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

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### Tofail's Wrong Signal?

Minister Tofail Ahmed's TNDUSTRITS observation that flawed banking system breeds loan default is, in our view, a blatant misrepresentation of facts. What has really prompted him to issue such a sweeping statement we are not sure of; we nevertheless have no doubt that it would immensely encourage the bank defaulters. His words could well be construed as having a pronounced intention of winning support of a certain section of the country's business community for political gains, more regrettably maybe to get political funding from their ill gotten wealth. What's more, at a time when immediate recovery of classified loans holds the only chance to shore up a limping banking and financial sector, his position would leave Bangladesh Bank on a fragile footing in their drive to rid the system of the evil. We are shocked and enraged, to say the least, at the minister's irresponsible and, needless to say, extremely myopic diagnosis.

This paper has always suggested that a line be drawn between the 'wilful' and 'circumstantial' defaulters. That done, the former should be severely dealt with while the latter may be given certain allowances so that they could repay their debt without going bankrupt. Now it seems that our suggestion have fallen on deaf ears. Conversely, the people in power have gone about the wrong way in viewing the issue, so suggests the industries minister's observation. Yes, the financial and banking sectors stand beset with multifarious problems. Yes, systemic failure may have complicated the exercise. But, to put the blame singularly on the banking system is to simply send the wrong signal to those we are trying to cast the dragnet around.

While we utterly denounce the shift in the government's position on the loan default issue - we cannot view this as being anything else - the minister's emphasis on banking reforms has struck a responsive chard in us. It is imperative that the reform process. E strengthened and completed without ado. Systemic failure aside, there appear to have been certain extraneous factors contributing to a stuttering banking system like political interference, unbridled exercise of directorial authority, etc. There is the dire need for enacting new laws and amending the old ones to desist unscrupulous businessmen and corrupt functionaries from being in a league to expropriate public money. We would request the honourable minister to refrain from making such dubious comments in future.

#### Not Again, Please

NERGY ministry has apparently shaken off its lethargy to propose increases in prices of diesel and kerosene, once again. The proposed hike by 15 per cent or so is quite a substantial one. Needless to say, this new pricing, if accepted by the government, will have a far reaching effect on the economy and the commonman's life. It is also likely to push up the inflationary rate. The reasons put forward by the ministry do not sound very convincing with the familiar kind of bogey raised about the BPC (Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation) going into huge losses unless prices are increased. The same excuse was offered in 1997 when octane and petrol prices were substantially raised. The question of diesel and kerosene being smuggled into India because of the price disparity, is an affront to the Bangladesh Rifles who are responsible for guarding the borders. Diesel and kerosene are not such items as can be taken out of the country on bicycle or bullock carts. Lorries, barges and tankers are needed to carry fuel in large quantities which should not be possible along a well guarded border. International prices may have risen in recent months to warrant some sort of readjustment in the prices now but did the government keep its pledge for reducing prices of fuel when it had the down to 10 dollars a barrel in the international market?

Diesel and kerosene are used in such huge quantities every day that even a nominal rise can generate extra revenue for the government. We hardly find any rationale for a huge hike in the prices of diesel and kerosene to absolve the BPC from its management failure and the government from its poor financial management and revenue collection situation.

#### Punish Them

TN order to maintain the standard of IV fluids, Lespecially in the form of saline bags, the drug administration directorate has asked the doctors, nurses and patients to remain alert against probable dangers of contamination and adulteration of their contents. The warming has been issued after the locally-produced saline bags have been found to contain bacteria and fungus posing serious hazards to their users. The drug authority has also instructed the producers to underline the "warning" logo with red colour. This hardly solves the problem of ensuring safe stocks for the patients. Certainly it is not going to remove the fear about adulteration. In fact it amounts to shutting the eyes to the culpability of those who are already engaged in unethical business of selling saline bags filled with pond-water. Basically this has to be gone into producers' level. There has to be a mechanism in place to seize and dump the bags if found in the market even after the 'expiry dates' are over. Sellers, if found selling counterfeit products, must be held responsible. If necessary, they should be de-licensed. It is at the roots that the problem has to be dealt with. In addition to that, since there have been instances of proven adulteration, those responsible for the same must be punished according to the law of the land.

