# The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali Dhaka Thursday, March 19, 1998

## Can't Bank on a Bank!

Rupali Bank, Sadarghat branch must have been opened with an eye on huge deposits, located as it is at the hub of city's commercial transactions. Rather than proving as a trustee of public money it has made banking history in the negative: smeared its name as a defalcator of the valued clients' deposits. As many as 50-60 account-holders, alerted by the knowledge of two of their peers' cheques worth a few lakh taka bouncing despite their having good balances, presented their own cheques to test and what they discovered in the process was daylight robbery by insiders. The bank ledgers did not have the entries of Tk 8-10 crore they all had deposited duly retaining the counterfoil of proof bearing the stamp and signature of the bank officials concerned. Obviously some officials and clerks in a nexus had been siphoning off the money for quite some time and there was neither any routine internal checks nor any surprise external inspection of the books to ensure that records were being maintained on daily basis. The manager who was besieged by the agitating account-holders reportedly accepted the blame for not having checked the ledger. A deputy manager has recently been transferred to another branch but before joining the new place of work he purportedly took a month's leave. The cashier is said to be absconding. This is a nationalised commercial bank we are

talking about. And indeed its head office along with the headquarters of other NCBs must now wake up from their somnolence to streamline the day-to-day operations of their branches. Deposits are sometimes not entered on the day these are made and many an account-holder could be surprised to see his interest accruals not being readily posted on the book at the year-end. There were some allegations in the past of the depositors' money suspectedly utilised for temporary business before being put on paper. These are serious offences mostly traceable to the attitude of many NCB managers and employees who think they can make do with the least of customer services because they are in the state sector. It is time they started feeling the pinch of competition from the private sector banks.

One has heard of remotely-operated banking scam cracking open some years after a certain dubious piece of paper had per chance come under the microscope to spill the beans. But the Rupali Bank variety was so stupefyingly simple to detect all the while. Let's see some corrective action.

#### Where Are We Going?

We are aghast at this mindless exhibition of cruelty. Life must have looked a terribly frightening and depressing ordeal for many who caught sight of the visual of two blood smeared youngmen in Tuesday's morning press - one dead and the other struggling for life with both having their hands chopped off by their enemies.

Some of the reports suggested they two themselves were part of a terrorist group. That is beside the point. That does not give others the license to kill or maim them. Neither are we in an abnormal reality or war situation. Poverty and other social problems notwithstanding, ours is still a pretty normal society where brutality like this is absolutely unwarranted.

Strangely, incidents like these are happening rather too frequently. Not long ago we witnessed in utter horror and helplessly how some criminals burnt alive a freedom fighter out of vengeance. What alarms us society is showing an increasing incapability to resist criminality from revenge or whatever motive. To think that there were an awful lot of people in a sunbathed busy street when that orgy took place is frightening.

It is clear more people are taking on the law and law enforcers. And the reasons are not unknown. There is this inherent logistical inadequacy dogging our law enforcers for long. Then there is rampant corruption among members of the police at the level where it matters most. We have heard plenty of wise words in this regard but what flabbergasts one is that not enough is being done to arrest the tide - increasing criminalisation of the society. We feel constant harping on the impediments on the way to things will not get us anywhere. Law needs to be tightened - apolitically without any fear or favour. Let it not wait to see if the victim dies of an injury; let a few of those who are tried in charges of maining others go to the gallows. Besides, we need social resistance. This is where the government, or more precisely, the Social Welfare Directorate can step in a major way. Unless social resistance grows to these criminal acts and intentions, the trend would continue. We feel government can invest both cerebrally and materially to sensitise people through powerful emotive and imaginative campaigns in the mass media.

