

## Finance Bill Fallout

THE passage of the Finance Bill, 1999 through the parliament without a single amendment proposal from the opposition, having been adopted was a grossly one-sided affair. The opposition had tabled as many as 200 amendments, most of them aiming to secure an extensive withdrawal of taxes levied through the fiscal measures originally proposed by the Finance Minister. Evidently, the wholesale rejection of the opposition amendments stands in stark contrast to the sweeping adoption of all the 37 amendments the ruling party MPs had moved in parliament. We cannot quite see why the Treasury Bench had to be so surgical about the entire bunch of amendments proposed by the BNP and Jatiya Party MPs because the adoption of the ruling party's amendments has had the effect of tax exemptions which the opposition had clamoured for. True, the opposition had sought a wider range of exemptions than the ruling party did but the principle involved was the same: curtailment of the levies.

Intrinsically therefore, the government had an opportunity to be gracefully accommodative to the opposition's fiscal demands. At least technically, the ruling party could make a statement on the floor of the House to the effect that, of their 37 amendments passed, there were no fewer than, say, 25 that actually replicated opposition proposals. The best thing, of course, would have been to reflect a clear-cut bipartisan spirit by straightway assimilating some of the opposition-proposed amendments into the Finance Act as is done in many a parliament overseas.

But no sense of accommodation has been shown by the government although there was room for it here. The opposition is likely to call a hartal early next month demurring at the wholesale rejection of their amendment proposals. We have consistently urged the opposition to desist from hartal or a confrontational course but we don't know how long we can do so when the ruling party still dourly refuses to show any sign of accommodation towards the opposition.

## Killing at Court Compound

ATAUR Rahman Azad had just come out of the Third Additional Sessions Judge's court after hearing of a case under Explosives Act filed against him when the assailants swooped on him. They shot the Bangladesh Chhatra League activist point-blank in the forehead, chest and abdomen in front of his younger brother and an uncle, and hundreds of others present at the court premises. The grisly incident simply does not sit in with the home minister's express determination to root out terrorism and much-hyped success of the policemen's country-wide combing operations. On the contrary, it goes to underline a frightening truth: the country's law and order situation has hit another low point in its alarming slide downhill.

Tuesday's killing, shocking it may have been though, was not altogether a new phenomenon. In an identical incident Abu Morshed, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist and an accused in a murder case, was gunned down at the entrance of the Dhaka Bar Association office nearly four years back. There are more. Rape of a minor girl at the CMM's court, deaths of Seema, Yasmeen and Rubel in police custody and now this. Such a series of systemic failures strikes at the root of beliefs about security at and sacrosanctity of places like court premises. More importantly, they corrode confidence of the citizenry in the law enforcement mechanism.

Surely, the government has been successful to a certain extent in its crusade against crime, manifest in arrest of hundreds of criminals and terrorists, recovery of arms and ammunition, and submission of outlawed political activists. However, a killing such as this, that too near the court of law, points to the holes in the heart of its law enforcement system. The government's success will essentially rest on how it handles failures, not how it relishes its moments of glory.

## Snapped Links with Chittagong

THE port city of Chittagong has been cut off from the rest of the country as train and road communications have been disrupted by agitating workers of three jute mills near Sitakund. The workers were demanding payment of arrear salaries from the mill owners. Such troubles are nothing new in this area but this time these have gone out of hand, so reported an influential Bangla daily on Wednesday. A large portion of railway track has been uprooted in two places and buses from Dhaka were forced to stop before road blocks set up by the workers. Hundreds of passengers had to suffer in an inclement weather and a long queue of buses covering about fifty kilometre jammed the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Sitakund. The report says the situation may continue till such time as no solution is found to the workers' demands. A leader of the agitating workers claimed that they had no option but to continue with the road blocks even though thousands of people suffered for the same. Railwaymen said it would take them two days to put the tracks in place and resume train services.

This is one example which shows the highhandedness of the mill workers in taking the law into their own hands and the inability of the law enforcing agency to deal with such a chaotic situation. The police have exposed their glaring weakness in dealing with the unruly demonstrators in that area. Unless the mill-owners settle their differences with the workers the situation cannot be brought under control, that is what the police believe. What an absurd situation! If the police cannot bring the chaos under control why don't they ask for reinforcement or seek the help of BDR in this? And if the problem needs political redressal why doesn't the minister concerned make a move accordingly? Why should the people suffer every time there is an agitation in that particular area?

