# The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali Dhaka, Tuesday, April 7, 1998

# Happy Eid to All

Tomorrow is Eid-ul Azha, the second greatest festival of the Islamic world community. In the Indian Subcontinent this has a second name describing it as a festival of qurban — sacrifice. Rather than undergoing a personal sacrifice, this has become more a rite commemorative of the mythical sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim. Pressed as we are under the welter of a post-colonial reality of underdevelopment, how we wish this Eid or festival of sacrifice had created a culture of true sacrifice in us. In reality, a spell of Epicurianism takes over the society and we become divided into two distinct classes of meat givers and meat beggars.

By some quirky development of social ideas, this Eid has become the occasion chiefly of the ritual slaughtering of the cow. In the Arab lands, where Islam arose and whence it darted in all direction, they go for the camel and the sheep. Social and religious leaders wound do well to think out if this cow-fixation could be healed and if society could be led into looking for other sacrificial animals, goats and sheep for example. For decades we have been far short of what we need in livestock wealth, specially of the bovine kind.

As the Eid-ul Azha approaches every year, there rises a din extolling the virtue of sacrifice - which is, however, not to be found anywhere in the society at least for a week this side of the Eid and another the other side. But one good thing is there unmistakably. Festivity. A spirit of joy and socialising on a grand and intensive scale takes over the society. This is all to the good of the society.

From long before Kazi Nazrul Islam spelt it out so penetratingly and also after him, writers and thinkers have spoken strongly against making the Eid, specially this second one, a contemptible contest in ostentation. Can we cut this part out and give ourselves wholly to uniting in healthful mirth? Islam needs constant regeneration from within. It is long that anyone has spoken out against the bad things in vogue under religious labels. It is high time writers and social leaders and why not clerics — came into the open with their opposition to the parading of wealth on the occasion standing to celebrate sacrifice as a supreme virtue.

A happy Eid to all our readers and patrons.

#### A Good Decision

We welcome the decision. In fact as a supplementary option, power generation by the private sector should have been considered earlier. We are happy that the government, though belatedly, has decided to put the idea to test. We want to congratulate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for acting boldly and decisively on an issue of vital importance. One would have liked the government to be little more liberal about fixing the ceiling for generation at ten mega watt.

But there was no way the decision could have come any later. Even the staunchest supporter of this government would concede that its performance in the power sector has so far been appalling to say the least. Its reign has been marked not only by power disruption of unprecedented frequency or length but also by inordinate delay in pursuing the contracts with foreign companies for setting up power generation plants in order to boost the ebbing supply. It was not decision that the government was found wanting in; rather it was its strange inability to implant decision which has created the furore. In fact consternation over Energy Ministry's performance became so strong and widespread that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself had to step in leaving Nooruddin Khan, as a minister without a portfolio. Since then army has been deployed at the power plants and the PM has been monitoring the situation. But things are yet to look up. The main reason for this is the disastrous dual effect of systemic flaw and the basic shortage of power generation.

We hope the decision to invite private power generators to add to the capacity will bring that elusive healing touch sooner than later. Now that it has opened the gates for private enterprise it should not waste any time in fixing the legal paraphernalia about the whole operation. Apart from adding to the supply, power generation in private capacity promises to serve the cause of employment opportunity albeit in a small way. But the government must guard against its chronic failure to pursue its decisions with the kind of alacrity and effectiveness it shows in making them in the first place:

Scary Prospect

This is a scary prospect. The top ten terrorists now in detention are likely to be enlarged on bail. As a lead news in a responsible national daily wrote of the high probability of Sweden Aslam et al coming out, and went on to elaborate upon the factors making this possible, a cold shiver ran down the spine of society. Specially of the parts that are more vulnerable to the doings of these. Once they are out, the courage with which some victims have agreed to give evidence, is sure to be wiped out.

Law will desirably take its own course. And judges will hopefully see to it that it does so. The top ten will come out riding triumphantly on legal lacunae. What message would this send to the society? There is nothing that can stop top criminals in Bangladesh. One should better not cross their path. And if they come upon one, it will be wise to give them way. The message would be clear. And if heeded, this nation will become a hostage to criminals. Now politics is using criminals. Then criminals will use politics and the politicians.

