# The Baily Star

Dhaka, Friday, April 17, 1998

## Back to Mujibnagar Basics

Today is the seventeenth of April. Mujibnagar Dibosh, the name given to it fails even as an euphemism. The whole big array of significance that it carries, and so deeply, for the present and future citizenry of Bangladesh cannot be rightly expressed by any such naming, however apt. A bare Shoteroi April would possibly suffice to evoke the most in us by its bareness and non-statement.

When did the people's war that we christened with blood as the Liberation War truly begin? People have been rising against the wanton Pakistani genocide throughout Bangladesh right from the beginning of the infamous Operation Searchlight. This led to widespread skirmishing and at places regular battling, heroic without an exception. But one thing it was decidedly not — a war. The Liberation War was born on Shoteroi at Mujibnagar Baidyanath-tola. A war between the two states Pakistan and Bangladesh — the latter led by the Provisional Bangladesh Government in exile launched that day and aided by a great neighbour, India. And whence came this our dear sovereign state — Bangladesh — and when? It came into being on the same seventeenth of April, 1971 and at the same mango-grove of Baidyanath-tola. And the genesis of the state is so tellingly consecrated as such in our nation's Constitution.

And the unquestioned leader of the phenomenal Mujibnagar achievements was Tajuddin. But for the solid foundation on which he stood both our state and our war, the beginnings of Bangladesh would have foundered in no time and the 10 million refugees from genocide could very well have met the fate of the Palestinians floating statelessly for over half a century. More than even such stupendous achievement Tajuddin saw our war to end in triumph and our state get its territory. Celebrating the Shoteroi is celebrating Tajuddin, the man next only to the supreme leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. There must not be any confusion anywhere about the importance of the seventeenth April formation of the Bengali people's first national government as also of the leadership of Tajuddin Ahmed from March 25, the night of the vultures, to January 10, the day Bangabandhu returned from the Pakistan dungeon.

The spirit of the Liberation War is mainly the spirit of the Mujibnagar Declaration. This has been diluted by the exigencies of repeated coups d'état and a long long right military rule and autocracy and resulting degeneration of all socio-political institutions. This must be overcome and must we go back to our Mujibnagar basics to which our collective existence and its meaningful evolution is firmly rooted. That should be our resolve of the day.

## Hartal for Hartal's Sake?

If insensitivity to national and personal suffering is the case in point then this was it: Wednesday's hartal called by the BNP. There was no 'real' reason for which the main opposition party had to bring back the nightmarish memories of the suicidal political tradition of our country. The BNP wanted to register its protest against the CHT Accord by opposing the introduction of the relevant bills to the parliament. Could not it do that inside the Jatiya Sangsad? Even if one endorses BNP's view that the Accord betrays country's interest how can one justify a destructive means like hartal to protest it? The fact that hartal was not at all an insurmountable political compulsion became clear when the BNP agreed to shift the original date for the strike. If the BNP could muster enough sense to defer hartal for the visit of a foreigner it should have had enough sense to see the huge loss the economy incurs at every such call of disruption. Then what about the sufferings of thousands of SSC examinees? The logic that the hartal was partial and did not span over more than six hours was little consolation for those who had to travel to distant examination centres. For that matter what the party has to say for the unnecessary loss of three innocent lives? Who will repay the families for these irreparable loss and how?

Apparently, BNP went ahead with its hartal programme just to live up to the militant posturing it has committed itself to than any consideration of substance. By doing that BNP has not only reconfirmed our chronic inability to place national interest above party interest but has reduced the weight of hartal as a political tool. Having always viewed hartal as an anachronistic anathema on a fledgling democracy like ours, we would again urge the opposition to confine politics to the four walls of the Parliament. Don't let your ego and prejudice get the better of your discretion and commitment to democracy and national interest.

## For a Friendlier Myanmar

Mr U Ohn Gyaw, the Foreign Minister of Myanmar is currently in Dhaka on a three-day official visit. One would like to see this as an excellent diplomatic opportunity for Bangladesh to get across the problems that have so far come to undermine the spirit of relationship between neighbours as close as these two countries. It is indeed sad that the kind of vibes we should have had with our nearest neighbour after India is simply not there. And to a great extent the not so smooth relationship between Bangladesh and Myanmar revolves round the Rohingya refugee problem.

There is no denying that the number of Rohingyas or the Muslims from Myanmar who have sought refuge in the south-eastern part Bangladesh to flee persecution in their home country has already assumed huge proportion. It is no longer a matter of economic burden for a poor, resource-constrained country like Bangladesh; it has contributed to the deterioration of law and order also

tributed to the deterioration of law and order also.

