The Killing of the innocent children like Shihab, Bappi and Ratna in the

most brutal way conceivable seem to manifest a horrendous truth-- no one

If we have a close look at these incidents we'd find out that the victims

As we go through the details of these horrendous killings one common

are all innocent children and the killers are all first time murderers who

question raises in our minds -- how can a human being commit such

beastly, inhuman crimes? What baffles us most is that none of the alleged

killers in these three particular cases has any serious criminal record.

Neither any of these murders were committed at the spur-of-the-moment

but executed in cold-blooded manner. How can someone with no or hardly

any notable criminal records suddenly perpetrate a cold-blooded and

Associate Prof. Of Psychology at DU, as regards to the first time killers.

One does not open his criminal account with murder. The process of

criminalisation had been on for a long time during which he had committed

many small crimes. If the life history of these criminals could be studied it

would certainly be found out the same had happened with these murder-

ers as well. His parents, brothers, sisters, schoolmates, teachers, neigh-

But how does this happen or what are the factors that are responsible

for creating such sick and perverted population of criminals that seems to

rising with alarming haste? Says Prof. Rahman. "These perverted youths

for students who have passed from

lages like Notre Dame have an

English Medium section for stu-

dents willing to go for it, why is not

the question for admission in this

section in English? The Problem

deteriorates by the Bengali Gram-

mar which English Medium students

are mostly feeble in. This is where

they loose marks and ultimately

some of them do not get the chance

What could have bettered the

situation is consideration for stu-

dents from English Medium in

Bengali and, for them, the system of

making questions and giving

answers in English. I hope the

college authority concerned consid-

Of banks and blun-

Banks happen to be the most con-

servative of all institutions in the

world and exercise the highest level

of caution and ethics when lending

funds to business or industries. It is

beyond imagination in any other

country to grant loans through

corrupt practices or without evaluat-

ing the merit of an application or

as they wish and hardly give a damn

to the people or the government.

They keep imposing charges and

increasing interest rates to the

misery of genuine businesses and

industries. It is alleged that the

interest rates are levied so high

because of bad loans. It is the

average citizen who pays for the

cost of corruption and the scams in

the name of default culture. So, the

time has come that banks were put

on the dock to defend their acts. The

questions that desperately demand

answers to the latest Om Prakash

Rajgorias of Chittagong committed

the same crime sending shock

waves through the banking and

trading community. They swindled

money borrowed not only from

banks but also from traders to the

tune of hundreds of crores of taka. It

is only a common sense that the

Rajgoria case should have

remained a case study for the banks

in approving loans to an individual or

a private company. Why then the

lending banks did not exercise their

Om Babu borrowed money from

It is not long ago that the

Agarawl case are:

common sense?

Banks in Bangladesh rather run

bypassing the laws of the land.

for further admission test.

ered this problem.

ders!

Even when we know that col-

English Medium Schools.

bours must have noticed, if realised, the criminal bent of his mind.

"Of course, it did not happen all of a sudden," says Mahmudur Rahman,

A society devoid of peace

never were suspected to be potential killers.

To improve our cricket It is not surprising that Bangladesh has been losing regularly in Test matches and one-day internationals, but the manner in which they are

losing is cause for consternation. If we are to perform decently - let alone win - at the international level, we must put serious home programs in place and reorganise our cricket drastically. As someone who wants the best for Bangladesh cricket, I would like to make some

suggestion in this regard: We must play 4-day (not 3-day) matches in our domestic leagues. Also, the other Test teams are so much stronger than us that it would be a good idea to play 3-4 day matches frequently with their A teams. Then only, can we think of competing with the Test teams.

Our batsmen, with rare exceptions, do not have the mindset to play long innings. As a case in point, Al-Shahriar scored 20 with 5 boundaries in about 15 balls in the last one-day match. Was that necessary, or did we need a solid 50 or 60, even if it took 80 balls from an accomplished batsman like him? If the focus is only in scoring quickly (and returning to the pavilion), then we should not be playing any more

In order to be competitive, we must have short and long term plans in place. Rapid change of coaches

Great Army

This is in regards to Sobhan's

I think S Rahman made a

very good point in his/her letter

which Sobhan hasn't or cannot

If civilians are allowed to

enter the Cantonment up to

9.45 pm, what security risk do

they suddenly pose at 10 pm?

This is in response to several

letters published in your

esteemed daily on the above

subject particularly by Mr.

