The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Courageous Action

Tangail has been anything but normal for over two weeks. Terrorists belonging to rival factions of Chhatra League have been fighting each other with guns at the cost of making the townspeople a hostage to constant panic. The government had to act and so it did on Friday night. Among other things in a strong showing against the terror, the police raided the houses of ruling party MPs Kader Siddiky and Latif Siddiky in search of Azad Siddiky, their brother and one with 19 criminal cases against him and lately wanted for his part in the current 20-day Tangail nightmare. They got him but failed to recover any arms from there. The MP brothers obstructed police in apprehending Azad and themselves took him to a court on the morrow where Azad surrendered and was sent to jail. Kader Siddiky held a press conference on Saturday to demand the sacking of the Home Minister for his 'failure to maintain law and order.'

The government action speaks of courage, determination and its sincerity in stamping out terrorism — whatever the source it springs from. Kader Siddiky is a national hero and a majority of our people hold him in unique esteem and reverence for his matchless performance in the Liberation War. One thought that not so much the government but he should have been able to put an end to the Tangail reign of terror. He and his remarkable family hold absolute power and influence in the area.

If the government has been determined enough to go after such a charismatic hero and a leader of the ruling party in search of perpetrators of the Tangail terror, all Mr Siddiky can now do in consonance with the great admiration he commands nationally, is to cooperate with his own party government. He must not allow himself to be seen as anyhow siding with those of his brothers who have been identified by police and long known by the local populace as leading one of the terrorist gangs. We want him to act as the national hero he is.

It is in the press that the high-level police and administration meeting which worked out the details and the schedule of the raid was leaked much before the coming of the action. If this cannot be healed, the best of intentions behind the anti-terrorism protestations of the governments will hardly come to anything. The nation is interested in seeing an early end to Tangail terror and also such vigilance as would insure against recurrence of this abomination anywhere else in Bangladesh.

Let's See

Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) has chipped in with its share in the fact-finding efforts and urges going all around over the unabated slump trend of the bourses in the same stunning manner they had skyrocketed earlier in the year. A committee with the VC of Jahangirnagar University at the head was formed last Thursday to hunt - in tandem with another of its kind, a committee formed by the government earlier - the manipulative forces and factors in the whole phenomenon of the highly unhealthy and unstable roller coaster ride of fortune. It is a welcome decision; for any move that may contribute to the unearthing of that alleged racket responsible for the plight of the rather innocent and inexperienced small investors, has an air of automatic justification. It may not appear very productive in the sense it is not going to bring any material solatium for the 'slaughtered innocents' as described by an international journal recently but it will certainly lead to the maturation of the stock market forces.

Although the SEC and the Finance Minister sounded pretty optimistic about the investigative prospective of the committee, more people in the know have expressed their skepticism. Most of them are of the opinion that the members culled in the committee do not have enough insight into the ups and downs of the stock market. It would not be irrelevant to mention here that academic background may not necessarily prove a very effective criterion in picking people for similar investigative enterprise. Practical knowledge or dealing experience could prove more facilitatory to that purpose. Now that a committee has been formed to detect the hands behind the mess at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), we expect it to go about the task in the most transparent manner. Ideally, it should complement work of the government one and not end up reaching ineffectual conclusions. The entire saga of the bourses in Bangladesh has so far thrived on the appalling want of professionalism. We hope the professionalism in this sector will begin with the probe committees. And who does not know the vastness of the word professionalism?

What A Shame!

A national daily first broke the news of the recent barbarous incident in Chittagong - an incident made of the ultimates in cruelty and indignity and violation of the human person rolled into one. The mastaans of a centrally located area in that city started teasing two college-going sisters in the mahalla. Exasperated, the father of the girls complained to the fathers of the culprits. The young ruffians came in a body as if to apologise, bolted the house from inside, beat up the parents and gang-raped the daughters at gunpoint. The parents were made to witness the crime. The victims have, as a result, been traumatised into silence bordering on loss of speech. Attempts to report on the criminals would only throw them further into the vortex of inhumanity, this seems to be the conviction of

the affected ones. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Home Minister Rafiqul Islam acted as soon as they read the news. Chittagong police and CID are all now busy unearthing the whole thing and catching all the culprits.

