Hartals

The word 'Hartal' is a very popular word in our country. It is a symbol of non-violent protest. It is generally observed to compel the authority to fulfil some kind of demand. When dissatisfaction grows among a group of people or political parties hartal becomes a way of showing that dissatisfaction. But now hartal has become a regular feature of our country. Whenever an issue arises, instead of settling it in an amicable manner the concerned party calls a hartal. As a result we have loss of working days in the financial calendar. The wiser section of the country should say something about the observance of these hartals. Pickets who work against the interest of the country set cars ablaze and creates a gruesome atmosphere. We hope that in the future people will come up with a different form of protest for the betterment of the national economy.

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Imperialistic Warmongers

Warmongers George W. Bush and Tony Blair, have brought humanity on razor edge. With Iraq burning the warmongers are spreading their dark design towards Iran and Syria. Thousands of innocent Iraqis, women and children, have been killed and others maimed and thousands are getting to that state everyday. The horrific scenario reminds us of the sad song by Pink Floyd where the post world war victim cries out in utter despair "What have we done Maggie? Maggie what have we done?" We wait, we pray and we look forward to an end to all this.

Rafiqul Islam Rime
Agrabad, Chittagong

Odd sense of humour!

I was shocked to read "My 25th Birthday" on Dhaka Diary in the SWM dated March 17, 2006. I am astonished at how a woman could treat her home teacher so insensitively, especially someone who thought of her as a mother, a guardian and who was deprived of love from a mother for a long time and tried to build her career by struggling in society. She thought that she got a big gift and that was a mother's love but when she opened the gift box, she realised what she actually got. We have witnessed such heinous acts the previous week seen on newspaper and the TV channels where students beating their classmates and female police tearing up another girl's clothes on the street. It is totally ridiculous to say that we are living in a secular society.

Jony
Monipuripara
Dhaka

It's All Staged

We are all aware of our opposition's claims against our government that its recent government-led drive against militancy is all staged; and when you start to scrutinise the activities of JMB and JMJB during the last few months one simply wonders how close to reality these claims are. The first question that arises in your mind is how the police force that has been so ineffective for so long is suddenly succeeding so well against the most organised and trained terrorist threat ever faced by our nation? How come the terrorists who were able to co-ordinate countrywide bombing missions within hours of each other are falling prey to the law enforcement agents like sitting ducks? How come the terrorists did not launch a retaliatory attack after the arrests of the Shura members even though they had the materials and manpower to do so?

But even if this is a government planned conspiracy then what may be the motive? The government needs to protect its image and convince the donor countries that it does not support militancy and harbour terrorists because it has a party in its coalition which is accused of such activities. Also because of the upcoming elections they need to prove to the public that they can maintain law and order during this chaos. This drive against militancy is also drawing the media's attention away from the lawlessness that was going on before this drive began. No international or foreign body has taken part in the investigations and the opposition has not done anything to prove its claims either. These are serious accusations that should be investigated by independent and international bodies.

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