Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali Dhaka, Sunday, April 16, 1995

## Bangladesh-Kuwait Collaboration

The high expectations marking the visit of Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Salem Al-Sabah to Bangladesh have largely been fulfilled. With the setting up of a joint commission and two joint committees the relations between Bangladesh and Kuwait have acquired an institutional basis to grow from strength to strength.

It is indeed gratifying to note that Kuwait has attached top priority to recruiting manpower from Bangladesh. Indeed this country is rich in human resource and is capable of meeting Kuwait's needs for unskilled labour and highly technical manpower.

Kuwait, on the other hand, has huge financial resources to invest. As Bangladesh is now wide open to foreign investment in the private sector in particular, the Kuwaiti investors can very conveniently move their capital to Bangladesh for various collaborative ventures.

The three joint bodies have primarily been set up to facilitate the processes of trade, investment and long-term economic cooperation. Already the Kuwaiti prime minister has cited areas like petroleum, energy and gas for possible investment. Even though it is not yet clear if the investment will come from the private sector or from the Kuwait government, there is enough reason to be optimistic about the outcome. As a matter of fact, our energy sector as a whole offers ample opportunities for mutually beneficial investments.

With their chains of business and investment contacts across the globe, the Kuwaitis can come forward in a big way sharing their rich experiences with us through tangible forms of investment here.

Currently Bangladesh's share of export to Kuwait stands at Tk 230 crore and hopefully with buy-back joint ventures in Bangladesh this can go up radically. There are areas where such industries can prove highly feasible. Specially the food processing industry can immensely benefit both sides. Fish, vegetables and fruits sometimes get rotten here because of lack of storage, processing and timely transshipments. We can make good use of Kuwaiti capital in the area of setting up processing industries to export some of these plentiful produces.

The thrust obviously ought to be on lessening the pressure on our scarce capital and getting rid of the huge unemployment problem. Along with manpower exports, a home-based development of agro-based industries is what we need badly Kuwait can indeed help us on this score with rich dividends to herself as well.

## **Immunization Success**

We can only have the choicest of superlatives to shower on the massive programme launched by the GOB, UNICEF. WHO and Rotary Clubs to immunize two crore under-five children against polio on April 16. The first dosage of the oral vaccine, palatably so very much agreeable to the children's taste, was administered on March' 16 among 1.53 crore of our child population of that age group.

Judging by the officially acknowledged annual rates of baby boom, to the exclusion of their death rates, the total figure for the last five years should have worked out to less than 2 crore. However, we are pleased with the liberal estimate of the target because it underlines the encompassing nature of the programme. It is a comforting piece of news also that the anti-polio drive will continue - albeit with a much reduced or no backlog at all - right up to the year 2000 by which time we will have conquered this crippling and sometimes lethal disease altogether. We are elated to note that a massive country-

wide community mobilization, the like of which we have not seen before, ensured on that single day - that is March 16 - the arrival of more than 1.53 crore children in well over a lakh centres opened at market places, schools, and clinics all over Bangladesh.

What is obviously quite hope-giving for the future of this particular immunization programme as well as that of others in the offing is that response from the rural parents to March 16 vaccination campaign was decidedly greater than that shown by their urban counterparts. It will be worth researching whether or not the lacklustre response from urban parents resulted from their having already immunized children against polio in a fairly good number. However, this should hold good about the reasonably educated parents, the large majority of others needing to be drawn to immunization anyway. We only have words of praise for the organizers who could bring so many children out of their homes in rural Bangladesh.

**Bosnia** Tangle

In Bosnia where the combatants have been fiereely arrayed against each other, even occasionally violated cease-fire would be something to latch on to. For in spite of everything else, a ceasefire is indicative of a common desire for peace. Of course in Bosnia there has been a thinner ground than that to be appreciative of such an ambivalent ceaséfire because the Serbs have been suspected of throwing dusts into the on-lookers eyes through a ceasefire agreement while trying behind-the-scene to legitimise their annexation of Muslim or Croat territories.

