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Restore order in Libya



PHOTO: AFP

News reports say that the Libyan authorities have not yet disarmed and integrated the former rebels into state institutions even in a year since the killing of Muammar Gaddafi. Recently, fighting around the country's oasis town of Bani Walid led to more than 13 deaths and injuries to 121 people. Libyan national congress spokesman claimed that Gaddafi's son Khamis Gaddafi, aged 28 years, was killed in one of these clashes.

However, the new Libyan authorities recently said that the campaign to liberate the country has not been fully completed. We have learnt from different media sources that Libya's top official Mohammed Megaryef has admitted the failure pointing to delays and negligence in the formation of a professional army and police force. He has also added that armed militias have even dared to establish their own prisons and act as a law unto themselves. But admitting failure is not enough at this moment without taking stern

actions against the lawbreakers. Rather the law-breaking groups would be inspired seeing this soft gesture of the authorities. Already the media has reported that the weakness of the state has allowed groups with or without ties to the former regime to defy the law and carry out arbitrary arrests, torture, blackmail and looting.

Moreover, the incident of killing of US diplomats recently is a clear sign of anarchy in Libya. But this situation is not acceptable at all. As Gaddafi was ousted for the sake of establishing peace in Libya through the democratic process, the international community that patronized the anti-Gaddafi movement should now work jointly and firmly with the Libyan authorities to improve the law and order situation in Libya.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh
Dhaka

Save endangered Ganges dolphin

It is of great concern that India's sacred river Ganges is getting severely polluted and the Ganges Dolphin (only 1800 left), the most endangered dolphins on planet, are facing extinction. A proliferation of damming projects along the Ganges compounded by constant pesticide and fertilizer run-off are making the river a harsh and difficult place to live for the dolphins and other aquatic species. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, 9,000 tons of toxic pesticides and 6 million tons of fertilizer are being used near the Ganges every year.

Recently the Care2 team submitted a petition with nearly 40,000 signatures to Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment and Forests, India, requesting him to take immediate action to reduce the Ganges pollution by stopping unsustainable fishing methods and further destructive activities in order to save the endangered Ganges Dolphins.

It is sincerely expected that the Indian government will take quick and appropriate action in this respect.

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

Take action against businesses like Destiny

Law enforcers have detained destiny officials for their alleged scam. They are indicted for money laundering and collecting money unlawfully from the public. Exemplary punishment should be given to them if they are found guilty. But my question is what did the governments do for the last twelve years since Destiny's establishment? Apart from Destiny, there are several other multi-level marketing companies like Unipay2u, Speak Asia, etc. Why didn't the government take action against those companies at the beginning of their establishment? The government has taken steps when they were reported to have swindled millions of taka out of public pocket making them paupers. They used some of the government high-ups' names in collecting money, to tempt people into investing money. It is time the government took necessary steps so that the helpless investors can at least get their money back. I urge the government to find a permanent solution to the problem.

Golam Ali Rubel
On e-mail

Disarm student politics

Good leadership is badly needed for Bangladesh as no nation can not go forward without it. Today's students will lead the nation in the future. If we look at the history of the country, we will see that there have been a number of examples of good leadership and student politics --- our Language Movement in 1952, students' movement in 1962, mass uprising in 1969, etc.

Students played important roles at those times. But at present, students politics have become polluted by power, money, arms and the use of students by political parties for their selfish interests. The students in the political parties, especially the ruling party, torture and even kill other students on the campus. If nothing is done now to stop this evil acts, it is our nation that will suffer in the long run. The ruling and the opposition parties should think about it and do something right now.

Ferdous Hossain
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PHOTO: STAR

"Why these atrocities against Rakhine Muslims?"

I fully endorse Anika Nawal Ahmed's letter published in your esteemed newspaper on October 31 on the above subject. The Buddhists also set fire to two mosques in Western Myanmar. Why don't the Buddhists in Bangladesh protest the killings of Rakhine Muslims and burning of mosques in Myanmar? I am sure if the Buddhists of Bangladesh protest against the killings of Muslims in Myanmar, and the Muslims in Bangladesh protest against the attacks on Buddhists, the problem will be solved very fast. God bless us all.

Jamshaid Taher
Banani, Dhaka

Obama and Romney: Two of a kind!

You know, and after the S&L crisis, for instance, we went in and there were massive criminal investigations. We put 1,000 people in jail. There were no such investigations this time around. So this was just making everybody well again and restoring everybody to the status quo, which I think was a major mistake because it produced precisely the result we're talking about now. It allowed everybody to think that the previous status quo was okay.

