Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Monday, October 19, 1998

JU: What Next? The united action by a section of teachers and students at Jahangirnagar University was both unique and heroic. The university authorities first fumbled in their response but later recovered to ferret out the rapists through various measures. And what happened then? The university punished some of the 13 accused and this was found to be inadequate by all quarters - without an exception. The main culprit was expelled for life from the university. What does that mean? Who wanted to spend a lifetime at the university anyway? And outsiders are always more powerful in all the universities. The other proven rapists can come back to the university after a year or two. Ludicrous!

The right course for the university would have been to deal those that they found to be guilty the maximum they could by way of punishment i.e. expulsion and cancellation of all of their academic certificates and more.

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association on Saturday called for criminal proceedings to be drawn against the 13 and the setting up of a judicial probe into these and related crimes occurring on the JU campus over the last 10 years.

The nation's laws are not yet so equipped as to deal with a situation of serial rape incidents where the victims do not go to law for justice. Now how to make up for the inadequacy of law?

JUTA's call for a judicial probe to be conducted by a Supreme Court judge partly answers the question. The terms of reference must include the responsibility to suggest enactment and amendment of laws so as situations like JU's can be justly treated and healed. For the probe to succeed as an action against the revolting realities of JU the spirit that pinned the mighty mastans on the wall must be sustained.

And there, and not in the probe or even in the laws, present or future, lies the true answer to the rule of the rapists. The students and teachers, divided as they are into so many groups having as many or more ideas and outlooks, must stand as one against violent crimes on the campus. Their unity and resolve must be able to persuade the political parties into disciplining the student parties.

It was a wonderful ambience at the JU with man and woman scholars ambling about lending colour and life to the campus. Unfailing vigilance and united action can only bring back that soul-filling atmosphere to JU.

Sign of Indo-Pak Maturity

The hitherto stalemated Indo-Pak dialogue has restarted in earnest. The first-ever substantive talks between Indian Foreign Secretary K Reghunath and his Pakistan counterpart Shamshad Ahmad since the two countries went nuclear in May have just ended on a realistic and forwardlooking note in Islamabad. Both sides being seized of the intractability of the core issues confronting them did not expect any magical solutions to ensue from one or two diplomatic engagements like the Islamabad one. That is where realism has lain. And the outcome can be definitely described as forward-looking because they have settled for an on-going process of dialogue without leaving in a huff over any temporary setbacks. India and Pakistan have agreed to hold further talks in November and January. We welcome the stepping out of the cul-de-sac.

The Islamabad talks occasioned a sea-change from the semantic differences over the order of agenda which had spoilt many an effort for a dialogue in the past. This time at the talks 'nuclear restraint' was discussed on October 16 and Kashmir on October 17. Both sides were understandably reticent in making the details available to the press at this stage; but we read a very positive sign into whatever little has trickled from the Islamabad talks. For, they have palpably responded to the new security environment in South Asia, one that was born of their nuclear testings in May. Although the encounter in Islamabad has been a confidence-builder of sorts, both countries have a long way to go before real confidence-building measures are put in place, not only to the benefit of India and Pakistan but also for the rest of South Asia.

A mortal danger faces India and Pakistan if they should persist in exercising their lethal non-conventional options to a point of launching on a fullfledged nuclear arms race. The world needn't tell the two countries about the consequences, they themselves realise the same only too well. Internationally both countries stand committed to signing the CTBT, and bilaterally, we believe, they would be able to work out a 'nuclear restraint' sooner than later for their own sakes and in the interest of SAARC and world peace.

Tragedy in Karachi

Hakim Mohammad Saeed — the name is enough for cognoscenti in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh - is dead. He was killed in Karachi on Saturday morning by unidentified assailants. With him died his close associate Abdul Quadir Quarishi and bodyguard Wail Mohammad, by the same burst of automatic fire opened by the assassins when at six he arrived at the Hamdard Clinic to minister medication to patients. Hakim Saeed is said to have

treated free thirty lakh patients in his 76-year life. A devout Muslim, Hakim Mohammed Saeed was known for his catholicity of mind and deep and wide learning. Mixing with all and sundry he, however, never compromised with his aristocratic tastes. Born in Delhi he developed from a small unani dispensing unit the giant Hamdard Trust now straddling the whole of the subcontinent. He was sometimes the Governor of Sind. More relevantly, under his guidance, Hamdard is busy building a Tk 500 crore complex in Bangladesh.