Sobhan Choudhury and Mr

and players put too much pressure

on the team. One might consider

bringing in coaches like Bob

Woolmer or Dave Whatmore and

giving them a longer stint with the

national team. We need a coach

who can motivate our players and

bring the best out of them. Even a

sport psychologist may be consid-

ered, as a lot of this game is played

in the mind. Also, the players must

know that the selectors have faith in

them and should not be thrown out

without giving them proper chance

sportsman's life. At this level, we

must have plans for management of

injuries. If we had this in mind then

we would have Mashrafee playing

for the country now. Risk of injuries

must be minimised, and when injury

does take place, the Board must

come forward in doing the best it can

slim bowling strength. The reality is

that, at the moment, we do not

have an attack that can bowl out a

Test side twice. So the focus for the

short term should be in contain-

This raises the issue of our verv

Injury is a part and parcel of any

to prove their talent.

to alleviate the problem

Mahmudul Huq Khan

Nafis from New York. Yes, a Cantonment for that matter.

The answer is none at all.

Biggles, Dhaka

address.

letter about the Great Army.

New Jersey, USA

"To a friend of Bangladesh"

Thanks to ES (August 13) for reminding me that a friend is leav-

I too would like to say good bye to Mrs. Robinson. I usually didn't agree with her but I thoroughly enjoyed having her around.

Add metre on CNGrun autorickshaw

welcome, like many others, the government decision to ban the twostroke auto-rickshaw. I welcome this decision, although I am a regular traveller of auto-rickshaw and I know I will suffer a lot after this ban is implemented till the alternatives are

Also, thanks to the government and the Communication Minister for planning to make the alternative vehicles available within a stipulated timeframe. However, I would also like to say that this decision would be more civilised if two more aspects were covered by regulation. one of which cannot be done later, if not now. That is, making it obligatory to have metre on the new CNG-run auto-rickshaws, which have already been imported and also on those

rickshaw drivers can not be allowed to ply on the city roads only for their own benefit, not of the citizen's. I hope this letter is read and taken into consideration by the decisionmakers and also my fellow readers will raise their voice in this regard. Fazley Elahi Mahmud, Shaheen

Tricks to freeze student politics

The IBA department, a silent existence within the Dhaka University (DU). Not only is it very tough to get admission to IBA department but also exigent to carry on with its regular classes and class tests. It is almost impossible for a current student of this department to confine with any kind of heavy-duty optional activities such as politics, sports and culture unless he/she does not bother to get the BBA degree.

You will not find any other DU department, which could match IBA educational system. My wife got the Master's degree in English from DU only attending less than 50 per cent classes. She also needed a little study to achieve the 2nd Class marks. Without any pressure for lessons the apprentices thus involving easily with the extra curricular activities

So, that says it all. The govern-

Security and sanctity of the

military establishments are of

paramount importance. Keep-

ing that in view major garrisons

and other establishment can

be shifted to more secured

places keeping only the GHQ

I support Sobhan Chowdhury

when he says that because we

pay the taxes we consider

Cantonment to be our private

property. Well it's not. It

belongs to the Army not the

general people of the country

and it is up to the Army to

decide whether they allow the

general people to enter Can-

tonment or not. What does it

has to do with Cantonment

being nearer to the city. Please

Chowdhury that army deals

with the security of the country

and they deserve the right

We have to remember that if

the demand arises it would be

the Army that would come to

the forefront to protect us be it

invasion of some other country

ment does not need to plunge any

harsh decision to bar student poli-

tics. All they have to do is to ensure

that all the DU departments would

follow unswervingly the path of IBA

department-- their class policy,

frequent exams, regularity and

sincerity of teachers-- so that stu-

dents are cramped in study and not

in politics. Creating such an educa-

tional environment should not be a

difficult job for any of the DU depart-

ments since they have the best

Before monorail for Dhaka City, we

need at least 500 Volvo type buses.

With the five hundred of this type of

buses plying on the streets of the

city, rickshaws and auto-rickshaws

will flee off from the city streets on

their own. The government need not

force them out. Monorail will give

decorative look to some streets of

the city, as the sky rail has given, to

some streets of Bangkok, but it will

not solve the transport problem of

the city dwellers. The high price for a

single ride on monorail will be out of

band of teachers of our country.

M. S. Hamid (Bobby)

Before Monorail

Old DOHS, Dhaka

or controlling traffic!

Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Sonia Rahman

keep it as a restricted area.

I also agree with Mr

don't complicate this issue.

at the present place.