# How Different is Awami League from Others?

by Dr. Mozammel H. Khan

WAMI League was expected to be a political A party different from many others. It started its platform with the premier objective of emancipating the Bengalees and carried out its historic task with successful leading of the glorious war of liberation. Its leader was elevated to the undisputed leader of the land while the history of his dedicated struggle became the history of the new-born nation. However, the party leadership could not enshrine itself as gloriously while administering the country. Notwithstanding the countless limitations quite natural of any war-ravaged new nation. Awami League's shortlived tenure at helm of the state does not invoke many cherished memories in the hearts of many of its sympathisers. Nevertheless, the Awami League is still blessed with a long list of patrons who are not guided by the avidity of any materialistic reciprocation from any quarter. No other political party in the country can boast of having such a stream of devotees around to help sustain and propagate its philosophy. Awami League is, therefore, additionally obliged to be accountable for its (wrong) deeds to its numerous benefactors all around the globe.

It was expected that the leaders would take lessons not only from their own failed rule, but also from the futile strategy of their adversaries. But their activities, especially in the last few months, are reflecting otherwise and have put them in the dock and placed their well wishers in mumbles. It is obvious from their successive postures that they are bent on carrying out with their well-or chestrated demeanours to further tarnish the image of the party and the country.

Accepting an honourary doctorate from the Australian National University, the honourable PM declared, "I would like to assure you that as long as I live I will dedicate myself to the rule of law and democracy.....". While the honourable PM was making her solemn pledge at one of the highest seats of learning on earth, her political advisor was busy with his cohorts to make the postmortem of democracy snatch-

ing away the voting right of her constituents back home. Kader Siddique, despite his numerous past flaws, has shown the highest respect for democracy by resigning from the parliament after his resignation from the AL. He was no Alauddin or Swapan. In fact, Tangail by-election was a win-win situation for the AL. Had Kader Siddique won; it would have been a victory for a valiant freedom fighter that would translate into a sweet triumph for the values for which AL is genuinely boastful. If the utterance of the PM's political advisor that the "Tar ail by-election was a prestige is ue for us" is true, then he has a long way to traverse in absorbing the essence of democracy.

Interference with the formation of the committee that was proposed by the CEC to investigate the alleged irregularities in the Tangail by-election does neither bode well for the rule of law nor for democracy. This indiscreet manoeuvre of the Law Ministry has helped the opposition score big points on their allegation regarding the indepen-

meeting in the Paltan Maidan has been denied. It is beyond the comprehension of any one with simple logical sense what are the AL leaders up to in dealing with Kader Siddique? What could be more mockery of the constitutional rules at the advent of the new millennium?

Political antagonism in our society, and especially in the educational institutions, is not unknown to the AL leaders. Was it too abstruse to visualise that any move to decorate any political leader, no matter how genuine, would trigger vehement opposition from the opposite camp? The PM had the laurels from almost all the continents of the globe. What went on earth that enticed the DU authority to confer this local laurel to the PM locking the democracy in-

side the Rokeya Hall? The politicians of the country are persistently not used to taking lessons either from their own mistakes or from those of their adversaries. BNP did not have any realisation from the mistake of the AL that a duly elected government cannot be

position parties at bay. They are in the belief that it will strengthen their organisational base that will be, in their views, a positive element in winning the next general election. Here again, they are disregarding the lessons form Ershad's supposedly similar hypothesis in the past which envisaged that the Upazilla chairmen would act as a foundation to keep his administration alive. Time and again. our politicians failed to understand that moral authority far outweighs the legal authority of any elected official and the moral authority only flourish

After what happened in the Tangail by-election, can the AL deny that the UZ election would not be fair under a partisan administration? The opposition parties have been handed with a major plus by the redundant acts of the ruling party in addition to its naked interference with the formation of the election enquiry commission by the CEC. It is the responsibility

from the free and full participa-

tion of the electorates in ques-

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while visiting the same University also named two halls; one carries the name of Bangabandhu, while the other bears the name of her mother. Both of them could not find any other names outside their families to glorify the University. What an identical thought both of them equally nourishes!

