

Rampant crime: Strike at the roots of the torment

MD. ASADULLAH KHAN

In an ideal world, there are some stories we'd love to avoid: those with an excess of blood and gore. Some of us may find watching films based on such themes entertaining and then go away from the TV screen or movie house with the reassurance that it was all fiction.

be it railway and bus tickets, inter-district goods movement by trucks, tender dropping in any state-level works, or transfer of land ownerships. The cult of warlordism that began in early 1980s in this poverty ridden country especially in the Dhaka city area has now spread throughout its length and breadth.

Reports of gruesome murders published in the newspapers in the recent past reinforce our belief about the horrendous crime situation in the country. Of late these were -- Bashkhal: eleven of a family burnt to death followed by five butchered in Pabna. Newspapers carrying reports of such gory incidents chill our bone. Some ghastly incidents of the recent past will illustrate as to how youngmen in the age group 16-25 are slipping into crime wave.

Despite mobilisation of strike force at strategic points in the city in the month of Ramadan, extortion bid by such young deviant youths resulting in injury and even death has not abated. Two young men, Rony and Saikat, identified criminals in the Babubazar area of the city, got seriously injured by mob beating while collecting extortion money from businessmen on November 11 last.

Begum (25) in the Mahadebpur village under Lakhmipur upazila was killed by her husband Ismail in dowry related conflict. But the tragic killing of a young housewife and her 11-month old son Tariqul by her husband at Netrokona for failing to meet the dowry demand overwhelms us with shock and grief.

detection -- are of no use since a vast majority of criminals are young novices and new recruits. Quick money seems to be the new mantra. With family values already under stress and job market squeezing up, crime suddenly seems to be an alluring option. For them, crime pays!

and fast. They want ready success, ready money, unbridled life with all the comfort and luxuries and they believe they can use any means to get it. Inspired by the ostentatious living they see next to their door, most children or youngsters to-day prowl tirelessly for a better deal that will free them from the restraints that their parents faced.

month of Ramadan. Two youngsters riding a motorbike swooped on a beggar while he was counting the day's earning in a central crowded place in town. Hardly any study about the behavioural pattern of such deviant youths in our country has been done.

The real challenges lie within the society itself. The government needs to step up the battle against drugs and crimes and work out ways to distribute wealth more equitably.

of the Khulna town Aminul Islam Nira (35) a drug peddler was killed by his associates over sharing of the drug sale money on November 3 last. Mansur (25), a drug dealer at Palpur village in the Kuchai union of Sylhet, was killed by his neighbours on November 4, as a sequel to past rivalries.

youngmen soaring with ambition but bursting with greed and lust for ready money and quick success. It is the brutality of these crimes that has awakened the country to the beast that runs loose in young people.

these days are drawn to crime for reasons that are our own making. Even after going through all the struggles and securing the university degree or technical qualification most desirable for a job when he moves from door to door for a job the lack of opportunity frustrates him.

These days are drawn to crime for reasons that are our own making. Even after going through all the struggles and securing the university degree or technical qualification most desirable for a job when he moves from door to door for a job the lack of opportunity frustrates him.

The real challenges lie within the society itself. The government needs to step up the battle against drugs and crimes and work out ways to distribute wealth more equitably.

MD. ASADULLAH KHAN, FORMERLY A TEACHER OF PHYSICS, IS CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATION, BUET.



Attaining good governance Needed enhancement of accountability

ABMS ZAHUR

THE people of Bangladesh cannot or do not assert their right to good economic governance because of ineffectiveness of the constitutional and political structures that regulate accountability. Generally speaking, the government agencies are subject to weak accounting controls.

Accountability is a vast subject. It may, therefore, be appropriate here to discuss in brief only the most important elements, in the following paragraphs.

Increasing Capacity of Constitutional and Statutory Oversight Bodies: Though in a democratic system parliamentary accountability is a basic need it has not worked well in Bangladesh so far because of too much power for executive, incomplete adjustment from a presidential to a parliamentary system and inadequate debate.

oversight agencies; and Establishing an Ombudsman's office. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG): The chief responsibility for financial monitoring lies with the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in Bangladesh.

