

## Bangla new year resolve

Let's take guard against regressive forces

**P**AHELA Baishakh, the mirror-image of perennial Bangladesh and its spectacular mosaic of cultural heritage, is here. Our greetings to everybody on the Bangla new year's day, here in the country and, to our internet readers abroad.

It comes as a breath of fresh air in a fast-rolling life-style that needs taking soulful pauses to be reinvigorated with a renewed sense of purpose. This is more than recharging our batteries; rather it's revitalising ourselves with a pride in and a stronger sense of belonging to our cultural heritage.

Pahela Baishakh is the harbinger of quite a few things around which life in both rural and urban Bangladesh revolves. It heralds the seasonal cycle for farmers, artisans and tradesmen. The opening of accounts for the new year that the traditional *Halkhata* marks is regarded as an auspicious occasion to be celebrated with distribution of sweetmeats. The past year might not have yielded good luck to some but they do not lose heart persisting with new hopes to do better in the year ahead. That the season of tornadoes is also signalled need not be taken negatively; because it's a reminder of the fact that we ought to begin on a note of caution against natural calamities which are a part of Bangladesh life.

The festivities of Pahela Baishakh are observed by all people of Bangladesh cutting across religious, ethnic and rich-poor lines. As it is, Bangladesh is mostly a uni-lingual homogenous country and, at the broader cultural level, it's the Bangla new year which reinforces that more than anything else. But unfortunately we are yet to realise the true potential of the social homogeneity by harnessing it in national development efforts. For this to happen, the political and partisan strifes will have to yield place to a robust sense of common national purpose forged by the major political parties to take the country forward.

Some obscurantist elements have lately tried to raise a bogey about Bangla new year celebrations being anti-Islamic. We vehemently oppose it. Pahela Baishakh is an integral part of our cultural heritage just as many Muslim festivals are. Any attempt to denigrate either is unacceptable.

So long as those responsible for the gore and blood of last year's bomb blast at Ramna Batamul go unpunished, elements of their ilk will be undeterred in the pursuit of their vicious goals. Let this Bangla new year's day strengthen our resolve to resist the protagonists of regression in our society.

## Mayhem at AJM

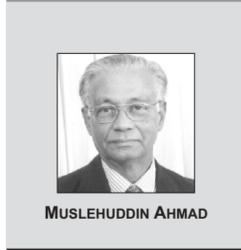
Rid the economy of the burden

**T**HE Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) has once again hogged the headlines, needless to say, for the wrong reason. A series of gunfights between followers of the incumbent collective bargaining agent (CBA) and the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal (National Workers Union) has left one worker killed and at least 50 others injured. Also, some 100 houses have been either damaged or looted. A huge contingent of reserve police force has been deployed in the mill area to check further eruption of violence. However, as the district superintendent of police, Narayananj has suggested, deployment of additional forces may prove inadequate to resolve a problem that is criminal in nature and political in origin. Mere police intervention can and probably will keep the mill area quiet for the time being before another upheaval takes place inevitably.

The AJM, which once earned Narayananj the name of Dundee of the East, has become a smothering burden on the economy, a recurring nuisance to law and order in the locality and beyond, and, above all, a poignant example of trade unionism gone awry. Politicisation and subsequent criminalisation of the trade unions by successive governments have dealt a crippling blow to the once profitable state-owned enterprise. Now, widespread corruption in its administrative ranks, political opportunism of the CBA leaders and their select band of followers, rampant crimes within the mills area have turned the AJM into the proverbial white elephant, for which the government counts in excess of Tk 100 crore in annual loss.

However, the governments over the years have seemingly had no qualms in straining the public exchequer to keep the AJM alive. After all, it served their political purpose. Meanwhile, the CBA leaders have jumped on to the bandwagon of the party in power changing their political colours overnight. The trade union leaders and their cronies have never failed to take the cake or the cream, while the taxpayers paid through their noses to keep the AJM alive. The clash on Thursday night, which carried into the next morning, is part of a bigger problem that every government has talked about but made no effort to resolve. The AJM has lost utility for the country and there is no reason why it should be kept alive on artificial resuscitation anymore than already done.

