

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.

It is indeed gratifying to note that Kuwait has attached top priority to recruiting manpower from Bangladesh.

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.

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.

The thrust obviously ought to be on lessening the pressure on our scarce capital and getting rid of the huge unemployment problem.

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.

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.

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.

Bosnia Tangle

In Bosnia where the combatants have been fiercely arrayed against each other, even occasionally violated cease-fire would be something to latch on to.

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.

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.

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?

THE tall, sleek and somewhat frail figure of a man, Morarji Desai, passed away this week after having lived a long and rewarding life at a ripe age almost reaching the brink of a century.

Desai, a puritan Brahmin, is universally known as a man of principles. His ascetic habits, austere living and, above all, total commitment to and unflinching stand on what he considered just and right have evoked admiration of both his friends and foes.

A valiant freedom fighter 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.

Although his role as a national leader had limited impact on the society, his firm and unequivocal stand on what he thought proper and useful remained ever resolute against all odds.

With 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 threatening to quit.

The Treaty came into force in 1970, with provisions for a conference 25 years later to determine whether it should remain in force.

Arguments over the treaty stem from its built-in inequality, for it is designed to preserve the gap between the nuclear "haves" and "have-nots."

Under the treaty, the haves keep their nuclear weapons, and the have-nots promise not to acquire them. As compensation, the nuclear haves promised to reduce their arsenals, and the others are to have full access to the benefits of nuclear power.

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.

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 up to his resurrection on the week's first day.

The signs 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 intertwining force that never intimidates any individual to exercise his/her own beliefs.

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.

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.

Stupidity?

Tribute to Morarji Desai A Man of Simple Living and High Thinking

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 manifesto.

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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.

Norman Moss writes from London

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

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

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

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

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Jesus Resurrected

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proval for initialising 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 initialising ceremony, the Heads of the 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.

Needless to emphasise that 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.

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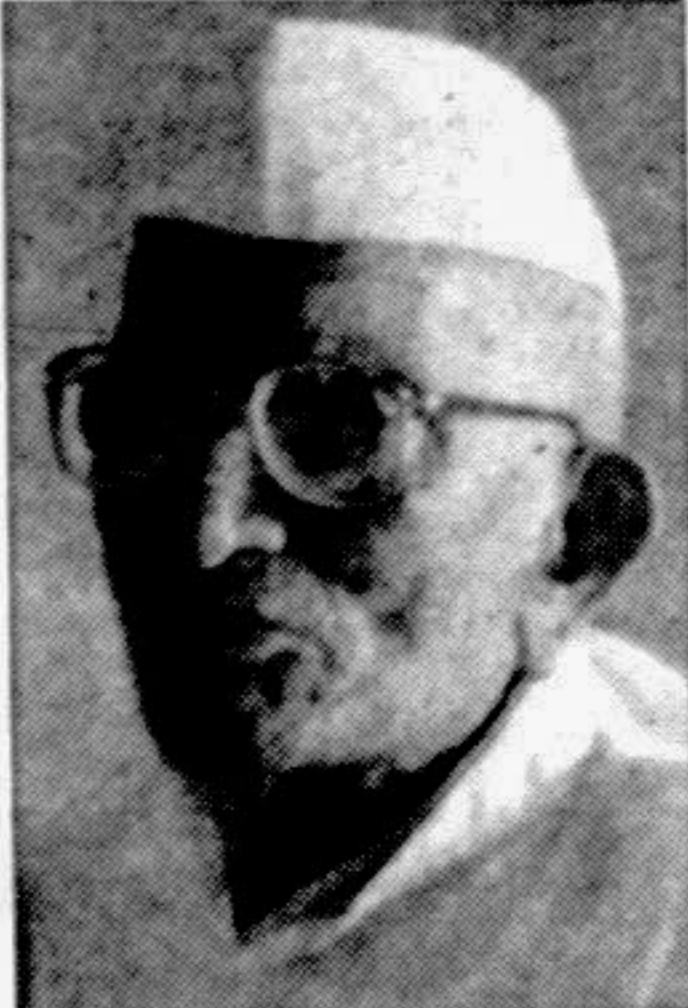
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feather to their caps by way of this agreement, the only agreement reached so far on this most serious post-liberation problem of Bangladesh with India.

Towards the end of the 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.

One could have hardly gauged the level of embarrassment 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 catchment area of the Ganges. Mehta realised that the boss had



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.

mumbled that he was not an 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.

The above episode spoke volumes of the character of Morarji 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.

The writer, a retired career diplomat, was posted as Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in New Delhi in 1977.

Bureaucratic Mystique in South Asia

A K M Jalaluddin

What the CSPs were Taught-I

Relax! Relax!! Relax!!!

ABDUL Majeed (ICS, 1939) was a model of what civil servants should not be - sloppily dressed, unpunctual and transparently non-serious about his duties.

He was a bitter disappointment 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, Syed Gwasuddin etc.).

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 PPS probationers of 1966 vintage settled down gradually in the rigours and ecstasy of training.

So the group appeared somewhat upright, gradually and slowly absorbing the glory and success that had come their way. One thing was sure, regardless of what had been declared in the entry examination, none of them was willing to concede a millimeter to the other forty-nine.

However I did not dare 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!

Sadiq Azeem 120/1 Mughbazar, Dhaka-1217

correctly apart from lessons on Islamism given passionately by Allama Alauddin Siddique.

The motley crowd of 50 probationers, drawn from all kinds of social, ethnic and academic backgrounds would interact with one another and the cross-fertilization of these interactions, at times in the form of heated debates, had their own value.

Pakistan, a country divided by more than one thousand miles of foreign territory, had its unique set of problems and the would-be Secretaries/Ambassadors would have to be taught the prismatic technique of how to address those issues.

Deputy Director, Tariq Siddiqi, (CSP/1955) a physicist turned administrator (he had also acquired a Ph.D in Public Administration from the Syracuse University) was the untiring advocate for free debates and discussions.

The group must have looked real uptight. So much 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!!!"

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