## The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali Dhaka, Tthursday, July 31.

### Response to EU Ban

The European Union has decided to impose a ban on frozen foods from Bangladesh. Consignments of such foods reaching member-countries by August 15 next will however be accepted after necessary bacteriological tests. But no such cargo calling at an European port after that date will be welcome. The decision, contends the EU, has been taken on the basis of a report filed by a EU team of experts that visited fish processing plants in Bangladesh recently. Here the bone of contention is the quality of sea products. While the EU team found the entire processing of the sea food--from capturing of fry to shipment--below the EU-approved level, the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association comes up with the counter argument that it has spent Tk 100 crore to improve the physical facilities of the plants.

The team visited Bangladesh last month and there is little likelihood that the plants could invest such a huge amount for their improvements in so short a time. If the improvement they refer to was effected before the visit, clearly it was not up to the EU's desired standards. Reportedly, the EU has been pressing for a radical improvement in plant environment for the past three years. Clearly this has not been given the attention it deserved. Why?

The EU, according to reports, is ready to grant Bangladesh a grace period upto November 15 for improving its product quality in compliance with the union's regulations. Another EU team will visit at the end of November to monitor the progress. Now while we need to improve the fish processing conditions in double-quick time, we must also try to impress upon the EU member countries through diplomatic channels that in the interregnum they accept our cargoes subject to fulfilment of other requirement. They can do so cagily after having satisfied them selves about the quality by subjecting our sea foods to their standard bacteriological tests. This is not to ask for any favour but to request for a review of the abrasive ban. Not all processing plants should fall foul on quality. Why penalise indiscriminately?

Seafood being our second largest export sector, foreign exchange earner after the garments, with a 10 per cent tally of our annual forex income should not be allowed to suffer so badly. It is important that we remove the slightest cause for complaint from the importing parties and regain their goodwill.

#### **Enough is Enough**

Once again an accord — this time an eight-point one between the leaders of different student organisations and the Dhaka University authorities has been signed to make things hum on the campus. A very welcome tiding no doubt.

But the question is how durable is it going to be? Experience tells us that life of this kind of an accord is as short as that of the daffodils. Not long ago a similar treaty, apparently a weightier one, was signed to help DU wriggle out of a deadlock. The recent crisis over the capture of a dormitory by Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student front of the ruling Awami League came to serve as an ocular proof about the transience of such treaties.

While congratulating the student leaders for responding to the authorities' efforts at restoring normalcy sooner than later, we cannot help asking them to reflect over the farcical proportions stu-

dent politics has been lowered to.

It seems to be an unending procession of farcical acts and utterances. Proper perspective seemed to be no body's business. If BCL committed a crime in capturing Surja Sen Hall, the rival and dispossessed JCD did no better in demanding a status quo. Status quo of what? Occupation or dhakhal? Is the university a piece of a newly reclaimed land waiting to be ruled by might? Or, are its dorms the drawing boards for political limners?

Political leaders who for years have been cashing in on the impressionableness of young hearts and the economic weakness of the students should realise what a pass they have brought the university to by the sheer pursuit of their petty inclina-

They must understand that their puerileness has reduced the venerable office of the Vice Chancellor into that of a referee in a rustic, unprincipled and wasteful game. How would he, as the administrative head, think of ways to meet the demands of fast changing times if every now and then he has to remain busy in sharing sweets and cups of tea to broker peace among feuding groups?

Let this peace accord be the last of its kind. Let there be political will for a consensus to delink student fronts from the national political parties.

#### Hartal Compensation

When pragmatism takes hold of a society, traditions, even the most deep-rooted ones, no longer remain unchallenged. In a remarkable move Ernakulam Chamber of Commerce, a business body of the south Indian state of Kerala better known for its high literacy rate and fish haul, recently filed a petition with a court seeking its verdict on wild-cat strikes, a disruptive syndrome the state had come to be plagued with for quite some time.

Significantly, the Court has given a legal seal on the petition in the affirmative spelling out what we all utter without seeming to realise "... no political party or organisation can claim that it is entitled to paralyse industry and commerce and prevent citizens from exercising their fundamental rights". They have to pay compensation for the loses incurred in a hartal if they had called for one.

The verdict is not an absolute one as it can be challenged at a higher court. But the fact of the matter is strike or hartal once known as such a potent force to press home demands in these part of the world since the Gandhian days has finally come under critical light in the land of its genesis. Apparently, the thought of ensuring progress has got the better of sentiment and convenience.