# Democracy and Armed Forces

*What worries one is the desperation of the armed forces in Pakistan. Realising that they have made the LoC sacrosanct, they may widen the conflict. This will be a tragedy.*

THERE is never a good war. So said a JS President. Pakistan thinks otherwise. It does not realise the harm it has done to itself or to the peace process in the region. Some day it may. One only hopes it will not be too late by then.

Take the aspect of the harm Pakistan has done to itself. The Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir is what it has been seeking to alter through negotiations or wars. And that is where it has spoilt its case. The LoC has become the international border.

Islamabad's incursions into the Kargil area have shown the vehemence with which it violation has been opposed. The demand all over is that the intruders must go behind the LoC. No one in the world supports its violation.

Whether it is President Clinton or the Group of Eight nations, they have the inviolability of the LoC in view. They have demanded that it should be respected. And what they have condemned is its violation. America has even asked Pakistan by name to withdraw its men and restore the status quo ante.

In other words, the LoC is permanent. Pakistan has to respect the line if it does not want to be singled out as an aggressor. It may cloud the issue, as it has been trying to do through diplomatic manoeuvres. It may train and arm infiltrators and send its own forces as it has done in the Kargil area. But it has to withdraw them because they are on the Indian side of the LoC, the border. The sanctity which the LoC has come to acquire after incursions is India's gain, which has not yet seeped into Pakistan.

New Delhi has been trying for years to make Islamabad accept the LoC as the international border. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, then Pakistan's Prime Minister, gave a solemn assurance to the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Shimla in 1972 on the conversion of the LoC into the international border. But he could not sell the idea to his defeated armed forces and he went back on his word.

What could not be achieved then has been made possible through Islamabad's military adventure. Unwittingly, the Pakistan armed forces have themselves converted the LoC into the international border which they had opposed. Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Syed Razaqat in Pakistan has something to do with the drawing of the LoC. He has said in Islamabad that the line was demarcated, not delineated, lest it should become an international boundary. But whatever the technicalities, the Pakistani forces have done what India had failed to do.

True, it will take time for the Indian forces to clear the Kargil heights. They have done well to warn the nation that it would be a long haul. But the target they have set before themselves is the LoC. That is the border beyond which the Pakistani forces are sought to be pushed.

The Pakistan armed forces have not only affirmed up the LoC but also made the border in Kashmir difficult. Now that the LoC is the border, what is there to discuss except the opening of the Srinagar-Rawalpindi road for better contacts between the two sides of Kashmir and laying down the ground rules for the haulage of timber through the Jhelum? All the Kashmiris who have certain other ideas about the state will have to reckon with the reality of the LoC. The Pakistani forces have given de jure recognition to the de facto situation.

Still the worst thing that the Pakistani forces have done is to defeat peaceful options on Kashmir. New Delhi was prepared to sit across the table to discuss the matter. The foreign secretaries had even begun talks solely on Kashmir as was the condition laid down by Pakistan for any dialogue. Now all that has been destroyed. The confidence which had got built after the Lahore Declaration has been rudely

shaken. Who will pick up the thread and from where?

Indeed, after the Lahore Declaration, a new chapter in India-Pakistan relations had opened. People all over India and Pakistan were beginning to look for a solution on Kashmir to normalise relations between the two countries. There was an atmosphere where there were serious efforts afoot to try and bury the hatchet. And it looked as if the 51-year-old gulf was beginning to be spanned. Trade, culture exchange, easy travel between the countries — all seemed a possibility. The meeting between Prime Ministers Atal Behari Vajpayee and Nawaz Sharif at Lahore promised new vistas. Apparently, the Pakistani armed forces have a vested interest in war against India. They seem to have no faith in peace.

Still the situation is not all that grim. The prime ministers of the two countries pick up the phone and talk to each other. The bus, which Vajpayee rode first, is plying between Delhi and Lahore. The Indian mission in Islamabad and Pakistan's in New Delhi are issuing visas and people are travelling back and forth. The Samjhauta Express steams out of Lahore and Delhi three times a week. Only recently did some 50 intellectuals and journalists from both sides issued a joint statement to appeal to the rulers not to escalate the situation. The armed forces in Pakistan may be fuming over all this. But the people of Pakistan want peace.

Even the Group of Eight nations has not named any country as an aggressor. It wants the two to sit across the table to sort out their differences. India is ready once the infiltrators withdraw from the Indian side of the LoC. Will they do so for the sake of peace? That is the question.