Law can be inadequate and legal processes can be more so. And that is why mechanical application of law can at times be uncongenial to the cause of peace and justice. Here comes the role of an enlightened government. It will be the job of such an entity, if there be one, to identify and plug such gaps as do exist between the legal processes and true justice. The government must do its utmost to see that intimidations sent out from behind the bars or by the lackeys of the top ten do not work.

The failure of police to identify and nab any of the godfathers — sure to have been named to them by the top ten — speaks volumes about the weakness of the government. Society will be all too relieved if the bad dream of these murderers and bullies coming out and repairing to their horrid business doesn't come true. This depends much on good work by government and an awareness of social consequence on the part of those that uphold the letter of the law. The spirit of the law must take precedence in this and all cases that come up before the courts.

## Of Inhuman Indifference and Human Relatedness T a recently held Interna-

tional Conference, Professor Yunus said :"Economics has created a category called labour and put all human beings, except the few entrepreneurs, under this category. Labour as they appear in the text books, looks more like draught animals, than human beings. They have no creativity, no ambition, no sense of sacrifice, pride or accomplishment; worst of all

they have no gender." Contrast this to the royalty in economics, the entrepreneurs. "Economists has persuaded the world that all other objects are born and created to serve under them."

Unfortunately, this process of subordination by the nobility of the serfs is inherent in the dichotomies of superior inferior, men women, traditional modern, wise and ignorant, around which the dominant paradigm of economic growth has been built.

The political and economic structure determining the ownership and allocation of physical capital and the knowledge structure determining the control and dissemination of information create exclusionary closures through which certain individuals or social collectives seek to maximise rewards by restricting access to resources and opportunities to a limited circle of eligibles.

Further, they create and use culture, including normative codes and psuedo -religious values, to define and legitimise their particular concepts and practice of ownership and control, and the use and reproduction of resources and knowledge. Such dispossession of being and humiliating subservience are clearly reflected

N recent times Asian cur-

threatening to plunge the entire

region into a recession.

Thailand, Indonesia. South

Korea and Malaysia all are

faced with complex and ex-

pansive financial crises that in

most cases have their roots in a

economic downturn spreading

through the region threatens to

light fires of unrest in societies

already witness to yawning in-

come disparities. ESCAP at its

recent ministerial conference

in Manila warned that the eco-

nomic downturn could jeopar-

dise the region's efforts to lift

people out of destitution. With

unemployment and inflation

surging, hundreds of thousands

of households will fall below

poverty line. From Bangkok

building sites to Manila facto-

ries and Hong Kong eateries to

Malaysian plantations, jobs

are getting scarcer and daily ne-

cessities dearer. Industry asso-

ciations in the Philippines are

reporting between 10 per cent

and 40 per cent less business

with predictable impact on hir-

ing and firing. In Indonesia, a

noted economist expects some 2

million blue-collar workers

equivalent to a quarter of

Jakarta's population to lose

their jobs. The ranks of the un-

employed may swell even more

if Indonesian workers in

Malaysia estimated at 1.5 mil-

lion return home. Kuala

Lumpur has stopped processing

applications for foreign un-

skilled hands (except domestic

helpers) and says those who

have been in Malaysia for more

than six years will not have

gional target to reduce absolute

poverty to half the 1990 level by

2000 and to eradicate it by

2010", says Adrianus Mooy,

ESCAP's executive secretary. To

ward off such a bleak situation.

"governments must not trim

spending (on anti-poverty pro-

grammes) in particular with re-

spect to health, education and

social sectors," says Stijin

Claessens, the World Bank's

principal economist for East

Asia and the Pacific. The key

issue as such is, how this region

will raise tens of billions of dol-

"It will jeopardise the re-

their permits extended.

rency and stock markets

plummeted

"Silence presupposes a voice, even if submerged"

in the invisibility of women in our countryside. They are allowed to exist, but they must accept the physical and moral restraints of confinement within the households, and remain un-

Wretchedness remains. When all is said. It cannot be uprooted live or So it is made invisible in-

stead.

(Theodor Adorno)

Thus, the two exclusionary closures related to ownership and allocation of physical capital and access to knowledge and information are reinforced by spatial isolation from institutional net-works, so necessary to maintain one's survival and self-esteem.

