MP Committee for Dhaka

Dhaka, Monday, October 13, 1997

According to a report in a vernacular daily the government is to set up a special committee to solve the problems of Dhaka city comprising the eight members of parliament of the Dhaka metropolitan area. This special committee will bring together the ward commissioners, the DCC, the metropolitan police and other agencies involved in the running of the city and try to solve the problems of law and order, traffic jam, inadequate essential services like water, electricity, gas, and also look into the urban development question in general.

The idea sounds good if it works. But will it? Of the eight MPs from the city area seven are from the ruling party and one from the opposition; and of the ward commissioners, two-third belong to the Awami League and one-third to the opposition. Given the current political climate, it is very unlikely that the two sides will co-operate.

We think that instead of trying to re-invent the wheel each time we face a serious challenge, we should first try to make the established bodies set up for this purpose work better. We remember how desperately Mayor Hanif tried and miserably failed to create some sort of coordinating authority so that the city governance becomes less disparate. Then we saw the creation of a co-ordinating body with the Mayor and the LGRD minister as co-chair.

Nothing came of that also. Without pouring too much of cold water on this hot-from-the-woven idea we are forced to view it with serious doubt. We do not need special committees to tell us what to do. We need firm administration to implement solutions that are already known to us. Just yesterday this newspaper carried a story of how 2.5 lac illegal rickshaw permits were issued (see the following last editorial), 40,000 of which by one of ruling party's front organisation. What will the MPs Committee do in such a situation? If the political will is there then this government can already take the necessary punitive action through the office of the Mayor. Sorry we are not convinced that the MPs committee is a good idea. It will only delay things that needs to be done immediately.

Govt Slow on CNG!

It is becoming increasingly difficult not to question the sincerity of government protestations of action against atmospheric pollution in Dhaka city. The government has not heeded our counsel to embark on converting all its vehicles to environment-friendly CNG-fired ones. We had asked the government to take measures for encouraging private motor vehicle owners and transport business to switch over to CNG. No response. Contrarily, the government itself has proved quite unenthusiastic about the CNG option to clean Dhaka sky. Phase out the two-stroke scooters, convert cars and buses and trucks to CNG and you have a perfectly clean sky over most of Dhaka.

A national daily reports that about 400 cars have been CNG-fied so far. Of these only 10 are government vehicles and about 30 semi-government. The remaining 360 are all privately owned.

The quantity of concentrated natural gas that has the driving power of a litre of petrol costs only Tk 6 as against the latter's price of Tk 21. Many car owners add octane, Tk 23 a litre, to petrol to better engine performance and push up the fuel bill further. The obviousness of the economy of using CNG in vehicles is steadily dawning on car users of the city. Everyday about 20 applications are received for conversion into CNG and against 17 vehicles converted in a month at the beginning they are now turning out more than 200 at the CNG Company. They are working to raise the car conversion rate to 600 a month.

If government performance on this readymade anti-pollution magic delivery is that sloppy, what can be its effectiveness in fighting the stinking Buriganga and preventing the spread of industrial pollution? Judging by the total inaction against spewing trucks and buses and government's very own transports, one fears to hope the environment ministry would show any meaningful output this year or the next.

The government must do something to throw the moving chimnystacks out of the roads by some radical and quick action. Short of this stemming the growing disappointment with government's environmental showing will be difficult.

Slippery Chaos

The city's misgovernance, a daily atrocious diet for the residents, has perhaps the most awkward taste in the lately revealed slithery mafia boldness of the rickshaw-related trade unions. They have made light of their hand in having 2.5 lakh threewheelers pedal unauthorisedly through the streets of Dhaka.

Their expedient explanation of what they have been doing to endlessly inflate the number of rickshaws in space-strapped Dhaka must give one a nerve-shattering laughter. They say they have only registered them as members of the trade unions in a serial which they feign are being regrettably used by the number-holder as a token of authorisation to ply. For all practical purposes, only working rickshaw-pullers duly authorised by the DCC should have been registered with the TUs and none else. That a fee was accepted and eyes have been shut to their rickshaws being put on the road spill the beans of unlawful trade unionism.

The DCC and the law enforcement agencies have abdicated their authority to the adjuncts of the power that be in an apparently shared perception that the lure of swelling numbers in the public meetings and of a vote-bank could not be dis-

missed out of hand except by 'fools'. For heaven's sake, do something about the rickshaw locust to bring it to a size the city can cope with — but that too ideally along exclusive tracks provided for them. Can we afford our hands and feet to be tied down to a massive number of rickshaws that we shall be hard-put to phase out through a re-employment window when we decide to do that?