Whatever may be the overt or covert design of the Belgrade or the Bosnian Serbs, the world saw in the four-month-old ceasefire in Bosnia Herzegovina, a good omen for peace to be negotiated in the area. This hope is on point of being belied now as the combatants seem hardly interested in extending the ceasefire beyond May 1, the day on which it expires. While the Bosnian Muslim government have recaptured some northern positions, the Serbs are retaliating with fire opened upon civilians in the UN-designated safe areas.

The UN's bid to have the five-nation contact group arrive at Sarajevo to resume the peace process, duly followed by an agreement among the contending forces to renew the ceasefire, has flopped in the face of the Bosnian Serb army's refusal to guarantee their safety. The absurdity of the situation is transparent in the UN having to seek a guarantee for security not from the legitimate Muslim government of Bosnia but from the invading Serbs there. This dominance of militarism in Bosnia over diplomacy is yet another eye-opener to a gross violation of international norms with impunity. What are the UN and NATO doing?

## Tribute to Morarji Desai

### man. Morarji Desai, pa-A Man of Simple Living and High Thinking ssed away this week after having lived a long and rewarding life at a ripe age almost reaching the brink of a century.

by M M Rezaul Karim

The man Morarji Desai stood loftier than a normal political leader whose interests and perspectives went beyond the normal periphery of a national political leader.

Janata Party in 1977-78 he was unable to make his mark the way he had envisaged. That may lend credence to the widespread belief that the debacle of the Congress (I) party in the parliamentary election of 1977 had been a product of the electorate's negative attitude to the prolonged and static Congress rule in contrast to a popular endorsement of the opposition's policy mani-

HE tail, sleek and some-

what frail figure of a

Desai, a puritan Brahmin, is

universally known as a man of

principles. His ascetic habits.

austere living and, above all,

total commitment to and un-

flinching stand on what he

considered just and right have

evoked admiration of both his

and a trusted lieutenant of

Jawaharlal Nehru. Desai made

valuable contribution to India's

independence movement. He

continued this role with

Nehru's daughter as her

Deputy Prime Minister. But he

fell out with her eventually and

joined hands with the rival

congress "O" faction led by

Kamraj, primarily as a sequel

to a clash of personalities. But

his formation of Janata Party

was more prompted to infuse

dynamism and present new

ideals to the nation as a substi-

rule.

tute for a stagnant Congress (I)

Although his role as a na-

tional leader had limited im-

pact on the society, his firm

and unequivocal stand on what

he thought proper and useful

remained ever resolute against

all odds. In his capacity as Fi-

nance Minister and Deputy

Prime Minister he gave vent to

his honest opinion, loud and

clear, on important national is-

sues, including nationalisation

and the role of multinationals.

often to the chagrin and dis-

may of Prime Minister Indira

Gandhi. Even during his short

tion government led by his

activity intensifies in the run-

up to the April conference on

preventing the spread of

The United States and

other major Western powers

want the conference to

strengthen the nuclear Non-

Proliferation Treaty, but Tel,

Aviv and Cairo are refusing to

join the treaty and Tehran is

in 1970, with provisions for a

conference 25 years later to

determine whether it should

remain in force. The nuclear

powers want to extend it in-

stem from its built-in inequal-

ity, for it is designed to pre-

serve the gap between the nu-

keep their nuclear weapons,

and the have-nots promise not

to acquire them. As compensa-

tion, the nuclear haves

promised to reduce their

clear "haves" and "have-nots."

Arguments over the treaty

Under the treaty, the haves

The Treaty came into force

nuclear weapons

threatening to quit.

definitely.

RAN. Egypt and Israel

are coming under pre-

ssure as diplomatic

tenure as the head of a coali-

A valiant freedom fighter

friends and foes.

The man Morarii Desai stood loftier than a normal political leader whose interests and perspectives went beyond the normal periphery of a national political leader. I recall an episode which will greatly substantiate this assertion.