Kerala is not very far from Bangladesh from any conceivable context. But how come are we so far behind at the conceptual level? When will the political leaders of this country wed their patriotism to a benevolent pragmatism to bury hartal as a colonial spectre once for all?

Economic Dimensions of SAGQ: Views from Bangladesh Perspective

OUTH Asian region has been sinking fast into a Quagmire of human deprivation and despair emerging as the most deprived region in the world, and within this region, the sub-region comprising the northeastern states of India, Bangladesh and Nepal happens to be the most backward of all sub-regions.

The areas comprising north eastern states of India came under British rule/influence at different periods of time over the last two centuries.

The first tea (of a variety indigenous to Assam) garden was established in 1835, and in 1838, the first consignment of tea was exported to London where it was received with acclaim. Tea gardens mushroomed in Assam on both the north and south banks of the river Brahmaputra. Oil was struck in Makum and a refinery was established at Digboi in 1890. Coal was also discovered in upper Assam.

The Assam-Bengal railway was built along the south bank from Guwahati to Tinsukia with a spur thrusting through the Mikir Hills via Haflong to Silchor whence it linked up with a line from Chittagong. Roads were built along both banks of the Brahmaputra. Inland navigation along the Ganges Brahmaputra and other eastern waterways provided means of cheap carriage for growing produce of the Northeast.

The development of infrastructure in British India, a single economy until 1947, was undertaken primarily to serve administrative and commercial interests of the colonial mas ters. Calcutta being the major port, a prominent industrial centre, and administrative capital of the entire British India for a considerable period of time all rail, road and river networks were developed linking Calcutta with the rest of India. The most direct routes from the Northeast to Calcutta and Chittagong, the only other sea port in the region at that time, were through East

Partition of British India into independent states of Pakistan and India brought havoc to the economy of the Northeast which at that time was administratively organized as the province of Assam (including certain ar eas administered differently) and the princely states of Ma nipur and Hill Tippera. The Hill Tippera was engulfed on all sides except one by (East) Pakistan. For communication the state relied entirely on East Bengal Railway and highways only a few kilometres away running north to Sylhet and Assam, and south to the port of Chittagong. Although Mizoram had common borders and trade links with Myanmar, linkages were better with (East) Pak istan, the major riverine trade route passing through Chittagong Hill Tracts down the Karnaphuli river to the sea. Considering possibly the level of economic integration between Bengal and the Northeast, when the Cabinet Mission Plan (1946) proposed a loose federal structure for Independent India comprising three zones. Assam and Bengal were grouped in one. On economic grounds, possibly that would have been the best solution but due to strong resistance from the nationalist forces in Assam, the plan was not accepted. Thus politics triumphed over economics causing immense sufferings for the people of the Northeast who were virtually cut off from their traditional markets and sources of essential supplies.

Over the last 50 years, the Northeast tried to develop alternate linkages, but not very successfully since for all practical purposes it still remains essentially a land locked region, connected with the mainland only through the narrow Siliguri corridor. Lack of access to the big mainland and international markets particularly to major trade centres and ports due to high transportation costs served as major constraints to the Northeast's growth. People from different parts of India who were attracted to this region by flourishing tea industry.

from such a venture are enormous indeed. tures rising from 31% to 88% of

riod. Transforming a traditional subsistence economy into a modern one is the major challenge faced by the economy of

total exports over the same pe-

Bhutan. Essentially, to put this subregion on a 'fast track' of development sub-regional cooperation within the framework of a South Asian Growth Quadrangle has been proposed. India. Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan all belong to the SAARC family and currently maintain trade relationship under a preferential trade arrangement called SAPTA. A close look at the pattern of trade between Bangladesh and three other sub-regional countries reveal the following.

Given the current composition of Bangladesh exports. SAARC countries, despite preferential trade arrangements within SAARC, accounted for only 3.28% of total exports from Bangladesh in 1995/96, ex ports to India and Nepal accounting for 1.87% and 0.22% of total Bangladesh's exports

respectively. India in recent years how-

vestible resources, which are not forthcoming, again for lack of demand.

