The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

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Five-day, Six-day Fix

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry has called for the resumption of the six-day week. The FBCCI chief made the call tying it with the present need 'to overcome the losses caused by the floods'. He said, 'if the Prime Minister can work six days a week, we can also do the same in this time of need.' We are certain the PM works seven days a week and not quite bound by regulation office hours. The six-day week has, however, enough arguments for it without any need to adduce the PM's example. The question is if the six-day week is needed to tide over the days of hard pressure, shall we revert to the five-day one when this bad patch is over?

This is, however, a fact that the two-day weekly off is creating problems for the urgent relief and rehabilitation work which warrants a seven-day week and round-the-clock availability and actual presence of the personnel of many ministries, specially those connected with the flood-related programmes. Some staff members of such ministries are already working more than they do routinely. Not all of them can take this without a grudge. This makes it imperative to go for the six-day week

without delay. By the same token it is very important also to fix our one weekly off-day in keeping with international official and commercial practice, to facilitate contacts, transactions and operations. When Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistan Prime Minister, fixed Sunday as the weekly holiday as one of his first things in office, the forward looking intellectual, and businessman in our land justifiably felt to have been shamed because the Pakistan measure pointed sharply to our vulnerability to pseudo-religiosity. There are dozens of Muslim majority nations which have been keeping to the Sunday off for ages.

The question, however, is shall we revert to the present five days when the pressure eases? The government must decide its mind after talking to all classes of working people, employers and employees and the self-employed. This is such a thing as should go on unchanged for centuries.

Due Role for BAPEX

We lend our voice to Petrobangla's recommendations to the Energy Ministry that BAPEX be given a partnership status with foreign gas and oil companies in all the exploration blocks mapped out by us. It is said that success has many friends and failure is an orphan. But we do not know at which end of the juxtaposition we should place BAPEX. For, despite having a track-record of success whenever entrusted with drilling operations sometimes little grudgingly perhaps — it has had the ironic misfortune of being orphanised. Its friends, if there were any, began to surface only after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stressed the point that the country's exploration unit should be developed and strengthened to play its due role alongside the foreign gas and oil companies. In concrete terms she asked BAPEX to submit work plans to drill two development wells in the Salda

But BAPEX's coming highly recommended from Petrobangla cannot be equated with a fairweather-bird kind of support for two reasons: first, Petrobangla is a natural friend of BAPEX; and secondly, Petrobangla's robust support for BAPEX is solidly based on the findings of a study tour recently made of the Malaysian national exploration company Petrona's Carrigali.

For a country as richly endowed with hydrocarbons as Bangladesh it has been an incongruity of the highest order to have been devoid of a fullfledged national gas and oil exploration company. Especially when BAPEX since its inception ten years ago has had some gas finds to its credit, and, for all we know, clamoured all the time for its rightful place. BAPEX deserves to be developed in its own right for attaining a certain foothold on the latest exploration technology. It can serve as a reference-point whenever confusion arises about what would be in the best national interest as far as PSCs are concerned. All of these do not militate against the invitational gesture we are making to foreign companies.

Since BAPEX's natural growth has been stifled and it underwent a process of atrophy, it does need robust material support to be dynamised.

Water Angels

White men have long ceased to be an object of wonder for people of this part of the world. But for people of Rampura area, a group of tireless light skinned men working on a prefab platform on the waters of the adjacent canal is a real source of curiosity. They are members of the German government's relief agency now working at a water purifying plant on the Rampura canal. It has been set up with a view to assisting WASA, the beleaguered water supplying authorities who are out of their depths in their bid to meet city dwellers' demand for pure drinking water particularly after the devastation caused by the prolonged deluge. We thank

the German government for this timely assistance. The plant has a capacity for processing 6,000 litres of dirty liquid per hour into pure, potable water. What is exciting about it is the room it offers to the local authorities for conceptual maneuvering in any future plan to tackle a crisis situation. There is little doubt that the knowledge would be more than handy because flood is an annual phenomenon in Bangladesh and our perennial problem with potable water assumes a new dimension during the floods. With local enterprise and expertise taking interest in it, perhaps it won't be too much to hope that we may have bigger and indigenously effective versions of this water purifying plant.