INDIAN POLITICAL SCENE

BJP's Changing Stratagems

If in the late-80s and early-'90s the RSS consciously pushed the BJP towards Hindu militancy it was to create a committed core of supporters. Now the party should, according to party strategists, be able to shed off that militancy and face the Indian masses with more and more secular disposition with less and less communal under-pinning.

ernment fell only after odd 13 days in power — an ignominy that haunts the standard bearers of Hindutva in their pro-

claimed terra firma. Because of practicing rather narrow politics which is sectarian at the best and xenophobic in character, an extreme rightwing BJP could not but be treated as a pariah in an ostensibly secular India. Despite emerging as the single largest party. BJP failed to fulfill its charished dream of ruling India because of the resolve of the rest of others to keep the party away from the seat of power: Although BJP called the seclusion a 'splendid isolation', the party insiders since began devising plans for ending this isolation. To remain in the outskirts of the power indefinitely without being able to seize has already proved painful for the party enthusiasts. And the RSS, the BJP's official tactician has put in motion a spanking-new victory stratagems to re-enter the South Block for a full five years' occupancy.

of the Congress party from the political centre-stage and a fractious United Front likely to fall apart at any time, the BJP is, in its own right, poised to occupy the vacated space. But its leaders now appreciate that they cannot accomplish it without breaking new ground and widening its support base. They also know that they have to go about achieving it in a bitter way. Once the party took pride in being branded communal, out to deny the country's minorities as well as Hindu 'dalits' and OBC's their legitimate democratic right. But now they realise that the party's communal label has become a liability

With the virtual obliteration

for them. However in pursuit of its newly-devised objectives, it was decided that the BJP must win over some of the regional parties and has been making persistent overtures to parties like TMC, DMK, AGP and Telegu Desam. At least at the state level, the effort has already paid

people (that is, the society), if

the politicians adopt a go-slow

policy. The practitioners can-

The problem is that it is very

difficult to pressurise the rulers

to change and adapt to better

ethical standards, because the

power is in their hands, and the

gloves are carried by the bu-

reaucrats (the hand-in-glove

corruption. With nepotism, the

combination is deadly to the

sufferers. These evils are im-

pervious to evolutionary treat-

ment. The strike has to be swift.

sudden, and merciless. What is

Agreement on

personalities

public, the citizens and the vot-

ers (all represent the masses

and politics) that the political

confrontation between the

Awami League and the BNP is

holding up the country from

fast development and progress.

background understanding be-

tween these two major political

parties to patch up their differ-

ences on the cult of charismatic

leadership, and come to a set-

tlement for the sake of national

interest, which, of course, if far

greater than the individual

to be conceded that the people

will not discard marhum Zia;

so AL has to recognise Zia in

some way acceptable to the pub-

lic (Zia had two roles during

liberation, and later as Presi-

marhum Sheikh Mujibur Rah-

man if AL recognises Zia. Who

will bell the cat? Obviously AL:

as the initiative will have to

precedence, as they call it in the

Public patience is fast reach-

come from them — the order of

diplomatic and official circles.

ing a critical point, which

might hurt either or both the

parties, and some third force

might like to take advantage of

the situation by replacing the

politicians, as happened before.

The politicians, due to their

stubbornness, are taking a

grave risk. It is neither good for

the country nor for the politi-

cians — why should the latter

give up their daal-bhat so eas-

ily, as they did before? Live on

imagination and idealism, but

be realistic and face the day to

day realities of life. There is

nothing called virtual leader-

ship as virtual reality on the

ernance, and less political

squabbles. The latter should be

invisible and remain in the

background outside the head-

lines. This change of attitude

should come before Bangladesh

enters the next century. Let us

start with a cleaned slate. Why

we homogeneous Bengalees

cannot unite at times of dan-

ger? Country or politics? We

have to choose the priority —

The citizens want good gov-

computer screen.

A Senior Citizen

I think BNP will recognise

dent, as Sheikh Mujib had.

Whatever the AL says, it has

party interest.

There is only one way out — a

Sir, It is now clear to the

the remedy of the regime?

Another monstrous evil is

phrase).

A Husnain

not be reformers themselves.



