Dhaka, Monday, October 12, 1998

## Too Urgent for Ego-play

A front page news item in this paper on October 11 drew our attention: a slow-down in the distribution of VGF cards threatening to upset the timetable set for lean season feeding of starvationprone people. The delay is said to be occurring from a hitch over who would nominate NGO representatives to the local committees formed to select families eligible for 16 kg food hand-out each per month. This procedural tiff is casting a shadow over the second phase of the distribution work involving 27 lakh cards which our development partners wanted delivered to the vulnerable people. The deadline of October 7 has been overshot. In the first phase the government single-handedly distributed 13 lakh cards in July and August. Since, however, the second phase has been launched at the behest of the international community and they are seeking what we deem to be a legitimate role for the NGOs in it there is no reason why we should be ambivalent to it.

As a matter of fact, the row is not over NGO representation as such; curiously, it is having to do with the authority that should name the representatives to the local committees — the DC or ADAB? If the DCs had done it on some scale before the NGO Bureau's authorisation letter in this behalf reached the ADAB, well then, let those be regularised through a coordination meeting, subject to a fresh scrutiny if considered necessary. Any how it is a joint committee afield that will name the eligible and distribute the cards to them.

We are inclined to treat this as a matter of formality because a thorough-bred monitoring mechanism is being put in place by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the government of Bangladesh. The WFP is sending nine teams to the countryside to keep a tab on allocation of cards and distribution of foodgrains. They are to report back on any discrepancies they notice for the WFP to take these up with the government. The government of Bangladesh, on the other hand, has ordered 17 Deputy Secretary level officials to move to various districts for checking on pilferage and other irregularities. Cross-checking is the other name of success in such a big distributive operation.

### A Policeman's Conscience

The Officer-in-Charge of Ramna Thana Mr Rafigul Islam has filed complaints with his superior against eleven of his officer colleagues. The incident is a rare gem, we simply have no memory of such a police-against-police case. All credit for groundbreaking goes to Mr Islam. It must have cost him many sleepless nights and a lot of daring to complain against fellow officers in uniform working under him.

It is for the Police Department or, in the last resort, the Home Ministry to judge the merit of Mr Islam's complaints and act accordingly. These are at the same time interesting and serious. One would expect these to include, as a must, corruption. Mr Islam has preferred sticking to professional lapses and avoided the criminal. But his accusations are all right suggestive of criminal practice. The department or the ministry will be hard put to it to suppress the case or do something about it in the darkness of the police labyrinth. For the complaints are there on the print media.

His colleagues, 10 SI's and one ASI, have been accused of impairing the image of the police and the Thana. All of them have been said to be negligent of duty and misbehaving with those who came to the Thana. Instead of diarising cases brought to them or registering these, they harass the complainants by forcing them to come next time for months on end. Feeling a false sense of glory for working in the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Islam said, they had become insolent.

Very many things are happening in the Police Department. Rubel murder case, in fact, opened the Pandora's Box. An embarrassed Home Minister could only say that the department needed thorough reforms. The recent large-scale changes at the top must be the first footfalls of big things to come, a true big overhaul. No doubt Mr Rafiqul Islam's unusual and welcome action has been made possible by the wind of change that is blowing over that whirlpool of corruption and violation of civic norms. There must be many good people, wise and

deeply moral, in the force. It is time for them to assert and march to the fore.

### Dead Fowl Revulsion

This is certainly no revelation: We do not eat what we pay for at the hotels, restaurants and food joints in the city. A leading Bangla daily brought this issue under a sharper focus with a screamer on the front page yesterday: shabdhan mora murgir mangsho (Beware of dead fowl). In a stomachheaving graphic description of things the report dwelt on how an unscrupulous cycle is engaged in supplying dead fowl to different hotels and restaurants. Even the community centres where people pounce on the roasted chicken with all the gastronomical satisfaction and assurance in the world are not immune to this criminal practice. Most of the members of this supplying cycle are drug addicts who collect the dead and rejected fowl from various markets in the city and then sell it to the baburchis or cooks of eating places. Usually they get Taka 1000 to Taka 1500 for every 100 dead fowls. The problem is not limited to dead fowls only. Few days back there was a report which said that majority of the food joints use cheap African variety of shol fish in chicken sandwiches instead of real chicken . It could be legion.