While we deeply mourn such a tragic end to so noble a soul we shudder for the umpteenth time to think of the realities of the city of Karachi. And what is Karachi but a reflection of the unwieldy state of affairs of Pakistan. Nobody would be happy with the insecurity that haunts the Karachi citizens and the uncertainty that is overtaking the Islamabad government, resorting to the Sharia law as a last ditch stand to stop tottering down.

We pray for Hakim Saeed's weal in the other world and for an early recovery of Pakistan in this.

Wye River Summit

The exchange of information on possible terrorist attacks and appropriate steps to stop those on both sides may

gradually bring back some confidence among the ordinary people. After all, a great majority on both sides

(Israelis 82 per cent and Palestinians even more) now believes in peace. But the major problems are to be

solved.

Is "Israeli-Palestinian Partnership" in the Offing?

FTER nearly 18 months of standstill position when M-E peace process was being revived, thanks to the untiring efforts of Secretary Albright under the direct instance of President Clinton, Prime Minister Netanyahu appointed Ariel Sharon, the most hawkish member of his party, as the Foreign Minister and peace negotiator. Sharon is a threat to peace and an affront to Palestinians as put by Hannan Ashrawi. It seems that Sharon and peace do not go together.. He is the man who was largely responsible for the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatilla in Lebanon in 1982. He said the other day that he would never shake the hand of Arafat. He is not Yitshak Rabin, a General turned man of peace. However, here one may detect Netanyahu's political gamble. Any peace deal at Wye Plantation on 13 per cent Israeli withdrawal may bring down Netanyahu's government as rightist elements including Sharon are likely to withdraw. By taking Sharon on board he might have minimised that possibility. But he runs the risk of turning the peace forum in Wye River into a battle field unless Sharon is watched carefully and allowed only a

marginal role to play. Netanyahu had a noisy send off to Washington from Israeli settlers who vowed to continue to stay in their biblical promised land regardless of what happens in Wye River.

President Clinton has been pressing for breaking the logjam as it is in the interest of both Israelis and Palestinians to reach peace which is long overdue. He asked both parties to remember that "peace is more than a process, it is, in the end, a destination. * Neither side can expect to win 100 percent of every point but concessions that seem hard now will seem far less important in the light of an accord that moves

Israelis and Palestinians closer to lasting peace," President Clinton added. The present US effort is, however, seen by many as a move by White House to deflect domestic attention on the impeachment process which may ultimately end up in no impeachment at all. Though Netanyahu initially showed reluctance on the summit, he saw merit in keeping the White House happy as the future of Bill Clinton does not seem that uncertain. The other reason for Netanyahu's agreement to summit was Arafat's recent threat of using General Assembly forum to indicate the possibility of unilateral declaration of Palestinian State in May

Apparently, the US administration has set up a mini Camp David in Wye River Plantation in Maryland, away from the glare of TV camera. It wanted to use the Camp David experience for another M-E peace agreement. In the quieter environment the leaders get the chance to reflect more on the important issues that divide them and look for solutions that would be good for their people. This is exactly what happened in clinching Oslo Accord. Both the parties worked in virtual secrecy for a long time that produced Oslo Accord. President Clinton opened the negotiations formally but said he would drop in any time his assistance is needed. Secretary Albright remained in Wye River to oversee the negotiations. President's preoccupations are well known but still he decided to do everything possible to help find an acceptable interim peace agreement that may lead both parties to the "final sta-

tus" negotiations. The issues on the negotiating

table are many but the most pressing ones are: more land for Palestinians out of occupied land and security guarantee for the Israelis. Undoubtedly, the issues are linked and can be dealt with effectively if both sides show enough flexibility. The basic demand of the Palestinians that Israelis must go back to pre-1967 border remains valid but unfortunately situation on the ground has changed dramatically. Large areas of the occupied land and particularly of East Jerusalem have been used for construction of Jewish settlements, offices, and other purposes. Therefore, it will not be easy for Netanyahu to agree to abandon

tinian populated areas. This issue is very complicated and must be tackled appropriately at the time of negotiating the final status". Security is a serious problem

for both Israelis and Palestinians. Israelis face terrorist attacks from radical Palestinians and particularly from the members of Hamas. Recent reports show that Palestinian Authority has been trying to curb terrorist activities but terrorists, undoubtedly a bunch of determined people, can always find ways to reach their targets. Even Yitshak Rabin could not escape despite Israel's best antiterrorist forces. However, the demand of Israelis for proper



