The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

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Grabbers on Prowl

Works Minister Md. Nasim is on record to have demurred publicly over a noticeable tendency among certain people to grab government's khas land in the metropolis. If such predatory hordes could play foul with state property with impunity there is no telling what a cake-walk it must have been for them in regard to private lands they had eyed on to grab.

They have made all this into a profession. And if one were to seriously study their tyrannical hold on the society one would invariably find out that in a sense it is worse than the underworldish tales of drug, child and woman traffickers. For, here the devilry is staged overland by openly muscling into a plot of land under the protective umbrella of some powerful nexus or by manufacturing documents on the sly to create legal justifications for their claim on a piece of land.

The latest case in point is the land-grabbing bid into Osmany Uddyan, one of the few breathing spaces the city is now left with. Its legally embattled three acres is where an influential group wanted to raise a shopping complex on the plea that they had a court decree for it. Following newspaper reports the government had evicted the occupiers with the ownership of the park passing into DCC's hands. The DCC is now bracing up to fighting it out in the court.

Whenever newspapers have flashed stories of land-grabbing setting off a rather simmering reaction and not quite a public outcry the illegal occupiers would beat a strategic retreat only to be at it again as the dusts settled, this time indulging in interpolation or paper-tampering by way of seeking a legal cover for their misdeed. All our executive and legal instruments must come into full play now to deal with such encroachments on our prime lands with an iron hand. Osmany Uddyan is a test case where no powerful minister should even unwittingly acquiesce in.

Whether it is outright physical occupation of land or any attempted stranglehold on it through fictitious documentation the issue of land-grabbing poses a serious threat to law and order and the very essence of civic life which is crucially reliant on a stout defence of the principle of land or asset ownership. Litmus test of governance will be in saving our prime lands from the scowling hungry eyes of scavengers.

Healer as Predator

News about violence against the human person and dignity has become all too common in the country's newspapers. But one particular item in a vernacular daily published yesterday cannot but shock even the most stoical of minds. The item reports arrest of a doctor, accused of raping a female patient and her minor daughter.

Setting aside the details of this particular incident, the allegations brought against the doctor raise a whole host of questions. The medical profession — like that of the police — is one of few institutions to which the general public look for guidance and protection. Patients place an extraordinary degree of trust in doctors, which makes the latter all the more responsible for the physical and mental welfare of the former. When allegations of rape of a patient are brought against a doctor, then the crime is likely to generate even more revulsion than it does at other times. The doctor, the healer, cannot be a predator, in the same way the police, the protector, cannot be a violator.

The incident produces another opportunity to address the larger question of the profession's accountability and redress for the aggrieved. There are far too many allegations of negligence and other unpardonable offences against doctors. These offences are unpardonable simply because patients' lives are at stake, and there is no room for negligence. It is certainly the responsibility of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) to establish a sense of professional, moral and social responsibility in the profession. But all forms of dereliction of duty, such as wrong diagnosis or treatment which lead to physical harm of patients, have to be dealt with as well, by the BMA as well as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The government may also take this opportunity to formulate a tough code of conduct for doctors, and a system of redress for patients who suffer due to doctors' negligence.

Failed Flight

You can count on Biman doing something not perhaps done by any other airlines, something quite unheard of in aviation history. Some gem of an achievement in reverse. Now that it isn't caring a lot about domestic air communication, one thought that things would improve on its international operations. That has been proven wrong. The latest proof has hurt 85 passengers, among them many foreigners, by its failure to materialise its Monday 1 pm flight to Hong Kong. The Biman carrier did not simply take off in the remaining 11 hours of the day. And add to that nine more hours of the following day. The third rescheduling put the flight at 9 am Tuesday. We don't know what happened to that.

Biman blamed all this on a technical reason typhoon alert in the China Sea or thereabout. But this was very unconvincing and passengers having direct and constant communication with Hong Kong said there was no typhoon brewing anywhere at least in the knowledge of that city.

Strongly persuasive was the other reason put out by some that Biman failed to find someone competent and qualified to fly its machine to Hong Kong. Two pilots were contacted and both refused. How is that for an explanation? This is quite probable as Biman has a past record of crew not reporting to fly on flimsy and almost hilarious grounds - forcing cancellation of flights.

This is a wholly unacceptable situation. It would be very interesting to know how much time and care and quality service it takes to mend the dent such incidents make on the Biman's image and business.