For all Bangladesh's efforts to communicate and convey the problem to the Myanmar authorities what we have seen so far is a prolonged and strange spell of indifference. We do not think that

attitude is either healthy or desirable.

There is little doubt that the Rohingya problem will feature on top of the Bangladesh-Myanmar bilateral talks. We hope the Bangladesh authorities would do everything to make sure Mr Gyaw returns home fully convinced about the necessity of a positive Myanmar role in resolving the Rohingya crisis. Once we get this problem behind us, there is a precious lot these two south Asian neighbours can do by way of cooperation. We sincerely hope Mr Gyaw's visit proves a landmark in that quest.

# Between the Mother and the Child Falls the Shadow

(To Sumanah, Almer, Anire and Aneek)

The search is for a plural and more enhanced form of democracy without any overarching mediation. Their eldorado is a near yet distant land where people can shape freely their own lives and their world, where they can create their own poetry and own music with the unflinching courage of truthful words and melody

papers, the TV and the radio." He goes on to say that the intellectual and spiritual vacuity. the moral sterility of the everyday around them causes young people "to turn their attentions somewhere further and higher; it compels them to ask questions about the meaning of life, to look for a more meaningful system of values and standards; to seek for a point that will hold firm, for something purer and more authentic. These people simply long to step outside the general automatic operations of society and rediscover their natural world and discover hope for this world."

Are they the exilic intellectuals that Theodore Adorno talked about in his introspection? " The exilic intellectual does not respond to the logic of the conventional but to the audacity of daring and to representing change, to moving on, not standing still." Is their part of morality like Adorno's to be not at home in one's own home? Are they like Cassandra who warns us of what is going on all around us - the horrors and the misery, the pressures and the manipulations, the mendacity of power and its incantations?

the oppressed and the voiceless or should they pretend to be neutral?

All these questions regarding the role of the intellectual assail me. When I think of my contemporaries and myself, I am chastenened by what Edward Sayeed says: "You do not want to appear too political; our souls to the Luciter for a handful of silver. As I talk to the new generation of intellectuals, I am astonished at how they express themselves, what they dare to do. They do not fit into any pigeonhole completely. In fact, quite often they stand out as irritants wherever they



you are afraid of seeming controversial; you want to keep a reputation of being balanced, objective, moderate; your hope is to be asked back, to consult, to be on a board of prestigious committee... Some day you hope to get an honorary degree, a big prize, perhaps even an ambassadorship."

I was co-opted by this pretentious neutrality, so were some of my contemporaries. In simple terms, we gave in. We sold and fast categories, nor do they fit into any role, conventionally assigned to them. They constantly disturb the status quo that perpetuates any type of injustice or brutality, here and everywhere. Their quest is for fresh concepts not yet encompassed by the general pattern. The search is for a new usage of sociability and individual dignity, in which rights of some subjects are not defended to the detriment of the rights of oth-

ers. The search is for a plural

and more enhanced form of democracy without any overarching mediation. Their eldorado is a near yet distant land where people can shape freely their own lives and their world, where they can create their own poetry and own music with the unflinching courage of truthful words and melody. In this journey within the self and outside there is a daring that never wavers, the daring of speaking truth to power.

There is a similar creative

quest that continues to haunt me. And I recall the reflections of playwright Bijon Bhattacharya. Recounting the nightmare of the 1943 famine, he writes: "I spotted in a Calcutta Street, a crawling baby fumbling over the corpses searching for its mother's breast. The mother was already dead. That image of the crawling child has haunted me ever since. Whenever in my creative quest I miss the baby, I shift my position endlessly till the child comes into view. In my creative work I have always wanted to maintain this perspective of the mother. To feed the child in the person of the people is the objective of the artist aware of his social role and responsibilities. Today the mothers themselves are dehydrated while the children are in a kind of deep freeze. It is for the arts to generate the mother spirit and take it into social and political action."

Unfortunately, for us, the

Unfortunately, for us, the fading generation, a shadow fell between the mother and child. Now, some evenings, when I am in the audience of small theatres, I feel that the shadow disappears.

I witness a slow but profound modification of the alienated. joyless, intractable everyday of ours. A different scenario is unfolding for the society and that is essentially cultural. The culture is live and active where the memory of the past fuses into the present and then into tomorrow. In the past, the sleeping Beauty dozed not "on flowers and fragrant grass but on a thick mattress of texts, quotations, musical scores - and under a vast canopy of books, sociological, semiological, historical and philosophical theses. Then one day the Prince comes; he awakens her and everything around the forest comes to life along with her poets poetising, musicians musicking, cooks cooking, lovers loving". (Henri Lefebre).