But for the time being the authorities need to do lot more than what they have done to inform people about the function of the German 'water angels' — a title they got while working among the parched people in Rwanda. Very few people in the Rampura area seemed to know that the plant has been set up to supply pure drinking water prompting some of the members of the project to believe that perhaps they have chosen a wrong spot.

Fighting Terrorism the Clinton Way

Clinton choose to break his seclusion prematurely to take charge of the cruise missile attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan without clinching any hard evidence of their involvement in the bombing of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Apparently, the Americans are not convinced of the wisdom of the action and see it more as 'operation Monica' or 'Monica missile'.

pointing at Egyptian Islamic militant groups most of whose leaders are now holed up in Afghanistan, either hiding or receiving trainings from the

Talibans. Osama bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian dissent who claimed the credit for bombing US military base at Dhahran in 1996 and is currently on CIA's most wanted list has found sanctuary in Afghanistan according to US intelligence report. He is another suspect for the twinbombings last month. As regard Sudan the US defence secretary alleged that the pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum was used by the Islamist terrorists for the 'production of a type of VX nerve agent' even if Sudanese government was unaware of it.

While launching the missile attacks last month the US has sought to portray herself as the 'global avenger of terrorism. Ironically however it was the US administration itself which on many occasions authorised terrorist activities under the guise of 'covert actions' in a number of countries. Interestingly, most of the Jihad militants whom the US now identifies as terrorists received much of their expertise in terrorism from the CIA which has been helping the 'Islamists' in their fight against former Soviet occupation Army and later the secular liberal forces in

Afghanistan. Cuban exile groups backed by CIA have been engaged in a terrorist campaign in Cuba since 1960s. There were at least ten attempts on the life of Fidel Castro, the Cuban President. In Nicaragua the terrorist activi-

ties by US aided Contras against Sandinista government during 1980s are well chronicled. The shooting down of Iranian Airbus by the US Navy over the strait of Hormuz during Iran-Iraq war was starkly a

With this shady credentials when the US proposes to avenge international terrorism it cannot but ring hollow. And the missile attacks launched by her draw widespread criticism both at home and abroad. The US allies in the Security Council privately expressed their dismay with Clinton Administration which they feel bypassed UN Security Council and acted on its own. The international community as a whole looked askance at the logic of the



PERSPECTIVES

by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz

case of terrorism. The US launching of missile attacks on Iraq at the slightest provocation are again aimed at terrorising Iraqi people. The attempt on Libyan President Muamar Gaddafi's life by bombing his residence is nothing less than a state sponsored terrorism. The US provides hospitable climate also for homegrown terrorism. The 1995 explosion in Oklahoma city by white supremacists and the bomb attack during Atlanta Olympic by fundamentalist Christian militia are cases in point.

The attack on Sudan has angered Arab and African public opinion. The Talibans' anger also will now be directed against the US, hitherto their benefactor. In fact, after the attack the entire Islamic world's anger is directed afresh against Washington.

bizarre show of force by the US

Among others, the speediest and most incisive reaction has come from Russia's Yeltsin who called the US action akin to terrorism. British media, otherwise supporters of US actions focused on the US government's

double standard with regard to terrorism - perhaps with a slanting reference to US leniency towards the acts committed by banned Irish Republican Army. Out of all, India's reaction has been rather surprising. She focused on the dangers posed by 'international terrorism, a pet term in the West, presumably with the hope that such reaction would be able to draw US sympathy towards militancy in Kashmir which she calls the handiwork of the terrorists from across the bor-

At home, the growing feeling among US citizens is that Clinton will now go to any lengths to prove that he is a good president, if not a good spouse. To that is hinging his survival in White House. In the process Bill Clinton may have let loose a spate of violence which has potential to affect many countries. Although the President has charged Osama bin Laden as the motivator and financier of bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the sceptics in the Congress and elsewhere find the evidence of threats either from Alghanistan or Sudan weak and timing of the attack suspect. Two years ago there was bomb attack on US military base in Dhahran for which the US was provided with sufficient evidences by Saudi government after painstaking investiga-

tion. Any US action for the crime is still pending. So, what has prompted Bill Clinton now to rush for the summary punishment of phantom targets lying thousand of kilometers

The answers are not hard to find. The whole exercise of antiterrorist tirade and sudden unleashing of some 86 cruise missiles are aimed at diverting the Americans' attention from sleazy sex scandal at home to lofty height of some international issues. Embroiled in Monica Lewinsky affair and dismayed by growing demands from the leading figures even from his own Democratic Party for the termination of his presidency

Clinton left for two weeks holiday in Martha's Vineyard with his family. The " 'comeback kid' as he is often referred to Clinton choose to break his seclusion prematurely to take charge of the cruise missile attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan without clinching any hard evidence of their involvement in the bombing of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Apparently, the Americans are not convinced of the wisdom of the action and see it more as 'operation Monica' or 'Monica missile'.