Why Micro-credit for Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation initiative should be self-reliant. It should be self-financing with minimum dependence

on external financial subsidy. Welfare based on charity can neither be long lasting nor extensive.

HERE is enough food, yet people go hungry. Why? The answer came from Professor Amartya Sen in his insightful analysis of famine in Bangladesh and Ethiopia. There was no shortage of food in Bangladesh in 1974. Due to natural calamities, flood and drought in particular, rural poor in certain areas of the country lost opportunities to work and earn the vital income to buy the food. In fact lack of employment and therefore income goes much beyond an emerging famine induced by natural calamities. If the fields widespread than South-east remain without crops, it means Asia, economic growth was not no work for many and sustains sufficient to make a significant vicious circle poverty and deprivation. Therefore, how do dent on poverty. The case for a separate stratwe break that vicious of circle so that income is sustained, regardless of flood or drought. Thereafter, once the vicious circle is broken, how a continuous growth in income can be ensured so that the poverty stricken rural household can build up sufficient asset base

and permanently get out of poverty. The issue ultimately boils down to effective programme delivery for poverty alleviation. Several approaches have been tried with varying degrees of success or failure. First, no separate programme for poverty alleviation may be necessary since the general strategy for economic growth should generate employment in expanding manufacturing and service sectors and if export growth can be sustained, the wage level will keep on increasing sustaining higher levels of income growth. It did happen

HE Royal Swedish

Academy of Sciences has

A awarded Nobel Prize for

the year 1998 to Amartya Sen

for his "several key

contributions to research on

fundamental problems in

welfare economics". Sen was

always in the short list since

seventies and the declaration of

the Nobel Prize committee has

only translated the list into re-

ality. Sen has worked in the

long tradition in economics

that was started by the philoso-

pher Adam Smith in The

Wealth of Nations (1776) which

was later on christened into

welfare economics by Wilfred

Pareto who laid down the foun-

dations of modern welfare eco-

nomics. The specific contribu-

tion that Sen has made in the

field of economics goes under

the title of Social Choice Theory

initiated by the 1972 Nobel

Laureate Kennith J. Arrow after

whose work this field faced a

deadlock because of some con-

ceptual and theoretical diffi-

culties involved in the famous

"Arrow's Impossibility Theo-

rem" (1951).

this way in Asian miracle economies so long the miracle was not unmade by the crisis of 1996. Although there were phenomenal expansion of nonfarm employment and income, Identifiable poverty groups, often in specific areas, emerged in South-east Asian countries consisting of those left out of the mainstream of economic growth. In South Asia, where poverty remained much more

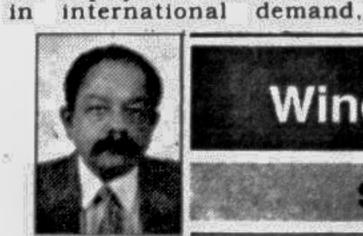
egy and programs for poverty alleviation became necessary since growth could not be sustained at the desirable rate everywhere and in spite of rapid growth, poverty persisted in north-east Thailand or outer islands of Indonesia or certain paddy farming communities of peninsular Malaysia. Also, after almost one year, the acute economic crisis continues in Asia. The IMF prescription of high taxes and high interest rates have not only failed to work, it has further accentuated poverty. According to ILO, nearly 10 million jobs will be lost in 1998 due to the crisis. Estimates of the number of people slipping below the poverty line has already edged past 100 mil lion out of Indonesia's 202 million population.

How do we alleviate poverty? First of all, we now know how we do not alleviate poverty. The not-so-long ago successful export-led market-oriented growth strategy has proved that it does create the necessary though not the sufficient condition to successfully battle against poverty. In case of Bangladesh, that strategy led to rapid expansion of garment industries. But we cannot set up one such garment factory in every village of the country and create work for all the rural un-

der-employed. If there is a fall

ceived as self-sufficient units and villagers as neighbours live happily ever after. Donor countries and agen-

cies have particular preference for major thrust on education, health and nutrition intervention programmes as the major instruments for poverty alleviation. Children must not work. They should be in schools, drink pure water and at least a glass of milk every day. These are necessary programmes provided grant financing is



Window on Asia

Shahed Latif

Amartya Sen's deprivation theory would immediately come to work even among the existing garment workers of the country. What is the guarantee that we will not suffer like Indonesia today?

