

## What Price Complacency?

The situation in Khagrachhari is a bit tense now. Unless effective measures are taken to defuse it, Khagrachhari can indeed explode. A weird mixture of terror and protest has so pervaded Khagrachhari that many pro-treaty plains people and even a number of hills people have hoisted anti-peace treaty black flags atop their houses — out of sheer panic.

There hasn't been a word explaining the peace treaty's true provisions and their benign import from any one who could have the ear of the non-partisan majority among the settlers. And there is constant propaganda by interested quarters against it at all levels — reaching a surfeit weighing down on the perceptions of all. The situation has been allowed to slip out of hand as if by some plan. A flickering light of sanity has been snuffed out of Khagrachhari by the utter failure to motivate the people in the truths of the treaty.

The AL government has been congratulated at home and abroad on coming to such a forward-looking treaty ending a bloody ethnic strife that looked uncontainable for decades. The same government is now paving a sure way to the undoing of this achievement. Unbelievably. But why? Complacency and not BNP is responsible for the looming debacle. BNP is doing very predictably what it said it would do. There is nothing new in their stand on the treaty. The AL performance, before the treaty and after, beat all expectations and even ordinary political norms. Before they didn't exert to motivate the people in CHT and after they cared even less, perhaps basking in the glow of a great job done.

The hill treaty could indeed be the noblest of jewels among those bedecking AL's coronet of achievements. But it quite forgot that for the success of a treaty it was not enough to just sign it. Most fatal cases of surgery kill the patient through secondary infection at the post operative stage.

If the government above goes about stopping the dangerous slide to renewed plains and hills conflict, as government ordinarily do, the situation down there may worsen further. A very positive campaign of political motivation must be mounted and sustained there by not only AL but also others who believe in the prospect of peace. AL let this be a lesson for shunning complacency.

## Custodial Deaths

The police seem reluctant to give themselves a break. One would have thought they have lived down the last year's slur of an Amnesty International mention about deaths in police custody and started on a clean slate. But no, here we are jolted a little more severely this time around by two deaths of under-trial prisoners in jail custody at Narayanganj occurring within 48 hours of each other.

Horrendous! Not only because it is earning us notoriety abroad for police excesses and in a tin-pot dictatorship or so-called police state which, by definition and in reality, we are the farthest from, being very much an elected democracy. But it is also horrific because going into police custody has become a routine matter in our chaotic environment of today; and if deaths occur in lawman's supposedly protective arms nothing could be more dreadful for a society. Actually the outmoded practice of extracting information through torturous interrogation etc causes such a tragedy. The police have to be wary of such threshold-crossing instances which were basically prompted by an unrealistic notion of power or authority which is completely out of joint with democratic system of governance.

When public outcries follow reports alleging deaths in police or jail custody there has been an obvious proclivity on the part of the exposed quarters to feverishly sweep things under the carpet to appear in the clear. A process of clannish shielding as in the Mahi case or of shaking off blameworthiness as in other cases are matters of record.

Hopefully, this will be obviated after the Narayanganj outrage. In fact, we would urge the home ministry to clear the air by immediately releasing a detailed and authentic version of what happened in Narayanganj, regardless of who is at fault. This public statement by a home ministry spokesman ought to be a complete departure or relief from the travesty of truth a departmental version tends to be. We keep faith with the sense of commitment of Home Minister Rafiqul Islam in getting us a faithful account of circumstances leading to the two deaths in jail custody. Some fresh air will circulate through police administration when he does so.

## Well Done, Boys

Just when things were looking little bleak partly because of the presence of too many nonperforming old heads on the national cricket team and partly because of the overheated public expectations following ICC Trophy success the national youth team has lived up to the expectations by finishing on top in the just-concluded Youth Asia Cup meet in Hong Kong.

Bangladesh's place in the World Youth Cup—the high profile event to be held in South Africa comprising nine Test playing nations and seven associate ICC members early next year — was never in doubt, the privilege having been ensured even before the team actually took to the field. Nonetheless, it was no mean achievement for the youngsters to do justice to their high seeding in this competition for the national youth teams of the ICC associate members from Asia.

Three cheers for coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury and his boys. We are particularly happy that unlike the aftermath of senior national team's success, this time there were no unseemly or ugly incidents caused by overflowing emotions. Though that was obvious yet we would like to interpret them as signs of maturity, that we are learning to differentiate between huzzoo (adulatory flurry) and genuine appreciation.

