

Reduce diesel price for Boro farmers



SHAFIQ ISLAM / DRIK NEWS

A report published in The Daily Star on 16 January, 2013 articulated the despair of the Boro cultivators across the country. The reason is the sudden rise in the irrigation cost caused by government's untimely decision of increasing the prices of diesel. The farmers' plight should not go addressed. In most parts of the country, seedbeds and saplings of Boro have been damaged due to the unexpected cold wave and dense fog. Many farmers have been victims of loss and many are anxious about getting back their invested money. It is now the peak time for Boro cultivation in the country, but the high cost of irrigation has hit them hard. The government should provide subsidy for Boro cultivation and help farmers to continue their farming activities unhindered. The decision of increasing the price of diesel will also discourage the marginal farmers in Boro cultivation. So, the authorities concerned should consider withdrawing the decision without delay in the interest of Boro farmers.

Golam Mostafa
Fatickchhari, Chittagong

'Way back to true freedom is love'

A dream of equality, a dream of unity, a dream of solidarity. What a fight, what a battle, as the brothers and sisters lifted their arms, hands raised and clasped together to show their strength and unity and oneness! What a fight, as we marched and protested and sang our songs of triumph and spoke our words of courage! What a fight, as we lifted high the banner of equality -- equal rights for all men and women, regardless of colour! What a fight, as we suffered humiliation and setbacks, degradation and injustice!

What a fight! But we continued on, courageous, strong, united, arm in arm: a force to be reckoned with! What has happened to our oneness? Instead of lifting each other up and giving of our time and strength and energy to make the world a better place for our brothers and sisters, we are now tearing each other down, fighting against each other, killing one another for no reason!

Drugs and violence and crime are taking the lives of our young men and women, ripping apart families, destroying whole neighborhoods and whole cities. I now see that so many of those of the once great nation of America have departed from the way of righteousness and the Love of God. Their way has become dark through their own sins -- greed, selfishness, waging of wars and taking from the poor of the world. The only way back to true freedom and strength, true unity and equality, is through love -- loving God, loving one another, loving the truth.

Ted Rudow III, MA
Encina Ave

Nation in disgrace

Politicians and political parties, except a very few, once in power have been doing their best to put the nation into disgrace. The regime in power led by the daughter of Bangabandhu is no exception.

The Padma bridge issue has put the nation into a serious disgrace when the incumbent prime minister defended one of the ministers against whom the World Bank has brought corruption allegation. She even praised him as a 'patriot'. Now the definition of 'patriot' needs to be changed in the dictionary. Very recently, the World Bank has explicitly mentioned that if Abul Hossain is not brought under corruption probe, to expedite the process of Padma bridge project financing. Yet the regime in power continues to support and shelter the person.

Bangladesh is earning bad reputation far and wide for all the negative things like pervasive corruption, violence against women in the form of rape and stalking, food adulteration, vandalism and so on. And yet the politicians don't feel sorry for what they are doing to the nation. On the contrary, they continue to defend their corrupt colleagues. From the utterances of the prime minister, it appears that she would continue to support and shelter even the bad elements of her party. She should stop sheltering them to save the nation.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Houston, Texas, USA



Election under party govt. not free and fair

Awami League leadership has been assuring people that the next parliamentary election will be absolutely free and fair under the present government. However, the question that remains unanswered is whether a free and fair election can be ensured under Awami League, BNP or any political party of Bangladesh. Some of the AL leaders argue that strengthening Election Commission is the way to ensure fair and free elections. But it is clear to all the political parties- Awami League, BNP or any other party is apt at politicising each and every organ of the administration to suit their purpose so that it becomes simply impossible to hold a free and fair election under them. The Election Commission alone cannot ensure a fair election unless it is vested with all the executive power of the government including that of the chief executive. Are all the parties prepared to consider this option?

A concerned citizen
Dhaka

Create more technical manpower

Bangladesh emerged as an independent country 41 years back. It could not produce even a nail then but now it makes ocean-going ships, produces cold rolled steel coils, assembles air coolers, fridges, motor bikes and so on. Bangladesh is moving towards industrialisation. The number of poor people is also decreasing. It is expected that in the next decade Bangladesh will achieve the status of a middle-income country. The industries will need huge technical and professional manpower.

Our people need to be transformed into technical and professional manpower. Many industrial ventures have been engaging foreign technical hands at exorbitant costs. An ambitious project of the government is necessary to set up more engineering institutions, at least one in each district, to offer undergraduate courses in different engineering schools.

Md Ashraf Hossain
Central Bashabo

Stop using pepper spray on demonstrators



PHOTO: STAR

We shudder with fear to observe that the law enforcers of this country are now using pepper spray on demonstrators. Policemen have first launched this weapon by splashing this chemical on teachers who staged demonstration demanding their inclusion in the MPO list. They were not involved in any subversive activities. Yet the police sprayed pepper gas on the unpaid teachers, which claimed a schoolteacher's life.