Spotlight on Middle East Muslehuddin Ahmad

those areas in favour of Palestinians unless he is offered appropriate compensations. The idea of an agreed tract of land belonging to both parties to be kept as nature's reserve appears realistic in order to keep the two feuding communities apart. Details are to be worked out for policing those areas, if necessary initially by the US or international forces. The problems will arise in Jerusalem and particularly in the area of East Jerusalem where there cannot be any nature's reserve - the area is too crowded and the two communities dangerously overlap. The situation has been more complicated by confiscation of Palestinian land and establishment of Jewish settlement in the Pales-

security is valid as innocent people are generally the targets. Arafat is right when he said he could make 100 per cent efforts but no one could give 100 per cent results. Here the world will look for the real commitment of Palestinian Authority and if the commitment is real the results are bound to improve which may lead to better confidence between the two peoples. To follow up the commitments Arafat has to talk to the Hamas leaders and take some of the moderate members on board as Netanyahu has done with his ultra-rightist members including Ariel Sharon. It is high time to do this as otherwise they will continue to undermine the

Both parties will have to ef-

peace accords.

fectively deal with the ultrarightist elements as they are too many on both sides. Hamas is well known but Jewish settlers are no less dangerous. Look at Hebron. 400 Jewish settlers live and live with vengeance among 120,000 Palestinians. These 400 settlers are guarded by over 2000 Israeli security forces, still the situation remains volatile and indeed many a time out of control. They even made the grave of Baruch Goldstein, the Jewish settler who murdered 29 Muslim worshippers, a shrine which was declared illegal by the government but many settlers visit the grave regularly.

As the reports show, the

place looks like a battle field,

residents ever prepared to at tack one another. " No one understands the special resonance of Hebron better than those who live the experiment: a Jewish settler, Orit Struck, mother of nine, who declares " I am a soldier on the front line of a battle": a Palestinian Hebronite like Mafida Sharabati, mother of seven, grand mother of 18, who says, "Peace with these people? Don't make me laugh.' Jewish Colonel guarding the settlers says, " Hebron is a city without normal days. ... If it is quiet, it's only on the surface. Quiet is a fiction because the hatred and violence continue to sizzle just beneath. It takes nothing, a tiny provocation and boom, the blood is shed". While discussing security the leaders will have to take into account

the case like Hebron. The case of Hebron may look extreme to many but the animosity and the hatred are so deep and have been there for such a long time that Wye River hand shake may not ease the situation unless very practical

confidence building measures are taken. The spirit of Wye handshake must travel down to the people through the efforts of the leaders themselves. They must visit one another regularly and sort out the problems at the ground level. The exchange of information on possible terrorist attacks and appropriate steps to stop those on both sides may gradually bring back some confidence among the ordinary people. After all, a great majority on both sides Israelis 82 per cent and Palestinians even more) now believes in peace. But the major problems are to be solved.

Several negotiating committees are now engaged in Wye River. The Israeli withdrawal from 13% per cent of more land of West Bank with 3 per cent nature's reserve appears settled. The security commitment from Palestinian Authority is there but modalities are to be worked out. Apparently CIA has been involved in the security arrangement and it is expected to work better. Israeli government has to agree not to impose travel restrictions or close the borders on flimsy grounds for Palestinians working in Israel. Any temporary closure, if at all necessary, should be well discussed and agreed with the Palestinian Authority. This will make any closure even for a temporary period meaningful.

The negotiating committees should give final clearance to safe passage-link road between Gaza and West bank and also the opening of Gaza airport. All formalities, as far as possible. should be completed also for the sea-port.

President Clinton has reportedly given the deadline of Monday, October 19, and the parties have been asked to come up with an agreed text. This means President Clinton is seriously looking forward to an acceptable solution otherwise it seems that the U S would reconsider its position vis-à-vis the M-E peace process.

Power Play

Everything said and done, the fact remains we live in an unfair world where merit has no place, in fact merit is a disqualifier. There should have been some finesse in the handling, the perception of gunpoint negotiation could have been avoided for the sake of our economy. Whatever the merits of our case, the long-term implications are adverse. In the power sector, we are seeing power play in real time.