It happened during the final phase of negotiations on the Interim Agreement of 1977 on the Sharing of the Ganges Waters between India and Pakistan. After a series of prolonged sessions and long drawn out arguments the two sides almost made a breakthrough on 29 September, except for a certain important point. Our delegation headed by BM'Abbas AT had to seek the final instruction from President Zia in Dhaka. I connected the President on telephone and Abbas finally obtained the Presidential ap-

proval for initialling the agreement, which was to be formally signed later in Dhaka at Ministerial level by Rear Admiral M H Khan on behalf of Bangladesh.

In the same evening before the initialling ceremony, the Heads of the two two delegations, accompanied by the then Bangladesh High Commissioner K M Shamsur Rahman, better known as Dr Johnson for his extraordinary knowledge and photographic memory, called on the Indian Prime Minister. Desai was evidently pleased at the successful outcome of the talks and warmly congratulated the two sides for their cooperative efforts, while at the same time politely but firmly expressed his inability to accede to a last minute request from President Zia to extend the duration of the agreement from 5 to 7

Needless to emphasise that the Farakka issue posed the most severe stumbling block to the desired expansion of friendly and cooperative relations between the two neighbours and has plagued their relations ever since. It was indeed a moment of triumph for Prime Minister Desai, and for that matter also for President Zia, both of whom added

feather to their eaps by way of this agreement, the only agreement reached so far on this most serious post-liberation problem of Bangladesh with India.

talks. BM Abbas, sporting his characteristic smile in an inimitable fashion, asked Desai if he could make a request. Desai in his benign manner nodded in approval. Abbas asked in a matter of fact manner and without undue explanation if Nepal could be associated in the talks, the possibility of reaching a long term solution for the Ganges water issue would become close. The Prime Minister hardly took any time and responded with an exclamation, why not! One could have hardly gauged the level of embar-

rassment caused to the leader of the Indian delegation, Foreign Secretary Jagat Mehta. The bone of contention over which the two-delegations had so far fought, almost tooth and nail, not only in that session but also in earlier ones, was whether the bilateral talks could be expanded to form into a tripartite one through participation of Nepal, which represents the major catch ment area of the Ganges. Mehta realised that the boss had

Towards the end of the

gone beyond the brief, either willfully or inadvertently. Nonetheless, the reaction of the Indian Prime Minister to the innocuous suggestion was both spontaneous and natural. The first reaction, as many believe, more often than not, is the correct reaction. The Prime Minister went on suggesting that leaders of both the delegations could even visit the Himalayan kingdom, if it would help facilitate a solution.

Mehta, an astute diplomat as he was, composed fiimself promptly and in a vain effort to counter the Prime Minister

expert and as such was not the proper person for the purpose. The seasoned politician, on the other hand, retorted gently expressing his lack of faith in experts and reposing the same on the leader of the Indian delegation. However. noticing the visible embarrassment of Mehta. Desai decided not to press the matter further, to the great relief of the leader of the Indian delegation. The above episode spoke

mumbled that he was not an

volumes of the character of Morarii Desai, whose plain living and stoic habits, including some controversial ones, became almost legendary. As a politician, his outlook and interests went beyond the geographical boundary of the nation. He did not hesitate a moment to say what he had thought right and just to promote the well-being and common good of the people not only of his country but of the region itself. Besides, his unique contributions to the promotion of relations with Bangladesh were amply manilested by his commendable role in the post-Indira ffirst term) epoch. It was he who helped to ease considerably the severe stress and strain that characterised the near paranoiac attitude of Indira Gandhi towards Bangladesh in the aftermath of the massacre in Dhaka in August 1975. In Desai's demise. India lost a statesman and Bangladesh a friend.

The writer, a retired career diplomat, was posted as Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in New Delhi in

## Haves and Have-nots Approach a Critical Mass

arsenals, and the others are to have full access to the benefits of nuclear power, providing they allow international inspectors to ensure that they are not using material from their civil programme to build bombs.

Israel has not signed, so its Arab neighbours have also refused to sign. Israel is widely believed to be a secret have with a stockpile of nuclear bombs, although it has never admitted this.

Now that Egypt has a peace treaty with Israel, US and British diplomats are asking Cairo to sign, in the hope that this will induce other Arab countries to follow suit. In exchange, Egypt wants the US to use its powerful leverage to pressure Israel into giving up nuclear weapons.