PERSPECTIVES

by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz

some rich dividends. For this, the BJP did not mind even some ideological dilution. Encouraged by successful ties-up with the Samata party in Bihar. Akali Dal in Punjab and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Utter Pradesh, the BJP leaders fervently desired to expand the existing alliances on the national basis and forge similar alliances with other regional parties. However, the BJP leaders, despite making earnest attempt at building bridges, have failed to receive encouraging response from regional parties, particularly in the south. On the southern leg of his 'Swarna Jayanti Rathyatra' Mr Advani went out of his way to broadbase the Hindutva movement by tracing the 'Sangh Parivar's lineage to a diverse variety of cult ligures from Davanand Saraswati to Veer Savarkar to Bhagat Singh to NT Rama Rao but with little success. The southern parties are innately more secular and for them BJP has to further dilute its Hindutva rhetoric there. In co-opting the support of the regional parties BJP seems to have reached a cut-off point.

Queerly, the BJP's next choice has now fallen on the minority communities, particularly the Muslims about whom the party's unstated stand was that it did not need the Muslim votes. Now during his Yatra, Advani repeatedly reminded the Muslims not to be misguided by the malicious canards of the secular parties who according to BJP supremo, used them merely as a votebank. Advani wanted to treat them as equal partners. For the first time he praised even the Mughal emperors, particularly King Bahadur Shah Zafar and

structed his partymen 'to reach out to the minorities and re-

move their apprehensions' BJP knows that if it succeeds in wresting even onefourth of the 15 per cent Muslim votes from the secular parties it will manage to win a simple majority in the midterm Lok Shava poll which may be held at any time. The BJP has today perforce worn a more benign face to win over minority cooperation; or else they have to forever remain on the margins of the power. Even Ms Uma Bharti known for her virulent. violent and vituperative Muslim-basing has now realised that the BJP can never rule India if "13 crore Muslims continues to consider it their enemy". This adequately explains why is there a sudden predilection for the Muslims on BJP's part. The new found BJP yearning to bring the Muslims closer to the party by removing their misgivings and mistrust about the Hindutva party is not without some results.

The Muslim community in India today is in a quandary. They have for long been used as a votebank by the Congress which took their support for granted. Lately it did not even care for its unwritten obligation to provide security to the community. Some of the worst communal riots took place in mid-80s when Rajiv Gandhi was at the helm. Babri mosque was demolished when the Congress was in power at the centre. As a result, the frustrated community has splintered under various banners with their local patrons. It was not thus surprising that even BJP received substantial Muslim votes in the Gujrat and Maharastra Assembly election two

against city fathers who failed

to save their honour from a few

reckless hyenas. Besides, can

we imagine, how difficult is the

couple's life among friends,

relatives and onlookers? Has

the authority ever thought of

the impact of such an incidence

on the mind of their child

(future citizen), once s/he

So, it is expected that au-

knews that from any source!

years before. Encouraged by this unprecedented phenomenon the BJP is justifiably tempted to exploit this hitherto untapped source. It will be considered a bonus for the BJP if it can capture a chunk of divided Muslim votes.

This leaves BJP now with the last of its ploys; how to deal with the country's secular forces transcending the faiths. castes, creeds and so on. It has something to do with intra-parivar conflict on how the BJP should be projected now onward, as a new improved version of its earlier hardline Hindu self or an outfit forced to adopt moderation by circumstances only while its core belief remains Hindu? While the debate can rage on, one point is clear: BJP needs an ostensible change in its disposition. The BJP must master the arts of quickly adapting itself to the

changing situations. It is thus not surprising that Advani traversed thousands of kilometres in his yatra carrying the message of peace and unity but suddenly fell to divisive lure of Jai Sri Řam upon entering Uttar Pradesh, one of the bastions of BJP power. Internal dissension not with-

standing neither the RSS nor

the BJP will ever lose sight of the larger goal of Hindu unification and its glory but they are not oblivious of the limits of this doctrinal approach. They know that in its undiluted form it only intimidates the forces whom BJP needs to come to power. If in the late-80s and early-'90s the RSS consciously pushed the BJP towards Hindu militancy it was to create a committed core of supporters. Now the party should, according to party strategists, be able to shed off that militancy and face the Indian masses with more and more secular disposition with less and less communal under-pinning. Within the framework of its Hindu world view BJP has been evolving considerable flexibility to find new converts to the party. Time alone can say how the ploy would work for BJP to reach the finish line.

