

RAJUK Must Explain

The death of five construction workers in an under-construction building collapse in the city's Kalabagan is as much tragic as it is shocking. No words of consolation can be equal to the loss of lives and we can only express our sympathy for the bereaved families at these hours of tragedy. As for the building's collapse — for which human factor is solely responsible — we feel outraged.

This is not for the first time that a building has been constructed in defiance of the plan, design and specification of construction materials. Once an under-construction building collapsed in Basabo, another had to be dismantled, two others tilted and yet another is hanging precariously in Paltan, Mohammadpur and Kakrail areas respectively. There was nothing to be surprised if more buildings collapse and Dhaka City suddenly gave a look of a devastation wrought by an earthquake.

This is no dooms-day fantasy with the country's capital. The collapse of a single building unfortunately is symbolic of a slow but sure degeneration of a system of housing in the city. This building's story will suitably fit into the construction process of many such buildings in this metropolis.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK) now says that it approved a four-storey building but the owner added three more stories which moreover was laid on an uneven foundation. To make the matter worse poor quality construction materials were used for its construction. Therefore the question is: how can one defy the Rajuk-approved plan and use substandard construction materials? Does the RAJUK have no system of monitoring or if it has, can it be bribed to make a mockery of the approved plan? We would like to know how the RAJUK ensures that the approved plan is followed. This tragic incident should serve as an eye-opener to the organisation. A thorough probe into the building's collapse might reveal what went wrong and where. If the monitoring at several stages of a building's construction is absent, it should be put in place immediately with the responsibility to do the job honestly and efficiently. If there is already one then it should be made more accountable. We want to see the system work — and work efficiently.

In the meantime we want a speedy investigation of what went wrong in this case, and punishment of everybody responsible for this unnecessary tragedy.

A Good Step

There used to be a ministry called LGRD. Everyone knew of its clout for it was headed by the second most powerful man in the erstwhile government and the party at its helms. But in fact he presided over something that was practically non-existent, namely, local government. Bangladesh's history of last quarter century is the history of concentrating state-power centrally into one person's or at best a coterie hands — the residual powers going to hangers-on to mastans busy doing the dirty jobs of a party in power.

The new government is evidently determined to change all this. Soon after assumption of office an eight member local Government Commission was formed at the instance of the Prime Minister. It was asked to recommend a law establishing a four-tier system involving the local people. A government is democratic only if power is decentralised especially to the lower tiers.

As the plan now stands, recommendations would be made basing on responses by a cross section of the advanced sections of the society — writers and teachers and lawyers and other professional people — to a questionnaire on the shape and powers and functions of the local government. The commission sources say the questionnaire is ready and will reach the respondents any day.

This is a sensible step. We sincerely hope the local government questionnaire would be well-circulated and answered to with interest and the law be made by incorporating the best of the suggestions made.

The law is projected to be ready by December. If all goes well, we may be having a four-tier local government very soon. How soon, will depend on how vigorously the government follows through on the present process. As an when it comes about, the proposed local government structure promises to be a turning point in the system of governance in Bangladesh.

Environmental Concern

At a seminar organised in observance of the International Ozone Day on Monday speakers were unanimous in seeking reduction of and ultimately an end to the use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in Bangladesh. Their concern is with the chemical type of the ODS such as propellant gas as used in aerosols, CFCH as used in refrigeration, anesthetic gas, fumigating agents for fire fighting and cilos, etc. The important point here is that Bangladesh produces none of these ODS but imports them all.

The developed countries have not only started phasing out 80 per cent of their ODS production but also found substitutes for them. In Bangladesh, alarmingly enough, the import of ODS has recorded an increase of 50 per cent, volume-wise, during the 1986-95. The good news is that we have local substitutes for a few of the ozone-depleting agents. What therefore is needed is to frame an appropriate policy to put into commercial use those local substitutes in place of the imported environmentally harmful agents. At the same time efforts have to be directed towards finding environment-friendly substitutes for other ODS.

Apart from chemical agents, the need to reduce the use of wood as fuel and also to check industrial and automobile pollution must be incorporated in any environmental policy. International joint actions in this regard are welcome but in their absence we must try to place our house in order to the best of our ability.

The Siachen Battleground: Withering Heights

The charge of the horse cavalry against German Armour in World War II evoked the comment: "C'est Magnifique, C'est pas la guerre" — It is magnificent, but it is not war. Reality overwhelms hyperbole in Siachen, it is magnificent, but unfortunately it is war.

