

Chimeric Syedabad Plant

A water treatment plant for Dhaka megapolis continues to be as elusive as the mythical chimera. It is decades that the utter necessity of helping Dhaka out of its unsolvable water problem through the use of an appropriately sized and powered treatment plant was appreciated at the governmental levels. Perhaps there never were two opinions inside the successive governments about having the plant just tomorrow if that was possible. And yet the thing has been moving towards realisation at a pace shaming the snail. There is no escaping the plant.

The infernal scenario looms and takes shape by courtesy of bureaucratic apathy, to believe a national daily's story on the present situation. How can it be at least now, in a democracy? What are the people's representatives in the government doing if bureaucrats can just sit urgent chores out? What is at this moment more urgent than easing up the city's water crisis? And yet the schedules for completing the organisation that is to run the plant with the appointment of experts and specialists to key posts, haven't been kept. This has resulted in the failure to float tenders for the huge construction works that would lay the base.

This and many other requirements have not been met in time throwing World Bank, the donors, into an increasingly hardened state of mind about the prospect of the plant. Construction at the site at Syedabad has not commenced on any one of the multi-faceted job. And there is still no sign as to when work on the preparatory facilities will begin.

The press has blamed the undesirable and positively harmful delay on red tapism and other bureaucratic vices. We rather prefer to charge the relevant ministry with this dangerous sluggishness and irresponsibility. In a democracy the minister must own the blame. And responsibility of failing to deliver lies ultimately with the government.

The Syedabad plant will not solve Dhaka's water woes by itself. The present gap between need and supply may be as bad as 40 per cent plus. Syedabad cannot alone fill that. The government has well developed plans for a chain of such plants. All that is stuck at the initial Syedabad venture. It is imperative that we overcome the Syedabad jinx. When the Prime Minister has herself taken over the badly mangled power business, she may be needed to lay her hands on this chimeric plant too, if she cannot get her minister to do the needful.

Return of the Innocents

The Daily Star front page yesterday was a study in delightful deviation. Unlike news and pictures that lie like a load on the weary eye it had the right top corner of its Monday morning issue devoted to the beaming faces of a group of kids. Those children photographed while waiting at a railway station in India had every reason to be happy. Theirs is the group of 17 recently rescued by the Bangalore police while being trafficked through India to be used as camel jockeys in the Middle East. From an inexorable fate of slavery these children have got back the right to return to normal life, hopefully to their parents and families, thanks to the activism of the local police. This is the second batch of returnees since February when a group of ten rescued from the child traffickers came back home. We are happy to notice that a trend seems to have been set in the battle against the child traffickers.

As a paper The Daily Star has remained unflinchingly focused on the crusade against women and child trafficking which has assumed the proportion of a societal evil in this region. But the real credit for this awareness and activism against child trafficking should go to the different women's and child rights groups who have not only set a fine example of regional cooperation by networking among themselves but have played a vital role in sensitising the governments to the enormity of the problem.

These success stories merit to be interpreted as edifying examples of what concerted effort can do. But there is little room for complacency. We have to intensify the social awareness and resistance at home first. Only then regional networking will prove a grand success. One reason why child trafficking has assumed epidemic proportions in this part of the world is because we are not doing enough to stop the reasons that actually set the stage for this inhuman practice. Children's rights is yet to make inroad on our consciousness. Together with this chronic national failing, economic hardship has made child trafficking an inevitability. Only with a systemic approach to address the problems simultaneously can we make some headway in the war against this scourge.

Untenable

When will labour leaders in this country start seeing national interest and their own as inseparable twins? Certainly not in near future. That they are still a long way off from seeing the palpable wisdom of eschewing disruptive methods as a ploy to twist government's arm becomes clear in today's call of rail-road barricade by the Jute and Textile workers.

We are enormously repelled at the tunnel vision and clannish inclination of the Jute-Textile worker leaders. Can they bring the economy to a stand-still to press home their demand for wage commission? Do they have the right?

Certainly not. We have said this before, we would like to reiterate again that no professional group can indulge in acts or utterances of such wanton irresponsibility that may even threaten to disrupt the utility service and communication sector.

