Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka Sunday, June 14, 1998

Precarious Balancing Act

A national budget is more than an account of receipts and expenditure. It is very much expected to embody certain principles concerning how the money is to be arranged and how it will be spent all within a year's time-frame. That is where one reads 'a sense of direction' or the absence of it in a budget.

Judged by this yardstick, the budgetary proposals for fiscal 1998-99 may not sound like an exercise in novelty but these do smack of a stratagem, a certain intrepid improvisation through conflicting demands of various sectors. Yes, the budget has a populist ring for its avoidance of fresh taxes, anti-high consumerism and a sympathetic rehabilitation plan worth Tk 60 crore for sick industries which might go down well with the workers. It has also waxed strategics with higher allocations to defence and education sectors. But much of these will go into salary payments in both the sectors which do not strictly fall in the 'development' cate-

Generally the government's non-development expenditure has gone up. Foreign debt is also fearfully on the rise with the balance of payment support from the IMF emerging as a reality. From these points of view, the budget betrays a good deal of donor-dependency although we have set the target of financing up to 46 per cent of the ADP with our own resources.

The budget sounds pro-industry and businessfriendly. It seeks to fiscally incentivise the local industries by reducing import duty on a plethora of raw materials and intermediate goods. The garments sector will heave a sigh of relief over the continuation the 25 per cent cash incentive. Their backward linkage will be facilitated by a duty withdrawal and reduction respectively on synthetic fibre and in dyes, printing material etc. The leather sector is also being beefed up. That an interest waiver on loans not exceeding Tk 50 lakh contracted by sick industries is under contemplation augurs well.

The service sector which grew at a very slow pace during the outgoing fiscal would be hurt by the casting of a VAT net over it. In particular the construction materials are going to be costlier.

The farm sector will benefit from Tk 129 crore in subsidies to the crop sub-sector and the proposed special financial support to jute exports by both public and private sectors.

We urge a greater effectiveness in the loan recovery exercise and hope that the higher allocation to the police department will be matched by an improvement in law and order.

Pipeline Collapse

There may be differences of opinion about its magnitude as an engineering failure but very little doubt that Thursday's BJMB gas pipeline accident has left us with both the chance to thank our stars and ask for a cautionary check of the technological input used in the construction of the eleventh largest bridge of the world. We are relieved the fault line has surfaced before this engineering marvel which promises to revolutionise communication between the eastern and western parts of the country was declared open to public.

If the post-haste finishing touches were any yardstick by which the quality of the work is to be judged, then one must say an accident like this was not really off the map. Work went on at a furious pace to complete the project on a priority basis. In fact the main construction work was finished a good few months before the deadline to pave the way for its official inauguration by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 23. One cannot help feeling that in the end a hectic sense of urgency got the better of the fastidiousness for quality. But that is no apology for the lapse in quality control. More so in a work that involves Hyundai. In all fairness it has to be observed that the track-record of this Korean company does not really inspire confidence. The collapse of a bridge and a department store in South Korea not long ago underlined the need for extra caution.

It is not a healthy sign that there still runs an unassuaged frenzy among the authorities to make sure BJMB is unveiled in its fullest splendour with gas pipe line, railway tracks all in place — on time. We would counsel the authorities to go slow this time and make sure a proper monitoring system for quality control is at work. We demand an extreme cautionary check be conducted immediately to make sure that other areas of this magnificent construction does not contain any other clay feet like this. Let a foolproof examination take care of any hidden dangers that may be there to besmudge an otherwise wonderful endeavour of human labour, imagination and intelligence.

A Big Big Non-starter

More than a week has passed since the opening of the anti-black smoke campaign in the city. The opening function was quite impressive, as manifest in the picture of Environ Minister Sajeda Chowdhury coming out in about all the newspapers: Standing beside a bus pressing a hankie to her nose, to save herself from the contraption's black exhalation.

