The Baily Star Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Thursday, December 9, 1999

Grozny Writhing, but Who Cares?

TX / HAT Russia is doing with the Chechens in VV Grozny is state terrorism and how the western world has been reacting to it is a virtual abetment in the crime.

After butchering the Chechens right, left and centre, in the name of fighting terrorism, Russian military has been committing the most rabid form of state-sponsored terrorism on record.

They have encircled Grozny from all sides and threatened the Chechen residents with simultaneous attacks from the air and by land if they failed to vacate the city by December 11. For some time past panicked women and children have been moving into refugee camps near the Chechen-Ingush border to flee the Russian military persecution and also taking fright of the imminent showdown between the Russians and Chechen separatist rebels. What the ultimatum foreshadows actually conjures up a more severe form of violation of human rights of the Chechen people. The old, sick and disabled who are likely to fail the deadline become the sitting target of annihilation. In fact, whoever stays back among the currently estimated 40,000 to 50,000 residents in embattled Grozny faces the prospect of being finished off. In their final drive to depopulate Grozny the Russians will not stop short of anything - they could even release inflammable gas to incinerate buildings and people. Earlier they had allegedly used aerosol bombs.

Since the Chechen rebels are to make their last stand in the Russian encircled city it is utter destruction that lies in store for Grozny. When a whole population is writhing in the trepidations of an extinction, the world, especially the powerful western countries, are doing no more than issuing empty, at best academic, threats to Russia. When President Clinton says, "its (Russia's) fight against terrorism is right, but the methods being used are wrong" what he is basically doing is giving tacit support to the Russian contention that the Chechen rebels are no more than "some terrorists and criminals.

Let the muted international reaction to Russian brutalisation be transformed into a crescendo of protests against making Grozny into another Kosovo or Bosnia as the powerful countries get their act together to intervene rightaway.

What about Bangla Academy?

THE prime minister's declaration that a Centre ■ for Mother Language Practice and Research will be set up in the capital in a way reminds us of the existence of Bangla Academy which has been involved in the field for long. The academy was founded with a view to upholding and enriching our linguistic and cultural heritage. Essentially, therefore, the objective of Bangla Academy and that of the proposed centre sound similar. Obviously, the question arises; why is the government thinking of setting up the centre instead of enhancing the academy? Renewal of commitment to the mother-tongue or vigour for its development is indeed praiseworthy; however, could it not have come in the form of a comprehensive plan to negotiate with the multifarious problems the academy is currently in? Surely, a set of strong arguments will be produced to justify the prime minister's declaration. One of the major reasons could very well be the 'unsatisfactory' performance of the academy.

True, Bangla Academy may not have lived up to the expectations. It is also true, more could have been done in the field of research on Bangla. Still, isn't it true as well that the academy has had torrid times negotiating with the whims of successive regimes? More often than not, we have seen the government tampering with its internal affairs influencing project outline and recruitment matters. Isn't it also true that state support in terms of budget allocation for recruitment, human resource development and incentives has largely been incongruous with the level of expectations? The fact of the matter is: Bangla Academy has hardly been allowed to work independently and autonomously.

Unesco declaration of February 21 as the International Mother Language Day enhances not only the nation's prestige but also its responsibility. Indeed, we need to play a pioneering role in language research. But the government's enthusiasm in this regard seems misdirected. The thrust should be on identifying the impediments that are not letting the academy perform at the level it is expected to and eliminating them; and not on setting up a centre just for the heck of it. Bangla Academy should be turned into a centre of excellence for flowering of Bangla Language and literature, which unquestionably requires the communion of minds, the best there is and there will be. As its chief patron, the government should primarily focus on making that happen rather than nipping the very prospect of it once and for all.

Let's Do It Differently

THE city experienced horrendous traffic disorder on Tuesday afternoon on account of a public rally organised by the government to celebrate the Unesco's declaration of 21st February as the International Mother Language Day. It is perhaps the most glorious day in our national history to be honoured with such an international recognition of the sacrifices we made for the sake of our mother tongue.

