The Culture

NADER RAHMAN

Shafiqul Islam spends about one fourth of his day in traffic. A few hours on the way to work, and a few hours on the way back and many hours in between. About a month ago, when returning from Uttara, as he claims the 'inevitable' happened. Under the flyover in Mohakhali three people got into his cab and mugged him. For 20 minutes he was driven around and slapped, punched and threatened of far deadlier consequences if he tried anything stupid. He did everything they wanted and was eventually thrown out of the cab in front of a bus stand. They even left him with Tk 20, apparently they wanted get home 'safely' by bus. This story is nothing new in the that is Dhaka, and chillingly if what is the 15 million residents in our capital No bad luck, or people stuck in become as Islam says and is this the new age of

The most misleading information when conducting research is attained through random sampling. As the name suggests by asking random people within a required target group one can ascertain some very faulty information. But possibly the greatest redeeming factor of random sampling is that if asked to a cross-section of people, it gives one many different views on the same topic. When trying to look for concrete answers, random sampling leaves one frustrated, but that is merely because people overlook the fact that often there may be no concrete answer, the multitude of views is often the best answer. With that in mind this week we went around town trying to gauge the public perception of security and crime in the capital, random sampling provided us with a multitude of views and as one might have understood the real answer to the question lies somewhere in between.

Shireen Karim, a housewife and mother of three says, "I strongly feel there is a lot more crime these days. Just look at the newspapers and the TV and you will see many crime related stories." Her general unease is felt by millions around the city as whisperings of new wave of crime are heard around town. Karim continues, "To be honest Dhaka has always been unsafe, but these days there seems to be no escaping it. People I know of have been mugged and all my friends live in an almost con-