ASISEEIT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

Stock Exchange (KSE) plummet by record levels because of the HUBCO crisis, the Government of Pakistan (GOP) having filed various criminal charges against the management. Subsequently GOP went ahead and cancelled the power contracts of HUBCO and Kot Adu Power Company (KAPCO), with National Power Company of UK playing a prominent role in the management of both. The ongoing negotiations with IMF may be affected, foreign direct investment may be a long-term casualty.

HIS week saw the Karachi

A great majority of professionals, particularly in the financial field are decrying the heavy-handed tactics of GOP. led in this case by Senator Saifur Rahman of the Ehtesab Bureau (EB). Their contention is that the tough tactics mechanism of using FIA and police will deter foreigners from any financial commitment to Pakistan. On the other hand GOP seems to have done its homework in being confident about applying the stick rather heavily. HUBCO seems to have been roller-coaster profit ride based on amendments contrary to the spirit and content of the original contract.

These additional clauses gave them windfall profits, allowing HUBCO's sponsors to recover their entire equity in less than a year's time, a "miraculous achievement" even in terms of capitalism gone crazy. That certainly must arouse suspicion if not outright doubt as to the integrity of the entire process.

Like in the case of Ms Benazir Bhutto whom he has by the short hairs, Senator Saifur Rahman needs to be commended for a job being well done in the case of HUBCO and KAPCO. One may not agree with

Saif on a great many issues but HUBCO and KAPCO are great scams which needed to be exposed as they would have otherwise looted the Pakistan treasury bare. In existence from the 80s HUBCO scam was actually engineered by ex-World Bank official Ebrahim Elawan in connivance with senior power officials in Pakistan, a Singaporean named Brian Cheng oined the looter's bandwagon

The expensive consultancy which was being financed by USAID against Pakistan's account was given to K&M Engineering, a US firm that had no track record of such a great project. Mike Kappas (for K) and Charles Menendez (for M) were ex-Bechtel employees who formed this new company specifically to get this lucrative running contract till the project came into being.

For many years this was the only cash cow the Washingtonbased Consultants had to keep afloat. Almost every component of HUBCO has been overinvoiced, when normally the project cost up to 500 MW is \$ 0.9 million per MW and less than \$ 0.8 million per MW of beyond 1000 MW, this project should have cost less than \$ 1 billion for its 1200 MW, how did it end up costing \$ 1.6 billion and where did this extra \$ 600 million go, into whose pockets? As if that loot was not enough, in order that the project recovers the extra cost incurred, the management got a bunch of crooked Pakistani officials to sign off on an Amendment that

enues at the cost of the people of

Pakistan. No doubt, Pakistan's hamhandedness looks bad for foreign investment, do they deserve any quarter? Would they be less harshly treated for white-collar crime in the US and UK? Everything said and done, the fact remains we live in an unfair world where merit has no place, in fact merit is a disqualifier. There should have been some finesse in the handling, the perception of gunpoint negotiation could have been avoided for the sake of our economy. Whatever the merits

plications are adverse. In the

power sector, we are seeing

Minister flew back in a hurry

from Washington to take part

in the CA-15 Bill deliberations

in the National Assembly. The

original draft was a non-starter

and it has been diluted consid-

erably though one daresays, it

can still be misused by un-

scrupulous leaders bent on

short-circuiting the system.

More importantly, Ishaq Dar

gave an important Press Con-

ference in which he strongly re-

futed speculation in the media

that IMF talks in Washington

with Pakistan had broken

down. This perception had

The Federal Commerce

power play in real time.

emerged after GOP announced a very welcome 30 per cent reduction in electricity tariffs which gave consumers relief across

the board On the other hand it was rumored that in absolute contrast GOP had agreed to 15 per cent tariff hike as well: devaluation of the Pakistani Rupee. There is a perception here of deliberate confrontation adopted by the PM in playing to a populist people's gallery in the mold of the Bhuttos, father and daughter. This may not be conducive to smooth understanding with the IMF but rather may be a politiof our case, the long term im- cian's ploy to adopt a martyr's

mantle. Analysts across the

broad spectrum braced them-

selves to assume the worst, KSE

index fell dizzingly as a com-

posite result. One tends to give

credence to Ishaq Dar when he

says that IMF seems to have

softened its original condi-

tionalities at the insistence of

logic is that while policy vis-a-

vis conditionalities are firmed

up in Washington, for negotiat-

ing the actual document the

IMF team is due in Pakistan

anytime, why should they come

to Pakistan if there is an im-

passe? Certainly there are ob-

stacles but it seems IMF may

have come to the conclusion

The reason to support this

Pakistan.