But couldn't we have celebrated the occasion without causing any hardship to the citizens? Was it not possible to do it differently? The route map of the procession, published in the major dailies, was not followed resulting in jams at most important and vulnerable points. These caused a terrible disruption of civic life in the capital. The organisers should have visualised such an eventuality and taken precautions to avert it. Even hospitals faced shortage of staff for some time as they were taken to the Paltan Maidan to get a bigger crowd for the rally.

A perfectly well-intentioned gesture of the prime minister tended to cause a serious dislocation in city life. We strongly feel that in future the organisers of such rallies and marches should stick to a set plan that will spell less trouble for the citizens in an already precarious traffic jungle.

Four-Party Declaration and Political Situation

How could one believe in the sincerity and seriousness of the desire of the Prime Minister to hold

talks while at the same time she herself deliberately vitiated the atmosphere by vilification of the

Leader of the Opposition and shooting down mercilessly, by action of her obedient police force,

senior opposition leaders in the street?

HE long awaited and much talked about 4-party summit of the opposition political parties finally took place on the 30th ultimo at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition, Begum Khaleda Zia. The Jatiya Party leader General Hussein Muhammad Ershad, Jamaat-

e-Islami's Amir Golam Azam and Islami Oikya Jote's chief Shaikhul Islam Azizul Huq attended the meeting.

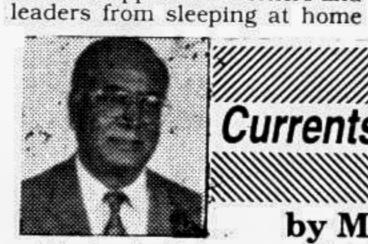
The Declaration has been viewed by the intellectuals and a cross section of the general public as a comprehensive. rather restrained and fairly balanced one. In line with the constitution, it reflected democratic norms and aspirations. The Declaration portrayed a vivid picture of the current socio-politico-economic conditions of the country as well as undemocratic and repressive measures undertaken by the government to throttle political opposition. The opposition claimed that on account of failure to provide good governance, the Awami League had forfeited the moral and democratic right to rule the nation. They strongly demanded that a mid-term election be ordered by the government to obtain a new mandate or to allow the people to elect another government of their choice. In order to do that, the government must resign and hand over power, as

government without delay. The major fields in which the government had manifested stark failure were many. They cited that the parliament, the focal point of democracy, was rendered ineffective by not allowing opposition members to speak on major national and international issues. The BNP would never forgive the ruling party and a partisan Speaker for allowing only 13 minutes for the entire opposition members to speak on a grave national is-

per constitution, to a caretaker

sue like the Chittagong Hill and so forth. Over and above Tracts Accord, whereas ministhese, law and order situation ters would brawl on irrelevant went from bad to worse. subjects for hours. The Water Crimes of all types reached a Sharing Treaty with India, the record high. Terrorism, extormost significant international tion, ransom mongering, rape agreement concluded in recent and repression of women and times, was signed by the prechildren became unparalleled in sent government without even history. Use of law enforcing authe knowledge of the Parliathorities for unlawful political ment. Deputy Leader of Oppopurposes, police atrocities and sition was prevented by Prime killing in police custody spread Minister three times, overruling terror among most people. the Speaker, from offering per-Continued harassment by instisonal explanation to vindicate tuting false criminal cases and his religious position which bore illegal detention prevent thou-

ments which represented minimum programme acceptable to all parties and thoughtfully avoided inclusion of or reference to any issue or item to which one or more constituents are specially committed. BNP emphasized it did not and would not flinch from the path of its policies and principles. Thirdly, The Declaration portended future electoral alliances and formation of a coalition or national government which depended, however, on subsequent course of political development. Fourthly, a pledge to repeal the Special Powers Act