Long before the emergence of export-led manufacturing as the king-pin of economic growth, grandiose schemes for overnight industrialization were tried and they all miserably failed. Remember the backvard furnace in Chinese villages. In fact steel mills were the favourite of planners of the 1950s. On the opposite side of the scale was the Gandhian model of ideal villages conavailable and they constitute significant welfare initiatives - not sustainable poverty allcviation. The objective conditions in the typical rural environment should also be taken into account. For example, it may become more important for children of hard core poverty stricken families to look after grazing of animals. collect firewood or fetch water - essential tasks for day to day living consuming considerable time and effort, leaving little scope for attending schools where meaningful teaching is hardly available from fre-

quently absent teachers. The brutal realities of life of

a landless poor household create the compelling conditions for undertaking vulnerable group feeding or regular health

care programmes. However, in a country where majority are poor, the government is bound to be poor as well. Therefore management of such programmes in the long run is difficult, if not impossible, since financial outlays are involved on a continuing basis. We cannot and must not expect perpetual donor dependence.

Poverty alleviation initiative should be self-reliant. It should be self-financing with minimum dependence on external financial subsidy. Welfare based on charity can neither be long lasting nor extensive. Otherwise, Christian Missionaries would have already covered the developing countries with schools, hospitals and orphanages. The favourite program of donors cannot survive the test of time and it cannot be the answer to poverty alleviation if it involves 50 per cent of the huge population of Bangladesh or Indonesia today (when reverting back to poverty on a large scale).

The golden means is credit without collateral. An initial small loan of 500 takas will enable a poor mother to buy 20 chickens and start selling 15 eggs a day on the average. She can earn over Taka 200 net every week and add to the meager family income. After repay-

ment within one year, she can take a bigger loan and expand her poultry stock four times. In the third year, she can add a milking cow and further increase as well as diversify her income base. In the fourth year her earnings should be sufficient to take a housing loan. By the end of the 5th year she should be able to cross the poverty line through hard work, discipline and of course the credit line always open to her, so long she remains a good borrower.

This is what happened at Grameen Bank, where out of 2.3 million members (borrowers). one-third are no longer poor. However, their access to fresh credit always remains. There are borrowers who starting with Taka 500 only have borrowed Taka 500,000 as their tenth borrowing for buying a small bus. Their children are at school, some of them studying even at the college level. Obviously they have access to health care, clean water and enough nutrition including milk for the children; without calling for any donor's support.

I have termed micro-credit as the golden means for poverty alleviation. However, it must not be interpreted as the only necessary programme to fight against poverty. Bangladesh experience so far suggest that if rapid growth in labour intensive manufacturing, steady expansion of agriculture production and a substantial programme for micro-credit are sustainable for a period of 15 to 20 years, then we should be able to largely eliminate poverty.

Amartya Sen: Welfare Economics and Social Choice

by Ali Ahmed Mallick

Economic theory in general and welfare economics in particular cannot take poverty and famine in certain part of the world at certain point in time as a paradigmatic event. On the contrary, one has to accept the fact of poverty and famine as case for illustrating certain significant point in economic theory.

on the part of professional economists to make any policy recommendations which can serve as a basis of public policy.

Sen's work was an attempt to establish social choice theory on a very solid foundation so that it could help economists understand the theoretical and conceptual aspects of welfare economics that has deluded them since the formulation of the Arrow's Impossibility Theorem back in 1951. His work is now widely recognised as providing important bridge between economics and philosophy in the elite circle of professional economists and philosophers all over the world. Here shall try to focus on some of the esoteric aspects of Sen's work that really help us to appreciate the broad conceptual and theoretical framework of social choice and welfare economics in the right perspective.

Now, social choice theory is an established area of research Sen's most fundamenta appearing in D71 classification work was "The Impossibility of system in the Journal of Ecoa Paretian Liberal" that apnomic Literature of the Ameripeared in the Journal of Political Economy (1970), a paper can Economic Association. Moreover, social choice theory that created wide interest serves as an interdisciplinary among the economists since area which combines techthis paper was an early attempt niques of mathematical logic, to reconstruct much of the moral philosophy and the basic foundations of Pareto optimalproposition in welfare ecoity principle. The main thrust nomics, namely, the Pareto Opof the paper was to show that timality Principle. The foundathere does not exist any social decision rule that simultanetions of welfare economics was seriously challenged in the deously satisfies Pareto principle bate of the 1930s when and individual's choice on certain "personal" matters. The economists discovered that welfare economics cannot be a part logic of choice and preference shows that there is an unavoidof the economic theory as a scientific discipline in so far as it able paradox involved in this type of aphorism, even if his arinvolves value judgements which on the surface go well begument was that Pareto princivond the simple mechanics of ple is to be sacrificed at the cost of personal liberty - an exdescriptive economics. As a retremely heroic move to rehasult of this crisis it was difficult