For more than four decades, there had been martial law in Pakistan. Even when the army returned to the barracks, it kept a close watch on political rulers. Now it has taken over without sitting in the chair. Democracy has receded further

into the background.

General Pervez Musharraf, the chief of army staff, is reportedly wanting a national government in Pakistan. It means that even Sharif's days are numbered. Then if the military does not have a direct role, it has established its unquestioned supremacy by stating the hostilities. Musharraf is reported to have said, while talking to his troops in the forward areas, that they were engaged in *jihad* (religious war). He should know that the Indian troops include Muslims. A Muslim officer and some Muslim soldiers have died in the operation at Kargil. Whatever name he may give to their fighting, they have sacrificed their lives for their motherland.

The armed forces in Pakistan are living in a world of their own. In an Urdu journal which they run, they have argued that "unstable conditions have weakened the control of rulers in Delhi. This is mere wishful thinking. In fact, the incursions of the Pakistani forces have created in India a sense of solidarity which was lacking before. Political parties have criticised the BJP-led coalition for not keeping them in the picture. But all of them stand behind the government in operations in the Kargil area to vacate the aggression. The armed forces in Pakistan do not know how strong the united will of a nation in a democracy is."

What worries one is the desperation of the armed forces in Pakistan. Realising that they have made the LoC sacrosanct, they may widen the conflict. This will be a tragedy. Dr Abdul Qadir Khan, the father of Pakistan's bomb warned me during an interview in 1988, in which he disclosed that Pakistan had the bomb, that "if you ever drive us to the wall, we will use the bomb."

## Looking into the Face of Disaster

by Tony Blair

ONCE again, we stare into the abyss. Somehow, we must pull back. If the Good Friday agreement collapses, the result is not a better peace, it is no peace at all. People who attacked the agreement have not the slightest clue as to an alternative. That is why we strain every sinew to prevent ourselves going over the edge. This is not about 'agreement at any price'. It is that we are mindful of the actual consequences of failure. Real consequences to real people.

The agreement represented the biggest step forward for decades. Don't let anyone kid anyone else about it. It was inclusive of all the main communities of Northern Ireland. It was backed by people, North and South, in referendums. And it resolved the key constitutional questions. It agreed the principle of consent, fought for by Unionists ever since partition — no change to the constitutional status of Northern Ireland without the consent of the people. It agreed a directly elected assembly, the main demand of the Unionist community. It agreed all communities should be represented in government, a vital demand of nationalists. It agreed North-South co-operation, wanted by nationalists; a new framework for British-Irish relations, wanted by everyone. It established, by agreement, mechanisms for resolving problems of fairness and equality.

It is now ready to go into action. It all waits on the constitution of the last remaining issues.

So a massive amount has been achieved. And the peace, though imperfect, is different from what went before. Yes, there is violence. And as the process stalls, it gets worse. It always has been, but even now, it is a better place than in 1992. Go to Belfast and you will feel the difference. The only effective way of stopping the violence, whatever security measures we use, is to have the political process succeed, and the men of violence isolated.

It goes without saying that anyone in government has to be committed to democratic principles. The most important is a commitment to exclusively peaceful means. There are both loyalists parties, and Sinn Fein, who have a clear link to paramilitary groups. For example, Sinn Fein and the IRA are part of the same movement. You can't have the political side in the tent, if the paramilitary side is outside and active.

So, how do we make all parties follow exclusively the path of peace? First, they should give the commitment to do it, which they demonstrate. Secondly, they should demonstrate it by stopping violence. The 'ceasefires' in question are a way of doing this, but imperfectly, as we know. The

third means is actually to disarm, to put the guns beyond use; to decommission. This, too, is imperfect, since weapons can always be acquired again. But it is a tangible demonstration of good faith. If a process begins in which these things are happening, the democrats can believe that the parties linked to paramilitaries really mean it when they say they are committed exclusively to democracy.

The Good Friday agreement laid down specific provisions on decommissioning. It was to be completed by May 2000. An Independent Commission on Decommissioning was to oversee it. All parties promised to work in good faith to achieve it.

Now, it is a prior condition of entry into the executive that decommissioning be done first. But it was unquestionably a requirement that it be done, and all of it, by May 2000. What's more, no one would believe that the consent of the loyalist parties could not get decommissioning, if they really tried. So if it doesn't happen, the Good Friday agreement is being breached, because the good faith provision would be broken.