And I go back to where I began. Yes, to a certain extent an intellectual like Sisyphus is always condemned to defeat. "And there's always something suspect about an intellectual on the winning side. And yet in another, more profound sense, the intellectual remains undefeated — again like Sisyphus. (Vaclay Hayel)".

## Lothe Deltor.

## "Neurosurgery...some comments"

HE other evening I found

theatre. The impassioned

artiste on the stage was

portraying the eternal woman

of Selim Al-deen. A woman who

is condemned to be defeated but

remains undefeated in all her

defeats. Almost like Sisyphus.

was overwhelmed. It was a

feeling of finding oneself in a

strange environment away

from the fragmented wasteland

my domestic comfort, I won-

dered about the playwright and

the performers, the singer and

the song-writer, the young audi-

ence in a trance, as it were. A

new generation not traumatised

by the shock of colonial occupa-

tion, nor threatened by home-

grown herd instinct of a con-

sumer society. They walk

straighter, they take risks, they

behave more freely. Their

hunger for truthful words, for

genuine values is much greater

dent playwright Vaclav Havel:

"New islands of self-awareness

and self-liberation are appear-

ing, and the connection between

them, which were once so bru-

tally disrupted, are multiplying

..... If you were to find yourself

at a concert of some young

singer and song-writer or a

non-conformist band, or in the

audience of one of those small

theatres that are springing up

everywhere, you would feel that

the young people you see live

their own world, a world very

different from the one that

breathes on us from the news-

I recall the words of Presi-

and less hidden.

As I came away and back to

of frenzied consumerism.

myself among the young

audience of a small

Sir, I was very saddened to read Mr. Syed Zahir Sadeque's letter captioned as above in your daily of March 28, 1998. As this was an accusation. have to make a reply. I remember will Mr. Sadeque's mother who was in her mid-seventies and with a serious heart condition as well, firstly because she is a relation of Prof. Ershad Ali one of our very senior colleagues who himself came to see me or this lady and secondly. because she is a Canadian citizen who reportedly came for a holiday to Dhaka.

The lady was suffering from what we call chronic subdural haematoma which was dealt with surgically using two burn holes which is the standard technique for treating subdurals anywhere in the world. She then recovered very well even from her one-side partia paralysis and went home. Unfortunately she had a recurrence of the same condition in about six to eight weeks time and she had simply drainage and wash out through the same burr holes again, and this second procedure was not at all a big maneuver. Now, please note, that in any centre of the world this condition recurs in 5-10 per cent of all such cases treated in the same way, but mind you. this means more than 90 per cent get cured by the first procedure of burr holes only. And there can also be recurrence even after craniotomy, which is a bigger procedure that Mr Sadeque's mother had in

For Mr. Sadeque's information I give the following quotations from standard text books of neurosurgery on the surgical treatment of chronic subdural haematoma:

1) Rob and Smith's Operative Surgery (neurosurgery volume), 4th edition, page 46: Treatment of chronic subdural haematoma: Simple drainage is almost always effective ...; this can be achieved through a burrhole, or by the use of a twist drill... A small proportion of patients require repeated drainage..., Recovery is the rule in more than 90 per cent of patients.

2) Youman's Neurologica Surgery, Vol III, page 2107: "Simple drainage via a ventricular needle inserted through a twist drill hole can be successful... . Repeated drainage may be necessary, however, ... Craniotomy was done only if the patient's condition deteriorated or the lesion did not resolve after repeated tapping." Please note that twist drill is even a smaller hole than a burr hole and that in both the books it said repeated drainage or repeated tapping and not second drainage or second tapping i.e.. it may require even more than

3) Operative Neurosurgical Techniques by HH. Schmidek and WH. Sweet; 3rd edition. Vol I, page 78: "Chronic subdural haematomas are always liquid and can be removed through a burr hole or twist drill hole in the skull..., Occasionally, however, repeat evacuation is re-

please note that in this last text book craniotomy (which was done on Mr. Sadeque's mother in Canada) was not even mentioned. However, I would have done the craniotomy after the second recurrence if the family did not prefer to take her back to Canada.

