

As Good As Its Implementation

The new law just passed in Parliament providing for death penalty for raping, murdering for dowry and trafficking in women and children should generally be welcomed. Both the demonstrative and deterrent aspects of the law were badly needed for dealing with the rising crimes in question.

While we hail the merits of the new law, we cannot but be concerned about its operative part. The provision to form special tribunals at all the district headquarters gives some idea of the seriousness of the purpose no doubt.

The important point is to ensure effective and judicious use of legal provisions. In this context, can we ask if the existing legal provisions have been effectively applied to contain repression on women and children?

After all it is the police who receive the complaints and it has to be ensured that no case of woman repression is misinterpreted at that point. A sort of supervisory mechanism — perhaps with help from vigil bodies like human rights groups — has to be introduced.

The updated law against repression on women and children, in the meantime, needs to be brought to public notice through its publicity on Radio, TV and in the newspapers.

Total Farming

What is man's largest material output? All of the six billion of them considered, the most plausible answer, would be disconcerting — and unflattering to boot. It is waste. Everything under the sun is being laid waste by man — air and water, land and hills, forests and sunlight, and all species of flora and fauna of the world.

It is only decades that man has turned to making wastes into asset — mainly by recycling them, that again largely through mechanical and chemical means.

Bangladesh is just ripe for a far-going role in this matter. Perhaps ripest because of the pressures on it coming from the world's densest population it has now.

George I. Chan, a Chinese scientist now in town, on Tuesday talked about what he calls integrated farming. And his counsel touched on both of our tremendous needs — making our land and water as fecund as these always had been and answering to the fuel and energy requirements of our society.

In a very short time Bangladesh has become dependent on farming very largely cushioned by chemical fertilizer which boosts production but degenerates soil and — yes — also water and positively harms fauna of the land.

Incredible!

This is incredible. A vernacular national daily with an enviable credibility record reported on Tuesday that seven well-furnished classrooms of the Chittagong Government College were being used for commercial coaching purposes by the Jamaat student front — Shibir.

According to the report, things have gone to absurd levels this year. The HSC examinees are placed in rooms inferior to these seven well-lighted and fan-fitted rooms.

We are at a loss as to how to react to such a gem of a news. Before a convincing rebuttal of this, the report has to be taken as true. But how? Isn't there an administration in that college of wonderful legacy and incomparable setting?

THE propaganda dished out by the government media gives no clue to the actual state of the economy in any third world country.

In Dhaka today fact is becoming stranger than fiction. Dr Henry Kissinger's 'International basket case' has risen phoenix-like to make him eat his words in his lifetime.

An election year Budget with a third straight year of tax cuts and utility rates remaining mostly unchanged has been unveiled by Saifur Rahman, the Minister of Finance.

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After all it is the police who receive the complaints and it has to be ensured that no case of woman repression is misinterpreted at that point. A sort of supervisory mechanism — perhaps with help from vigil bodies like human rights groups — has to be introduced.

So, we have at hand a complicated situation because, based on different interpretations, anonymous petitions are presently being handled differently by different organisations.

Great Power hegemonism in international society and relations. This is a grave, backward step because at the end of the cold war and the disappearance of the Soviet Union.

In a historic decision on May 11, the 173-member states of the NPT had agreed without a vote to make the 25-year old Treaty a permanent international arrangement.

In fact, the indefinite extension of NPT divides international society permanently into nuclear weapon haves and the have-nots, and even more seriously, reinforces for ever,

muscle can make a hero of a villain and the other way about.

To the Editor...

Graffiti

Sir, Writings on the wall can be traced back to the cave when primates scribbled their messages of life, weal and woes, and painted events and associations of daily life.

Indiscriminate writings on almost all the walls in conspicuous points have made the look of the city, already choking, under various civic inadequacies, lousy and ugly.