The economy of the entire Northeast not to speak of surging ahead, is yet to recover from the damages it suffered in the wake of partition of India half a century ago. The Northeast landlocked for all practical purposes badly needs access to the sea so that its surpluses can find global market including the indian mainland. If South Asian Growth Quadrangle becomes a reality the demand constraint that the northeastern states of India currently face will be relaxed as soon as they gain access to the Chittagong port. Besides, the densely populated Bangladesh can also serve as an important market for their low valued bulky produce which are not particularly suitable for exports to distant lands. Access to the international airport in Dhaka will give a boost to floriculture in particular besides

in the Northeast. The above relaxation in demand constraint will not only boost production in most northeastern states, but also. by generating employment in

promoting international tourism

of their locational advantage may also benefit from the same through setting up of joint ventures. Besides, Bangladesh will be able to earn substantial amount of revenue from users of its ports and other infras-

tructural facilities. When major hydro-electricity projects will get commissioned, Bangladesh will have access to cheap electricity; and with development of water resources in the sub-region, Bangladesh's irrigated acreage will surely increase giving a boost to her agricultural production, particularly cereals. It may be mentioned here that the Northeast currently suffers from an overall food deficit. So, Bangladesh's surplus grain will find a ready market there.

Thus we observe that Bangladesh will also considerably benefit from the proposed sub-regional cooperation. But, however attractive and mutually beneficial South Asian Growth Quadrangle may appeal as an idea particularly from economic view point, translating the same into reality faces a number of stumbling blocks Had the Northeast been an independent country, there per-

lem. As India is not a land-

locked country, no part of India

including the Northeast can

rightfully claim transit through

Bangladesh to the sea. For real-

izing her full potential for

need any such facility from India. Pursuing a more or less open economy policy Bangladesh is currently in the process of gradual integration with the global economy. Possibly that serves her interest best. Bangladesh may benefit from regional water resource (including hydro-electricity) projects but implementation of such projects take long gestation period and huge investment, not easy to mobilize. Moreover, they have considerable environmental and sociopolitical impacts. When subsequent developments are considered, one may wonder whether implementation of Kaptai hydro-electricity project was justified at all. If Bangladesh decides, as a goodwill gesture, to allow the Northeast access to Chittagong port by the shortest possible route, that may be generally acceptable. But any other decision, particularly those relating to transit from India to India through Bangladesh should be taken with national consensus. Otherwise the country may plunge into serious political turmoil similar to the ones experienced only recently nullifying whatever little achievements the country had been able to make over the past. It is, however, interesting to note a complete reversal of history over the last half a century. The same Northeast which had earlier rejected the Cabinet Mission Plan in 1946, has now turned around to demand implementation of something similar out of economic compulsions. The writer is professor of

growth, the Northeast badly

needs access to Chittagong

port, but Bangladesh does not

Economics, Jahangirnagar Uni-

This article is based on a paper presented at a seminar on South Asian Growth Quadrangle: Bangladesh Perspectives, International Studies Association, Bangladesh, July 17, 1997.

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by Dr M Masum

If the sub-region is developed as a single economic zone, aiming at, in the long run, formation of some

entity similar to the European Community within which all goods and services produced in the sub-

region, and all factors of production including labour will freely flow, all the people of this region

enjoying equal rights to all its resources which are developed and utilized in a planned way so as to

bestow maximum benefits to the maximum number of people within this sub-region, potential gains

tion, from the metropolitan centre, Calcutta, whose industries used to utilize bulk of her products, particularly jute; from Calcutta port, through which her major exports gained access to the international market: from all sources of manufactured goods she needed which were located mainly in India. East Pakistan faced initial set backs but soon recovered with development of the Chittagong port through which she exported her major products, and was able to procure her necessities from the global market including West Pakistan (at a later stage) industrializing at an accelerated pace. With the breakup of Pakistan, the complementarities which were developed over almost quarter of a century, again received a fatal blow, but independent Bangladesh was soon able to establish new links with the outside world. Export of man power, and subsequently of readymade garments gave her economy a major boost; sound maero-economic management, particularly during early nineties contributed to stabilization of the economy setting the stage for a major leap forward through increased domestic and foreign investment which however did not materi alize due to prolonged political disturbances. Although, over the last one year, after the new government took over, there hardly occurred any major political disturbance, the threat persists discouraging both domestic and foreign investment. Low level of technology and low level of investment may be identified as the major constraints to Bangladesh's

