

The Daily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali
Dhaka, Friday, October 1, 1999

Opposition Unfocused

THE opposition political parties which are agitating against the government as an alliance are ironically in a confused state of mind. This is stealing the thunder of their movement against the government. They have oscillated from their four-point list of demands to a one-point demand and back again to a single-point frame of mind, as if the public psyche is a plaything for constant experimentation. One expects a one-point demand to be spot-on, the ultimate mark of clear thinking. Yet, whenever the opposition has tried to sell the one-liner demand for toppling an elected government or ousting the Chief Election Commissioner who holds a statutory position it has sounded unconvincing and unconstitutional.

Take for instance their yesterday's programme of laying a siege to the EC's office demanding the resignation of the incumbent Mohammad Abu Hena. We would like to know like most people in the country as to what really is the case against him that he is being picked on at intervals? He had conducted a more or less acceptable General Election in 1996 followed by a string of by-elections where the BNP's score-card looked largely undiminished from their original showing in those constituencies, at least it did not give any serious cause for grieve that the public could readily nod at.

There cannot be any difference of opinion though on the dire need for a reform of the Election Commission, or for that matter, the electoral laws. The election tribunals take such a long time to dispose of an election dispute that by the time their verdict sees the light of the day the whole tenure of a parliament might have been exhausted. There could be a stay order from the court as well. It is necessary to withhold disputed results of an election till such time as the whole process of judicial scrutiny has been completed yielding a clear-cut decision on their veracity.

If the opposition had any concrete evidence of misfeasance on the part of the CEC then obviously they would have had no reason to merely verbally attack him but to take it up with the President or do something else to prove their point.

This paper wishes to clearly state, on the basis of analytical studies of the polls conducted, that the CEC did not violate the mandate of his office. The litany of charges against the CEC is groundless. In the eye of the media the opposition is merely trying to use its support base with the public to bully the CEC out. Academically if they had tried to find a scapegoat in someone for the electoral losses they had suffered it could perhaps be taken in stride; but here they have trained their guns against the CEC to expel him from his position for no provenly valid reasons. Have they pondered over the precedent it would set for all losing political parties in the future?

The combined opposition has given a call for a dawn-to-dusk hartal on October 3, again on a list of demands that is devoid of any central agenda to seek popular support. Most people are at their wit's end to understand the logic behind their movement strategy which is spearheaded by demands that are not merely off-centre in terms of public interests but also ironically not cognisant of the opposition's self-interest. Why are they not concentrating on issues like deteriorating law and order, extortion and toll collection from businessmen, 'repression of political opponents', surge of 'bogus cases', arrests and detentions galore and all sorts of pervasiveness with a greater chance of drawing public support and sympathy than spreading themselves thin on a confusing set of demands?

Gas Export: Let's Not be Called a Bottomless Basket Again

by Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal

The cumulative demand for gas for generation of electricity alone could be around 4.5 trillion cubic feet or about 43 per cent of the proven reserve... Gas is a finite resource, the present and future generations of Bangladesh have a claim on it. We cannot misuse it.

THE Daily Star of 25th September published a news item along with a photograph which showed UNESCO President Federico Mayor presenting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with the prestigious Felix Huopouet Bligny peace prize as former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger applauds during the award giving ceremony in Paris. It is an irony of fate that the same Mr Kissinger, who once sarcastically remarked in the early 70s that Bangladesh was a bottomless basket, was seen greeting the Prime Minister with an adulating face. However, my subject matter today is not the peace prize. Another story on the front page of the same newspaper on the same day about the natural gas sector of Bangladesh had also attracted me. The Prime Minister while addressing French businessmen is reported to have said, "We exactly do not know the quantum of gas reserves but we have huge local demand. We can only think of exporting gas after meeting our present and future demand." But I wonder whether the modern 'Robert Clive' from the United States, who already visited Bangladesh twice in the last seven months, and his co-thinkers from Bangladesh who were invited three times over the same period to attend the so-called business forum meetings in the US, are still perspiring to promote the gas export etc., in the near future.