This is very crude, but in essence, the current message is this: the Unionists won't believe Sinn Fein is committed to peace and fit for government unless it starts to decommission first. Sinn Fein won't try to get decommissioning until it knows that the Unionists are serious about letting it in the Government.

A few weeks ago we tried a formula to get round this impasse. Both would 'jump together'. On a specified day, Sinn Fein would do a symbolic act of decommissioning and the Unionists would put them in the executive. In an accompanying declaration we said 'decommissioning is not a precondition but is an obligation'. Everyone agreed, except Sinn Fein, which, after some consultation with its activists, refused, wrongly, in my view.

It is said that since then I have changed my position, that I am now not asking Sinn Fein actually to decommission: only asking for some vague promise. This is nonsense. It arises in part out of my speech in the last week, which was covered perfectly fairly in Northern Ireland but twisted here. It became accepted wisdom that I was effectively saying that 'words' would do; there was no longer a requirement for action. In fact, I stated unequivocally: 'Republicans must accept that decommissioning can be got through, but it cannot be got round.'

Decommissioning is not a prior precondition of the executive. But it is plainly part of the process. All parties are expected to help to bring it about. No one will believe that a party with a

close connection with a paramilitary group could not bring about decommissioning.

My position always has been: decommissioning has to happen. It is a requirement not an option. But the sequencing of whether it begins prior to or after the setting up of the executive is a matter of negotiation. Of course it is best it happens now. I see a lot of sense in it happening contemporaneously with the executive. But a leap set merit in it happening strictly in accordance with the Good Friday agreement — i.e. not as a prior condition — provided that (a) There was a clear guarantee of decommissioning by Sinn Fein; (b) It was in accordance with a timetable laid down by the Commission on Decommissioning, ending with completion in May 2000; and (c) There was a cast-iron, fail-safe device that if it didn't happen according to the timetable that executive couldn't continue. Nobody is remotely suggesting that the second of these conditions is not met. Words must, of course, lead to deeds.

People say: how do you know a guarantee is serious? My answer is: the fail-safe device; if they break it, that executive is ended. And in any event, suppose a token act of decommissioning took place now. Everyone would then agree to Sinn Fein going into the executive. But that would not guarantee full decommissioning by May 2000. It would only guarantee one act; so there are weaknesses in this device.

However, we cannot even begin to discuss these questions until we are all agreed on the foundation blocks of a settlement. One is the acceptance that there must be an inclusive executive; and the second is that decommissioning is an obligation and must be completed by May 2000. Because the argument is all about the timing, or sequencing, no one is being put to the test on the issues of principle. My whole strategy has been to get acceptance of the obligation, so that we can then debate timing. But at present, that is obscured. Incidentally, I have no doubt at all that both the leadership of Sinn Fein and the leadership of Sinn Fein was the Good Friday agreement to work. None of them falls for the illusion that there is some easy alternative.

So we try again to find a way through. The deadline of June 30 is real. This argument won't change. It is time now to resolve it. Meanwhile, Drummer hangs over us like a poison cloud.

— Courtesy: The Times, London

The author is Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The writup was earlier published in 'The Times', London, 25 June, 1999.

# No Man's Land

*With war fever staring in the faces of the military hierarchy, what a position to take! Our problem is that we go for personal preferences rather than depend upon sound professionals who have a habit of speaking their mind. What the nation desperately needs is people without myopic vision, people who do not suffer from an inferiority complex and people who are not impetuous.*

WINNING or losing in a game should not matter, what matters is how you play the game. Nowadays winning is everything, given the money numbers that go with success. One could be disappointed in not winning Cricket World Cup Final against Australia at Lord's, the way we went about losing it was both pathetic and disgusting. This loss is however not life threatening and we will survive. Wars are unfortunately not like cricket, here winning is everything. Pakistan cannot afford to lose, our very existence in the new millennium depends upon winning. Moreover we cannot be content with at least achieving a stalemate 1965-style, which given India's numerical strength in conventional numbers, would be a victory of sorts. If war is unleashed by India, that is the only chance we will have of capturing Kashmir without losing any major part in the rest of the country. Pakistan has succeeded in internationalising the Kashmir situation but we have paid a credibility price for that. We have lost the propaganda war with India as evinced from G-8 countries calling, during their Cologne meeting, "We are deeply concerned about the continuing military confrontation in Kashmir following the infiltration of armed intruders which violated the Line of Control in the disputed border region. We regard any military action to change the status quo as irresponsible. We therefore call for the immediate end of these actions, restoration of the Line of Control and for the parties to work for an immediate cessation of fighting". The only silver lining other than bringing Kashmir out of deep freeze was that Pakistan was not indicted by name.