Apparently the problem is not insurmountable. The report contains specific highly particularized information about the people and places that come under the purview of this dangerous business. If the authorities can sensitise the law enforcing agency and arrange for nightly vigilance at the suspect points of the city, life will definitely be miserable for the dead meat traffickers. Awareness on the part of the public health department about the disposal system of perishable things in the markets would be pretty useful.

No government official can perhaps tell how many food inspectors are there and what they do or if they at all function. We demand that the authorities stop this unscrupulous and eminently hazardous deception against the consumers.

### German Election

# A Desperate Search for an Alternative

One thing is clear that the Germans like others in European Union are desperately in search of an alternative which may not be a return to the classical left politics of the past. They would not mind any texture the newly sought alternative may adopt.

HE Federal Republic of Germany which ultimately proved to be the successor state of the Third Reich had been almost and exclusive turf of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the party that dominated the country's politics since its birth in 1949 as a semi-sovereign state. Not only the Bundestag was controlled by the CDU, also all the chancellors were Christian Democrats with of course an interregnum in the seventies which was however full of sparks. It was during this time that Willy Brandt, the first Social Democrat Chancellor launched his famous Ostpolitik to normalise relations with East and Central European countries with whom Germany shared 1000 miles border, overcome German division and replace the existing security order of rival alliances with an European Peace Order. Earlier, Konrad Adenauer,

another great chancellor steered the course of postwar Germany to realise his Rhineland vision of integrating the country with West Europe on the plank of rearmament, NATO and staunch anti-communism. By casting FRGs lot with the west he pursued a vigorous West Politick which produced multiple domestic pay offs for Germany. Both Adenauer and Brandt contributed towards building up what Germany is today and are remembered not only for their momentous policy decisions but for their broad visions.

Clearly Helmut Kohl, the longest serving German Chancellor, combined the skills and visions of his two great predecessors and would stand beside them in German history. The role he played in the unification of Germany, integration of Europe and introduction of Euro currency is outstanding. In addition he was responsible for revitalising the CDU after its setback in the 70s and converting it from an electionwinning machine into a party

with long-term programme. The unification of Germany was the result of a strings of policy measures by his predecessors contributing towards the creation of good will at the level of leadership of two Germanys. Kohl capitalised on those initiatives and integrated them in his successful unification policy. As a Christian Democrat Chancellor he dutifully met his country's obligation to NATO by deploying intermediate range tactical missile on German soil and seeking arms control which was also the dual track strategy of NATO. In sum, he was the last of the great western leaders of cold

war era. Yet when Kohl sought reelection for the fifth term late last month his formidable credential mattered little. Helmut Kohl could not kindle passion for him this time; neither his unique chemistry with conservative German electorate clicked in any more. A distinct 'Kohl fatigue' dominating the political mood led them to consider his government 'tired and listless'. On the other hand, the electorate hankered after 'change' — a change even many voters were not clear about. Still the cravings for change made all the differences in election outcome. Gerhard Shroder won the election on the plank of

his vaguely assured changes. What kind of changes will Shroder bring about in German politics? It is equally unclear. SPD's slogan of 'innovation and justice' was meant to portray Shroder as a moderate reformer and protector of ordinary Germans - an aspect lost on Helmut Kohl during his later years in office. Germany's economy, by far the largest in Europe, has slowly revived after years of tepid growth. But unemployment remains as high as 12.6

per cent overall and nearly double in some parts of former Eastern Germany. Shroder's idea of 'modernisation with social responsibility to parry this swelling unemployment is still to take a concrete shape. As the election campaign progressed Shroder's outlines of his reformist policies blurred and he wobbled and waffled on a variety of issues from pensions to taxes. The facile opportunism of Shroder's campaign and the whiff of chanciness around him did little to inspire confidence.

As the German voters weren't sure as to what and how much change they really tion by the SPD with its slim majority. Or else Shroder has to remain left inclined because the mainstay of support for him is from the traditional left. Moreover the influence of party chairman Oskar Lafontine, and old guard socialist on the SPD will continue to remain. Afterall, Shroder has not been able to win convincingly enough to give short shrift either to the Greens, his maverick partner and his own left wingers.