### Bandit Autorickshaws

Rushing to attend his ailing wife in a city hospital, Matiur Rahman, a shopowner from Shyamoli, himself now is undergoing treatment in another medical facility. Four veins in his right hand have been severed. Doctors who have operated on his badly injured hand are not sure if it would ever be all right. Rahman was sharing an autorickshaw ride with couple of other passengers. To his horror things changed on the way as the fellow passengers appeared in their true colours — as hijackers. They robbed him and threw him out of the vehicle. Frantic and mad at this, the poor victim grabbed at the side of the autorickshaw in a desperate attempt to catch the hijackers. But he only managed to endanger his hand. This criminality syndrome has been mostly observed, says a Bangla daily, in the routes from Mirpur towards New Market and from Hatkhola to places like Jatrabari. Apparently the hijackers and autorickshaw drivers work in league to sponge the victims. While robbers empty the victim in the rear seat, the driver keeps the vehicle moving and when the 'operation' is over and the victim dropped on the road with a fiver (some consideration!) and a warning against tailing them, off zooms the bandit three-wheeler into some alleys.

It is not that these autorickshaws are changing number plates or colour or going into a hiding after an operation. They are licence-owning and always get back with a bang. We demand police to bring the bandit autos to books immediately.

# The Passing of Storm Cloud: Is it a Passing Phase?

HE Middle East is always is in the news. If one does not read, watch or hear about some incidents in the region, one keeps wondering about it. It becomes too good to be true. The explosive situation developed itself into a perennial form from the very inception of the Jewish state of Israel half a century ago in the heart of Arab territories. The Arabs never became reconciled to the implantation of a strange body in their midst and developed a sense of instant mistrust, which, through fastgrowing interactions, grew into armed conflicts. The two sides fought bitter was which resulted in decisive victories for Israel. gaining a sizeable Arab

territory as war booty. The war of words followed, reinforced by Intefada or peaceful resistance from the Arab side. The diplomatic parleys that ensued finally led to a peace settlement between the two bitter foes at the behest of American President. Israel thought she bought peace for land and Palestine thought it was going to regain full authority over the lost territory. The relatively recent recognition and establishment of Palestine as a sovereign state by Israel and the world community was a shining milestone on the road to peace in this trouble-torn re-

The peace process continued and stumbled from time to time. It has remained suspended since long. The Arabs

A marathon three-hour talk of the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan with the Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein in Baghdad on the 23rd February resulted in the triumph of man's ultimate will to live in peace and averted a highly explosive situation that could have plunged the world into the vortex of a devastating war.

felt frustrated for not being able to gain full control of the lost territory of the West Bank. The Israelis claimed that they failed to obtain their share of the deal, peace or unhindered peace. The advent of a conservative government led by Benjamin Netanyahu witnessed harder Israeli attitude with the unabashed settlement of Jewish people on what are regarded as Arab territories. The Israeli government persisted on this policy in utter disregard to world opinion, including the opinion and advice of their principal mentor, the United States, Israel, as she had done in the past, totally ignored rather discarded world opinion this time also, as was reflected in the relevant resolution of the Security Council. The situation at present is technically stalemate, morally frustrating and physically explosive.

The other unstable section of the Arab region, the Gulf, has more recently drawn world wide attention and concern. The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, also in the region, no doubt, alerted the West strongly. The latter led by America kept a close vigil on the area and kept itself prepared for all eventualities. The Iraq-Iran war that followed soon thereafter, therefore, was

who was allegedly raped and

killed by some students of a

Madrasha, Tania, a minor un-

derprivileged girl doing odd

jobs in the court premises be-

came another victim of brutal

passion. Newspaper report fur-

ther suggests that only recently

a young girl in Sirajganj was al-

legedly gangraped in front of

her husband, before the crimi-

nals, one of whom appeared to

be a rejected proposer, killed

the couple. Another report pub-

lished in a vernacular daily on

March 10 last indicated that on

March 3 last, Mary, a 10-year-

old girl in Bagharpara of Jes-

sore was molested by one

Shafiqul of the same village.

Shafiqul was still at large.

