

BCIM EXCHANGES FORUM

A myth and manifestation

DR MUHAMMAD ABDUL MAZID

THE "BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar) Economic Connectivity Forum for Regional Cooperation" is popularly called the Kunming Initiative...

ILFA is working for connectivity and cooperation issues covering Southeast Asia, South Asia and Indian ocean regions...

Under the initiative of BCIM Exchanges Forum, ILFA and South Asian Federation of Exchanges (SAFE), a brain storming meeting was organised during 9th - 10th June, 2014 in Kunming, China...

Exchange, establish non-governmental financing mechanism, research on how to promote the regional finance co-operation and create and market innovative financial products...

The Kunming congregation agreed to support the suggestion of setting up the pilot projects of BCIM Free Trade Zones. It reached consensus on supporting the government of four countries under the framework of UN-ESCAP "Governmental Land-ports Agreement"...

assessment system and build risk monitoring and controlling platform, a common regulatory framework which shall cover all kinds of financial markets, financial organisations, financial products, financial instruments and settlements of transactions.

There is none to deny the fact that Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridors need huge funds, both from private and public sector, to support infrastructural constructions such as harbour, railways, highways and other areas like industrial park/free trade zone and many other projects related to BCIM economic co-operations.

As such, ILFA, SAFE (now under Bangladesh leadership) and exchanges from BCIM member countries as well as exchanges from SAFE member countries and financial institutions can mindfully move forward in formation of a regional stock exchange with funding constructions related to BCIM Economic Cooperation.

The writer is Chairman, South Asian Federation of Exchanges (SAFE) and Chairman, Chittagong Stock Exchange.

The fall from prestige



ANIKA HOSSAIN

ON the fifth of November an incident occurred on the campus of Dhaka University that elicited an outrage among many. Renowned photographer Imtiaz Alam Beg and his two nieces were brutally assaulted by a group of students...

accounts either for fear of repercussion, as very little security is provided for them on the campus, or because they have witnessed enough incidents to become apathetic to the happenings around them.

Following Beg's incident, many students have placed blame on the victims, commenting on their clothes and attitude. The lack of empathy for the victims and understanding of this volatile situation on the campus was displayed yesterday at a protest at the Shaheed Minar about the November 5th incident.

This blatantly shameful display by some Dhaka University students at a public gathering, on government-owned property, was unexpected and shocking to say the least.

The writer is a Feature Reporter and Subeditor of the Feature Section of The Daily Star.

WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

G-20 countries brace for a cold winter

ABDULLAH SHIBLI

GASOLINE prices are falling across the globe. While consumers are happy, some others, particularly finance ministers and central bankers, are keeping a nervous eye on the sputtering world economic engine.

The forthcoming meeting of heads of government of the G-20 countries on November 15 and 16, 2014 in Brisbane, Australia, comes at a critical juncture of the world economic recovery that has experienced too many hiccups.

Crude oil prices at the world market have been dropping for the last six months and dropped by 29% since June. It means good news for the motorists as well as for the millions of average citizens in the northern hemisphere using heating oil who are bracing for the cold and harsh winter.

So, is it gloom and doom in the coming months? Not quite, since there are some good news. The G-20 leaders are meeting in mid-November in Brisbane, Australia to be followed by a meeting of the finance ministers.

Unfortunately, the economic outlook for other countries is not as bright. News from Europe in recent months has been of a gradual slowdown or a loss of momentum in its economic recovery.

But that has not happened this time, for two reasons. The announcement was well anticipated and, secondly, the central bank in Japan announced that it will undertake a QE programme on a scale unprecedented for Japan.

Let me turn to the reason for the Fed's decision. The downside of QE is that the Federal Reserve or any central bank ends up with billions of dollars worth of stocks and bond which it has to get rid of. The other side-effect of QE is buildup of inflationary pressures.

US consumer sentiment rose in October to 86.9, the highest level since July 2007, up from 84.6 at the end of September. However, there is currently a fear in US, EU and Japan that deflation rather than inflation might be more important to keep an eye on.

For Bangladesh, lower oil prices mean a better balance of trade account. Demand for our manpower is projected to be very strong in the Gulf countries notwithstanding the sluggish oil market.

Ms. Merkel is encouraging her fellow European leaders to stay on course and let the easy money policy and other forms of economic aid, which are in the pipeline, to run through its course before letting go of fiscal discipline.