Bill Clinton has been a brilliant lawyer but the legal jargons that he has used and the web of the words and semantics he has spun on his sex scandals do not seem have taken him far. So, the world has to remain prepared for more scapegoats to pay for his sensuality and more drama to be enacted in international scene.

Reversing the Foreign Exchange Flow

According to a Swiss Bank survey as much as US \$100 billion belonging to Pakistanis is on deposit in individual accounts whereas US sources place the figure as high as US \$75 billion. That is more than double the national foreign exchange debt, why can't we encourage our people by a mixture of carrot and stick to invest/deposit foreign exchange in Pakistan?

factor in narrowing the critical requirements.

AST month President Clin-

ton smeared in his marital

infidelity desperately

struck a heroic pose as an unre-

lenting fighter against global

terrorism by launching simul-

taneous missile attacks on

Afghanistan and Sudan, the

targets not only continent apart

but curious enough as objectives

for strike. Bill Clinton claimed:

'our target is terror'. However,

on the surface it is difficult to

comprehend what in Khost of

Afghanistan ruled by Talibans

owing their existence — at least

to start with - to massive US

funding could really constitute

terror to American interests.

The evidence of terrorism is

equally bleak in Khartoum, the

capital of Sudan where a phar-

maceutical factory bore the

wrath of American tomahawks.

Queerly, the factory was granted

sanctions by the United Na-tions to supply essential

medicines to Iraq as part of the

linkages to US' selective targets,

tacks were in retaliation to the

simultaneous bombings early

last month of the embassies of

US in Nairobi and Dar-es-

Salam — most devastating since

1983 truck bomb explosion in

Beirut killing 241 US marines.

The blast in Kenya, a strategic

ally of the US alone claimed

247 lives until mid August. A

great deal of expertise went in

carrying out the twin bombings

of such magnitude and obvi-

ously the US intelligence was

caught napping. Now by piecing

the intelligence information

from variety of sources the US

find the needle of suspicion

OR almost last three

decades, the repatriation of

money earned by our blue-

and white-collar workers in

foreign lands, known as home

remittances, has been a major

it is widely believed that the at-

Although there are little

oil-for-food programme.

gap in our foreign exchange Through legitimate banking channels we have averaged US \$2 to 2.5 billion. Whereas the figure through "Hawala" or "Hundi" is much higher, the foreign exchange remains outside the channels, in fact adds to inflation. On May 28, the illconceived action of the Mian Nawaz Sharif government of freezing currency accounts (FCAs) put almost a dead stop to remittances through the acknowledged routes and a reverse flow developed, so much so that banks in UAE. particularly Dubai, were alarmed at the surplus cash suddenly coming in bucketfuls from Pakistan. It is conservatively estimated that in the weeks following May 28, at about the time we needed a positive net inflow, as much as US \$3-4 billion could have flowed out of Pakistan.

In 1975, before Indian PM Indira Gandhi imposed the emergency as much as 70-80 per cent of foreign exchange remittances was made through "Hawala", at that point of time only 30 per cent of Pakistani home remittances was through "Hawala". Indira Gandhi put most of the illegal money changers engaged in "Hawala" in jail, and froze their accounts. Thousands of people lost the money they had sent through the "Hawala" route. Since the net spread is only about 8-15 per cent, the returns for this route was taken to be very risky and the net result is that "Hawala" to India is almost non-existent. On the other

cent of workers' remittances were through "Hawala" to Pakistan, now the ratio has gone up to almost 95 per cent. On the other hand, for countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. which had almost 100 per cent net inflow through "Hawala". the ratio is 80 per cent through official channels for Bangladesh and almost 100 per cent for Sri Lanka, i.e. "Hawala" is non-existent. Similarly Philippines has developed a modus operandi that has replaced the previous extremely bad system by investing in new technology.