A week later, how is the health of the programme? No one has seen a black-smoke checkpost at its desired place on the Manik Mia Avenue, except at the time of the inauguration. And none of the four mobile courts patrolling the city roads have so far been eyed by any road-user. Where can they be? To try another tack, let us ask the environment minister herself how many vehicles have been caught in the 168 hours of government action, how many stickers have been pasted on culprit vehicles, how many blue books have been entered

with the mark of their guilt? Perhaps none. The overriding reason why the matter is not that easy is this: anti-emission thing involves motorised vehicles — which involve power and influence and money. The environment minister was being naive in choosing to box with its own shadow. When touching the car owners and truck maliks is known surely to make problems for the government, the government would seriously go for overhauling its own fleet of vehicles and order

those found unsalvageable off the streets. Finance Minister Kibria should have been approached in due time making a special allocation under a head of modernisation and replacement of government vehicles. In the absence of that how can the government set its vehicles right? And with business as usual with the government — its trucks and cars belching clouds of black smoke how would government have the moral right to penalise non-government vehicles?

Govt's Mistakes Visit on the Country

The mistake which the BJP led coalition has committed by holding nuclear tests is many times worse. The country will have to pay for it for at least two or three generations. Not only that, the government has besmeared the fair name of Mahatma Gandhi, who said that if the means were vitiated the ends were bound to be vitiated.

count the number of criminals or the corrupt the party cise of election. In the Constituinducted in the last Lok Sabha tion, the Rajya Sabha is the election to win. Nor am Council of States. It is a house talking about the bargains it which protects the interests of has struck for staying in power states and gives them at the cenat the Centre and in UP. tre say in their affairs. Himachal Pradesh and Ra-

ETS talk about norms for a

change. Take the ruling

BJP first. It still claims to

occupy the high ground of

morality. I am not going to

jashthan. My eyes are fixed on

practice that the persons de-

feated at the Lok Sabha polls

are not brought to Parliament

through the back door. At least,

there was not such an unseemly

haste as has been shown by the

BJP in the cases of Deputy

Planning Commission Chair-

man Jaswant Singh and the

out-going Prime Minister's Ad-

visor Pramod Mahajan. Within

days of their defeat, they were

given the cabinet rank and ad-

ministered the oath of secrecy

at a ceremony shown live by

doordarshan - a novel method

to authenticate the appoint-

Despite protests, the BJP has

gone ahead to get them elected

to the Rajya Sabha. Constitu-

tionally, there is no bar. But,

ethically, it is wrong. How

should the people who defeated

the two react? It shows that the

BJP has become so insensitive

that it is not even aware of what

is right or wrong, moral or im-

elected to the Rajya Sabha be-

longed to the State from where

he or she was returned. Now the

BJP High Command has a dif-

ferent criterion. If first selects

the persons it wants to favour

and then lets the State Legisla-

ture parties to go over the exer-

R all accounts, one can safely conclude that the

in 1947.

Until recently, a member

ment of two top civil servants.

There is an established

the Rajya Sabha elections.

Now the sanctity of belonging to the state which elects has gone. Any one can come from anywhere, a Punjabi from UP or a Rajasthani from Bihar. It is probably good for national integration. But then why to have the facade that a Rajya Sabha member should be a resident as well as a voter of the state from where he or she is elected? Under T N Seshan, the Election Commission barked over such instances. It hauled Dr Manmohan Singh over the coals. But the Commission under Manohar Singh Gill has not even whined. He is resigned to his helplessness.

Congress has done a bit better because it has brought at least one woman in the recent round. The BJP's promise to have a reservation of 33 per cent for women is only a slogan. No woman was included in the last Rajya Sabha election list. *Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi has also resisted the pressure to give tickets to the defeated candidates. Where one can find fault with her is in the selection of justice Ranganath Mishra. He has been India's Chief Justice, the highest post in the judiciary. Till recently he was Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission. Should such persons be given party tickets? This example

may well influence the sitting Judges to go along with the executive so as to garner rewards after retirement. What happens to the independence of the judiciary? All political parties should follow certain norms in a democratic society. This is how the system will be

strengthened. In fact, the norms have to be applied more strictly when it comes to the judiciary because it provides sinews to democracy. Chief Justice of India M M Punchhi had proposed a few weeks ago the transfer of Chief

court chief justices. Punchhi reportedly does not think it necessary to consult more than two judges. But the practice of consultation which former Chief Justices A M Ahmadi and J S Verma followed covered four to five judges in hierarchy. Even Punchhi came to be consulted, although he was down in seniority at that time. It appears that Punchhi wants to effect transfers and make appointments before he retires in October. The Government is conscious of that, had there

been transparency in such

tion of the site.)

where the Babri Masjid stood before demolition. He has declared that no power on earth, including the Supreme Court, could prevent them from achieving their goal. (The Supreme Court has not recognised the Government's requisi-Prime Minister Atal Behari