I think it was rather unkind and unfair of Mr. Sadeque to have accused me. It was of course the same mistake as it is often done in our country, i.e., to make comments or saying something without having knowledge of the whole matter. I also do not know exactly what the Canadian neurosurgeon told them. If the Canadians have actually said (according to Mr. Sadeque's version) that craniotomy should have been the first procedure and that the fluid (in chronic subdural) was being produced by ruptured vessels still bleeding after months. then I am afraid the Canadian

neurosurgeon was less than

Are they partisans on behalf of

If Mr. Sadeque reads the books I have mentioned or any other he will find out that chronic subdural haematoma is a completely different condition from acute or subacute subdural haematoma. It is in the latter two conditions that continued bleeding from blood vessels, usually veins, produce the subdural haematoma. In chronic subdural haematoma (which Mr. Sadeque's mother had) the fluid is produced by an abnormal pathological membrane and not from continued bleeding from ruptured vessels.

Unfortunately Mr. Sadeque's mother (specially because of her advanced age) was in the groups of less than 10 per cent (ie. less than one out of ten) who get recurrence no matter where the operation is done or who does it. Just to let you know that the ex-Finance Secretary (mentioned in my last communication) had the same condition and required a second tapping but got cured thereafter. As a matter of fact, these two are the only two cases that I can remember had recurrence with me in the last six or seven

If Mr. Sadeque still has any doubt, I would suggest he consults about his mother's case with Prof. M Samii, President of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. His address is: Department of Neurosurgery, Nordstadt Hospital, Haltenhoff str 41, D-30167, Hannover, Germany, I also suggest him to send a copy of this letter to his Canadian neurosurgeon.

Rashiduddin Ahmad Dhaka

## Wake up, T&T!

Sir, Tired of complaining to restore my analogue home phone line, which has been routinely going dead for the last two years. I decided this time not to complain any more. But surprisingly enough, the phone is mute for last two months.

It is a downright uncivilised act and infraction of contract, as I am regularly paying the fixed line rent plus VAT thereon, without getting any service in return from the BTTB.

Shamsul Huda 8/13 Block-C, Lalmatia Dhaka.

## A-B-Deshi's views

Sir, I couldn't agree with A-B-Deshi's views in the DS. April 3 on rapes and satellite TV. While he is right in saying that the recent spate of rape cases cannot be exclusively blamed on sexually explicit satellite TV, these explicit scenes or for that matter anything sexually stimulant, in some cases, may contribute to the crime.

Moreover his views on rape not being an act of lust instigated by titillation is wrong. Rape is very much an act or result of sexual stimulation; after all, a man not capable of having sex cannot commit a rape.

As in Maria's case it was an act of convenience and opportunism on the rapist's part — Maria being only a child, therefore was easy to dominate. The recent spate of rape cases would only seem trifle to us when we consider the number of unreported rape cases — rape within marriage, rape by relatives, rape at worksplaces and so on. And, when I say that this tendency is ingrained in all of 'us', I mean both the sexes.

Khaled Dhaka.

## Female swimmers

Sir. Swimming is a good exercise. It is so popular a game that it is contested in the Olympics. The women swimmers usually wear swimming costumes which are acceptable

in the western countries. In this regard, swimmers of Bangladesh, who are in a Muslim-majority country, should be careful to select their dress while swimming, because dress plays an important role in a

Muslim's life.

Descent and modest dress increases the honour of a person. It is obviously not important for the females to take part in a swimming contest in public, rather arranging the contest among women audience only.

There is also no need to take photographs of the swimmers for newspapers. To appear in swimming costume in public is highly objectionable in a Muslim country. Women cannot expose their body in this way only for some medals.

Nasima Hasan and Fatima Nasreen Hasan Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka.

## The renaming

Sir, It is apparent from one and a half year rule of the

and a half year rule of the Awami League government that its main unannounced propaganda was to rename everything after 'Bangabandhu".

The sudden process of renaming seems alarming to us. The 'Dhaka National Stadium', known by this name for almost five decades, has been renamed 'Bangabandhu National Stadium'. Not only this, the IPGMR was renamed as 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical University', the would-be Jamuna Bridge by 'Bangabandhu Bridge', and many oth-

Why don't we rename the capital city as well?

Fazle Arefin

Shantinagar, Dhaka-1217.