To give an example of how much the "Hawala" system has taken over, if one makes an enquiry about how the Ambassador to UAE down to the lowest peon in the Embassy have sent part of their pay to Pakistan. Not only do they use the unofficial route themselves. they have full details and knowledge of who the main players in the "Hawala" game are, where their accounts are and who operate the accounts on a day-to-day basis. En quiries have revealed that the Chief Managers of some nationalised as well as privatised Pakistani banks with lots of branches in Lahore and Peshawar have full knowledge of these accounts in their domain and how they are being operated. To a slightly lesser extent this is also happening in Karachi. In this age of computerisation, massive inflows of funds in and out of accounts in any branch of any bank are available at a press of a button on the desk of currency man-

AS I SEE IT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

agers every morning. As such for anyone to deny that full knowledge of the "Hawala" or "Hundi" runners is available is telling a blatant lie. The main reasons for freez-

ing all the foreign currency accounts on May 28 were - (1) there was no money left in the FCAs, the successive governments, mainly Ms Benazir's, having spent almost all the US \$11 billion invested there. (2) to avoid declaring bankruptcy. the only way to stop foreign exchange being withdrawn was to freeze the accounts. Having taken such a draconian step that destroyed forever the credibility of not only any succeeding government but that of Pakistan as a sovereign state, the Mian Nawaz Sharif govern ment in a mind-boggling exercise allowed the foreign money changers to operate. In essence while keeping the official FCAs locked up, the government tacitly allowed foreign exchange to be repatriated illegally. Why in God's name do we need foreign exchange money-changers when there are scheduled bank branches by the hundreds

available? Money changers are not required for inward remittances. only outward flows. The movement of money illegally out of the country is bad enough

in normal circumstances, in the present economic environment it is a dire threat to national security. Knowing this dangerous aspect some people very influential in the government and close to the seat of power are actively engaged in conniving that Pakistan to be drained completely of foreign exchange. At best this could be because of lack of knowledge, at worst collusion to sabotage the economic stability of the nation. Not only are funds flowing freely out of Pakistan, it is in turn encouraging a large "Hawala" market run by these unscrupulous scoundrels to operate without any check. That artificially keeps the difference between the official and "Hundi" rate high, as such today at Rs. 10 per US Dollar, at times as much as Rs. 18 to the US Dol-

If the government is really serious in reversing the foreign exchange flow, Pakistan has to take some concrete steps, viz (1) to restore sovereign credibility and the confidence of those who repatriate money to Pakistan, the FCAs must be de-freezed immediately while requesting FCA depositors not to withdraw more than 10 per cent for the time being in the national interest as well as allowing the FCAs as collateral for loans as

was being done previously. (2) those who withdraw foreign exchange anyway, to be paid at the "Hawala" rate of the day as available in the money market, (3) future remittances to be given Pakistan Rupees at the going "Hawala" rate, (4) any bank branch manager and his superior keeping accounts illegally of any money changer/"Hawala" person to also be jailed, special foreign exchange courts be set up in this regard as normal courts will be unable to cope, (5) economic intelligence to be beefed up so as to know the new Hawala players and their modus operandi, (6) all foreign money changers to be banned and their accounts frozen, (7) anyone not complying to be jailed under the emergency as a threat to national security, (8) the Philip-

pines system to be studied and investment made in technology, electronic means to be established by the banks as a consortium so that money is transferred i.e. debit/credit to the accounts is made simultaneously electronically and money is available to the recipient within minutes if he wants to withdraw any amount and (9) arrangements be made for delivery of money to individuals in their houses, if and when According to a Swiss Bank

survey as much as US \$100 billion belonging to Pakistanis is on deposit in individual accounts whereas US sources place the figure as high as US \$75 billion. That is more than double the national foreign exchange debt, why can't we encourage our people by a mixture of carrot and stick to invest/deposit foreign exchange in Pakistan? If the government of Mian Nawaz Sharif has the will, there will always be a way out of the foreign exchange quagmire.