There is a word both current and evident that players from youth teams rarely live up to their promise. We want this hypothesis to be reversed. Our national team is suffering from a serious crisis of young talented players. We want the majority, if not all the members of this team, to carve niches in the national team proper.

## The PM's Meeting with the Secretaries

# The Diagnosis is Sincere, but the Counsel Falls Short of It

*What makes them nervous is that the gap between the two brands of civil servants are so wide, so profound and so spectacular that the new generations of civil servants are simply no match for their old counterparts. It simply does not need a research to figure out that the old is gold, the new is nothing but counterfeits*

WHAT will happen after they are gone? Something like that had been in the air for several years now, although that concern for obvious reasons — was not vocalised quite vividly, especially in public discourse. But some secretaries — the highest-ranking civil servants belonging to the ex-CSP cadres — appears to have been trying to break that taboo. Reports suggest that they did raise this issue with none less than the premier of the country last week while having a two-hour agendaless meeting with her.

Obviously time hasn't come yet to write an obituary on the CSP saga that has been dominating the country's administrative avenues for decades. Given a thirty-year-long guaranteed career, the last batch of ex-CSP officers — hired immediately before the country's independence war — would be retiring by the year 2000. Of course, some ex-CSPs would be around even after that — on contractual services or otherwise — but by all means, they would be making the endangered species list very soon.

Although nobody is indispensable for any job anywhere in the world, most concerned people in the country appears to be quite worried — if not horrified — that soon the civil servants hired during Bangladesh period would be steering the wheels of administration. What makes them nervous is that the gap between the two brands of civil servants are so wide, so profound and so spectacular that the new generations of civil servants are simply no match for their old counterparts. It simply does not need a research to figure out that the old is gold, the new is nothing but counterfeits.

The concern of the concerned secretaries are therefore real — they voiced what the people in the country have been silently observing for decades and the donors had long been talking about in the clustered world of state power.

Bangladesh Aid Group, for example, in its meeting in Paris in 1994, categorically asked the government to make appropriate arrangements for training of civil servants identified for future senior management positions. Apparently, the donors were frustrated with the level of comprehension demonstrated by the administrative officials immediately below the top brass of management.

Of course, the new generations of civil servants cannot be blamed alone for the degeneration. Some of them may, of course, be bright and brilliant like their old counterparts. The problem is, if handwringing on the walls are any guide, most of them are not. The reason is simple — only few can become bright and brilliant by virtue of birth, most become so by virtue of nurture, that is, education and training. Thanks to all pervasive deterioration in the standard of education in Bangladesh, the new generations of civil servants almost solely lacked that.

They are products of post-independence Bangladesh, where evidently the educational boards had been involved in leaking question papers, manipulating results, and falsifying important documents — almost on a regular basis. Then, at the university level, they had been victims of senseless politicisation among the teachers, that often drove the best and brightest teachers out of the universities, and resulted in wilful manipulation of exam results. The last part of their educational trajectory involves the Public Service Commission. Everybody knows how badly government after government have transformed it into a place of political favour distribution.

Then just like adding insult to the injury, the government banned English — a language to which this nation had more than years of exposure — as a medium of instruction. As a result, most civil servants of post-independence Bangladesh got education in Bengali medium. That systematically denied them access to knowledge written in English — because a young nation could not provide them with enough translated materials that could be essential for blossoming their mental horizon.

It is therefore not surprising at all that today most civil servants simply don't understand English, forget about interpreting meanings between words or lines, which is essential for negotiating with foreign investors, donors, diplomats and global organisations. As the world becomes smaller, countries becoming more and more interdependent, this fault line alone makes the country's new generation of civil servants more and more ill-suited for their jobs and responsibilities.

The debacle of the new generations of civil servants doesn't end here. On top of ill-education and unsound-skills, they have to confront a number of other formidable problems as well.

First, over the years the country has significantly moved away from command and administrative economy to market economy-oriented policies, and the process continues. More and more, the private sector is becoming vocal and dominant, a large number of civic organisations have sprung up in almost all spheres and parts of the country, and increasingly the ordinary people are asking questions — often serious ones — about the management of state-run enterprises, banking and financial sectors. The ex-CSP officers — the predecessors of the new generation civil servants — spent most of their careers without facing any of these challenges.