Currents and Crosscurrents

by M M Rezaul Karim

and to be in hideouts so that they could hardly devote themselves to their legitimate party

sands of opposition workers and

In any case, among the special features and achievements of the summit, some noteworthy ones can be enumerated. The four leaders were Firstly, it was unique in the anonymous in describing that sense it produced a written declaration of common perceptions, policies and projected actions of four major political parties to which they were committed. Previously, BNP, Awami League, Jamaat and a conglomerate of groups of political parties, who had made an anti-Ershad movement for nine months, did not conclude such comprehensive written agreement for their commitment and guidance. Secondly, the Declaration contained eleand to ensure autonomy of the government-controlled electronic media is expected to be redeemed, if and after they get into power. Finally, it has the ambience of a formidable and formal formation of the united opposition strength, while the Left Front aspiring to emanate as a Third Force, leaving the ruling party to tread on the po-

litical path alone. The media and intellectuals sympathetic to government criticised and sneered at the BNP for having joined hands with anti-liberation Jamaat and autocratic Jatiya Party forces in order to make a political alliance. But the Awami League clearly sidetracked the fact that they had even earlier made alliances with the same anti-liberation and autocratic forces

during the past BNP regime in a bid to topple the latter. As a matter of fact, the Awami League could never have been able to assume power and form government without support of autocratic Ershad, and welcomed his Secretary General in their cabinet. So the question of political expediency supplanted the matter of principles for our political leaders. One may also recall, while Begum Zia remained unflinching in adhering to the common opposition policy of non-cooperation. Sheikh Hasina in defiance of joint decision participated in the election and legitimized Ershad regime.

The current political situation

was lately dominated by the

Tangail-8 by-election. In the opinion of domestic and international observers, the by-election polls were marked by unprecedented violence, rampant violation of election rules, indiscriminate and unlawful use of government's administrative and law-enforcing agencies, deliberate flouting of electoral code of conduct and brazen manifestation of muscle and money power. The Chief Election Commissioner for the first time postponed gazette notification of a by-election result, instituted a judicial inquiry whose composition was changed by unlawful manipulation of the government, dismissed 4 magistrates and presiding officers and went on leave for reasons that bred widespread speculation. The mainstream population share the general view that the Tangail-8 by-election had been the most heavily rigged election in Bangladesh in recent times.

The other major event relates to the unprecedented slandering on the floors of the

Parliament by the Leader of the House, joined by a highly influential Cabinet Minister. Hon'ble Prime Minister spoke most dishonourably about the person of the Leader of the Opposition that stunned the general public and put them to shame. Simultaneously, the Home Minister joked about an opposition MP wounded by police firing saying that the MP's blood-soaked body was in fact smeared by animal blood. In the same breadth, Prime Minister made public statements, without making any direct or formal approach. asking the opposition to hold a dialogue to solve political problems. How could one believe in the sincerity and seriousness of the desire of the Prime Minister to hold talks while at the same time she herself deliberately vitiated the atmosphere by vilification of the Leader of the Opposition and shooting down mercilessly, by action of her obedient police force, senior opposition leaders in the street? Appropriate regrets for such remarks and actions are sine qua non for creating an atmosphere congenial for holding a political dialogue.

On the positive side, however, a significant development took place. The Shaheed Day of 21 February was designated by the UNESCO as the International Mother Language Day to be celebrated by 188 countries throughout the world. The decision accorded befitting recognition and constituted a glowing tribute to the heroic sacrifice of our language martyrs. The announcement was the culmination of sustained efforts of successive governments and made every Bengali happy and proud. Yet, unfortunately, the glory of the international reward could hardly efface the avoidable selfinflicted stain and misery on nation's political face.

The author, a former Ambassador, is Member, Advisory Council of BNP.

Hindutva Invades Curricula Education as Prejudice

a threat to his life. On many

occasions, opposition members'

microphone was disconnected.