and vast quantity of virgin land

suddenly found themselves in

an inhospitable atmosphere as

sons of the soil' found the cake

shrinking in size and more

people to share with particu-

larly in the wake of large scale

immigration from (East) Pak-

istan due to communal distur-

bances following partition. With

change in demographic compo-

particularly threatened. As dif-

ferent communities tried to se-

cure their share by any means,

ethnic violences erupted leading

to insurgency by disgruntled el-

ements and counter-insurgency

operations by the security

forces. The above development

hardly encouraged any private

investment. The people had to

pay dearly in terms of higher

prices for goods procured from

the mainland and international

markets despite state subsidy

for transportation east of Silig-

uri corridor, while products of

the region, particularly the

bulky perishable agricultural

commodities rotted for loss of

their traditional markets across

the border, and the vast natural

resources the Northeast pos-

Cut off at the time of parti-

sessed remained unexploited.

sition, the tribal population felt

Structure of the Nepalese economy with agriculture overwhelmingly dominating both in terms of contribution to GDP (44% in 1994) and share in the employed labour force (94% in 1990) and its rather poor performance (average annual growth rate over 1990-94 being 1.3% only), and high rate of population growth (average annual growth rate over 1990-94 being 2.5%) seem to be the major constraints to growth in Nepal. Though landlocked. Nepal has, however, been fairly successful in achieving high rate of export growth (at an annual rate of 22.1% over 1990-94), total exports registering an increase, from US\$80 million in 1980 to US\$363 million in

ever has emerged as the most important source of imports into Bangladesh, raising its share from 6% in 1990/91 to 12.2% in 1994/95 (CPD, 1997) In 1995-96, India accounted for 21.6% of all imports under cash, barter and wage earner's

Besides the above formal trade, considerable illegal trade takes place between India and Bangladesh due to porous border. How much trade takes place between Bangladesh and the north eastern states of India? Formal trade — not much. because the major trading outposts lie on the western border; illegal trade — may be much more, since as mentioned earlier, prices of all products (not locally produced) are considerably much higher in the northeast due to poor transportation network often disrupted by insurgencies within the region and tenuous and circuitous link

with the mainland market. If the sub-region under discussion lincluding Sikkim and Siliguri Corridor to ensure Nepal and Bhutan's direct access to Bangladesh) is developed as a single economic zone under the framework of South Asian Growth Quadrangle, aiming at, in the long run, formation of some entity similar to the European Community within which all goods and services produced in the sub-region, and all factors of production including labour will freely flow, all the people of this region enjoying equal rights to all its resources which are developed and utilized in a planned way so as to bestow maximum benefits to the maximum number of people within this subregion, potential gains from such a venture are enormous indeed. Some of the potential

gains are highlighted below. Nepal has the potential for generating 25000 mega watts of hydroelectric power which alone could meet the entire power requirements of South Asia cheaply. At present however only 237 MW of electricity i.e. less than 1% of its potential is being produced. Bhutan also has considerable potential for generating hydro-electric power. Arunachal's 'greatest wealth' also lies in its huge hydro-electric potential, 30,000 MW from various arms of the Brahmapu-

The above potentials are not currently being exploited for lack of demand locally, and around and also for lack of in-.

the process, will absorb the unemployed and thereby destroy the breeding ground of insurgency and create an enabling environment for investment, local as well as foreign. Increased economic activities will create demand for power leading to its generation.

The Northeast is particularly rich in mineral resources much of which remained unexploited so long. Improvement in Indo-Bangladesh relationship in the wake of changes in government in both the countries has already led to launching of several joint venture projects to be implemented in Meghalaya and Bangladesh in the area of cement production. With increased cooperation under the framework of South Asian Growth Quadrangle, such projects will multiply to the benefit of both Bangladesh and the Northeast.

The sub-region shares a number of rivers. Treating these rivers as common resources through careful planning, such water resources may be devel oped and utilized for generation of power, irrigating the fields, besides mitigating flood haz-

Nepal and Bhutan, both landlocked countries can benefit from the above sub-regional cooperation, not only for free access for their goods to this market, but also for gaining access to Chittagong and Mongla ports in addition to Calcutta for pursuing their export/import activities.