DESOLATE but beautiful, not God-forsaken, that is the first impression of the craggy, snow-lined mountains in the proximity of the Siachen Glacier. Can any place on earth, however bleak, where there is both life and death, be without God? And what a life! In lonely synthetic-gloomy peaks atop nameless mountain peaks, living in cold isolation for weeks at a stretch, survival against the vagaries and extremes of nature and the environment is all that those who have to endure this task for, man-made modes of death and destruction are a secondary consideration. The sheer magnificence and enormity of the tremendous landscape puts one in a state of trance for any number of reasons. In awe of the stupendous beauty, in awe of the incessant danger, in awe of a seemingly impossible undertaking and above all, in awe of the men who have chosen to live and maybe, die here. No words can adequately describe "God's little acre" that comprises the highest mountains and glaciers in the world. No justice can be done in print to the courage and endurance of man in this environment.

Historical Background

The Karachi Agreement between India and Pakistan in 1948 after the Kashmir conflict demarcated the entire border in Jammu and Kashmir up to point NJ 9842, 40 kms short of the border with China. The demarcation exercise envisaged an imaginary dividing line heading due north from NJ 9842, through Zingulma to the Karakoram Pass. Siachen Glacier commands the eastern approaches to the major mountain peaks. K-2 (also known as Godwin Austin) and the Gasherbrums family. Various international mountaineering expeditions have climbed these high mountains for years without interference or protest from India. "Atlas of the World" by National Geographic Society, "Encyclopedia Britannica", "Historical Atlas of South Asia" and "Times Atlas of the World", show Siachen well within Pakistani territory. While there are reasons to suggest that India sent military mountaineering expeditions near to the area in dispute in the late '70s, the first real hint of trouble came in 1983 when then Director General, Frontier

Corps Northern Area (DG, FCNAO, Maj Gen (later Lt Gen) Intiazullah Warraich) was informed about a possible Indian incursion into Pakistan territory. He immediately ordered a patrol of 2nd Battalion Northern Light Infantry (NLI) to investigate. Adjutant 2 NLI Capt (now Lt Col) Javed, accompanied by Superintendent of Police Skardu who knew the area well, led a 40-man patrol beyond Goma till further passage was blocked by snow and crevices.

The patrol came across traces of a patrol of Indian Ladakh Scouts (a cap badge, empty cigarette packs, Indian Re-ten note). DG FCNA personally satisfied himself by going up to Goma that this was just an incursion and there was no serious Indian encroachment. Many years earlier, Col Babar (later Maj Gen, presently Minister of Interior) had led 4 Army Aviation Squadron (including KKH flight) on a familiarisation flight from Skardu, some pilots in an Alouette-3 (among them Maj (later Maj Gen) HUK Niaz) and this scribe, flying a short distance beyond village Depoupe (there two/three huts only) before returning to Skardu. Zingulma, the first post occupied by the Indians, where Pakistani skiers had been going till 1982, is now used by them as a major base. On April 13, 1984 Indians, experienced in mountain warfare since their drubbing at the hands of the Chinese in 1962, carried out "Operation Meghdoot", airlifting special mountain warfare units to occupy the two important passes in the Soltoro Range dominating the traditional approaches to the Siachen Glacier. In a belated reaction, then DG FCNA Maj Gen (later Lt Gen) Pir Dad moved forward troops ill-equipped for snow-line warfare as late as May 1984 to occupy the important passes of Gonyonga and Yarmala and prevent the Indians from further advancement. Convoy Saddle, on the approaches to K-2 and the Gasherbrums was occupied at 22000 feet, conceivably the highest regular post in the world. Thereafter except for occasional forays, the line has

been frozen literally and figuratively.

While the Indians have no real strategic objective, the Karakoram highway linking Pakistan to China (KKH) being too far away, ours is mainly a necessary reaction to Indian encroachment i.e. defending the country's sovereign territory. The military situation is fairly routine with artillery shells being lobbed against each other frequently and helicopters that stray into range being shot down. In 1990, when Lt Gen Intiazullah Warraich (then in JCSC) led a military delegation (inclusive of then DGMO, Maj Gen (now COAS, Gen) Jahangir Karamet, their opposite Indian number) were of the opinion that presence of: 1) Pakistani skiers at Zingulma as well as 2) traces of Pakistani approved

supplied mostly by choppers, entailing expenditure five to six times that of ours, for the Indians almost Rs 5-6 crore daily. Cliffs and great accumulations of large, fallen rocks (taluses) occupy a vast area with traverse valleys looking like narrow, deep, steep ravines. The Karakoram are characterised by great glaciation, glaciers occurring on both slopes but more developed on the southern, more humid Pakistani side of slope. The snowline on the Pakistani southern side on the nebulous frontline begins at an altitude of 15400 feet and glaciers at 9440 feet, making it tougher for our posts. In contrast, on the northern slope the snowline is at a higher altitude of 19400 feet and glaciers at 11580 feet.