Not a single adjournment mo-

tion to discuss grave political is-

sues affecting people was enter-

tained during the entire life of

the present parliament. This

happened after the ruling party

had earlier entered with opposi-

tion a 4-point agreement allow-

ing legitimate demands of the

latter, including right to speak.

But the pledges were blatantly

and deliberately flouted. The

opposition apprehends repetition

of this, if they go back to par-

liament, as the ruling party's

words do not match with its

the economy was in shambles,

banks and financial institutions

were in ruins, trade and busi-

ness stood standstill, foreign ex-

change reserves fell drastically,

share market scam reflected

government's inept and incom-

petent handling, foreign in-

vestors lost confidence, exports

declined, government's borrow-

ing from banks increased, un-

employment rose, people's pur-

chasing power fell, prices of es-

sential goods swelled and so on

Praful Bidwai writes from New Delhi

It is not often (at least in India) that conservatism produces distinguished intellectuals. People like M.N. Srinivas or Girilal Jain are rare exceptions. The run-of-the-mill saffron conservative is far too insecure to run institutions in a consensual, open, democratic way.

TF Mr M.M. Joshi has his way, our children will grow Lup believing that "Bharatiya culture", as the sangh parivar defines it, is the sole influence that has shaped India. This culture, they will learn, has remained unchanged since time immemorial. All other influences and traditions are "impure", alien, not part of our Among the other "values"

that textbooks will preach: According to the Ramayana, Sri Lanka had "houses decorated with wonderful wreaths and jewels, golden archways, pearls, diamonds... etc." But it was not "cultured" "In refreshing contrast, Ayodhya was both civilised and cultured. People were learned, free

from greed, truthful...." · There was no contradiction between Hinduism and Buddhism-despite rich evidence to the contrary. Hinduism merely "absorbed" Buddhism.

 Indians are "a race". More. they have "a mission" and "destiny" as a race.

 It is "a fundamental postulate of Hindu thought that every way of life has its own contribution to make " But "the ultimate reality" is defined by Krishna alone.

 India has never sought to subjugate other people, cultures or lands-never mind our marauding nawabs and brutal ra-

· "Bharatiya culture is the only culture which has understood the life problems in their totality...

· "Spirituality is the core of our culture It is the backbone of [India's] existence...." The "spirit of Bharat" is Dharma-"the ultimate source of all values." The best description of Dharma is found in the Manusmriti.

· "Bharat excelled in every branch of Science... Our sages realised reality lying in every sphere of life." All of them were

· "We firmly believe in the Vedantic concept, each soul is potentially divine We have to reach the concept of 'I am God'...." The basic task of education today is to inculcate this knowledge.

These ideas form the core of the "Discussion Papers" prepared by the principal institutions that draw up school curricula, including the National Open School (with over a million pupils, from whose document the quotes are taken).

Other bodies like the NCERT and the CBSE are also about to adopt a similar approach. These Papers not only stipulate the objectives of education but also lay down its core-content.

All future textbook writers must conform to these standards. In practice, this will apply to institutions at the state level too. Most states partici-pate either in the District Primary Education Programme or the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which Mr Joshi has launched even as he dismantled the Na-

This adds up to a massive brainwashing programme. No one has ever attempted anything one-tenth as ambitious. Earlier, textbooks were manipulated to introduce a communal bias. But this is the first time that the whole curriculum is being comprehensively rewritten—not to update it.

tional Literacy Mission.

The Discussion Papers are reminiscent of fativas issued in Hitler's Germany to inculcate the spirit of "nationalism", and specify what constitutes the authentic "German culture" of the Aryan "master race".

They come on top of many measures that the BJP government has taken to alter the character of institutions like the Councils of Social Science and Historical Research, and the University Grants Commission. Another round of top appointments is coming up in some of our best-known universities, like JNU, Jamia Millia, Aligarh, and Santiniketan.