We have no objection to any programme that the jute and textile workers may think up within the four walls of the mills to make the government implement the agreement it has made with them. But certainly not by putting up barricades on roads and railway tracks. These we feel are not only humiliating for an independent sovereign country but also eminently anti-state in character.

Having said that, we would urge the government to solve a problem that has been festering for a long time now. To the best of our knowledge, government has entered the agreement on the basis of recommendations by an expert committee after detailed discussion with the labour leaders. Apparently there is no reason why there should be any snag or bottleneck at this stage. Good governance and efficiency demand the government acted decisively sooner than later.

It's 'Anti-Congressism' that Worked

Pallab Bhattacharya writes from New Delhi

What BJP leaders consider a bigger boost is the attitude of National Conference whose chief Farooq Abdullah not only announced his party's issue-based support to Vajpayee government but also directed his two party MPs to abstain from voting on the confidence motion.

MARCH 29. Residents of Delhi woke up to a cool spring breeze that not only spoke of a change of season but also a metamorphosis in the country's political landscape. It was a week of dramatic political developments that saw the United Front, a main opposition group, suffering a split with two of its key constituents, National Conference led by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) headed by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu pulling out of the 13-party combine and BJP pulling off a coup of sorts by securing the support of TDP to win a touch-and-go confidence vote.

The most startling was, of course, the manner in which Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party struck a deal with TDP in pushing through the latter's candidate GMC Balayogi, a small town lawyer from coastal Andhra Pradesh state, as the Speaker of Lok Sabha after leading Congress and United Front up the garden path with talks of a consensus choice for the post. So, when TDP's eleven members of parliament voted for the confidence vote to bail out Vajpayee government, it did not come as a surprise in spite of Mr Naidu's much-touted public posture of maintaining

equidistance from Congress and BJP. The TDP's supporting the BJP-led coalition in the trust vote rescued the ruling combine against a determined opposition Congress, United Front and other smaller outfits. Unlike in 1996 when the BJP government was in office for 13 days before bowing out shortly ahead of a parliamentary trial of strength, Mr Vajpayee's party this time beamed with confidence of victory ever since TDP refused to toe the line of other United Front constituents in backing a Congress-led government at the centre to keep BJP at bay. Yet BJP took no chances this time. Going into the confidence vote with a strength of 264, BJP and its allies faced a daunting opposition whose number was 261. The ruling combine suffered a setback when ailing senior BJP leader and Lok Sabha member Vijayraj Scindia failed to take oath as Lok Sabha member and a member of Akali Dal, an ally of BJP, revolted after being peevish at not being given a berth in Vajpayee ministry. Given the situation, if the TDP and National Conference had

abstained from voting, only one vote would have separated the BJP-led coalition from defeat. To avoid last-minute hiccups, the Vajpayee government carried out a contingency plan nominating two Anglo-Indian MPs and the Prime Minister himself got in touch with Chandrababu Naidu to ensure his support if it became imperative to save the government.

Minutes after winning the confidence vote, Mr Vajpayee was all praise for TDP's "operating bail-out" while Chandrababu Naidu justified his decision to support BJP-led coalition on the ground of preventing Congress' entry to power through "backdoors."

The BJP has launched efforts to build on its ties with TDP with Mr Vajpayee declaring that talks were on for the regional party's participation in the government led by him. Besides, BJP is also working on a longer understanding with TDP especially in view of the assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh within a year. Both BJP and TDP are said to be in favour of some kind of adjustment between them to fight what they term their "common enemy" Congress. The BJP leadership is reported to have told TDP leaders that it is not averse to allow the regional party to retain power in the state in return for letting the national party to win Lok Sabha seats there. Given the significant inroads BJP made in Andhra Pradesh in the recent Parliamentary poll, the TDP is reportedly not willing to open a new front in the form of the safe front party apart from Congress.

BJP leaders are encouraged by the dramatic developments in the past one week claiming they have helped the party to shed its 'untouchable' image to a large extent. BJP leaders say the 'change' in the attitude towards their party began when ten regional parties came forward to strike an alliance with it for contesting the parliamentary elections and most of them participated in Vajpayee government in spite of differences among them on several key issues. The BJP is also enthused by the fact that the parties which came together to form the United Front and even took

the support of one of their principal rivals Congress to thwart BJP are today a divided lot and some Front constituents support BJP to keep Congress out. All this change in less than two years.