The climate is for the most part semi-arid and sharply con-

glacier extends 70 kms from north-northwest to south-southeast (3 kms wide) with a number of fast flowing streams. It is the source of the 50-mile-long Nubra River, a tributary of the Shyok. Rising in the Karakoram the Shyok flows generally northwards fed by numerous glaciers on its way through the Range, the 550 kms long river joining the Indus at Kharlu.

In the face of such daunting physical environment and extreme weather conditions, man is subject to the 3Ps. Pathological. Physiological and Psychological. Pathological effects include accumulation of water in the lung or in the brain, pulmonary and cerebral oedema respectively, requiring the affected person to be brought down to lower heights. In severe weather, fluid battle conditions, this becomes a difficult logistics operation. Snow blindness, frostbite and mountain sickness are also very common, debilitating ailments. On the physiological side, with temperatures even during summers 30 to 40 degrees below freezing and wind velocity reaching 70 kms per hour increasing manifold the windchill factor makes loss of sleep and loss of appetite to be common. The lack of oxygen at the high altitude reduces the work capacity to 65 per cent of even trained and acclimatized men. The pathological and physiological pressures lead to psychological effects with intolerance in the forefront, by-products being intimidation and rashness. The normal camaraderie between individuals is broken, with loss of respect only a short distance away from indiscipline.

The Warriors

What manner of men are these who have chosen to serve in such a desolate and dangerous mission? They come from the finest that this country has given birth to, this is the flower of the Pakistani youth in full bloom, no grim faces here, only infectious smiles as well as a willingness and ready enthusiasm that is inspiring to those who are privileged to witness it. The maturity among the

youthful faces is at once captivating as well as devastating. Why have all our flowers gone to mountain peaks? To remain face to face with death so early in life for so extended a time on a daily basis is not what one would wish for anyone. As guardians of this country's ideological and geographical frontiers, a more hostile environment for initiation from youth to manhood does not exist in this world.

The Brigade Commander at Siachen is symbolic of all our fighting men in Siachen. A rifle company commander in December 1971 in one of the outstanding infantry units of the Pakistan Army, 44 Punjab (later 4 Sindh), then commanded by one of the Army's roughest, toughest COs Lt Col (later Brig) Taj (hell to be in peacetime, you would go to hell and back with him willingly in wartime), my former cricketer is cool and calm as he briefs with quiet confidence and conviction, hard-bitten journalists not easily given to emotion. One remembers him as a young officer, leading his elan troops with great elan in stabilising the line in the sandy wastes beyond Chor in the Thar Desert in 1971. 25 years later he remains representative of the bravest and finest that this Army has on offer. His quiet courage was as much evident in Balochistan in 1973 as it is in Siachen in 1996. The years have aged him well, incalculating in him an inner strength, a coil of steel bound by the requirements of command. It is a sheer privilege to know him and men like him.

In the beauty and desolation of Siachen you see many other like him, in the same mould of the modern Pakistani soldier, well-educated and well-groomed, ever ready to go to war in order to keep the peace for his countrymen. You stand humbled not only in the vicinity of such an environment but in the presence of such men. Siachen is a test of human and logistics endurance that has been forced on Pakistan but one in which Pakistan will not be forced out. The charge of the horse cavalry against German Armour in World War II evoked the comment: "C'est Magnifique, C'est pas la guerre" — It is magnificent, but it is not war. Reality overwhelms hyperbole in Siachen, it is magnificent, but unfortunately it is war.

AS I SEE IT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

mountain expeditions in the vicinity of Siachen had triggered the Indian reaction and thus the resulting dispute. This far-fetched apprehension has led to two armies now facing off each other in an ongoing war of attrition in the highest battlefield in the world.