Vajpayee has tried to allay the fears by saying that there was no construction activity anywhere near the disputed site. This is true. I went there recently and found a contingent of police guarding the place round the clock. But the mere assurance will not suffice since there was no dearth of undertakings before the Babri Masjid was razed to the ground. The Supreme Court's order to protect the mosque was also of no avail. How can Vajpayee's letter to Sonia Gandhi that his government will not allow any organisation to violate the judicial process remove doubts when the VHP had its way on the demolition and when the

BJP came to own it proudly. It is a tragedy that when the nation's attention is focused on what the Security Council or the G8 is trying to do to chastise India, the RSS parivar, which includes the BJP and VHP, is busy implementing its nefarious agenda. The country requires a consensus. How can that be possible when the BJP or, for that matter, the RSS continues to sharpen religious differences by reviving issues like the Mandir?

Results of the 51 assembly by-elections should be a warning to the BJP. The polling took place after nuclear tests. Still the party has won only 12 seats against 16 by Congress. It means that the BJP, which detonated the bomb to get political mileage, has misjudged the people. They are not a chauvinist lot. They like peace, and want to live their own life.

It is ironic but sad that the country has to atone for the mistakes the governments mistake. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi pushed India into the cauldron of emergency in June 1975 and made it suffer for two and half years when she and her son, Sanjay Gandhi, became the law unto themselves. the institutions smothered at that time have not recovered till today. Still worse is the legitimacy that the extra-constitutional authority has come to acquire.

The mistake which the BJP led coalition has committed by holding nuclear tests is many times worse. The country will have to pay for it for at least two or three generations. Not only that, the government has besmeared the fair name of Mahatma Gandhi, who said that if the means were vitiated the ends were bound to be vitiated. The arms race with Pakistan has begun. It means crores of rupees which a poor country like India cannot afford. Even if one scoffs at the hypocrisy of the five nations which want India to sign the CTBT while retaining the nuclear arsenal, one cannot help feeling that the government has cut its nose to spite others the nation will increasingly feel that going is tough. Must the country suffer for the government's mistakes?

BETWEEN THE LINES

Kuldip Nayar writes from New Delhi

Justices of five high courts. He consulted his two senior most colleagues, Justice S C Aggarwal and Justice G N Ray of judges. Since the transfers by Punchhi created an uproar, the Central Government sent the proposal back to him with the advice that he should consult some

more colleagues. Chief Justice Punchhi has however, adopted a novel method: he has consulted the outgoing Justice Ray and Justice Aggarwal to fill the vacancies which their retirement will cause. The Government is considering the matter separately. At present, it is applying its

mind on the transfer of high

matters members of bars in different states and the intelligentsia would have kept a vigilant eye.

It is that 'vigilant eye' which has put the BJP on the mat. Some people have found it conniving at the building of a Ram temple at Ayodhya. The cutting and carving of stones is not so much a point of worry as is the attitude of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a member of the RSS parivar. (The brother of VHP's chief has been brought to the Rajya Sabha on the BJP ticket.) VHP leader Giriraj Kishore has claimed that they have not slackened their preparations to construct the temple at the site

Indo-Pak Ties at Newest Nadir

Culminations out of the newly-acquired nuclear capability will not lead any one of them to a position of strength and respect in real terms as far as the neighbours and others are concerned.

MATTERS IIII

AROUND US

Prelations between India and Pakistan, two principal actors of the South Asian scenario, have reached newest nadir with the recent nuclear explosions by both the countries. Needless to say. bilateral ties between the two neighbours have never been cordial as they are characterised by bitterness and acrimony ever since their creation from the colonial British India But despite three wars between them and the occasional

tensions in ties being a typical heads. milieu of the New Delhi-Islamabad "normal relationship", the alarm bell never sounded that menacingly as it can be heard this time. The reasons are also obvious since the new element that has been added to the political climate in the wake of their nuclear devices is really alarming in the sense that now the talks centring Indo-Pakistan animosities revolve around a possible nuclear holocaust. Conflicts and wars between the two traditional rivals are