# Sharon defies President Bush



**A**T long last on April 4, 2002, President Bush called on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to 'withdraw from the Palestinian territory it recently occupied'. Though earlier there was no plan of Secretary Powell's visit to the region, the President also asked his Secretary of State Colin Powell to go to the region to help obtain a cease fire and pave the way for implementation of Tenet and Mitchell plan to which both Israelis and Palestinians agreed earlier. However, President Bush's call on Sharon did not specify any deadline nor did he specifically say when the withdrawal should commence. The dispatch of Secretary Colin Powell was also not declared immediately; later the announcement was that Powell would go next week.

Sharon took advantage of the apparent vagueness in the call and absence of urgency in Powell's visit to the area. He continued his heavy military assault against the Palestinian territories. He already reoccupied six Palestinian cities and towns and hundreds of tanks and armoured carriers continued blasting the civilian areas in the name of dismantling the alleged terrorists' nests. Israeli military tried to give the impression to the world and particularly to the Americans that it was acting against the terrorists as the US was doing in Afghanistan. So, according to Israel, the goal of the US and Israel is same. This was wrong as fight against occupation and resisting Israeli incursions into Palestinian territories could not be the same as 'terrorism'. Unfortunately, Sharon and his rightist government took shelter under Bush doctrine on "terrorism" and took advantage of the situation as much of the American media, as usual, appeared pro-Israeli. Israeli military operation resulted in heavy loss of Palestinian lives. The situations in all the occupied areas and particularly in Ramalla where President Arafat remained holed up were reportedly serious -- no let up in Israeli onslaught, no food, no medicine and the life in those areas started becoming intolerable.

This created serious tension in

the Arab world and there were massive demonstrations against Israel and the US in practically all the Arab capitals. Indeed, there were demonstrations of varying degrees in all four continents. The most notable was the one in Australia. There were demonstrations in Europe and particularly in France and Nordic countries. There were also demonstrations in major cities and several campuses of the USA, too. The biggest one was in University of California, Berkeley. Many compared it with that took place against US war in Vietnam. How-

line said on April 8, "Israel persisting with wide sweep despite US call" and *The Boston Globe* said in its headline on the same day, "Israel vows to complete mission as battle rages." The White House obviously did not like this. President Bush reportedly called Sharon and asked him to withdraw "now". In the meantime, Powell also continued to insist on Sharon to end his military operation. On April 8, Israeli army announced gradual withdrawal from two towns -- Qilqalia and Tulkarm but it seemed to be a tactical manoeuvre as all the tanks were

killing of eight Israeli soldiers by a booby trap set up by the Palestinian resistance groups. Israel said it was a suicide bombing and termed it a terrorist attack against its army. Israel apparently wants a bed of roses on which its tanks should safely roll in and kill Palestinians. Sharon became mad and vowed to avenge the death of Israeli soldiers by Palestinian 'terrorists'. This was fully covered by the US media. The effort by a section of the US media was to project the Israeli view that it was terrorist attack, but some of the American commentators did say

As mentioned earlier, the actions in the diplomatic front were undertaken by Secretary Colin Powell under the direct orders of President Bush. According to some commentators in the USA America was having two faces on M-E conflict; publicly it was asking Sharon to withdraw, but apparently privately it was giving signal to Sharon to continue. The instant example was Colin Powell's detour of so many capitals before going to Jerusalem, the place of conflict. This meant that America was giving enough time to Sharon to complete the job before

as he had from other Arab leaders. Amman already saw massive demonstrations against Israel and two of Jordan's cabinet members also joined the procession. Reportedly Queen also participated in the women's procession. This means that Powell faces a very hostile environment in Amman. Jordan is a good friend of the US and it was expected that King Abdullah would handle it diplomatically but pass on Jordanian reaction to Secretary Powell so that the message from the Arab world became similar and tough.

Secretary Powell went to Jerusalem on Thursday night to see Prime Minister Sharon on Friday and Chairman Arafat on Saturday. Sharon was opposed to Powell's meeting with Arafat but obviously he could not stop it. Apparently, the directive was from President Bush. However, Sharon said, it would be "a terrible mistake" on the part of Powell to meet Arafat whom Sharon called a terrorist. In Madrid Powell said, "it is important and necessary to meet Chairman Arafat as he is the leader of the Palestinian people." Thus Powell's meeting with Arafat will be a slap on Sharon's face.

