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# Protect foreign remittance earning sector



PHOTO: ABC/NET

As per the information released by the ministry of expatriates' welfare and overseas employment, Bangladesh has earned a record amount of foreign remittance amounting more than \$ 14 billion and exported the second highest number of workers to Middle East last year. Although the reports are encouraging, one can not but worry about the ban on manpower recruitment imposed by the Middle East countries -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya and UAE. Manpower export is one of the most significant foreign currency earning sectors of our country. It contributes to our national economy in a large measure by increasing foreign exchange reserve, per capita income and employment opportunities. Any barrier to

our manpower export to Middle East will have a negative impact on our national economy. Diplomatic and high profile discussions should be held to address this issue. Allegations of irregularities and malpractice raised by manpower importing countries should be taken into account in order to check the same strictly. All necessary measures for regaining the mutual trust and good relation with the host countries should be initiated soon by the authorities concerned to bring back normalcy and save the valuable income generating sector of the country.

**Golam Mostafa**  
Fatickhari  
Chittagong

## Maritime boundary with India

This is not for a debate or putting counter arguments against the article by Mr Mamunur Reza published in The Daily Star on 9 January 2013 titled 'In response to 'Maritime boundary with India: Tough days ahead' by M. Inamul Haque; but for expressing thanks and regards to him to bring this matter to public concern by responding to my article. Yes, I am not a student of law, but I do not believe any legal matter should have limited access to those who have legal backgrounds only. I express full respect to the world famous experts like Dr. Joseph R. Curry of USA, Dr. Hermann Kudrass of Germany and Dr. Lindsay Parson of UK. I express full respect to Mr Mamunur Reza as well, who has studied Law of the Sea at National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, UK and University of New Hampshire, USA; but, I shall never agree with the Map 2 he has produced in his article. The other Map 3 in his article is not of much relevance, and Map 1 is the map published in my article in The Daily Star on 14 November 2009.

The Map 2 clearly indicates what can be one outcome of the case with India: sea locked by the maritime limits of India from the west and Myanmar from the east. The fear of this type of unacceptable situation provoked me to write the article published on 30 December 2012. My observation is, one should not produce such maps which can be misleading and frustrating. I appreciate the way Mr Mamunur Reza has argued to express his command on the matter. It seems that Mr Mamunur Reza was, and is very much associated with the team assigned by the government to deal with our maritime rights. I shall ask him and the team to work for our way out to the open sea, through our own maritime boundary (Continental Shelf) in our legal battle with India.

Engr. M. Inamul Haque

## Who are the victims of this game?

Our leaders play terrible games with our lives creating political issues. Ridiculously, their issues repeat themselves pushing behind the country's development. Bangladesh is a potential country. It has bright future. But everything is going out of our grip due to political instability. The ruling party and the opposition confront each other over every issue. The opposition calls hartal, the ruling party challenges to resist it in the field. Who are the victims of this game? It is only the ordinary people. The ruling party should ensure rule of law, solve gas and power crisis to draw the attention of the foreign investors. And politicians should ensure congenial political atmosphere and settle all the problems by holding discussions. Otherwise, this unending fight will certainly lead our country to destruction.

