The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Early Aid Signal

Dhaka, Sunday, April 2, 2000

LINANCE Minister SAMS Kibria's budgetary I planning for the next fiscal will be facilitated by the World Bank Country Director Frederick T Temple's indication of the donors' aid pledge ahead of the Paris consortium meet. The indicative level of assistance ranges between US \$1.8 and 2.2 billion which by previous standards appears to be slightly on the lower side. But, as usual, there are reassurances of a higher inflow of assistance provided that the reform process were stepped up. The central point to note from the advance notification of the indicative aid figure is that even realisation of the low figure will hinge on taking forward the policy and institutional reforms coupled with an acceleration of the aid utilisation pattern.

On policy and constitutional reforms we wished the government had carried out the 'sensitive' ones amongst them during the first couple of years since their induction into power. Past the half-way point of its tenure a ruling party could be thinking of the next general election, and to that extent, be wary of 'socio-political costs' their actions might entail. This is the election year coinciding with the next fiscal, something which the Finance Minister is fully aware of. He is confident that the clock of reforms will not be set back by the approaching elections. It would however, be unrealistic to expect any miracle to happen on this front. Practically, the bus on essential reforms, such as the agenda of administrative reorganisation and rejuvenation of the financial sector, including labour reform, has been all but missed — this time around.

Nevertheless, where we can really make some difference is in aid utilisation which has been our Achilles Heels. In working off the pipeline bulge it is essential for us to streamline the existent mechanisms for implementation of projects and programmes. The front and line ministries need to coordinate their activities better while the decisionmaking powers are delegated to project or programme directors to meet the financial and physical targets in a strictly time-bound fashion. The huge number of signatures required during the upward or downward movement of files is illustrative of how terribly hedged in our development process is.

Once we succeed in breaking our bureaucratic tangles we shall be in an unassailable position to have the donor community simplify their disbursement procedures. Let's together bring a greater commitment to bear on our Annual Development Programme.

DUCSU: Forgotten Glory

THERE are clear signs that any thought of stag-I ing elections to the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) will have to be put in the cold storage for some more time yet. It is a pity indeed, especially when one considers the fact that the last polls were held more than ten years back and, that too, during the autocratic regime of General Ershad. The message here is rather disquieting: in ten years of democratic governance in the country, we have not been able to create an environment on the DU campus 'conducive' to holding elections to the central students union. The failure in this case is not only of the university authorities but also of our central leadership. It is our political leaders who have turned the campuses across the country into their political battleground and that's how they wish to see it continue.

Sadly, the vice-chancellor's statement in this regard - "we should remember that the poll could hamper the university's academic atmosphere" highlights what a terrifying phenomenon DUCSU election, or for that matter student politics, has become, thanks to overindulgence from our political leaders. Their irresponsible behaviour, coupled with endless sequence of student terrorism and violence have led to an aberration in an otherwise glorious history of student politics in the country. DUCSU polls need not be dictated to by national politics; in fact, the students union could easily be made an apolitical entity. That way it would encourage true representation of student community and their aspirations, which now stand obscured by the political overkill. Furthermore, it would breathe fresh air into the student affairs and dispel the political estrangement now evident among the general students.

Indeed, DUCSU poll should be a regular feature in the academic calendar of Dhaka University but the authorities must ensure that it doesn't turn into a fray for the superannuated student leaders. DU needs new leadership which, free from partisan impulses, would protect and promote the interest of the student community.

Chittagong University in Turmoil

It seems that none of the student wings of politi-L cal parties is interested in seeing the Chittagong University re-open after 103 days of an unscheduled vacation. Classes were supposed to resume yesterday (Saturday) after the vacation but Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami,0 has asked the railway authorities to stop running the shuttle train between the town and the university campus. The student wing of the ruling party, however, has called upon the railway people to operate the shuttle service. All this has created a lot

of tension in the area.

The All Party Students Alliance (APSA), dominated by the Shibirites, called for an indefinite strike at the CU campus on 1 February placing a five-point demand that included the removal of VC and Pro-VC of the university. All attempts to solve the problem through a dialogue between the students and the liaison committee formed in this connection, have failed. The authorities in sheer exasperation, it seems, have decided to open the university with police assistance. APSA meanwhile has threatened to resist any train movement between the city and the university with a suicide squad. They have not stopped at that. They have even threatened to en force a 72-hour hartal if their leaders were arrested under PSA during their agitation. The Chittagong University situation has turned from bad to worse due to the indifference of the highest authority. A section of the teachers found fault with the administration for their complicity and dual role in precipitating the crisis requesting that the chancellor and the government intervene immediately to set the situation right. Intervention from the top in an acute crisis is perhaps unavoidable; but let's not make it a practice of overlooking the basic responsibility of university authorities in such matters.

