# The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

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#### An Investment Booster

Industrialisation by broad strokes has been a failed experiment. So, here we are now wizened by a lacklustre response from foreign investors deciding to offer them concentric opportunities as opposed to vaguely urging them to come in a big way for us.

As an expression of the changed policy outlook we have all this talk about privately-run export processing zones in addition to the two government-managed EPZs we have in Chittagong and Dhaka. The third one in Gazipur is likely to be operational in a year's time. The plan for an extension of the Dhaka EPZ is also going to materialise by the year-end

The Korean and Japanese private sector proposals to set up their exclusive EPZs in Chittagong are under active consideration of the government. As for as the consortium of Korean companies, sponsored by the prestigious Youngone is concerned, its one billion dollar Special Export Processing Zone project with a gestation period of ten years and job opportunities for 100,000 people will be flagged off as soon as the draft bill for the private EPZs is enacted into law.

The private EPZs are going to come up on government khas lands, so that the allotment procedures need to be uncluttered for a quick start on the projects. The investing companies in their efforts to develop the exclusive zones with a full range of infrastructure facilities will rely heavily on cooperation from the government ministries We have two suggestions to offer for this coopera tion to be made into a guaranteed thing on the ground. Let it be an omnibus and comprehensive authority letter issued to the private foreign investor in Dhaka and then as he reaches the site of work there could be a BOI representative on hand to help him out for an initial period of time.

The Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment Dr Taufique Elahi Chowdhury in a meeting with members of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Monday said that the BOI was making an inventory of obstructive rules and procedures in order to prune them. In doing so, he better take into account the views of a cross-section of foreign investors.

As for the broader need to fine-tune the laws to the requirements of foreign investment, we leave the matter of some existing laws militating against the investment policy to the Law Reform Commission that is on the anvil.

### **Brought to Justice**

Two former South Korean presidents - Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo - have been sentenced to death and 22 and a half years of imprisonment respectively for their role in a military mutiny and the Kwangju massacre and for corruption. Both men were powerful and Chun in particular presided over an economic and technological transformation for the Republic of Korea. The chief judge made a very remarkable observation while handing down the sentences: he recognised Chun Doo-Hwan's achievements but made it clear that his deeds could not offset his crimes.

The lesson here is that in high offices there is no scope for charting or taking an illegal course. The Koreans have objectively looked into the mutiny and insurrection cases after a lapse of so many years. What has emerged victorious is the system of justice, the rule of law. You can keep at bay through manoeuvring, manipulation and even exercise of sheer brute power the working of law for sometime but ultimately justice will prevail. A civilised society must not turn a blind eye to crimes even if they were committed a long ago and by powerful of men and women. Korea has certainly reached that stage where its laws do not discriminate between citizens.

Our constitution has been carrying an excruciating burden of guilt in the form of the indemnity ordinance. The collaborators of 1971 too have not been brought to justice for their crimes considered to be the worst in our history. They are not even a distant match for the two former Korean presidents either in terms of their position or the influences. And still the country appears to be condoning their crimes. We cannot afford to be so lax on and indifferent to crimes that make a mockery of the very foundation of our nationhood.

#### Plan it First

The introduction of high-tech forgery-proof documents for rickshaws in the city must be seen as a most valuable improvement on the performance of the authority concerned. Whether it will prove to be an iron-clad guarantee for no more plying of illegal rickshaws on the city streets has, however, to be seen to be believed. For the rickshaws — illegal type of them to be sure — do not thrive on just legal or forged documents. There are a whole lot of related factors that determine whether more rickshaws than the authorised ones

will ply on the streets. According to a Dhaka City Corporation official, there are as many as 1.5 lakh unauthorised rickshaws as against 80,000 licensed to ply. Both varieties together churn out a huge economy and 15 lakh people are said to be involved — directly or indirectly - with the illegal side of rickshaw operation alone. What happens to those being thrown

out of employment? Had there been sufficient number of other vehicles ensuring comfortable, cheap and safe journey, rickshaws would have been forced to beat a retreat

by now. Making the documents fool-proof is a good move but who will ensure that operation of the unauthorised rickshaws will not continue through a mutual understanding between the operators and the men responsible to nab them? At any rate, hurried phasing out of rickshaws without developing an alternative transportation system and rehabilitating the jobless among erstwhile rickshaw-pullers will be a costly blander.

