makers, our industrialists, the rich and the beautiful in our society don't have to deal with this joke of a system. They either go abroad, or they go to Apollo Hospital for their physical check-ups. The all-encompassing bubble of Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara enables them to completely ignore the system (whether its education, medical, or transportation) that the 99% of our population has to use day in and day out. As a result, they never feel the need to change anything about it.

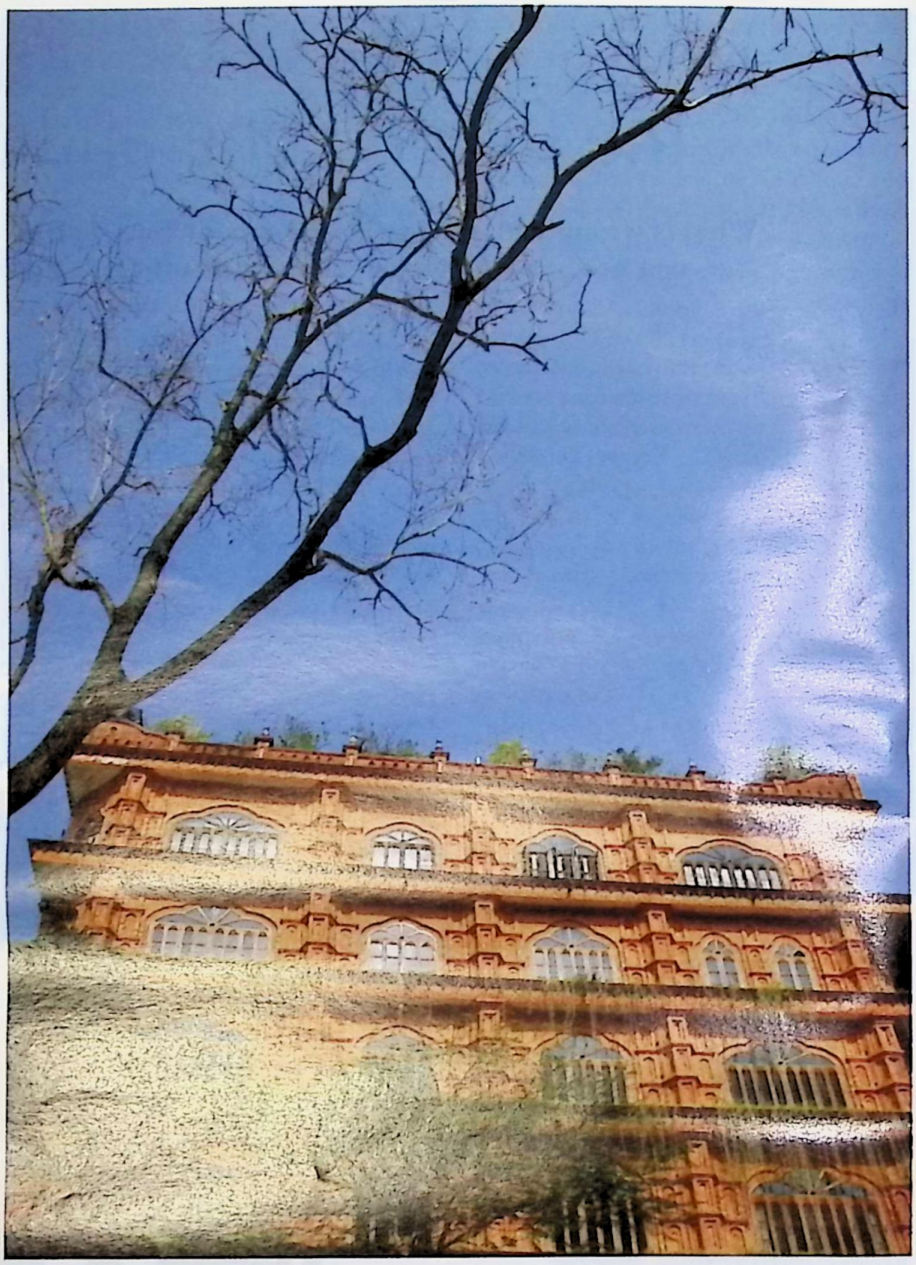
I will give you a small example of one such bubble boy. The head of one of the garments manufacturers' associations, a hot-shot arrogant garments manufacturer, in a recent meeting on compliance with his clients was making fun of how the hotel he was staying in London had such small rooms that Mr Blair should be ashamed of it. Then he went on to brag about how great the hotels are in Dhaka. Tony Blair may not provide great hotels, but basic healthcare and education is free for all.

While this business leader brags about Bashundhara City mall in Dhaka, he doesn't realize that 99% of the population can't afford to touch anything in there. He takes pride in the superficial surroundings of Dhaka, because the world of this other 99% is completely unknown to him.

In his distorted reality from inside the "Green Zone," he sees Dhaka as a place where children get top-notch education in the international schools, and where top-class medical services are available in Apollo Hospital, and where the best restaurants with their ever elongating buffet lines are the pride of the city.

If you talk about the rest of the 99% who have no access to these things you are not helping in "image building" of our country. I happened to be present in that meeting to present the side of the garment workers, and he was furious at me for this betrayal and "image termination" of Bangladesh.

From London, where he was explaining to the *bideshi* client that £8 is actually a lot of money in Bangladeshi taka, he flew back to his zone and headed to the negotiation table to resist the "unjust" demand for raising the monthly minimum wage from £8 to £24 (which pays for a month's worth of ice cream at MoveNPick for his kid).



AMIRUL RAJIV

Now let's move the focus from this bubble boy to the rest of the populace of the heavily fortified Green Zone of Dhaka. Yes, I am talking about the crowd in Gulshan and Baridhara and my *abhiman* (not accusation) about them. How socially aware are they? How socially responsible are they? Do they care about what's happening outside the Green Zone? Do they think they have any social responsibility? Do they realize how much impact they can have in the country if they come forward and start tackling the real issues from their position of privilege.

Sameen, a colleague from Toronto, and I often lament that how come we see so many rich people, but so few donors to social causes in Bangladesh. Please disregard donating to your "*desher bari,*" or donating for the local mosque, or *zakat,* or the occasional Rotary or Lions Club work. I am talking about seriously working and helping the social causes in Bangladesh that help the other 99%.

Why don't we see rich people in Dhaka coming out in droves to help pay for education for Madhabi, the tortured housemaid, who was headline news a