Besides, BJP leaders are also pleased with the manner in which its coalition partners defended the party in the face of an orchestrated opposition onslaught during the debate on confidence motion in parliament. BJP also takes satisfaction from Chandrababu Naidu's articulation, when confronted with the question if he thought BJP was a communal party, that "secular politicians like Samata Party chief George Fernandes, Defence Minister and Lok Shakti supreme Ramakrishna Hegde, Commerce Minister, are now with BJP. Such remarks from non-BJP parties were unthinkable even a few months ago.

But what BJP leaders consider a bigger boost is the attitude of National Conference whose chief Farooq Abdullah not only announced his party's issue-based support to Vajpayee

government but also directed his two party MPs to abstain from voting on the confidence motion. Dr Abdullah's decisions were initially opposed by his senior party colleague Saifuddin Soz, who was a cabinet minister. But Soz came round to accept Dr Abdullah's decisions after they were ratified by the party's Working Committee. It was Dr Abdullah who announced the formation of a new political front consisting of National Conference, TDP and Assam's ruling Assom Gana Parishad on the plank of "anti-Congressism," an event prominently welcomed by BJP.

Meanwhile, Basiruddin Babu Khan, a cabinet minister in the TDP government in Andhra Pradesh, has resigned in protest against the party's support to BJP in the confidence vote.

The TDP's action also put under strain its decade-old tie-up with CPI and CPI (M) with the two left parties accusing TDP of dealing a "treacherous blow" to secular forces. The leaders of the two parties refused to accept Chandrababu Naidu's contention that they should appreciate his "political compulsions" in supporting the confidence motion. However, just a day before the confidence vote, the CPI won a seat in Rajya Sabha, upper house of parliament, with the help of TDP.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

Close Encounters of the Dangerous Kind

Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed writes from Princeton

What is the last thing the Americans would like to do if they knew that the world was coming to an end? "Make love." An insatiable desire to do just that got the other person in this story into a world of trouble recently.

RECENTLY, the news of two possible close encounters shook the world. One has the potential to destroy mother earth; the other may destroy the most powerful man who rules it!

From the time the earth was born four billion years ago, it has been bombarded by space flotsam. Most of the debris are dust or small chunks; some celestial visitors are, however, the size of cities and pack an enormous projected punch. On March 11, Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams in Cambridge, Massachusetts, made the chilling announcement that thirty years from now, in 2028, a mile-wide asteroid, called 1997 XF11, might hit the earth. The original calculation showed that the asteroid could come as close as 30,000 miles. In astronomical terms, it's a possible "hit!"

Astrophysicists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory went back to a 1990 photograph of the asteroid that allowed them to recalculate the object's orbit. Frantic recalculation showed that it will not approach the earth closer than 609,000 miles; a "near miss", astronomically speaking.

That is the good news. The bad news is that 108 known asteroids and comets remain potential hazards to earth, and 1800 other objects, all potential killers, are believed lurking unseen, awaiting discovery by astronomers.

What if the asteroid did hit the earth at thousands of miles

per hour. A two-year asteroid that hit Arizona thousands of years ago, created a crater the size of a football field. It is common knowledge that an asteroid was responsible for the destruction of the dinosaurs as a species.

A one-mile wide asteroid would pack the power of 100 atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima. There is a three-to-one chance it would hit an ocean. If it hit the Atlantic ocean close to the Florida, those islands and Florida would be under water for a while, due to a swelling ocean. If it hit land, apart from the death and destruction due to the 30-mile wide crater that would result, huge chunks of earth would be thrown up into the atmosphere, blocking sun rays for days, and changing the earth's temperature and weather in the process.

Every celestial object, the earth included, is in an orbit. A real big comet/asteroid, could alter the earth's orbit on impact. We could then approach the sun closer in summer, effectively getting fried, or be further away in winter, essentially getting frozen.

That is *Qiyamat!* Of course, with a 30-year warning, the earthlings could do something about the danger. It could send an atomic bomb-loaded space ship to meet the asteroid in the outer space. At close proximity, the bomb could be detonated to alter the asteroid's orbit away from earth. What if a misfire succeeds in only jerking the asteroid on a firmer orbit, on a surer collision course with the earth?

