

# How govt shattered 30m people's dream



The mysterious withdrawal of our government's WB loan request for financing the Padma bridge project has evoked great suspicion in public mind. Hasn't a matter of great national interest been sacrificed at the altar of coterie or individual interest? 30 million people's 'dream' bridge which was within the sight of realisation now seems to have slipped out of hand and a 'fog' of uncertainty shrouds the materialisation of this huge and costly bridge project.

It was really shocking to see the ruling party's reluctance to conduct an exhaustive probe into the allegation of 'corruption conspiracy' as wanted by WB. How could the AL high-ups 'certify' the former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain as innocent and a 'patriot', when WB reasonably considered him number one suspect involved in the alleged conspiracy?

It is now clear that the government lost the WB loan opportunity only because it deliberately kept the minister outside the ACC-initiated probe and its decision to withdraw the WB loan request is nothing but a face-saving measure. Failure to get the WB loan for financing the largest bridge project of the country due to government's ineptness, immaturity and, above all, partisan mentality will remain as a black scar on the ruling AL's face in the days to come!

Md. Mohsin Ali  
Nutan Courtpara, Kushtia

## Don't turn private varsities into business ventures

Education is the fundamental right of a citizen. Every year, large numbers of students complete their higher secondary education. But they have to leave their dream of studying in public universities due to limited seats. Private universities have a great contribution in providing higher education to the students. But to our utter dismay, most private universities charge high tuition fees from students. As they are mostly from middle class families, they find it hard to bear. Perhaps, high tuition fees result from the commercial mentality of the private university authorities. Can't they keep educational institutions outside the remit of pre-commerce? If they can do so, our country will definitely proceed ahead. I urge the authorities of private universities to lower their tuition fees for the greater benefit of students.

Golam Ali Rubel, Chittagong

## Will govt. also ban blogs, like YouTube?

Why does not the government close down all the blog sites that are publishing anti-Islam or for that matter any anti-religion comments that go beyond any civilized norms? The government banned YouTube in Bangladesh because of an anti-Islam film. It can do the same for all such blogs that have created so much confusion and anger amongst all levels of people of this country. What's the government waiting for - a Holy War?

# Shahbagh should fight for true justice

It is a remarkable sight that so many of our youths are finally getting their voices heard. It is an honour to see people exercising their democratic right with the civil society at large lending support to it. However, super the protest at Shahbagh be, it faces the question of neutrality. And for any movement, it is common that people will judge or be critical about it. The only way perhaps the protest at Shahbagh can prove its neutrality is by being synonymous with 'justice'. As one may see injustice in the form of corruption, vengeful politics and unrestrained killings have engulfed this country, sabotaging our true potential for development in the 21st century. Hence if the protests at Shahbagh are truly for change, why stop at the injustice of the trial of war criminals only? We should pay attentions to the myriad of more pressing injustices rampant in this country. I hope and pray and chant in unison with our Shahbagh protesters out there that we can all build a truly prosperous and pluralistic country.

Waheedur Rahman  
Baridhara DOHS, Dhaka



## Shahbagh youths should also consider other national issues

We commend the young generation as they could unite the people on the war crime trial issue. They have pressed for bringing war crimes charges against Jamat-e-Islami and issued ultimatum to the government to initiate legal process to ban the party by March 26, 2013. We thank the youths for putting pressure on the government. But does the Awami League-led government need pressure on these issues? It will be very happy to oblige the Shahbagh protesters as they have one foot forward to take actions against Jamaat-e-Islami. So it seems that the protests have gone in favour of the government.

We are besieged with so many serious problems; the younger generation now must pay attention to these. Criminal activities have risen alarmingly, traffic jam, scarcity of electricity, water and gas, high prices of essentials, dilapidated roads and highways, share market debacle, Hall Mark and Destiny scam, frequent road accidents, environment pollution, and so many other problems have crippled our life. Our rivers are dying due to dumping of waste materials into them and encroachment. And there is no end to Bangladesh Chhatra League activists' heinous behaviour.

Recently, a deal was signed with Russia to build a nuclear power plant in our country. We are aghast at the news. From the very beginning, experts and conscious citizens were saying that it would be disastrous. Developed countries are not building any new plants and many existing plants are being shut down. If any accident happens, we are doomed.

We urge the younger generation to compel the government to abandon the plan and save the country from destruction. We hope and trust that they will bring these important issues to the forefront and make the government address those urgently.

Nur Jahan

# A better BPL on the field

The second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) seemed to suffer a huge setback when PCB did not release their players for the tournament. Running a T20 tournament without any Pakistani or Indian players was a brave thing to do on the part of the governing council. Still, at the end of the tournament, the quality of cricket was appreciable. The Bangladeshi players proved their skills, and players like Shamsur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed got the opportunity to showcase their talent. Shahriar Nafees got back to form, and a half-fit Shakib was enough to help the Gladiators win the title. Not only the Bangladeshi players, players like Nabi, Stirling, Zadran, and Ten Doeschate had a platform where they got to play with the international stars, the likes of Shakib, Tamim, Pollard, Gayle, Oram, Dilshan, etc.