The complex interplay of downward-directed institutional power that creates a class of financial apartheid and privileged knowledge that creates a class of illiterates, and the use of culture for providing legitimacy to such power must be recognised in order to understand the interlinked precesses of subordination and depriva-

One can go further and say that the dominant discourse on unilinear growth demands with the logic of coherence that human relationships be entirely reduced to their material origin, ruthlessly and openly formed according to the interests of the participants. There must be no relationship or services except those expressed in terms of exchange values. Its basic organisation around the dichotomies, mentioned earlier, necessarily entails the cre-

ation of a group, stratum or underclass of legally defined inferiors. Such group or groups are then collectively labelled inadequate, complete with stigmas declaring them lacking in intelligence, ability and enterprise. Sometimes those who are continuously degraded may and do internalize the negative selfimage thrust upon them and can become mired in traps of mistrust, envy, apathy, acqui-escence and inaction. The consequences are then heralded as the original causes and the poor are implicated in their own

The fundamentally political problem of structural predispositions has been increasingly recognized in the development literature. The strategy of redistribution with growth, solemnly declares that greater equality of incomes could be achieved if the ownership of private capital and public facilities were more equitably distributed. Then it hastens to add that the need for redistribution of fixed assets such as land or tenure must not be pushed beyond the essential minimum in recognition of political resistance to policies of asset redis-



It is important to remember that for the poor, the only commodity they can sell is labour. Selling labour is a lonely occupation. This loneliness is aggravated by the remoteness from and uncomprehending apprehension of the multiple sites of political, economic and cultural power. As isolated entities, their traditional practices, cultural memory and common social meaning have been inexorably eroded. A new set of meanings and institutions to which they have no access has disposed of many of their everyday knowledge and symbolic practices. Thus they are culturally disenfranchised, socially stigmatized and economically ex-

tribution and the high cost in political and social disruption (Holis Chenery). The new programmes, initiated in the seventies, concentrate on increasing the welfare and income of the poor in the margin and not on wealth creation by them through access to resources and opportunities. A subsequent construct of the "basic needs approach" has become a rubric for many governments to calculate how little they can get away with. Thus there is a proliferation of charity, of administered beneficence, the planned plastering over a society's visible sores. And the gift is necessarily accompanied by humiliation when the recipients are treated as objects and target

It is ironic that the essentially bureaucratic power-structure in some countries has manipulated these initiatives to further exclude the poor from alternative choices and opportunities. In countries where the over-whelming majority are illiterates or dropouts at the primary education level, the educated elite enjoy a high scarcity value of their education. By managing to direct educational investment away from the many, they have been able to protect their scarcity value and by requiring license giving powers at various levels of state structure some of them have reinforced their capacity to in-crease its rental income. As Pranab Bardhan argues, it appears that the rentier elements of the privileged bureaucracy have replaced the old rent receiving class of absentee landlords. Taken to the extreme. even the innovative efforts of making education relevant to the functional needs of the poor, while retaining the school leaving certificate which prepares the privileged for college on to prestigious jobs, can be-

and credentials. Similarly, the rhetoric about appropriate or intermediate technology can, more often than not, beg the questions of access to frontier technology and more importantly of whether the technology is internal to the producer -groups or subject to outside control. The result in the past has been that the few with access to institutions of both the state and the market have used technology as

come a clever mechanism for

blocking the access of the poor

to professional qualifications

instruments of control over the subjugated people. In the end, I recall an analy-

sis by Bettleheim regarding the development of withdrawal syndrome among concentration camp prisoners. He found that with the decrease in opportunity for personal control, feelings of hopelessness and passivity overwhelm the prisoners. But there is an obverse side of the same empirical coin. An adequate and shared understanding of the situation by the victims could have given them the wherewithal to identify possible leverage points for its modification and transformation. Further the domination by the strong which relies on the fear and apathy of the weak can open up possibilities of conflict. Such conflict can be the breeding ground of solidarity among those who hitherto formed an inert mass, (Dennis Goulet). The apathy and acquiescence of the poor due to extreme demobilisation does change through shared experiences of solidarity groups and give them confidence for common action. Latent subjectivity of the poor emerges thought intersubjectivity. The context of self-realization and self-articulation for the poor is through a collectivity and that collectivity does not have "the dubious quality of the backward - oriented forms of community" (Habermas). Therein lies our hope in the deepest sense - the hope that human relatedness will overcome inhuman indifference, that arrogant fragmented knowledge will give way to common and shared wisdom.

