

Jute Mills that Nobody Wants

In what can perhaps be termed as one of the understatement of the year, it was reported yesterday that bid for privatisation of jute mills drew poor response.

It is ironic that the "Golden Fibre" which created so much wealth for us in the fifties, sixties, and even in the seventies, should now become so unattractive that there are no bids for jute mills.

The Mad Bad Rush

For the week starting on February 25 the question of the greatest public concern of Dhaka, and as such the whole of this country, is how would two million people get out of Dhaka in about 48 hours and through only four main exit points.

How come the railway people are playing the cinema blackmarket game? Perhaps there isn't anyone in real control of the whole mechanism.

Starving the University Pupil

What are the universities for? For nurturing boys and girls into a full person by intellectually and emotionally developing them to carry forward man's accumulated wealth of knowledge and wisdom and creativity and the highest sense of responsibility and commitment towards society while consuming these and at once contributing to these.

Shedding Child Workers, Easing Labour Migration

A two-member team from the US Department of Labour paid a visit this month, reportedly to find out the progress made by the garment industry in shedding its child workers.

The United States is the single largest export market for readymade garments from Bangladesh. Some 60 per cent of garments exported from this country go to the United States.

The outcry raised by human-right activists, especially by anti-child-exploitation groups, against consumption of products using underage labour, holds even more far-reaching consequences for the marketing of such goods.

"A drumbeat of stories will follow about how poor Iraqis are suffering from the denial of oil income. Don't fall for it.

use poison gas during Gulf War. If he had the poison gas and did not use them for any valid reason why at this stage fear about an imaginary potential and in the process keep a nation under siege?

There are many such vaccine producing facilities around the world and if such assumptions are correct, every such facility could go for immediate change over for production of biological warfare agents.

There were some reports that American soldiers suffering from Gulf War syndrome were the victims of Saddam's poison gas used during Gulf War but later this was denied which means Saddam did not

such stupid news. Even a robust healthy person may face such situation, not to mention the very aged Indian politician.

Whenever I visit Dhaka, I try to avoid passing from the eastern side of Bangabandhu Avenue near Gulistan as half of the roadside is always found effluvia with the vapours rising from the urinating by numerous passersby.

snobby and arrogance. Of course a lot also depends on who really inherits what! Anyway, in our surroundings, many of these people even lose their sense of manners and has a peculiar attitude to look down on others.

The situation might have been different had the global movement of labour been freer than it is now. Poorer countries could have gone ahead with their human resource development programmes with greater assurance then, knowing that their surplus labour would find employment abroad

minimum age for admission to employment in industry. There also is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Individual countries, including Bangladesh, framed laws to deter use of child labour in industry.

It's not that child labour is employed by garment industry alone. Children can be found working in other industries too, for instance in small engineering workshops, bakeries and confectioneries.

The main thrust of the on-going programme for elimination of child labour from the garment industry is to arrange for education and training of the underage workers. Bangladesh has already signed up with the ILO, two-year IPEC — International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour.

tee earlier this month, with representation from concerned agencies, employers and labour leaders; to monitor the IPEC programme. ILO and UNICEF have been included in the committee as observers.

Addressing a press briefing at the end of its mission, the US Labour Department team indicated that the United States too would consider funding comprehensive programme for education of under-16 workers in the garment industry.

known as the Rugmark Foundation. Based in Delhi, its job is to administer a new scheme for exporting Indian carpets with "Rugmark" to the German market.

Education of the child workers with the aim of rehabilitating them is, of course, a noble venture. Question is, will schooling alone suffice to solve the problem of child labour in industry? Manufacturers may well show a readiness to hire child workers since they take lower wages.

On the other hand, a modicum of education and training will raise expectations of displaced child workers to higher levels. Will this new work force find jobs to suit its expectations? Will these ex-child workers find employment at all?

ALONG MY WAY S B Chaudhuri

It is absolutely the high time for the permanent members of the UN Security Council to review their political and strategic agenda and other compulsions in the region and look at the Iraqi people's situation somewhat differently... They have really suffered for their 'beloved' leader Saddam and now they should be spared.

Spare Poor Iraqis — all are Not Saddams

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One does not have to lecture on the US on such strategies. The US has enough knowledge and experience. It has been dealing with dictators for ages and these were generally to its advantage.

muslehuddin Ahmad

ever, feels morally obliged to highlight these issues for UN Security Council's serious consideration. It is absolutely the high time for the permanent members of the UN Security Council to review their political and strategic agenda and other compulsions in the region and look at the Iraqi people's situation somewhat differently — all Iraqi people are not Saddams.

If not for the Iraqi people, go at least for business interest. Iraq seems to be a gold mine in terms of oil and reconstruction work of the devastations the allied powers inflicted. France, Russia and China have already taken serious note of these and started making positive moves for lifting the sanctions.

The US could have gained enormously. In the event of an understanding with President Clinton the major contracts for such stupid news. Even a robust healthy person may face such situation, not to mention the very aged Indian politician.

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For example, on one of these mornings of Ramadan, I along with my wife, child and with many others were anxiously waiting at a doctor's clinic.

After nearly an hour, we finally got into the doctor's chamber, but before the physician could start with us, just then a lady in a rather bright dress and wearing a rather strong perfume for that part of the day, wildly pushed, opened the door and walked straight up to the doctor. I did not say anything as the physician seemed too flattered himself. After she left, I was told

that the person was one of the big shots of the city. What was really dismaying was that she had nothing serious or important to consult over, but merely argued over her pathological reports, taking a considerable amount of time and was absolutely least bothered about our presence.

She was also responsible for deliberately delaying others that included couple of patients in a serious condition. This was indeed an act of arrogance and height of bad manners.

Well, this sort of situation is not unusual. And as it seems, we are increasingly becoming immune to such acts of bad manners and personal insults day by day. Should we not raise our voice against such behaviours?

K Vihar Motnuddin Dhaka

OPINION IS DCC Blind?

Jamal Uddin Ahmad

I have read with considerable interest several letters under the above caption which appeared in your esteemed daily. I have also gone through the series of articles and comments which appeared in the print media including that of your's in the recent past about the terrible state of affairs now obtaining in DCC.

The question is not that DCC is blind. The fact of the matter is that it simply does not exist. Between DCC and the Traffic Department of DMP, the capital city of Bangladesh has been reduced to a grand slum.

There is no point in saying that the Central Government is not cooperating with the DCC. This is a matter which needs to be sorted out between DCC and the Government. People want service and redress of their problems. The Mayor and his administration are pledged bound to provide these. We want cleaner environment, better and safe roads, removal of traffic congestion, elimination of all unhygienic road side eating places and slums, proper garbage cleaning etc. DCC must ensure these minimum facilities to its citizens. No more excuses, please.