Clinton's Visit and Its Implications

by Benazir Bhutto

Fed on its policy of strategic defiance, many in Pakistan's decision-making areas had convinced themselves that the world community could not afford to abandon Pakistan in the event of an Indian threat, for fear of a potential nuclear conflict. The international community has made it clear that it would not bail Pakistan out unless Pakistan began setting its own house in order.

istani people and in talks with grievance, indulge in violence the General's regime. The President made it clear that he was

HE Clinton visit dramati-

South Asia. India, the world's

largest democracy, was wooed

and won, with a five-day presi-

dential visit and four billion

dollars in foreign investment.

The American president was

mobbed in the Indian Parlia-

ment and feted across the coun-

try. Crowds thronged to catch a

glimpse of him and applause

In stark contrast, Pakistan

greeted him wherever he went.

was cold-shouldered with a

five-hour visit at the tail-end of

the Clintonian tour. The streets

of Pakistan, the world's newest

military dictatorship, were

empty as President Clinton

landed in Islamabad. An unof-

ficial curfew had been declared

in the name of security. The si-

lence of the deserted streets

spoke volumes for a country

where parliament is suspended,

political activities banned and

Indo-Pak conflict, with both

countries having acquired nu-

clear devices, the American

president came, firstly, to see if

the Pakistani side was

amenable to a change in politi-

cal direction, and secondly, to

keep the lines of communica-

tion with the unelected rulers

open in the event a new confla-

gration broke out. Third, to

signify that Washington had

not walked away from the peo-

ple although determined to dis-

Even before the American

president landed, his National

Security Adviser made it clear

that Pakistan's post-cold war

policy of strategic defiance

made no sense to the interna-

tional community. The message

of "hard realities" was unam-

biguous in Sandy Berger's pre-

visit statement that Pakistan

by President Clinton's own

televised address to the Pak-

That message was reinforced

L-ZULFIGAR may not

have been a creation of

1 Lithe Indians, it was partly

funded and sustained by them

for most of its existence.

Enough evidence was available

with the intelligence agencies

for an aggrieved sister, then PM

Benazir Bhutto, to keep her

only living brother Murtaza at

arms length till he was assassi-

nated by rogue elements in her

own police services in 1996. In

the late '70s, the island paradise

of Sri Lanka was economically

booming and on its way to be-

come another Singapore, RAW

created the plan to promote

strife between the majority

Sinhalese and minority

Tamils, supporting the concept

of Tamil Eelam (Tamil Libera-

tion). Parbhakaran Tigers,

along with other Tamil insur-

by RAW operatives in camps in

and around Madras. Like Sikh

militant Bhindranwale, Parb-

hakaran ultimately fell out

what of a PAX INDIAN. A, quite

funding from sympathizers in

low-level RAW involvement

with LTTE, though they claim

Afghan war. With the Soviet

withdrawal the many Mu-

jahideen factions ran virtual

fiefdoms in the territories they

sprung up everywhere on

stretches of road, sometimes

purity of the independence

struggle of the Afghans came

apart at the seams, the great

silent majority having to take

part in factional (and sub-fac-

tional) struggle as individual

leaders strained for supremacy,

pressure being "enforced by the

barrel of the gun", to quote Mao

Tse Tung. The Mujahideen fac-

controlled. "Octroi Posts"

gent movements, were trained

was "a country in trouble"

tance itself from the rulers.

Concerned about yet another

judges sacked.

cally outlined the political

contours of a post-cold war

Pakistan is moving in". of agreement between the two lence without prejudice to their sides, despite the brave talk overall views on the dispute. that the "visit augers well for a better future of our region and for strengthening of mutual relations" by the country's ruler. agreed on golf but there was liton.General Musharraf refused The general conceded that he did not expect to stay in power long. Yet it is nearly six months since he seized power in a bloodless coup and there is no sight of a restoration of the democratic process. The vindictive policies followed by the socalled National Accountability Bureau have only sharpened the political divisions and paralyzed the business community.