Buchwald's COLUMNI

The Celebrity Crisis

THE question of celebrity arises once again. People are celebrities because they have been created by **L** the public. The larger the celebrity, the more money is deposited into his account. Some celebrities do not like to be bothered by the media, although they employ a public relations

person to guarantee that they get a good press.

Celebrities are not mad at everyone in the press, only those who give them a bad one.

It's not all terrible being a celebrity. You get the best tables in restaurants, and quite often management will pick up your tab. You get the reservations you want on airplanes, and if you're really hot stuff, the studios will lend you one of theirs. You also get large discounts in dress shops and wine cellars

and even a good price on a condo in a new development. Public recognition can be a plus and a minus. It's a plus when the crowd is friendly and the applause is loud. It's a minus when you are with somebody you are not supposed to be

with and the photographers ambush you. Big celebrities make huge amounts of money and have to spend it on bodyguards and lawyers who threaten to sue news-

Celebrities cannot understand why, after so many flattering things are written about them, so much had news follows right

Here's how it goes: Rhett, I got you five minutes on 'Hard Copy' talking about

your new movie. "I hate that show."

"Three people climbed over my fence last night.

"It has a bigger rating than C-SPAN". What is my photo doing on the cover of the National En-

quirer? In addition of my clients would kill to be seen on that

"Without any clothes on?" "If that's what it takes to make the cover, I say let's go for it."

"That's because of who you are. There aren't many celebrities who have fans climbing over their fences. Rhett, every time a fan invades your backyard, the studio has to pay you another half-million dollars.

"I'm not sure that I want to be a celebrity any more." "It's not for you to decide. It's up to the public. Once they anoint you the photographers can go to work and then it's noth-

ing but Entertainment Tonight." "One of the things I hate about being a celebrity is the way they try to tear off all your clothes.

"If you're box-office material, the studio will buy you new I also don't like women screaming at me when I walk into

he Academy Awards. "They do it because they love you. It's money in the bank."

"Do you think it's possible to have decent life if you are not a celebrity?"

"It's possible, but it won't get you any tickets to a Lakers

By arrangement with Los Angeles Times Syndicate and UNB.

OPINION

Filter for Arsenic, and

Aidit Rahman swer to it. This is untrue. There

Arsenic is a major threat in this country. And cashing on this are quite a few, scrambling to make a fast buck. The problem today lies in the screening of water and making potable water available to the affected areas. If we are to abide by EPA/WHO standards, then the detection of arsenic in water and body fluid (necessary to treat patients) involves Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) and Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrometer (ICPS) along with some more sophisticated instruments. It is all on the scientist to choose the instrument, depending on the samples and his expertise. In the developed countries like USA, Japan and Germany, ICPS is gaining strength over AAS because of relatively higher precision and lower detection

However, it should be borne in mind that other methods like voltametry, visible spectroscopy etc, may also be used to detect arsenic at a level suitable for drinking water. The reliability of these methods must, however, have validation due to some technical reasons, the explanation of which is beyond the scope of this comment.

Once the acceptance level of arsenic in potable water and body fluid for Bangladesh is defined, an arsenic filter or anything like that should not be a problem. This will also help the doctor to treat the patients. An important point to ponder that apart from arsenic there could be other trace elements like lead, cadmium, mercury and a few others which are very damaging to human health as well.

. There is a general feeling that the arsenic issue cannot be handled by Bangladeshi scientists. As a result, foreign experts are being hired to find an an-

are a number of scientists in Bangladesh who have the capability to answer to our needs. But unfortunately, they are not in the limelight as they are not publicity-conscious. This is to make the readers

aware and at the same time request authorities involved with arsenic to please consider giving Bangladeshi scientists the first opportunity to find solutions before settling it with foreign experts. All one has to do is integrate the right scientists. doctors and engineers. Donors are also requested to please consider this for a long-term solution. Furthermore, enviornmentologists, health experts seem to

overlook another factor that is equally damaging the air that we breathe. According to Plasma Plus, a private application laboratory for technology transfer, the toxic gases emitted by vehicles is alarmingly high. As the government has no standard regarding the pollution level in air, it is difficult to quantify the level of this threat. But the exhaust gases from vehicles analysed and when compared to the standards set in USA, was found to be at least 6-7 times higher. Plasma Plus claims that the toxic gases could even be a lot higher, if the sampling technique and storage of gases for tests are improved.