Rahima, a tortured housewife

in Kurigram has been rescued

after five days. In this case her

husband Akram was the tor-

mentor who inflicted grievous

injuries on her body for extract-

ing a dowry. Yet another report

carried also by a vernacular

daily indicated that on March

13 last, a young girl in Sunam-

ganj aged about 12 was lured by

one Batir Ali and taken to a

family graveyard where she be-

came a victim of brutal sexual

assault. More alarming reports

of single rapes and gangrapes

are pouring in from across the

country. Report circulated by a

vernacular daily on March 15

indicated that on February 18

last, in Sonadanga area of the

Khulna city, a young housewife,

Rosy, became a victim of gan-

grape. In another incident on

March 3 last in the Bagmara

area of the same city, a 40 year

old lady Aklima was gangraped

in her own house in broad day

light. One out of the six crimi-

nals has so far been arrested,

other five rapists are still at

large and have threatened

members of the family not to

institute any case. In another

incident in the same city.

armed rapists entered into a

slum in Khalishpur adjacent to

Newsprint Mill and raped three

young women including a dumb

lated by the same daily, that

seems to be a most ominous de-

velopment and profoundly

shocking, indicated that in

Chittagong city on February 10

last, one Raju Akhter (19) a

garments worker was raped by a

CSI (Court Sub Inspector) of the

Chittagong court on three occa-

sions of the same day keeping

her confined in a hotel room.

On her refusal to oblige him

later, the CSI instituted a case

against her young husband Nu-

rul Islam when this rape case

came into the open. It appears

growing wealth in wrong hands.

drug trafficking and drug habits

have thrown an increasing

number of populace, both young

and adult to a sort of libidinal

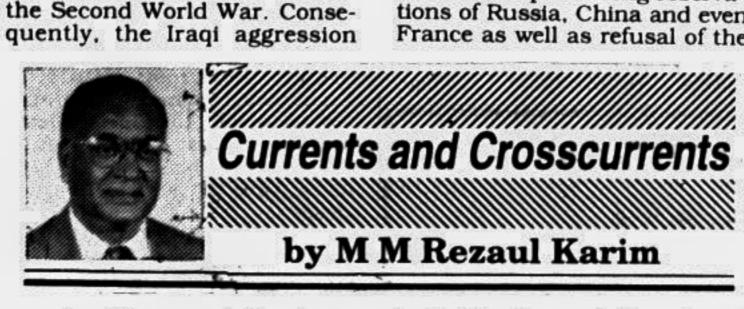
given women their due place in

For all its claims of having

Yet another report, circu-

initially viewed by the West with a sense suppressed relief and gratification. But the misadventure of Irag's Saddam Hussein to invade and occupy Kuwait ten years later heavily stirred the world into organising a formidable armada of war machines and armed personnel the world never witnessed since the Second World War. Conse-

to accept the bulk of the US members of the UN inspection team created a situation that was about to spark off the outbreak of another war in the same region. The diplomatic efforts on the part of many important nations to break the stalemate produced no positive results. Despite strong reservations of Russia, China and even France as well as refusal of the



was forcibly vacated from Kuwait, with a stern what was regarded by many as humiliating set of terms and conditions for Iraq to comply with.

The contentious issue of visit and inspection of the places where Iraq is suspected to have manufactured and stored biological weapons has proved to be the greatest stumbling block towards establishing peace in that area. The initial refusal of the Iraqi government to inspect all Presidential palaces and its refusal Arab friends, including Saudi Arabia, to participate in military action, the United States, supported by her staunch ally the United Kingdom, decided to go all the way to invoke fore, if necessary, to coerce Saddam Hussein to comply with the relevant UN resolutions.