From free trade particularly with the north eastern states of India, Bangladesh can immensely benefit. Most of the products which have to be procured from mainland India Competing Bangladeshi products, therefore, can possibly make easy inroads into the Northeast market. The Northeast can also serve as a cheaper source of a number of minerals and other raw materials giving a boost to our industrialization

Location of seaports and a major international airport in Bangladesh will surely contribute to transforming Dhaka as the financial, and Chittagong as the commercial capital of the entire sub-region. The Northeast being extremely resource rich, as it opens up, is expected to attract considerable foreign investment. As they will be routed through Bangladesh, Dhaka and Chittaging, because

# Buchwald's COLUMN

## The Venetian Lagoon

YOU can't go home again — you can't even go to Venice, a city of fond memories for me. I come here almost every year to swim in its sparkling waters and snorkel in the souvenir shops

I met Katharine Hepburn in Venice when she was making the film "Summertime". She was preparing for a scene on the canal, and I was smoking a cigar as I chatted with her. She said, "That is the filthiest cigar I have ever seen, ifow dare you smoke while talking to me."

I immediately extinguished it as she continued to upbraid me for my behaviour.

The assistant director came up to her and said, "Miss Hep-

burn we're ready to shoot." The set was hushed, and the we heard: "Roll 'em." Suddenly Hepburn dived into the water which was filled with every imaginable flotsam. When she climbed out someone threw a towel around her. I said, "How come you get so upset with me for smoking a cigar when you just dove into heat gummy water?" She replied in that wonderful Hepburn voice, "Oh, shut up!"

One of my fondest memories of Venice concerns that Bestegui Gala, the costume ball of the century. I went as Louis XIV in a costume I had rented in Paris; it has a few tears and included a somewhat frazzled powdered wig. I wasn't invited to the party.

so I crashed it. I arrived three hours early carrying a basket of flowers, and nobody stopped me at the door to the palace, although I did hear the security men whispering about checking my credentials. I bolted upstairs to the second floor where there appeared to be hundreds of bedroom doors. I opened one and slid under the bed. To my surprise I found two photographers already there. They told me to beat it, but I refused to go.

I turned out that the room was occupied by a beautiful guest of Bestegui. She was preparing for the ball, and since she had the loveliest ankles (which was all we could see), we decided to

Finally, after the guest left the room we crawled out from under the bed and went to join the ball.

Even if you can't go home again, the nostalgia lingers. Bestegui, who treated all his guests like royalty, is now in heaven, his palace closed and empty. Kaherine Hepburn is not here this year for her dip.

Despite this, it's still good to come back. The lire is now 165,000 to the dollar, and who can figure out what you can get

for that in Italy these days? The highlight of my visit was the moment I was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from American Express

when my card rang up for dinner at the Cipriani Hotel. By arrangement with Los Angeles Times Syndicate and UNB.

#### "Repression on Women"

Sir. This refers to abovementioned subject published in the DS on July 16, 1997. MAS seems to be very much kind to feminist groups/activists and has extended his/her helping hands to them to get rid of society from repression on women-

MAS's advice is: shut down all doors and windows otherwise entry of evil culture can dilute our original culture (indeed, or culture is deep-

rooted!) We are very much accustomed to religious teachings from our childhood. Can it prevent us from staling state coffers! Best example is the present state of PAC.

Overhauling of society is imperative and democracy can give us freedom from all kind of repressions. So-called ethics/purity can no longer help us in preventing rape, arson, violences, acid-throwing and wife-bashing. Their is no meaning to cry lest we can loose ethical values without sensing our won blindness.

Sanity of womenfolk in our society is considered above their lives. In our society, double standard with respect to womenfolk has been in existence before freeing Bollywood/Hollywood and cable TV. Free flow of information cannot be wise to be mixed with show of pornography. Advancement of society, if you re-

strict in the name of purity, can originate many 'yahoos'. Repression on weak (child, womenfolk, the poor) is not a simplistic outcome as MAS depicted though his endeavour to highlight this issue is really praiseworthy.

1994, the share of manufac-

A Conscious Citizen Chittagong

#### **Power factors**

Sir, Electrical power will now be shared by two new private (?) companies, PGCB for transmission, and DESCO for meter reading and customer services. The experienced senior executives will be local (not foreign) and come from the parent agencies PDB/DESA, the latter notorious for systems loss (more human than technical). So the old hands will run the new shows, as per precedent in the birth of DESA. Experience counts, qualitatively.