Bangladesh, Sonar Bangla

Now it seems likely that the dream of a Bangladesh, having a market in the Indian States on Bangladesh's borders, viz West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland may become an economic reality.

senator Sartaj Aziz and Dr Manmohan Singh, to take the fundamental steps necessary to unshackle the economy and rejuvenate the process.

Bangladesh has still some distance to go before it can get out of the economic morass it was put in by the heedless nationalisation during the early day of its Liberation.

Anonymous petition is one which is not signed by its author. According to a government order of August 31, 1982, no action is required to be taken on anonymous petitions.

How to Deal with Anonymous Petitions

These are written in a particular style, distinguished by exaggerations, superlatives, digressions, additives, colourings, etc. even when the intention is to be very specific and concrete.

rather difficult situation, let us delve a little deep into the causes of anonymous petitions. Contentwise, there can be only two categories of anonymous petitions.

Thus, for example, some sexual offence is bound to be attributed particularly to a young and unmarried officer even if the main complaint is regarding his or her alleged financial corruption.

a geographical crossroads (Middle East, South Asia, Central Asia, China) makes the parallel economy pull the organised sector along.

To the credit of Begum Zia's regime she has continued the pragmatic economic policies of her hated enemy (and predecessor in government), Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

On the surface and going by the size of the strikes (hartals) Begum Zia should be in deep political trouble.

AS I SEE IT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

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Making Government Work

by Analyst

On the other hand, genuine anonymous petitions are generally authored as a last resort by honest but timid people who are terribly afraid of the powers that be.

Zia should be in deep political trouble. In the first-ever directly held municipal elections she lost control of the two major cities.

What does Bangladesh look like politically in an election year to an outside observer? Presently a legal tussle is going on due to the en-bloc resignation of the Opposition MPs.

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Extension of NPT: Legitimising Great Power Hegemonism

THE global talks on NPT and nuclear weapons issues concluded in New York on 12th May, 1995 without agreement on how to evaluate the past performance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Great Power hegemonism in international society and relations. This is a grave, backward step because at the end of the cold war and the disappearance of the Soviet Union.

Unfortunately, great power hegemonism has been integral to international society and relations ever since the Sovereign nation State System (SSS) came into existence about three hundred and fifty years ago.

OPINION

Plight of Dhaka Commuters

Sajjad Zubir

Can Dhakaites be ever confident that they will go to work and return home everyday in one piece? The question need not surprise — far less puzzle, the readers. The risk they run everyday is an obvious fact of everyday life here.

Dhaka City has become so accident-prone that nobody can even make a safe guess whether once out he or she will be lucky to avert an accident, major or minor.

On board a paddle rickshaw, you have got to be an efficient observer looking for any approaching vehicle which might run into your three-wheeler.

A bus or a minibus journey is perhaps the safest of all as there is less risk of their being dashed and pushed by other vehicles.

The ordeal of using public transport will remain as long as this situation continues. We do not hope to have fully risk-free roads overnight.

value of some political consequence. There have been scandals in Begum Zia's time, none so potent as the one that led to the recent fertilizer crisis.

Politics is based on economics whose main concern should be the amelioration of the misery and privation of the masses.

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Manpower export!

Sir, Either our policy makers at national level cannot see beyond their nose or the rest of the population is taken for fools.

Have the great planners thought of these young Muslim girls of the hazards that they will be exposed to in a rather liberal society.

Then some of the graffiti written in English are replete with howlers while some others are funny.

Indiscriminate writings on almost all the walls in conspicuous points have made the look of the city, already choking, under various civic inadequacies, lousy and ugly.

Writings, as of necessity, are of various kinds and multifarious. Walls serve as handy platform for propagating all kinds of message and senti-

ment, even verbal duad. For example, — 'ভাই এল নিজেই মুক্তি চাই' (we demand unconditional release of dear leader). Obviously, that Bhai is no angel to have been put behind the bars.

Some such writing proclaim 'ভাই এল মুক্তি চাই' meaning the hero of the message has an unblemished character — nay, he is as pure as rose-petals.

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