Egyptian officials say Washington is tacitly accepting Israel's possession of a nuclear stockpile by ignoring evidence Even as attempts to reinvigorate the ailing Middle East peace process get underway, Syria has declared its determination to strengthen its armed forces in the face of Israel's increasing military might. Now the forthcoming nuclear non-proliferation treaty meeting (Apr. 17-12 May) adds another factor to the military and

Norman Moss writes from London

that it has bombs, and giving aid forbidden by US laws to countries that are building

political manoeuvring.

The US has asked Israel to make some gesture as an inducement to Egypt to sign the treaty; perhaps agree to sigh it after a fixed period of years, or after a final peace is agreed with all Arab countries. So far israel has refused to make any promises.

Egypt is not in a position to build nuclear weapons whether it signs or not. But signing would have symbolic value, inducing other Arab countries to follow suit and strengthening the treaty by adding more sig-

But the discovery after the 1991 Gulf war of Iraq's secret progress towards building a nuclear bomb shocked the big powers, and Israel, and gave new urgency to the long-term issue of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

Iran, a nuclear have-not, is a treaty signatory and says it is

being discriminated against. As a signatory, it should have access to civil nuclear power, but it says the US and other big powers are denying it materials to build nuclear power plants. This places the Western powers in a delicate situation.

Under the treaty, Iran has the right to buy this material. It is committed to allow its plants to be inspected by international inspectors.

But although they have not said so openly, the Western powers are suspicious of the Iranian Government's moves to revive their country's nuclear power programme, which was begun by the Shah in the late 1960s and abandoned by the revolutionary Islamic regime that succeeded him. Others fear that the present Iranian regime or a successor might use a civil programme to build nuclear bombs.

Iran might have to withdraw from the treaty and halt the international inspections in order to do so, but even that is not certain. Iraq showed what can be done in secret; so did South Africa, which announced in 1993 that it had built nuclear bombs and was scrapping them. Many countries that resent

the nuclear powers' stance on the treaty are nonetheless sympathetic to their fears about Iran. They find the combination of militant Muslim fundamentalism and nuclear weapons frightening to imag-

Others point out that Iran. which has signed the treaty. encounters hostility from the West, yet Israel, while refusing to sign, is helped. The good boy is punished, the bad one rewarded. Will that, they ask, going to strengthen countries' commitment to the treaty?

The nuclear haves are being criticised, too, on another point that could threaten the treaty: others want them to have a little less, to take serious steps towards disarming. as they are required to do. The nuclear powers say they have done so, and point to the arms reduction treaties; critics point to the thousands of nuclear weapons they still pos-- GEMINI NEWS

NORMAN MOSS is author of The Politics of Uranium.

## Happy Easter: The Greatest Hope

T ING Solomon immortalised his paramount **L \( \)** proverbs "The Lamp of the Lord searches the spirit of a man: It searches out his inmost being" (proverb 20:27) and "By Justice, a king gives a country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down (proverb 29:4 in the Bible)" to ignite spirit of celebrating essence of Jesus' nailing on the cross and resurrection to save eternal peace in the each Christian's heart.

Jesus Christ's one of the twelve disciples Saint Thomas came to India. 'Acts of Thomas, the book perhaps of third century written not only in Syriac language but also in Greek, Latin and Armenian, narrate a grandiose series of annals of Saint Thomas who preached Christianity here 16 years after Jesus' death.

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the forced act of the mastermind of the contemporary sceptic peerage of the opportunist class of Sadduccees and Pharisees, while his multiplying pain and suffering till death on the cross bastinadoed him in sheer peace and love sand-witched with the optimum of human's redemption where futile crave for the infinite of joy ends in eternity of peace without ethos and pathos of life.