However, the technical problems showed that this tournament requires professionalism. The match-fixing allegations did not do much good to the tournament. We hope that the board will learn from its mistakes and present us with a better BPL next year. Finally, I wish Bangladesh national team all the best for their upcoming series against Sri Lanka.

Tauhidul Islam Khan  
Uttara, Dhaka



PHOTO: FEROZ AHMED

## To Baroness Sayeeda Warsi

It is not a battle of ideas, but a battle between life and death. It is not about democracy or fascism or Islam, it is about something much more fundamental. It is about our right to life. It is about the government protecting its civilians from criminals.

The demand for Jamaat's ban is not due to its philosophy, but because it is a terrorist organisation. Jamaat is aggressive and violator of human rights.

People demand their 'hanging' because they fear that these murderers can once again be pardoned and may as well rule us. History has shown this to be possible. Banning Jamaat, a terrorist organisation, is banning the murderers.

# Prospect of latest method to fight dengue

Trial of an interesting method to fight dengue in the Florida Keys of the USA is going to be approved soon. According to a report in this daily, the trial planned by mosquito control officials of the tourist town Key West and a British Company named Oxitec would release non-biting male mosquitoes that have been genetically modified to pass along birth defect that kill their progeny before reaching maturity. The idea is that the genetically modified mosquitoes will mate with wild Aedes aegypti female mosquitoes (because they can spread dengue fever) and their progeny will die before reproducing.

So, after a few generations, the researchers expect, Aedes aegypti population would die off, reducing the dengue fever risk without using pesticides, at a relatively low cost. However, regarding impact on the ecosystem after implementing this method, researchers say that the modified genes will disappear from the environment after the mosquitoes carrying it die, resulting in no permanent change to the wild mosquito population.

Anyway, the above mentioned method might be an effective tool for Bangladesh to fight dengue as this disease is one of the health concerns here. It may be mentioned that there is no reliable vaccine for dengue fever. So, we hope authorities concerned would think of implementing this latest and cost-effective method after studying its impact on the food chain of other animals.

Mobarak Ali  
RK Mission Road  
Gopibagh, Dhaka



## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star commentary headlined "Is it the struggle of 1952 all over again?"

### Naabaj

Very good points. Why do some people question the issue of banning this anti-Liberation force still? The sooner these Pakistani forces are kicked out of our sacred soil, the better.

### Mohammad Sirajullah

No, it is not the repetition of 1952. It is much worse. They are burning National Flag. They are vandalising national monuments. They are desecrating mosques by doing politics and anti-Islam activities there. These people must be hanged. Bengali Muslims should wake up and finish these anti-Islam elements who were involved in raping, killing, and burning in the name of Islam.

### Hasan

We are ready to fight against Jamaat-Shibir like we did in 1971. Enough is enough. The government and all its machinery must start working to eliminate Jamaat-Shibir or people will do this.

### Monika

The nation must not bow its head to such zealots. Bangalees know how to win against odds. Our Flag and our Shaheed Minar are our greatest achievements, and no one should dare to desecrate them.

### Reazuddin

This article has not depicted the reality and the root cause of all these problems. The reality is the Shahbagh movement has, unfortunately, lost its credibility and acceptability as the theme was hijacked by the ruling party and its allies. The movement should have incorporated all those burning issues of corruption of the present government so as to bring the whole nation together. Now the country is heading towards anarchy. Can we hear the voice of fascism and neo-Bakshal returning?

### Clear thoughts

Well written and echoes the sentiment of the time. Just one point of disagreement: to allow Jamaat do politics. They have been given enough opportunities. It is time we disbanded such a party which has no regards for people's life, no respect for our motherland and language. Enough is enough. Thanks for penning the truth.

### Mizan Rahman

We hope our political leaders will understand the importance of our National Flag and Shaheed Minar. We hope they will come forward and unite themselves against this anti-Liberation force. May Allah keep our motherland safe from these culprits who committed heinous crimes during our Liberation War in 1971!

### A Choudhury

Many thanks for your correct views about the Jamaat-Shibirs' nature of opposing our freedom. I hope the whole nation will agree to ban them.

### ShamimH

Jamaat did performed very poorly in the election of 1970, a referendum on the creation of Bangladesh. It is time we held a referendum to determine the fate of Jamaat.

### Harun Rashid

I don't think they are the citizens of Bangladesh. Actually, they are Pakistanis living in this country, that's it.

### Syed Karim

Mahfuz Anam asked all the pertinent and important questions. Jamaat and Shibir have shown their true colours. They are against the very existence of Bangladesh. These so-called Islamist thugs are traitors. By desecrating the National Flag and damaging Shaheed Minar in some cities, they have committed treason. It is no longer a political issue, it is an issue of our exist-