

Obama's win brings hope



PHOTO: AFP

Many experts say that Bangladesh does not have the “best of relationship” with the US at the moment for various reasons. Even so, Bangladesh could benefit outsourcing jobs in the near future, which could be difficult if a Republican was in power. Because it is observed that with the Republican Party government, the USA becomes more conservative in its policy.

A recent report referring to the opinions of economists and experts published in this daily analysed how Bangladesh can get benefit from the re-election of Barack Obama as the US president.

However, President Barack Obama tells firmly to enhance the American economy's growth rate which will improve the present employment situation as well. Naturally, there will be more income for the American citizens. Definitely, it would widen the opportunity for selling Bangladeshi garments and other items in the US market.

In fact, to take full advantage of this favourable situation, Bangladesh has to work sincerely for strengthening US-Bangladesh relationship. It must be remembered that Bangladesh garment exporters have been seeking duty-free access to the US market for years now as they have to pay on average 15.30 percent duty, whereas some developed and developing countries pay below four percent. So Bangladesh has to pay attention to the US concerns in some areas like labour and human rights, political uncertainty and corruption.

Anyway, it makes us hopeful to know from reports that the US-Bangladesh relation developed in a positive way during Obama's first term, with Bangladesh getting benefits from his different initiatives like Feed the Future, Global Health, Food Security Initiative, etc.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Thanking Bangladesh

I would like to thank all of Bangladesh who has been praying for Barack Obama to be re-elected. Your concern, support, and kindness during the US election period have really supported me and being with many of you this morning at the US Embassy sponsored Election Gaily and your enthusiasm for Obama really touched my heart. I am constantly touched by the people of Bangladesh as they have shared the US's good and bad times, but more than anything else for their kindness and enthusiasm.

Sandra Basgall
Gulshan-2
Dhaka

Ramu incident and the political blame game

It is surprising what Khaleda Zia mentioned at Ramu. It is true that local and district administration could stop the attack if they had performed their duties properly. So it can be said that the administration didn't play the expected role. But that does not mean that the government has attacked the Buddhist temples and houses in a planned way. I think it is not true at all. Khaleda Zia's accusation really surprised me.

If anybody looks carefully at the newspaper and TV reports, it can be assumed easily that people from all the political parties were involved in the attacks. Our political leaders always try to deceive us. I request them to realise that we the people are not fools. Both the government and the opposition should sit together and form a judicial inquiry commission for the sake of proper investigation, so that the findings of the commission would be acceptable to all.

I don't understand why the government and the opposition are blaming each other. Some derailed party leaders from both BNP and Awami league joined the mob and attacked the Buddhist temples and houses. But it does not mean that the parties instructed them to attack the Buddhists. Both the parties should expel the derailed leaders from their parties, so that in future no one dares to get involved in this sort of barbaric activities. Both the parties should agree to form a neutral judicial inquiry commission if they really want to identify the real attackers and stop this kind of attacks on the minorities in future.

Md. Abul Kashem
Mohammadpur
Dhaka



PHOTO: AFP

Police fail to ensure public safety

Currently one of the major issues of our country is our safety. It has degraded over the years, and now it's down to policemen committing crimes. Illegal possession of firearms, kidnapping, snatching, murder, drug trafficking, etc., are rampant all over the country. This happens mainly due to bribery, corruption, lack of surveillance and negligence on the part of the law enforcement agents. There are more than a hundred of such cases all over the country. Many village people have started to look after the security of their villages themselves instead of depending on the police. Our police must be neutral. But in many cases, we see the opposition's processions are attacked, whereas those of the ruling party are not. They often harass and punish innocent people instead of the real culprits because their names are the same. If law enforcers want to earn the trust of the citizens, they must work hard to ensure people's safety.

Ahmed As Sami
Anandeniketan School
Sylhet

Abolish admission quotas!

This relates to your cartoon and Habib's front page lead report published on 12th. November on school admissions. In my opinion, except for the physically handicapped, admission quotas at all branches and levels of education must be abolished. After all is said and done, it ignores the right of the capable persons' access to education. We may call it all children's fundamental right to the three Rs! Only merit and mental capability should govern the criteria for admission to all educational institutions at all levels. There should be no interference from any quarter whatsoever. This should be classified as a criminal offence, and anyone doing it should be taken to task! There should be no quotas whatsoever, except for tribal and other excluded children as allowed by the relevant laws only. Under no circumstances, it should be considered a right or entitlement.