istan's already-precarious economic situation. We are in a deep black hole economically with no lifebouys in sight. Ishaq Dar being very articu-

late and forceful in his presentation, one wonders why he is not being anointed as the Federal Finance Minister when he seems to be in the saddle already, at least he would be a better negotiator than the rubber stamp Hafeez Pasha whose total experience may be very knowledgeable but is mostly theoretical. We seem to be in a power play situation full time. As everyone knows, it is the

that the consequences of default

are far more dangerous for Pak-

traditional right in the Army of every Commanding Officer at every level to chose his own crop of close aides and slot in subordinates according to his own perception of what suits his command. With a good crop of Lt Gens to play around with, the selections have been routine, though the media has played it up as would befit a 'Kabbadi" match. When one General and two senior Lt Generals retire together, a whole set of permutations and combinations come into play that would normally be routine but the circumstances here are abnormal This has caused speculation in

the general public. Mian Nawaz Sharif has moved his real preference for COAS i.e. Lt Gen Ziauddin, formerly Engineer Corps, using his prerogative as PM to the sensitive post of DG ISI, very much in the manner late Lt Gen SR Kallue was brought in by Ms Benazir even though he was al-

ready retired. It should be interesting to see how the new COAS swallows this. In this critical stage, someone like Lt Gen Afzal Janjua, presently Comd 5 Corps at Karachi, with long experience in ISI could perhaps have fared far better. Zia may be a fine officer but could be out of his depth (or worse, isolated) in this vital

The rest of the Army belongs to the COAS and it is his (and only his) prerogative to shuffle his commanders in the best interest of the Service rather than at any bidding from outside.

Professional soldiers do not take kindly to any outside interference, political or otherwise. The present COAS has a reputation as a thinking professional, extremely sensitive to the fundamental perquisites of the uniform which is duty to the nation and the Army, in that order, to the exclusion of everything else. The nation is faced with grave external and internal dangers, for the first time after 1971 the Armed Forces have their work cut out on two fronts, they have to be left alone to perform their pro-

fessional duties. So instead of speculation in the media or the rumour machine, we should LEAVE THE ARMY ALONE.

A power play did take place on Oct 7, 1998 and even though Mian Nawaz Sharif seems to have come out ahead, he should thank his lucky stars he had Gen Jehangir Karamat to contend with, a mild man with a gentlemanly demeanour known not only for his superior intellect but a firm commitment to democracy. If the inclination of the politicians to indulge in power play in the uniformed ranks persists, the PM may well have sufficient cause to remember JK with a lot of nostalgia. sooner rather than later.

Another usual day at T&T

Sir, My sufferings for getting my telephone line shifted is not yet over. This has happened today (October 15) when I went to Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Telephone office. The office has three alternative days for general people to submit/collect (and to pass fines from one table to another table....as if it is not T&T's part of job) papers for shifting/new connection

Thursday was one of the public day. I went to the table from where my demand note would be issued. But the person was not there. We were told that the person was sent by higher officer to GPO for a job (official or personal?). There was no one to attend his table and as a result we 8 people were waiting and chewing the gossip of other people. I waited for one and a half hours and saw few desperately deciding to wait more....but I remain to ask myself, "why do they go outside office when they fix schedule for public? It is not us who decided the day....what kind of courtesy it is?"

People may argue that they might have some urgent business outside office. Yes, they may have....but where is the alternative support system? Why it was necessary for a person to go out where he is already scheduled for attending many like us? Some were saying that he is the only one who can handle cases come to his table. I think there is a serious problem with the working style and system not with the person sits in

that chair. Only God knows....how

many HURDLES shall I cross before I hear a dialing tone in my own telephone set. Or will there be a day when the telephone will ring and say.... "Good morning. This is T&T at your service. Thanks for giving us opportunity to serve you....."

gave HUBCO astronomical rev-

John Martin Dhaka

... then, there must be a flaw ...

Sir. Thank you for the elaborate story on failure of the automated trading system published on 11 October.

While someone said in his column that network collision is very common, I would politely beg to differ.

The term called "security" in a networked environment comes exactly because of such scenarios, and one would expect that this type of systems which handle financial transactions, must be secure, fault-tolerant, and robust.