Second, as the government intensifies efforts to generate greater revenues from domestic sources through VAT, income taxes, customs duties, and others of this kind, the people will take increasing interest in ensuring accountability of public money. One reason for not so much concern to this issue over the years was that most people — rightly or wrongly — believed the country was run by foreign aid. Now that they know that they are also paying for running the government, they will most certainly raise eyebrows whenever something goes wrong. Gone are the days when the civil servants could sleep for decades on the queries of audit reports. Moreover, the newspapers — along with potentially privatised electronic media — would play a dominating role in keeping the issues of responsibility, accountability and transparency alive on the national agenda.

Third, although the foundations of democracy remain still fragile, the country is increasingly moving away from autocracy, martial law or other kinds of anti-democratic systems. Parliamentary elections are taking place at regular intervals and chances for elected representative leaderships at local government levels are also on the rise.

That means, through trial and errors, a kind of responsible and accountable political leadership might arise in a matter of decade or two. The new generation civil servants, in sharp contrast to the ex-CSP officers, must cope with these challenges, they must behave according to the dictates of market-oriented and democracy-driven society. They must be more responsible, more accountable and more transparent than their predecessors.

The million-dollar question is, how to equip the new generation civil servants for such a formidable job at the tail end of the century so that they can step into the 21st century with confidence, courage and appropriate skills and aptitudes? Apparently, the CSP officers, who raised the issue of the competence of their successors, also gave an answer to this question to the prime minister. Their answer is: appoint us on contractual basis after the expiry of regular term of employment. Obviously, its myopic answer — it can at best solve the problem temporarily, the issue of training their successors suits the needs of modern day would remain as it is. After all, their successors worked under them for decades, and according to them, they learned nothing.

Of course, solution to such a gigantic problem cannot be given in the orbit of this article — it will require thoughtful, well-calculated and far-reaching reforms of the country's bureaucratic leviathan. Currently, a high-powered reform commission is working to that end. Perhaps, unlike many other reform commissions and committees of the past, it would be able to put together some talented people capable of addressing these issues with intelligence and far sightedness. Of course, failure to do so would give us more of the same that the nation has been experiencing for decades.

In the meantime, however, the nation's administrative affairs must be looked into. Perhaps, in addition to hiring the ex-CSPs on contract basis, the government can consider the following proposals as stop-gap measures to fill the vacuum being created by the departure of the ex-CSP cadres from administrative ranks. Perhaps the government could open up the top brass of the administration — the positions of deputy secretary and above — to open competition so that people from inside as well as outside the civil service can compete for these positions.

Another approach could be establishing an elite cadre — say a senior service pool — comprised of high fliers who will be recruited through open competition. Members of such a pool will not be backed by civil service protections, they will be rewarded if they can accomplish assigned goals and missions, and can be summarily dismissed in case their performance falls short of assigned goals and objectives. Many countries revitalised their admin inputs or services by doing so, will the policy makers in Bangladesh be courageous enough to do the same?

# Still a Lumbering Giant

*In the emerging security milieu, again the military will have to be willy-nilly relied upon perhaps more extensively although a new generation of the Armed Forces would be still more understanding, humane and enlightened*

Our God and soldier We alike adore.  
When on the brink of ruin, not before,  
The danger past, both alike are required  
God is forgotten and the soldier slighted.

THE above kind of amnesia is no more possible. Ever since Frances Quarles, an obscure English poet wrote these lines in the 17th century there have been seachanges in soldier-civilian equation. Through the turbulent centuries since then, there were wars amongst the nations for 60 per cent of the years bringing them repeatedly on the brink. In the process the soldiers, however despised could they be, were inevitably catapulted to the centre-stage of the national affairs as the nation's saviour. The trend never receded. Later, with the multiplicity of threats to the national security the embattled political leaderships increasingly turned to the military for succour — whether in fighting internal terrorism, declining law and order, ethnic insurgency and ecological ravages or carrying out relief or rescue operations during myriad man-made and natural disasters.

So much so that while Pakistan now thinks of combating even its everescalating sectarian strife with the Armed Forces, Egypt plans to employ them to save its dwindling tourist industry by giving military protection to the millions of foreigners visiting the country's archeological sites. The conflict raging for decades in the idyllic island of Sri Lanka has compelled the country to beef up its Army to an extent that it can now claim the dubious distinction of having the highest soldier-to-civilian ratio in the region. It is not merely a coincidence that India, conceived by its founding father as an abode of non-violence, subsequently built up the world's fourth largest military almost half of which is employed to coerce the country's tenuous link with its defiant states and regions. Japan, in spite of being an anti-war pacifist country, spends as much as \$50 billion annually on its military. The curve of military's ascendancy records a meteoric rise.