But the follow-up was sadder still. The problem now has been ideally illustrated by a Daily Star headline reading: Police drive to trace 'rape' victims in Chittagong. At the end of a day's frantic search for them — the family could not be traced. Mayor Mohiuddin Choudhury of Chittagong, however, has said he was informed about the crime and has asked police to act. He wouldn't say anymore to the press.

The Ganges Water Treaty and Our Future

HE 30-year Ganges Water Treaty for sharing the water of the Ganges at Farakka has been hailed by the people of Bangladesh. They are happy that a long-term treaty has been signed with assurance that 35,000 cusecs of water will be available in the driest period. The constraints and the sufferings of the people of south-west and northern parts of Bangladesh, particularly on agriculture in the dry season, will be minimized.

News media mostly hailed the treaty. Some columnists wrote rosy pictures so much that with the implementation of the treaty most of the dead and dying rivers will regain their flows in the dry season. The reality of the situation will be keenly observed by all with due implementation of the Wa-

ter Treaty The Ganges Water Treaty provided for water sharing arrangements from 1st January to 31 May every year according to a formula given in Annexure while a detailed schedule for sharing arrangements is given in Annexure II The critical time of the dry season is identified from 1st March to 10th May. Occasionally the flow is drastically reduced in last 10 days of April between 21st and 30th. During these critical periods, in six ten-day periods, Bangladesh and India will alternately get 35,000 cusecs of water. The treaty also provided that in case of any problem during review, which will be held every five years, for any readjustment. Bangladesh will get ninety per cent of her share till the matter is resolved between the two countries

jshahi in the third week of December, 1996, I visited the Ganges at Rajshahi near the Thead groin. Hundreds of people visit the place every day in the evening I talked to a few of them They are eagerly waiting for the 1st January when they expect to see the results, visible signs that the water level and the discharge increase appreciably in the Ganges.

During my sojourn to Ra-

Available records show the

The goodwill and trust that has been created by signing the 30-year treaty on the Ganges water sharing, has opened up a new chapter in our future water resources development plans. Let us take the challenge and build our future, writes Amjad Hossain Khan

water level at Rampur-Boalia at Raishahi on 30th Nov for the last 7 years are given below: 30 November 1996 12.86 M 12.89 M

11.74 M 12.07 M 1992 11.62 M 11.72 M 11.38 M 22 December 11.95 M 1995 11.04 M 11.03 M 10.86 M 1992 11.11 M 10.65 M

Normally during the period in the first ten days of January after withdrawal of 40,000 cusecs in the feeder canal for Calcutta port should be around 70,000 cusecs for Bangladesh The average availability of 40 years from 1949 to 1988 as shown in the annexure II of the treaty, provides that in the first ten days of January the actual availability is 1.07.516 cusecs and Bangladesh will be getting around 67,516 cusecs. There should not be any difficulty in the months of January and February. The problem will start for the months of March and April when water is needed most for agriculture. During March the average lowest water level at Rajshahi was 8.62 M from 1991 to 1996. In April the average lowest water level at Rajshahi was 9.13 M for the same period. The distance between Rajshahi and Hardinge Bridge is about 50 miles and considering the average slope. the water level at Hardinge Bridge will be for the month of

During March 1988, when the discharge was 35,000 cusecs. the water level was 6.36 M and in March 1996 with a discharge of 34,838 cusecs the water level was 5.76 at the Hardinge Bridge The Ganges-Kobadak pump becomes inoperative if the water level is below 3.96 M. For normal operation of pumps water

March 6.63 M and in April 5.76

level of 4.7M is needed. This gives an allowance of only 1.39 M difference in water level which may be adequate to draw enough water for running the pump house.

In case of any fluctuation in the water level of the Ganges at Hardinge Bridge, for unforeseen reasons, the irrigation in the GK project will be at risk. Dredging will be needed to keep the mouth of the intake open for the dry season irrigation. Uncertainty of availability of water for the last eight years was a serious constraint in the GK project. The project could not supply the water needed by the farmers in the critical periods resulting in their frustration and embarrassment of the project officials.

The problem of Gorai, the distributory of the Ganges, to flush sweet water in the southwest region will not diminish enough with the water level of 5 76 There will be some flow but that will not remove the huge silt at the mouth of Gorai. So far the mouth of the Gorai is still open as the present flow is adequate. Problem starts in the dry season. Past experiences show that dredging to keep the month open failed. This is a serious problem. Without flushing of enough sweet water from the Ganges, the salinity in the Khulna area will remain quite high which compels some of the industrial units to import sweet water by barges from other sources 30 to 40 miles away The salinity will continue to move further inland and the condition of Sundarbans will continue to deteriorate creating ecological imbalance in the region. Selective dredging may be started during fall in water level to keep the mouth of Gorai

The only permanent solution for all these problems is to construct the Ganges Barrage near Pangsha as identified in pre-feasibility study in 1984.