Powerful politicians and bureaucrats are never prosecuted while in office. Though there is an Anti Corruption Bureau it is largely ineffective.

is appointed by the government the constitution provides for its independence.

The reports of the CAG do not reflect proper ex-post checks over spending agencies perhaps due to (a) weak staff skills, (b) outmoded concepts and procedures, (c) inadequate coverage of reports, (d) dual responsibility of accounting and auditing, (e) delay in issuing reports, (f) lack of comprehensiveness and poor quality of reports, (g) inadequate attention to follow-up action, (h) lack of adequate number of professionally qualified staff.

Centralization of Government Budget: The budget is presented in two parts, the revenue budget and the development budget. The revenue

budget covers collation and examination of the ministerial budget submissions, summarisation and passage through the parliament to its final publication. Development budget converts the annual development programme prepared by the Planning Commission.

Government policies provides for public debate. It also helps to improve policy design, facilitates acceptance and ensures effective implementation.

government policies provides for public debate. It also helps to improve policy design, facilitates acceptance and ensures effective implementation. In Bangladesh very large number of activities remain outside the public purview. Bureaucrats are obsessed with secrecy and have deep misgivings about freely providing any information.

cannot monitor the overall effectiveness of public spending. There are excessive expenditure targets without due consideration to physical achievements. It does not evaluate projects systematically.

The improvement of law and order also lies with the separation of judiciary from the administration.

The improvement of law and order also lies with the separation of judiciary from the administration. There should not be any interference in judiciary by the administration to bring the criminals to justice. Judgement of the court should be executed as promptly as possible without any grudge.

reported in the tax returns; publishing a list of bank defaulters; enhancing dissemination of information and reports.

The improvement of law and order also lies with the separation of judiciary from the administration.

The improvement of law and order also lies with the separation of judiciary from the administration. There should not be any interference in judiciary by the administration to bring the criminals to justice. Judgement of the court should be executed as promptly as possible without any grudge.

In the grip of crises

MOHAMMAD AMJAD HOSSAIN

THE present coalition government headed by Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has completed two years after assuming power in October 2001. It is perhaps high time to assess its performances. The BNP in its political manifesto made pledges to the voters that if voted to power, it would bring reforms in the administration, remove corruption and control lawlessness in the country, apart from separating judiciary from the administration and establishing independent anti-corruption commission.

hamper the interest of business people and thus deprives the government of revenue in the form of tax. The petty business people are generally suffering.

Recent statement to electronic media by the State Minister for Home Affairs that the crime situation has improved is diametrically opposite the picture that we receive, during holy Ramadan, about the killing spree including that of activists of the ruling BNP and vandalism by unruly garment workers at Narayanganj, not to speak

The improvement of law and order also lies with the separation of judiciary from the administration.

The improvement of law and order also lies with the separation of judiciary from the administration. There should not be any interference in judiciary by the administration to bring the criminals to justice. Judgement of the court should be executed as promptly as possible without any grudge.

The Night of Honour Significance of observance

KAZI AULAD HOSSAN

THERE is no Book in the world in whose service so much talent, so much labour, so much time and money have been expended as has been the case with the Quran. A mere glance at Imam Surtuy's (d. 911 H) 'Iqtian' or Haji Khalifa's (d. 1059 H) 'Kash Fuzzunun' will show the encyclopedic volume of the Quranic sciences in their day.

Quanic literature is so voluminous that no single man can compass a perusal of the whole. Besides the extent works, there were innumerable works written for special groups of people or for special points of view or for special purpose which have perished.

Thus observed the world renowned commentator and translator of the Holy Quran Allama Abdullah Yusuf Ali while translating this Holy Book some seventy years ago from now, that is, in the year 1934. So, this is the position of the greatest of all Holy Books including all Revealed Books. It may be stated here that our very existence as Muslim is directly linked with revelation of the Holy Quran on the Night of Honour or the Lailatul-Qadr.