Nevertheless the first and the best answers as regards the tenor and complexion of Shroder's administration will be found from the government



wanted. Shroder also, on the whole, remained ambiguous about what change he had in mind. On the specifics he was deliberately evasive. The only concrete proposal Shroder offered on the stump was a standard SPD assault on social welfare cuts. Gerhard Shroder often talked of a 'Neu Mitte' or the New Centre in politics but German, under him is likely to follow in the footsteps of France and Britain and shift to the left of the centre. He fondly compared himself with Tony Blair and Bill Clinton and promised changes without elaborating however what change he would introduce. A self-proclaimed Marxist of the 70s Shroder's left inclination may be impeded in the event of a SPD-CDU grand coalition which is also one of the possi-

bilities of government forma-

he assembles over next few weeks. A red-green coalition as the SPD-Greens combination is called, would command slim majority in the Bundestag. Another likely partner of SPD-CDU — the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) mainly composed of former communists could not qualify in the election. So for an effective administration the formation of SPD-CDU grand coalition can not be ruled out. Such coalition has a precedence in post war German history. When Shroder speaks of continuity and only the fuzzy changes as his objectives he, in fact, points to such possibility.

However, the uncertainty and ambiguity of change in post-election Germany is almost universal in European continent. Only within less than a decade of capitalism's 'irreversible' triumph it is under assault in its citadel - the European Union. The EU seems to have decisively turned its back to a long spell of rightwing politics patronising economic globalisation and Europe's neo-liberal projects. This is not without a reason. The signs of discontent are writ large across the continent where the growth has fallen even below the average growth in the Asia-Pacific, the unemployment has soared and the recession - worst since the decade of thirties - persists. The key words in Europe's economy which is coping with multiple quirks today are slowing down, downsizing, belt tightening and to cap it all, cutback in services. The tax breaks for the rich, blanket privatisation of age-old public sectors, globalisation of finance and production and extensive deregulation have resulted in reducing the GDP growth by 50 per cent and doubling of unemployment. These phenomena aptly apply also to Germany.

After recent rejuvenation of

ties have become pronounced. Earlier in Western Europe, the society was composed of a third of the population suffering, another third gaining a little and the rest prospering. Now only one eighth does well and the rest faces an uncertain future. In Germany the spectre of social and economic deprivation is still more haunting particularly when it comes to the questions of people belonging to former GDR. An invisible line of disparity divides the Germans region wise. The cumulative discontent over such inequalities are rather pervasive and can be gauged from the opinion poll showing more than 70 per cent French and Germans pessimistic about their future.

capitalism, the income dispari-

Given this backdrop it is not surprising that the Germans have voted for an alternative to their existing woes. Giving a political expression to the prevailing discontent, as a matter of fact the whole of Europe has turned to the left hoping that things would be better than what it has been living with. The victory of Britain's new Labour and France's Socialist Party within the time space of only one month has consolidated Europe as a Social Democratic zone. At present there are ten social Democratic Parties in power across Europe either on their own or as the leader of the coalition government. Today centre/left parties run or significantly participate in 13 of the EUs 15 government. Only exception was Germany apart from Spain. So it was almost a foregone conclusion that Germany would fall in line with

But does this ascendancy of the left mean anything in real term? Can there be a return to old style comradely era of politics? A classical resurrection of the creed? An expansionist and big spending agenda for the gov-ernment? and a 'rigid labour market'? No. Because the French Socialists are deemed too antediluvian and British Labour party too rightist and fiscally conservative to make common cause with European socialist agenda. Traditionally anti-communist Germans are too rigid and conservative to allow any radical reforms.

the continent's dominant trend.

Nevertheless, one thing is clear that the Germans like others in European Union are desperately in search of an alternative which may not be a return to the classical left politics of the past. They would not mind any texture the newly sought alternative may adopt But then there will have to be 'changes' to tree them from the cruelty of an untamed capitalism producing inequality-enhancing growth and social insecurity.

## Raiwind, We Have a Problem!

The best advice one can give to his handlers is to remember that whenever a Roman General entered Rome in triumph after his conquests, riding in a chariot and being acclaimed by the Roman world, an old man would stand next to the general, whispering in his ears "remember Caesar, thou art mortal!"