OPINION

'Flood' for Thought

Shaheedul Islam

Recently some "food for thoughts" on various development plan considerations following 1998 flood are served to the general public, thinkers and planners by a learned section of the society in their articles appearing in various national dailies. Surely, something good might come out from these thoughts to fight or to live with flood of the kind the country has just bitterly experi-

enced. Through a series of articles on flood-related matters appearing in The Daily Star, one finds an opportunity of enriching one's horizon of knowledge on the subject, who reads those. The Daily Star played a great role in holding a Round Table conferences on the subject. The contribution to planning process in the matter by Center for Alternatives (CA) also deserves special mention.

I read with interest the report "Coping with Floods: Reuf. Rehabilitation and Rebuilding the Economy" 24 September 1998 Under Immediate. Mid-term and Long term steps, a wide variety of subjects have been covered. But I am at a loss to understand as to why an important issue like population explosion did not find a place under any of the above steps. All our problems hinge around this particular problem.

Therefore, due importance need be attached to this issue so that population growth is well under control meaningfully. No useful purpose would be served unless a penalty on pecuniary term or otherwise is introduced by a law for those who take more than two children from now on.

In the 23 September '98 issue of the DS there appeared an article. Flood Control: The Opportunities in the Midst of the Crisis" by Shahed Latif. In his column, Window on Asia, a bright idea has been struck to remove silt from river bed of the Meghna estuary at its outfall to the Bay. In Sir Winston Churchill way he has described this year's ferocious flood that is "Never in the history...to so many... ". But perhaps he has taken somewhat lightly or underestimated the ferociousness of the combined force of the

Mighty Rivers at that point. The idea that the river bed there would be disturbed by an explosion for washing silt out to the Bay through the Swash of No Ground would amount to declaring a war against the combined force of the three Mighty Rivers, advancing with already heavy load of silt and current. With the disturbance as suggested a tremendous erosive

power will be generated by the rivers enough to blow the adjacent mainland and the nearby islands. Therefore, we must be very cautious in our move to that end making suitable model studies at home and abroad so that it does not end up in more harm than good. Another opinion of mine is

formed on yet another article of Ms. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed Floods: No Cause For Complacency", appeared in the 24 September '98 issue of The Daily Star. As regards her proposal for construction of separate flood shelters similar to those of cyclone shelters built in our coastal belt, an alternative may be examined in certain improvement of construction of individual village home or homesteads at vulnerable places with two-storied sheds of thin cement plastered bamboosplit walls on outside and darma mat fixed in wooden frame inside.

These are held suitably against square or round wooden posts around and roofed either in tin or thatch. Sample of such walls may be seen in some Railway Quarters in Paksey. A model of a structure having bamboo-reinforced wall but with a thin shell concrete roof in one storied height designed by late Prof. Nazmul Haque and displayed some years back in the premises of the Institute of Engineers, Dhaka was also of interest. Between the plinth and the roof the floor will be made with close bamboo or wooden planks.

Further, with two boats together a Mar-boat with wooden planks or close bamboo base placed on it be made of ferocement. This boat remains grounded in front of homesteads for various purposes during dry season and will float in the wet season for use in emergency. Loan may be given for building such houses being a little cost-effective to the intending villagers. Thus the government can be relieved of the much strain in building separate flood shelters at different places and maintain them.

The Grameen Bank can play a role in respect of providing financial help under their micro-credit scheme for upliftment of the rural poor and the House Building Research Institute. Dhaka, the much needed technical advice. In every thana a model house may be built through the efforts of Local Engineering Bureau for demonstration to the public (target

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Minister and Economist

hand before May 28, 60-70 per

Sir, The other evening watched on the telly a hard working and respected minister being interviewed by a wellknown economist. The minister, who is a brilliant orator. was naturally at ease with his loquacity, while the poor interviewer, an academician, was having a hard time wedging in his controlled questions. drafted carefully. It appeared at the end that he had a few more questions left over. The programme was informative, but might have irked some viewers. in the sense that there was lack of peer-level consideration dur-

ing the dialogue. The politicians seem to ooze with over-confidence, as they are accustomed to have thousands of followers during their professional career. Peer level meetings call for more consideration, as leadership does not

diminish the level of courtesy. This is a general observation which applies to others on other occasions; hence this point of order. M K Gandhi was clear on the issue: There go my people. I must follow.

A Zabr Dhaka

"Flood Control..."