General Musharraf gave no ground on the Kashmir issue either where violence escalated with the killing of thirty-five Sikhs during the American President's visit. The American president declared, "There is no military solution to the Kashmir dispute.... And no matter how great the grievance is, it is wrong to support attacks against civilians across the line of control."

Although many construed Clinton's words to apply to Pakistan, they applied equally to India. Both sides claim

and are responsible for actions leading to civilian casualties "worried about the direction across the line dividing Kashmir. Both need to forsake The deadlock in negotia- bloodshed and horror and find tions was evident with the lack a way to mutually end the vio-

quick to respond that he was "ready for a dialogue anywhere at any time and at any level". The two leaders may have Whilst some contact may take place, it would be naive to astle else that they saw eye to eye sume that India will be in any mood for talks. Pakistan is a to budge on a road map for country under a military dictademocracy without which Pak- torship with a weak economy. istan's internal unity is at risk. Its international isolation is complete. India would hardly be in a mood to take it off the hook unless some substantive difference was perceived in the ground situation with the melting of the snows. That, as indications go, is unlikely.

> Much despair was caused in Pakistan on the refusal of America to mediate in the Kashmir dispute. Again, this was misplaced. America has consistently maintained over the years that it would only mediate if both parties agreed - and India has been unwilling to permit that mediation.

In the obduracy of the Indian position, Pakistan is under pressure to seek a bilateral solution to the build up of tension in the region. To do otherwise could well tempt India to cross the border in the disputed area. Since that suits Pakistan even less, given that the Americans are in no mood to bail Pakistan out unless the country is pre-

case and Pakistan could well have won international respect if it was willing to move in the nuclear non-proliferation field. But here too the country showed General Musharraf was inflexibility. The Pakistan Muslim League regime promised at the United Nations that it would sign the CTBT by September 1999. In exchange it had received generous rescheduling of loans to the tune of billions of dollars. But the promise was broken.

> In proposing "resumption of dialogue with the United States on nuclear issues", the regime appeared to milk the issue further. Given the precarious financial situation, perhaps it believed it could get another rescheduling by promising another deadline. There is a saying about the sheep calling the wolf once too often. America wanted a breakthrough with Pakistan during the Clinton visit. It needed signals that Pakistan was ready to play a more responsible international role. The inflexibility shown here was nothing less than a missed opportunity.

> Although the military regime promised to make an effort" to bring Osama bin Laden, the man most wanted by America, to justice, they failed to make a commitment. Instead, news was leaked that Bin Laden was dying of kidney and liver failure. General Musharraf promised that Pakistan will "participate in all interna-

pared to bail itself out. Pak- tional efforts at combating teristan has little choice in the rorism". He made no mention of bilateral efforts for that pur-This need not have been the pose. The regime talked about its plans to deweaponize society but they kept quiet on deweaponizing Maddrassahs imparting military training to Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen.

The difference in perception was never greater. Ironically, China, Iran and India, Pakistan's three neighbours, who have had difficulties with America, are moving to bridge the gaps between them and the US. But with Pakistan, once the most allied ally, that gap is

Fed on its policy of strategic defiance, many in Pakistan's decision-making areas had convinced themselves that the world community could not afford to abandon Pakistan in the event of an Indian threat, for fear of a potential nuclear conflict. That bluff has now been called. The international community has made it clear that it would not bail Pakistan out unless Pakistan began setting its own house in order.

Is Pakistan willing to do that? Only General Musharraf can answer this question. The American president has left and the country is in shock over the frankness with which the visitor spoke. If the Pakistani general was diplomatic, his guest left no room for ambigu-

The military regime bent over backwards for the American president to stop in Islamabad, hoping to gain legitimacy Such hope was built by incom-

petent advisers blind to the realities of a changing world where markets have replaced missiles as the measure of influence a country enjoys. A bankrupt Pakistan has slid down the scale of importance even as it brandishes nuclear bombs, missiles and threats of terrorism. Those very elements of strategic defiance pose the greatest threat to its security today. Bangladesh, described as a "basket case" a few years back, is applauded as a liberal country enjoying freedom and free markets. Even as General Musharraf tried to put the best spin on the American visit in his press conference, his officers fumed that they had been snubbed and that, too, publicly. Used to sycophants buttering them up, it was a rude shock to hear first-hand "a serious and frank" assessment of where

they stood. Had the military junta listened to the political parties calling for a timetable for democracy, the release of political prisoners and a national consensus on important security matters, Pakistan's position could have been different But the men in uniform treat civilians with contempt, little realizing that in the world of today the men on horseback are the ones without respect.