HOSE who have been privileged to have been **L** taught by the former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) Gen (Retd) Jahangir Karamat in the Command and Staff College, Quetta know him to be an eloquent speaker. However, he is also a very reserved person, not given either to small talk or levity. He chooses his remarks with care. In an address to the Naval War College on Oct 4, 1998, he (in his own words) "did not mince words" when describing the situation Pakistan is now placed in, particularly with respect to the internal situation and the decision-making process that has led us pell-mell into dire straits. Within 48 hours thereafter, after a couple of meetings with the PM. Gen Karamat "resigned", three months prior to his retirement on Jan 7, 1999 and was succeeded by the third-in-line in seniority, Lt Gen Pervez Musharrai superseded two

course mates from 29 PMA Lt Gens Ali Kuli Khan, CGS and Khalid Nawaz, QMG. Even in normal circumstances superseding of these two illustrious general officers, given that nothing much separates the three on merit, would have raised eyebrows, the circumstances here borders on the ab-

normal In the real-life movie "Apollo-13", when the US spaceship develops a series of problems that turns critical, the spaceship commander very laconically informs his base in Houston, Texas "Houston, we have a problem!" Since everyone knows that all decisionmaking emanates from the patriarch of the Sharif family, it is only right that all Pakistanis collectively turn to the Sharif homebase, "Raiwind, we have a problem!"

The decision-making process is hardly institutionalised or for that matter democratic. While it speaks very well of the Sharif brethren to give devoted respect to their father and to seek his advice about all the important issues, they hardly have the right to surrender the democratic mandate given to them by the people to the veto of one man. The Sharif patriarch and his geriatric inner circle are arch-conservatives, the person really calling the shots (instead of the PM) is too far right of the vast middle ground that is really Pakistan. The first symbolic public exposure of this farce was when, instead of consulting the cabinet or even his senior party colleagues, or for that matter taking into account the feelings of the smaller provinces. President Tarar was presented as a fait-accompli, shoved down their democratic throats to be more precise. However credit must be given to the government for sensing the mood of the populace and diluting the offending clauses in CA-15.

The inability of the PM's cabinet colleagues (or rather their impotency) in not staying by their conscience and standing up to him on issues that trouble their conscience contributes to ill-considered decision-making by the PM. At the very apex of democratic power, the Federal (and/or Provincial) Cabinet provides the forum for consultation, debate and discussion, not as a rubber-stamp for decisions thrust on them. One or the other cabinet colleague of the PM may have expressed his and/or her reservations from time to time, for the

most part they have acquiesced meekly, knowing that the Sharifs do not take kindly to opposition in any form.

It was a foregone conclusion that the PM and his close colleagues would eventually turn to confrontation with the Army. Mian Nawaz Sharif has not had a happy relationship with any of the four Chiefs of Army Staff he has been privileged to serve with. Let us see if the fifth COAS is an exception. and if so at what cost to the Army as an institution? Mian Nawaz Sharif fell out with Gen Beg. leading to unsubstantiated rumours of an imminent coup

forced to resign (alongwith GIK) in July 1993 by the then COAS Gen Waheed Kakar. This started a lifelong Sharif animosity for Waheed Kakar despite the fact that Kakar himself tried to be fair in insisting that both GIK (his mentor) and Mian Nawaz Sharif go. In fairness it must be said that Waheed Kakar, belonging to a true-blood PML family, was averse to Mian Nawaz Sharif's fondness for ANP and may have thus inadvertently contributed to prejudicing the relationship. The trio of President Leghari, Chief Justice Supreme Court Justice Sajjad Ali Shah and Gen Je-

till Beg's retirement in August hangir Karamat benefited Mian

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### Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

1991. One contributing reason for dissatisfaction being the COAS' reluctance to use the Army to "chase shadows" in Karachi. Soon after the launch of Operation Clean-up in Karachi in 1992, relations worsened with Beg's successor Gen Asif Nawaz Janjua, who reportedly refused to accept a BMW given to him as a gift.

