

Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**

**Spate of Insanity**

by Farah Ghuznavi



Hartal is on: And school is a must

— Star photo

The current political crisis has to be brought to a successful close soon. If for no other reason than this --- the cost to the average person's sanity appears to be dangerously high. Having observed some of the behaviour of otherwise relatively balanced individuals lately, I have to say that I am really worried about the long-term psychological effects of these constant political disturbances on the national psyche (quite apart from the other, more obvious social and economic costs).

My friend Suhaila's father was recently travelling in a rickshaw on a hartal day, when he observed a bombing incident near the Naval Academy on Airport Road. He saw two young men run up to a stationary (and fortunately empty) coaster, and chuck a couple of bombs into it. A few yards away, three policemen appeared to be observing the incident, but did not attempt to intervene in any way. Quite the contrary. As the coaster blew up, the two young men ran off in opposite directions, but to my friend's father's horror, the three policemen also began, quite inexplicably, to run away as well!

As his rickshaw rolled along, the three policemen were running so hard that the quickly overtook the rickshaw and shot ahead. One of the three was lagging somewhat behind, and Suhaila's astonished father leaped over and asked him, "Bhai, what are you doing? You people are supposed to be our protectors. What are we going to do if you run away instead of tackling these problems?" At this point, the policeman in the lead turned around to see his stunned colleague being accosted by a civilian in a rickshaw. His reaction was typical; he belatedly, "What are you standing around for, you idiot? Hurry up and run!" Needless to say, the third policeman wasted no time in following his advice (leaving his hapless questioner feeling, no doubt --- perhaps not unlike the rest of us --- that he was going through some kind of surreal, "Alice in Wonderland" type of experience!). Unfortunately for all of us, that is the current reality that we are living in.

Under the circumstances, therefore, it is perhaps not too surprising that another friend of

mine, Naila, recently faced a problem with her domestic help when she decided to move out to her mother's place for a few days during the last hartal. She lives in a huge, well-guarded block of flats in Baridhara, and requested her live-in cook to mind the flat in her absence, and take care of the chore of answering phone-calls etc. He agreed to do so during the daytime, but apologetically informed her that he would be unable to do so in the evenings. Why? Well, because, as he quite simply put it, "I am afraid to stay here alone at night, Apa"!! (and to think he hadn't even heard the story of the three "heroic" policemen on Airport road). In fact, he ended up minding the flat during the day, and going back home to Badda at night --- and if that isn't a sure sign of insanity, I don't know what is!

As the two incidents above illustrate, this spate of insanity clearly cuts across all class barriers, and that applies to the whole range of differentiating factors such as gender, age etc I had to accompany an elderly acquaintance of mine to one of the embassies recently on some work, and we naturally had to go through the extra-special security measures currently being implemented in most embassies. Needless to say, the guards were extremely thorough in their efforts to ensure that we were not attempting anything illegal. To my horror, she snapped at the men who fools! Not this time, at any rate! But if your bosses continue meddling in our politics as they have been doing recently, I'll bring a bomb here myself next time I visit! There is no doubt in my mind that she was joking, of course, but when I think of how close we could have come to getting chucked out of the embassy, it does make me rather nervous!

Finally, a recent conversation I was privy to between two people I had considered avowed democrats further deepened my general sense of unease. One said to the other, "I can't take this nonsense of being cooped up at home anymore! Why don't we just make up a couple of cocktails and wander around outside? Anything has to be better than this!" To which the other responded, "Don't be ridiculous. We can't do that!" Just as I was heaving a sigh of relief, she continued, "But I'm in the kind of mood where I would like to garland Ershad and bring him back to power!" Need I say more about my concern for the sanity of the nation?

**JCD to form resistance squad**

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) president and newly-elected parliament member Fazlul Haque Milon yesterday said the JCD activists will prevent the 'illegal' programme of the opposition by forming resistance squad with the help of the general people, reports BSS.