bilitate much of the traditional welfare economics. Individual choice and liberty have thus come to play a very vital role in making social decision on eco-

nomic matters. The second most important and major work done by Sen is Collective Choice and Social Welfare (1970), a masterpiece to which I was introduced by Dr Peter Vallentine in 1985 at the University of Western Ontario where I spent much of my time in working on social choice theory and decision analysis This work involves the application of the tools of mathematical logic to clarify the rational foundations of collective choice as based upon the axioms of individual choice. In this regard Sen has expanded the methodology established earlier by Arrow who for the first time showed the application of the tools of mathematical logic of Russell and Whitehead to explain the theoretical aspects of rational choice in economics. Here Sen is concerned about individual values and their role in constructing social choice rules. As he saysthe effectiveness of different rules of collective choice depends much on the precise configuration of individual preference orderings, these configurations will, in general, reflect the forces that determine individual preferences in a society.

social choice theory set forth by

Sen has definitely established a strong paradigm in the long tradition of economics as one of the most important social sciences to understand human values and society. In his broad philosophical perspective individual attitudes have been given emphasis vis-a-vis individual rationality as contemplated in the profound thinking of Adam Smith, Arrow, Rawls, and other social choice theorists who have kept themselves busy with the resolution of the paradoxical results found in the application of Pareto principle. Social choice theory is now regarded as a paradigm in economics just as quantum mechanics is regarded as paradigm in physics as theory of explanation of physical phenomena in spite of the apparent paradoxes in it. The mere existence of the paradoxes in a particular theory does not show its inadequacy as an explanation of certain kind of phenomena. Sen's attempt to clarify some of the paradoxes in the collective choice and decision and their resolution, if not their solution, unquestionably satisfies this aspect of economic philosophy even in the strict academic sense.

Leaving aside the complex philosophical issues that might arise out of such an attempt one may venture to say that the defunct economists would be disappointed to see that the basis of welfare economics can be secured even when there are logical contradictions in the transition from individual choice to social choice. Judgements concerning individual liberty. values, attitudes can now be accommodated within the genuine branch of economics called welfare economics.

Sen's work on social choice theory has always been a source of inspiration to professional economists and ivory-tower philosophers here and abroad Quite a number of academicians and students in philosophy at Jahangirnagar University have devoted their research activities in understanding the sig nificance and the potential application of social choice theory in solving public policy issues a clear indication of which is found in the publications of the faculty members and dissertations of the students for their graduate degree.

The philosophical significance of Sen's contribution to economics is thus very farreaching and wide. But the practical aspect of his works are also not very difficult to appreciate. One of his most frequently cited works is Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation (1981), where he explained some of the important ways in which famine might plague a democratic society in spite of the traditional idea that the mere lack of food is not the only cause of famine rather a lack of purchasing power of the affected people is. This finding has deep significance for the low-income countries where the sense of deprivation may come out of the sense of the engulfing power of the economic system based on competition and pricing mechanism. Any policy recommendation in time of famine can thus be made independent of value judgements on the part of the planners in a democratic

In a randomly fluctuating economy in which a majority of the people get themselves involved in an extremely messy condition due to the erratic behaviour of the market mechanism in developing economy Sen's suggestion that values are more fundamental than attitudes can be a good guide to reducing the suffering of the victims (Ethics and Economics. 1987). This is how he had made a wonderful combination of the expertise of a philosopher and an economist.

It would be extremely superficial to think that Poverty and Famine is the only work of Sen by which his contribution to welfare economics should be judged. The event of poverty and famine is an event in a particular domain of space-time, to use a metaphor from Einstein's theory of relativity. Economic theory in general and welfare economics in particular cannot take poverty and famine in certain part of the world at certain point in time as a paradigmatic event. On the contrary, one has to accept the fact of poverty and famine as case for illustrating certain significant point in economic theory.