So far, it has been a wishful thinking to wish away the primacy the Armed Forces enjoy at the national level. The end of the cold war rekindled the hopes among the liberals that henceforth the soft component of power like economy, as well as the broad appeal of cultural, ideological and institutional factors would dominate the world, relegating the military to the backburner. The liberals argued that the economic power has already replaced the military as the central medium of power relations. The notion soon proved illusory. Empirically the economic instruments still cannot compete with military forces in their coercive and deterrent effects. Economic sanctions could not, for example, compel the Iraqis to withdraw from Kuwait, nor have they pushed the Serbs to a political settlement in former Yugoslavia.

Moreover, the security as debated and defined today by the experts points to an ominous omnipotence of conflicts capable of erupting anywhere any time showing no regard for geography or civilisational identity. Indeed the most intense conflicts of the current period — including those in Algeria, Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Burma, Burundi, Haiti, Kashmir, Liberia, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Sri Lanka — cannot be fully explained using any previous conventional conflict model. Yet in most of these situations not only the civil-political authority proved unequal to the problems involved, the national armies of those countries also failed to tackle them.

In most of them the UN forces had to finally intervene. In the emerging security milieu, again the military will have to be willy-nilly relied upon perhaps more extensively although a new generation of the Armed Forces would be still more understanding, humane and enlightened. Bangladesh with its volatile geopolitical setting and a pervasive social conflicts cannot be an exception to this. But would Bangladesh military be able to meet up the bill? Yes, but there are snags.

When Bangladesh came into being we inherited a battle hardened nucleus for our future Armed Forces but the opportunity was inadvertently missed in the maze of post-independence flux. Later, when the Armed Forces were reorganised and expanded it was mostly the result of the executive decisions of the military rulers who found it expedient to broaden their support base with such steps. Understandably, no threats were analysed, no perception evolved and obviously no rationale established for the quantum of forces keeping in view the commitment and priorities elsewhere. Neither our defence and national security policies were debated in any appropriate forum by our political leadership. We are not yet apprised of our national security objectives: what are we all supposed to secure and how? As evident, our Armed Forces came up almost in a conceptual vacuum.

However, irrespective of the motive or nature of propulsion behind its creation and subsequent expansion, numerically ours in among the large Armed Forces of the world with well over 100,000 armed men with full compliments of Artillery guns, tanks, frigates and supersonic Jet fighters. We have a world class Staff College and are going to have National Defence College very soon. Not many Third World countries are equipped with such prestigious institutions. We have an elite officer corps easily comparable to the very best in various other countries. One can be justly proud of an outfit of the quality of our military in a country where a success story is few and far between.

Whether rationalised or not we have a 7-Division. It is also an occasion to pay a tribute to the late Princess of Wales Diana who championed the cause but did not live to witness this remarkable achievement in Ottawa.

While musing over this event, a thought comes to mind. Does this remarkable event open an window of opportunity? Does it raise hope that the world will see other instances of agreement on human development and security issues which continue to plague human existence? The present global disparity in health status of people where many still die of unnecessary and preventable disease, even essential healthcare, and many still remain vulnerable to deficiency disorders that effectively stifle the creative energy of millions in this world.

All of this in spite of available and affordable health technologies well within our grasp. This is a global issue not receiving due attention it deserves. What is lacking is not the knowledge or means. What is not evident is international cooperation and mobilisation of international will to remove this threat to human security and well-being. Partnership between countries, sectors, societies, and people the world over in a spirit of solidarity and sharing could indeed eliminate much of the present inequalities and insecurities in global health order and lift the unbearable burden of human misery.

In a world that is so interdependent and inter-connected, there could hardly be islands of security for few while the majority suffer lack of it. Health and well-being is eminently non-political and non-controversial. It makes significant contribution to human development and thereby to world peace, security and prosperity.