Admittedly, all our 21 gas structures discovered so far have not been appraised. Yet, a very confusing picture is emerging about the country's plans for the exploitation of nation's most valuable resource, natural gas. Petrobranga's data and assessment, if it makes any sense to our intellectuals and academicians, indicate that Bangladesh has a proven reserve of gas that can hopefully provide two decades of domestic needs at an optimum level of expected growth. Whether the figure of about ten trillion cubic feet (10 TCF) has been proved or inferred is another matter, but to draw a line on the current horse-trading on export by some known and unknown gas-cones in and outside Bangladesh, let us for a moment agree with the state owned corporation's argument even when the organization is said to have been dwarfed to a 'post-office'.

It is on record that over the past two years we have muddled with seminars and roundtable conferences more seriously than before on the subject of gas demand-supply, gas market and gas export etc., but as usual we are back to square one. The most recent discussion was held on September 25, 1999. Politicians, academics, business leaders, intellectuals and diplomats attended a round table conference organized by the centre for policy dialogue

(CPD) on optimizing use of Bangladesh's gas resources. The four-hour non-stop dialogue ended with widespread controversy over actual reserve of gas as well as on demand-supply figures. The speakers were, as expected, divided on the issue of export of the country's meagre gas resource. Once again, most of the participants underscored the need for making a correct assessment of gas reserve and future demand-supply projection. Having over two decades of association and exposure in the hydrocarbon sector, my humble submission is that now we should rest for a while and allow Petrobranga and the International Oil Companies to follow the international practice and undertake evaluation of gas reserves through internationally reputed independent companies. I presume this work would take between twelve to twenty four months. Do we have patience to keep quite for a change?

Perhaps it is a difficult proposition. Because, by now, a lot of hope has been raised about prospects of Bangladesh turning suddenly gas-rich. The

authorities in Bangladesh are given to understand that the moment they decide to sell gas through pipeline the country would turn overnight into a middle income nation. But, do we ever realise that as of today we are a 'single energy source' (gas) country inhabited by about 125 million people. During the last forty years or so since the initiation of gas use in Bangladesh only around 6 to 7 per cent of the total population have access to gas and around only 17 per cent people are privileged customers of electricity. I guess it's time that we face the realities of life that we do not have adequate physical resources nor do we possess technology to become self-sufficient in energy right away. We can at best say that we have enough potential reserve of gas to meet our needs for another 25 to 30 years, at the projected rate of consumption.

There is no denying that the technological and economic problems of new energy sources, be that some renewable resources or nuclear energy, would ultimately be solved and conceivably would begin to be-

come important power sources as the 21st century begins. It must, however, be understood that nobody is going to offer the new energy technology to us free of cost even when they are available in the public domain due to globalization. We will have to survive with our own natural gas, coal and other renewable energy resources for the next three to four decades. Therefore, an optimum utilization of gas is vital for the present as well as the next generation. Even if all lights were green now to launch a massive energy development programme, we will have a stupendous job ahead to meet our anticipated in-country energy demand through the single energy source (gas). To approach even part self-sufficiency in another 15 years or so, we will need more than one hundred production wells costing about seven to eight hundred million dollars (at least) in addition to the existing 44 producing wells having a daily production of about 900 million cubic feet (900 MCF/day).

The Power System Master Plan (PSMP) projected a de-

mand of electricity of about 10,000 megawatt by the year 2015, which will need a dedication of natural gas to the tune of about 2400 MCF/day. The cumulative demand for gas for generation of electricity alone could be around 4.5 trillion cubic feet or about 43 per cent of the proven reserve. I presume, the next five to six years will be our greatest period of stress, before our drive toward self-sufficiency begins to reduce our energy import requirements. Import of about 2.5 million tons of crude oil and petroleum products alone is destabilizing our balance of payment situation every year.

It is true that we are entering into an exciting new era of putting technology to work in new ways. Therefore, it is a question of getting our priorities straight and being sure that we do not stifle growth through fear. We need not be intimidated by some academicians or business elite who are used to loud voices in seminars and round tables or even foreign oil company experts and their local cohorts who think that export of gas is the only solution for sur-

vival of Bangladesh. We certainly can learn from them to prepare a correct road-map. All of us, in our multiple role of consumers, producers, taxpayers, voters and citizens have a say, so as to the direction we should take. You and I create the market place. Our track record do have a lot to be desired at times, but we never need to calumny for 'power to the people'. We have it. What we want is what we get — good or bad.