It is still not too late. General Musharraf recently described himself as "a trustworthy, altruistic soldier". It is time he and his regime showed that altruism and trusted the people of Pakistan and allowed them the opportunity to lead Pakistan into the direction of regional peace and domestic harmony. As a soldier's soldier who won laurels as a daring commando, he must surely know that more than a game of golf is involved.

The author is former prime minister of Pakistan. This piece first appeared in the March 31 issue of The Dawn.

media blanket India has suc-

cessfully thrown over its many

Terrorism in South Asia

Nothing Official About It!

The world is being fed deliberately with misleading Indian propaganda about Pakistan; one has to separate terrorism from support for a broad based and indigenous freedom struggle of an oppressed people. One cannot condone any operation by ISI any time it acts in support of terrorism anywhere but one has to separate that from support for a freedom struggle.

tions were further sub-divided among those who wanted to continue the purity of the ideological struggle both inside Afghanistan and elsewhere in the world as opposed to outright criminals who wanted to go into business on their own, looting, kidnapping, perpetrat-ing highway robbery, organising protection money racket,

From a small core group in

Kandahar taking part in an inconsequential incident, Mullah Omar formed the Talibaan, who with his RAW creators and gave were so successful in restoring the Indian Peace-Keeping peace, by de-weaponisation and Forces (IPKF), that had come to strict application of the rule of Sri Lanka to establish somelaw in the areas they controlled. that "the great silent majority", a bloody nose, but still receives some of whom were not in conformity with their rather South India. The report on Raaustere ideology, joined the jiv Gandhi's assassination Talibaan in droves. Among the clearly spells out continuing Talibaan were a great many volunteers from many Muslim countries, such as Egypt, Saudi there is "nothing official about Arabia, Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Sudan, etc. Some of them Terrorist activity in the re- turned their attention to their home countries as malcontents gion is a natural residual of the in an extension of the religious war (Jihad) they had waged against the Soviet oppression in Afghanistan. In a 180 degree change of roles, by indulging in activities directed primarily against civilian targets, from not even five miles apart. The freedom fighters they became terrorists, a majority of their victims being innocent bystanders unlucky enough to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. One can eulogise Osama Bin Laden for the successful guerrilla war he waged against the Soviets in Afghanistan, what are we to make of the hun-

ASISEEIT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

the bombings of the US Embassy in Nairobi and Dar es Salam? That is pure terrorism, there being no justification whatsoever for the murder of these poor innocent people. Freedom fighter Osama may have been, by any token he is now outside the pale of civilised

society and is a terrorist. India has tried desperately to paint the freedom struggle in Kashmir as terrorist activity in international eyes. Many veteran Mujahideen of the Afghan war having volunteered to physically help the Kashmiris in their struggle, the Indian attempt is to provide a linkage between US Enemy No.1 Osama Bin Laden and Kashmiri Mujahideen. The Indians have used the Kargil crises and the Kathmandu hijack as evidence of Pakistani involvement at official level in cross-border terrorism. It may be true that some of the freedom fighters who have been trained in Afghan camps have infiltrated into Indian-held Kashmir but any such struggle has to have indigenous support, otherwise how long can it survive? And one may well ask, why is this indigenous struggle still alive in the face of massive Indian repression? A majority of the civilian casualties in the resultant crossfire have occurred be- border disputes with its neigh-

cause of callous and indiscriminate Indian fire. Most of the freedom struggle is directed against Indian troops and their facilities, virtually all military targets, even the Indians themselves acknowledge this Whereas their propaganda machine has not managed a "smoking gun" link between Osama Bin Ladan and Kashmir, his continued presence in Afghanistan is a source of acute embarrassment not only to Pakistan but also to the Government in Kabul. The Talibaan cannot turn away from him because Afghan culture will not allow a friend in trouble to be evicted from his sanctuary. On the other hand the US has hard evidence he is misusing that protection to further terrorist activity against US interests throughout the world. An equitable solution to this impasse has to be found and

