# The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Saturday, December 27, 1997

### **Investigating Biman**

We demand that an Independent Inquiry Commission be set up to conduct an in depth investigation into Biman's operation. The Commission's terms of reference should cover all aspects of the organisation, including, and especially, the financial, technical and staff related questions. Why are we suggesting it? Simply because anything less will not reveal the extent of the rot that has eaten into the vitals of this national institution and nothing short of an Independent Commission will be able to delve into the matter as deeply as the situation calls for.

Serious questions have been raised about how this airlines is being managed and run, and we want answers to all of them. The latest evidence of the deteriorating condition of Biman's management has been revealed during a visit of a fivemember team from the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA). This US based body certifies the state of airlines which operate in any of the US airports. It has been learnt that after investigation FAA has decided to down grade Biman from "A" to "B" category which will greatly reduce our airline's acceptability in the US and other parts of the world, especially in the West and in Japan, and will definitely affect passenger trust and, hence, choice.

There is no way that serious accounting of Biman's operation can be postponed any further. Have we grown in terms of staff competence, technical expertise and passenger confidence in the last 26 years? We have four different types of aircraft in our small fleet - Air Bus, DC-10, ATP, F-28. These planes have been brought at various times without any overall plan, and on grounds that were far from professional.

The record of maintenance of these aircraft are frightening. One report says that after purchasing the two F-28s in '81 they have not been sent for Dcheck, which is a mandatory requirement after flying certain hours. Questions have also been raised about the pilot's qualification who met with the latest accident. It is alleged that there are others of the same background. If these allegations prove to be true then Biman is far more internally sick than the accident actually reveals.

We have recently reported on how the Biman's trade unions have prevented fresh recruitment and have forced the institution to fill senior positions only through promotions of the existing staff.

Airlines is an international operation, and any tinkering with it in Bangladeshi style will ruin it, as it has been. Only a thorough investigation by a competent team, perhaps with foreign expertise, can save Biman.

### Do it in Ctg Port, Please!

Even by our standards of stoic calm, something has been gabbing such deep cuts into the national economy that it better now make us sit up and take note. The pathologically non-working Chittagong port has drawn the curtain on our exports and imports with huge losses staring us in the face like a scowling vulture does at a wasteland. And, now to give the economy another drubbing, as if by an insidious conspiracy of circumstances the inland cross-river terminals have gone dysfunctional with vehicular congestions we have not known before. The unprecedented immobility of goods, services and people, and the drastic fall in the levels of transactions are playing havoc with whatever little demand-supply equilibrium we have had in the economy so far. The situation cannot be allowed to continue.

The cross-river anarchy is understandably a seasonal phenomenon. The river beds have shoaled badly but there has been no matching dredging work. The exacerbation has indeed been the handiwork of several man-made factors. Port and Shipping Minister Abdur Rab has highlighted one of these lately by paying a visit to the spot and catching the culprits redhanded. He discovered the nexus between booking office employees and truck drivers who jump the queue by bribing the former.

All this is very good. And now we implore him to replicate this where his personal stay and direct intervention are most needed — the Chittagong Port.

As for the inland woes, let the government form a task force to steer us clear of the total fuzziness about what it intends to do with the seasonal ferry congestions. What are the short, medium and longterm options the government is exercising its mind on — we would like to know.

#### Filmfest Expectations

Inaugurating the nine-day filmfest gala PM Sheikh Hasina in her speech a few days ago asked the filmmakers to go for the films that portray social reality or, generally speaking, cinema verite. A very appreciable call in view of our filmmakers insane fascination for third rate copying of second hand copies of the masala or kedgeree films from the Bollywood. Indeed our filmmakers by and large have shown great imaginative starvation in not coming up with more quality films despite having such a rich background to draw inspiration and raw materials from.

In the inspiring presence of film personalities like Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Buddhadev Dasgupta it was perhaps very apt of the Prime Minister to point at this collective failure of our filmmakers. But have the authorities done their bit to boost sound or profound efforts on the celluloid? It is not a matter of preference of parallel film to commercial film. Commercial film is what keeps the industry going around the world. But elsewhere they have made peace between the two. The area where we are separated from the rest of the world is that film institutions in those countries have moved ahead by leaps and bounds in imaginative daring and technical excellence but here it has not grown in any direction. We have FDC but has it grown in a manner that should have given fillip to good filmmaking? Also the authorities' studied effort not to tamper with the basic condition of art-liberty has helped matters in other countries. The performance of the censor board here has been appalling particularly in its treatment towards films dealing with our War of Liberation. Equally blameworthy is the authorities' reluctance to change certain laws that have no meaning at all. A perfect case in point is the Film Society Control Act. We do not see why it should exist. Irony of it all is that it is a film society not the ministry concerned that has given us the scope for this filmfest.