With the construction of the barrage with a pond level of 12.2 M, it will be possible to head up the water level in the Ganges. The water that will be coming under the treaty will enable to maintain the pond level which will help in diverting gravity flow in the Gorai for flushing in the south west and to stop ingress of saline water inland. The Ganges-Kobadak

project will get assured water. The feasibility study for the construction of the barrage on the Ganges provided for supply of irrigation water in the southwest of Bangladesh to irrigate an area of 1.35 Mha. in addition another 0.21 Mha could be irrigated through ground water and standing water bodies.

The Ganges barrage will be a 1940 M long structure constructed 60 KM downstream of Hardinge Bridge with road and railway. Provision will be made for supply of gas, power and other services over the barrage.

A right bank main canal, 76 km long, will be constructed to feed water into the Gorai. Kumar. Nabaganga. Chitra and Kobadak rivers

A second right bank canal of 45 km will feed water into the Chandana, Old Kumar and Sitalakhya rivers. A third right bank canal of 10 km will irri gate the area west of the GK project. The drainage and flood control by embankments will cover an area of 1.44 Mha.

The feasibility-cum-detailed engineering can be completed in 30 to 36 months. The execution of the main barrage construc tion will take about 6-8 years with assured funding

Unless Bangladesh can develop her own manpower with specialised knowledge needed for such huge undertakings, we will have to depend on foreign consultants. A strong policy is needed to develop local consultants and local construction firms to undertake big hydraulic structures.

The opportunity provided by the treaty must be utilised to maximise the use of water for establishment of water rights. Some of the projects identified in the Ganges-dependent area can be taken up on a priority basis. The north Rajshahi irrigation project. Baral irrigation project, and Pabna irrigation project can be updated for early implementation.

The South West Regional Study under FAP has identified a number of projects for detailed engineering and implementation. These should be taken up simultaneously.

The most important project is the Ganges Barrage project. It is already reported that the Ministry of Water Resources is seriously considering the matter and the World Bank has agreed to finance Tk 7000 crore for the project (The Daily Star 19-12-96). The GIF of Japan has also identified the Ganges Barrage as a priority project. Preliminary discussions are in a advanced stage for taking upfeasibilities cum-detailed engineering of the project. With a 30-year water treaty on the Ganges, friendly donors will come up with funding the study. followed by implementation of the Ganges Barrage project. The need of the hour for the Gov ernment is to take quick and bold decision in the interest of the country. This is the beginning of the future water resources management plan for

the country. The next big step will be the construction of the Brahmaputra Barrage on the Brahmaputra River with permanent water treaty of the Brahmaputra river The government should seriously consider taking up preliminary investigation and leasibility study of the Brahmaputra Barrage. The article IX of the Ganges Water Treaty clearly provides for water treaty on all the common rivers including the Brahmapu-

eastern part is another project which needs attention. India has completed the detailed design and is planning to start the work. There is a genuine apprehension in Bangladesh about the impact of the Tipaimuk dam. India and Bangladesh agreed in a non-government forum to jointly examine the issue. The changed environment now created gives an opportunity to examine the Tipaimuk dam and its impact on Bangladesh.

The Tipaimuk dam in

Monipur. India in the north

The water that will be available under the Ganges Water Treaty and the proposed Brahmaputra water treaty will not be enough to meet all the water demand of Bangladesh. Article VII of the treaty provides for finding a solution of the long-term problem of augmentation of the flows of the Ganges. The possibility of augmentation from storage in Nepal are enormous. The Kosi high dam is under active consideration of Nepal and India The investigation of Kosi dam is in an advanced stage. GIF has shown their keen interest in financing the project as it benefits Nepal, India and Bangladesh. Bangladesh should take up the Kosi high dam project as a priority for regional cooperation along with other high dams in Nepal

India has shown interest in Sankosh/Manas dam projects in Bhutan. If implemented this will also help in augmenting the flows of the Ganges above Farakka. Bangladesh had to take initiative for dialogue with India, Nepal and Bhutan to revitalize the SAARC spirit for regional cooperation for the benefit of all the countries.

