he thought appropriate. He must be honoured with a prestigious award "The Best Finance Minister of Bangladesh" for declaring war against the small and medium income group, though he could not control the inflation. Bangladesh government could not settle the Padma bridge issue with the World Bank because of a few dishonest people though the World Bank identified those people long ago. The government did not take any step to punish them in spite of repeated warnings from the World Bank and thus the project loan slipped through the government's fingers. Then the government decided to implement the project with its own fund.

Now the government is thinking of imposing surcharges and levies on different sectors to raise the fund for constructing the bridge and if they implement their plan, the sufferings of common people will increase a lot. But why the whole nation should suffer for the act of a few corrupt people?

Kazi Mizanur Rahman

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Scam dug out at Krishi Bank"

### Ashis Kumar Roy

Rigorous punishment should be given to the culprits, so that no one by any means dare to do this kind of unethical activities in the future.

### Q

How would the BKB board and its chairman avoid responsibility if this has been going on since 2009? What happened to internal audit? No one is above law.

### Md Saiful Islam PhD

KI Khaled is a man of strong principles. People want to see exemplary punishment meted out to the persons involved in the scam.

### Anonymous

As long as the board members of the banks are selected on political considerations and not based on their expertise and integrity of character, such scams will continue to happen. And the people of Bangladesh will also continue to pay the price for their misdeeds.

### Nasirullah Mridha, USA

After this scam, does the BB chief have any moral right to stay in his cushy post?

### Nasim Hasan

The situation of the most-state run banks is almost the same. Financial irregularities are openly practiced in state-owned banks. Still our government seems to be reluctant to take necessary measures to stop these practices as well as recover the lent money.

### A citizen

A few days ago, we learned from the newspaper reports about Sonali Bank scam. Today it is Bangladesh Krishi Bank. How sad the condition of the state-run banks of Bangladesh is! The banking sector is totally a failure because of the malpractices and illegal activities of its high-ups. Only suspension of the manager is not enough, he should be severely punished. We also want to know his background information.

### Anonymous

Only honest and efficient persons should be recruited in the banking sector. Otherwise this type of incident will continue to happen.

### Rony

What is the identity of the three companies? Proper investigation is needed here.

### Arif

The government and finance minister should remain alert about the activities of all the state-run banks as corruption is engulfing them.

### Sami

So, public money is not in safe hands, since

## A govt. gone adrift

This is just incredulous how the Awami League-led government succeeded in bringing every important sector of the country to a very precarious position: Education, banking, readymade garment, communications, law and order, share market, gas, power, and water... the list will go on. In short, everything around us is crumbling down. People have had enough unrest; they are unable to tolerate it anymore.

It seems that we are on a ship and those in charge do not know anything about navigation. This is so unfortunate; we never thought that our dream of a prosperous and peaceful country would be shattered like this.

Another ominous cloud is hanging over us... the issue of caretaker government. Awami League cannot discard it at its whims; people will not accept the election without it. So, the government must come to an understanding with the opposition political parties and form a neutral government to supervise the next general election. Otherwise the country will head towards a serious confrontational situation and the sufferings of the common people will know no bounds. The government has been entrusted to see to the welfare of the people, but they are doing the opposite.

Nur Jahan