Instead of sermonising what people in art and culture should do authorities should invest energy in facilitating their work financially or logistically. It is the circumstantial obstacles that actu-

ally clip the wings of imagination.

# Environmentalists are Wrong?

There is no doubt that the sensationalist message of many environmentalists commands great public attention and may serve as wake up call but "continued incorrect prophecies of doom from environmentalists have contributed to the fatigue with agricultural issues of donors and policy makers...".

the foothold of the environmentalist approach to the world food system in Malthusian/Neo-Malthusian framework. The concept of exponential population growth was emphasised but even faster positive trends in economic growth and global food production the later refinement in Malthus' thesis — was ironically ignored. "In fact, in 1961. the world produced 867 million MT of cereals for 3.1 billion people; by 1995 production was 1-9 billion MT for 5.7 billion people - 2.2 times the grain for 1.8 times the population — the world population did not end in misery, instead global life expectancy more than doubted. from 30 years in the 1900s to 64 years by the early 1990s and global infant mortality fell

in 1990. The authors go to argue that by embracing mechanistic Malthusian notion of the inevitability of exponential population growth outpacing the arithmetic growth in food production, environmentalists tend to reject or ignore human creativity. Have not the induced innovation processes led continually to the solution of longterm problems? The power of human creativity could be discerned from the Green Revolution itself. More people, less

from 170 infant deaths per

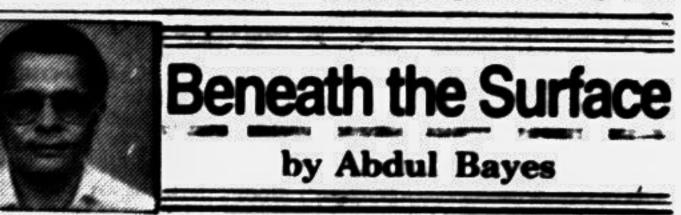
1.000 births in 1950 to just 60

land we have now than before but increased productivity through diffusion of new technology became the beacon to so-

Environmentalists are allergic to large-scale agricultural production and akinly, they are also averse to commercialization or increased specialisation of agricultural production. The preference for small-scale pro-

place and life expectancy was low." Again, small may not be beautiful always environmentally in the wake of the empirics that small holders exploit environment no less indiscriminately than large ones.

Economic growth, accompanied by more openness, urbanisation, rising opportunity, cost of labour tend to displace subsistence agriculture by com-



duction seems to spring partly from a "romanticized" view of the past when more primitive structures of existence apparently lived in perfect harmony with nature. Some green literature claims to cling to the basic subsistence existence of huntergathering societies or peasants in the Middle Ages would be preferable to modern-day life. They forget that, apart from being impossible of feeding the present population through small-scale farms, the living standard of preindustrial societies was impoverished, health conditions were abject, mal-

nourishment was common-

mercial ones on the principle of profit maximization. Environmentalists view this trend as unsustainable since their impact on environment is not taken into due consideration. More importantly, what has so far been by passed by environmentalists is the fact that every action has its own reaction, if not equal reaction. "Integrated farming system are replaced by specialized enterprises for crop. livestock, poultry and aquaculture products. Rapid technolog ical change, improved rural infrastructure and diversification of food pattern support a more diversified market production

and eventually lead to specialisation at the farm or unit of production level.

Furthermore, Von Braun — a leading economist of Germany - observed that commercialization of agriculture - supported by favourable government policies - benefits the poor by directly generating employment and increased agricultural labour productivity. Based on a comparative study of seven countries, Von Braun's findings indicate that - by and large increased household income generated by commercialization was associated with an improvement in nutritional status for the children in the household. His conclusion are more thought provoking: the practice of subsistence agriculture can be considered a misallocation of human and natural resources due to unrealised gains from trade and specialisation - and is becoming less and less viable due to population pressure and natural resource constraints.