However, as the world now sympathizes with the Palestinians and shows strong support to the Palestinian cause, and also the US has made nearly 180 degrees turn around in dealing with the present Israeli-Palestinian conflict, President Arafat should reciprocate by condemning the suicide bombings which kill civilians in Israel. He should also order his security apparatus -- whatever is left of it after Israeli invasion and atrocities -- to take all possible measures to stop further suicide bombings. He may even call a meeting of the leadership of the radical Palestinian groups, if the situation permits, and try to impress upon them the necessity of showing restraint when the world is now on their side. One does understand Arafat's predicaments, but he needs to respond positively to world's reactions and particularly the stand taken by President Bush and Secretary Powell to rein in Sharon who has such a dark and indeed dirty military past. It's impossible to even think of any kind of peace when Sharon is in charge of Israel, but the world expects President Bush to control Sharon for the sake of peace and the US interest in the region.

Secretary Powell also visited Egypt and had a fruitful discussion with President Mubarak. But the message remained the same -- Israel must withdraw and go for the negotiations. He later visited Madrid where he met European Union representatives including Javier Salana, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Russian Foreign Minister. The group asked for cease-fire and immediate Israeli withdrawal, condemned suicide bombings and ending of violence for resumption of the political negotiations. Powell then left for Amman, Jordan.

In Amman also, secretary Powell would face similar tough questions

Muslehuddin Ahmad is a former Secretary and Ambassador and founder president of North South University

## SPOTLIGHT ON MIDDLE EAST

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ever, in the USA and France there were also demonstrations in favour of Israeli military operations.

All these led President Bush to reconsider his approach towards Middle East. He could very well see that the strategic interest of the USA in the area was in jeopardy. He was also apparently worried about the ill-effect Israeli military onslaught was having on his proposed major military move against Saddam Hussein of Iraq. In the mean time, Prime Minister Tony Blair came to see President Bush in latter's Ranch in Crawford, Texas. In the joint press conference President Bush went a step further and this time said with serious emphasis that Israel should withdraw "without delay". He also insisted Chairman Arafat must renounce terrorism. When asked by a reporter that if Mr. Sharon and Mr. Arafat "failed to obey his call", he would do, President Bush "responded brusquely" that "I don't expect them to ignore. I expect them to heed the call."

Arafat, of course, earlier accepted the President's call and thus showed his intention to act, but so far did not specifically issue any statement asking the suicide bombers to stop. But unfortunately Sharon defied President Bush and continued his military operation. He said "... we cannot accept going back to the situation as it was before the operation began." He indeed sent army into some new areas of the Palestinian territories including Dura and Hebron. *NY Times* head-

redeployed at the borders of the towns. Israeli military continued its operation in all other areas.

The situation in Bethlehem was very critical. Having failed to put up resistance, about two hundred Palestinian fighters took shelter in the Church of Nativity and the Israeli army tanks encircled the Church and continued to call the Palestinian gunmen to surrender, but they did not. Israeli army broke several doors of the Church. The Press reporters were also barred from going near the Church. Israeli military has also barred the press in other Palestinian areas which Israel declared as the closed military zones. This means that Israel stopped the press from reporting its atrocities in the occupied areas. In Bethlehem Israeli army shot and killed a monk which created serious resentment all over including Vatican.

Israeli atrocities were very clear in Jenin. Major fight was waged in Jenin as the Palestinians gave strong resistance to Israeli military advance. Dozens of Palestinians were reportedly killed and houses destroyed. The whole area looked devastated. Total curfew was also imposed. It is a closed military zone, no pressmen are allowed there. There is no electricity, no water, no food, and the residents including women and children have not been able to come out of their houses for the several days as reported by the American media. Only the other day Israel reported

that the killing of Israeli soldiers who were fighting the war against the Palestinians could not be called terrorist attacks.

Israel tried to prove that Israeli military operation succeeded in stopping the suicide bombings and so Israel should continue its operation to root out Palestinian 'terrorists' though there was a strong call from President Bush to withdraw. On April 9, there was a serious suicide bombing at Haifa that blew up a passenger bus killing eight Israelis and injuring about a dozen. The present suicide bombing clearly shows that military operation could not stop those who are desperate to kill themselves and also others who are considered as enemies. Day before yesterday also there was another suicide bombing. Some of the American analysts said that the only way out for both the parties is to stop violence and go to the negotiating table.