The Battlefield

The sparsely populated Karakoram Range is one of the highest mountain systems in the world with at least four peaks exceeding 26000 ft. K-2 being the world's second highest mountain after Everest. The Karakoram serve as a watershed for the basins of the Indus and Tarim Rivers, the range consisting of a group of parallel ranges with several spurs. Characterised by craggy peaks and steep slopes, the southern slope is generally long and very steep in contrast to the northern slope which is steep and short. This has allowed Pakistan to bring roads and tracks right up to most of the posts while the Indians on the northern (and reverse) side have to be

unlashed with the southern slopes exposed to the humidifying influence of the monsoons coming in from the Indian Ocean but the northern slopes are extremely dry at altitude of more than 16000 feet, precipitation takes a solid form (even as late as June) whereas in the lower and central part of the slopes, rain and snow is precipitated in small quantities. At altitudes of 18700 feet the average temperature during the warmest month is below zero whereas between 12800 feet and 16700 feet it remains around 10 C. In cold weather, i.e. 9 months of the year, the wind chill factor takes the temperature 50 C below zero. Rarefied air, intensive solar radiation and great ranges of temperature, add to the vicissitudes of life. Mountain passes are situated at altitudes of 16000 feet, open only five/six months of the year. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica: "Siachen Glacier is one of the world's longest mountain glaciers lying near the India-Pakistan border. The

Diplomacy Track-III: Bangladesh Perspective

by Sinha M A Sayeed

DIPLOMACY, today, is not treated as the sole domain of the foreign office of the Executive Branch of the government in any country in the world. It has other avenues like diplomacy track-II, meaning diplomacy at the citizens' level, at the initiative of citizens' fora of various natures, forms and dimensions involving various shades of opinions like journalists, intellectuals, academicians, businessmen, industrialists and politicians of two or more than two countries. This has in particular been made evident in Bangladesh in May, 1995 when Centre for Policy Dialogue of Bangladesh and Centre for Policy Research of India jointly arranged a seminar "Indo-Bangladesh Economic Relations" at Dhaka which was widely participated by scholars, academicians, businessmen, industrialists and politicians, in the backdrop of Indophobic Bangladesh at the mass level and so-called India-friendly Bangladesh at the state level — an apparent creation of the regimes from 1975-96.

Diplomacy track-III otherwise known as diplomacy by parliament is an established practice in USA and Europe but, is yet to be put into practice functionally, an encouraging process to official diplomacy i.e. diplomacy track-I in the countries of Asia and Africa for the benefits of the state and the nation as a whole. There, including Bangladesh, exist a kind of formal contacts between or among parliaments in the form of inter-parliamentary group but activities are very limited without having any substantial impact on the governments concerned. Bangladesh also experienced for a short time a kind of attachment of MPs with matters of foreign policy and foreign relations in the form of a "Doot Pool" meaning ambassadors' pool during president Zia's regime.

A democratic institution like parliament cannot thrive without an uninterrupted continuity of democracy with true democratic administration. But to speak the truth, the above mentioned relationships between parliament and foreign

ministry in our country could not be established at all. Consequently, regime diplomacy prevailed over state diplomacy and subsequently made Bangladesh's state security and envisaged high-foreign policy subservient to the regime security and resultant low foreign policy.

A negative perception that the opposition in parliament are totally deprived of and away from the overall activities of the government is haunting the minds of the people as well as the executive branch of the government. Unlike India, a sort of opposition-phobia runs quick in our foreign ministry and missions abroad. BNP, JP, AL, Jamaat all in their opposition's perspective experienced the same and still the opposition in the 7th Sangsad are in the suffering. Foreign ministry and foreign policy, in fact, has been converted into a "forbidden

ing out of India's own reality, vis-a-vis the mindset of Indian bureaucracy and the limitations of Deve Gowda's coalition government.

Indian foreign minister came to Bangladesh with an approach of a 'symmetrical relations', meaning a big neighbour should do more than take from the small one, a deviation from India's previous stand of about turn/evasive policy to Bangladesh or in the world of Gujral 'all or nothing' stand of both the sides which virtually made us 'prisoners of the past'. He pointed out that unlike the people in ASEAN, what we agree in private, oppose in public and vice versa — a real threat to a confidence-building frame between the nations and states in South Asia. He left Bangladesh seemingly with a satisfaction that 'now both the government

do not renew the 25-year treaty of friendship with India, of course, with a convincing logic that after the creation of SAARC and SAPTA the very basis and appeal of the treaty has withered away.