Two recent cabinet appointments by the PM indicated a flagrant violation of the spirit of the constitution. The provision of technocrat ministers in the cabinet was not meant for the rejected politicians. The authors of the constitution have some other category of people in mind. The PM has imposed the politicians to represent the nation who have not been accepted even by their local constituents. The act of the PM is an absolute mockery of democratic principles. If they were pressures from the party workers to make them the ministers, then their wishes were certainly not in tune with those of the people who rejected option to send them to the legisla-

ture. To make the matter look

worse, they are given the port-

folios snatched away from two

of the most prudent, popular

and eloquent politicians who

on their own right possess the

requisite distinctions to lead

the government. In the 'jumbo'

cabinet, there are two ministers

without portfolios. Why the na-

tional exchequer should be bur-

dened with the politicians, who

have no service to offer to the

the political advisor to the PM,

is very often ridiculing the re-

cent opposition alliance as the

'unholy' marriage of the BNP

with the 'autocrats' and the

'razakars'. Can the Advisor ex-

plain to the nation how his par-

ty's alliance with the same au-

tocrats and razakars was a holy

one no matter how limited its

objective was? AL leaders are

using the spirit of liberation

war as a gimmick to suit their

own objective. The political ad-

visor knows more than any one

else, how many key appoint-

ments have been made during

AL's tenure, at both home and abroad, with not only incompe-

tent but people who were vehe-

mently opposed to the creation

of the country and still hold on

to their contemptuous asser-

tions about the birth and the

sovereignty of Bangladesh,

eclipsing aside many of the tal-

ented individuals who played

the historic role before and dur-

ing the birth of the nation. The

previous administrations were

even hesitant to please them

with the lime light positions

The AL leaders, especially

nation?

not only because of their incompetence but for fear of adverse repercussions from the pro-liberation forces as well. Only the PM's insiders are aware of the miraculous principles that guided her to make those appointments.

On the positive side for the AL that it is blessed with the adversaries who are equally adamant to pay back the AL with the same coins. Their persistent destructive activities are locking the disgruntled common masses in the neutral ground. None of their programmes was able to attract support of the masses and has been futile in shaking the foundation of the government.

Bangabandhu Parishad is

not meant to be a front organisation of the AL. Its founders created this organisation with a very specific philosophy that is supposed to attract personalities from very plural political beliefs, including Dr. Kamal Hossain and Kader Siddique, They, for sure, did not envisage it as a vehicle for its leaders to share power with the AL. Appointment of the Secretary of the Bangabandhu Parishad to the highly visible political position of the political advisor to the PM has apparently pelted an irreversible dent on the sanctity of this revered organisation. Millions of admirers of Bangabandhu, all around the globe, do not wish to see this organisation depraved down due to the iniquitous acts of the AL leaders. As such it seems the PM will do a great service to this entity and to the sacred name of our founding father if she relieves her political advisor from the burden of his present position or ask him to resign from his position in the Bangabandhu Parishad.

In any matured democracy the responsible press plays an important role in shaping the policies of both the government and the opposition. A judicious editorial or a column in the Toronto Star is good enough for any minister in Canada, both federal and provincial, to resign or to be fired. Fortunately, Bangladesh's news world is also blessed with at least a few dailies whose analytical views and political acuity are comparable to at least some of the world's best. Elated by their experiences in the mellowed democracies, even many of the well wishers of the AL have been eager to focus out the current pitfalls of the AL government taking advantage of the freedom of press. But it seems to me that the AL government is not pledged-bound to the freedom of press; it is rather committed to the indifference to the

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The AL leaders, especially the political advisor to the PM, is very often ridiculing the recent opposition alliance as the 'unholy' marriage of the BNP with the 'autocrats' and the 'razakars'. Can the advisor explain to the nation how his party's alliance with the same autocrats and razakars was a holy one no matter how limited its objective was?