The application of this kind of liquid pepper-gas flouts both domestic and international law. Because, Bangladesh ratified CWC (Chemical weapons Convention) in April 1997 which strongly prohibits the use of this kind of lethal spray on anyone.

Bangladesh passed The Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act in parliament in 2006. So, by using this lethal gas, the government itself is violating domestic and international laws.

It is very difficult for us to discern what was wrong with those poor teachers and why the government was behaving rudely with these unpaid nation-builders instead of sympathising with them.

It is natural that people in a democracy demonstrate to press their demands but it appears quite unnatural when the government stifles the demonstrators, which indicates nothing but neo-fascism. If the law enforcers violate the law of the country and turn inhuman and brutal, there will be none to abide by law.

Md. Sairul Islam
Lecturer in English
Jahangirpur Girls' School and College
Naogaon

Allow those with one third class to apply for job

Many job circulars of both public and private sectors clearly state that 'no third class is acceptable'. Students from middle class or lower class families have to face various types of crises which sometimes cause harm to their studies and unfortunately they come out with a third class or equivalent grade point. There are many students who have two or three second class or first class but one third class. They can not apply for a job. As a result, despite having merit and efficiency, they are deprived of the right of applying for jobs. Therefore, I on behalf of the unfortunate job seekers urge the government and other authorities concerned to change the provision about one third class and give them chance to apply for jobs.

Sultana Khatun
Student of B.Ed (honours)
Govt. Teachers' Training College
Dhaka

All students of JNU aren't guilty

I am a student of Jagannath University. I want to say something about the current image of my university. I usually go to my campus by public bus. I have heard the conversations of the passengers about the murder of Bishwajit Das. They have got a negative impression about all the students of JNU. It is a matter of great sorrow for me. Some of my friends have lost their private tuitions because of being the students of JNU. But all the students of JNU are not guilty of this crime. The BCL cadres of JNU have murdered Bishwajit. The general students have nothing to do with that.

Sohel Rana Sojib
Dept. of Economics
Jagannath University

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined "DEATH for Bachchu Razakar"

Ali Miah

A traitor, rapist, murderer; he should die a dog's death. A normal hanging is not good enough.

Harun Rashid

This is fabulous news. Millions of people were waiting for this historic verdict. Hope all war criminals will receive the same verdict and also execution will take place on time. War criminals deserve it.

Nick

Congratulations to the Bangladeshi people for turning a page in bringing justice to the martyrs of 1971.

Asad Zaman

I wonder who hired or allowed such a man to preach on TV in Bangladesh. I do not know whether there was any protest against his employment as a preacher on TV. Now many innocent Bangladeshis who followed his preaching without knowing his hidden identities (as razakar, killer and looter) would be shocked as he is given death sentence for his crimes against humanity.

Ahmed Badruzzaman

This man was evil and yet millions were made to listen to his religious sermons in an independent Bangladesh. Isn't it shameful how we forget our history?

Citizen

Citizens of Bangladesh welcome the trial and this verdict will free the country from the burden of guilt. It will give peace to the souls of the martyrs for whose sacrifice we are now citizens of an independent country.

Kazi Salim

Thanks to the Almighty Allah for enabling the people of Bangladesh in getting death sentence by the International War Crimes Tribunal against one of the notorious razakars of 1971. This convicted razakar now has to be extradited from Pakistan at any cost. It is now the responsibility of the Pak government to handover him to the Bangladesh government immediately, for executing his death sentence.

Mohammad Nurul Hoque

We are happy with this verdict. Thanks to The Daily Star for publishing the full text of the judgement.

Dev Saha

Affected Hindus have been waiting for this day since long. Many of them already gave up the hope of any justice because it has been too traumatic to even think about the torment they had to go through during Liberation War. My Biology teacher was forced to convert and even that could not save his life at the end. One fateful day, he was slaughtered publicly on a street like an animal.

Islam

All criminals should be punished for their misdeeds. Jamaat was involved in war crimes in 1971. And some AL politicians and businessmen have masterminded some of the country's biggest economic crimes since independence -- stock market scam, Destiny scam, Hallmark scam, etc. All those criminals should also be brought to justice. Then we can ensure a better future for Bangladesh.

Reaz Hassan

I welcome wholeheartedly Abul Kalam Azad trial verdict. I hope, prosecution of justice will hold all perpetrators of crimes against humanity to account in a gradual and steady manner.

Shafiuddin Ahmed

The killers will be punished, today or tomorrow.

Safiquel Islam Safi

Finally he is going to be hanged. Thanks to