Caught up in our own romantic connotation about showing off, we failed to recognize that we had walked into a credibility trap of our own making. While the Mujahideen were operating in 'no-man's land' in a virtually inaccessible area between the defended positions of the two countries, we accepted tacitly that Mujahideen had crossed the LoC. In fact both countries exercise intermittent control over this area during conducive weather, occasionally there have been patrol clashes over the past two decades. India upped the ante by bringing in aircraft to cover a major military blunder and inadvertently internationalised it by losing two MIGs and a Mi-17 combat helicopter, the wreckage of two of the fighter aircraft strewn several kilometers on our side of the border. Once the fight was in the open the Indians gave a "spin" to the event, a version that would appeal to the international community and followed it up by a media barrage. Pakistan's response was less than credible given that media professionals are in short supply in the government or in Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) anymore. Director ISPR is a good soldier who was extremely unfortunate not to be promoted on merit during the tenure of the previous COAS but his only claim to PR fame is close association to the present COAS and that is hardly a qualification to handle the media.

In the media disaster that has engulfed Pakistan the official media machine has to shoulder the blame, that did not have the sense or vision to use the private sector, it's expertise and its innovations. A severe bout of inferiority complex prevents those in government from effectively using media-personalities to make the case in various fora. Nobody has better announced our weaknesses in the area of PR than a former Director ISPR and the previous owner/publisher of "Defence Journal", Brig (Rtd) A R Siddiqui in his book, "The Military in Pakistan: Image and Reality". Because we are parochial and prone to favouritism we prefer loyalty to the individual to that of loyalty to the State, we can even be comfortable with mediocrity in contrast to professionalism, mostly at a cost to the State.

Our economic situation in a possible pre-war scenario is horrendous despite the fact we got temporary respite from the IMF that allowed our survival till now. Most of our continuing economic factors have negative trends with hardly any hope of reversing the situation in the present environment and by the current crop of economic managers. We cannot leave poor Ishwar Das to fight the economic battle on his own. The Finance Minister must be helped by the man whose basic constituency of businessmen and industrialists in forefront are resisting the reforms necessary to increase the revenues. The PM must get into the act and speak directly to the whole spectrum of commerce in different centers so that they register themselves for (and pay) General Sales Tax (GST). The PM is prone to a lot of symbolic acts, why doesn't he take a trip to the

manicist, was made the key-note speaker. Other teachers, with no technical knowledge about the problems of privatisation in this country or elsewhere, were given less than 48 hours to get ready for the discussion and were allotted a total of about ninety minutes, according to the programme.

The event must have cost the government nearly one lakh Taka. Some time back, I read in The Daily Star an excellent account of another dialogue on this important issue involving people who could meaningfully contribute and which must have cost considerably less.

The Chairman of the Board seems keen on developing links with the University. This year his family contributed a substantial amount to create the Bangabandhu Chair. However, public money should be expended more scrupulously. And a board that cannot find the right advisers is unlikely to find the right customers.

A Teacher Dhaka

## DU exams and the authority

Sir, We have been appearing at the Honors final exam for more than the last 2 and half months. It is really irritating to go through such a long exam process although it is we who are responsible to make the duration so long.

We had an examination on 9.6.99 which was postponed by the authority without any prior notice. We went to the exam hall on due date. But to our surprise, neither the officials who were engaged in taking the exams had come nor there was any notice regarding the postponement of the exam due to the vacation of Akheri Chahar Shomba. For this, all the examinees had to suffer. But the authority had issued a notice a week earlier mentioning that the office will be closed on that day. Why they had scheduled an exam on a day when the office would remain closed is not understandable.

ultimate symbol of non-payment of taxes, Liberty Market. Lahore appeals to their patriotism? Why doesn't he task a Khidmat Committee to do some real-time Khidmat to the nation by ensuring that those who can pay taxes, at least 3.5 million people more, pay the taxes that would lead to minimum of Rs. 300 billion in additional revenues? And while we have a populist PM who believes in pumping in money into projects that will create more jobs and requirement of material, let's focus on those projects that have socio-economic value that give back recurrent revenues.

