

ral and intrinsic corrective measures to mend our ailing economy or at best look for relief by default. Like, well our economy will not be affected by the melt down because or RMG sector, our largest foreign exchange earner, will not be adversely affected by it. Why? "Because we send clothing that are for the down market segment and are considered essential commodities." Or things like, "our wage earners are employed in such jobs that are considered by their employers as essential." So we dream about being in suspended animation of a 'status quo'. Come what may, we will never be affected. Perhaps such complacency is what we ought to be careful of. So far I have not touched upon the 'greed' aspect in terms of our society, a society which is still in a formative stage of development. We have seen how an organised institution of greed has pursued our society since its birth. This is the reason why we take two steps forward and are dragged three steps backward. Now when the high and mighty have been hit by the indiscretion of the system 'up' there, may be, it is not wrong to assume that we are in an exceedingly vulnerable situation without any system 'down' here.

What is more important for us is the fact that we, in our greed toward the worldly possessions, become lackadaisical in our attitude. And this leads us to brash behaviour. Ostentation comes naturally to some of us. We have seen that in such a poor country like ours, not too long ago, a BMW show room was emptied in a matter of days upon the first arrival of these expensive cars. Mercedes Benz, with a Rolls Royce, Hummer and Porsche thrown in the group, became the most sought after fashion in our Dhaka society. Brazenness to the point of vulgarity has become the order of the day. We do not realize that this syndrome that is reflective of the famous saying, "Nero fiddled while Rome burned" is also true of our society or, at least, some in our society. We speak of the Per-Capita Income (PCI) or the Annual Growth Rate(AGR) without realizing that this is an average of unrealistically high income a very well of man and that of a very common man, may be a landless peasant who toils in the rice fields of Bangladesh! Therefore, PCI or AGR do not necessarily reflect the reality that prevails in our society. Why only us? It does not even speak the truth of the much vaunted fast developing economies like China or India. The truth of the matter is that we must, 'we' meaning those of us who contribute in building opinion or money, should to think and act realistically and act accordingly. ■