Sir, I like to draw your attention to the article 'Flood Control: Opportunities in the Midst of the Crisis' by Mr Shahed Latif published in your paper of 23 September, 1998. In this article, the author has referred to a suggestion of Mr Abdul Hamid Choudhury, presently the Secretary, Ministry of Planning. and recommended "underground explosions on the river bed so that accumulated load of silt is considerably disturbed and put out of place and at low tides when the outflow is naturally at the maximum, the accumulated silt will be forced out to the sea and on to the swatch

of no ground.

Bangladesh.

The rivers, at the same time. are natural abode of fish. prawn, turtles, molluscs and other living aquatic populations. One wonders, if Mr S Latif has ever considered the possible impacts of such underground explosions on fish and other aquatic animals living in the rivers. In all likelihood, shocks from the underground explosions will kill all the fishes and other aquatic animals in the rivers. It is also to be noted that use of explosives in water to catch fish is banned by law in almost all countries of the world including

Populations of fish, prawn and other aquatic animals in the rivers are also important common property natural resources of the country and they also deserve as much attention and consideration of the concerned citizens who shape the destiny of the country as any other natural resources.

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Some comparisons

Sir, If you want to have a glimpse of how our law makers are debating and making new laws, it is a near impossible thing to achieve. Though you are the one who voted them to reach that place and debate for you but if you want to see how they are working, you have to go through a lot of formalities: take permission from different places and then be there within fixed times. Whereas in London you just have to stand in a queue with other tourists and all you need to go through is a checkup with a metal detector for any hidden arms.

Then within half an hour you are a lucky person to be ushered in, to behold the MPs

debating right before you. So sit comfortably in the gallery and see them carry on with their discussion in the house. You also get to see the inside of the beautiful house of Parliament with its huge, larger-than-life

paintings, statues etc. This is democracy, open for all to see — transparent in the true sense. Whereas in our country cars can't even ply on roads around the Parliament, causing so much of inconvenience to the citizens, ironically for whose welfare they are busy debating!

Another stark difference is the management of traffic. In the western countries there are hundreds and thousands of cars going at high speed, but no jams because of their systematic lane arrangements. On motorways the vehicles going in opposite directions use absolutely separate roads in most places. Thus there is no chance at all of a head-on collision. The roads are divided in lanes for different speed, so you don't have to blare your horns for over tak-

In fact everything is so disciplined that one hardly ever blows his horn. Whereas in our country driving without the horns is near impossible, for hardly anybody follows the rules of the roads. Within the cities many roads are narrow. but there is still no traffic con-

gestion. That is so because many roads are one-way and there are small islands separating the traffic going straight, to the right and to the left. So the traffic flow is smooth. We have these arrangements over here too, but only in the Cantonment area. Our main problem is the slow moving transport on the roads, and they follow the rules the least too. Why not keep just one lane for the cars and give the whole rest of the road to them so that they can please themselves as they want to. without jamming the flow of the cars etc.

One single narrow lane is enough for the motorised vehicles in the city streets. This will control useless speeding and overtaking too, which also leads to traffic problems. In Cantonment area they have already made separate lanes for the rickshaws. This should be followed in other areas too. What a relief our streets and roads are for the parents to go by! For they have no worry at all that their children, still with immature minds, will get to see what they shouldn't. In Europe it is not so. Especially in Amsterdam. It is so embarrassing to be on roads there. with young children. You see all sorts of vulgar pictures in

very intimate poses. And there's no warning anywhere that a particular place could be a red-light area.

In Bangkok too this business is flourishing but no poster or prostitutes are visible here and there. It is all tucked away. But in Amsterdam it is simply unbearable, you can't stand by the shop even, to buy view cards or souvenirs, because there are such vulgar cards and books displayed openly that you can't help but feel very embarrassed especially with your children along. All these are on the TV as well. Children can't watch

anything but the cartoons. But in America it is amazingly 'clean'. The roads are 'clean', the TV is 'clean'. Also you hardly see kissing and hugging couples openly there, as you often see in Europe. They display their love so urgently and so openly that they can't even wait to be in the privacy of their homes. And yet this passionate love vapourises also so quickly that couples breakup in a few months or years time. Whereas in the East people never display their love but hang on to their partners through thick and thin throughout life.

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