As we examine what has happened in the past few years, we will see why our successive governments have not been able to properly implement energy policy prescription. It has perhaps responded to our demands for action on an uncoordinated, spot basis, seeking a remedy for the immediate pains we did complain about the loudest. Now is the time for a thorough health check-up. We have no mysterious incurable disease. Fortunately, we seem to have most of the things on the bathroom shelf to cure this, if we take time to read and understand the labels. The one thing we have to guard against is reaching for the wrong bottle and taking a panic overdose of quick legislative medicine. Gas is a finite resource, the present and the future generations of Bangladesh have a claim on it. If we misuse, the example of Nigeria will be repeated and perhaps Mr Kissinger will get a real opportunity to identify us as a bottomless basket!

The author is a retired, Additional Secretary and ex-chairman, PDB

The Faultline

Ardeshir Cowasjee writes from Karachi

The double-headed West, America and Europe, with which Japan and Russia are aligned, fear militant (or resurgent) Islam, as does our good friend China. Some 50 independent Islamic states allow themselves to remain disunited. Many buy arms from the West, which they sometimes use against each other. They control much of the oil reserves and the Organisation of Islamic Conference could have a voice in world affairs but because of its own inability does not.

LAST week my subject was the uneducated of our government who indiscriminately squander the money of the poor and deprive their country and who qualify their so doing by claiming it is within their discretionary powers, that it is their entitlement. It is their entitlement, they say, to build motorways whilst the people have no drinking water. It is their entitlement to travel the world on sightseeing trips in special flights whilst there is no money to educate the millions of illiterates at home. The feedback from the majority was the simple question: Why and what is an educated man?

Education, it is said, is the means by which the wheat is separated from the chaff, by which the finest mental and moral qualities of an individual are brought to the fore, by which the latent is converted into the active, and by which empathy towards the feelings of others is created. According to the Urdu scholar, educated is he who can distinguish the real from the unreal, light from darkness; education in the final analysis elevates a man from death to immortality.

What our prime minister finds difficult to understand is that respect cannot be demanded, that it has to be commanded, and that whatever he may do he cannot buy goodwill. Yet again, he has chivalrously attempted to bribe the press. His Media Maestro Preshahid invited a team of businessmen, sixteen in all, to Lahore to play cricket against the Lahore Gymkhana XI on September 11. The national carrier, PIA, which every prime minister considers to be his or her own personal airline, was ordered to transport the sixteen from Karachi to Lahore and back at the people's expense.

The Press XI scored 185 runs whilst the Mian's Lahore Gymkhana team were restricted to 88 all out, of which the Mian himself scored 52. The journalists were accommodated at Palett's at our cost, transported around Lahore at our cost, and reportedly gifts in cash and kind were distributed. Each run scored by the Mian probably

cost us in the region of Rs. 20,000. One comment made by an educated man after the match was over: The poor people of this nation pay for Nawaz Sharif's victory — the elections; for his retreat — Kargil; for his defeat — on the cricket field.

Educated Governor Kamal Azfar's donation to the Karachi Golf Club was also made at his 'discretion' out of his discretionary funds. Professor Ahsan Rashid, chairman of the Poor Patients' Aid Society of Karachi's Civil Hospital had often appealed to Kamal for funds which he never given. Would an enlightened educated man not rather have given to the poor sick and dying than to the rich healthy golfers?

Educated Globetrotter, Rhodes Scholar Wasim Sajjad, chairman of the most honoured Upper House is on the trot once again, leading a delegation of elected representatives to a conference in the Caribbean and last week was living it up in Port of Spain. He may well be on his 100th jaunt since he became the chairman of the Senate.

Now to the serious trot, that of Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif. We heard he was off to the US to meet with software experts and genetically engineers, seed merchants in the interest of investment. But he went straight from the airport to dine with Strobe Talbot and to complain about the corrupt, toothless and spineless opposition and the army, both of which he said were trying to oust, by unconstitutional means, his family's good government. The usual noises were made by anonymous Americans announcing

that the US is all for democracy and is averse to the toppling of democratically elected governments through force (the army). But the American support of democracy can be highly pragmatic. For years they supported the King of Kings, the Shah of Shahs in SAVAK-dominated Iran, and when he was deposed and dying they would not allow him into the US. Memories are short and people may have forgotten how difficult it was for the Shah's family to find a six-foot by two-foot piece of ground in which to bury him. For years the Americans supported General Manuel Utes Morena Noriega's form of democracy in Panama. They supported General Ugarte Augusto Pinochet in Chile, they tolerated for 32 years General Suharto in Indonesia, and for eleven long years in Pakistan they gladly supported General Zia-ul-Haq and his 'democratic' rule.