And in this crisis we added to our woes by sacking the one symbol of good governance, Lt. Gen (Rtd) Moinuddin Haider, Governor of Sindh, and effectively supplanting in practice, if not on paper, Governor's Rule in Sindh with that of the Chief Advisor to the Governor, Ghous Ali Shah, one of the greatest examples of bad governance in Pakistan, when not considering Asif Zardari's misrule. As Chief Minister Sindh in the 80s, Mr Ghous Ali Shah set standards of corruption and malfeasance that were eclipsed only during Ms Benazir's second tenure as PM. One does not hold any brief for Moinuddin Haider and in Pakistan one does not worship the setting sun but, because he trod a straight path of focusing on all of Sindh's problems without caring for Party lines, his was a class act who did much to redeem the reputation of the uniform he once wore.

Expecting war at any time, with the main political parties in Sindh estranged from both the national and political mainstream, we needed some already in the saddle to prepare the Province for war. War, when it comes, will include an attempted blockade of Karachi as a main option for the enemy. The new Governor hardly excites any confidence, in a recent conference on Law and Order he gave a confident projection, which he promptly reversed by 180

degrees when he found the Chair opposed to it. In true weathercock fashion, he went far more than even the Chair desired. As a puppet on a string, he will be useful to Ghous Ali Shah in his

manipulations in Sindh. While people are dying in Kargil, the nation was more focused on cricket. Kashmir and the scenario likely to develop should occupy our minds in exception to everything else. We would be at war today but it does not suit India to attack in this weather. But who knows the devious nature of the Indian mind, just because we think so, they might still go ahead and attack us in strength, not only across the LoC but along the entire length of the international border. Because they presently hold the credibility factor in the world media they may use this advantage to paint us as the villains of the piece. While the weather for the next 60 days is not really conducive for all-out war, that may be the ultimate reason for trying to catch us off-guard.

One of the reasons we usually fail is because our "sacred cow" syndrome. In the face of possible war scenario, it was suggested all uniformed personnel be withdrawn from WAPDA to go back to their professional duties, one day it was reported that "all ranks upto Major have been sent back to the Army and only officers of the rank of Colonel and Brigadier remain". The next day it was reported this was only a rumour and untrue, planted by "those who have a vested interest in having the Army withdrawn from WAPDA".

With war fever staring in the faces of the military hierarchy, what a position to take! Our problem is that we go for personal preferences rather than depend upon sound professionals who have a habit of speaking their mind. What the nation desperately needs is people without myopic vision, people who do not suffer from an inferiority complex and people who are not impetuous. We need people who really believe in God, not those who give the Holy Koran lip-service in public while raising rose-tinted glasses to their lips behind closed doors. We need people who should have the strength of character to portray what they really are in private as they do in public, not having dual and even person-alities. We need planners who will implement what they conceive in the national interest, not those who would send the flower of our youth to their deaths to serve their own narrow selfish vision of glory and ambition. Make no mistake, India will force war on us, sooner or later, if we want to exist in the new millennium let us get the character of our leadership structure right, sooner rather than later.

## To the Editor...

Again, another exam which was scheduled to be held on 21.6.99, has been shifted to 23.6.99 after a few students appealed as the final match of the World Cup cricket had been scheduled on the previous day. As the students appealed, the controller office shifted the date. This was like a blow to the students. The controller office could have easily scheduled the exam earlier considering the final match.

We hope that, the DU authority will handle these matters seriously in future.

An Honors Final Examinee, DU

## Godowns and workshops

Sir, Following disintegration and transfer of central bus terminal from old railway station Fulbaria to three different places Saidabad, Mohakhali and Gabtoli the road traffic management in old Dhaka instead of showing any mark of improvement, accuracy and rectification has gone to dogs and turned worst. Now not only the old railway station but all the areas spread from Fulbaria to Bangabandhu Avenue to Captain Bazar-Jaika-Mandir road to Folders Street, Wari to Saidabad to Jatrabari have been turned into godowns and workshops of buses. The public thoroughfares are blocked and barricaded with innumerable buses and the members of public fail to make movement from one place to another without undergoing great hardship and difficulties and wasting their valuable time, energy and money.

It appears that the road traffic in Dhaka has been paralysed but the authorities concerned, the DCC and DMP are not at all interested to solve this erratic and important problem and to mitigate the untold sufferings of the city dwellers.

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