Bangabandhu perhaps did not find enough friends with and around him while Sheikh Hasina appears to be fortunate in having the same covering USA and China and her first official visit to China (September 16-21) bear a significance in the light of the ongoing geo-politics in the subcontinent. After her arrival at the Zia International Airport from China in 1993, she told the waiting reporters: "China has a great role to play in Asia." Chinese president and premier also sent messages on the occasion of the first national mourning day of the father of the nation

undertaken officially by the ministry of foreign affairs.

On question of a national interest under any circumstance, any sort of ambiguity and ambivalence may lead to a serious catastrophe. Out of such a perception, the then leader of the opposition in Pakistan national assembly Benazir Bhutto, now premier of Pakistan, at the request of her arch rival the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif, led Pakistan delegation to USA and negotiated successfully with US policy makers and that saved Pakistan from being listed as a terrorist state by USA. Atal Behari Vajpayee, leader of the opposition in the Indian parliament did not hesitate to accept the offer of premier Rao to head Indian delegation to negotiate the issues arising out of Pakistan's formal allegation to the Human Rights Commission to brand India as a violator of human

following suggestions are made for consideration by both the ruling party and the opposition in the 7th Sangsad, and especially by the premier as the very initiative would come from there: a) The parliamentary standing committee (PSC) on the ministry of foreign affairs shall be renamed as parliamentary standing committee on foreign ministry and relations; b) Formation of the PSC shall be based on a proportional representation of the (number) members of parliament belonging to respective political parties in the 7th Sangsad with the leader/deputy leader of the opposition in the chair; c) There shall be a number of sub-committees for SAARC, ASEAN, EEC countries, UN and other international bodies etc; d) Special sub-committees for India, Pakistan, China, Japan and USA may also be set up considering the overall importance of and necessity for the issues.

Functions: a) The first and foremost task of the PSC shall be to prepare and formulate a common approach to be known as Bangladesh approach to the issues while dealing with a particular state to settle them amicably and peacefully. PSC with due back-up of respective political parties in the Sangsad may have enough opportunities and scopes to meet the requirement; b) Formal structural relations between PSC and its sub-committees and ministry of foreign affairs in particular and other related ministries in general shall duly be formulated and ensured; c) Appointments of high commissioner/ambassador, political or regular, shall be made duly confirmed after confirmation of the same by the majority members of the respective sub-committee.

To conclude, it is very much in consonance with the declared electoral promise of all the political parties in the 7th Sangsad that they would rejuvenate the committee system to infuse life into the parliamentary system of government and the foreign ministry is very much a part of the government.

The writer is Joint Secretary for International Affairs of Jatiya Party.

Keeping the realities in their true perspectives, it seems wiser to initiate and ensure a "Bangladesh approach" to issues/issues while dealing with the respective countries concerned, and this can be made easier by introducing diplomacy track-III (by parliament) to enrich diplomacy track-I (by ministry of foreign affairs).

zone" even for the members of parliament belonging to the Treasury bench.

Time perhaps has come to tell us seriously about the reality of foreign policy and relations which under any circumstances cannot be left to a small group of diplomats in the foreign office when the party-in-power is officially accountable to the Sangsad to ensure a stable, transparent government by settling issues with foreign countries including India and Pakistan. Active involvement of MPs in the foreign policy and relations are now unavoidable call of the time. The nature of the composition of the delegation of the recently concluded visit of Indian foreign minister I K Gujral to Bangladesh (September 6 to 9) gave us a signal that 'political will' needs to be reciprocated politically in the same frame and spirit.

Our main concern in foreign policy matters at the moment is to settle, using bilateralism or multilateralism, the outstanding issues with India amicably and peacefully. Gujral informed us of his limits arising

of India and Bangladesh don't carry past baggage any more".

Why such a sudden shift in the policy of India? To what extent the issues could be resolved by his one visit? May be, very little. Because the issues are so diverse, complex and dimensional that it needs a broad-based frame to reach at the long term solutions keeping our national interests untrampled, undiminished. Temporary solutions or arrangements shall again result in a broader negative feedback.

India's perception of AL's coming to power after a lapse of 21 years might have been encouraged with a logic to replace the Indophobic Bangladesh at the mass level with India friendly Bangladesh both at the mass and state levels. Ironically enough, AL's coming to power is itself a product of Indophobic Bangladesh at the mass level and it took a decade to enter this very mindset mathematically first by seeking an apology to the people for the 'mistakes in the past' and secondly by making a promise that if voted to power she would

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Chinese ambassador in Dhaka went to Tungipara to pay tribute to the great leader. The acumen of Hasina's far reaching diplomacy may face a test if any crisis/conflict between China and India arises.