Jesus Resurrected True to account but hard to imagine is the fact of Jesus'

steady trespasses on the world's sorrow, unhesitated and unprotested, which has ransomed a new world as well as good news for all and sundry on this earth. Governor Pilate's conscience pricked him shivering his hands of human justice that went executing at odd with divine justice of God who sent Jesus in His only form of flesh and blood to seal satan's grudge and grip him benumbed forever. Jesus' human fate was exchanged with the topmost crime-maker Barabbas of the day which declares absolute story where Jesus crowned life without crown. He professes, "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting (March 6-16)" 'and asks people to love their enemies as much as their friends, for it is pagans who love only their friends and hates foes, for God has poured sunlight on both the good and the bad alike, so as to establish the essence of Christianity that lies in the mystery of loving the non-Christians, pray for their well-being and act for their betterment. In fact, true

by Richard Tapas Adhikary Christians have no enemies in the world, for Christ retains a pathway through his obedience to the heavenly father into crucifixion for man's greatest need right upto his resurrection on the week's first day revered as the illustrious and hopeful Easter Sunday preceded by world's most uncommon crucifixion, a sacrifice that turns Friday a good and perfect ordeal for the Son

of Man. The annals of Jesus' sufferings having no traces at all of his personal pleasure of flesh like any other man in the world but have had the grandest interwinning force that never intimidates any individual to exercise his/her own beliefs (as detailed in the New Testament), in terms of the treatment with each people in the society, explains Jesus' many ideas to be true enough to settle the society's various discrepancies and crimes on a greater, more correct and more just stand-point of law and order. One incident of Jesus dealings for the oppressed people will try here to make it clear: Once Jesus was come across by a group of wrathful people who were about to kill a lady, caught adultering redhanded, by stoning, with

shouts at the top of their voice for obeyance to Moses' Law. Jesus, by nature, stopped with a curiosity and questioned of what crime the woman did. The angry mob answered that the lady was an adulterer who deserved nothing but death by stoning as per law. Jesus having an inner accustom of concentration and introspection of self, told all of them that any one of them, if rid of such crime like adultery or else might have that moral licence to punish the lady. This made them all flee away leaving the lady unhurt.

Jesus, inculcating faith in man's heart, asks him to cost his ownself for others' interest which the true Christians must be up and doing also in Bangladesh where they may play a role as part and percel of the population to establish democracy, and through various voluntary social activities. philanthropic missions to alleviative sufferings of the people.

The HAPPY EASTER lags little to wish all brothers and sisters of other communities good luck and good hope, on the part of the Christians in the country. And we should not slacken our faith in Jesus because the Holy Bible says. "If man losses his soul, winning all on earth, he has had nothing worthful at all."

Bureaucratic Mystique in South Asia

He was a bitter disappoint-

Majeed, 52-year-old, had apparently for justified reasons, incurred the wrath of the authorities and it seemed to power that were, in their typically short-sighted analysis. that he could do the least harm to government as the director of the Civil Service Academy (CSA).

The first disappointments over, the 50 odd CSP and PFS probationers of 1966 vintage settled down gradually in the. rigours and ecstasy of training. For many of them it was the fulfillment of long-cherished dreams: they had to, literally, burn midnight oil for months (and, in some cases, years) to reach the exalted height of a CSP/PFS officer.

So the group appeared

had also acquired a Ph.D in Public Administration from the Syracuse University) was the untiring advocate for free debates and discussions. All issues must be addressed in an atmosphere of total freedom, with no holds barred, he argued repeatedly. No wonder that he asked of some probationers to write assignment papers on "Why India should have atomic weapons" and "Why should the Islamic Republic of Pakistan be renamed as the Republic of Pakistan." Heretic topics, yes. That was the way we were introduced to free discussions - thanks to

Tariq Siddiqi.

The group must have looked real uptight. So much somewhat uptight, gradually so that it could not escape the attention of even the indolent Director. Majeed addressed the probationers a few days after our training had begun and said. "Gentlemen, relax!, relax!!., please relax!!!" You should not take your success in the CSS entry examination too seriously. There was a long way to go and you must prove your worth during the training period, he advised the probationers in his own style. I remember he was wearing a pair of sandal shows on the occasion and came to his office one Qari was there to teach us how hour late. His advice was worth