#### Old traffic rules won't do any good

Sir, A recent news item in different dailies regarding the project of "setting up Traffic Engineering Department in Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to implement several components of the World Bank-assisted Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) has drawn my attention, and I appreciate it. also agree with the proposed "Greater Dhaka Transport Planning and Coordination Board" which would oversee construction of city flyovers. link and bypass roads, bus terminals, road safety measures new city bus services, integration of non-motorised transport in the overall urban transport system and strengthening of institutional capacities of

The traffic control system of our country is still dependent on traffic police. But the traffic police-population ratio in Dhaka city is so disproportionate as to leave a void in traffic control of such a growing city. Considering the problem itself in view of an unusually increasing population of the city together with the increase in the number of vehicles the existing traffic department in

heavily under designed.

Moreover, the inadequate enforcement of traffic laws naturally encourages rash driving by young, ill trained uneducated drivers and driving of road unworthy vehicles which contribute to frequent accidents. In Bangladesh the traffic rules of 1939 are still in force with slight moderations in some cases. As six decades are going to be elapsed since 1939, the drivers are hardly afraid of the papalties of old traffic rules.

the penalties of old traffic rules.

Mixed-mode traffic system
(motorised and non-motorised vehicles in the same road) is the main reason behind the unbearable traffic jam and excessive environmental pollution (air and noise pollution) in Dhaka city. Usually rickshaws ply on the road occupying almad of the on Ref.

and Ref.

on Ref.

pants,
and ref.
the below are ref.
following taken in Every most whole of it and thus reduce

the capacity of the road.

We hear that about 4,000 premium buses would be re-

leased soon in Dhaka city to reduce the number of auto-rick-shaw and rickshaw and obviously it is a good idea. But is it possible to push the hundreds of thousands of rickshaw-pullers and their families back to their villages? Where is the road space? And how the traffic congestion would be eliminated and controlled?

Md Saidur Rahman Milan 202 Sher-e-Bangla Hall BUET, Dhaka-1000.

#### Men and morality

Sir, It has become a day-today affair for some anti-social persons in our country to dishonour our women folk. Some are also engaged in uninterrupted women and children trafficking.

We are appalled whether we

are living in a civilised world or in a dark age? We are also astounded and shocked whither our government, our MPs/lawmakers in the Jatiya Sangsad and our law enforcing agencies? We wonder what are their duties, responsibilities and performances? Who is responsible for the tragedies of asmin, Seema, Mousumi, Tania, Runa and hundreds of others and trafficking of minor children? Who would look into the woes of our people and solve their problems?

There are widespread degradation, decadence and great ignomity in the morality, character, conduct and behaviour of some of our people especially in our younger generation due to various political, social and economic reasons for which our political leaders and government servants are mainly responsible.

To save our country from this catastrophe we strongly feel that we must have a character building institution in the capital city of Dhaka and in each and every district head-quarters which would be exclusively meant for character building of our people and imparting training to them on good conduct, manners, etiquette, behaviour and discipline.

We also strongly demand that these criminals be severely punished — if necessary hanged in public.

0 Ĥ Kabir 6, Hare Street Wari, Dhaka-1203.

## Stop polluting rivers

Sir, Tanneries' waste effluent contain many hazardous chemicals like chromium, strong acids and alkalines, thio salts etc. At present about 200 tanneries are situated on the bank of river Buriganga and everyday releasing 15,000-20,000 cm of effluent to the river. As a result nearby river water has become coloured due to chromium which is very harmful like arsenic. Chromium is one of the cancer causing element and it damages kidney and liver.

A strong law is required so that no tanneries can directly release their wastes into any river or canal.

Ruhul Amin Khan BUET, Dhaka.

# Reform and adjustment

Sir, Thanks are due to Mr Kabir U Ahmad for his article published on the 6th April, 98 titled Economists' Round table on Reform and Adjustment.

His discussions about some selected views of the participants, the vicious circle of aid and reform and break down of the behavioural postulates etc., are really praiseworthy. The following remarks can also be taken into account:

Eventually, no country can get out of this vicious circle without implementing a set of drastic reforms. An annual loss of Tk 3 bil-

lion in the state-owned enterprises, about 30 per cent of overstaffing in the administration, huge loan defaults in the banking system, extreme poverty in the rural areas and a huge scale of inefficiency in the

administration.

There cannot be two words about the need for drastic reform any more.

The reform package should be homegrown with political and administrative commitment.

M Ali Dhaka.

#### WASA's advice

Sir, Recently the WASA published almost a quarter page advertisement in a number of dailies wherein advice was given to the consumers for avoiding wastage of water. Such advice appeared, to me, rather, like a joke because huge wastage of water is taking place daily WASA/government-controlled locations. One such place is the big reservoir (partly underground) located by the side of Bashiruddin Road (about 200 yards from Green Road) — a number of letters appeared in the DS on this subject (the last one to my knowledge was in mid-October, 1996) wherein it was pointed out how huge quantity of water was going into the drain just by overflowing of the reservoir. But apparently no one cared to pay any

A couple of days back at 6-15 a.m., I was passing by it and saw to my utter dismay that what was reported about 18 months back was still going unchecked.