(There will be no newspaper published on next Friday due to Eid holiday. Thus, this column due for that day is published to-

# Asian Turmoil: Ripple in the Region

by Md Asadullah Khan

What should countries in this region do to stay the course toward growth and prosperity? Surely, there is need to build public support for policies needed to restore investor confidence and export competitiveness.

lars needed to bail out financial institutions, namely crumbling banks, teetering industries and tumbling stock markets. In bloated banking industries. The such a predicament if the governments slash outlays for the poor even as jobs fall and prices leap, then increasing unrest, if not violence, is inevitable. East Asia including our own country is suffering from drought in investor confidence brought on by financial troubles and manifested in the

wholesale dumping of the region's currencies. Efforts are to be geared up in taking decisions across macro-economic and financial sector issues to ensure there is no drop in private investment. This region may steer clear of the impending "doom and gloom" by taking cautious steps. That calls for an open trading regime, "in no case oneway traffic" and a competitive economy to sustain growth. "And unless there is growth, it is very difficult to reduce either poverty or inequality", says M G Quibria, an economist of the Asian Development Bank's economic analysis and research

The question that inevitably comes up is what should countries in this region do to stay the course toward growth and prosperity. Surely, there is need to build public support for policies needed to restore investor confidence and export competitiveness. At the same time fairness in sharing the economic pain by all equally helps in securing popular support for difficult policies. Reports pouring in reveal that Jakarta's decision to shut down three banks linked to Suharto family did much to mute public criticism. On the other hand, lobbying by powerful ministers to save some well-connected finance companies made it difficult for the Chevalit administration (Thailand's former Prime Minister) to demand IMF-mandated sacrifices from ordinary Thais. Corruption and conspicuous

Investment and economic growth policies aimed at alleviating poverty at this present juncture should include three strategies that give the poor a fighting chance to improve their lot: providing basic social services and education, investment in infrastructure for less developed areas and channeling "micro-credit" otherwise ignored by banks. Infrastructure development, say, roads to rural areas and linking remotest part to the capital city to enable farmers to obtain better prices for their produce and open these places up to industrial devel opment. Mentionably, traffic jam including trucks carrying merchandise from far-flung places of north and south-west part of the country at the Aricha ferry ghat has hit the economy hard. The present government should as such pool all resources at home and abroad for taking up the construction of Padma bridge at the earliest. People are ready to bear all the pain and make any sacrifice needed for such a venture.

The country's stock market that had been crisis-ridden for the last one year plunged all time low in recent time calling for a pullout either by the merchant banks that had been in the hold for a long time, or by the joint initiatives of ICB, BSRS, and BSB. But, as the Chairman of the DSE has pointed out, the Finance Ministry had remained a silent spectator. People feel the SEC, the government and the banks should pool resources to win investors confidence in the bourse. Because a booming and vibrant stock market is an indication of a country's growth pattern.

At the same time foreign exchange reserve has been gradually dwindling and the government had failed to attain its budgetary goal in tax and tariff earnings. Because of persistent turmoil in the political horizon, intra-party feuds, frequent

strikes and hartals and deteriorating law and order situation, FDI in the country did not come up in the way government was peddling for.

The banking sector is performing most sluggishly of late also with blames of embezzlement. At a time when the country's premier banking institution, Bangladesh Bank, is supposed to play the role of a watchdog, scams detected every other day in the NCBs, as reported in the media, are putting fear into the minds of prospective depositors wishing to save their hard-earned money in the

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina, while meeting a group of 'self-employment project entrepreneurs' recently at her office has reiterated that the country's poverty elimination programme could only meet the target through catering employment opportunities for the vast group of unemployed adult population in the country. People are aware that thousands of workers who were working in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Malaysia and South Korea till recently would be back home with their dreams shattered and hopes unfulfilled. Saudi Arabia repatriated some 20,000 workers on many pretexts in the recent past. Malaysia sent back some thousands and will be sending more and South Korea, because of the economic turmoil that prevails there, would expel some 10,000 Bangladeshi workers in no time. The sudden influx of expelled workers from these regions to the country. where unemployment is already rampant, poses serious social and economic problems.

The exodus from these countries has cut off the only source of livelihood of many families. If the countries in the South East Asia also tighten their immigration and work permit regulations, the influx of the expelled workers would touch frightening proportions.

They will swell the existing number of 20 million semi-edu-

without questioning. Let us be-

gin a small effort to create new

tion and other goods for the

pensioners at a concession rate.

home and abroad for their

these provisions for the pension

holders may turn into reality

and Brigadier Hafiz would be

regarded as the saviour of the

Stop trafficking

Sir, The DS carried a front

pensioners in Bangladesh.