## Trade with India

A whole range of Indian consumer goods like soaps, detergents, toothpastes, perfumes, pices, etc., will become cheaper in Pakistan. Good news for the average consumer, but at terrible cost to the nation, both in precious foreign canange and the closing down of a whole range of industries.

N intense debate is going within Pakistan. orchestrated mamly by government and trade circles about conferring the most favoured nation (MFN) status to India in reciprocation in the implementing of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) accord which has replaced GATT. Pakistan reached an accord last December (1995) with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Trade Agreement (SAPTA) identifying 226 items for preferential treatment in import trade between the member countries. Customs notification giving India preference in 106 items and Pakistan in 35 items have been issued. Alongwith business colleagues throughout the country, the Federal Commerce Minister Choudhry Ahmed Mukhtar, is campaigning for full-scale trade with India, the commercial-minded see only pots of gold at the end of this rainbow in utter disregard of any other

considerations Pakistan Steel is presently importing iron ore from Goa and the emergency import of 200000 MT sugar by TCP is likely to be repeated, the greatest advocate of a strong two-way trade with India is the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) whose members look with some anticipation at the cheap machinery in place of the expensive machinery presently being obtained from western sources It is believed that all the five committees sanctioned by the Government of Pakistan (GOP) to examine the opening of full scale trade with India have recommended an early resump-

tion of such trade The pro-India trade lobby consists primarily of 1) the present Bhutto regime as symbol ised by its commercial point man, the Federal Commerce Minister, 2) leading business men in the country who see commercial gains for them selves in opening up full-scale trade. 3) some economic columnists who have theoretically examined the positive aspects of trade with India, 4) the five expert committees, the compo-

sition of which seems to be gen erally confidential, and 5) the Foreign Office led by Sardar Assef Ali, ignoring the advice of the Pakistani Ambassador in India, Mr Riaz Khokhar. The freight factor cannot be ignored. the land route particularly would make transit time much faster and reduce costs by multiple numbers. Western analysts add that free trade between neighbouring enemies is seen as an important milestone in confidence building mea-The anti India trade lobby is

also primarily based among the industrialists who will be affected by the arrival of cheaper Indian goods and machinery in Pakistan as their counterpart items would be relatively expensive By reducing the tariffs at the behest of IMF, the government of Ms Benazir has pressurised our industry into near-extinction While protectionism has its own drawbacks. most notably the penchant of our industrialists not to make competitive products, many of the smal r industries do need

Since most of the bigger industries are either very influential or well-established. whatever protection is accorded is focused on them and thus the small industrialisis in Pak istan face total elimination This may result in wholesale economic disruption because of drastic loss of jobs, etc., with their own socio-economic impact on the nation. A whole range of Indian consumer goods like soaps, detergents, toothpastes, perfumes, spices, etc. will become cheaper in Pak istan. Good news for the average consumer, but at terrible cost to the nation, both in precious foreign exchange and the closing down of a whole range of in

A full-fledged campaign has been started by the pro India! lobby about "separating" economic and political issues i.e.

their contention is that the policy of coming to some set tlement on the Kashmir issue should give way to the same pragmatic method of interaction employed by the west between former and present enemies. Moreover, the pro-India lobbyists hold that since Pak istan would only trade with India in items it found profitable. there would be no danger of India overwhelming us with their cheaper goods and machinery Another fait accompli seems being prepared for the Pakistani people to swallow. No body cares to mention the danger of the indians surreptitiously subsidising their goods so as to make them even

temperatures or accidents indoced by the extreme weather. these include landslides, heli copter crashes, etc. Periodically soldiers die or are maimed be cause of bullets and shells sent in their direction with intent to kill. This ammunition is made indigenously in Indian factories similar to those producing consumer products. Some Pakistani father, son, nephew, uncle, etc., regularly dies because of such adverse Indian atten tion What is the reactions of the affected families as to the sacrifice of their kith and kin while our convival businessmen and government officials wine and dine their Indian counterparts at lunches and re-

### AS I SEE IT

#### Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

cheaper, to making our masses completely dependent on their products Nobody fights a war today on any battlefield, economic subversion is today's substitute for all-out war Fur thermore by giving their factories business, we will in effect be subsidising their war effort

against us In Siachen, the highest (and perhaps\_the coldest) battlefield in the world, no quarter is asked or given, Indians have regularly shot down or damaged our unarmed helicopters on logistics mission to supply high altitude posts. This is not a war or battleground of our choosing. this territory belongs to Pak islan and remained so till the early 80s when the Indians started to encroach. Despite the best clothing and equipment that the Army can ill afford, l'akistani troops regularly die because of any number of rea sens in the freezing sub-zero ceptions in pursuance of their cross commercial interests.