What is the last thing the Americans would like to do if they knew that the world was coming to an end? "Make love." An insatiable desire to do just that got the other person in this story into a world of trouble recently.

Kathleen Willey, a 51-year old former White House employee, told a stunned national television audience on CBS television's popular "60-minutes" programme on March 15, that as she met the President Clinton in connection with a job request in 1993, the President made unwanted sexual advances towards her. Willey did not spare the viewers the gory

details...

President Clinton denied that he did anything improper, adding that he was "mystified" by Ms. Willey's charge. Is or isn't she a sick Willey? The White House released letters that Ms. Willey had written the President after the alleged incident, in which she seemed to be drooling over the President. She called herself "your number one fan." She ended all her letters with (rather unfortunate choice of words, or was it a code word?): "Fondly Kathleen."

Feminist groups were quick to point out that such seemingly contradictory behaviour is not uncommon among female victims of sexual harassment.

They cited the case of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Professor Anita Hill. Long after her harassment by him, Hill kept up with Thomas.

There is a difference here though. Clarence Thomas is considered "ugly"; if handsome actor Denzel Washington hit on Anita Hill, there would have been no sexual harassment, says African-American comedian Chris Rock. Clinton, on the other hand, is considered a

hunk by many women. Further, Thomas was a nobody when he harassed Anita Hill. Clinton was always a somebody, and allegation of harassment by him ensured the accusers instant celebrity and book deals (Willey unsuccessfully tried to sell her story to a tabloid for 300,000 dollars.)

President Clinton has placed his female supporters in a quandary. They know that he is solidly pro-women (the pun is unintended). In 1994, he signed into law the Sexual Abuse Act that forbade a man from bringing up the sexual history of his woman accuser in a litigation, whereas leaving the woman free to dig up all the dirt of the man's sexual past. They are quite upset to see that "bimbo" Paula Jones, taking full advantage of that law to the detriment of the President. Most women detest Paula Jones' preposterous assertion that she is able to identify scar marks on the Presidential manhood.

There is a gender gap in what Americans believe about Clinton's sexual mores. More women trust the President, and believe that all these women are

ling. More men believe that the Presidential accusers are telling the truth. Men and women could both be jealous!

Prudence dictates that one side with the male opinion in this case. Males are sexual predators. Civilisation teaches them to curb their instincts. Morality and religion put further brakes. In a society where moral and religious values are lax, the primitive male instinct can resurface in a hurry. Knowledge of a top male secret would horrify women. If women knew what kind of thoughts men entertain about them in their mind, no self-respecting woman would let a man come within 30-yards of her!

The irony of a man and an object drifting aimlessly in their own orbits, drew the attention of a New York Times reader. He wrote satirically: "It seems transparently obvious that the scenario of an asteroid striking the Earth in the year 2028 represents yet another effort by the Clinton Administration to obstruct (independent counsel) Kenneth W. Starr's investigation, which no doubt will still be in progress at that time."

President Clinton cannot have a quiet moment any more. He may try to look serene and invite reporters for a photo-op with visiting dignitaries such as Yassir Arafat. In no time, in booming voices that could alter the orbit of an asteroid, reporters would vex him with sex questions!

To the Editor...

Letters for publication in these columns should be addressed to the Editor and legibly written or typed with double space. For reasons of space, short letters are preferred, and all are subject to editing and cuts. Pseudonyms are accepted. However, all communications must bear the writer's real name, signature and address.

Renaming of IPGMR

Sir, According to the DS, BNP walked out of the JS on the 23rd of March

because of the renaming of IPGMR to Bangladesh Medical University. The decision of the government to upgrade IPGMR to a medical university is truly commendable. But why the hastiness of renaming everything? I have an enormous amount of respect for the Father of the Nation, but naming everything after him is degrading. Later on there will be some confusion amongst the public.

Shall we see another trend of re-changing of titles the moment another government comes to power? That will really be shameful for the nation.