Abul Ashraf Noor

Uttara, Dhaka

recreation and mental peace.

a. Special shops to sell ra-

b. Travel facilities both at

Let us hope that one day

cated unemployed adult population in the country. Increase in the crime, hijacking and extortionism, partisan feuds and killing along with suicides are mainly because of unemployment and we may have difficult times ahead.

The government is yet to

move in such a sticky and messy situation. There has just been a feeble official response to tackle such a problem of momentous proportions. Meanwhile, government, it is learnt, is chalking out schemes aimed at an effort to cut down the social cost as an estimated 100,000 retrenched Bangladeshi workers are on way to return home. Manpower Ministry, it is further learnt, will consider projects to rehabilitate the returnees in areas in which they have expertise. But with the political and economic scenario of the country turning bleak, can the government do anything worth its name with the vast number of returnees when there are already lakhs of unemployed edu-

cated youth waiting for jobs? Rosy pictures, doled out by either the Finance Ministry or any soothsayer in the government cannot obliterate the rather grim scenario. After successive years of prosperity in grain harvest, as already stipulated by the Ministry of Food. this year the country is likely to face a shortfall to the tune of 2 million tons and efforts are already underway to purchase toodgrains by cash payment through international tender. That underscores the fact that without a serious effort to control government spending in loss making enterprises, not only will inflation control become tenuous, the private sector will remain starved of critical funds required for growth.

In an effort to resuscitate the economies of the Asian countries namely South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand, the IMF has come up with an estimated \$ 70 billion in rescue plans. No-

tably, the Indonesian currency "rupiah" plunged to a historic low of 14000 to the US dollar and the South Korean "won" at 1720 to the US dollar. However, the South Korean people have demonstrated a superb sense of patriotism by depositing 100 ton of gold worth about \$100 crore. Meanwhile, Japan's role as the keystone of Asian prosperity and stability is also suddenly shaky. Tokyo has also launched urgent economic repairs. Japanese direct investment is down by 60 per cent in China and Japan's foreign aid budget is also shrinking Japan's grants plunged by 35 per cent last year to less than \$ 9.5 billion and Tokyo plans to cut the foreign aid budget by 10 per cent next year. That's definitely a had news for developing countries that use the money for poverty elimination.

Against the backdrop of all such distress signals from the Asian countries that emerged as the top "Asian Tigers", the unfettered CBA activities in the country's already haemorrhaging banks and industries have sent chills of shock and trepidation in the public mind.

Noticeably, the country's central bank and NCBs are almost held hostage to the dictates of a handful of CBA members who are enjoying undue perks and privileges without doing any work. Their preponderance in running a parallel administration in the banking sector, especially in the four NCBs, has been eating into the vitals of the economy.

True, trade unionism has drifted from voicing the rights of the workers into virtually running the affairs of the banks. Their frequent interference in transfers, postings and even sanction of bank loans have reached such a level that bank managers seem to be some pawns in their hands, almost abdicating their decision making power to the CBA. This situation underscores the fact that ignoring the need for pragmatic labour laws may be politically expedient, but it is unlikely that growth will pick up until this issue is addressed.

The writer is Controller of Examinations. BUET

#### True beauty of fashion

Sir, Bravo Ms. Shahana Parbeen on writing "Last trace of modesty" in the DS (29.03.98). I was wondering how long it might take for someone to protest the printing of these photos. I was quite shocked to see examples of such which doesn't leave anything to the imagination. We all know how far the French have gone in the name of fashion. I pray that we never degrade ourselves like that. We have a fantastic custom in our country and we ought to do everything to keep it alive. The western ideology has already infiltrated our society in not so pleasant ways. There should be more decent pictures out there which portrays the true beauty of fashion without making the models look like an object of desire. Masroor Ahmed Deepak Dhaka

#### Fifth (Amendment) Act, 1979

Sir, My attention has been drawn to the news item under the heading "Indemnity Ordinance had no legal basis: AG" published in your esteemed daily on April 1, 1998.

In the news item it has been reported that His Lordship Justice Mustafa Kamal inter alia asked the Attorney General: "What is the fate of the Fifth Amendment (Constitution)?"