Sen is now contemplating to finish some very important tasks in the field of economic theory a clear testimony of which has recently been indicated by his refusal to accept the post of finance minister in India. A true academician and a philosopher of economics does not find it at all difficult to decline a committee assignment. The true academic freedom is freedom from all committee assignments. This is the remark once made by Kenneth Arrow whose dream of resolving paradox of social theory has been finally realised by Amartya

The writer is a professor of Philosophy, Jahangirnagar University.

Lo the Editor...

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.

Proposed rail track

Sir. The railway line of Dhaka city was conveniently shifted from Fulbaria-Tejgaon to Kamalapur-Tejgaon a few decades back. When this change was effected, the lane from Moghbazar to Kamalapur was evidently on the eastern side of the metropolitan city. Now the city extended further to the east and there are a number of major rail gates on the city roads that cause traffic jam. Therefore, further eastward shifting of the railway tracks has become essential.

The eastern thirty-five km embankment-cum-by-pass road from Demra to Tongi. when completed, may have a rail line as a part of the proposed Ring Rail Line. But that, perhaps cannot be a substitute for a straight railway track now being proposed from Kamalapur via Khilgaon-East Rampura (on the east side of the BTV Building)-Badda-Baridhara to Khilkhet. Because Kamalapur Rail Station is a very big station that cannot be shifted to Demra or elsewhere so easily. Besides, the proposed rail track on the eastern embankmentcum-by-pass road would be a curved one. Furthermore, the construction of this by-pass road would require at least five years to be completed. However, eastern embankment-cum-bypass road project is a welcome one and must be completed speedily.

A less costly embankmentcum-railway may be prepared by shifting the railway from Kamalapur-Khilgaon-Tejgaon-Cantonment-Khilkhet to Kamalapur-Khilgaon-East Rampura-Badda-Baridhara-Khilkhet. This project may be

finished before the next monsoon. If the Dhaka Cantonment is not shifted elsewhere, the rail track from Cantonment to Khilkhet may be kept intact for carrying military personnel and equipments.

However, this proposal is taken up and implemented would have an excess railway track as long as the portion in between Khilgaon to FDC that may be used in Gazipur-Bhuapur track. Besides, there will be only one major rail gate (the Khilgaon Rail gate) in the city.

M A S Molla BAAS, Dhaka

"FAP: What was it for?"

Sir, I have read with interest Mr A Zayed's letter titled "FAP: What was it for?".

It appears that Mr Zayed is thoroughly familiar with the Flood Action Plan (FAP) activities during 1990-95. He deserves thanks for precisely summarising all the activities in two/ three paragraphs. But I was surprised to find his total ignorance about the global campaign by international/ national NGO community against the studies and few pilot projects taken up under FAP. The critics in their campaign asked for total "moratorium" on the implementation of FAP recommendations i.e. follow up interventions. particularly structural ones (Dhaka Courier,

October 6, 1995: Editorial). These campaigners were successful either in persuading donor community to withdraw from these programmes or to go slow. Consequently, the Government of Bangladesh as well

as donor community became very hesitant to proceed with the recommended programmes as a whole, rather preferred to move selectively and review the regional programmes in the context of a National Water Management Plan (NWMP) in a more holistic manner. The NWMP is currently under preparation and the draft is likely to be ready by December

Just as social choice may is

based on individual prefer-

ences, the latter in their turn

will depend on the nature of the

society" (1970, p.5). In spite of

these common philosophical

interests Sen makes a move

that is based on the departure

from the classic framework of

Meanwhile, the government has selected 10 projects (nonstructural and structural), which were considered urgent as well as less controversial, such as (1) strengthening flood forecasting system (FAP 10), (2) strengthening of Disaster Management Bureau (FAP 11), (3) Environment and GIS System (FAP 16 and FAP 19), (4) enhanced modeling capacity at Surface Water Modeling Centre (FAP 25), (5) River Bank Protection Project to strengthen the existing Brahmaputra Embankment at Sirajganj, Mathurpara and Sariakandi (FAP 1), (6) Gorai Augmentation project (FAP 4), (7) excavation of Kalni-Kushiara and others (FAP 6), (8) Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project - 21 Polders (FAP 7) (9) Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection (FAP 8B), (10) six town Protection Schemes — Dinajpur, Panchagar, Kurigram, Moulavi bazar, Habiganj

and Khulna (FAP 9A). Given the above situation, what more Mr Zayed was looking for? It is not fully understood what was Mr Zayed's expectation in a short span of three years from 1995 to 1998!! Anyway, FAP succeeded at least in providing enough ammunitions to criticise its own self forever. What a pity!