dence of the election commis-

As if that was enough, Kader Siddique's constitutional right to assemble with his followers in order to form a political party has been blatantly violated by the fascist acts and hooliganism of the ruling party goons. If this is called 'democracy', then the PM owes a long lecture to the nation defining her perception of democracy and its nuances! The PM at a press conference has denied her party's involvement in the hooliganism. If this is to be believed, can the AL chief escape from her responsibility as the PM to bring the culprits into book? The government does not need the help of Scotland Yard to apprehend the self-confessed 'heroes'! If Kader Siddique and his followers were carrying arms as alleged by the PM. whose responsibility is it to disarm them and put them into justice? Kader Siddique's constitutional right to hold a public

dislodged by 'mass movement'. Even they are not guided by the recollections of their own experience that it took eighty-one semi-final assaults and nine long years for the BNP before fi nally dislodging the illegal administration of Ershad, notwithstanding the absolute alliance of their present lone

but very strong adversary. Likewise, the AL is determined to go ahead with the voter-less elections in the name of 'constitutional obligations' following the foot steps of the BNP which recited the identical phrase in support of the infamous February 15 general election. In the process, they are transforming their elected mayors into non-elected ones as they did already for Chittagong City Corporation, who has now lost all his credibility to administer. As reported in the press, a section of the ruling party leaders are very much in favour of going ahead with the Upazilla polls keeping the opof the ruling party to bring the opposition into confidence their demands carry some degree of merits in the eyes of the people. UZ election, although a local one, has a great degree of national semblance. The ruling party will do a great service to the nation if they, in concurrence with the opposition, bring required legislative changes in the parliament in order to defer this crucial poll until the next general election. This concession is likely to convince the opposition to take part in the city corporation polls, since there is little scope for any ruling party to rig these polls as they take place in the heart of the big cities. If they don't, they will lose the pluses they have gained through the ill-advised acts of their adversaries.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited the Islamic University and named two halls: one bears the name of Ziaur Rahman and the other carries her own name.

# Lack of Internal Democracy

by A Husnain

HE ruling party's major problem is coping with the volatility within; as complacency tends to increase with time. It is fallacious to presume that the combined opposition. with its subjective goals, would solely usurp the credit for bringing the regime down before the next general election. There are several other factors which indirectly weaken a po-

One is the internal dissatisfaction, which, in the case of the ruling party, is now openly noticeable by the public. There have been belated moves to mollify some powerful dissenters through expansion and reshuffling of the cabinet — too top heavy, without the technical and dynamic thrust, being

led by a charismatic leader. The latter is always a weakness, in the long run, and in public interest, as sycophants take advantage of the situation. and meeting the public demands fall short of the target. There are too many ad hoc decisions; and arbitrary rulings are more frequent than justified in good governance. How far a colleague can influence the leader of the party is worth analysing. in situations where loyalties are volatile and floor-crossing is a political culture accepted

rather cynically. If a party thinks it is powerful, then it is weak, and cracks would show sooner than later. The fourth year of governance is a good period for evaluation of the situation. The quality of governance is up not up to pub-

The Bengalee political leadership had been passing through the baptism of fire and brimstone. Since adversity and challenges mould the character, the future generation seems to be assured of filtered leadership by the mid-century, if not earlier.

again)!

lic evaluation, and the weak links in the chain are more exposed. The momentum of the gaddi may prove illusory, as problems prop up at unexpected places and times, similar to the case where the next hot bubble in boiling mud cannot be predicted, even through computer simulation.

In the developing countries. where the presence of political instability is inherent, more energy has to be devoted to strengthening the party bases than is usually the case. The case for Bangladesh has been extreme, with a vacuum of long 16 years; and the poor show of practising democracy during the decade of the '90s. The politicians are not speaking from a position of strength, taking a perspective view.

Also too much attention has to be paid to keep the opposition at bay, and that much energy is being diverted from the national aspirations. Here the equation between the opposition and the position is deplorable, as both sides play up on the anti-national theme in respect of the opponent, and the

extremity of the allegations are such that neighter party is considered fit to rule! surely the politicians are not inviting a third force to take over (once

The political base is narrow and shallow, therefore erecting the pillars of democracy will take time. Since this is the period of political entrepreneurship, the political trend cannot be predicted with any degree of accuracy. Room at the top is necessary for ventilation of the younger aspirants to leadership. This space is not forthcoming under an unstable climate. The dependence on violence of the political system is going to retard the flowering of democracy. The operation clean-up stage has to come.

The role of the opposition culture is in the stage of development, and will take time to radiate self-confidence. There is too much ad-hocism in hurried stances and this hurriedness is due to the environment of political and economic insecurity in newly emerging nations. Insecurity encourages hurried game plans, and in-

stant solutions are sought without the establishmer t of the foundation in proper depth and breadth. The intolerance to ideas and options is another stumbling block towards build ing up a healthy political culture. According to natural laws. instability must pave way for environmental stability, for conservation of energy.