Along the Cease Fire Line (CFL) in Kashmir dividing Azad Kashmir and Indian occupied Kashmir an entire community leg Leepa Valley) of several tens of thousands remain periodically without supply of food and essentials because Indians regularly interdict the logistics route with armed action from vantage points Indian shelling from across the border regu larly claimed the lives of innocent Kashmir civilians all along the CFL Landmines have been strewn very indiscrimi nately but particularly covering possible crossing points, heavy rains regularly wash them up in Azad Kashmir, anyone straying from defined paths risks becoming a victim of these deadly nimes. What do we tell the thou sands of Pakistani troops strung along the CFL at various heights in forbidding conditions? The perception of our pro-Indian trade lobbyists fraternising with their Indian colleagues in "confidence-building measures" may not be conducive to good morale. They may well ask, what in the name of God are we doing here?

Throughout the 80s Indian Research and Analytical Wing is believed to have been targeting Pakistan's major urban cities Through Al-Zulfigar. Jeeav Sindh and other militant terrorist organisations and later through some of MQM's militant cohorts gone astray, the port city of Karachi. Pakistan's only economic lifeline. has been targeted for the spread of anarchy. It was only when the Indian Consulate General in Karachi was closed down that the terrorism was brought under some control but the vestiges of the Indian logistics eflort in their support remain. Why this dual policy of blaming India for terrorism and in the same breath give them MFN status?

Kashmir remains a burning issue between Pakistan and India. Since 1990, many tens of thousands of Kashmiris have been killed by Indian occupation troops, many more have been injured and/or incarcer ated in brutal Indian prison camps. The horrific slaughter goes on "akistan has already rendered Kashmiri Mujahideen a near fatal blow by the one act of handing over lists of Sikh militants to Rajiv Gandhi's government in India That list permitted KPS Gill, the Inspector General of Police in Indian Punjab, to target and destroy the Khalistan movement, that in turn meant that the logistics supply of arms and ammunition to the Kashmiris in the valley was severely curtailed. The Indians got an opportunity to divide and rule by creating their own "Mujahideen" to counter the genuine freedom fighters and blacken their reputations by "creating" various rewards on offer.

incidents, including that of western and media hostages. While the Kashmiri Mujahideen are fighting and dying in Kashmir, what signal will Pakistan send them by having full-scale trade with India? We cannot have dual-track objectives, there must be some maintenance of commitment in our lives. The unfortunate decision to play as a combined cricket team in Sri Lanka before the Cricket World Cup sent wrong signals all over the world which Indian propaganda machine used to good advantage. If Pakistanis and Indians can play as one team in harmony, what is the problem over Kashmir except one of Pakistan ego, one that is confined to a few militarists? With blood flowing in the valleys and mountains of Kashmir, no one in his right mind should think of compromising their sacrifice on the altar of greed.

The Chechnyan example

should shame us into some bal-

ance in our behaviour. They have selected their aim, freedom from Russia, and are committed enough to shed their blood for it without being waylaid by other considerations. Can we ....agine the Chechnyans of Grozny having commercial or social contacts with the Russians while engaged in a war of attrition for their survival? The dropping of the Kashmir issue from the Security Council is being seen as a deliberate neglect by the Ms. Benazir government so as to coerce the Pakistani citizens to accept the fait accompli of Kashmir as a non-issue, that is the price we have to pay for Nawabzada Nasrullah and his hookah (and his BMWO. Trade with India would tantamount to a complete betrayal of the "poor idiots" in the Valley risking life and limb while we engage in furthering the commercial interests of those whom they are fighting. There can be no trade. or little of it, while the Kashmir question remains alive. Instead of glib rhetoric and evasive answers, let us clearly define our commitment and stick with it despite the dubious financial

