

Chittagong Stock Exchange

Seldom does anything happen — positive, that is — as quickly as the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) was formed. In fact within months of the subject being considered, and literally within weeks of it reaching the Finance Minister's table, the idea got all the legal, and organisational form that it needed.

The question is, will a second stock exchange (SE) be good for our stock market? We think, yes. A second stock exchange in the port city will help to bring many newcomers to the bourse, drawing more funds to the capital market, especially the hundreds of small investors located in Chittagong.

That Misanthropic Fringe

A mother was forced to watch as gunmen bound and executed all of her four sons — all Shi'ite Muslims in Karachi on Saturday. One thought there was a limit to variations man can play on what he calls brutality.

Karachi is being certainly Beirutised at a time when Beirut is collecting itself together, socially, politically and commercially. There was hope even for Beirut. For fundamentalism was not the major malady that visited it.

We had laid three million lives at the altar of the same devil. The occupation army elements of Pakistan could go ahead with the genocide in the belief that they were saving a religion by punishing its enemies.

We Sympathise

There has been 350 cases of mugging in the last 15 days in Dhaka, says a news report. This is very evidently a case of Eid spree. This could be let to pass but for the fact that these muggings were accompanied by as many as 270 cases of stabbing.

Yes, people must try to be understanding. Dhaka doesn't have, although the capital and a most pampered city, an infinite number of policemen. Of the thousands we have, there are very many serious jobs they must mind — like providing protection to the ministers and assorted big brass and securing marriages and other social functions against crowding etc. so on and so forth.

US and China: A Trade War that Really Isn't

TOP digging when you get into one and, once out of it, never go near another — states the first Law of Holes. Yet, how is it that trade disputants in a global scenario keep getting into holes repeatedly?

Now again is the season for Sino-American trade negotiations. This time, it is China who has got into a hole for apparently being tardy in hauling up all the persons living in its land who have been accused of thievery of American copyrights.

China's sin is illegal copying of American products by some of its producers. Two years ago, the United States had threatened trade sanctions against China for violation of its intellectual property rights.

Applying the sunset rules to restrict the right of movement of women students, the University of Dhaka has totally overlooked the fact that in 1922 these regulations applied equally to men.

To the Editor...

"Unforgivable neglect of city traffic"

Sir, The report "Unforgivable neglect of city traffic" by Mahfuz Anam appearing in your daily, on 12 February is well studied and timely. I thank him for his such effort to point out various lapses of law enforcing agencies. I feel it would have been better if he added one or two more aspects of traffic management.

I fully agree, the situation has become so grim that, unless to one time is not valuable or, having protection and escort jeep like VVIPs are using, one should not come out on the road with a transport. I

While asserting its resolve to crack down on product piracy, China also asks for time to develop its laws and refine the enforcement mechanism for copyright protection. The United States, on the other hand, wants prompt and definitive action on this front.

forces" to close down such pirating factories. There has been no denial of the fact that there is rampant piracy by some Chinese establishments of foreign designs, software, music and movies.

To a large measure, trade considerations seem to be prompting the professed impatience on United States' part. China is the world's 10th largest trading nation. Its total foreign trade last year came to some \$225 billion.

Thus it is that the United States wants China not only to stop piracy of intellectual property but also to open up the Chinese market to legitimate exports of US movies, music, software, consumer goods — perhaps cigarettes too.

way, China balked at these demands, saying that these hardly bore any reference to the protection of intellectual property rights.

The two sides broke off talks about the dispute in mid-December. The United States announced its resolve to proceed under its own trade laws and take retaliatory measures against China.

United States could impose punitive duties on Chinese goods of a similar value exported to America as a retaliatory action.

Promptly on the expiry of the February 4 deadline, the United States announced that 100 per cent tariffs on some \$1.08 worth of goods from China will go into effect automatically on February 26 unless the dispute was resolved during the three-week interregnum.

States and China really launch a trade war? United States' biggest ever trade sanction against any country and presumably the same for China too.

A fresh round of negotiation opened with China also. However, after nine days of talks, these too broke down on January 28 without any agreement.