Our weak and corrupt governments will always fear the army, famously termed by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as being the only disciplined party of the country, its largest and most rich. Nawaz Sharif has more to fear as he has amended the Constitution and blocked all constitutional means available to the people of ousting him. By demoralizing the army and not abiding by the conventional line of seniority, he has weakened his safety net. He did not trust General Jehangir Karamat, so he had to go, and with him the two most senior pointed General Pervez Musharraf as COAS, he was overtaken by feelings of dis-

comfort and made it clear that he would like to move him up a notch into the powerless redundant higher seat of the Joint Chief. News from the ranks has it that Nawaz Sharif would be most comfortable with a man down the line. General Ziauddin, an engineer and once Private Secretary to COAS Aslam Beg, who he has appointed as his eyes and ears to head the ISI. Last week, Ziauddin was on a 'routine' visit to Washington whilst Shahbaz Sharif was there.

A news report of September 23 in the Dawn told us that General Aslam Beg was especially concerned over the visit of the director-general of the ISI and asked: 'what is he trying to gain for himself?'

What the Americans do not realize is that our army can act without staging a coup. In 1993, did not COAS General Abdul Waheed Kakar go to dine with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and before pudding was served did not both president and prime minister 'constitutionally' resign? Under the present circumstances the Americans will back any form of democracy sufficiently powerful to be able to curb nuclear proliferation, theocrats, fundamentalists, the Taliban, freedom fighters and Jihadis more commonly known to them as terrorists.

The double-headed West, America and Europe, with which Japan and Russia are aligned, fear militant (or resurgent) Islam. Some 50 independent Islamic states allow themselves to remain disunited. Many buy arms from

the West, which they sometimes use against each other. They control much of the oil reserves and the Organisation of Islamic Conference could have a voice in world affairs but because of its own inability does not.

Writing in *The Times* (London) on September 20, on forecasts of the worldwide conflict on the Islamic fault line, Lord William Rees-Mogg, a former editor of that newspaper, is chillingly accurate:

The world is full of violence. There are the massacres in East Timor; the murder of 300 Russians by terrorist bombs probably related to Chechnya; the ethnic cleansing of the Albanians and then of the Serbs in Kosovo... the grumbling confrontation in Kashmir between India and Pakistan, both nuclear powers...

Kashmir is a conflict between the resurgent Islam of Pakistan and the resurgent Hinduism of India. Chechnya is a conflict between Islam and Russia. Kosovo is an even more extraordinary situation, a conflict between Islam and Slav Orthodoxy...

The West is seen as double-headed between the United States and Europe; Islam has no core country, which makes it more difficult to relate to from the outside. Islam and the West, in different ways, present the world with the greatest difficulties.

Muslims are expected to make up about 30 per cent of the world's population by 2025... the danger lies in the reaction between the revival of the Islamic confidence, backed by a growing population, and the fears of the neighbouring civilisations. All the neighbouring civilisations feel potentially under threat. The West is concerned about oil, nuclear proliferation, immigration, the survival of Israel, and human rights...

India fears Pakistan and potentially the alienation of the 100 million Muslims in India itself. China is concerned about Central Asia and about the Chinese in Indonesia. The non-Muslim population of Sub-Saharan Africa has anxieties as well...

We in Pakistan are dependent upon the West. Prudence demands that we trim our sails.

Friday Mailbox

Use of tasting salt

Sir, The food additive or flavour enhancer known commonly as tasting salt or *ajinomoto* (chemical name: monosodium glutamate (MSG)) has been used for centuries in oriental cooking and is widely used in packaged foods like chips, nuts and specially instant soups. MSG is the sodium salt of the amino acid called glutamic acid and a form of glutamate. It is a fine white crystalline substance, similar in appearance to salt or sugar. It does not have a distinct taste of its own but greatly enhances the taste of other foods. It stimulates brain cell activity, and tricks the brain to think that the food tastes better than what it really is. But MSG is very harmful to health and causes a wide variety of reactions including: severe headache, migraine, stomach upset, nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea, asthma attack, shortness of breath, anxiety or panic attack, heart palpitation, partial paralysis, numbness, heart attack-like symptoms, mental confusion, allergy, skin rash, depression, weakness etc. Long term use of it can be linked with cancer as well.