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sion Army for Bangladesh. What do we do with this potent force? There are, of course, detractors who would like to summarily cut it to size calling it wasteful and unproductive in a developing country like that of ours. It is an irony that the outcry is, at times, louder than the ones, if any, against numerous other wastage and abuses — including the bank loan default alone amounting to 13,000 crore takas. The politicians usually shy away from civil — military controversy and prefer to leave the military at its own behest and dividing line marking each others sphere. The military itself remain in its seemingly autonomous zone with a mixed feeling of neglect of being segregated from mainstream glamour at times and happiness at most other with its own perks and privileges. In more than quarter of a century, the civil authority and the country's military mostly remained stranger to each other, although there are few frictions between them — thanks to an unrecorded quid pro quo of interests between them.

But a move away from the status quo will be an overwhelming imperative to bring in effect the full potentialities of an excellent outfit. After all, the Armed Forces is one of the principal components — and most important component of our national security. It needs to be integrated with the major efforts, if any, to promote security at a national level. It must give credence to our foreign policy and provide weight to our interlocutors on negotiating table where the quality and size of our forces, among other things, do remain in the back of the opponent's mind. Apart from the complexities of our delicate relationship with our powerful neighbour we are to worry about myriad other security issues most of which emanate from within: our underdevelopment, social disorder, sleazy politics, wobbly economy, internal terrorism and campus unrest — to mention only a few.

No single agency can ever fight the hydra-headed monster of insecurity created by these syndromes. The nation must be able to pool its resources — physical, material, intellectual — to devise mechanism to secure what all we need to secure with the participation of all components of nation security. This presupposes an over arching coordinating body which in advanced countries take the form of National Security Council (NSC) usually headed by the Chief Executive of the country with the proportional representation of the services, relevant ministries and intelligence organisations.

In a developing country, there are however difficulties in setting up an NSC which is looked upon by the inept politicians more as a conduit for the military brass to infiltrate into the country's administration. They are usually afraid of facing up to the hard decisions on issues forcefully argued by an able professional body. So they try to parry the formation of such council where they consider they would lose their monopoly of control over national matters. Even where a NSC is set up, political leaders ensure that it is rendered ineffectual. Such inhibitions and difficulties notwithstanding, an enlightened political leadership would never fail to understand its worth or be wanting in lending its support.

Our constitution took care in making provisions for high level coordination for the Armed Forces and their possible contribution towards nation-building and national security when it conferred on the President of the republic an additional function of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. Unfortunately, this position was never articulated and the discharge of its duty has been little more than routine. The position has been kept purely ceremonial and the supreme commander's only contact with the Armed Forces had been while taking salute in a Victory Day or Independence Day march-past. But in the services' tradition, the institution of command is one to which the subordinates look for guidance, inspiration, morale and redress of both professional and personal grievances. More so, in the case of a supreme command where it is of significance and great value to have a both way interaction on the matters of grave national import the redress of which can otherwise be mired in a bureaucratic procrastination.

The salutary effect of such interaction is that the president can make his personal assessment of the Armed Forces and use his charter to inform, advise and warn the government of the state of the Armed Forces. The supreme commander must be aware of this Forces' operational preparedness and critical limitations well ahead of time. This again presupposes a forum, a forum, a platform through which the President would not only interact with the services chiefs, but also exercise his command over the Armed Forces.

We spend for our Armed Forces a substantial amount of the money from public exchequer although it is insignificant when compared to the enormous wastage in many other sectors. We are a drain for a poor country like ours. We are however fortunate to have been able to build up a fine institution for the nation. Even much larger efforts and money do not produce a similar structure. But we would like not only to make it cost-effective we must be able to garner optimum benefit out of it. It is precisely for these reasons that both the formation of an NSC as well as strengthening the supreme command merit an immediate and urgent, attention of the nation. If we fail to evolve the mechanism for its optimum use the Armed Forces will continue to be, but only as a lumbering giant serving limited purpose, rendering, it a liability in the long run.

## CROSSCURRENTS

by CAF Dowlah



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The million-dollar question is, how to equip the new generation civil servants for such a formidable job at the tail end of the century so that they can step into the 21st century with confidence, courage and appropriate skills and aptitudes? Apparently, the CSP officers, who raised the issue of the competence of their successors, also gave an answer to this question to the prime minister. Their answer is: appoint us on contractual basis after the expiry of regular term of employment. Obviously, its myopic answer — it can at best solve the problem temporarily, the issue of training their successors suits the needs of modern day would remain as it is. After all, their successors worked under them for decades, and according to them, they learned nothing.