## National Consensus: Polemics or Reality?

by Sinha M A Sayeed

wami League President and Prime Minister A Sheikh Hasina's highlytalked-about concept of government by consensus — a great urge of her profoundest realisat ion that without a comprehensive, coordinated consensus approach and strategy to major issues and interests no commendable success can be ensured — at the outset appears to be caught in a vicious circle for a number of reasons partly due to its lack of specificity and perhaps applicability and

partly due to the overnight

detection of its far-reaching

dormant political motive by the

opposition in parliament. The government of AL led by Bangabandhu and the government of AL headed by Sheikh Hasina at two different per spectives. One was overwhelmed with the new functions and responsibilities to build and ensure a government in the free and independent but war ravaged Bangladesh while the other is confronted with a series of challenging issues that have virtually piled up over the period of the last 21 years. One was faced with a biopolar world commanded by USA and the then USSR while the other now is passing through an era of unipolar world led by USA. This reality of national and international perspectives must also have made Sheikh Hasina very careful in identifying real friends, approaches and strategies to prove her government's excellence, credibility and transparency to the nation as

well as the world outside. Therefore, Sheikh Hasina does not like to take any risk on her shoulders alone as an individual as well as a political party. She is also very much aware of the fact that AL came to power when it well understood, and reflected the language, sentiment and above all the pulse of the people and these should under any circumstances be maintained, unambiguously with all faithfulness. sincerity and sophistication. otherwise again turmoils of unrest, demonstrations, hartals! strikes etc. shall start choking the administration. Hence her concept of government by consensus also seems to be an instant deterrent to such unexpected catastrophe anyway.

(Rob) joined the cabinet perhaps as an immediate proof of feasi bility of government by consensus. Interestingly enough neither JP nor JSD made it clear to the nation on what issues and interests they have reached at a consensus with the ruling AL

JP extended an unconditional support to AL on June 14 reportedly setting aside the offer of a package deal from BNP Today, it seems crystal-clear that the support of JP on June 14 was a great help for AL to go to power, otherwise who knows a different picture could have appeared in our national power politics. Now JP has a definite target to get release of its Chairman HM Ershad as soon as possible, of course, through legal course of procedures provided that ruling AL shall not act as an obstacle the rule of law. Out of an immediate understanding Ershad has been on a parole to attend parliament session having a residence

Bangladesh.

liament belonging to the respec tive political parties in the 7th Sangsad In fact Khaleda Zia's assertion that the concept of government by consensus is unconstitutional has been reflected in the maiden talks of the president elect justice Shahabuddin with the press and media. He told the waiting journalists at his Dhanmondi residence that the constitution did not envisage such concept like government by consensus.

As an alternative concept of government by consensus Rhaleda Zia has spoken of a broad-based national consen sus on different issues as being also conceived and understood by AL and its chief -Sheikh Hasina , Prime Minister of

Political opinions, political parties and political leaders are desired to be invariably interlinked and if there is anything litical parties that once it is established the party-in-power may leave no stone unturned to prove it politically a great victory branding the politics of the opposition as totally within the fold of bankruptcy. Similar feeling must have worked in case of AL also when they were in the opposition camp. This phobia should finally be buried for the interest of the nation as well as the country and it is the party-in-power who can take the initiative to prepare a solid ground of confidence which is mutually rewarding.

There is no denying the tact the political parties who were in power in the past for different periods of time have inherited, initiated, pursued and followed policies, approaches and strategies to major issues and interests at national, bilateral regional and international levels which today in turn can not be set aside or denied only

shall be a committee comprising personalities of various shades of backgrounds headed preferably by an economist of national stature with enough integrity and sophistication:

The committee will make a broad-based comparative studies on policies, approaches and strategies inherited/initiated, pursued and followed by the previous governments and on the basis of their commonalities shall accordingly prepare and recommend a set of policies, approaches and strategies for the party-in -power. While doing this, attention

should duly be given to the determinants like — a) Names of the political parties who were in power since independence and their respective tenure of office: b) Issues in front of them - i) national, ii) Bi-lateral, regional and international; c) Nature of gravity — i important ii), more important, iii) most important; d) Policies, approaches and strategies inhersame before the political parties concerned for their formal endorsements. The formal endorsements over, the documents shall be named as "National Consensus on National Bi-lateral, Regional and International issues and interests. Finally, the party-in-power shall formally place and announce the same in parliament to be aired simultaneously by television and radio. Well, after reaching at con-

power shall again place the

sensus the party-in-power may now accordingly request the opposition political parties concerned to share power with it to help put the accepted consensus into practice. This logical approach may or may not be welcomed by all. That's not the point here. The fundamental point is that once a national consensus is accepted the political landscape in Bangladesh shall have a new dimension of relations between the ruling party and the opposition and with this our politicians can at least have a sigh of relief.