The basic argument that suicide bombers kill innocent civilians does not seem to be valid, as Palestinians argue that all including women over the age of 18 in Israel are the legitimate targets as they do have full military training and they are called upon to fight against Palestinians. Just a couple of days back 20,000 such Israelis who are indeed the reservists were called in to fight the present war against the Palestinians. Of course, some 400 refused to join as they said they could not work as the occupation force. Instead they preferred to go to jail.

withdrawing. This is exactly what was pointed out by Moroccan King Mohammed VI when Colin Powell met him in his first leg of tour. King asked Powell why he was 'there' when the war was on in Jerusalem. The same question was faced by Powell in other places too. Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah who was vacationing in Casablanca put some conditions before any ceasefire. These included immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces and payment of damages Sharon's army has done to the Palestinian infrastructures. This showed that Saudis have started taking tougher stand on the Israeli onslaught. It needs to be mentioned that Saudi Crown Prince already came out with a peace plan which was endorsed by all the Arab States and thus became a solid Arab position on the issue.

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## OPINION

# Arab-Israeli conflict: A layman's view

OMAR KHASRU

**T**HE Israeli-Palestinian conflict has a simple solution. Establishment of a separate state of Palestine with well defined and secured borders, consisting of the pre-1967 West Bank and Gaza Strip, with minor modifications, and peaceful coexistence with the state of Israel. This will also involve acceptance, recognition and security for Israel since security and protection from suicide bombing is paramount and overbearing concerns for beleaguered Israelis with bunker mentality. That's all there is to it. Why didn't anyone else think of it? The fact is many have and there of course is a lot more to it.

This is an age-old strife with volatile ingredients, such as religion, ethnicity, nationality and nationalism, victim mentality and ideology with extremist elements thrown in the explosive mix. The visceral dislike, bordering on hatred between the two main players is a big stumbling block to a cease-fire, let alone a permanent and peaceful solution. Sharon considers Arafat a terrorist and bandit, out to demolish the Jewish entity and exterminate its citizens. The Palestinians collectively consider Sharon as a devil incarnate, out to annihilate them,

including unarmed civilians, women and children, and destroy their infrastructure. They sincerely believe that Israel wants to dominate and forever condemn the Arabs to a subservient second class status. Such antipathy and loathing, in addition to nagging suspicion on both sides, make it pretty near impossible to instill trust and confidence, required for meaningful negotiation and eventual peaceful solution. The problem is personality clash, complete distrust and misgivings of each other's intent and the ascendance of extremist elements on both sides. The hardcore fringe Zionist groups look down on the Arabs as subhuman species. And in the venomous thought process of radical, indoctrinated, hardcore Palestinians, the best Jew is a dead Jew.

Bangladesh, always quick to express solidarity and empathy with the long suffering Palestinians and condemn Israel and Zionism for perpetrating a harsh occupation, pays lip service. There is no doubt that the Palestinian Arab residents under occupation are the victims and the aggrieved party. But the one-sided rabble rousing, indiscriminate and broad denunciation of a whole nation, many of whom are enlightened and sensible, is coun-

terproductive, and hardly constructive or meaningful. The first step would be to understand and pay heed to the points of view of both sides, including, and especially, the adversary. With all the loud, shrill and cacophonous name calling and blame game, the two sides seem to be taking past each other rather than talking to or with each other.

As much as we in Bangladesh join the chorus with our Arab brethren in sweeping and severe indictment of the Jewish State, Israel sadly is the only country in the region with a semblance of democracy. So despite the occupation, oppression, and frequent arbitrary and egregious actions against the Palestinians, the government has to pay some attention to public opinion. The Arabs have no such constraint, contrition or consideration. There is varying degree of oppressive and despotic authoritarianism in most Arab countries. Many would find it hard to believe that there are Arab members (Israeli citizens) in the Israeli Knesset (National Assembly). Free democratic election in Israel produced leaders like Rabin, Peres and Ehud Barak, liberal and enlightened, who were willing to take chances for the 'peace of the brave' in partnership with Arafat and Palestinians. Abba

Eban, suave and articulate former Israeli Foreign Minister once remarked, "the Palestinians have never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity." In retrospect one has to wonder if by not responding to overtures of Rabin and Barak and making lasting peace with them, Arafat has missed golden opportunities for peace and freedom.