Masroor Ahmed Deepak
Dhaka

Agricultural growth

Sir, This refers to the article by Mr. Shahed Latif titled *Agricultural Growth: In Search of a New Plan* on the 10th instant. In his valuable article, the writer has pointed out the right things to be done in right time. We have everything in our own hands, but why is the slow pace of development in every sector? The government has set up well-equipped agricultural institutions even at the thana levels. But net result is zero everywhere. Because people engaged in this sector are not working properly. So, the following additional points are suggested: Persons engaged in agricultural sector by the government should be held responsible for the slow pace of development. To avoid food deficit, cultivation of potato and wheat should be encouraged in dry seasons. Import of onions and other items should be banned and local production should be encouraged. The cooperative systems should be strongly introduced if we really wish to develop our rural masses.

The food habit of rice should be substituted by potato etc. The last but not the least

point depends the political commitment of the government how to implement our agricultural policy.

M. Ali
Dhaka

Nobody instigated us...

Sir, I strongly protest the against letter written by "Concerned Teacher of BUET and a Guardian" (DS 24.3.98). We supported the resigning teachers because we believe in what they did and they did what we expected of them. There are other teachers in the department who supported the admission test but why did we not follow them? Because they shut their eyes to this injustice. They were submissive to a dominating authority. Not only that, they actively opposed the teachers who stood for the right cause.

Blackmail! Are we children? Can 362 students be blackmailed? All of them? And with what? We are now very clear about what happened in the meeting and what is the truth. Our respected teachers were betrayed and what is painful is that they were betrayed by their own colleagues. Had all teachers been together from the beginning we would have achieved a lot.

We have at times tried to bring them together but failed because some of them refused to see the just cause, and not only that they accused others of being liars in order to hide their own shortcomings. Nobody instigated us to do anything. We acted on our own and our actions were based on what we have learned from our teachers — honesty, truth, justice and standing up against wrongdoing. Some of the teachers had told us a lot about truth and justice too, but they behaved quite differently when it came to prove themselves and we were disappointed.

A Protesting Student of Architecture
BUET, Dhaka

Why are they acting this way?

Sir, It is simply outrageous to find minor girls being raped about in our society, specially when the culprits are those in charge of our safety and security!! People of all classes are furious and they demand justice and exemplary punishment of the miscreants.

At the same time, we also need to think about the reasons for which our men are acting in such a ruthless and shameless way. No doubt lawlessness and lack of enforcement of law are responsible. But also spread of pornography and demoralising elements in the form of dish antenna (Channel V, Zee TV) — even the movies in our cinema halls, magazines popularizing nudity and vulgar art are responsible for such quick degradation of many a men and youth of our surrounding. Tahmina, Tanni, Julia, Farzana, Sheela, Sumi, Shikha, Reekha, Nilu, Joya, Lima, Luna and Shelly

BUET, Dhaka

Kosovo: Why do the Serbs care?

Sir, Why does the government of Serbia care so much about Kosovo? Ninety per cent of the people there aren't Serbs — they're Albanians. And they're Muslims, not Orthodox Christians. Why not let them have a degree of independence if they want it?

That's like asking the Jews why they care so much about East Jerusalem, when it's almost entirely inhabited by Arabs.

For nationalist Serbs, Kosovo is like Jerusalem, so holy in their mythology that possession of it is vital to their survival. Kosovo was part of the original Serb heartland and it was there that the Serbs' greatest hero, Prince Lazar, was defeated by the Ottoman Turks at the Field of Blackbirds in 1389. Serbia was ruled by the Muslims for the next 500 years, but Prince Lazar was revered because he chose death rather than the dishonour of surrender.

Serbia regained its independence from the Ottomans in the 19th century. As soon as it had the strength it declared war on the Turks and recaptured Kosovo in 1912. The majority of the population had been Muslim since 1689 when 30,000 Orthodox Christian Serbs fled after the Ottomans beat back an

Austrian invasion, but that didn't matter.

Serb nationalism was suppressed after the Second World War, when Tito was trying to weld Serbia, Croatia and four other republics into a united, Communist Yugoslavia, and Kosovo was given a degree of independence. But when Tito died, Serb nationalism burst out again. Slobodan Milosevic swept to power on a wave of massive demonstrations demanding an end to Muslim dominance in Kosovo. In 1989, he abolished Kosovo's autonomous status and absorbed it totally into Serbia.