Plasma Plus is yet to make the news official and their findings certainly need to be validated and verified. But even if it is half true, then there is a food for though as within a short time there would be people afflicted with 'life-threatening diseases like cancer, bronchitis etc. And air filter will not be as effective as water filter for arsenic.

Waking up to the reality

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came a cropper in

1984 election by winning just

two seats in Lok Shava, the

lower house of Indian

parliament. By adopting an

aggressive Hindutva stance and

throwing its lot with the Ram

Temple movement of VHP, Lal

Krishna Advani put the party

on the fast track of Indian

politics and notched up impres-

sive tallies in 1989 election by

capturing 84 Lok Shava seats.

Thereafter the curve of BJP's

success kept rising. In post-

Rathyatra election of 1991, the

party bagged 119 seats thus

becoming the largest opposition

group in the parliament. Bely-

ing the hopes of secular opti-

mists that the BJP with the

scar of Babri Mosque demoli-

tion would be down to dump.

the party emerged as the single

largest majority in the Lok

Shava in 1996 election and oc-

cupied the citadel of power in

Delhi. But that was perhaps the

gious exclusivity of the coun-

try's Hindu majority, India's

mainstream political elite knew

of the dangers implicit in BJP's

sweep. It was about to assail

the rampart of India's basic

values: its republican charac-

ter, federal structure, rule of

law, cultural pluralism and

most importantly the secular

egalitarianism of India's demo-

cratic policy. Its paranoid ha-

tred of the minority communi-

ties and lower caste Hindus put

at stake their existence pushing

back India into a medieval

ethos and a fascist mould. There is, therefore, an unanim-

ity in favour of a conscious ef-

fort in checkmating BJP's on-

ward march as evident from the

party's collapse just short of fin-

politics, including the desecra-

in Ayodhya, BJP's days for

penance seemed to have arrived

when a year before Atal Behari

Vajpayee, its prime minister

elect failed to save his minority

government at the centre.

Dashing the BJP's desperate

hopes not a single MP from any

other party was willing to sup-

port the party during its crucial

confidence vote. Predictably the

BJP used every trick — appeals.

exhortations, incentives and in-

timidation, but failed to win

even one new supporter in the

parliament. Inevitably the gov-

tion of five-century-old mosque

Indeed for all of its diabolical

Notwithstanding the reli-

party's elastic limit.

As part of the Children's Day the BTV had a programme on October 5 with the Prime Minister listening to the problems of the street children. It was a very heart-rending programme with the children very eloquently explaining to the PM their very unfortunate state of affairs. Amongst the incredible problem that haunts our country the care and shelter for these children is a major problem. It is a social problem. A problem the society must face immediately The PM very honestly accepted the fact that the government alone could not handle a problem such as this, that is so massive in its scale. Every citizen has to wake up to the reality of

the problem of these children. I would quote what one of the boys said, "On posters we read the 'Children of today, are the nation's future', my question to you is who are these children? Are they the children of rich people only". It was a poignant question and I am sure the PM must have been taken aback by that. As we enter into a new millennium how can our political and social leaders make big speeches about a better tomorrow without considering a truly constructive plan for the future of the millions of children whose lives are wasted away on the streets. It is much easier to make big demands and big promises but unless we work to-

gether we can never solve our very complex problems. In this day and age, can the nation afford to be involved in petty political squabbles. This nation was born out of many sacrifices and struggle. Why is it that even after 26 years we continue the same process of selfdestruction for petty selfishness at the cost of nation building. Are we doomed to be the 'wretched of the earth' forever. Can we no: rise above our petty selfishness for the greater cause of the nation? Can we not think beyond self, party, class etc and look at things in a bigger pers-

Bangladesh today is in a sorry state of affairs. Unless we all join hands and work together what Henry Kessinger said back in the '70s about Bangladesh being a 'Basket Case will truly come true.

pective of nation and globally?

Akku Chowdhury 54, Kamal Ataturk Ave, Banani,

Need for a Margaret Thatcher

Sir, Margaret Thatcher's greatest contribution to Great Britain was to smash up the strong trade unionism during her reign as the prime minister. What we need in Bangladesh today is an MT of Bangladesh to neutralise the misuse of political clout by the trade union leaders under the protection of political parties (where there is no protection, support comes in from the other political camp for balancing). This is a culture which has to be de-rooted (there may be another term for this word, but there is no substitute

The unwanted political virus has been made to spread into other non-political groups, for political support, when needed.

solution).