There are other arguments put forth by environmentalists which were countered by Rosegrant and Ringler on environment vis-a-vis agricultural growth. Space constraint does not allow us to deal with them in detail. Suffice it to say, however, that the methods and myths employed by environmentalists, allegedly, have caused them to be consistently

doubt that the sensationalist message of many environmentalists commands great public attention and may serve as wake up call but "continued incorrect prophecies of doom from environmentalists have contributed to the fatigue with agricultural issues of donors and policy makers...". Moreover, the anti-technology and anti-market position taken by environmentalists are alleged to have directly worked against critical investment into agricultural research. The final important observation made by the authors is that patterns of agricultural and environmental failure are also caused by government failure and bad policy, not alone by market failures. For example, exemption from taxation of virtually all agricultural income in Brazil has provided strong incentive to the rich to acquire forest lands and to then deforest them. Political instability also creates, directly or indirectly (through uncertainty of property rights), environmental degradation. The current path of agricul-

wrong in their assessment of

the long-term prospects for

global food security. There is no

tural development may not threat global environment. "However, resource may become limiting and environmental degradation severe when agricultural and environmental challenges are addressed with bad policy informed by deeply flawed assessment of the global food situation.

# CHT Treaty, National Integrity and Sovereignty

by Dr. Khandakar Qudrat-I Elahi

The Treaty shall consolidate our National Integrity, strengthen our Sovereignty and enhance our National Interests. We just have to understand and believe.

INALLY achieved what appeared to be unachievable: A Peace Treaty between representatives of the tribal people and the Bangladesh government has been signed. paving the way to solve one of the gargantuan problems facing the country. This is indeed another landmark achievement of the AL government.

II C OME critics have said

more problems than it has

solved. This I cannot accept, for

I believe it is far better for

mankind to be struggling with

new problems caused by abun-

dance rather than with the old

problem of famine" — Norman

Borlang, Nobel Prize Award

"Why Environmentalists are

Wrong about the Global Food

Situation: Methods and Myths,"

Mark W Rosegrant and Claudia

Ringler (1997) of the Interna-

tional Food Policy Research In-

stitute attempted to highlight

some of the misconceptions and

misplaced judgements of envi-

ronmentalists on world food

situation. They note that de-

spite the readily observable

success in agricultural produc-

tion where, between 1961 and

1995, global cereal production

increased by 120 per cent to

outstrip population growth of

80 per cent, "many environ-

mental scientists have painted

gloomy pictures about the un-

sustainability of modern agri-

cultural technology, imminent

food shortages and ecological

disasters .... While not all envi-

ronmentalists subscribe to all

of these views, they are

nonetheless both widely dis-

seminated and inimical to an

understanding of the global

food economy and to the identi-

fication of policies appropriate

Rosegrant and Ringler finds

for meeting future needs on a

sustainable basis.

In a recent conference paper:

Speech 1970.

that the Green

Revolution has created

Reactions from BNP and its allies are neither unanticipated nor unexpected. Their major objections are the following The CHT Treaty (i) threatens National Integrity. (ii) undermines Sovereignty and (iii) sacrifices National Interests.

BNP's objections are clearly motivated by their narrow power politics, meaning that there is little point in arguing on them. However, I intend to examine these objections, not for refuting them, but for clearly understanding them. And I will do so in the light of their own political philosophy BANGLADESHI JATIOTABAD.

Does CHT Treaty Threaten our National Integrity? To examine this question, we need to understand three concepts: Nationalism, Nation and State.

Nationalism, as an intellectual and cultural concept, developed in the 18th century Europe and grew into a conscious political force during the French Revolution. It is the political belief that some group of people represent a natural community which should live under one political system and be independent of others.

This political belief has fortified in the concept, Nation. As John Stuart Mill, a 19th century English philosopher, defines, "A proportion of mankind may be said to constitute a Nationality (Nation), if they are united among themselves by common sympathies, which do not exist between them and others — which make them to cooperate with each other more willingly than with other people, desire to be under the same government, and de-

sire that it should be government by themselves, or a portion of them exclusively."

Many societal factors contribute to the development of a Nation, but following are the most important: culture, history, language, religion and ethnic character.

Two points should be noted. First, Nation represents a natural community, formed by common sympathies among its members which develop, over centuries perhaps, through sharing such societal factors as mentioned above. Second, the natural community desires to be governed by its own mem-

Today's world political order is organized around a network of independent States, whose founding ideas are Nation and Nationalism. The State has four integral physical at tributes; (i) identified people. (ii) defined territory (iii) a government and (iv) sovereignty.