I was therefore, really shocked to find that most restaurants in Dhaka particularly those serving Thai, Chinese and fast food (specially fried chicken) use enormous amount of tasting salt in their food to make it taste better. To me, the head waiter at a reputed restaurant in the city even claimed (rather proudly) that they do not use normal table salt to cook their food but rely entirely on tasting salt. I believe, this harmful substance is being used at restaurants in large quantities at the ignorance of both the producer and the consumer of its bad effects. So, some kind of action must be taken to stop this careless use of tasting salt. A few years back outlets of Kentucky Fried Chicken in India were asked to shut down as large amount of tasting salt was found in their food. Can't our country take similar actions?

Isaam Dhaka.

Poster and leaflets

Sir, There is no means to determine the number of posters or leaflets printed by a candidate participating in the election. There is also no means to find out who is the printer and publisher of these posters. FEMA — a citizens' coalition suggested that provision should be made, making it compulsory to mention the serial number such as 1-500, 500-1000 and name and address of the printer and publisher of the posters and leaflets. If this proposal is implemented, the authority can get a clue of the election expense of a particular candidate.

Mostafa Sobel Dhaka

Letters column: A window for justice

Sir, The letters columns in newspapers are potential material for advancing the cause of justice and fair-play in the society. These can help good governance if the various ministries fix their antennae to catch them and use them

not merely as feed-back but also as clues to redressal of specific problems. The health minister has himself conceded that he gets all the information pertaining to his sector from newspaper reports alone. Obviously, along the government channels there is an active disdain for negative news of any kind. So hard truths are smoke-screened for the person at the top. The number one person usually gets to know what he or she likes to hear.

We do not have any Ombudsman as yet. The Prime Minister's weekly meet-the-people vehicle seems a closed aperture now. So, why not have a specific cell at the PMO to sift through the letters columns in newspapers and extend a hand in solving problems of public interest?

S H I Malibag, Dhaka

'Cellphones'

Sir, This is in response to the letter under the heading 'Cellphones' published in *The Daily Star* on September 8, 1999.

GreenPhone Limited is the first, and so far, the only mobile telephone operator to introduce the Pre-paid service in the country. It has been introduced to provide a better option for certain categories of subscribers. The Pre-paid service allows the subscribers to control the usage of their mobile telephones while not having to bother about paying monthly rentals or end of the month bills.

However, due to heavy rush of users, the option for subscribing Post-paid mobile phone still remains. GreenPhone is only trying to provide its valued subscribers with more options.

Shawkat Imam Information Officer GreenPhone Limited 65 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka

'Telephone number with prefix '32''

Sir, I have come across a number of letters under the above heading published in your daily. Eventually my telephone also begins with '32' and hence this interest. It is not only that my telephone does not work, it acts queer. Most of the time it remains dead. When it rings, it stops after one ring or two. Luckily if I can catch up with the call, it almost always is the wrong number. Persons calling me complain that either it does not ring or if it rings nobody responds. If I dial any number insistently it goes to a wrong one. I can not call numbers with '0' and '9'. All these are absolutely irritating.

I understand the government has been planning to bring far-flung townships into digital network. Pertinently may I ask, if Dhaka can not be brought under a discipline, is it possible to discipline the rest of the country?

M S Akhand Pisciculture-Kha Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

OPINION

Discovery of Yet Another Killing Field: The Generation Reacts

by Akku Chowdhury

MUSLIM Bazaar, located on the edge of Mirpur in suburban Dhaka, is now known to almost everyone. For the last 28 years, this has been just another isolated place burying the victims of one of the most gruesome massacres of our Liberation history.

On July 27, the discovery of some human remains became public during the construction of a mosque complex. After the local people, a youth organization (Ekatturer Smriti Parishad) and the Liberation War Museum took the initiative to excavate the area and investigate to see whether this could be yet another killing field used by Pakistan Army and their agents during 1971 to eliminate the Bengalees. The Bangladesh Government also extended help by sending a contingent of the Bangladesh Army to assist in this Herculean job.