The news from the opposition camp is not the collaboration of the opposition alliance, but the emergence of a new political party, the leader comprising a dissident from the ruling camp, with a background which cannot be dismissed flippantly (trained, commanding in battlefields). The ruling party's violent hard line on the defector has not been liked publicly; and the Bengalee public mood is unpredictable. in the sense that the Bengalee mind had been historically anti-establishment, and the mass is fond of changes. Now the pulling-down formula is in full application since the early '90s.

The Bengalee political leadership had been passing through the baptism of fire and brimstone. Since adversity and challenges mould the character. the future generation seems to be assured of filtered leadership by the mid-century, if not earlier. There is no hope for despair, as we are all still paying the price of freedom — the price cannot be paid in a super short period of nine months - it takes ten months even for a baby to be born!

### OPINION

#### For a Livable Environment MB Huda

The general goal of the International Conference on Bangladesh Environment, was recently held in Dhaka, was to bolster the environment protection efforts in the country. Hence the organisers wanted to come up with an action programme of bringing together all those who are working or willing to work for environmental protection. This particular reason had possibly made the organisers to discuss the issues for greater participation from

all walks of life. Certainly, it is the responsibility of all the citizens of the country to protect environmental degradation in areas like urban air pollution, ground water contamination (by arsenic), surface water pollution, noise pollution, deforestation etc. These are just a few examples. Needless to say that the capital city, Dhaka, became the centre of discussion on all aspects, from air-pollution to urbanisation and housing.

As the capital city was the focus of discussion, one cannot and should not ignore the fact that the city is expanding every year by construction of roads. buildings, services like water and sewer system, telephone, power supply etc. All these are carried out by the various government, semi-government, autonomous bodies under the various schemes prepared by the experts and which are approved by the government. We are aware of RAJUK, the organisation that controls the expansion, development and improvement of an area covering 590 square miles that include Greater Dhaka - Narayanganj, Siddhirganj, Rupganj, Tongi, Kaliganj, Joydevpur etc. We also know that a new plan has been prepared through a process where experts, from various professions, gave their opinions and agreed to finalise the Structure Plan and Urban Area

When the first master plan of Dhaka was prepared in 1953. the city-dwellers were not as concerned as they are today. The reasons are manifold and can be categorised as follows:

1. Then fewer number of people were living in the city. hence low demand for housing and services like water, electricity, telephone etc.

2. Then fewer number of people living in the city mean less traffic on roads, hence less congestion resulting in almost a pollution free environment.

But the situation now has changed. Dhaka being the capital of a new nation, the pressure gradually started to build up on all aspects of a city infrastructure and living there of. We call it urbanisation. The master plan of 1953 was greatly violated as because it was not prepared foreseeing the future need

and expansion of a capital city of an independent country. Now the best way to improve is to learn from mistakes. Unfortunately we have

missed yet another opportunity to place before the city dwellers both the pros and cons of the newly prepared master plan of Dhaka. It was not there in the conference for discussion. Why the organisers of the conference did not pay attention to discussion on Air Pollution, Urbanisation and Housing with relation to the New Dhaka City Master Plan prepared in 1997 is better known to them. Discussion on Structure Plan, Urban Area Plan and Detailed Area Plan of Dhaka would have greatly helped us in improving the future environment of the capital

The conference, however, called for the civil society of the country to provide the leadership in generating social awareness and pressuring the government to stop environmental degradation in the country. Surely, this is not an easy job to do when the leaders of the society play partisan roles and cannot rise above self-interest. The country needs people from the community who are willing to work for the people to create good examples for our future generation. We do not want our leaders of the society doing wrong for self-interest but rather to show courage in protesting against any evil act that goes against the welfare of the citizens of our motherland. We are observing with great concern what the elite of our society is contributing to the urbanisation and housing of the city. It will not be exaggerated to say that about 95 per cent of the newly constructed residential buildings have grossly violated the existing Building Construction Rules.