There are however fundamental differences between the Nation and the State. First, the Nation is a desired sovereign political society while the State is an actual sovereign body politic representing a single, of ten unique, political system. **Second**, a Nation is a naturally developed community; it cannot be created by force. But the State is a political society created by humans, by consent or by force. Finally, a State can contain more than one Nations, but not vice versa. Many Nations, to achieve their socio-economic goals, can join to form a State but many States cannot be forced or persuaded to form a Nation. A State representing many Nations definitely disintegrates if it fails to serve equitably the interests of all its constituent nations. I shall now look into

Bangladeshi Jatiotabad. My source is: BANGLADESHI JA-

TIOTABAD SMARAK GRANTHA, edited by Ahmed Musa. Mr. Musa describes the perspective and development of Bangladeshi Jatiotabad in the following way:

Muslims in British India created Pakistan - based on Two-Nation Theory - to prevent Hindu domination while Bengalis in Pakistan created Bangladesh — based on Two-Economy Theory — to prevent Punjabi domination. But, people's Jatiotabadi consciousness did not change, what changed was their Jatiotabadi identity: Jatiotabad only changed its target. Jinnah named the desire of Muslims as Pakistani Jatiotabad or more properly Muslim Jatiotabad and Sheikh Mujib named the desire of the people of East Rakistan as Benri gali Jatiotabad. When Bangladesh was created, Jatiotabad changed its target again. Ziaur Rahman named the desire of Bangladeshi people to resist the domination of foreign and neighbouring States as

Bangladeshi Jatiotabad. The above is the history and background of development of BNP's political philosophy, Bangladeshi Jatiotabad. This political slogan was concocted under the leadership of General Ziaur Rahman when he seized power after President Sheikh Mujib was killed in 1975. Ziaur Rahman specifies seven integral elements of Bangladeshi Jatiotabad: (i) race or people (ii) war of independence (iii) Bengali language (iv) religion (v) territory (vi) culture and (vii)

economy. It should be noted that Ziaur Rahman's conception of Nationalism is substantially different from its theoretical concept. He has either confused the concepts, State and Nation or

combined them. The ideas of Nation and Nationalism have been conceived and developed into conscious political movements to protect two fundamental demands of humanity: human freedom and human rights. These demands are best achieved by allowing natural communities to rule themselves. Thus, the cardinal intellectual objective of the concepts, Nation and Nationalism, is to identify and isolate natural communities, which are candidates for independent States. BNP's political philosophy has the same objective.

Who are the People Included in the Natural Community which BNP Calls Race? They are first and foremost Muslims (religion), speaking Bengali (language), living in the area called Bangladesh (territory). All these combine to define their culture — Bengali Muslim. They fought the war of liberation against Pakistan to create their homeland.

Do the Tribal People of CHT Belong to BNP's Race? Their language, religion and culture are fundamentally different from BNP's Race. They did not participate in Pakistan movement. On the contrary, they protested when their territory was annexed to Pakistan. Their participation in the war of liberation was less than enthusi-

By the criterion set by BNP, the people of CHT then do not belong to its conception of Nation and do not subscribe its idea of Nationalism. The people of CHT have the right of selfrule as we have ours. The nature of self-rule shall be determined through political negotiations between representatives of the two sides, exactly done and concluded recently.

The integrity of the State of Bangladesh means holding its entire territory together. This is only possible and desirable if the people of CHT voluntarily and willingly cooperate. We must understand this reality clearly and absolutely if we are truly interested to preserve the integrity of the State of Bangladesh. We ourselves present the best and living example. If Pakistani rulers did not deprive us from our just rights. we would perhaps have remained as part of Pakistan, at least for some more time.

The Treaty that meets the demand of self-rule of the people of CHT is unquestionably and undeniably a bold step towards consolidating the integrity of the State of Bangladesh.

Does the CHT Treaty Undermine our Sovereignty ? Sovereignty, which means the absolute power and authority to formulate and execute laws, is the most important attribute of the State; most important because it is the key to maintain political order without which the society cannot exist. It has two aspects; external and internal. The State exercises its absolute power and authority upon members of the natural communities who have created it — the internal sovereignty. External sovereignty means the quality of independence from the control or interference of any other State in the conduct of international relations.

What is the Source of Sovereignty? We must know to understand BNP's allegations.