The goodwill and trust that has been created by signing the 30-year treaty on the Ganges water sharing, has opened up a new chapter in our future water resources development plans Let us take the challenge and build our future.

The writer is Ex-Chairman Bangladesh Water Development Board.

sition? This possibility, cannot

Kesri is less enthusiastic

also be totally ruled out.

Congress: Leadership Crisis and Impact on Indian Government

Why is the interest on the new leader of the Congress party in lower house so intense or for

that matter who is the choice to step into the shoe of Rao and of course, what impact the

HE focus of the Indian political scenario now centres on the election of the new leader of the Congress parliamentary party in the lower house of the parliament (Lokchaba). The matter deserves attention for obvious reasons. PV Narasimha Rao the former prime minister, held on to this position till recently although he had to quit the

ago. There has been a firm of activities in the party on the issue of electing a new leader of the parliamentary party, a position that wields considerable

The leader of the majority party in parliament or leader of any group enjoying majority support becomes the prime minister of the country. The leader of the main opposition group evidently occupies the position of the leader of the opposition in parliament. The Congress stands on somewhat a strange condition at present in the Lokshaba since it is neither in power nor in the opposition. With 140 seats in the 542-member lower house, the party strength is only after the opposition Bharatiya Janata party. which had a brief spell of governance as its leader Atal Bihari Vajpavee — the charismatic politician had to resign even before facing the majority test in the floor of the house since he was sure that he was not going to win the vote of confidence. But this did not see the second biggest party - the Congress - to power and instead, it supported a loose coalition of several parties headed by the Janata Dal in formation of the government. The Congress supports the united front government without joining it and hence it is in

Any party supporting the government cannot play the role of the opposition in the house and as such, the BJP which was in power for hardly few weeks took over the opposition bench. The Congress is not exactly in the treasury bench but the government exists on its crucial support and it is the backer of the prime minister H D Deve Gowda's government. The Janata Dal and its coalition partners have much less seats in the Lokshaba required for a majority and thus the support by 140 members of the Congress is essential for its survival. The moment this support is withdrawn, the federal

neither power nor opposition.

development will have on the Indian politics and more particularly on the government? Undoubtedly, all these matters represent the main features of the current Indian political scene, writes Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury. government in India will autotions of party leaders and matically collapse. workers eversince the Congress lost the elections early this year Under this situation when

continue support to the govnot at stake since the ongress remains steadfast in its stand to favour the united front government. But nothing is certain in politics and more so when the relationship develops on strategic considerations. Only time can say how long the government will continue to enjoy the Congress support.

But bubbles of fears are there underneath the facade of this situation of unhindered Congress support and the condi tion exacerbates over the issue of election of a new leader of the Congress parliamentary party Narasimha Rao was quite favourably disposed to the issue of long-term Congress support to the Deve Gowda government so much so that once he said this confidence will be there from his party's side for full five-year term. Rao had reasons for this policy as he thought the party can come back to power only after a full term since the last election was essentially a no-confidence against the Congress rule. Besides, since he was at the helm of both the party and the government for the five years that preceded the elections. he felt that the attitude of the electorate on the leadership of the Congress of which he was the steward, can change only with the passage of time. Furthermore, he might have struck some kind of understanding with Deve Gowda since Rao faces a barrage of difficulties including criminal

cases. Although it is difficult to extend patronage even from the zenith of power in the area of judiciary in India, Rao's predicament had drawn broad sympathy from a section of the government in New Delhi that may include the prime minister. But the coalition partners like the communists remain rabidly hostile to Rao, who remained in the position of party's leadership in the house despite hectic campaign by sec

a party suffers colossal elec; toral disaster, naturally the leadership comes into question and also under attack for a change. But Rao clung to both presidentship of the Congress and its parliamentary party chief positions for a rather long time displaying remarkable sangtroid but had to quit both

Why is the interest on the new leader of the Congress party in lower house so intense or for that matter who is the choice to step into the shoe of Rao and of course, what impact the development will have on the Indian politics and more particularly on the government? Undoubtedly, all these matters represent the main features of the current Indian political scene and much of the course of the politics in the world's largest democracy will revolve around, in the near future, on the affairs within the Congress stemming from the elections of the new leader in parliament's lower house.