By late 1992, rumours of another imminent coup were circulating, Gen Asif Nawaz's death in early January 1993 only gave a temporary respite, the "agenda" to remove Mian Nawaz Sharif as PM was fulfilled by another mentor, then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK). Temporarily reprieved by the Supreme Court, the PM was Nawaz Sharif by the sacking of Benazir the second time as PM in late 1996. All three are now

Gen Jehangir Karamat has always been the perfect example of an officer and a gentleman. He was by far the most professional Chief that the Pakistan Army ever had, he rose by sheer dint of merit, being the seniormost in line, he was very rightly first obliged for promotion by President Leghari. He brought great maturity to his post and raised the public image of the Army. Not the least of his deeds was to support the government as a matter of principle over the judiciary crisis in late 1997. If either of the two Benazir/Zardari favourites had come to power, Mian Nawaz Sharif would never have become PM (Benazir for that matter would not have lasted long either). Without taking anything

away from the new COAS Gen Pervez Musharraf, who is an above par professional soldier, rising to the rank of Lt Gert-on sheer merit, he has superseded comrades equal if not better than him, both excellent professional soldiers of pedigreed military lineage. In the case of the senior-most officer in the Army Lt Gen Ali Kuli Khan there is a deep sense of deja vu, 40 years to the day, his illustrious father, an outstanding professional soldier. Lt Gen Hábibullah Khan was prematurely retired to allow Gen Musa to eventually become C-in-C despite Gen Habibullah being the obvious choice (head and shoulders above) on merit. Ali Kuli was not chosen as COAS because of any demerits, his problems stem from the facts of his obvious merits, that he is perhaps the finest human being one has been privileged to know, that this Sandhurst-educated soldier (belonging to one of NWFP's finest families and affluent thereof in his own right), has remained a professional career soldier throughout his service, a most humble and gracious person with tremendous strength of character, a God-fearing Muslim who prays five times a day without wearing Islam on his sleeves. Lt Gen Ali Kuli Khan is a strong personality who brings lustre and respect to an Army that badly needs it. It is unfortunate for this country that he seems to have come short in the

Sharif perception. Gen Pervez Musharraf has

his work cut out for him as COAS, the most powerful post in Pakistan, Mian Nawaz Sharif's "victory" notwithstanding. The seat of the COAS endows awesome responsibility on a person, loyalty first to the country and then to the Army, before that to any one individual. Can the new COAS isolate the Army from the deteriorating internal and external situation that his predecessor spoke of that led to his "resignation"? Will he be able to control the young Turks who will tend to believe the "Observer" stories about corruption and thus demand accountability? Will he be able to stop the erosion of his own authority in Cardinal's club of Corps Commanders as they start being approached directly to ensure their loyalty? Will he be able to set the same standards of uprightness, competence and integrity of that of his immediate predecessor, a set of principle that led Gen Karamat to resign rather than accept the situation? And what are his own personal views about the sorry impasse that the present government has brought us into, internally and externally?. Will he be able to separate. like Gen Karamat, conscience from responsibility in the final analysis?

And what about the "Giant-Killer" himself?. Twice he has rid himself of recalcitrant COAS', will it go to Mian Nawaz Sharif's head that he is Omnipotent? The best advice one can give to his handlers is to remember that whenever a Roman General entered Rome in triumph after his conquests, riding in a chariot and being acclaimed by the Roman world, an old man would stand next to the general, whispering in his ears "remember Caesar, thou

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

### Traffic control

Sir. The administration must be appreciated for taking the necessary steps to deploy the Military Police personals in controlling the traffic in certain parts of the Dhaka metropolis. The mess that our streets have turned into due to the indiscipline and 'free for all attitude' of the vehicle drivers was becoming unacceptable. One can see the difference that the Military Police is making if one travels from the old airport up to Baridhara. I hope that, as recommended by the Prime Minister, they will be used to bring the traffic under control in other parts of the city.

It is already proven what the city roads need is more discipline and respect to the law. Unfortunately we needed stern action to follow the system. I congratulate the Police, the Military and the Administration for working together to bring the city traffic under some semblance of control. The citizens are to be congratulated too for adhering to the new strictness and appreciating the benefit in terms of time saving and hassle-free movement.

Akku Chowdhury Banani, Dhaka

## Planning for high

flood cycles Sir, If, as it appears, the high flood cycles are occurring after gaps of about 10 years (the last high floods occurred in 1988), it would be uneconomical to plan for 100 per cent for high waterlines, but the rate of silt rise per inch per year has to be kept in view for any 5- or 10-year Plan. realising that it is almost impossible to remove even one per cent of the silt from the selected operational areas.

On the other hand, the cyclone and flood/rain cycles shift also geographically from zone to zone: as did the Bay cyclones of the 1970s, and shifted due East towards the China Sea and the Sea of Japan.