States and China thus seemed to have moved a step closer to a truce.

Yet, behind all the sound and fury, there lurked a sense of unreality. Would the United

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And so it happened that attitudes softened only after two days of swashbuckling and both sides agreed on February 6 to sit down again to talk.

There are other indications to signal the US desire to stay involved with China. While

copyright talks resume in Beijing on February 15, another top level 'commercial engagement' mission, led by the US Secretary of Energy, is visiting China.

DESPITE the wrangle, both China and the United States were among the 35 countries who signed late last year a new treaty under the aegis of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to simplify and improve international protection of trademarks.

ALONG MY WAY S B Chaudhuri



Confining Women in the Halls

by Hameeda Hossain

The principle of necessity needs to be taken into account when framing any rules. If the government and, in fact, society as a whole, has begun to emphasise the value of women's education, practical measures must be taken to ensure that women can take full and equal advantage of facilities.

ditions which prevail in 1995. Let us examine the case made out by the women residents in Dhaka University halls.

Women students' attendance in the residential halls by 7 pm before the bell announces the closing of the hall.

Time limit for visits from relatives such as parents, brothers, sisters, husband. Girl students from other halls are also not allowed to visit their friends inside the halls.

Even before the Government of Bangladesh ratified the UN Convention for Eliminating all forms of Discrimination against Women, under which they are obliged to remove existing disparities particularly in educational opportunities, the 1972 Constitution guaranteed equal rights under clause 28 (1).

On all road intersections "Go round islet" must be constructed. This is less expensive but makes the traffic even glowing, rather than standstill by traffic light.

fully agree with the recommendations of Mr Anam, but would like to add the following which may also help ease the traffic load of Dhaka city: (a) Traffic police must stand on a pedestal (it used to be in the earlier days) and still in vogue in Dhaka Cantt also in major cities of India (Calcutta) to control.

Students of university halls, and those who stay outside and are free to move about. The principle of necessity needs to be taken into account when framing any rules.

Enforcement of a few of these rules creates practical problems. Women students are expected to obtain written permission from their local guardians each time they expect to leave their halls.

Some of the conditions can best be described as humiliating to women and therefore deplorable. Ringing of attendance bells to ensure that everyone is locked within four walls in reminiscent of prison conditions.

Reluctance to accede to students' demands are probably being rationalised by University authorities on pleas of women's security under unstable social conditions, and the apportioning of University responsibility.

Free flow of traffic saves wastage of public and private resources. I hope concerned agencies would ponder on this, and take immediate steps to implement the suggestions to save the above mentioned resources, for many of us time is one of them.

this does not mean that we should incarcerate the innocent. Instead of taking measures against those who violate social and legal norms the University seeks to confine the orderly citizens within a restricted space.

Institutions are expected to guarantee security and rule of law to its citizens within its precincts. If the University has been unable or unwilling to enforce this within its own boundaries, should it prescribe restraining conditions on women outside the campus?

The answer to teen-age pregnancy is for young mothers to go out and sell real estate. The American people are more angry at welfare mothers than they are at the Serbs, and with good reason.

Every time you build a day-care centre, you are taking money away from New Gingrich's PAC. Welfare mothers who say that they can't find work do not know about the government's astronaut programme.

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Art Buchwald's COLUMN

So Much for Welfare

THESE are some of the things Congress believes about welfare but won't admit to. Most welfare mothers live like Ivana Trump and spend all their money as Elizabeth Arden.

There is no such thing as a promiscuous welfare father. When it comes to welfare, it is the mother who should take all the political heat.

This country cannot abort unwanted children just because it does not want to educate or feed them.

The answer to teen-age pregnancy is for young mothers to go out and sell real estate. The American people are more angry at welfare mothers than they are at the Serbs, and with good reason.

Poor people do not have political action committees like the National Rifle Association, so Congress is not afraid of them.

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power in Bangladesh than in our competitor countries; 2) Price of cotton is high; 3) Labour cost is higher than in our competitor countries (but is it true?)