The only exception should be allowed for donors. For this, donors may be allowed a maximum of ten seats or five percent of the total students admitted at each level; provided the donor gives recurring donation; and not one time grant. Further, the amount donated in a particular year should be at least fifteen times the gross recurring costs (including rates and taxes and all financial

Coal is a fossil constituted basically of carbon plus elements like hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur. Coal is the world's largest source of energy for the generation of electricity. But it is also one of the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO2), a green house gas. There are more than 2300 coal-fired power plants in the world of which nearly 620 plants are stationed in China. A coal-fired electric power generation plant emits around 2000 pounds of CO2 for every megawatt-hour generated. This pollutes the environment. Coal-fired power plant releases a lot of mercury and other harmful chemicals into the air which can seriously affect human health particularly of children.

Bangladesh government is planning to switch to coal-fired power generation system. Currently more than 80% of the power generated in the country is from natural gas. Only a small percentage of power is being generated from coal.

In my opinion, before switching on to coal-fired power generation system, we should carefully consider the various health and environmental problems associated with the coal-fired power plants.

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

charges) incurred by the school in the year before. Also, till the student so recommended does not pass out or otherwise leaves the school, no other recommendation can be entertained from the donor!

Such rules and regulations should be formalised by the government, and duly incorporated in the official rules and regulations of all educational institutions, at all levels; be it government, public or private!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Misuse of mobile phones

Mobile phone is one of the wonderful inventions of science. This incredible technology has made our life easy. But the negative uses of mobile phone may bring many troubles to our life. We will not find one mobile user who has not received unexpected calls from unknown numbers. A group of mentally sick people find entertainment in making such calls. Girls are the main target of these unknown callers. If we contact the mobile operators, they suggest that we should avail their call blocking service for a certain fee. But there is no getting away because they call from different numbers. It seems that these unknown callers help the operators make more profit. If we seek help from the law enforcing agencies, they show indifference.

The harmful uses of mobile phone are also misleading our teenagers. Parents should consider the age of their children before buying them mobile phones. The latest addition is Internet on mobile phones. Now our teenagers are prone to use Internet on mobile for downloading adult songs and videos. They may involve themselves in different types of crimes. Parents need to strengthen the family ties and teach moral values to their children. They should make sure that their kids use mobile phones in a proper way.

Our mobile operators are selling SIM cards without verifying customers' identity properly and that leads to various mobile related crimes. It has become an essential tool for organised crimes. Our government should make a strong law to compel mobile operators not to sell SIM cards to customers without proper verification. Our electronic media shows programmes on many irregularities and problems of our society; they should make programmes on this issue too.

Jabunnaheer

Downside of coal-fired power plant



Md Masud Karim

We are waiting for the education system to be reformed.

Mohammed

This is a national move. Our constitution allows quota only for disadvantaged people.

Non-Government Schools

Admission quota for MPs

Govt. move kicks up an uproar among educationists, guardians

An Ashamed Bangladeshi

MPs' job is to make law but in Bangladesh it is a way of getting control over everything.

Nds

It is a gross violation of the basic principle of democracy to ensure rights to equal opportunity for all citizens of the country irrespective of social status and position. It is sheer abuse of power contrary to the basic norms of democracy. The very tendency of our lawmakers to grab every opportunity of special privileges speaks eloquently of their total indifference to social justice and democratic values.

Dr. Nazmul Haq

The present government is trying to legalise the illegal activities.

Ziaush Shams

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Dr. Irtikhar-ul-Awwal, DU

Admission quotas for MPs in school admission is fraught with manifold dangers. By paving the way to political influence, we are undermining the backbone of the nation. We must, therefore, desist from taking wrong decisions and maintain status quo.

Shariful Alam

The government should not take this controversial decision. This will increase corruption in school admission process. Opposition parties should protest against this move.

Anonymous

What is the purpose of quota system? Are they afraid that their children are not meritorious or qualified enough to get admitted into schools on their own?

Saleh Md. Shahriar

Please ban admission quotas for MPs. The quota system is harmful for meritocracy.

Opee Monir

This is corruption and should not be encouraged at all at any cost. This makes our MPs susceptible to do more corruption. How do we know that they would not sell their quotas?

Syed Imtiaz Ali

The cartoon speaks louder than any words and the quota system is prevalent to the detriment of recognising talent. Education I dead means the nation is dead, and we are fast moving to that end, more so by politicising. Please rescue education!

Gias

This is totally disgusting. No civilized country in the world has this kind of facilities for the MPs.

Shihab Uddin Ahmed

I think there should be quota for underprivileged children. We also need to reconsider the freedom fighter quota. Freedom fighters are respected citizens of the country. But how many generations of them will enjoy quota? Quota always deprives the meritorious students. Quota for grandchildren is not a good idea.

Forkhunda Shahid

We are a middle-class family. I do not have any reference or

influential uncle and do not

have excess money to get my

children admitted to a good

school in Dhaka as the num-

ber of seats are very few. There

are countless families like

ours. In this situation, how

come the government take

this kind of step? If the gov-

ernment is truly honest to the

citizens, then I think they

should not take this step.