For the last 28 years, unfortunately, the socio-political situations have been such that nobody bothered about taking the initiative to record the history in its right perspective. Most importantly there was never a serious effort to make records of the victims, who were killed or went missing, and the evidences of the Genocide. As a result, there has always been a discrepancy in our interpretation of the history of the Liberation Struggle. The generation that was born after 1971 has been left in the dark about that period.

Today we blame the youth for their indifference and rebellious attitude. But we fail to recognize the fact that those who participated in the Libera-

tion War and those who witnessed the making of history in one of the epic moments of Bengalees, have failed to imbue the younger generation with the spirit of our struggle for freedom through presenting the true history of the nation to them. For the last 28 years, the history of our struggle for freedom took a back seat and we distorted it to represent only certain interest groups, losing in the process the true essence and spirit of our struggle and to a certain extent, our existence as a nation to personal interest. The youth found themselves in the crossfire and found us to be hypocritical and dishonest — uncharacteristic of a generation that fought the War of Liberation. Their disappointment and disenchantment created a gap between the two generations and the enemies of the Liberation War took advantage of the situation to belittle and disgrace our struggle.

When war ravaged Bangladesh was liberated in 1971, it was in a miserable state indeed. A 1972 economic survey estimated the approximate total material loss in both private and public sector to be hundreds of millions of dollars. Apart from the human casualty, the rehabilitation of about 10 million refugees was mind-boggling. The psychological and emotional upheaval effected by

this human tragedy can still be felt in our everyday life. The Pakistan Army along with their collaborators not only destroyed our infrastructure but also calculatedly selected the best of our minds and killed them most mercilessly in the killing fields all across the country. The whole exercise was designed to leave a vacuum in our intellectual and administrative capability to rebuild the country. To rebuild this nation was a monumental job that was possible only because of the determination and resilience of the people. Unfortunately, we are still paying for the intellectual loss that we suffered in 1971 in the hands of the occupation army and their accomplices.

The state of the country that the people inherited in 1971 is unimaginable and the price paid for independence was very high. Looking at Bangladesh today in the backdrop of the past, I feel proud to be a citizen of this country. Yes, things can get better and continue to get better today. We are capable of doing that.

Unfortunately, the majority of the people who are hard working and simple-minded are being exploited and manipulated by a handful few. This can only be overcome by a conscientious effort of our leadership in politics, business and

society who have a vision to move forward and look into the future. There seems to be an identity crisis in us. We need to be rejuvenated with the pride of our nation's painful but glorious birth. We must know our history.

It is most important that the truth should be revealed and what happened in 1971 needs to be known for the nation to proudly march forward. As we enter the new millennium it should be the beginning of a new era for Bangladesh. Let us join together and clear the debris that have been thrown over the bodies of hundreds of thousands of Bengalees of 1971 and renew our oath to build our nation in the spirit of their sacrifice. Only then shall we know ourselves. Our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers and friends lie under the heaps of mud and slush, unmarked and unnoticed. Their souls are not in peace. We shall be cursed forever if we cannot bring peace to their souls.

The discovery of the killing field at Muslim Bazaar had an awakening effect in all of us and especially the younger generation. What I have experienced by the participation of those who were born after 1971 has been an eye opener for me. Most of those who came forward to help in the actual work of excavation and exhuming

and extended their support in many ways belong to the generation born after 1971. Their age ranged from 22 to 32. But I was most impressed by the spirit, determination and commitment with which they had to accomplish this task most diligently. It reminded me of 1971 during the war when we all shared similar spirit and dream of freedom. The journalists who kept vigil and made it known to the world were also mostly from the younger group. They didn't take this assignment just like any other beat but as proud citizens of a free nation wanting to become a part of the 1971 spirit. The volunteers, visitors and well-wishers mostly belonged to this generation. It reaffirmed my faith in them and if they are guided in the right direction, as a country can surely hold our head high in the new millennium.

With the discovery of the mass grave, it is important to explore the various mechanisms of legal and social redress to improve the psychological and emotional support system for the families, long affected by the loss of their near and dear ones.

It is hoped once the proper excavation and exhuming is completed, the society as a whole will be beneficial in many ways. The history can be put in the right perspective with facts and figures. The bereaved families will know the nation owes its debt to those who became victims of the war. Some form of justice will be done through remembrance.