We cannot deny the fact that

no one simply cares!

Prof. Kazi Abdul Latif
73, North Dhanmondi
Kalabagan, Dhaka-1205

## "Scandalous prices"

Sir, The editorial column of a newspaper may not be actually written by the editor, but it is surely expected to be vetted by him/her and bear the stamp of his/her approval. As such, I found your first editorial on "Scandalous prices" ("3rd March) thoughtless, irresponsible, and, in a word, scandalous

Consider the "two lessons" the editorialist invited us to draw. First, "....it is (the government's) business to know the production picture of onion and other items behind the daily menu.....". Is it? Must the government, in a market economy. keep track of every item, major or minor, and presumably intervene to ensure "fair" prices? That way lies Behemoth, the mammoth state intervening in all production and distribution and strangling private initiative with regulations. One or two essential items, like rice, yes. But who ever dropped dead from onion starvation, or even salt starvation?

The second "lesson" is even more frightening in its implications. Apparently if I think a price is too high — I am "not convinced why that high price should be accepted and paid" have the right to resist, not simply by abstaining from buying, but also through "activist working in groups". What kind of "activism" did the writer have in mind - looting traders stocks? That way lies chaos, violation of property rights, and destruction of the rule of law. Abu Abdullah Dhaka

#### Humanity vs Animality

Sir, 'Human beings' are called the best creatures in the world. We all are created by only one creator i.e. God. After short living in the world we are to back to Him. If we cannot love our neighbour or any person who is created by almighty

God, how can we love our God?

Divided into several groups there are some are noble persons. They are very kind, gen-

erous and loving. They work hard for the humanity.
Another group is very calm

and quite. They do nothing spe-

cial or anything bad to others.

The other group is worthless, does nothing for others — even for themselves. They never consider themselves as human beings, lost their humanity and are with full of animality. They lost the knowledge of morality and take the worst opportunity of abasement of the female infants. They graded terrorism up. This is really a matter of regret, shame for the nation!

Benjamin Gomes 12 Kakrail Circuit House Road Ramna, Dhaka-1000

#### Utilise the bridge

Sir, The Bangabandhu Bridge over Jumuna will be opened to public traffic by the end of June, 1998. With the opening of the bridge a golden chapter will be opened in road communication of Bangladesh.

The expenditure so far incurred in building this multipurpose bridge is about Tk 3500 crore. The economic viability of the bridge will largely depend upon the volume of business and industry of this area. The bridge should not be utilised for transportation of passengers only. We need to utilise the bridge hundred per cent to achieve the economic returns. It was expected that the erection of industrial project will grow up well before the opening of the bridge, but no visible progress

has so far been noticed. It was earlier announced that three EPZs, one in Ishwardi, another two in Nilphamari and Sirajganj will be constructed, but we are not aware of any acquisition of land for the same. We learnt that Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation has built Industrial Estates in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Saidpur, Sirajganj, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha. These estates have been built after acquiring thousands of acres of cultivable land. But many estates are lying unutilised These lands are giving nothing to GDP. Our prospective industrialists should be asked to go for these lands first instead of blocking any other cultivable

I have noticed that the workers and people associated with transport business very often halt the movement of transports on flimsy grounds. Interdistrict passenger buses very often remain stopped. Road barricade has became a routine affair. These are anti-state activities. But we seem to excuse everything to nourish democracy But we should stop this type of offence right now. Otherwise Jumuna bridge will be less utilised. The volume of business over Jamuna bridge will only be properly utilised when our goods-loaded trucks will ply over the bridge.

Mahbubul Haque Chowdhury Agrani Bank, Laxmipur, Greater Road, Rajshahi

## What's going on ...?

Sir, Of late, whenever I look at any newspaper, I find nothing, but rape, torture, child trafficking and extortion news. And these news have crossed all previous records. It hurts, disturbs me to think whether we live in a civilised society or not. The rape news of six-year-old girl in the CMM court building has left me with a sense of helplessness.

I fail to understand how these barbarian acts can take place in broad day-light in a place where people go for justice. I have no words to express how this can happen where a lot of people, police move around and no one knows how this has occurred.

Abul Khair House no-9, Road no-10 Sector no-4, Uttara Dhaka