Ontario, Canada

A Shams

00

105

THROUGH GATE

AND WAIT FOR

GATE TO CLOSE

Cantonments and other mili-

tary establishments are highly

restricted place in USA, UK

France etc. But, hardly one will

find such Cantonments in and

around big cities. They are

mostly situated in secluded

The mammoth growth of

Dhaka Cantonment is restrict-

ing proper traffic movement

especially to Zia international

airport. Further, it has residen-

tial areas many private houses

including some private clinics

and also the residence of

Hounarable Prime Minister.

So, it has lost the true nature of

We can assume that, the drivers

of the CNG-auto-rickshaws will not

be more generous or rational than

the present auto-rickshaw drivers to

claim justifiable fare. This is simply

unacceptable that they can claim a

fare as much as they wish, which is

even the same or higher than the

fare of a black-cab! The way the

auto-rickshaw drivers charge the

fare, sometimes, especially in the

peak hours, is tantamount to black-

mailing the passengers. This is the

time to resolve this issue, because

the CNG-run auto-rickshaws are

now being introduced (a few are

Although, it will increase a bit the

investment requirements for the

operators of this vehicle, it will not be

much. But, if it is not done now and

once fifty thousand vehicles are on

the road, such decision will go

beyond the capacity of implementa-

is that, the same rule made for

taxicab that they have to go to any

destination the passengers want.

should be applicable for the CNG-

run auto-rickshaws. I believe, the

readers would agree that, the auto-

The second issue I want to raise

already on the road).

which are going to be imported.

reach of the middle-class people. This class of people forms the bulk of the city population.

is safe in this country.

Volvo type long bus must have three doors, not two. And Ashok Lyland type bus must have two doors, not one. When will our BRTC people understand this?

Import only the chassis of the double-decker, not the complete bus, and build the body in Bangladesh. It will reduce the price of the vehicle a lot. If the question of commission on the purchase price is not involved, then why should we go for complete bus, instead of chassis at a lower price?

We need to change the sitting arrangement in the bus to make the movement of the passengers easier inside it. In this respect we may follow the sitting arrangement in the double-decker buses plying on the streets of London.

Minibuses are not for a city like Dhaka which having population more then ten million. But alas! To play prank with the plight of the city dwellers we have introduced in Dhaka City 'briefcase' type public transport-- Maxi.

Bus network of Dhaka City must spread like a cobweb. Frequency of buses on the roots must go up. Please think twice before opting for monorail

Faruque Hasan Dhanmandi. Dhaka

Lobbying for presidency

I do not understand why BNP is taking so much time to select some one for this highest post. If BNP decides to select some one from the party, they should go for it immediately. Some one outside the party will not be a wise choice.

Dr. R. A. Ghani or Khondokar Mahbubuddin Ahmed have very little contributions towards BNP. Khondokar Mahbubuddin joined BNP only few years ago. The present acting President Barrister Jamir Uddin Sarker will also not be a very good choice as he is also from greater Dinajpur (Panchagarh) like the Prime Minister, on top of it whenever BNP is in power he is with the party but when BNP is not in power, he is busy with his profession. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the Textile Minister or M. Shamsul Islam the Land Minister-- one of them should be considered for the post. Both are close to the Prime Minister and have great contributions in the party. Both are tested and trusted and are honest. The Land Minister has an upper hand over the Textile Minister as he has a good rapport with the other political parties and has diplomatic experiences as a former Ambassador.

Whatever the choice is, the PM should go for the final decision Dr. Naushad-Ul-Haq

English Medium

students in trouble Just a few days ago the examination for admission in Notre Dam College was held. The questions were in Bengali, and so were the answers to be which was the biggest problem

appropriate adjective one can use to compare the situation.

There was no clear explanation why the police attacked the

protesting student and our beloved teacher Dr. Anwar Hossain.

Neither the police nor any other so-called authorities could explic-

itly or implicitly explain why the police charged him and grounded

him without any rhyme and reason. Does a person of such sage

He could have got himself settled in abroad. But it was his gut,

application for a visa to an individ-

was very right in his statement that Thomas Jefferson, one of the foundbanks seldom entertain genuine entrepreneurs. It is time that a stringent investigation was launched against all those responsible and brought to justice. Our bankers seem to have ignored the fact that banks have no room for childish adventurism The Om Prakash Agarwal case has proved beyond any doubt the extent of hundi business in the country. It will be beyond the capac-

At a time when little space for greenery is available in this over-

crowded city, let us look to one perpetual resource: the rooftop.