In a rally held at Science Laboratory area in the city organised by JCD Dhaka University unit, the leaders also condemned the opposition called non-cooperation programme.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Maniruzzaman Manir, Abul Khaer Bhuiyan, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Any, ABM Mosharraf Hossain and Manir Hossain.

**New assignment**

The government has decided to concurrently accredit Shamsur M Chowdhury, Bir Bikram at present ambassador of Bangladesh to the Federal Republic of Germany as the ambassador of Bangladesh to the Czech Republic. It was officially announced here yesterday, reports BSS.

**Lt Col Hossain laid to rest**

Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Hossain was buried at the Banani graveyard in city yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

The body of Hossain, a member of the Bangladesh Military Observer Group in the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIC), who had died in a landmine blast recently, was brought home Friday.

His *namaz-e-janaza* was earlier held at the Dhaka Cantonment Central Mosque. President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Abdur Rahman Biswas attended the *janaza*.

It was also attended, by the Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam, chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed, principal staff officers of the three services, including the principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division, formation Commanders and Officers and troops of the three services, high civil dignitaries, relatives and friends of the deceased.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas offering *munajat* after the *namaz-e-janaza* of Lt Colonel Mohammad Hossain at the Dhaka Cantonment central mosque yesterday. — ISPR photo

**Postponed**

By Staff Correspondent

The 14th general meeting of the Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh, scheduled to be held at the auditorium of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) on March 18, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. Fresh date of the meeting will be announced later, says a press release yesterday.

**AGM of ABCS Mar 29**

The 3rd annual general meeting of the Association of British Council Scholars (ABCS) will be held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural Institute here on March 29, reports UNB.

Association members have been requested to attend the meeting at 3.30 pm on the day, said a press release yesterday.

**PM's Press Secy returns**

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mozammel Hoq has returned home from abroad and resumed his duties, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister's Press Office sources said that the press secretary returned from a 10-day leave and resumed his duties on Thursday.

**ENO Fruitsalt What a Relief!**

It's here! The world famous ENO fruitsalt is in Bangladesh. So you can bravely go about your gastronomic pursuits. Pulao, korma. The Friday roast lunch. Kachchi biryani, mughl mussels. The dinner party at the mughlai restaurant. Kebabs, kebabs. Let's not even mention desserts! And when you've overdone it, ENO fruitsalt gives you refreshing relief in seconds. And for your tastebuds ENO comes in two flavours-lemon and regular.



**UNITED LEASING COMPANY LIMITED**  
Camellia House, 22 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka

**NOTICE OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of United Leasing Company Limited will be held at Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka on Monday, 15th April 1996 at 3 p.m. to transact the following business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting held on April 20, 1995.
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended December 31, 1995.
3. To declare Dividend for 1995.
4. To elect Directors of the Company in vacancies caused by retirement of the Directors as per Articles of Association of the Company.
5. To consider appointment of Auditors for the year 1996 and fix their remuneration.
6. To consider and pass the following resolution as special resolution:  
"RESOLVED that the words 'Companies Act, 1913' and the Sections, wherever they appear in the Articles of Association of the Company, be replaced by the words 'Companies Act, 1994' and its relevant Sections (as amended from time to time)".
7. To transact any other business which may be placed before the meeting with the permission of the Chair.

Dated, Dhaka  
16th March, 1996

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

M. ATUL HOQUE  
COMPANY SECRETARY

**Notes:**

1. A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. The proxy form, a specimen of which is enclosed, must be affixed with a revenue stamp of Tk. 5.00 and submitted to the Registered Office of the Company no later than 48 hours before the day of the Annual General Meeting.
2. The Register of Shareholders and Share Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from 25th March 1996 to 15th April 1996 (both days inclusive).
3. For the sake of convenience, shareholders are requested to submit their queries, if any, on the Directors' Report/Audited Accounts for the year 1995, at the Registered Office of the Company preferably 72 hours before the day of the Annual General Meeting.