Now Sharon, abrasive, boorish, hostile, and adversarial, and a staunch opponent of Oslo and other peaceful deals between the two parties, is in power. The Israeli incursion into Palestinian land and homes is in full swing, with troops, helicopter gunshots, fighter planes, tanks, mortars and artillery deployment and use in full blast. The Palestinians are responding with sniper fire, drive by shooting, ambush and the most potent weapon at their disposal, suicide bombing. As glamorous and effective as the latter seems, it has real human cost and long-term social consequences. With Arafat interned in his headquarters at Ramallah, his administrative and security infrastructure in shambles, and Sharon displaying stubborn, uncompromising and acrimonious attitude and actions, the chances for peace and peaceful coexistence seem like pipe dream and farthest from any possi-

bility of accomplishing.

The ray of hope is the Colin Powell mission. President Bush seems to have come to a late realization that one-sided support and rationalisation of Israeli action has no upside, and there is both a compelling and an immediate need for high level high profile American involvement. He has changed his tune of unfettered equivocation of Israeli position and postures and urged Israeli pullback from the incursion of Arab territories. This to bring about a cessation of hostilities and a possible cease-fire in order to revive and jumpstart negotiations between the two sides. There is no viable alternative to compromise through negotiation, however long it takes, and however many impediments, bumps and bruises it may encounter.

The zealous diehard Arab dream, if any, of total obliteration of Israel is not feasible. Let's not forget Israel is a nuclear power and will not hesitate to use this weapon of mass destruction if there is any possibility of annihilation of the Jewish State. The radical, hardcore, and extremist Israeli dream of a greater Israel and perpetual occupation of Palestinian land is equally untenable because the price, as they are just beginning to realise, is far too great to sustain

this much longer. The only viable and acceptable solution is peace and security, designed broadly after the Saudi Prince Abdullah's proposal. There will have to be exchange of occupied Arab land for peace and security for Israel, and recognition of Israel by Arab countries. If a long festering and seemingly intractable antagonism between the Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland can be resolved, so can the prolonged, bitter, seemingly inscrutable Arab-Israeli dispute. The world opinion and resolute American pressure will have to drag Sharon, kicking and screaming, to the peace table.

The Pollyanna hope and the prayer is that the Arab-Israeli conflict will be resolved during our life time and the two peoples, with rich heritage, history and tradition, will be able to coexist in the land of the prophets, and birth place of three monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, peacefully. The descendants of Abraham (Prophet Ibrahim) and the progeny of his sons, Ishmael and Isaac, must learn to trust each other and live happily ever after in peace and harmony.

# TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR



## "Banning is not the way to fight criticism"

I refer to Mr. Ahmed K. Rashid's letter "Banning is not the way to fight criticism" (April 10) and agree with him.

However, Mr. Rashid's letter gives the quite picture that he is a fan of Bertil Lintner, presently a rather infamous name to Bangladeshis, and privy to his achievements. Jolly good. I have no comments on that.

But will Mr. Rashid let the readers know: Just because Lintner is an expert on Myanmar and Indonesia and may have written about seven books, is he (Mr. Rashid) advising us that his (Lintner) words should be taken as gospel truth? In this regard, I refer to his malicious article against Bangladesh in FEER of April 4 issue.

Other than the GoB, there was not a single newspaper in Bangladesh, representing all section of people, including *The Daily Star*, who did not condemn Bertil Lintner for his hate-mongering article in

their editorials. There was even condemnation from independent observers from abroad -- not to speak of the strong protest by countless resident and non-resident Bangladeshis. Is Mr. Rashid trying to imply that all these newspapers, all these Bangladeshis and all these independent observers are all wrong in judging Bertil Lintner's article? While in one breath Mr. Rashid infer that 'certificates' from super powers like USA/UK are not credible, in the same breath he warns of the 'wrath' of the 'scholastic and academic' world unless we value the opinion and observation of Bertil Lintner! Are you saying that just because Bertil Lintner has termed Bangladesh as 'Cocoon of Terror', it should be wiped out as else where has been done? I read elsewhere on the same page ("In typical fashion!") one Mr. Raहत Hussain from Minnesota, USA on the same topic declaring that the Bengalis have the thinnest skin in the world. Well, Mr. Rashid is surely having a very thick skin like Raहत

Hussain so much so that any insult or any slur on our whole nation do not bother them or hurt them. Life may not have taught them that any one worth his salt must have some pride about his own country -- right or wrong. Here, thick-skinned people may not comprehend at all what national pride is. We Bangladeshis - thin-skinned? So, be it.