always a distinct possibility given the pattern of their belclear holocaust persists. ligerence but it must be admitted that they have also excr cised restraint in a remarkable manner in dealing with then known hostilities. This can be borne out of the fact that three wars in fifty years show that they have lived mostly in "normal" situation and carefully avoided going into conflicts. The hostilities notwithstanding, two neighbours sought to maintain and even promote trade, cultural and sports links and succeeded on most occasions. But the latest flare up of tensions in the midst of the nu-

clear explosions by New Delhi and Islamabad has brought about a mercurial change in the for domestic compulsions. political landscape of the South Asian region. The ties between the two nations have touched perhaps the lowest ebb at present with questions being asked in different circles; what next? Outbreak of war? And if so, will the newly-acquired nuclear power be used? How much are chances of taking such an undesirable turn in their relationship? There are provocative statements from both sides. Or cluding China. the nuclear capability will serve as a deterrent and in a

But rational thoughts at times are replaced by spirit of stubbornness and even jingoism and in such an event of

way help improve the ties? Af-

ter all, for all the bluster, who is

going to use it taking into pos-

be self-destructive to a large ex-

sible consequences that it may

madness (!) who can guarantee that atomic prowess will not be used at all! The dailies and more particularly the well-circulated magazines of the two countries these days are replete with such reports and stories like what catastrophe the nuclear bombs can cause to India and Pakistan or what could be the extent of destructions by missiles like Indian "Prithvi" and Pakistan's "Ghauri" when equipped with nuclear war-

This suggests that both countries are now in the grip of a new pride which incidentally and ironically is tinged with a fear that any side could be wiped out by the other by simply pressing buttons since the. conventional wars have seemingly become irrelevant for both of them. Now few talk about the strength of their armies or number of their combat aircraft because much of this kind of conventional military power becomes infractious when the spectre of a real nu-

Remarks and utterances of some of the prominent figures from both the sides, of late, have fuelled speculations that relations are on a further deteriorating trend and this could lead to clashes along the sensitive "Kashmir" borders. Pakistan's foreign minister Gauhar Ayub Khan has said that the al ready worsening ties have nosedived and it remains to be seen how far this would go. The Indian leaders, particularly home minister Lal Krishna Advani, appear to be coming out with harsh remarks and opposition leaders in India feel that he is seeking to take things far rather unnecessarily — may be

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as many Indians are convinced, may not be seeing eye to eye with Mr Advani on the attitude towards Pakistan and for that matter with George Fernandes on his unrelenting anti-China campaign. It was Mr Vajpayee's tenure as external alfairs minister two decades ago that saw India's one of the finest time with neighbours in-

Against this background, is there any possibility of a thaw in their current trend of relationship which is marked by escalatory tensions? Where is the common ground for arresting the situation? Should not the two countries immediately swing into confidence building measures (CMB) which is essen tial not only for them but the improvement of the overall po-

Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury litical climate in the South Asian region? There are several opportunities which can be utilised for the purpose of normalising the New Delhi-Islamabad ties. The

most important of them in the near future is the coming SAARC summit in Colombo in July that will provide the perfect ambience of South Asian fellow-feeling spirit when prime ministers of the two countries are expected to meet on the sidelines of the summit This is likely to be their first meeting since both India and Pakistan have gone nuclear. Undoubtedly, the meeting between Mr A B Vajpayee and Mr Nawaz Sharif will be cynosure of all eyes on a global scale as South Asia has become the flashpoint of the world after nuclear blasts by the two countries in the region in quick succession. The main bone of contention between the two are well-known and there is little likelihood that there could be any progress in the main area of differences. However, the

fect on the bellicose ties. It was the last SAARC summit that provided the opportunity of meeting of former Indian prime minister Inder Kumar Guiral and Mr Sharif which proved to be useful in promoting the ties although nothing substantial came out which once again none really expected. The Indian foreign policy in the form of "Gujral doctrine" certainly provided many positive elements in the region which is riven by inherent inhibitions and misconceptions. The Indian government under the Congress might not have been that favourable to the neighbours like what is understood by the "Gujral doctrine" but the Congress government did not contribute to the escalations of the tensions. In fact, both Congress and UF leaders have accused the present Indian government of deteriorating ties with the neighbours including China on "imaginary" pretexts and have singled out two or three individuals in the gov ernment for this situation.

meeting will leave a sobering ef-

Although the "Gujral doctrine is no more in existence, the Vajpayee-Sharif meeting in

Colombo must be utilised by both the countries to at least put a damper on the worsening ties if not to improve them. Other South Asian leaders should also take care that their two fellow SAARC members demonstrate restraint and not loathe each other's behaviour. This is important for the interest of the

Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit the gapitals of both india

and Pakistan in the near future - first New Delhi and then Islamabad, after a few days' gap. The idea is good although a thorough analysis of the venture may leave one in doubt whether sufficient ground work has been done for the initiative and what exactly the visit is intended to achieve. In any case, she has said that there is no question of mediation by Bangladesh in the disputes of two countries and all that Dhaka is seeking to reduce is the tension between two fellow South Asian neighbours.