In both the bourses, IBM systems were offered, and in Dhaka Stock Exchange, IBM did win the tender, and got a letter of intent as well.

many different reasons, and it also stopped perusing its offer. This is known to all who mattered in the decision-making process in both places, in

Things went against IBM for

this matter. Yet, the news prompts me to once again claim that IBM's Systems Security in such matters remains the best. If the IP addresses were not locked and secured in the Sys-. tem, (prompted by the IT manager, of course), then there must

be a basic flaw somewhere. That is all that we can gather from the report published. May God help the traders!

Sajjad Hossain

Lynching comes to Bangladesh

Sir, There is a disturbing trend in the society, needing immediate deterrent action. The newspapers are full of stories daily of lynching of terrorists or by the terrorists. Nowadays extortionists and muggers are being chased and caught by the crowd, and then mercilessly beaten up by the members of the public, resulting in frequent deaths.

The people seem to have lost faith in police action, and feel frustrated at the indifference shown by the Administration in according the issue a very low priority. Today the weak and meek are the victims, but a time may come soon when groups and powerful public figures would be the victims. The internal party feuds are already taking violent turns. Violence is being used as a solution. What is the reaction of the authority? The government had to look

at every facet of the illnesses of the society to instill public confidence. We hear more platitudes than action plans. Plans are announced from time to time, but there is a huge gap in implementation, and the quality of the service leaves much to be desired.

The image of governance has to be improved. Cumulative public grievances are danger-

ous, and later it becomes diffi cult to handle too many issues simultaneously. Nip it in the bud. Why the administration cannot become tough from time to time?

A Zabr Dhaka

"Clandestine radio..."

Sir, My attention was drawn to the news item which came on the front page of The Daily Star on 15th of Oct 1998. T&T and Betar has come to dispute who is to perform the detection of this unauthorised transmis-

sion. Technically speaking it is the job of the Ministry of BT&T to possess and operate adequate direction finding equipment to detect any and all unauthorised frequencies. Until BT&T was stripped of its regulatory role it was the job of MOPTT.

However, practical situation is neither BT&T nor MOPTT has necessary DF equipment or organisation to monitor, detect and put to stoppage any unauthorised transmission.

It may be mentioned that a mobile unit was procured during the last days of Pakistan to detect unauthorised VHF transmissions. After liberation this vehicle was stripped of its equipment and transformed into a pleasure vehicle by the then management group. After that BT&T never procured or operated equipment for frequency monitoring and detection. It is quite evident that even after 27 years of independence, we are still unaware what are minimum essentials for an independent country.

We have many a priority to look for other than to see if our national rear is covered or not.

Nurul Basher Khilgaon, Dhaka

rehabilitation programmes Sir, Now that the flood water

Post-flood

is fast receding at almost all places, the question how to cope with the post-flood rehabilitation assumes major importance. In spite of the grandiose plans, hopeful announcements etc. of the government agencies and others, the affected people do not see how the massive problems will be tackled. In my opinion, serious attention has to be given to the following: 1) Assistance in house building: 2) supplying seeds and seedlings for fresh planting; 3) supplying agricultural inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides; and 4) providing medical and veterinary services for the people and

the domestic cattle, poultry etc. It is also necessary that with the house building assistance plan provisions and facilities must be made for ensuring safe water supply (through repairing and installing new tube wells and development of systems for removing iron, arsenic etc. from tubewell water) and sanitary latrines. People should also be motivated, trained and encouraged for setting up kitchen vegetable gardens (also herbal gardens for conventional medicine) and household waste management facilities through setting up composting pits and cheap biogas plants.

The concept of primary health care, resource management, fuel savings through adaptation of solar technology, family planning and universal primary education should also be introduced with renewed vigour into the rural society.

Prof Dr S S M A Khorasani Dhaka University

JU(dgement)

Sir, I draw your attention to the news items and editorials on recent events of JU published in the DS. In this connection I would like to draw your attention again to the fact that JU Teachers Association observed three-day strike in protest against reported assault on Ms Rehnuma Ahmed, a teacher of JU.

I wonder why the teachers went for a strike when an enquiry committee was working and the committee was instructed to submit the report within three days.

It is also interesting to note that the media failed to criticise the strike call. The media. however, did not fail to criticise in bitter words when the Chittagong Port workers resorted to strike. Is this because the university teachers belong to the upper strata of the society or influential? I think judgement of the media should be neutral and impartial.

Azad Rahman Segunbagicha,

Dhaka