**Rasel Osman**  
English Department  
Dhaka College

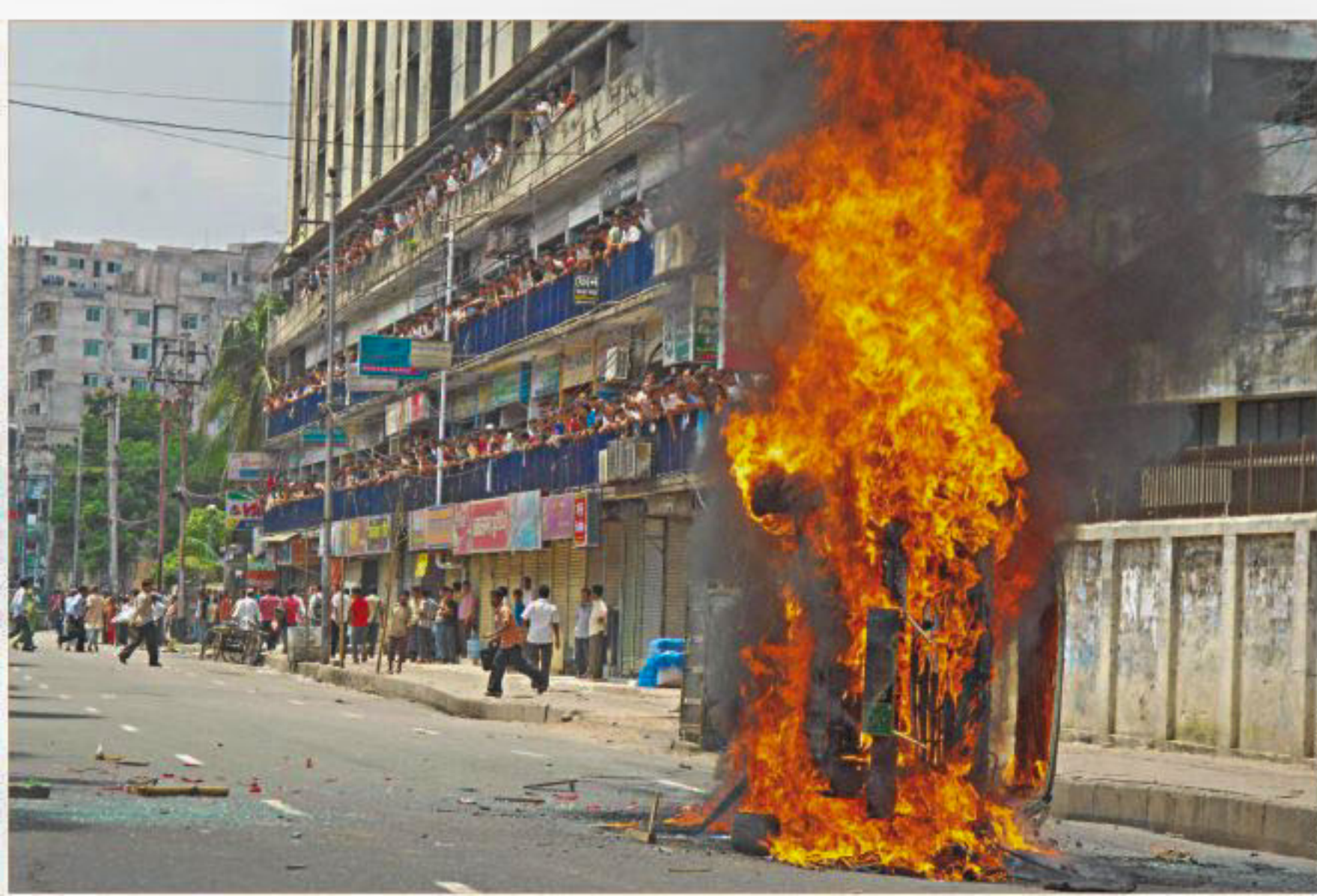


PHOTO: STAR

## Liberation War memorial in SUST

We, the members of the young generation did not fight for our country but we respect our Liberation War and always want to do something for our country. As we know, most of the universities in Bangladesh have Liberation War monuments on their campus but it is a matter of great sorrow that we, the student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) are deprived of such a memorial. When our university authorities have finally decided to build a Liberation War memorial on our campus, some of our teachers have opposed it and they are trying to get support from the local people. They are saying it will hurt the feelings of the people of this holy city. But we, the general students, want this monument. It will inspire us as well as our next generation. We believe people of Sylhet are with us.

**Jony Khan**  
Department of Business Administration  
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

## Minimising impacts of climate change

The recent fall of temperature in Bangladesh, especially in the North Bengal, is a fallout of climate change. The biting cold has already claimed 82 lives and paralyzed our daily lives. Children and elderly people are the worst sufferers as they are very much vulnerable to cold related complications.

Have we ever tried to imagine the sufferings of the people who are poor, especially the floating people passing nights under open sky? Sometimes it is noticed that warm clothes are distributed among the poor at the end of the winter which should not be the case. Affluent people along with the government and the NGOs should come forward and stand beside the cold-stricken people in the beginning of the winter to ease their sufferings. At the same time, being the most vulnerable country to climate change, Bangladesh should continue the talks with the international community on the devastating effects of climate change so that the damage from the adverse climate change can be minimised.

**Md. Musfikur Rahman Jony**  
Senior Research Officer

## A walk around the Hatirjheel link road



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

I was attracted by the charming photo of Hatirjheel published in The Daily Star a few days back. The project has been partially completed. I could not believe my eyes when I saw its panoramic view and I thought it to be an artist's layout drawing. But then I decided to take a walk around the jheel. It seemed as if it was a place in a developed country. It can be a tourist spot of immense value. The different varieties of trees that are planted around will be an added beauty to the site if properly taken care of. And, in addition to this, I suggest the authorities should add some water sports such as -- water skinning, boating, oaring, etc. Government can also construct a Dhaka clock tower like that of the Thames clock tower. Last but not the least, the illegal BGMEA building is not worth looking at.