This is a basic weakness in our What is our crime? political system and style. Sir, I woke up October 5 which has to be uprooted by the

morning, unaware of the Opposition Rail/Road barricade, I set off to work in my car. I quickly changed my mind when I noticed the absence of private vehicles on the roads. I sent my driver back home and took a rickshaw to work realising on the way that there really is no difference between a barricade and a hartal. Then to my horror, I realised that the leader of the opposition is going to thank the masses in next day's papers for the "total support" in making their campaign such a suc-

I take the liberty, on behalf of the peace-loving law-abiding citizens, the business community, the helpless masses, the moral majority which makes up of 98 per cent of the population of our country, to plead to self-defeating, unproductive and absurd" political campaign. No more please! We have had enough! I run a business to earn a living for my family and I have employees who depend on me for their livelihood and I am joined by millions like me trying to make a better future, only to be obstructed by our political leaders. I ask our leaders that is it a crime to work hard and want more out of life? Do we not already have our fair share of hardship and suffering without

I sometimes wonder what are going to understand why we have to do all this in the name of politics and you are going to be proud of your father for seething this country back to the dark ages!"

Farhan Quddus Banani, Dhaka

"What a shame"

ing inexpressible complain

thority concerned must contrive to unearth these evil-doers

by all possible means to redress the victims' grievances and eradicate this unhealthy trend of reign of terror from Agrabad in particular and Chittagong city as a whole. But, who will do it? Police should have been the right tool for it. But, the question is, can that tool be useful for tightening the noose without getting let loose itself?

A R Choudhury Uttara, Dhaka

Why?

Sir, Terrorism, loot, rape and murder seem to have surpassed all past records. With the authorities being aware of around 30,000 muggers in Dhaka city the question is: what is being done to nab them? We are aware of the hopeless system whereby the police rounds up, sends for trial but the criminals come back on bail only as more experienced

anti-socials. We seem to be the victims of an endlessly loose legal and administrative system but why? What are our big bosses in the police and administration doing to save the people from being harassed on the streets, mugged in broad daylight. bazars and anywhere else. Our daughters, sisters and mothers are being mugged, sometimes tortured to death but with no real justice. We are aware of pockets like Feni where a parallel government is being run (seralised by the Janakantha in its recent reports).

The trials already held in many cases have not only disappointed the public but also outraged them. But who cares? We are aware of the Home Minister fighting tooth and nail, but is he getting the support he deserves? Raped to death and beaten to death in different parts of the country are the news we have to see in the papers almost daily.

May be there are still many which are not even reported. But one thing is sure the incidence has gone up. But why?

Isn't it bad, humiliating for those already awfully offended? Why do we not find reports about the whereabouts of the criminals, their trials and punishments? Is it because they are really not brought to book. let loose and allowed to go unpunished? We have been hearing about establishment of a civil society, high-sounding theoretical concepts, from highly placed so-called intellectuals and neo-intellectuals but nothing about just deterring criminality which victimises a sizeable part of the society in many a form from terrorism, pressures for dowry, inhuman tortures and killing. Why? Is there really none in charge?

F Ahmed Dhaka

the opposition parties not to thank us for today's "mindless,

them making it more difficult to make a living? our politicians tell their children when they wake up every morning. "Okay kids, daddy's got a busy day at the office today, there's roads to be barricaded, buildings to be ransacked, cars to be smashed, buses to be burnt, innocent citizens to be harassed, factories to be closed. Some day kids, you

Sir, Above captioned edito-

rial was published in The Daily Star (30 Dec, '96). It was about parents made to witness the gang-rape of their own daughters in Chittagong. Attention of people at the helm of affairs PM, HM, DB-Police and CCC Mayor) was drawn. Presumably, they must have had reacted fast and acted accordingly to book those culprits. As none can replace the damages done to the victims and repair the trauma of the unfortunate parents, so citizens expected that the democratic government (borne by our tax money) would take enough measures to root out such evils from the society. But on 2nd October, what occurred to one newly-wed Fatema Begum and her husband in Agrabad, Chittagong was almost similar in nature. This is not only an example of moral degradation, but also a reign of terror by a handful of people, with a dreadnought attitude. We can't even fathom the newlywed's shock and agony.

That couple may also be hav-