In the even the Congress withdraws its support to the United Front government which is, however, much unlikely in the near future, the Congress may get a scope to form the government if it can muster additional support some. In such a development, the leader of the parliamentary party will clearly become the prime minister of the country. But such a possibility will remain a difficult exercise even if the government resigns in the wake of withdrawal of the Congress support. Because the desire to form the government will warrant support of a big number of members of parliament which will be a near-Herculean task for the party unless that is also drawn from the BJP and the partners of the UF. Both propositions seem impossible unless political exigencies weigh heavily in a spectacular

Sitaram Kesri, who succeeded Rao as the Congress pres-

ident has already emerged as the most strong man in the party after Rao stepped down from the post a few months ago: As Rao quit the organisation's parliamentary leadership as well, only a few days ago, the fight in the Congress is presently on choosing his successor in the Lokshaba. But the exercise is difficult and several persons are in the fray. Rao who gravitated to the position of party chief and prime minister of the country has taken a back seat after resigning from both positions facing party pressures and his own image being tainted in a series of scandals like criminal cases. However, the 75-year-old scholarly politician, who has also shown great ability to manage things when occupying the dual positions, has not given up and said he should not be seen as with-

drawn from the scene. Will Kesri try to take up the parliamentary leadership as well or the Maharastra heavyweight and former defence minister Sharad Pawar or widely

praised former finance minister Manmohan Singh from Punjab? Or former Bihar chief minister and an astute politician who keeps his cards close to his chest Jagannath Mishra or young and redoubtable Raesh Pilot will become the next Congress leader in the Lokshaba? Kesri, who has already initiated a series of steps in the party following the exit of Rao. like removing the Rao lovalists from key positions, favours a leader by "consensus" - which the India watchers see as an euphemism for choosing the leader without election, and he probably stands a fair chance in such an event. Pawar says election should take place since the schedule of election has already been announced. Suave Manmohan Singh finds a lot of supporters around him. Rajesh Pilot is one of the few Congress leaders who had fired the first salvo against Rao demanding his resignation and he feels the position should go to him. Jagannath Mishra, more suitable as the chief minister of a state as he apparently lacks the charisma for a federal key posi-

than Rao in extending support to the Deve Gowda government. The new president and the new leader of the parliamentary party can always pull the carpet from under the feet of the UF tion, is also rallying round his government by withdrawing supporters. The Congress mem support. But this is not a dis-

> since Indian electorate is against fresh polls in near future. The same a series of However, one should not lose nario. The UF government may

tinct possibility at the moment

sight of two aspects of the sceface problems due to contradictions within the coalition partners. And the other, whoever becomes the Congress leader in the Lokshaba, the widow of the slain Congress leader Rajiv Gandhi, Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, who has shied away from formal politics so far. may now have a tacit say in the bring any dark horse to the po- electing of the new leader.

OPINION

bers in both houses of parlia-

ment - Lokshaba and Rajya

Shaba - numbering 230 or so

will vote for electing the new

leader if there is an election.

What about the supporters of

Rao? They are not trying to pro-

ject any of their men for the po-

sition since Rao himself was

there till recently but they are

asking for "voting" for the post.

It is because they know they

will have less "say" in the mat

ter of "consensus" dominated by

anti-Rao men but will be wooed

nally, a compromise deal will

if there is an election. Or fi-

Convert to an Architect?

A Murshed Anam

Today, more and more people are seeking help of the architects to design their homes, shops, restaurants and offices. It is not only because they are more imaginative, adventurous and design-aware but also due to a backlash against the dreary properties churned out by the volume builders who are still sadly obsessed with the number of bedrooms. And to the delight of the clients, architects come up with imaginative and economical options for the use of space paying due attention to the potential of space. A lot of people are going to the architects as alternatives to interior designers. It is also to take advantage of designing space with light and colour, not just surface decoration.

For a prospective client. finding the right person can be a daunting task. As for most of the individual owners it is a 'once-in-a-lifetime' opportunity to go through the exciting experience of design and construction of a building from its inception to its final realisation, the choice of the key person (the architect) in such a process is of great importance. The client and the architect should have a relation of mutual trust and friendship, based on understanding the expectation of the client and professional competence of the architect.