Mr Joshi is clearly the most dedicated RSS minister in the government. RSS insiders acknowledge this in India Today: "We think Joshiji has done the best work We know that our project of nation-building cannot be accomplished without basic education."

Not to be left behind is Mr Arun Jaitley, the new I&B minister. He has shown his true colours by arbitrarily removing Prof Romila Thapar and Mr Rajendra Yadav from Prasar Bharati.

This makes a complete mockery of autonomy. Autonomy means the government cannot interfere with PB's management. Legally, it is not, empowered to remove or appoint directors. But it brazenly did so. Fer retation, an objective criterion could have been applied, like drawing lotswhich the PB Board itself proposed.

The removal of Prof Thapar and Mr Yaday was rightly termed "intellectual violence" by former I&B minister Jaipal Reddy. It removed those members who put up the most resistance to the BJP's takeover of Doordarshan and AIR.

The pattern of BJP appointments in educational and cultural institutions goes beyond 'Left vs Right" divides. Thus, it is improper to term Prof Thapar a "Marxist historian" and link this to her removal. Pertinently speaking, she is a historian of exceptional eminence, whom any university in the world

would be honoured to have. She was removed not because she is a Marxist, but because she is an independent-minded intellectual who brooks no

Institutions are vital to democracy. Running them well means appointing first-rate people committed to pluralism, and open to new ideas. Handing them over to sectarian bigots is the surest recipe for ruining

That is why it matters less that Mr M.L. Sondhi is a Right winger than that he is an utter mediocrity, who will damage the ICSSR. If ICHR's B.R. Grover had a half-way respectable academic record, his sympathies for communal history-writing might have been easier to for-

It is not often (at least in India) that conservatism produces distinguished intellectuals. People like M.N. Srinivas or Girilal Jain are rare exceptions. The run-of-the-mill saffron conservative is far too insecure to run institutions in a consensual, open, democratic way. For the most part, his intellectual foundations are traceable to Savarkar, Golwalkar and

(Jadunath) Sarkar. Most communal historians remain untouched by new schools of historiography which go beyond the colonial and nationalist divides. For them, the very purpose of history is to glorify India.

This is the very stuff of Hindutva's "culture" project. This is far more insidious than constructing the Ram temple. It involves manipulating minds, spreading hatred, and yoking oneself to a hateful nationalism. What happens to today's curriculum will influence generations. That's why this Project of Prejudice must not pre-

Remembering National Professor Abdur Razzak by A T R Rahman write correct English. Specifically he told me to write lengthy

T 7 E are saddened by the death of Professor Razzak who touched and influenced many of our lives profoundly in various ways. The interview by Humayun Azad with Professor Razzak taken on December 2, 1984, published in the Decem-

ber 3, 1999 issue of weekly Thikana. New York gives a perceptive profile of this caring person and brings back to memory several personal contacts that I have been privileged to share as a student and colleague in the political science department of Dhaka Univer-