Mahabur Razaque
Tokyo University, Japan

Following the footsteps

Sir, The opinion by our eminent and much-admired neurosurgeon, Dr. Rashiduddin Ahmed in the DS of 23rd March is very touching. It also goes a long way in increasing our respect for him. In a country like ours, having to make do with less than the best instruments is an inescapable fact of life. Although in critical areas such as neurosurgery getting on top of such lack and still performing well may require exceptional skills like those of professor Rashiduddin Ahmed.

I have therefore always felt that what our neurosurgery unit requires in abundance is training of young and bright doctors who not only can assist Professor Rashiduddin, but also sometimes take his place when he is not available. If doctors need incentives to follow in Dr. Rashiduddin's footsteps, then these should also be given. Administrative commitment in this regard is absolutely essential. For example, anyone who shows real aptitude, should not be transferred somewhere else even if such transfers are due.

Zeba I. Seraj
Dept. of Biochemistry
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Bank deposit of foreign currency

Sir, Apropos to my letter on January 20, 1998 — I would like to thank Mr Abul Ashraf Noor for his letter on February 3, 1998. I would also like to suggest the following:

The value of our currency, Taka, compared to US dollar and pound sterling is decreasing unabated for the last 26 years.

Our foreign currency reserve has never been sufficient and satisfactory.

Our foreign currency affairs is fully controlled and handled by Bangladesh Bank arbitrarily without any in-depth thinking, policy planning and national interests.

We are required to pay a colossal amount of foreign loan in foreign currency.

Due to continuous imbalance payment of our foreign trade for last 26 years the economy has been jeopardised.

Ours is an import-oriented country. Shortage of foreign currency and recurring devaluation of Taka result in price hike of goods and commodities and untold sufferings to our people.

By introducing and opening the bank deposit of foreign currency we would be able to encourage and attract Bangladeshis living abroad to remit more foreign currency i.e. US dollar and pound sterling.

The foreign currency would be deposited in foreign currency in Bangladesh without conversion or enactment in Bangladeshi currency in the names of the Bangladeshis living abroad or in the names of their kith and kin and nominees here.

A foreign currency bank account holder may encash the US dollar or pound sterling in Taka as and when necessary.

A foreign currency bank account holder would prefer not to withdraw or encash the foreign currency in local currency, Taka, unless he or she immediately and urgently requires money to meet his/her requirement. He/she would prefer to keep the US dollar/pound sterling in the bank in the hope and expectation that the value of US dollar/pound sterling would go on increasing day by day in future.

When a foreign currency bank account holder would encash his/her foreign currency he/she may be paid in local currency on the latest rate of currency exchange. He/she may also be paid the interest on per foreign currency deposit (equivalent to total amount in Bangladeshi currency) on normal rates as applicable to local saving and current bank account holders.

Similarly when a foreign currency bank holder would make a fixed deposit in foreign currency for 1-5 years he/she may also be given the same financial benefit.

Bank deposit of foreign cur-

rency would encourage our people, industrialists and traders to utilise the foreign currency in various economic and development works.

We would be able to stand on our own feet, produce and manufacture goods and commodities of our use in the country instead of importing those from foreign countries at exorbitant prices.

O.H. Kabir
6, Hare Street, Wari, Dhaka-1203

Some questions

Sir, Did we, as a nation, get ourselves immunised to all criminal activities? Four and five year-olds are being raped by some atrocious citizens. People are getting killed for no fault of theirs in car/road accidents due to some untrained operators of vehicles who barely have any skills. Till date our rulers kept themselves busy in trying to create barriers between citizens either by accusing one as a collaborator/razakar or by giving due recognition to a freedom fighter (which lacks proper judgement and is totally unnecessary at this moment).

Everybody should be given proper position so that the nation can grow up unitedly. They are also terribly busy in renaming institutions. Let apart other problems of price hike of essentials, scarcity of water, electricity, gas etc., what have we achieved so far? They have been fighting in the Parliament about renaming institutions etc. Did they come out with any solutions to deal with crisis the nation is going through? What will be little Maria's (not her real name) future?

Shamin Choudhury
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"African, Arab states for lifting of sanctions by Libya"

Sir, In the above news item refers to the bombing of the PanAm jet — in fact the name of the airline company was Pan Am.

Furthermore it was stated that the bombing over Lockerbie took place in 1988. I can assure that as far as I know, no bombing has taken place this year over Lockerbie. The year should be 1989.

Mike Thomson
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