Procession and traffic

Sir, In the evening of 27th March '95 after my day's hard work, while I was returning to Uttara, I found an amazing Peaceful Torch Procession on Dhaka-Tongi highway near Khilkhet. Some political party had organised it with, say, 80 to 90 odd people of different age and strata. Some seemed to have been picked up for this job. This crowd was walking abreast covering the whole breadth of the road. Some of them, however, felt it below dignity to carry the torch. Behind this lot, the entire traffic of the road got blocked. Though the traffic (bus, car, auto rickshaws, etc) seemed to be very peaceful but engines and inmates inside each trans-

port were fuming. To many the question is, if there was a leader in that procession, was he not concerned about the difficulties of others? Could he not manage this small group into three files marching along the footpath side of

the road leaving paved surface for the traffic to ply? In so-called strikes often

we see only some rowdy unmanageable groups make others' life paralysed.

Can anyone explain it to the public in this age of democ-

A' R Chowdhury Uttara, Dhaka

### Cooperation or responsibility?

Sir. Why some people are so much concerned about the "mistakes" of Awami League? Should the Awami League make the mistakes, let the people decide it. In the past, prior to 1991

February elections, we had seen the cooperation of the Three (party) Alliances, and how they had worked during the last four years that may be termed as "cooperation leads often to betrayal".

"Democracy grows on re-

sponsibility" and not on cooperation perhaps. In all the developed countries of the world, we see the principle "democracy grows on responsibility" has been followed and cooperation has always been absent. In the past we had made the mistakes; so shall we make the mistakes in the future should we mix up the principle "democracy grows on responsibility" with the term "cooperation" since the term "cooperation" seems to contain the seeds of "betrayal" and also "corruption". The principle "democracy grows on responsibility" had always been free from such "seeds"

Andrew D'Costa Hemendra Das Road, Dhaka

## Stupidity?

to know my intention to buy

further shares since I am a shareholder. I purchased Rupali Bank shares eight years back when initial public offering was made. During these years no dividend was given to shareholders and even they did not hold any AGM. The shares of Rupali Bank

are rarely transacted at Dhaka Stock Exchange though I could manage to sell one hundred

tal market while chiefs of FBCCI. Security & Exchange Commission, DSE. Chambers appeared to be very vocal.

further investment but I fail to realise whether I am a stupid in the context of return on investment when Bangladesh is an emerging tiger as maintained by many!

Sadig Alee

Sir, I received a letter from Rupali Bank head office wherein the authority wanted

taka share, purchased eight years back, at taka seventy Only recently enough was spoken at SAFA meet regarding investors security and capi-

However I did not dare

120/1 Maghbazar, Dhaka-1217

A K M Jalaluddin What the CSPs were Taught-I

Islamiat given passionately by

probationers, drawn from all

academic backgrounds would

interact with one another and

the cross-fertilization of these

interactions, at times in the

form of heated debates, had

by more than one thousand

miles of foreign territory, had

its unique set of problems and

the would-be Secre-

taries/Ambassadors would have

to be taught the prismatic

technique of how to address

Siddigi, (CSP/1955) a physi-

cist turned administrator (he

Deputy Director. Tariq

Pakistan. a country divided

their own value.

those issues.

The motley crowd of 50

Allama Alauddin Siddique.

# Relax! Relax!! Relax!!!

Majeed (ICS, correctly apart from lessons on 1939) was a model of what civil servants should not be - sloppily dressed, unpunctual and transparently non-serious kinds of social, ethnic and about his duties: Majeed was dumped into the civil service academy as as director in

ment for all probationers. The academy had built up its reputation on solid grounds and Majeed appeared to most as an anti-climax to the bevy of brilliant persons the academy had as its director (Miah Aminuddin. Agha Hamid. BA Kureshi. Sved Gvasuddin etc.). Surely the academy deserved a better

and slowly absorbing the glery and success that had come their way. One thing was sure. regardless of what had been declared in the entry examina tion, none of them was willing to concede a millimeter to the other forty-nine. Each and every probationer had to inch his way forward to establish or preserve his position. It was total competition all the way The Academy calendar was full of training events: riding, ten nis, academic lectures, type writing, driving, cycling - a to recite the Holy Quran the what cost him nothing.