India is the only country in the world after the Second World War that continues to occupy adjacent territories. Were not Kashmir, Hyderabad, Junagarh, Sikkim etc free States in 1947? Did Goa, Daman and Diu cede voluntarily to India or were they taken by force of Indian arms? India is the only country in the world that has

bours. In this age when countries have substituted regional hegemony by binding and equitable economic links, India's bid to impose its hegemony over South Asia and the Indian Ocean is reflected in the massive 28 per cent increase in its defence budget, surely the biggest outlay for defence by any country in the world at this time. India accuses Pakistan of conducting a "proxy war", what has it been waging against its neighbours for over 50 years? Siachen was not even an issue till the Indians made it in 1984 into the highest battleground in

reasons, partly because of the

insurgencies, the world has turned a blind eye to India's excesses as a terrorism-exporting entity. A fair number of the insurgents in its northeast e.g. Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Bodoland, etc being Baptist Christians with support from like-religious groupings in US and other countries of the world, do we also label them as Christian terrorists? The world is being fed deliberately with misleading Indian propaganda about Pakistan; one has to separate terrorism from support for a broad based and indigenous freedom struggle of an oppressed people. One cannot condone any operation by ISI any time it acts in support of terrorism anywhere but one has to separate that from support for a freedom struggle. India is the only full-time practitioner of State-sponsored terrorism in South Asia, either against land that it occupies against the people's will and/or the war Partly because of economic that it wages against its own

OPINION

Shake off the Hobson's Choice A H Dewan

mandatory duties to their elec- tion respectively, people will be torate. Regrettably power-craze sandwiched. has seemingly overtaken their

sense and sanity. half that the opposition have it and its partymen have bred boycotted Parliament and embarked upon the "oust government" movement in various better capitalise on them. It can fashions. Although their expose them before the nation movements have so far yielded more effectively using its might no result towards meeting their and mein in the Parliament In those days of 1971 all we | ends, the country has already paid heavy prices by way of loss That is what democracy entails the war would be over', and of human lives or maining of upon. That is the way a demohuman persons and retardation cratically elected opposition will be a matter of the past. We of economic development including education of our chilstipend distribution ceremony Bangla as promised by our lead- | dren badly impaired. An im- know, democracy cannot funcat a school does not seem be an ers will be ushered in once the poverished country like ours tion singlehanded. rather it emergency work, even for the war was over. The war was over cannot afford this trend to con-

> Being awfully appalled at the political stand-off or strife and its pernicious effects on the so-Bangladeshi non-resident aca demics living in UK, USA, imate term is over. Canada and Australia in an open letter to the Prime Minis- run by the passion for retaliater and the leader of Opposition tion — bringing about the fall of in the House have put forward AL government. That would be two sets of suggestions, one of setting a precedence which them being the idea to resolve would pave the way for repetithe present crisis and the other tion in future by the fallen. to enact or amend laws that Concentration to manoeuverwould impede recurrence of the same. They are the best sons of the country having earned from fear of "what-happensname and fame abroad by their intellect and scholarly contri- BNP. The expatriate renowned butions. Their deep concern for personalities too took pain to their motherland as reflected in write home about this. And for

to them by their return to the lence.

laid before the two leaders de-

The 17th session of the cur- Parliament. The country has rent Parliament sat on the 28th already undergone enormous March and majority of the peo- 'downs' in almost every sector ple wanted the opposition to and is not able to bear with any come back to the Parliament more onslaught of movements. and play their part in right But BNP, goaded and guided by earnest. In fact that is what the the forces infamous for autoc-MPs have been elected for (and racy and anti-liberation stance. sent to the House), and they are is bent on putting the country in being paid for from the public a ferment of further tougher exchequer. But we are yet to be- movements in a clear bid to hold their presence in the Par- precipitate the general election. liament. It is strange to com- That is an uncertainty. But that prehend that they are enjoying will certainly provoke conall amenities and privileges frontations and in the fray for meted out of the public fund, but retaining and snatching power abstaining at will from their by those in position and opposi-

We know that AL government has miserably failed to It is now over a year and a deliver goods to the people, and many ills and set precedence of indelibly bad repute. BNP would than holding on to the streets. party can have far reaching effects upon the voters. As we plays a pivotal role in guiding the nation to reach its goal, and keeping the Treasury bench on tenterhooks. Hence the need for BNP to stage its comeback in cio-economic scenario of the Parliament, leaving aside Bangladesh, twenty-three its Hobson's Choice - the fall of AL government before its legit-

BNP should better stop being giving the countrymen relief when" is what we expect from election it will badly need to serve to be seriously mooted by earn people's confidence as a democratic party committed to

To the Editor ...