The client may approach an architect directly on the basis of reputation, personal contact or just choose him from the directory of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB). But before finally appointing the architect, the client should interview the architect personally to assess his attitudes, inclination, philosophy and personality. The client should also examine the resume and portfolio of works already completed by the architect; and better still, to go and see the projects for himself. The prospective client should also contact some of the architect's pervious clients and ask them for references, as there is nothing like getting the client's side of the story.

An architect's fee is usually calculated as a proportion of the total construction cost of the project. This can vary, but is usually between six and 10 per cent of the total construction cost. Architects can actually be

a good financial investment by saving the clients far more with their services than they cost in fees. An architect's basic services consist of five phases including normal structural, mechanical and electrical engi-

neering services. Schematic Design Phase: The architect develops a brief for the work and produces ideas and sketches. He also submits a statement of probable construction cost

Design Development Phase: The architect prepares drawing and documents for the entire project as to structural, mechanical and electrical systems, materials, and such, other essentials from the schematic design studies approved by the client. The architect also prepares documents for the client to submit for planning

permission. Construction Document Phase: Documents and drawings are prepared by the architect covering the whole project. including fixtures and fittings. right down to the finishes of

each building element. Bidding Phase: The architect invites tenders from contractors, chooses the best offer and makes sure that written contracts are signed, binding the contractor to complete the

work. Construction Phase: The architect attends the site meetings, manages the construction process and conducts inspection to determine the dates of substantial and final completion of the project.

The architects undertake all sorts of projects - small and large, domestic and retail and commercial. An architect's work can add substantially to the value of the property whether aesthetic value reaped by the occupants, or financial value from a higher selling price or rent. Today, when architects are affordable options in helping the design and construction of even the smallest building project with all their training and skills to make the "dream of a lifetime" of a client come true, is there any reason

The writer, an architect. having graduated from Middle East Technical University. Turkey, currently practises in Dhaka. Bangladesh.

not to become an architect?

Street numbers

Sir, It seems to me that the engineers planners in Bangladesh responsible for the development of the country, do not know the basics of counting. How could they number streets or houses non-sequentially? Street No. 2 may be after street No. 1 (how lucky), but 13 may not be after 12! Sector 1 and 2 are not adjacent, and nobody knows where sector 4 is! Is 5A between 5 and 6?

Local newspaper of a small town, Waynesboro in Pennsy-Ivania where I once lived, announced one day that the houses in certain part of the town will be given new numbers by the local post office in consultation with the fire service. If the assigned number is not displayed in front of the house as minimum on a white background with black numbers of three and a half-inch size by a specified date (15 April), mails will not be delivered. Guess

what happened. All numbers were changed, and there were no reference to the old numbers. When John F Kennedy and Martin Luther King died, existing streets, highways and avenues were named in memoriam to them (by city fathers through proper referendum).

An 1855 R Street NW address in Washington DC, is in the North West sector of the city on R Street, which is after Q Street but before S Street, between 18th and 19th Street. Again 60 W 42nd Street in New York — well, the biggest city on earth - is on right side of the street

between 58 and 62 traveling west on the 42nd Street which is between 41st and 43rd streets west of the Fifth Avenue which divides the city (the only thing you need to know) into East and West; and 10301 SW 199th Street, in Miami, Florida is the first address on 199th Street in the South-West sector of the city between 103rd and 104th

Nobody has any fractional number such as 16/3. An alphanumeric number such as 16G Main St. will be interpreted as the Apartment No G of the building having mailing address 16 on the Main Street.

If you exit off a North-South Interstate highway, for example, at Exit 167A, you will be 167 miles north of the southern state boundary going east. Had it been Exit 130AB, it will be 130 miles north from the state boundary having options to go east and west.

Each time I tried to reach a place by rickshaw, scooter or automobile, the drivers had invariably asked someone for its location. For your own interest. the mail carriers and the fire fighters use the numbers most They never get to see your "khatians", nor are they interested in your "daleels". Ability to find you quickly - specially by the fire fighter and the ambulance

may save your life.

An improvement in house numbering system is essential. A city ordinance — albeit a legislation — will save this "sonar" city of this "sonar" desh from this disgustingly, embarrassing and inadequate numbering pro-

Mozharul Hoque Springfield, Virginia, USA

Golden girl

Sir. The nation salutes Bangladesh's new Golden Girl Fehana Zaman for winning ten gold medals at the 6th Bangadesh Games. She deserves the best honour, encouragement and international training. We are proud of her.

She has the satisfaction that none can chase her!

A Zabr Dhaka