Perhaps change of heart is not necessary. The problems are monitoring, regulation, and control to maintain technical, financial, and service transparency. The DS staff report (July 11) carried a strange sentence which reads "One of the main OBJECTIONS of forming the company is to cut down the systems loss from the power distribution." Pray, who are objecting? Perhaps it is the printer's devil playing naughty with

the correct word 'objectives'. To contain the evil side of local culture which contributes to systems loss, both human and technical, it may be necessary

to attach foreign consultants to the companies, under the supervision of ADB and other donor agencies, to act as watchdogs, in public interest Inot mentioned in the news re-

We get contaminated water. Are we also getting adulterated electricity (certainly electricity cannot be inflated)? Sub-standard power is possible, if the power factor is abnormal.

Anyway, it is a welcome sign that the power and telecom sectors are slowly and reluctantly privatizing (power is dear and near to the soul). The people's representatives may put more pressure on the inflated democratic concepts aired so frequently by the netas.

Abul M Ahmad Dhaka

#### Mob justice or injustice?

Sir. We are aghast with horror and deeply hurt with misgivings at what had happened in the last few months. Quite a number of persons lost their lives in the hands of unruly mobs. At Demra seven persons were killed assuming they were cow lifters, then at Badda a few more lost their lives in the suspicion of being child-lifters. again in Narayanganj five persons were murdered by furious people.

My question is: in this respect, who are more guilty those suspected criminals or who murdered them?

These sorts of incidents are rapidly increasing but it seems that the government is least

bothered about it. We are surprised and resent the government's attitude for not taking this situation seri-

ously.

Above-mentioned human behaviour is fearsome and a matter of great anxiety. It puzzles me as to why people act so ruthlessly. Is there a dark side in every person which is lying coiled like a venomous shake and strikes when the opportunity arrives?

Nur Jahan East Nasirabad, Chittagong

#### Gano Adalat Sir, We do not hear any

more about the judgement of Gano Adalot and much-publicised roars of our intellectuals to bring to trial of Ghulam Azam and other Razakars for many crimes. At that time, Awami League supported Gano Adalat, but after coming to power they are silent about it. I suppose AL government is too embarrassed to move against their former partner, Jamaat, in movement to unseat the BNP government. That is understandable. Naturally, the question crosses in our minds whether the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee was engaged in street agitation and resorted to hartal only for the benefit of Awami League.

Iskander Meah Gulshan North, Dhaka

#### OPINION

#### Why in Ramna? Rezwan H Khan

are being compounded everyday owing to negligence and shortsightedness of RAJUK, City Corporation and the government. Day by day, open space in the city is getting reduced. ditches and canals filled up to the unending greed of property developers. Only river passing by the city is on the verge of premature death as slums on

People's sufferings in the city

its bank are blocking the free flow of water. We have already seen how the most parks and foot paths are permanently occupied by the vendors and slum dwellers with law enforcing agencies seemed uninterested to remove them. Even two big parks of the city — Ramna and Suhrawardy - do not have adequate legal protection for their existence. Governments in the past allotted some portion of these parks to Tennis Club. Tablig Jaamat and Children's Park. Now the present government's decision

complex in these two parks will further reduce the open space. Is it so necessary to build such complex spending a fabulous sum of Tk 130 crore when other pressing needs of the city remain unattended? Where are those environment-conscious NGOs educated from the Earth Summit and the elite of the city? Where are those people who induced the PM the other

day to throw seeds on the bar-

to allot further area for Tablig

Jamaat and to raise cultural

ren hills of Chittagong from a helicopter? Nobody came to protest this highly contradictory decision of the PM to ruin the greenery and open space of Ramna and Suhrawardy Ud-A couple of years ago, city

mayor of Paris disapproved the petition for extension of Roland Garros Stadium further into forest area of Paris city citing a law of Napoleonic era. It is to be mentioned here that Roland Garros Stadium is a place where French Open is held every year and participated by top-ranking tennis players of the world. The laws in the western countries are for strict compliance and nobody compromises it with anything that goes against general good of the society. Parks, canals, ditches, big ponds and other natural reservoirs of rain water are necessary to keep the air fresh and cool in the city.

In the western countries, all cities big or small have well planned parks, lakes, play grounds besides man-made forest area that borders on city periphery. Dhaka city is already congested. No new parks or play-grounds were built to meet the growing needs of the population. Children in many muhallas are often seen playing in the narrow streets at the risk of their lives. If cultural complexes are so necessary, they may be built somewhere else but not in the Ramna Park