Azad Rafik Mohammadpur, Dhaka

"Where blindness is it?"

Sir. The picture news in the DS. 10/10/98 with the above title deserve highest degree of appreciation for vision and imagination of social problems that

obtain in Bangladesh. We all condemn people for begging, but it is begging that should be con-

It is a pity that we've the best of the system but we are the worst amongst the performers. And so we see the society overrun with endless social and other ills including begging.

To overcome the pathetic situation, concerted efforts of all — the individual, the community and the state might be helpful but what the state can do, is something that can't be

done by the individual. It may be mentioned that of late, the government has undertaken 'old age pension programme.' The amount and coverage may be small, yet, it is a breakthrough in the social welfare domain. In line with this, other suitable programmes in general and for the disadvantageous group in particular may be taken up as well. For the semi-lettered, un-lettered ladies, suitable jobs that can be done at home like handicraft etc. This way and with the wisdom of the people involved in the social welfare areas, the problem may be minimised, if not eliminated.

Abu Imran Dhaka

Quality of imported fertilizers

Sir, Every year Bangladesh needs to import huge quantities of phosphatia and potassic fertilizers. Even sometimes nitrogenous fertilizer is required to be imported to meet emergency requirement although the county is sufficient in urea. Government used to import urea through BCIC but the other two fertilizers are imported by the private sector.

In absence of any governmen't control over quality of these imported fertilizers, private traders try to import low grade products mostly from new sources and manufacturers. This year Dept. of Agriculture carried out chemical tests of

after collecting from dealers shops. The test reports reveal that the samples hardly contain any plant nutrient (P205). Those reports were published in the press by the Extension Dept. It may be well imagined, how far the production of last aman crop was affected by applying such zero content phosphatic fertilizer. But the Ministry of Agriculture could not take any action against those dishonest traders who cheated the nation Those are still in the market and most of the farmers who could not afford to buy higher priced TSP are using such low grade fertilizers. For phosphatic fertilizers there are some specific sources like USA North African countries, South Africa where phosphatic fertilizers of superior quality are

several hundred samples of SSP

produced But our private importers have been bringing the material from new sources like India. China, South Korea, Egypt etc. Last year government imported DAP (40000 tons) from South Korea which are still lying unsold due to its varied physical condition. Recently Bangladesh Sugar Corporation imported TSP from China which is a new source. There is much doubt about its quality.

But who cares of these things?

M A Jalil

372/B. Khilgaon Dhaka **Income Tax forms**

Sir, It is not understood why Income Tax forms are available only in GPO. Even regional post offices like Mohammadpur, Shantinagar etc., do not offer

these forms for sale! If the government can sell savings certificates, stamps, non-judicial stamps etc., worth thousands of taka through subpost offices, then why these outlets cannot be entrusted with the sale of IT forms as well, is

really a mystery! We hope Ministry of Finance will do something about it.

A Sufferer

Shaky Clinton's cracky move

Sir, I get more anxious as Mr Clinton's impeachment draws closer. Not that I care how long Clinton will remain in power or who will be the next US president, but what scares me is the unexpected sudden move Mr Clinton will make.

It has been proved in the past how tactfully he diverted the world's attention from his failures by attacking Iraq as well as bombing Sudan, Afghanistan

When the Monika Lewinsky affair was just getting interesting the attack of the US Tomahawks began. But still the "Osama Virus" was not wiped out. Then Clinton expected Tehran to attack the Talibans it resulted in failure. The recent NATO decision on Yugoslavia also backfired. So Mr Clinton is back to square one.

wonder what deceitful move he has under his sleeve to divert the impeachment scenario in future.

Shagor Dhaka

Elephant in the court Sir, A Court in southern In-

dia has set a unique example for preventing of cruelty on animals by summoning an elephant to appear in the court to verify elephant owner's allegation that the animal was being maltreated by the person to whom the former had leased the animal. The owner alleged that the elephant had weakened considerably due to negligence and being forced to perform hard labour.

Meanwhile, it is sincerely expected that such legal steps will be taken by all the countries to prevent cruelty on ani-

M Zahidul Hague Associate Professor, BAI. Dhaka