**Ashfaq Chowdhury**  
Banani, Dhaka

## "Only America can guarantee global security"

Thanks to Mr. Elahi for his most scholastic analysis of modern terrorism ("Only America can guarantee global security", April 8).

The rule of law under which a civil society exists does not condone terrorism. The traditional jurisprudence never mentioned terrorism as a means to achieve an end of any kind. The Hegelian notion of justice is also based on civil law, not on

force. But the most interesting question is what amount of anger and dissatisfaction is terrorism and what amount is not. Brutus assassinated Julius Caesar, was he a terrorist? Caliph Othman was he a terrorist? Was it an act of terrorism? Archduke of Austria and Hungary was assassinated by a Serbian anarchist, was it an act of terrorism?

These perplexing questions had their own time and space but today the power of destructive technology is so severe that the target of terrorism does not remain localised, it affects and hurts much more innocent lives than its real target. The tragedy of Palestine is solely a man created problem. In diplomacy and politics the audacity of pragmatism is essential and this is missing there.

The Arabs failed miserably in this respect and from the very onset of this problem they were guided by emotionalism. Their personal feuds and disunity played havoc in multiplying the misfortunes of the Palestinian people. What the suicide

bombers are doing there is not the right way to help their cause. They must accept the fact that Israel can't be pushed to the sea any more. This new kind of self-destructive terrorism is an act of desperation and not guided by any political philosophy. The world has changed enormously. No society accepts terrorism as a means to an end. In this age a violent action does not bring freedom, does not help establish neither a society based on law and order nor it draws peoples' sympathy. It is also important to note that Arafat is still a prisoner of the old Fatah psychology and could not become a statesman.

**Akbar Hussain**  
Toronto, Canada

## Private stadium bill

There are many ways to provide employment opportunity to the young people of our country. For example, the government can pass a Private Stadium Bill to construct private stadium in every union parishad. In order to get license to

construct a private stadium fee must be affordable and the procedure very simple. On receipt of the application, necessary formalities must be completed within seven days. The owner of the stadium can organise football, cricket, tennis, ha-do-do and other tournaments and also rent the stadium to other organisers. The government can impose 30 per cent tax on ticket sales. 15 per cent will go to union parishad and 15 per cent will go to upazilla education fund. The organisers of the tournament will earn 70 per cent. The organisers will pay the security officers' fees and other cost.

**Mohammed Mohiuddin**  
Dallas, America

## Victimising the victims

My attention was drawn to a write-up "Victimising the victims: Is media responsible?" (March 13) about the role of media in bringing awareness among people about the crimes and

violence occurring in our civil society through printed photographs of the victims.

We would like to imagine that we live in an independent, democratic and civilised society but the reality is the front page of daily newspapers. One could question whether any sane person would like to keep a newspaper at home, in which gory pictures of human flesh and bone, devastated families wailing over their dear ones, acid victims, dead and wounded bodies of road accident victims or a girl who has been raped and asking for shelter with the plea to punish the culprits, adorn the front page every month.

Are we becoming immune to all these crimes and violence against humanity and are becoming more and more insensitive to these issues? We are made to see the pictures of accident, rape, murder or acid victims. A total number of murders estimated for the month of March was 336, acid victims 22 and rape cases 40. Do we have to see those faces and start our day saying "Good morning Bangladesh"?

No mother can see the pieces of his 12-year old son's body. Moreover, it will be difficult for those girls also who have been victims of rape to settle or rehabilitate in some other place, as very few of us will allow them to stay as our neighbours.

Is it that difficult for the dailies to investigate, follow up and dig out the roots of the curse of our society instead of only printing the deformed faces? Parents are alarmed about the security of their children and are closing their doors to the outside world, changing the structure of social behaviour. How many children do we see in the few parks that are left today? How far are the media willing to go to balance the right to express themselves freely and increase the sales of their newspapers? I fully endorse the views and thank Mr. Syed Ashfaq Qadri for bringing the issue to the front.

**Hafiza Zahir**  
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