It is expected that Sheikh Hasina's talks with Mr Vajpayee and Mr Sharif may result in the reiteration of such noble objectives as they are committed to peace and stability in the South Asian region! This itself a cerned. 12/10 . 0 11 9

could be a positive step from two countries in the given situation where provocative utterances and belligerent postures have become the order of the day. The spirit of the move is positive.

Two countries can also utilise other scopes like the decisions by both on self-imposed moratorium towards further nuclear explosions as good gestures while seeking to facilitate dialogue. The foreign secretary level talks though did not produce anything concrete yet at least brought two sides on the negotiating table. This can be resumed while other contacts in different fields can be encouraged by two countries since culminations out of the newlyacquired nuclear capability will not lead any one of them to a position of strength and respect in real terms as far as the neighbours and others are con-

OPINION

Delighted! ... and Disappointed

As an old student of Dhaka University, I was delighted to attend the inaugural function of the Dhaka University Alumni Convention at the Teachers-Student Centre on the morning of 6th June 1998.

I must congratulate the organisers of this convention for holding a function of this kind for the first time. The elaborate programme covering enjoyable cultural evening and a sumptuous dinner was overwhelming. It was very thoughtful of the organisers to provide the drivers with a dinner box too.

I met friends with whom lost contact for decades — it was really exciting and pleasant. We all wanted to hang around for longer time but unbearable heat drove us out of the pandal I only wished if this function could be held some time between November and February.

While attending the inaugural session I was however a little bit surprised when neither the Convenor nor the current President of the Dhaka University Alumni Association, which was originally called "The

Hamida Rahman Dhaka University Old Boys Association" mentioned the name of the founder president (From

 late Justice Muhammad Ibrahim. He was very closely associated with the Dhaka University as a student and a part-time teacher. He also served as the Vice-Chancellor of this univer

sity during the period of 1956-

1949-1962) of this organisation

I personally felt that people like him and the founder secretary Mr Mizanur Rahman deserved even briefly to be specially remembered on this particular day for having taking the initiative and practical steps to form such a body which

survives till today. While listening to the very informative presentations of learned speakers, I was again disappointed as while relating the history of the Dhaka University, no one mentioned the names of two very important personalities of this region viz,

and Sayed Nawab Ali Chowdhury who had laboured incessantly behind the scene for the establishment of Dhaka University.

I got the detailed informa tion about the inception and formation of the Dhaka University from a research work tilted The Dhaka University Studies, part A, volume XXXX (1984) by Dr Sufia Ahmed. They could have also mentioned how many of our Alumni members became National Professors.

I also feel that it needs to be pointed out that the Dhaka University was not the first but one of the first teaching and residential universities established on the model of the uni versities in England. Aligarh University in Northern India modelled in the same mould was founded in 1920 and the Dhaka University was established a year later in July 1921

Lastly, I must thank and congratulate the organisers again for presenting us with the gift of Sharanika". It is very well compiled, informative and interesting piece of work.

Strangers on the Streets

This mega city of ours, with its persistent chaos, presents innumerable problems and difficulties to its citizens especially for girls and women, who have to face many unusual ones which men rarely go through or can even understand.

The girls women can't even go to college, school or work comfortably because of the eveteasers and many guys just staring at them, as if they have never seen a girl or a women walk! So, many girls prefer to take a rickshaw even for a short distance and pull up its hood to escape such stares, and nothing else. Walking is common ev-

erywhere in the world. But here girls feel safer hidden completely under the hood of a rickshaw! Nowadays the harassment has gone to such an extent that they are even kidnapped from roads and raped. Unbelievable! Where else in the world are girls so unsafe? If the distance is long than the poor girls are in a tougher position.