India needs Bangladesh to support her for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council of UN. Japan, hitherto No-1 donor country for Bangladesh is also a candidate. Again, USA wants India in the SC. It is a real critical juncture for Bangladesh that requires a balanced but shrewd diplomacy to cross without annoying any one.

Keeping all the realities in mind and in the true perspectives, it is wiser and better to ensure a "Bangladesh approach" to the issues while dealing with the country/organization concerned, and this should be made easier by introducing formal diplomacy by parliament, otherwise known as diplomacy track-III, to enrich diplomacy track-I now being exclusively

right in Kashmir. It is also learnt that the then prime minister Khaleda Zia, now leader of the opposition, passed a request to the then leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina, now prime minister of Bangladesh, to represent Bangladesh delegation to UN on Farakka issue which, however, declined. But now we have to set an example like this. Political romanticism and emotions being pursued and encouraged by our political parties shall die down to a large extent also in matters of our foreign policy and relation if opposition in parliament can be taken into confidence structurally and functionally. Members of parliament should also be linked with 'economic diplomacy' by their induction into delegations of trade and commerce and industry in various forms and natures. MPs should and need to be kept apprised of the happenings at home and abroad equally. And there will be a real breakthrough if diplomacy track-III is initiated.

To suite these purposes the

been going on for the last two months. The sufferings of the people know no bounds, but who cares?

Now that the Awami League has come to power with people's mandate why not the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources takes any disciplinary action against some unscrupulous elements of PDB/DESA responsible for their alleged irregularities, corruption and colossal system-loss in electricity?

We also wonder why the Awami League government is now reportedly considering enhancement in power tariff from December 1996 without checking, controlling and eradicating huge system-loss in electricity?

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To the Editor...

Power failure in Faridabad and Gandaria

Sir, Faridabad and Gandaria are well-known residential areas in the old part of Dhaka city. Seven or eight lacs of people live there.

For the past few weeks residents of Faridabad and Gandaria areas have been experiencing acute power failure. Power failure has virtually become chronic in our area every day and night, starting from dusk.

All on a sudden the electricity goes off. During these nights the sufferings of the residents especially the school and college-going students know no bound.

We would therefore urge the authority concerned to take

steps for electricity failure in Faridabad and Gandaria areas.

Mahbubuddin Chowdhury
Secretary General
UNESCO Club, 17, Hari Charan Roy Road,
Faridabad, Dhaka-1204.

Delegation for Harare Solar Energy Summit

Sir, World Solar Energy Summit of the year has started at Zimbabwe's capital Harare from the 16th. This is a yearly summit which is attended by scientists and engineers of different countries working in the 'Solar Energy' field.

From Bangladesh a two-member delegation left Dhaka recently to attend the summit. One of them is a retired army

personnel, Lt. Gen. Nooruddin Khan. He does not have any research work, nor any publication on the subject. The other member of the delegation is Mr Wajed Ali Mia. He is a scientist. But he hails from the 'Atomic Energy' area. He also does not possess any research work, nor any international publication on solar energy.

It is very disgraceful that the real workers of this field have been neglected from attending the summit which is purely technical in nature.

We appeal to the new government to come out of their 'partisan and kin' policies in taking decision involving national interests.

Abul Hasanat Mohammad
28, Green Road, Dhaka.

Massacre at Chittagong Hills

Sir, Anybody in the civilised world will be horrified at the massacre by degenerated Chakmas at Longadu of Rangamati district recently.

This is beyond any doubt that those miscreants came from their camps from Indian soil who were sheltered and trained there. Has the Indian government any explanation for those senseless and brutal killings? How long they are going to continue with such heinous act? If Indians do not take responsibility for such senseless action, it is obvious that they officially approve such acts and they will continue to do so.

In this case, that is, if this is the policy of the Indian gov-

ernment, they must not complain against Pakistan as what is happening in Kashmir because Pakistanis are imparting them a good lesson by inducing a high dose of India's own medicine which they fully deserve.

M A Rouf
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Sirajganj

Erratic electric supply

Sir, Erratic electric supply and wild-cut load-shedding have become common phenomenon at Wari, Dhaka. Very often the electricity goes out of commission for hours during the day as well as night without any notice or advance announcement by DESA. It has