Apartment and house rooftops should be grounds for full-scale

gardens. In a polluted city devoid of nature and rest areas, an

elevated area of greenery would be a welcome addition to our

brown and grey surroundings. Plants provide shade, air circula-

tion, food, and act as reminders of the unnatural nature of our

gardens in Dhaka could provide a small amount of food for the

homeless, temporary relief from the hard concrete life on the

ground, a small contribution in the battle against pollution. We

are too quickly destroying any chance of saving space for parks

and ponds; let us use our advantage to enjoy further advan-

tages. A thousand mini-parks can be created each for a few

As Dhaka's population increases and our available space

Plants are cheap and worthy investments. A thousand extra

are manifestation of a greater and deep-rooted illness the society itself is

suffering from. What will a child learn from a society where evil is victorious

ity of one Finance Minister to control while the banks are actively involved in it. Khandaker R Zaman

Rooftop garden

Is peace dead?

Acitizen

ual.

and good is the perennial loser?"

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman

"The Big G"

ing fathers of the US Constitution and the third President of that country said, "That government governs the best that governs the least". While many may argue over this kind of "laissez faire" philosophy and to what extent this should be practised, no one will argue that the governments need to come out of the business sectors and hand them over to the private sector who can run them best.

One can only imagine how long one would had to wait, if we had only BTTB offering mobile phones in the country. Today, we are hearing about BRTC operating taxicabs and

overtime.

decreases, we will be looking for more time, for more relief from the grime of our sparsely vegetated city. The rooftop is a piece of land that will always be available, that will always be

untouched. Sajid Chowdhury, Dhaka

thousand taka.



Green at the top of the stairs

"How can we forget?"

The above captioned letter nublished in your Daily on 6th August 2002, has touched the hearts and souls of all Bangladeshis. If the people of Pakistan are really repentant for their crimes in Bangladesh in 1971, they should express it openly and fully and there is no shame in it. We cannot have genuine friendship if disguising diplomatic languages are continued to be used in this

Asif Ahmed Banani, Dhaka BTTB operating cellular phones in future. No one will argue that both these organisations are not performing what is expected out of them. Then, why get them involved in bigger roles? Shouldn't we try to limit our government in basic day to day governance issue? I think if anyone has taken a ride in one of the new Volvo double-decker buses let alone the old red ones will agree that BRTC cannot provide good service. There has been so much talk about BTTB. that I will leave that discussion alone.

In a third world country like ours we all expect the government to provide assistance in health care, education, food and agriculture in addition to defence, communication and other vital sectors. However, when it comes to telecommunication, transportation, and tourism; it is best to leave it to the private sector. Let the market decide who will be the winner through competition. The last thing we need is a big government that wants to do everything but cannot even fulfil the basic requirements of its people that is the right to live a safe life and the guarantee of a natural death decided by the real big

Parvez Murshed Mirpur, Dhaka

What a shocking news! A

sweet home dies down when we

see our people are being murdered in broad-day-light, women are gang-raped, children are abducted and murdered, female student are beaten by police like criminals and our registered letters reach to relatives without contents!

Who are we? Bangladeshi? Bangalee? Muslim? Hindu? Why do we fail in every sphere of our lives? What life-eating-cancer is eating up all the human qualities from our politics, from our business, from our educational institutions more importantly from our religions! Why can't we declare our existence with pride to the world that we have some thing to give? We are not a bunch selfdestructing selfish people suffering from general Alzheimer?

Whenever anything happens to any Bangladeshi expatriates, Bangladeshi diplomats abroad become so philosophical and noncommittal that it is useless to approach them for any help. M. Ayub Khan

Ottawa, Canada

On law and order

A dream of securing law and order with less than a hundred thousandstrong poorly paid, poorly equipped police force for a population of 130 million people in a 56,000 square mile stretch of sub-optimal communication is mired deep in abysmal failure. It is like asking Mayor Bloomberg of New York City to provide policing for half of the U.S. population! Adding a slow moving, less-than-independent judiciary to this piquancy is more than an absolute recipe for a dream-turnednightmare. And that's where we are in our beloved home.

High-flying talks of MIG in the name of defending the country is rather sham when the total populace of the country remains precariously defenceless. Unendingly we see the tone of violence reaching a higher to an even higher crescendo

Every country does have a limited budgetary pie. Every country has to prioritise and reconcile different conflicting interests. And only then, resources can be allocated on the basis of reconciled priority. In the present social, economic and political swirl of murky eddies, none other than law and order surfaces as the most pressing priority, for all developmental activity largely hinges on this very issue.