**Mashudul Haque, Dhaka**

## Choosing a career of dedication, not prestige

Many of us, surely, must grieve when those who choose careers that require dedication and caring, do so only with prestige and profit in mind. (Do you remember that advert 'Become a barrister. It is not a career. It is a life-style!') I have marked scores of teenagers' essays on 'My ideal career', in which they claim they want to be doctors but never mention once the response to human need but harp on about how 'honourable' the job is and how much 'respect' they will get....

In the light of the 5,731 vacant posts for doctors across the country, is it not tempting to recommend the practice of Soviet Russia of making it compulsory for younger doctors who have received their training at the expense of the state, to serve 2 years in the villages or refund the cost of training? The same rule could also apply to teachers perhaps? After all, the drift to the cities is accelerated by the failure of education and health services in some villages. Women doctors and teachers could surely also have compulsory placements in the more needy areas with carefully chosen accommodation .... Why should it be NGO and development workers, from other countries as well as Bangladesh, who are the only ones to accept a simple life to help Bangladesh? I had 2 1/2 years up on the border in a place with no piped water but six years in a top English public school in the 1950s was excellent preparation for simple living in Bangladesh! And I had enough coal for one evening of extra warmth every second day for the first of six years at Oxford!)

Some young doctors from middle-class homes, who have had to see, at first hand, the suffering of the poor from neglected parts of their home countries, have had a life-changing experience. Also, if they are not good doctors (the poor usually being shrewd judges of efficient care and genuine character) the feedback could be an invaluable indication of the need for further practice under supervision. Not all doctors are of the quality of at least one I know, who returns to his village every weekend...

**Angela Robinson**

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Unhappy with Abul exclusion"

### Abdul Mannan Howlader

Padma bridge -- the dream project of southern Bangladesh -- has been swallowed.

### Truth Teller

The WB panel letter to ACC proves that the ACC and its officials are lying through their teeth with no shame. I think people of Bangladesh can forget about the WB loan for this project.

### Mohammad Zahinul Islam

It is really sad to see how Bangladesh has missed an opportunity because of a few rogues.

### Jumana Sarwar

It is very disappointing and at the same time very interesting. The ACC is claiming that WB is happy and WB is saying they are unhappy. So we will see one of the two possible discrete outcomes - a bridge or no bridge. From the very beginning, the ACC has been trying hard to cover up the corrupt persons for reasons best known to them.

### Roni Rahman

We all know what AL says to these types of revelations. It is all a conspiracy to topple Awami League and stop war crimes trial.

### SM. Rabi

Really excellent.

### Iftikhar-ul-Awwal

ACC has once again confirmed that it is not an independent body but a subservient organisation working to protect government interest only. By not being fair and honest, ACC has disgraced itself and more importantly, the country. The cumulative financial loss sustained through delay and bungling must now be running into thousands of crores. Even though AL government has done some good work, the scar of Padma is unlikely to be forgotten by the voters.

### Well Wisher

Thanks for publishing the truth.

### Asad Zaman

The WB panel is unhappy because it is too much concerned about Abul Hossain's exclusion, not about the greater interest of the people who need this important bridge. The members of the WB panel must see the excellent cartoon of The Daily Star, to feel the situation of the ordinary people sitting on the bank of the Padma and thinking about the bridge.

### Sharif Alam

Actually, World Bank is not ready to give such a big loan to Bangladesh. That's why they are just playing a game with Bangladesh.

### Dr. Nazmul Haq

Why does anyone expect fairness and neutrality from an organisation controlled by the present government?

### Anowar Hossain

Padma bridge is a dream of Bangladeshi people. What is the weight of Mr Abul Hossain that the Padma bridge can not bear?

### Md. Rafiqul Islam Khan

He should be punished. This man destroyed our hopes and dreams.

### SK

Thanks, DS, for revealing the truth. Abul should be punished.

### Farid Majidi

This whole process is really a very good lesson for the whole nation.

### Ferdous Jalil

Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely. There is discrepancy between ACC and WB's statements. WB clearly indicates that ACC lacks transparency. The question now is, why should the country bear such huge costs because of Abul?

### Sayudul Huq

Laws are equal for all except those who