The question is very relevant. In this connection I beg to state that I carried an extensive research spread over the last few years about the present status of the Constitution (Fifth Amendment) Act, 1979 and came to several findings about the fate and status of the said Amendment of the Constitution which I incorporated in a book under the title "Restoration of 1972 Constitution" now under print by Agamee Prokashanee

consumption have the same ef-

I take this opportunity to reproduce below one of such findings for information of readers:

"Fate decided and sealed" The moment the operative part of the Constitution (Fifth Amendment) Act, 1979 (Act of 1979) was included in Fourth Schedule as paragraph 18 its fate was decided and sealed.

The parliament expressly admitted, declared and treated said operative part as "Transitional and Temporary Provisions" as the heading under the Schedule indicates. As a result by operation of Law in the Provisions under Article 150 of the Constitution the said operative part of Act 1 of 1979 was destined to remain in force only during the "Temporary" period of "Transition" from the Rule of Military Dictatorship to the Rule of Constitutional Government i.e. the period from 15 August 1975 to 9 April 1979 and thereafter to CEASE TO Remain IN FORCE as did the provisions in preceding paragraphs 1-17

Unless it is considered that the country is still in the midst of a "Transition" as envisaged under Article 150 of the Constitution then above is the only natural consequence of paragraph 18 of the Fourth Sched-

How could it then be considered that the provisions in paragraph 18 or for that matter the Constitution (Fifth Amendment) Act, 1979 is still in

K M M Abdul Kader Sector 7, Road, 18, House 115 Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-

### Plight of pensioners

page picture of six Bangladesh Sir, When I have been gaspchildren aged between four and ing for life as a retired man, eight who appeared in a New found a very fascinating write-Delhi court on 11th September, up of Brigadier Hafiz on 30 1997. Police claim they entered March, 1998 in the DS explain-India without passports and ing in detail the plight of penwere apprehended as they were sioners in present times for being taken to Saudi Arabia appossible relief in the near-fuparently to be used as jockeys in ture. In the advanced countries camel racing. of the world the pension holders get due respect, honour and a fact that trafficking in children lot of facilities and concessions and women is rising alarmin their day-to-day life in terms ingly, and the government has of housing, medicare, education not really taken any serious and shopping for their offspring. Though we talk big on politics and democracy in our country, yet we never bother about the welfare of the pension holders seeking social values of

family life to overcome their

At times they desire to die

agonies and sad experiences.

measure as it should. It is time we faced this reality and showed the minimum sensitivity to help these hapless citizens of our country. Advocate Hasna Begum •

This picture points to the

2/H/S Pallabi Ext Mirpur, Dhaka-1216

### Default culture

Sir, One notices with great trepidation the slow but steady inroads that the culture of loan default has made into the fabric

of our society. It started with the non-payment by some unscrupulous people to the utilities/service sectors - water, electric, gas, telephone, HBFC etc., duly aided and abetted by the same people whose duty was to recover offi-

The 'default culture' has over the years snowballed into the colossal bank debts amounting to tens of thousands of crore taka, most of not expected to be recovered. The news is regularly front-paged, questions are asked in the parliament and long lists of defaulters printed everyday accompanied by futile

cial dues.

threats. But to what end? How much of the public money has been recovered? Who are those still sitting on their "laurels"? What action has been taken to recoup these long outstanding dues? Has any social, legal and moral pressure been exerted on the defaulters as advised by the President?

Has any thought been given by our authorities as to how all these thousands of crore taka got into those defaulting hands in the first place? How on earth and who sanctioned them? On what basis? For how much?

Why is it necessary to continually publicise the names of the thousands who have defaulted which includes many departments of government and autonomous 'corruptions (sorry, make the corporations)? If one goes by the old marketing adage "even bad publicity is good value for money if you can get away with it", then our press s playing right into their hands with all this free public-

Why not in all fairness and side by side, shout from the roof-tops the identities of those who pay their dues in full and pay them on time?

Sikander Ahmed 682/A, BACHS Adabar, Dhaka.

#### Road accidents

Sir, We read with utter distress and shock about the road accident which snatched away five valuable lives, including a just-married couple at Katabon on the fateful morning of 19th March '98. We have no words to console those who have lost their near and dear ones but as fellow beings we share the sorrow and condemn the incident which look place due to the loopholes in our traffic system. It was again the ever reckless killer truck which is liable for crushing five valuable lives to

Road accidents will keep taking place, people will keep dying, unless killer trucks and other heavy carriers are banned the way it was done during General Ershad's regime.

Khawja Viqar Moinuddin Dhaka