Having exhausted almost all sources of diplomatic endeavours, the last and final effort rested with the United Nations. A marathon three-hour talk of the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan with the Iraqi strong-

man Saddam Hussein in Baghdad on the 23rd February resulted in the triumph of man's ultimate will to live in peace and averted a highly explosive situation that could have plunged the world into the vortex of a devastating war. The agreement reached by the suave, unassuming. low-profile world's number one diplomat with the unbending, controversial leader of an economically devastated land accomplished a rare task in the contemporary diplomatic history. The success of Kofi Annan's mission received conditional approval of the US President, who is still sceptical about Iraqi President's will to adhere to the provisions of the agreement. He warned of serious consequences and spoke the possibility of even a unilateral American response, if Saddam failed to

comply. What lesson does one derive out of the developments of the two most ominous trouble spots in the Middle East? Israel, on the one hand, has been persistently flouting UN resolutions and ignominiously rejecting world opinion and getting away with it. The reasons are not far to seek. The power that can really wield power is virtually powerless to coerce Israel into compliance. There are reasons,

no doubt, good or bad. No administration in America can and will withstand objections from the strong Jewish lobby, which will, as has been in the past, supported Israel to the hilt in almost all her policies and actions. The success US Presidents have so far been able to attain in this regard may be viewed in that perspective and

within limitations. The situation in the Gulf is. however, another cup of tea. The US interests and her heavy dependence on Arab oils to run their wheels of industry and resultant progress, has been the primary consideration of shaping strategic policy of America and Western Europe in this region. Under no circumstances, they would allow to develop a situation where supply of such life blood of the industrial world get interrupted or dried up. The spectre of a possible rise of supporters of Islamic fundamentalism also loom large in the minds of those who matter. Besides, the question of maintaining an easy sea route safe towards East Asia plays a critical role in policy formulation.

The great lesson of history in this region, as it had been manifested in the past, is that there is hardly any morality and set standard in the conduct of international relations for a country. Only policy that matters stems from the self-interest of a nation which sometimes are called enlightened self-interests. One must watch with caution and wait in hope.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT ON TINY TANIA

# The Nation Feels Outraged and Hangs its Head in Shame by Md Asadullah Khan

People demand that a law be enacted in the parliament that will declare death sentence as the punishment for

ANIA, a six-year-old girl's ordeal is a case that has A stunned the whole country. Savage, beastly, traumatic, frightening, humiliating could all of these epithets give full expressions of our anger and hatred against the monstrous abuser? As the readers in the whole world know about this dastardly and ghoulish sexual assault on a minor girl through internet, they would hasten to comment "There are no devils left in hell,

they are all in Bangladesh."

Tania, a six-year-old girl who was playing with a childlike fervour within the premises of the CMM's court in Dhaka was lured by some unidentified person into a room in the first floor of the building known as police control room and was raped. Unbelievable, even her screaming could not wake up the five police cops who, it appeared, were in such a deep slumber that perhaps an earthquake would not break their sleep. Incidentally, the Dhaka District Police Superintendent's office is on the same floor, only a few steps away. Presumably it was not a rape of an innocent minor girl, it was, as "The Daily Star" leader has said. The rape of conscience of the whole nation".

Fazal Bepary along with his

six-year-old daughter Tania came to Dhaka from Chandpur about two months ago after Tania's mother's death, in search of a job and living. On the fateful day, 11 March last, at about 3 pm, Tania was lured into the police control room and violated. The incident took place at a time when he CMM's court was in session. Profusely bleeding and screaming with the injury inflicted on her person she was produced before the CMM, at whose instance a case was filed in the Kotwali thana by the general secretary of the Dhaka District Ainjibi Samity, allegedly accusing a cop. Strangely enough, the police initially refused to record the case till the "imputation" alleging involvement of "a police personnel" was deleted. Reports have it that at the directive of the Prime Minister two enquiry committees, one headed by the Additional CMM and the other (Departmental enquiry committee) headed by the Addl. DIG. Police, Dhaka range were constituted but later report suggests that the police enquiry committee has been kept in abeyance presumably because of the alleged involvement of police personnel. As usual, in such cases. no arrest could be made till now despite hectic investigations that seem to be in progress by the different investigation agencies at the command of the government. Few people will disagree that this latest incident beats all previous records of bestiality pouring in form all places of the country.