The plainest example is Mitt Romney. I mean, if you look at his tax returns, he paid rates of 14,13 percent. That's totally normal in this world if you work in a private equity fund. He's not an exception. In the financial services industry for sure, the very, very rich mostly receive income as capital gains or if they're private equity people, as carried interest. In both of those, the maximum rate is 15 percent. So people make \$20 million, \$30 million, \$50 million a year like Mitt Romney. You work in a private equity firm, you invest a little bit of your

own money. And the gains that you make on that investment would be treated under any definition as a capital gain taxed at 15 percent. But you also earn money because you are investing on behalf of all of your investors. That money that you earn is called carried interest.

Despite how the plutocrats have reacted to Barack Obama, he does not seem to be like FDR, taking on the economic royalists. Barack Obama in many ways is one of them. He is educated the way a plutocrat is educated. He had an opportunity to join the plutocracy. He could very easily right now be a top corporate lawyer. He's a technocrat in the accepted manner of the current plutocracy. And I think they like that. I think that's why he had such a strong reception in 2008.

Ted Rudow III, MA
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Get rid of dust and be free from diseases

Dust is one of the main reasons of many diseases. It is everywhere in Bangladesh, especially in cities. Dust contains many harmful chemicals and causes various types of diseases such as asthma, kidney damage, brain damage, paralysis, cardio-vascular disease, cancer, infection, etc.

A law must be enacted and implemented to prevent air pollution. One must clean the area around one's house, shop or industry. If anybody does not follow the rule, the government should punish him with huge financial consequences. The media can regularly report on the punishment given to the people who have broken the law. This way we can clean our whole country and get rid of many diseases.

Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain
Microbiology Program
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Dhaka

ACC should expose corruption

Corruption is a big threat to the development of Bangladesh. If preventive measures are not taken right now, it may become a national disease very soon. We have an Anti-Corruption Commission to contain corruption. But can they claim that they have achieved any remarkable success in reducing corruption? When any corruption is exposed in the media or elsewhere, only then they come in the scene and probe the matter. Most of the time the findings of the ACC seem vague and do not match with the public perception but echoes the government's claim. ACC's duty is to go after corruption, expose corruption and ensure that the corrupt get proper punishment. It is necessary that ACC evaluates its activities to know how they have performed so far.

The government should realize that the rise of corruption during its tenure compared to the previous government's tenure may motivate the voters to vote for the other party in the next election. We need a strong, modern and independent ACC to fight against corruption. Government should work

hard to make this happen. If corruption always wins in the game between Corruption and ACC, people will lose faith in ACC as well as the government.

The time has come to start a war against corruption by strengthening our anti corruption body. ACC should start campaigning to make people aware of the demerits of corruption. We don't want to be known in the world for corruption. We have many good achievements -- Language Movement, Liberation War, communal harmony, women empowerment, etc. -- to be proud of. We want the world to recognise us for these, and not for corruption.

Jabunnaheer, On e-mail



PHOTO: STAR



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Agriculture Research

Brain drain dims achievements
Scientists' successes appreciated, but special incentives not announced yet
(November 1, 2012)

AJ Khan
No one can be a patriot with an empty stomach.

are going abroad for greater opportunities. And we are losing our resources.

Mofi
We are poor because we never gave due attention to our researchers and scientists.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA
Not only agriculture but also every sector in Bangladesh lacks researchers and scientists. We need to patronise scientists for the country's development.

Saleh Md. Shahriar
We must stop the present trend of brain drain.

Concerned citizen
Agriculture is the foundation of our economy. With our large population, to meet at least our basic needs, research and innovation in agriculture are must. So the

Md. Rakibul Hossain
Governments in Bangladesh never prioritise research activities. So the researchers

economic benefits for the brains in this sector should be commensurate with their talent.

Imtiaz
It is a fact that almost all talented scientists have left BARC during the last 12 years. Thus the government should take immediate steps to prevent further brain drain.

Parvez Babul
Very informative article indeed! Thanks to Reaz Ahmad for this fact-based reporting.

Monoar Hossain
The news is very frustrating and awful. The same is true for other research institutions and public universities. We are always saying we have to uplift the social status of scientists, researchers and teachers but no real action has been taken by any government yet. In fact, we have a bureaucrat dominated administrative system and they are not aware of

this situation. Politicians and bureaucrats should come forward to stop this brain drain.

Reaz Hassan
We got to hold back the agricultural scientists from leaving the country by providing them separate pay scales and other fringe benefits. The present ratio of brain drain is not sustainable, and the country would be the ultimate loser. The figures in the margin suggest a very depressing scenario and are totally unacceptable. The PM and the FM, in any case, have to set up a pay commission in the coming budget, and while doing so must make provision for separate pay scales for scientists, state-owned bank officials, the BB and the university teachers, to name a few. It would be imprudent for the government to hide their heads in the sand when winds of discontent are brewing all over, especially with 35% inflation in the last 40 months.