We have a pretty good acquaintance with the flood behaviour in this country, and had set up a framework of basic infrastructure during the last few decades, including damage control measures.

The revised master plan to handle floods and cyclones during the next 10-20 years have to be injected with reinforced details and modifications to handle part of the high waterline problems of damage, rescue and rehabilitation. The cost will be too much for

a developing country, even in phases; while the foreign component of the aid would be limited, and also tapering, as gleaned from the current fluctuating global money markets. The master plan design concepts may be got prepared and approved now with foreign technical assistance and consultancy projects, so that later, the same could be implemented using local HR, without much paperwork and alignment of

One study, as a precautionary exercise, would be to examine the overall integrated effect (positive and negative) of constructing hundreds of small and medium dams and embankments in Bangladesh during the last 50 years; remembering that we are located in a vast deltaic region, where any human tam-pering to natural flow (the flow is huge) might produce unexpected results.

For example, how the heavy earthworks around the new BB Jamuna bridge contributed to severe floods in new non-traditional areas of Bogra and Sirajganj? No body knows, hence a computer simulation study would be cheap, quick, and enlightening.

It is hoped that the changing morphology created by the current floods would be studied in detail for future planning.

A Zabr Dhaka

### Illegal connections

Sir, It is reported in the newspaper that there are about 4000 illegal power connections in Dhaka city slums only. The

DESA employees are making money at the cost of tax-payers and enjoying higher standard of living than their legal earnings permit. The DESA is accounting about 40 per cent systems loss due to inefficiency and corruptions of their system and employees.

Now, one simple question

can be raised: Why the public/consumer pay the DESA/PDB employees to get electric supply? The answer is also simple - they need electricity! They also need water and gas for their consumption. If these services are not made available easily and legally, they will get them illegally wherever and whenever possible. If someone tries to get new electric connection or to get an extension of load with new metre, he has to go through a lengthy procedure, untold sufferings, paying tips and bribes and wait for an indefinite period to get the approval and the

connection. The system is so complicated and lengthy that it needs more than 60 signatures to get the approval for the connections. The applicant needs to run after the file from table to table, person to person, costing money and time. The short cut and easy way to avoid all these embarrassment is to pay the DESA/PDB employees to get the connection immediately. The complicated system of getting electric connection is prohibiting, discouraging and encourages people to go through easier

but islegal and corrupt options. If the government is sincere in eradicating systems loss due to illegal connections, I would suggest the following action to

implement urgently: 1. Make all possible illegal connections legal by installing metres and receiving deposits and bills as per rule without failure. A metre can be for in-

dividual or for a small group. 2. Anybody not willing to make his/her connection legal by paying should face jail/fine on spot judgement by a magistrate and be sent to jail straight

3. Make a system that anybody applying for a domestic power supply in a supply area must get it within 72 hours. without fail. If any delay due to negligence from DESA/PDB

employees should be punished. 4. The power disconnection drives for illegal connections are futile exercises as those connections are restored overnight. The defaulters should face legal actions such as crockes if they fail to make payments.

Abul Hashem Khan Baizid Bostami R/A, Chittagong

### Congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition

Sir, The Leader of the Opposition deserves congratulations for her announcement to work unitedly with the government to mitigate the sufferings of the people at this time of national

It indicates her farsightedness and sense of rising to the occasion at the time of need. We also hope the BNP leader will

give the same priority in matters of national interest like industrial investment, trade unionism and student politics G U Z Abdur Rob DOHS, Dhaka.

### "A Martyr of Rarest Kind"

Sir. The above titled editorial in the DS issue of 3 September, '98 was a unique tribute to late Saiful Islam Mukul, editor of Kushtia's Run-

We have no adequate words to express our grief at the news of his death. He sacrificed his life for a noble cause of true journalism with courage and integrity. Like his father, Mukul is a martyr of rarest

kind in true sense of the term. Let us hope that his sacrifice and noble deeds will be acknowledged by naming a road after him in Kushtia. It would certainly groom the young journalists to work selflessly to fight out the evils of falsehood

We salute the editors of the

national dailies for their thoughtfulness to attend his chehlum in a body at Kushtia. Meanwhile we look forward to seeing books on Mukul's life and his work in the field of journalism.

Abul Ahsraf Noor House#9, Road#4 Sector#5, Uttara Dhaka-1230

in our society.