Before we have forgotten the case of Ferdousi of Chandpur physical assault on women and more specifically on minor girls. society - in political, social and economic fronts — this is a country where most heinous crimes are committed against women and more so against minor young girls because in such cases the existing laws that seem to be flawed and investigations that are often shoddy allow criminals to run

away with impunity. People are alarmed at the wave of terror and assault unleashed upon women across the country. Just in the past one year, cases of atrocities against women have almost increased by three fold. Reports gleaned from the police source on the DMP anniversary suggest that as against 525 women raped and 3121 women subjected to repression in 1996, 1336 were raped and 4507 were subjected to atrocities in the year ending 1997. The corresponding figures in 1994 were 499 and 1206 respectively. But what spurred on the present AL government to action are a series of gangrapes including Yasmeen and Seema Chowdhury rape cases involving police. Both of them died while in police custody. While such torture followed by death shocked the people and evoked mounting criticism from all strata of the society, it also exposed a doctor-police nexus Emboldened by women's rights organisations and public outery more such cases have come to light in recent times. The sudden rise of sexual assault and violence against women and in most cases against minor girls who even do not know what sex is, has led us to explore the dark corners of our life and society. Without contradiction

Tania assault case is a singular one that has stunned the whole nation. Even if the police were trying to absolve themselves of the charges, seemingly levelled against them from the nook and corner of the country, not without reason who else dared tread into the police control room, supposedly the fortress or arsenal of law and order in the metropolis and that also in the regular office hours especially when the courts were in session? The allegation of assault by police people brought by Women's Rights group, and Dhaka District Court Lawyers' Association appear to many to be plausible and no other explanation or defence seems to be tenable here. As the investigating agencies assert that the rapist or criminal could be identified as and when Tania recovers from her shock and ordeal, such explanations are most unacceptable when the victim is a minor. It is most intriguing and shocking to find that such minor girls, who were once sexually abused and then again made to undergo harrowing cross-examinations by the same investigating agency and

posed to protect them and punish their abusers. How can a child respond with clarity, and in detail, which even an adult would balk at answering? It should not take us too much time to realise that the trauma the abused child like Tania or Ferdousi or Maria or Poly or their parents must have undergone is unimaginable. If rapists accused of sexually abusing women and minor girls cannot be punished because of insufficient legal grounds, flawed laws and shoddy investigations then it makes sense to enact new laws which are more stringent especially when the victim is a

minor. Recent advances in DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) finger printing that matches microscopic strands of DNA, floating around an abuser's cells with the victim's clothes, can give clue to such cases and help identify the accused without going through an arduous and tortuous process. In Hyderabad in India, one such DNA profiling machine is working quite successfully and scientists in that laboratory assert that almost half the cases, they get cover rape and the other half to establish paternity. The most dramatic DNA test case in India that set the ball rolling and rocked the administration in India was the Naina Sahni murder case in Delhi in 1995 Sahni was murdered and her body burnt in the "tandoor" (clay oven) of a hotel. Her parents initially refused to accept that the charred human remains were their daughter's: they finally did so after a DNA test proved it was Naina's body.