For buses are so packed with men up to their doors, even spilling out of the doors, that a girl has hardly any way to step into the vehicle. If she does succeed in that, she will hardly find any place to sit in or stand even, without brushing against other men. This is most unbearable to any girl. In some countries, the front door is only for girls and there is a steel wired partition between the front few seats and the rest of the bus. So, women have a small compartment all to

themselves and they don't mind standing there, even if it is jampacked — but only with girls. But in Bangladesh even after twenty-six years of our independence no one ever thought of any such convenience for girls, let alone arrange for it.

Nawab Khawja Salimulalah

If you happen to be a lady driver in the streets of Dhaka you are bound to feel like a strange new animal who has just escaped from the Dhaka Zoo, causing all heads to turn towards you! Especially of the chauffeurs, the freezing look that they give you, means that you are threatening their very profession, by making a feminine invasion into it! Because in Bangladesh it is still a predominantly male domain, they feel their profession to be at stake, if women take wheels in their delicate hands. If a driver realises that a woman is at the wheel of the car in front of him. it suddenly hurts his prestige so much, so that he makes all kinds of desperate attempts to overtake it. As if it has now become his foremost duty to be ahead of that lady-driven car! Then, they never give side if a lady wants to overtake — 'How

When a lady-driven car has a punctured wheel or breaks down in the middle of the road, there won't be any deficiency of spectators mobbed around her. To watch how she changes the wheel but just to stand and watch - for fun sake. Never to offer a helping hand to a lady in

dare she!' That's what they

distress. For changing a wheel is quite a manual job and needs some degree of strength, which the unlucky frail lady is short of. In other countries when a lady's car breaks down, local guys would come and offer

"Madam, shall we push?" But never in the streets of Dhaka. Guys will be many but only for watching and sneering! Making fun of the poor damsel Offering of a few notes does help though — thank God, for that Otherwise the car and the lady would just have to stand in the middle of the road, for God knows how long.

One day a college girl had her veil or 'orna' all wound up in the rear wheel of the rickshaw. In spite of holding tight to her veil the speed of the rickshaw tore the whole thing out of her grip. She was feeling very embarrassed and nervous without her veil as the rickshaw puller got down to unwound it from the rear wheel. It was quite a difficult job for him to do single-handedly. Some guys walked by, not only sneering and laughing but also making comments at the poor girl but nobody came forward to help disentangle the veil.

A hand could have been given for humanitarian reason at least, for only a couple of minutes at most. Would that have cost anybody anything? But would have meant a heavenly hand to the damsel in dis-

Dr. Sabrina Q Rashid

to the Editor...

"Defence expenditure and related debate"

Sir, I have gone through the article under the above title written by Brig (rtd) M Abdul Hafiz published in the DS on June 1. I must thank him for his excellent write-up which has given expression to the thought of many people who are concerned about national economy and national budget. Brig Hafiz has delved into the disputable matter of huge budgetary allocation in the defence sector of a country where almost 80 per cent people live below the poverty line.

His criticism of the enormous expenditure in this sector, which he describes as in congruous and disproportionate, shows his boldness, sense of responsibility and patriotism (as he himself was a member of the Armed Force).

Being one of the poorest countries in the world we can't simply afford over nine percent of the national expenditure (in defence sector, in 1997) neglecting other more important sec-

tors like education, health, agriculture which suffer considerably as a great amount goes to the defence sector. He has also pointed out that a lot of savings is possible if many unnecessary expenditures in luxurious office decoration, new model car and extravagance of frequent military ceremonies can be shrunk.

Shamim Ahsan 64/M, R K Mission Road Gopibagh, Dhaka-1203.

Would the PM look into it?

Sir, The proposed sadar headquarters private women colleges in 16 districts have not yet been nationalised even after three years, as assured by the present government.

The government assured that the proposed private women colleges would be nationalised soon for the higher education for women. The colleges were also inspected by the

high powered government teams and the process of its nationalisations were done

kindly look into the matter seriously for nationalisation of these colleges for greater interest of the nation soon? Begum Maleka Khatun

Would our Prime Minister

Magura

Stop shooting!?

Sir. For the last few days a couple of middle-aged foreign nationals have been shooting birds openly with air guns from the trees situated on both sides of the road inside the residential houses in Banani residential area. It endangers safety of the residences damaging the environment

Formerly different types of birds used to flock in the area. Attention of the government is drawn.

S M Chowdhury Dhaka.