The people forming the State are the original and ultimate source of sovereignty. They appoint the government to exercise it on their behalf and the government can do so, so long the people trust it. In other

words, if people refuse to obey the government, it has no moral authority over them, meaning it loses its internal sovereign authority. The measure of external sovereignty is the internal sovereignty. The external sovereign authority of the government is substantially weakened if it lacks internal sovereignty

The CHT Treaty has consolidated our national integrity by convincing the people of CHT to give up their armed struggle. Both our internal sovereignty and external sovereignty are thus strengthened. We are now more capable to destroy the evil designs of India. if she has one. as BNP is continually telling us. to undermine our sovereignty. BNP's accusations and apprehensions are conceptually unfounded and they have never substantiated with evidence that they actually exist.

Has CHT Treaty Sacrificed Our National Interests? This Treaty will impact upon three of our very important national interests - two political and one secté-economic. The two political interests are: integrity and sovereignty of the country. expected to be strengthened instead of being undermined. As to our socioeconomic interests. it requires just commonsense to understand that the political environment created by the CHT Treaty constitutes a boost in our efforts to improve our socio-economic conditions. Political stability resulting from the CHT Treaty is the fundamental requirement for socioeconomic development. Then more economic resources will become available, internally and externally, as the military expenditures shrink and foreign governments become more generous. I overwhelmingly agree with French Ambassador Ms. Renee Veyret, who, commenting on the Treaty, recently said, "What is good for CHT is

partment of Economics, University of Guelph, Canada

stones/plaques on the road

with the sponsors name on it in

'bold' letters. I believe there are

a lot of individuals in our urban

and rural areas who have

enough wealth and will be

willing to spend some money,

which will bring them promi-

nency and prestige in local

area. On the other hand, scares

public money will be saved and

overall budgetary relief will be

provided to the local bodies.

Considering Bangladesh's local

scenario and perspective the lo-

cal bodies could promote such

participatory programs in var-

ious other fields.

Kaiser Ahmed

(By e-mail)

The author is a Visitor. De-

also good for Bangladesh"

#### "Long Way to Go"

Sir, I read the article written by Justice Amin Ur Rahman Khan "Long Way to Go" on the judiciary of Bangladesh (The Daily Star 30.11.97). there are some suggestions at the bottom of the article. The article carries no data regarding pending cases. We very often hear that cases of late 60's are still pending in the honourable High Court. May I request the hon'ble Supreme Court authorities to inform the people of the follow-

(1) How many cases are pending in the Supreme Court i.e. High Court Division and Appellate Division with the year of

filing? (2) Does the Supreme Judiciary follow serial in disposing

of the pending cases? (3) does any authority inspect the different branches and courts of the High Court and Appellate Divisions.

(4) Does the Supreme Court publish any annual judicial report regarding budget, disposal of cases, pending cases court wise, vacant posts etc.? We the people do not dare to

write about judiciary. Now time has come for transparency of the judiciary. It should start from the Supreme Court, the highest judiciary of the country. We should not forget that it is public money that is being spent for the judiciary.

132 Laximi Bazar, Dhaka.

Abdullah Faroog

#### Well done, England!

Sir, It was indeed a tremendous joy to watch masters and promoters of cricket — England - to clinch the recently-concluded Akai Singer Cup in Sharja. It has been quite a long time since England won a major cricket competition! England was considered as underdogs before this tournament in

Sharja, but they proved everyone wrong by clearly trouncing all their fancied opponents — India, Pakistan and West Indies, twice.

England rightly emerged as true unbeaten champions, despite of some new-comers in the team. It was again wonderful after a long gap to see the Englishmen demonstrate superior skill over all their rivals in the very game that they have once dominated.

Khawja Vigar Moinuddin 48/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka

#### **Inactive in housing**

Sir, For the past 10 years, no government has constructed multi-storied buildings for residential purposes. Instead, the so-called housing societies have been carrying on with building homes for those who can manage a home but prefer it readymade! No one builds any lowcost house for the poor and the middle class. Oh, yes, lots of plans are made. But the buildings do not rise. And if they do, those for whom the buildings are meant do not get the allot-

ment. So who will guarantee that the buildings scheduled to go up will be the home of those who need them? No one. Only the government can help. Then why is the Awami League government silent? Is the Housing Ministry getting no cooperation from the Finance Ministry? And why is the simplest so-

lution being avoided by our government? It has been repeatedly suggested that as alternative to private, public housing should be made available for all citizens concerned. In addition, those dwelling in government housing can be given the privi-

lege of buying up their flats on

monthly payment basis. And

this can done right away. Nei-

ther the government, nor the family has to wait for tomorrow. Perhaps those who are in a position to move the files are dilly-dallying because many government housing are in a sad state of disrepair. Why are they not the official concerned expediting the repair work? Maintenance conducted properly increases the life of a build-

Otherwise, it gets 'condemned' more quickly than would have been natural. Besides, if officials are reluctant to implement the scheme of immediate allocation of flats as numerous flats are in dire need of renovation, then a clause can be included in the ordinance providing for total and thorough repair of all flats that are applied for on a permanent or 99-year lease basis.