Now we may turn our undivided attention to all the five Ayats (Verses) of Sura Qadr of the Holy Quran in which Almighty Allah declares: Ayat 1 "We have indeed revealed this (Message) in the Night of Honour"

Ayat 2 "And what will explain to thee what the Night of Honour is?" Ayat 3 "The Night of Honour is better than a thousand months." Ayat 4 "Therein come down the angels and the spirit by Allah's permission on every errand." Ayat 5 "Peace..... until the rise of morn."

of the aforesaid Sura Night of Honour (i.e. Sura Qadr) of the Holy Qur-an the same commentator of international repute Allama Abdullah Yusuf Ali has aptly said: "A thousand (nights) must be taken in indefinite sense, as denoting a very long period of time. This does not refer to our ideas of time, but to "timeless time". One moment of enlightenment under Allah's Light is better than thousands of months or years of animal life, and such a moment converts the night of darkness into a period of spiritual glory." (Commentation on Ayat 3).

Again, according to Ayat 4 of Sura Sajda (Adoration) of the Holy Quran we further learn that "a Day does not mean a day as we reckon it viz. one apparent course of the sun round the earth....."

The term 'Lailatul-Qadr' or 'Shab-e-Qadr' is not only very known to and popular among the young and old, it is equally known to and popular among the small children also. The other day one of my grand children (a student of class II) told me eagerly and enthusiastically and also with all the emphasis at his command: 'Grandpa! I will observe fast on the following day of 27th Ramadan, that is, the day following Shab-e-Qadr.' It is not only the case with my grandchild, millions and millions of such children living in the whole Muslim world beseech their affectionate mothers every year during the holy lunar month of Ramadan to allow them to observe fast at least on the day following the Night of Honour (Lailatul-Qadr).

This is the holy lunar month of Ramadan and we must not be oblivious of the great importance and significance of Lailatul-Qadr. Muslims all over the world will celebrate this auspicious Night with due solemnity and fervour. We in Bangladesh should also observe this sacred Night in a befitting manner.

We all know rose is a very beautiful flower and is liked by all and sundry. It is the queen of all flowers. In the same way Night of Honour or the Lailatul-Qadr is the night of all nights. It is also the queen of all nights. Its direct association with Revelation of the Holy Quran, and Praises of Benign Allah showered on it, makes it glorious and sublime.

While commenting on Ayats 3 and 5

In the grip of crises

judiciously. Presently, it seems the society is been divided into two groups: the haves and have-nots -- powerful and powerless. Dhaka city itself presents a glaring example. Skyrise residential buildings and shopping malls in posh areas surrounded by shanties, and of slums not very far away. The gap between the rich and the poor is increasing every day.

Majority the youth community feel deprived of job opportunities. The scope of going abroad in search of job has also been shrinking. No measure has been adopted by the government to re-employ young and energetic workers the shut down mills. Absence of good governance, rise of lawlessness and of continuing political instability are holding back investment in the country which has caused economic stagnancy.

Workers, on the other hand, are being exploited by corrupt political elements to meet their selfish interest. Trade union leaders are also exploiting innocent and uneducated work force to get wealthy themselves. Politically exploited work force in the mills and factories are, by and large, responsible for making the industries losing concerns.

The administration should have dealt with this menace duly instead of pampering them to seek their votes and line up in the Paltan Maidan to raise their voices in favour of the political leaders. Regrettably, we have noted that both the major political parties have miserably failed to deliver goods to the country.

This is one side of the story. The improvement of law and order also lies with the separation of judiciary from the administration. There should not be any interference in judiciary by the administration to bring the criminals to justice. Judgement of the court should be executed as promptly as possible without any grudge. It is a constitutional obligation to separate judiciary in the interest of the people.

Some one should take a lead to make the country free from corruption, nepotism. The people are looking forward to welcome only those who can run this country honestly and sincerely.

Mohammad Amjad Hossain is a former diplomat.