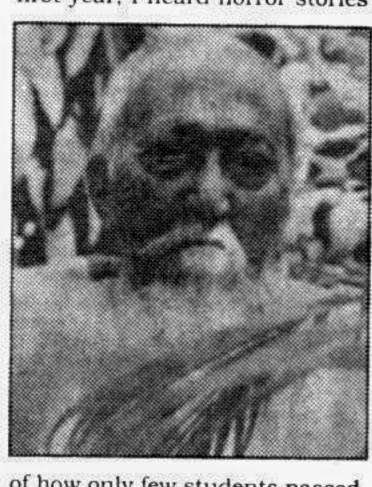
Teaching and lecturing in a

formal classroom was not particularly liked by Razzak Sir. Very few students could understand his lectures. It used to be said about him that his lecture went over the heads of students and that he was a teacher of teachers. Although I took his class three years as a honors student, the only memory of his lecture that stuck in my mind is the one he gave on the day after the 1954 election results for the legislative assembly in East Pakistan was announced in which Jukta Front trounced Muslim League by capturing 291 seats out of 300. While we all were celebrating the results and praising the election as the brightest day of democracy in Pakistan, Professor Razzak, in his black Sherwani and white Pajama, entered the classroom and declared that "this is the darkest day of democracy in East Pakistan". We were stunned and speechless for some moments. Seeing our condition, he took the whole hour to explain how a 97 per cent parliamentary majority cannot be a functioning democracy and that it would turn into a virtual dictatorship. But in the case of Jukta Front, he also explained that since it was an alignment based not on agreements of shared positive political views but in opposition to a negative cause of dislodging Muslim League, the electoral unity will not survive the fights over policies and patronage leading the country to chaos and confusion. His prediction came true although many of us were not sure if we understood what he was

explaining at that time. The impact, influence and the hold that Professor Razzak had on many of us was not due to his lecture at the classroom, his speeches on rare occasions, or guiding research works, or publishing papers and books. It was from his one to one contact with his students, associates and friends who came into contact with him , discussed their problems and sought his advice. I remember Professor Razzak not as a teacher or a

friend but as a caring guide and sympathetic advisor who always kept the full interests of the person seeking his help in mind. In one to one contact, Razzak Sir always made us feel that we are the only focus of his attention and concern of his caring and intellectual abilities at that moment.

I remember an encounter with him concerning a critical issue of my honors student life. Our head of the department, Professor K.G. Newman, had a policy requiring applicants for B. A. honors with low-marks in English in Intermediate exam to take English as one of their subsidiary subjects. I was eager to take honors in Political Science and took English as one of my subsidiaries without fully realizing the future implications. As we progressed in our first year, I heard horror stories



of how only few students passed English subsidiary in the first chance and how many of them failed several times and had to change subsidiary English to some other subject in order to finally pass the honors exam in political science. I got really worried about my prospects of passing English and someone advised me to see Professor Razzak. When I asked the Sir for time to discuss my problem, he invited me to come to his I vividly remember the room

in which both of us sat down on a mat (Pati) on the floor surrounded by tall shelves against the walls stacked with books. Sir explained to me that he sleeps on Pati in the same room and that he has no other furniture. We shared Bhuna beef and Parata which he cooked himself and which was one of his favourite dish. After our social introductions, Sir listened to my worries about English subsidiary and advised me not to worry but take charge by practice writing in English, the only way he emphasized that I can improve my knowledge and

diary everyday for at least three months on any subject I chose. Given a seven-day break, I was told to reread and correct my diary entry daily for both grammar and expression. I did what the Sir told me which helped me to pass English easily . I owe it to professor Razzak for passing English at the first In Azad's interview, Professor Razzak blamed his laziness

for not writing any important articles and books and not leaving any published intellectual legacy. Many of his admirers. were also baffled by this phenomenon that a person who knew so much did not have interest or stamina to share his knowledge through printed words and make his contribution for the current and future generation. I have a feeling that Razzak Sir was basically a cynic and skeptic about and indifferent to the relevance and showed usefulness of his contribution and laziness to cover this skepticism. It is an unsolved mystery for many of his students that the Sir who liked to read, who knew so much and who could contribute significantly to the current issues and leave valuable legacy for future generation through his writings did not do so significantly.

I tried on one occasion to get Professor Razzak to do some writing for publication. In 1970 Professor Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury (who later became Vice Chancellor) and myself as the founding President and Secretary, respectively, organized the East Pakistan Political Science Association and approached the Sir to prepare and present the keynote speech in our inaugural meeting. After much persuasion Professor Razzak agreed to prepare the paper on condition we provided the stenographic support. It was all arranged and he got almost half way through - about 10 pages. But he declined to complete the paper, expressing lack of interest. We all were very disheartened, but honoured his

The cynic in Razzak Sir always won the fight when the issue was writing something for or sharing his knowledge in print with a larger audience. But when the issue was sharing his knowledge and wisdom with individuals and small groups, it was the compassionate guide in Razzak Sir that won and was at its best. This is the way we remember him and I have a hunch this is how he wanted us to remember him. May Allah rest his soul in peace.