For regional prosperity

Sir, The US President Bill Clinton reached Pakistan at the last leg of his journey to the sub-continent. By the time he landed there, he had received all the allegations against the country. He was given unprecedented welcome in India. He made several economic and commercial contacts with a country which is already recognized as one of the top industrial countries in the world as Henry Kissinger said a few world-class business executives. But the President came with an agenda both political and economic. Yet, We do not know what transpired between the Americans and the Pakistanis when they sat parallel along the discussion table.

But the way Mr Clinton mentioned restraint for Pakistan along the line of control gives a different picture. Did Pakistan mention deployment of seven hundred thousand Indian soldiers there to be watched by two persons with same names. them? How much area is there per head? Somewhere I read it is 1.2 square feet. If this is the position, who scores higher is anybody's guess. America will not ire Pakistan for several reasons.

was the wrong American policy to arm Pakistan in 1956 against Soviet threat. Landlocked Afghanistan's need for a port was completely ignored

forcing her to go to the Black Sea for her export and import. This step caused infiltration of new ideas in the country sharing one-thousand-mile border with Central Asia. The Americans thus destroyed the 'buffer

state' status of Afghanistan.

dreds of innocents who died in

American support to India bordering the Hindu kingdom of Nepal suggests another attempt to contain a particular block. But these days people are much more clever than in the '50s - so what the Americans intend to do may become counter-productive. Clinton's years back of India containing suggestion for a dialogue was excellent. Let us pray that both India and Pakistan listen to it for the sake of regional posterity instead of competing in bel-

Mira Rahman

An emergency?

Sir. Two news items - published in the DS on Tuesday, March 28, 2000 - caught my attention. The items were about They have same names but they are poles apart in their philosophies. By standing up for his

brother, the noted writer Dr. Humayun Ahmed silently gave us some food for thought. Twenty-nine years after the in-During the cold war period it dependence, we are still fighting among ourselves over trivial issues, like naming a structure. Our politicians are so busy with this 'naming culture' that they do not have time to think over

the other important aspects. It is no surprise that Bangladesh still has to beg from the donor countries to make ends meet.

But that did not bother the other Humayun, - Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury - to make a journey to grace the people of Sylhet with his kind presence by a helicopter. He billed the national exchequer Tk 1,65,000 for his private helicopter ride. Addressing a hoped for the era of Sonar Speaker. Or is it?

Mohammed Kalam Boston, U.S.A.

Bangladesh, Bangladesh...

Sir, Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed's LETTER FROM AMERICA (DS March 25) took us back to the New York's Madison Square Garden of 1971 reviving the unforgettable heart-rending lyrics of George Harrison's song. "Bangladesh, Bangladesh/ Where so many people are dying fast/ And it sure looks like a mess/ I have never seen so much distress ... "

Dr. Ahmed quotes the first few lyrics of this song as they appeared Harrison as they appeared in a two front-page articles of a renowned reporter, Bary Bearak of the New York Times. The author wrote it after he visited Bangladesh during the tour of the US President. Those of us who were in USA in 1971 were not only emotionally overwhelmed by these lyrics on

the television but also recorded them in cassettes and listened throughout the war of liberation. Even our American friends, who listened to these lyrics, were also touched.

could think of was 'a day when when George Harrison's lyrics but our dreams never came | tinue.

Twenty-nine years have elapsed since our liberation but there is no sign of the Sonar Bangla around, rather there is the incremental darker horizon, while our Bangladesh has been run by inept people sitting at the helm. It seems that the situation is beyond the control

of the government. The case should have been otherwise Even to a foreign visitor, our pitiable condition does not escape his attention.

Has there been much change in the life of the common peo-

Syed Waliullah

Notice The Law and Our Rights page

could not be published today It, however, will appear to morrow. We regret the inconvenience.

ing for next general election, their appeal and the suggestions BNP to lead in the next general

It is, therefore, fervently upholding its pledge - the peohoped that the government ple's and for that matter the namust be forthcoming in its tion's interest is above the parovertures and BNP responding ty's; so should it go sans vio-