Assuringly, in Tania's case, both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have visited Tania twice in DMCH and CMH and have asked the top bosses in the law enforcement agency to get to the bottom of the matter. The Home Minister in the meantime declared one lakh taka as reward to any one who can help identify the rapist. Tania's clothes soaked with semen or sweat are still being preserved by Advocate Elina Khan, a very enthusiastic Womens Rights activist in the country. Administration might make good use of these materials for such tests but that will mean changing the laws to incorporate it as a criminal evidence. Hopefully, law makers in the country might give serious thought to this aspect of scientific evidence. It has been knowledgeably learnt that Kerala government in India has already accepted DNA test as evidence. And its acceptance in the central government remains under process. Scientists further claim that chances of the test going wrong are one in three billion! The fees charged for a test is only Rs 2500.00. The

tect, I felt enriched by the ideas

of my teachers and brilliant

colleagues whose name I saw in

the resignation list printed in

almost all the dailies. What will

be left of the Architecture Dept.

with the remaining few are very

frightening - I can tell that

Please let a gardener decide

which flowers to bloom in his

garden rather than which fish

to catch. Would not it be sadden-

ing to see an architect becoming

an architect-engineer as we are

from my experience!

test sample might be blood, saliva or semen that is frozen at - 70°C in an enzyme solution that chops DNA strands into

thousands of shorter bits. Apparently, there is only one way to root out this crime from the society. Echoing with the Home Minister Major (Retd) Rafigul Islam BU who told in the floors of the parliament on Wednesday, March 11 last: people demand that a law be enacted in the parliament that will declare death sentence as the punishment for physical assault on women and more specifically on minor girls. In a male dominated society, administrators, executives and judges, mostly male, must emotionally attach themselves to the trauma a woman goes through if she even survives.

Since violation of women in police custody has often been reported in the past and has evoked public outcry, most people feel that allowing police to have the custody of the victim or witness have not become any safer. Precisely true, the same agency cannot be allowed to play the role of an accuser and protector of the victim at the same time. The recommendation of the Bangladesh Human Rights Organisation asking the government and NGOs to take charge of the victims is the only plausible way out to meet justice. In the face of mounting

criticism and public outcry, the first action police authorities take is to "close" the offender and in most cases perhaps, the penalty ends up there and no farther. In most such cases the law and order agencies are found to be suppressing facts, prima-facie evidences, as even in this Tania case reports are there that they are trying to abet police from the monstrous act. But when such crime takes place in the police resort, close to CMM's court in the office hours how can they plead innocence or shake off the burden of charges seemingly levelled against them?

In dealing things with transparency, people feel the need of setting up a special women's cell in the "state police" — a long standing demand by the women's groups — headed by a woman SP. Besides, senior police officers have to be personally held responsible if crimes against women are not effectively controlled. Few countries have watched their social degeneracy drop so low as Bangladesh's. The criminality seems to be spinning out of control undermining the country's once good name uniquely attached to values. The blatant and brazen criminal acts have so shaken public confidence in the law enforcement agencies that many are even questioning the need for them in the country

The last vestiges of decency have left us abandoned among some beasts in the garb of hu-

parts and do not possess the

### **OPINION**

# Awfully Disgusting

HE ugly incident in the police control room at CMM's Court Building really outraged us. Violence against women and rape cases have increased alarmingly and the case of Tania and another recent case at Chittagong have shocked us beyond tolerance. As a citizen of Bangladesh, I feel awfully disgusted - and we are afraid to live in the same city with some beastly people who either have gone mad or have lost all control over their animal instinct

The day before yesterday, a snake charmer came to our house and while playing with some snakes keeping them side by side, he was telling us: "look, the snake do not quarrel with each other, they do not bite each other and do not harm anybody until and unless they are harmed. But we the humans are always fighting, hurting out causing harm to others etc.' The snake charmer was correct. Men can be more cruel than snakes with their lust and greed and as it seems to us, nowadays nobody — not even the kids are safe from those insane people. Citizens are paying taxes to be protected from criminals and lunatics. But what happens when some innocent minor girls are attacked and raped at police control room, or by the police themselves who are supposed to protect and save the people of the country? After this, why do we need the police for? What should we do about that?