As mentioned, Japan's new bold monetary policy will help ease any jitters in the world financial market. Bank of Japan, the central bank, announced on October 30 that it will strengthen QE by \$730 billion.

Japan has experienced slow economic growth, tepid consumer spending, and fears of deflation since the year 1990, and a "damaging cycle of falling prices and lower spending" causing a downward deflationary spiral.

How effective will this recent round of QE likely to be in Japan? Since QE always works, the question is how long would it take and what are the unintended consequences.

For Bangladesh, it is all good news. The world market for garments, our main export, is robust, and remittances are on an upswing again.

The writer is an economist.

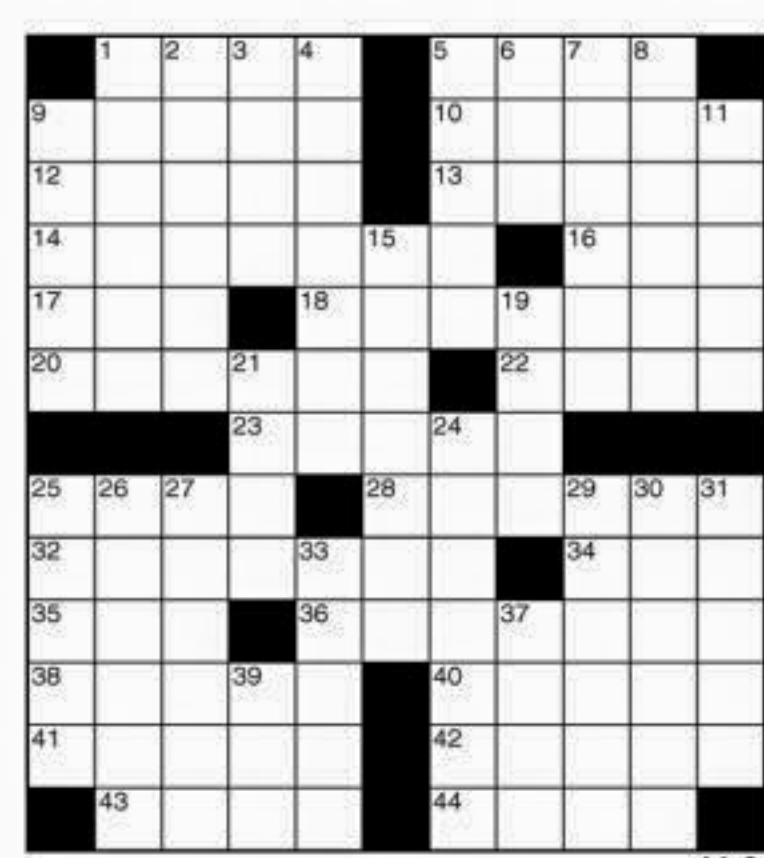
QUOTABLE Quote

The real man smiles in trouble, gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection.

Thomas Paine

CROSSWORD by Thomas Joseph

- CROSS: 1 Final, for one; 5 Pants part; 9 Farm machine; 10 Malfunction; 12 Acid type; 13 Baseball manager Joe; 14 Old brass instrument; 16 Road-house; 17 New Haven student; 18 Bird with flippers; 20 Starts a set; 22 Game callers; 23 Fall fowers; 25 School near Windsor; 28 Arctic natives; 32 Made still; 34 Singer Carly - Jepsen; 35 Ornate planter; 36 U-235, e.g.; 38 Comic strip worker; 40 Overly eager; 41 Botheration; 42 Obdurate; 43 Scott of history; 44 Chow



Yesterday's answer

STAB SWAB
TUNIC PINES
ADDTO UNDAM
NOR UNDERGO
DREDGES ELK
SWEAT TWEET
JAR HAL
JEAN TOXIN
ARC CANINES
IRKSOME CAL
LASER STORE
STOCK TILED
ANTS ENDS

CRYPTOQUOTE

X MWHV BZ PV YHXIWH GMXP XP
VHLBPXHA RXP, YQG MW BZ YHXIWH
JBW RBPQGWZ UVPFWH.
- HXUEM SXULV WRWHZVP

Yesterday's CRYPTOQUOTE:

STRIVE NOT TO BE A SUCCESS, BUT RATHER TO BE OF VALUE. ALBERT EINSTEIN

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