This will seem fascinating to note that to establish consensus on any issue or a series of issues either at micro or macro level such three-tier formula may be of a great use. For instance, proceeding this way consensus on Bangladesh-India. relations Bangladesh-Pakistan relations can be achieved easily than before. On the other hand, consensus on national issues like education, health, land reform, fiscal policy etc. Shall be smoother should this formula is applied to. Consensus on elimination of terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling, student politics, so on and so forth, may also be made easier to reach by using this formula, of course, with some variations, as required vis-a-vis the issue or is-

sues concerned. This three-tier consensus formula is just an attempt firstly, to understand and identify the approaches, policies and strategies of the governments of different times in response to the challenges of issues and problems they were faced with and secondly, to initiate a thought in the mind of the political parties, ruling and opposition, with the profoundest conviction that consensus is

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BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleda Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition. a democracy and multi-party system.

within the compound of the Sangsad. But what about JSD headed by Rob? On the other hand, in an in-

stant reaction to the concept of government by consensus both BNP and Jamaat rejected the idea with a logic that it was not necessary to share power with the ruling AL just to prove that consensus has been agreed upon, rather the most important point was on what issues and grounds the ruling party wanted consensus to run the government smoothly and fairly. Moving to a further extent, BNP chairperson branded the concept as 'Mini BKSAL' in a new form and dimension.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleda Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existende of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system. She warned again by stating that there would be a serious chaos and confusion about the distribution of power should it be based on the concept of "proportionate representation" of the number of member of par-

wrong anywhere at any stage. the entire political system is sure to suffer and being victim of such unfortunate actualities the people and the nation do not like to be swayed by any further polemics, rhetorics and tricks in the name of the interests of the nation under any circumstances. So there should be no suspicion about the sincerity, houesty and sophistication of their approaches to consensus as a possible means to resolve the outstanding issues immediately but not as an end

in itself. The fundamental difference between the two major political parties is that Sheikh Hasina has tinged consensus with sharing of power with her ruling AL as a pre-condition giving no further details while Khaleda Zia has endorsed the necessity and unavailability of the same minus sharing of power with ruling AL with a logic that it's not becoming of the existence of a multi-party system. With such apparently rigid stands they have virtually made the long standing crisis complicated

and goals unattainable. Perhaps a sense of phobia about consensus is haunting the minds of the opposition poon account of their belonging to the opposition camp now. This is a reality and this very reality should be faced courageously and unambigu-

ously at the same time being committed to honesty, transparency and sophistication under any circumstances. But the task is gigantic in nature involving time, money and energy and it needs a comprehensive, scientific and pragmatic approach and initiative from the party in power to find out, the commonalities or near commonalities of approaches, policies and strategies of the previous governments to the respective issues and then recommend accordingly a coordinated and generalised approach upon which depend the next course of action to build final consensus among the political parties in

Sangsad. Conceptually and theoretically, this very consensus formula contains three phases in succession for which it can also be named as three-tier consensus formula and it is better and more logical to be acquainted with the phases having corresponding explanations accord-

ingly as follows: Phase One: First of all, there lowed; e) allocations, if applicable to the issue/issues concerned - i) in the yearly budget ii) in the five-year, plan; f) Nature of allocations — i) ratio of foreign aid, ii) ratio of domestic resources; g) Causes of possible limitations — i) political, external and internal, ii) non-political or otherwise. Phase Two: Here, the party-

ited/initiated, pursued and fol-

in-power after a careful review and scrutiny of the proposed set of policies, approaches and strategies of the committee shall formally invite the opposition political parties in parliament and place the same before them for opening dialogue. Talks, debates, interpretations and counter interpretations shall continue at expert. leader and even summit levels. if required, to standardise the

same through additions, alternations, deductions and modifications with due reference to reality, time and necessity. Election manifestos of the parties should also be taken into consideration for careful debate and decisions Phase Three: Now, the issues

for consensus thereby reached at/agreed upon shall be compiled, and then the party-ina reality not polemics.