On 8th March in a seminar arranged to observe World Women's Day, a speaker telling the ladies present there that he was surprised to notice that the prominent women's organisations in Bangladesh were silent over the rape case of a Bangladeshi women in Calcutta. As I was out of Bangladesh at that time, I could

most often wrongly addressed by general people, surely not by not answer but I was also surprised to note that the learned speaker has categorised the incident as women's problem. As if women are something different from men and only women's organisations will have to protest about any violence against and torture on women. Sometimes I feel that men think that women are not made of same biological 180 movable

same heart — and soul — which the men do. It pains me to note that only women had to protest and demonstrate before CMM's court against this ugly crime of raping a minor girl except some scant response of a group of one political party. I feel frustrated to see the attitude of menfolk of our society who do not respond to these kind of vicious crimes. Until and unless someone's own daughter or sister is harmed, no one seems to be bothered about those inhuman behaviour. Another question that bothers me: why these criminals are not afraid of acting like molesting minor girls even a kid of four? Is it that they feel that they would be able to go unpunished or spared of their crimes somehow? That they are so sure of their power and authority over the society, they take the advantage of the weaknesses of the victims or their families? We have seen three big

crimes allegedly committed by police personnel and no examplenary punishment were given to them so far, and in my opinion, that's why they feel power ful and secured enough to strike again against women. The citizens' role against these crimes are not strong, forceful and loud enough to demand serious punishment for the rapists. All of us — men and women — together are not committed enough in such a fashion and force, like we do for political issue like we act when any hooliganism occurs in a holy place. Is not a child's body holy - and is raping, molesting a child is less heinous, immoral and cannot demand justice in a priority ba-

We the conscious citizen's of Bangladesh are waiting to see justice done to the little unfortunate girl by taking stern action against the IBLIS, who and also all of us together, in my opinion, could repair the damage done to her. There is no power, not enough money which can give back the innocence of the kid. There is no way to make her forget the horrible experience which she gathered

for no fault of her own. But at least we could try to save some more victims with all our efforts with good intention.

The national disgrace Sir, With reference to the ed-

itorial entitled, 'No Relief' concerning statistics on criminal offences. We feel as a nation on the whole in having to admit that such grevious and sick crimes as rape of young women and minor girls continue to occur unabated. The editorial asks us to ponder on the direction we are heading. Have we however stopped to analyse the causes underlying this 'dreadful proliferation of sexual repression on women' and the phenomenal rise these past 2-3 years? I am sure at least part of the explanation can be found in the uncensored exposure of our population to channel TV and pornographic videos and even magazines.

To my utter amazement and disgust, I saw a well-illuminated sign-board in Gulshan No. 1 marketplace offering a product called 'Bust Creme' which is supposed to enhance

the size of the breast, with a photograph of a half-exposed female top next to the advertisement. I have no knowledge of any creme which can do the above unless it contains

steroids. That being the case, not only does the product outrage all senses of decency (particularly the blatant display), it may be very dangerous particularly for young girls who may make the mistake of using it. I thought that the import of medical goods was under strict regulations. Is that what free market economy means?

Zeba I. Seraj Professor Dept. of Biochemistry Dhaka University.

Rising gas prices Sir, I read with great trepidation the report on the rising

cost of gas. Initially 31 per cent,

then 60 and finally a 100 per cent rise over a three-year period? If Bangladesh has to pay Cairn Energy (or anyone else) the international market price for our own natural gas, then why don't we just import it, and not waste our reserves? What sort of farce is this Production

courts of law which were sup-

Sharing Contract, anyway? We use a small percentage of our natural gas, so logically we should be making money by developing and selling the excess not bleeding it away. Industry and citizens are justifiably alarmed. Once again we are spectators as the rug is pulled from under our feet.

Sadat Omar Dhaka

> Let the gardener decide ...

Sir, As a professional architect I am numbed by the happenings at BUET. As an archi-

Ara Rahat

Indira Rd, Dhaka

A professional stripped of his identity by the system presents a very gloomy picture of the moral system of an institution such as BUET.

48/0, West raja bazar

enlightened engineers?