When we talk about the role of our civil society, we do mean its members are sincere, honest and above all have a desire to create a better living for all, in our built environment. Otherwise no matter what we do will only increase the gap between our built environment and that of nature and a gap between the rich and the poor. We must try to mobilise our family members and encourage women and children to participate in the process of protecting the environment. Let our schools, colleges and universities come forward and give support to the cause of this movement in protecting our cities, forests, flora and fauna, the ecology itself to make the environment around us liveable and health-friendly,

both regionally and globally. The writer is former chief architect. Ministry of Public Construction and National Housing, Government of Zimbabwe.

#### Charity begins at home

Sir, On the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through her Eid broadcast made a clarion call to the affluent section of the society to spontaneously come forward in the aid of the suffering poor in these chilly winter days. This reflects the PM's soft heart and deep feelings for the poor of

Bangladesh But one thing I am not convinced of is why the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is spending so much money for buying MIG-29s when the price of a single MIG can help mitigate the sufferings of, if not all, most of the poor living in this part of the world!

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#### "Letter from America"

Sir. I always read the column "Letter From America" by Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed with enthusiasm as they are informative as well as interesting. Recently, he wrote some articles on Russian aggression in Chechnya and the miseries of the fellow Muslims. It seems that Dr Ahmed is quite con-

cerned. It is a fact that Israel is a powerful country because of the Jews who live in America. Though Muslims are a minority in America, they can influence the policy adopted by the US government towards the Muslim world if they are united. I

would like to know from the writer through his column that if there is any initiative taken by the American Muslims to unite themselves and help reduce the ordeals of the Muslims all over the world. Since the OIC has not proved itself worthy, it is high time to think over it seriously.

Otherwise, incidents like Chechnya, Kosovo or Bosnia may occur frequently.

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How many guests? Sir, On January 16, 2000. Mohammed Nasim, the Home and Telecommunications Minister held a grand reception to celebrate the marriage cere-

mony of his eldest son. As per the newspaper report, the arrangement was made to receive some 12,000 guests. It is quite natural to hold such a huge gathering in one's son's wedding when he or she is a high-ranking political leader. He or she has friends, colleagues and relatives to invite, and therefore the list goes up.

However, we know of a law, which was enacted during the Ershad regime, that no one would be allowed to invite more than 100 guests in any such party. This law was meant to cut the unnecessary expenses. If

one wishes to invite more than 100 guests, then s/he must take permission from the DC office with a payment of Tk. 50 for To the best of my knowledge, the law still exists, at least I

have witnessed a number of my

relatives facing the peon of DC office claiming that their "sir" is in the car who wishes to see the clearance from the DC office. Most of these, however, have been settled with some under-hand dealings. However, my question is: is the mentioned law applicable to

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the Minister also?

#### General Pinochet Sir. The efforts of Spain, Belgium, France and Switzerland to prosecute General

Pinochet for the most serious international crimes are being halted on the basis of secret evidence. This not only violates the United Kingdom's legal obligations, but it is also unworthy of the strict and principled adherence to the rule of law shown by Britain so far in the

Pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Torture, the UK is required to extradite or prosecute General Pinochet. Any exception to that obligation based on Pinochet's incapacity to stand trial must be capable of objective assessment.

Although the right to a fair trial implies a defendant's fitness, it is not enough that an accused is sick or has a longterm illness, even one, which might eventually be fatal. The thousands of people killed or made to 'disappear' by Pinochet's forces would have loved one day to become old and sick. Rather the test is whether an accused has sufficient intel-

lectual capacity to instruct his counsel, to understand the evidence, and to give evidence. Instances can be cited of the French cases against pro-Nazi war criminals Klaus Barbie. Paul Touvier, and Maurice Papon, all of whom were of advanced age when their prosecution commenced. Papon was quite ill during the course of his trial. Despite this, none of the three was excused from standing trial and each of them was sentenced to terms in prison.

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#### Canned date juice

Sir. Reading the news item People taste date juice in rural areas' (DS Jan 15) made me nostalgic. Now living in metropolis Dhaka, I miss this natural ambrosia, the perfect cold drink. I enjoyed khejurer rosh while I was in school and college. thanks to the regular transfer of my father at intervals of three years on posting to different stations many decades ago.

I wonder why this delicious natural delicacy is not being marketed in canned form (tetrapack, for example) with the addition of preservatives. BCSIR can undertake some research for creating a consumer market for round-the-year availability, as also for export. It is also a pity that our famous gur (refined molasses) is not available in export packing.