Mostafa Zaman Khair Paikpara, Dhaka

### Peace treaty and

unrest Sir. December is the month for rejoicing for in this month, we have won our victory and Bangladesh was born. But this year people have become very unhappy and apprehensive about the future as the peace accord in the CHT is shattering the peace of the country. Ignoring the vehement protests of all the opposition political parties the government went ahead and signed it.

The government is blaming the opposition parties that they are opposing only for opposition's sake, there is not a single reason why it should not be accepted. But it is where the government is wrong, not only the opposition political parties. except the ruling party and its supporters, every single person of Bangladesh must be against the peace treaty because it is not in conformity with its interest.

In 1971 we had to deal with aliens, why now the situation took such a turn when there are no outsiders? It is a matter of great sorrow and anxiety, and we hope the government will pull the rein before it is too late.

Nur Jahan East Nasirabad, Chittagong.

#### Begum Daulatunnessa

Sir, Begum Daulatunnessa one of the illustrious lady of Gailawha, expired quietly. She took active part in politics during the British regime. During Pakistan period as well as during the Bangladesh period, she enjoyed the membership of the Parliament. Apart from many social work for the emancipation of the women. she took keen interest in literary work.

But media has not highlighted anything about this elegant lady. One of the organisation here in Dhaka arranged a discussion meeting on her life. We are not sure whether any condolence resolution was taken in the Parliament. We would request the administration to send her resume to the Parliament Secretariat so that the Secretariat can take an obituary reference. Otherwise unlike Shah Abdul Hamid first speaker of Bangladesh and Late Abu Hossain Sarker the then Chief Minister of East Pakistan this lady's name will also remain unsung.

Mahbubul Haque Chowhury 155, Lake Circus Kalabagan.

#### BTV schedule Sir. Recently, the BTV has

changed its time schedules of some programmes. The fulllength Bengali cinema is one of them. It starts at 8-30pm on ev-

ery Thursday and ends at about 11-4pm with a disgusting 30 minutes intermission by En-

In the rural areas, villagers can watch the cinema up to 10pm, and miss the rest because they do not understand English news and this 30-minute duration, they do not find anything to do but go to sleep.

glish news at 10 to 10-30pm.

Moreover, in winter they feel discomfort to watch TV up to midnight in the open yards of their neighbours. They do corporal works all day long and do not like to enjoy TV upto the midnight amidst disruption by several boring advertisements. So these BTV-dependent audience are deprived to enjoy cinema for mistimed schedule of it. I think the proper time to telecast cinemas is about within 3-7pm on Friday.

Md Abdur Rahim Shohel 539, Surya Sen Hall Dhaka University.

#### Adopt a Road

Sir, In consideration of the fact that the local municipal authorities, district boards and other local administration, who are entrusted with the construction of local roads/lanes. are always short of enough fund to build and maintain the local roads. In order to solve the problem and also ensure public participation in local development activities the following proposal may be considered Local roads to be constructed or already existing ones may be opened for 'adoption' by the local affluent people, on competitive basis. The contract could be for 2-10 years period. The winning party/person would be responsible for sharing the cost of building/maintenance of the road by shouldering yearly a certain percentage of the cost.

place

would

brave nation in modern times.

In return the local authority Abul Ashraf Noor Uttara, Dhaka.

### Maryland, USA "A Verdict to Ponder"

Sir. The editorial titled "A Verdict to Ponder" on 16 November, 1997 was very educative, meaningful and full of genuine thought for all of us to accept and follow in real life to-

day. We are really tired of violence, disruption of civic life and indiscipline of the unruly mob responsible for poor level of economic activities in the country. The culture of democracy at the moment does not indicate fully the enthuse of tolerance and vision for the good of the country. Please tell us frankly

how long we shall bear huge

losses on hartal days in the in-

terest of law and order. May the

members of parliament rescue

us from being destroyed as a

If they would pass a law against "hartal" or "strike" as illegal and unconstitutional they would have been considered as "the protectors of democracy" in this part of the