

Independent Media and Advertisement Policy

We would like to extend a qualified welcome to the move by the government to set up a special body to work out a framework for a suitable advertisement policy.

According to the BSS report published in newspapers, the committee will recommend a policy 'helpful for the flourishing, qualitative improvement and increased circulation of the newspapers.'

We regret the inclusion of what appears to us to be extraneous elements into the terms of reference of the committee to formulate advertisement policy.

We fail to understand as to why a good effort is being otherwise complicated by irrelevant issues and burdened with a 'personal agenda' totally inconsistent with the values of an independent press.

According to reports, the work of the committee will take three months to complete. What happens in the interim? The information minister has already said that the existing system is replete with corruption.

More Dangerous than Murders

On Saturday a cry was raised in the Chashara Balur Math slum area of Narayanganj. Someone shouted 'child lifter' — and a violent crowd of a hundred people, mostly young men, gathered in no time.

It was clearly a case of mass psychosis. Narayanganj people had run into similar pathological state three times in the last 20 days — all of them on the signal that a child was being snatched.

Violence, involving or ending up in murder, is by now all too familiar a crime in our country.

The same day, at a village in Sabhar, a gang of miscreants attacked the house of Rahmat Ali with the intent of killing him.

Political murders one can understand as simply as one can take other killings with clear motives — motives making the murderers convinced that they somehow stood to gain by their cruel, inhuman action.

One thing we can be certain about even at this stage of complete ignorance of and abject indifference to the problem — when all that the government and most in the society can think of is that it is a police matter or to put it in opposition parlance a matter of deterioration of law and order.

AUGUST is the holiday season of the West. Yet events have dynamics of their own and they seem to be gathering momentum.

The two Kurdish leaders Mr. Masud Barzani and Jalal Talabani have come together and seem to co-operate.

We owe it to the world to be frank about what we have achieved in Rio: progress in many fields, too little progress in other fields, and no progress at all in some fields.

We have opened two important conventions for signature (on biodiversity and climatic changes) and it is imperative that we make them more effective.

We will be watched closely by our constituencies as we move in to the field of implementation and further negotiations.

There is no turning back from realising that we are heading toward a crisis of uncontrollable dimensions unless we change course.

We will decide through our actions how effective Agenda 21 will be. Implementation requires financing and new priorities to be set in all countries.

We are disappointed by the lack of adequate financial commitments made. The 20 year old target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as official development assistance must be reached before the year 2000.

To the Editor...

Letters for publication in these columns should be addressed to the Editor and legibly written or typed with double space.

Budget: Felicitations and some suggestions

Sir, On the passing of the budget of production, progress and savings at the prevailing juncture of financial crisis, political and social turmoil the expatriates feel happy.

The local daily Gulf Times published that the Bangladesh Government had invited its expatriate members serving in the Middle East countries including Qatar to come forward for actively participating (investing) in the Development Bond.

Since long the expatriates and repatriates have been exposing their earnest desire for contributing the economic development activity by participating in bodies like the Probashi Shilpo Shangstha, Probashi Investment Trust, Wage Earners Investment Corporation, Probashi-O-Prothyagoto Bank, Probashi

more to confuse than clarify. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and members of his cabinet have repeatedly stressed that the territorial integrity of Iraq was inviolable.

In this entire enterprise it is evident Turkey has a pivotal role. A look at the map is sufficient to prove that Kurdistan, hemmed in the south by hostile Iraq, depends for her survival on Turkey.

Summit leaders took neither a small step nor a giant leap in Rio, writes Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

Not all major countries signed the Summit's two important conventions, other important topics have yet to be discussed and no adequate financial commitments were made to implement Agenda 21.

of GNP as official development assistance must be reached before the year 2000. I say this with confidence since Norway provides 1.1 per cent of its GNP, three times higher than the average Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) country.

Norway, with its four million people, contributes almost US\$5000 million more than what is required to fulfill the 0.7 target. We are the eighth largest contributor to the United Nations in absolute terms and by far the largest per capita contributor.

"Drishtikon"

Sir, Attorney General Mr Aminul Haque in his informal talk with BTV's 'Drishtikon' on August 7 has made two useful observations on (i) importance of conducting impartial, active and attentive inquiries by the IOs of the Police department;

With a view to attaining the greater interest of the people of this group in particular and the country as a whole, these people are needed to be well organised on a single platform.

Meanwhile, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the compeere of 'Drishtikon' for his follow-up notes. But those seemed rather theoretical, we would be interested to watch audio-visual follow-ups on the previously aired reports.

Finally, Pakistani Lakhani, his Bangladeshi second wife and mysterious American (?) Mr Hany M Salam have polluted the atmosphere further and the foreign oil companies are now hesitant to come to Bangladesh.

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Foreign oil exploration companies

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Arshad-uz Zaman writes from Istanbul

The large concentration of Kurds is in the south-east although most of the Turkish Kurds have been integrated in the mainstream Turkish society.

For several years now the Turkish army has been locked in battle against an uprising in the south eastern part, with the group known as the PKK (Turkish Workers Party).

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Chetin, recently paid a visit to Damascus and by all accounts it was a complete success. Syria has been worried by a off the cuff remark of Mr Demirel at the recent opening of the giant Atatürk Barrage.

These do not appear to have any impact on the Serbs. Nor do efforts of the international community brought peace any nearer in Sarajevo.

The Adriatic Sea, south of Yugoslavia, is now ringed by allied warships including one from Turkey. The Foreign Minister of Turkey is once again going on the road to impress upon the western powers the need for tougher action to stop this bloodbath.

Although US presidential election fever is quite a few weeks away, the ripples have started reaching here. A former Turkish Ambassador turned columnist Mr Semih Gunver wrote that Mr Bush, who at present is trailing his Democrat rival by 30 points, needed to 'overthrow' Saddam at any cost and hence the on-going crisis between the US and Iraq.

The Kurds with their ethnic and linguistic distinctiveness have been campaigning for long for a state of their own. Saddam's misadventures in Kuwait offered the West the perfect pretext to bring about this state, which nobody is in a hurry to recognize.

The writer is retired Ambassador and Assistant Secretary General, OIC.

Assessing the Earth Summit

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OPINION

Prize Bond: Time Limit

Prize Bond is perhaps the most popular among the National Savings Schemes. People buy and hold 50-taka and 10-taka bonds with a fond hope for the betterment of their lot by winning prizes through periodical draws.

It is important to note that when the scheme of Prize Bond was introduced, no such time limit was prescribed, nor was there any necessity to fix such time limit.

List of unclaimed Prize Bonds were prepared in book form and sold to the intending buyers which is not being printed and sold these years.

The authorities know it well that the persons purchasing and holding Prize Bonds do not get any benefit whatsoever, until and unless they succeed in winning a prize.

Most of the Bond holders do not find sufficient time to verify their Bond numbers with the prize winning list when published and defer the same for a period to find a comparatively leisure time to attend to it.

Finally, Pakistani Lakhani, his Bangladeshi second wife and mysterious American (?) Mr Hany M Salam have polluted the atmosphere further and the foreign oil companies are now hesitant to come to Bangladesh.

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