#### Municipal garbage collection

However, the matter became

complicated and to an extent

unconvincing when JP and JSD

Sir, I would like to thank Samia Islam' for her article Dhaka in the Rainy Season in the column "Dhaka Day by Day" of July 26th '96. I think that the garbage problem is one of the major problems along with the traffic jam for the people of Dhaka which should be solved by the new govern-

ment immediately. I would like to add here to bring to the notice of the authorities that the large dustbin skips supplied by the Dhaka City Corporation (financed by the World Bank) are not appropriate for our city because of

the following reasons: 1) These kind of skips need a collection truck every time. which makes it very expensive to dispose the garbage in a country like Bangladesh.

2) If a truck has to move back and forth to the disposal site it creates more problem for the existing traffic jam in the

3) The placing of the large dustbin skip on the street in the corner or junction of a road occupies a lot of road-space specially when the garbage in almost every case is also thrown outside the bin, helped by the rain water the decomposed and obnoxious smell irritates the road users and the residents who lives near the place. This large skip is hazardous to both

the traffic and pedestrians. If I may suggest for the efficient removal of garbage from the city area in the following: a) Every household of mu-

nicipal corporation tax-payer should be provided with a large (3 to 4 feet height) plastic bucket including lid so that the residents can keep the garbage outside their gates on certain collection days, say 2/3 times per week which should be collected at dawn before 6:30am. These can be unloaded in a municipal wheelbarrow by the local municipal dustmen/women and put in the local garbage site to be collected by the truck.

b) Big plastic bags can be

used, but for various reasons the process may not be efficient. Some of the reasons are the following: i) Pilferage of plastic

sack/bag might take place.

ii) Plastic bags are not environment-friendly: iii) Besides, the big plastic bags can be dangerous for the children. I am in favour of the system mentioned in the para-

graph "a)". c) For the final disposal from the locality to the garbage disposal site a modern large, covered truck with a "built-in compressor" to squeeze the garbage into compact form to accommodate more garbage than the old-fashioned, traditional trucks may be introduced which will solve the disadvantages mentioned in the beginning of my letter. To enumerate the advantages that I

mentioned again that enormous quantity of garbage can be filled at each time so that trips become fewer and thereby saving fuel and not fueling the existing traffic jam.

Ilora Anwar Class VI, Sunbeams, 54. Dhanmondi R/A Road 3A. Dhaka 1209

Our respectable MPs Sir. Our members of the Jatiya Sangsad are the top-echelon political leaders and the law makers of the country. Many hopes and inspirations of the people depend on the nobility, wisdom, efficiency and services of these MPs. Any political party having the support of highest number of MPs always forms the government and

governs the country. · Time to time we have observed with astonishment and dismay that some of our MPs

whether in the government or in the opposition benches suffer from superiority complex Before being elected and as MP candidates they canvass from door to door, they behave in a different manner, make lot of promises and mix up with the people very gently, but after being elected as MPs most of them live in a different world, suffer from superiority complex and become indifferent to people.

We strongly feel that the MPs being elected representatives of the common people should live closely and in a friendly manner with the common people without any prejudice, luxury, pomp and

The people of our country have undergone tremendous sufferings, setbacks and shocks generation after generation due to lack of character and patriotism of some of our leaders. Would our present leaders especially the MPs kindly take lesson from our past and prove

their sincerity and honesty in O H Kabir

6, Hare Street, Wari, Dhaka

#### Condemning torture

Sir. As a member of Amnesty International I want to express my concerns at the beating and arbitrary arrest of students from Jagannath Hall on 31 January 1996. Amnesty International appeals to the government of Bangladesh to investigate the incident and bring to justice those found responsible for these human

I want to refer to the international human rights standards and I urge the government to demonstrate its commitment to human rights by ratifying the human rights treaties and to publicly condemn torture and ill-treatment-

Dr Monika Ludescher Suldis 8, A 6832 Batschuns, Austria

rights violations.