The writer is a senior UN officer and former professor of Dhaka University.

and understanding for mutual

benefits. Khaleda Zia, in a way,

seems to engineer the politics

that lessens our sense of na-

Three types

some achieve the homour by

hard work, and some have

Sir. Some are born Doctors,

tionalism.

3090. 16th.st. #405

San Francisco, C.A-94103

Ameer

Amusing

Sir, First let me say that when write this I do not mean to speak against my country in any way. As a citizen of a democratic country my freedom of speech has urged me to speak and hence.

In the issue of the DS dated 23.11.99. I was shocked and amused to see that a writ petition has moved against the campaign of the 'Voyage of Dis-covery'! Are we so bored that we have to do such things as a means to pass time? Some may think that I am all for 'Western' ideas. Truly speaking, when the advertisement of the 'Voyage of Discovery' used to appear on TV, felt happy to see that Bangladesh was also on the list of their visiting countries. But, as usual, people in our country tend to take things in a negative way. The anti-drug associationssaid that the campaign's aim is to encourage young people to

smoke! Which world are these people live in? Those who smoke will smoke anyway and those who haven't started, well it is up to them whether or not they want to, because in today's world everyone knows the hazard of smoking. If it is all right if we wear Western clothes and try to adapt their music with ours which has conveniently been termed as 'fusion music', but why suddenly smoking seems to be a practice of the

Lamia F Hug Dhaka

Office of the prime minister

Sir, the BNP amended the constitution in 1996 to make provision for non-party caretaker government to hold fair election. This is known as the thirteenth amendment. As per

article 58 B(1) of the amendment, Parliament will dissolve or stands dissolved by reasons of expiration of its term and then non-party caretaker government can be formed under Chief Adviser. The phrase "expiration of its

term" means each and every government will have five-year duration as per the amendment made in 1996.

Now as per Article 57, the office of the prime minister shall become vacant if the PM resigns from office or cease to retain the support of a majority of the members of the parliament during the five-year term of the government. The above article 57 again directs the existing PM to continue holding the office of the PM till his/her successor has entered upon office.

Now BNP and its allies are calling hartals to force AL government to resign. Suppose PM Sheikh Hasina resigns right now - then what will happen?

As per Article 57 of the Constitution, Sheikh Hasina will be the caretaker PM to hold parliamentary election. The thirteenth amendment of the constitution made for non-party caretaker government to hold parliament election cannot be applied here.

AKM Khairul Anam House#63/D, Road#15 Banani. Dhaka-1213.

Transhipment facility to India Sir. As far as trade with In-

dia is concerned, we must do it without compromising our national interest and security. Transhipment of Indian goods could be a step in that direction but our leaders should take more time thinking over the issue. As we do not presently have a sound industrial output. I don't think it is the right tim-

However, we must strive for better relations with India, but that too, a balanced one.

The opinions expressed by Khaleda Zia have political overtones and one should not forget that she comes from the opposing party. But she is right in one sense that India will derive more benefits. It is obvious just from sheer size of the country and the volume of

goods produced in India. A lesson in politics for our politician, both in position and opposition, is, "let's not ask what India will benefit but ask what Bangladesh will benefit from such agreement with In-

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USA Sir. The Prime Minister is Doctorates thrust upon them. In the ensuing convocation of the University of Dhaka, we shall see all three types. Amartya Sen will have it thrust upon him, there will be those poor men and women who had to do three

to five years' grunge work, and

there will be the ones who will

Bazlur Rahman right. Both Bangladesh and India need trading co-operation

35/2C Basabari Lane.

claim it by birthright.