A Song that Walked the World

As a Bangladeshi I felt proud to read about Palbasha Siddique and her extraordinary success as a singer at the international stage. Praan is proof that music is an international language that transcends national and geographic boundaries. I am not surprised at all that children respond to this song with such enthusiasm. I want to thank Garry Schyman, Matthew Harding and Palbasha Siddique for creating something so powerful that moved the world. Praan, based on a Tagore poem also proves that what Tagore wrote a hundred years ago still has the capacity to inspire people regardless of nationality and race.

Rabiul Alam
Sacramento, CA, USA



PHOTO COURTESY: MATTEW HARDING

Shooting the Messenger

I enjoyed reading the piece. It is unfortunate that journalists are becoming the target of attacks by political parties and their goons for telling the truth. In a country like ours journalists are the last hope for raising concerns against the injustices of the society. Those who attack and beat up journalists are actually insulting the people whose cause journalists serve. I hope people will realise that and shun them completely while making political decisions. I urge them not to vote for them in future elections.

Razia Khan
Uttara, Dhaka

Revisiting the Survivors

I want to thank the daily Star for its sacrifice, no matter how small, for the rehabilitation of the victims of the Rana Plaza collapse in Savar. I was deeply moved to read about the conviction of these brave people who despite losing everything has a positive attitude toward life. We have much to learn from them. Let us appreciate what we have. Let us thank God everyday for our loved ones and this beautiful life He has given us. Let us do more to help those in need. For he who serves man serves God.

Manik De
Birmingham, UK

Thailand's Smart Move

It is a well balanced essay showing how a modern and secular country like Thailand is trying to cope with religious extremism. Heavily influenced by the Buddhist-Hindu culture of India, Thailand has always been a tolerant country where people of different faiths can live in peace and harmony. Their recent policy of social inclusion is a wise choice. Perhaps our country can learn something from them about how to deal with religious schools and institutions. Rather than condemning the religious schools for their 'fundamentalist outlook', we must try to identify the root causes behind it and help them by including them in the mainstream education.

Mohammad Qazi Amin
Savar, Dhaka

Understanding Vastness

I would like to thank the Star Magazine for publishing the article on Asif, the only professional science orator in Bangladesh. I express my heart-felt gratitude to the writer for his well-written piece. Once we arranged a program titled Discussions about Science at Ashwini Kumar Town Hall in Barisal where science orator Asif delivered a magnificent speech which the whole audience enjoyed in speechless wonder. We believe that science education is like a vaccine against those who want to keep us in the dark in order to fulfil their vested interests.

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