Of course, solution to such a gigantic problem cannot be given in the orbit of this article — it will require thoughtful, well-calculated and far-reaching reforms of the country's bureaucratic leviathan. Currently, a high-powered reform commission is working to that end. Perhaps, unlike many other reform commissions and committees of the past, it would be able to put together some talented people capable of addressing these issues with intelligence and far sightedness. Of course, failure to do so would give us more of the same that the nation has been experiencing for decades.

In the meantime, however, the nation's administrative affairs must be looked into. Perhaps, in addition to hiring the ex-CSPs on contract basis, the government can consider the following proposals as stop-gap measures to fill the vacuum being created by the departure of the ex-CSP cadres from administrative ranks. Perhaps the government could open up the top brass of the administration — the positions of deputy secretary and above — to open competition so that people from inside as well as outside the civil service can compete for these positions.

Another approach could be establishing an elite cadre — say a senior service pool — comprised of high fliers who will be recruited through open competition. Members of such a pool will not be backed by civil service protections, they will be rewarded if they can accomplish assigned goals and missions, and can be summarily dismissed in case their performance falls short of assigned goals and objectives. Many countries revitalised their admin inputs or services by doing so, will the policy makers in Bangladesh be courageous enough to do the same?

## South Asian Music Festival

Sir, We would like to register our strongest protest against the utter and total mismanagement of the first South Asian Music Festival organised by the Shilpakala Academy and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

There were hardly any advertisements in the media — for some incomprehensible reason the authorities ignored the excellent option of advertising on BTV, not a single official at the Shilpakala Academy or elsewhere could give the correct information about the programmes or the venues. The tickets were not available till only the day before the events and the fact that they would be sold through certain branches of Sonali Bank was known only to a handful of people who took the trouble to pursue the matter tenaciously. The general public knew nothing of the festival or the availability of the tickets, so that well over half the halls were empty. In a country where thousands of people would be delighted to have an opportunity to see excellent artists from South Asia, this lapse is reprehensible.

Outstanding artists of the region came for the event, at great expense in terms of time and money. Who is responsible for this waste? Who is responsible for depriving the public of

## To the Editor

the rare pleasure of enjoying such superb performances? It is not good enough that bureaucrats always get away with shirking their responsibilities. The whole shameful affair was an insult to the visiting artists and a disgrace for the country. As citizens of Bangladesh we taken by the relevant authorities to ensure that such unforgivable mismanagements do not take place in this country ever again.

Ruby and Farhad Ghusnavi and innumerable friends  
Dhaka

## Profitability in Agriculture

Sir, Agriculture is the mainstay and backbone of the country where 80 per cent population are directly dependent on it and 40 per cent of GDP are derived from agriculture. Almost entire food requirement of 120 million people is met up from local production. So, to feed country's existing population and millions of new comers all-round development of agriculture by introducing modern scientific practices is a must. But with the passing of time, the farming community of the country has been gradually losing interest in their profession as it is no longer profitable to them. They are to purchase the

inputs at higher prices and hire labourers at exorbitant wage but they get poor returns for their major produces like paddy, jute, wheat etc., which in most cases do not even cover the production cost.

It is customary all over the world particularly in agricultural dominant countries where the government either gives subsidy on inputs or price support to the farmers to the extent of billions of dollars every year. But in case of our poor farmers no such provision is there. Although some subsidy on fertiliser is given but the same is offset by enhancing mill price of fertiliser. Thus commercial agriculture is losing it ground. Only the marginal farmers who work in their fields, day and night, for raising crops are making profit. Otherwise by hiring labourers and buying inputs at the existing market price agriculture is no more profitable to big 'Jotdars' of northern districts, many of whom have started to move in the cities leaving their lands either on lease or 'barga' system.

If the present trend is continued for years together there may be a great setback in food production which may bring a disaster for country's economy. So, it is the time the government introduces subsidy on all inputs and price support to the farmers for their produces.

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## OPINION

# Landmine Treaty: Tribute to Partnership

Dr M Zakir Husain

will eventually agree and follow suit for such is the power of world opinion and wish.

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All of this in spite of available and affordable health technologies well within our grasp. This is a global issue not receiving due attention it deserves. What is lacking is not the knowledge or means. What is not evident is international cooperation and mobilisation of international will to remove this threat to human security and well-being. Partnership between countries, sectors, societies, and people the world over in a spirit of solidarity and sharing could indeed eliminate much of the present inequalities and insecurities in global health order and lift the unbearable burden of human misery.

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