A relatively tranquil law and order is utterly needed to provide a safe and secure social fabric, where the various economic variables can interact with success. Only this can provide the essentials of a fertile ground for a vibrant community to grow and spread its various tenta-

Law and order involves not only an effective police, but also an effective and independent judiciary. Mohammad Zaman

An easy way to enfeeble the parents and cripple tne nation

This refers to the recent news reports of killings of innocents and threats of kidnapping of schoolgoing children. The children of our country particularly those in the city areas are like caged birds. They have no opportunity to move freely because of both scarcity of open spaces and of looming dangers everywhere. The parents have to take them to their schools and fetch them after their classes are over. Thus overall condition of our society is a serious obstacle to the physical and mental growth of our children.

The gruesome killing of Shihab has cast no pall of sorrow on our society, which is proved by the killings of two innocent children Bappi and Ratna by their relatives and neighbours respectively. These killings prove the degree of trust and tolerance of the people in the society we live in. These tragic incidents have left a bad effect concerning trust in the people of one's surroundings. The parents in our society will lose trust in their relatives and neighbours. This will create misunderstanding that may result in further feud among the relatives and neighbours. If these things continue to go on, the parents will suffer from a sense of anxiety being failure to provide security of their children and the nation will plunge into a deep maze of morbidity soon.

The higher educated and fortunate class has already lost interest in living in the country. Still those who are living in the country will try to flee considering the education and security of their children. Those who are now abroad will fear to set their feet in the motherland considering the security of their children and try their best to be settled there permanently. It is a matter of grave concern that our children are not safe even in our own locality. Then how can we expect a better atmosphere for our children? What more can be heavier in the world than a dead body of a minor child on the

shoulders of his father? But we need to get rid of this problem anyway. The print and electronic media can play significant role giving special importance to keep up patience and sympathy among the people one's locality and the rights of the children that they deserve and friendly atmosphere for their better future.

Islam

Prof. Anwar and our seasoned writers

"But police didn't listen to him and kicked him down to the street, hit him with the gun even after knowing that he was a teacher of DU. He did not commit any crime. But the police treated him as if he were a criminal (Letter to the Editor, Aug 14)".

While I share the pain of the letter writer Mr. Akhtaruzzaman, I just simply want to know under which law of the land the mighty police can "kick some one down to the street, hit him with the gun even after knowing that" he wasn't a criminal.

Is it not interesting to see that our esteemed readers are spending their precious times in reading and writing pages after pages on Tagore song, praising/humiliating Kemal Ataturk, army, Musharaf to name a few? It had to be Dr. Anawar's two direct students to express their grievances on this daylight-brutality.

Shame on those seasoned writers who are waiting for some one more to their liking to be brutalised!

NAS

On e-mail

"Students from your region are obedient and thus your teachers are much lucky." That's what my course leader told me during my MSc. Degree in UK. I wish she didn't know that such beloved and well-respected teachers could be grounded and beaten inhumanely by the state-governed police.

We have observed the medieval brutality performed on the innocent students and teachers at DU campus by the so-called police, the staunchest ally of institutional terrorism. There is no



which felt to get back to the country of origin, do something for the country and the people. As well as academics he also enlightened us with the knowledge of patriotism and still he asks us not to forget the origin. And that's what he had been rewarded on 29th of July. He got his leg broken with the batons of the police.

Among all the frustrating and stealthier measures taken by the government, we were expecting at least that we would know the real reason behind the occurrence. Unfortunately, the event hasn't not been in the agenda of the judicial committee. They even didn't respond to his urge to testify him.

Finally, I want to remind the ones, who have supported such evil acts, that Dr. Anwar Hossain himself is a symbol of success and courage. No one can clinch the name and fame he has conquered already. He as well as all our beloved teachers will be alive in the hearts of all the ex- and upcoming students. He is not an individual concept nor any body can kill the spirit he brought and brings up

Nahid Hasan, Netherlands

Murder in

Kuala Lumpur

Bangladeshi has been caught redhanded by public in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, allegedly after committing a murder of a university student. Those of us had to leave our country for economic reasons, counting our days to return to our beloved motherland as soon as our economic conditions are bit improved.

inside him. All my love and regards to him.

But motivation for returning

and (b) lending the money without checking with other banks? Even for a simple visa, a European Embassy would check with all other European missions before entertaining an

(remember the story the fox who ate the crocodile's seven puppies). Haven't the banks violated the laws by (a) not registering the mortgage

various banks against his own name as well as against his employees. How could banks lend money to employees and what collateral were obtained, if any and if not, why not?

Om Babu is alleged to have obtained loans from a number of banks against the same property

and personality deserve it?