

An Investment Booster

Industrialisation by broad strokes has been a failed experiment. So, here we are now wised by a Jackluster response from foreign investors...

As an expression of the changed policy outlook we have all this talk about privately-run export processing zones in addition to the two government-managed EPZs we have in Chittagong and Dhaka.

The Korean and Japanese private sector proposals to set up their exclusive EPZs in Chittagong are under active consideration of the government.

The private EPZs are going to come up on government khas lands, so that the allotment procedures need to be uncluttered for a quick start on the projects.

The Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment Dr Taufique Elahi Chowdhury in a meeting with members of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Monday said that the BOI was making an inventory of obstructive rules and procedures in order to prune them.

As for the broader need to fine-tune the laws to the requirements of foreign investment, we leave the matter of some existing laws militating against the investment policy to the Law Reform Commission that is on the anvil.

Brought to Justice

Two former South Korean presidents — Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo — have been sentenced to death and 22 and a half years of imprisonment respectively for their role in a military mutiny and the Kwangju massacre and for corruption.

The lesson here is that in high offices there is no scope for charting or taking an illegal course. The Koreans have objectively looked into the mutiny and insurrection cases after a lapse of so many years.

Our constitution has been carrying an excruciating burden of guilt in the form of the indemnity ordinance. The collaborators of 1971 too have not been brought to justice for their crimes considered to be the worst in our history.

Plan it First

The introduction of high-tech forgery-proof documents for rickshaws in the city must be seen as a most valuable improvement on the performance of the authority concerned.

According to a Dhaka City Corporation official, there are as many as 1.5 lakh unauthorised rickshaws as against 80,000 licensed to ply.

Making the documents fool-proof is a good move but who will ensure that operation of the unauthorised rickshaws will not continue through a mutual understanding between the operators and the men responsible to nab them?

An intense debate is going on within Pakistan, orchestrated mainly by government and trade circles about conferring the most favoured nation (MFN) status to India in reciprocation in the implementing of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) accord which has replaced GATT.

Pakistan Steel is presently importing iron ore from Goa and the emergency import of 200,000 MT sugar by T.C.P. is likely to be repeated.

The pro-India trade lobby consists primarily of 1) the present Bhutto regime as symbolised by its commercial point-man, the Federal Commerce Minister, 2) leading businessmen in the country who see commercial gains for themselves in opening up full-scale trade.

As for the broader need to fine-tune the laws to the requirements of foreign investment, we leave the matter of some existing laws militating against the investment policy to the Law Reform Commission that is on the anvil.

Wami League President and Finance Minister Sheikh Hasina's highly-talked-about concept of government by consensus — a great urge of her profoundest realisation that without a comprehensive, coordinated consensus approach and strategy to major issues and interests no commendable success can be ensured — at the outset appears to be caught in a vicious circle for a number of reasons.

The government of AL led by Bangabandhu and the government of AL headed by Sheikh Hasina at two different perspectives. One was overwhelmed with the new functions and responsibilities to build and ensure a government in the free and independent but paralytic Bangladesh while the other is confronted with a series of challenging issues that have virtually piled up over the period of the last 21 years.

Therefore, Sheikh Hasina does not like to take any risk on her shoulders alone as an individual as well as a political party. She is also very much aware of the fact that AL came to power when it well understood and reflected the language, sentiment and above all the pulse of the people and these should under any circumstances be maintained, unambiguously with all faithfulness, sincerity and sophistication.

However, the matter became complicated and to an extent unconvincing when JP and JSD

Trade with India

A whole range of Indian consumer goods like soaps, detergents, toothpastes, perfumes, spices, etc., will become cheaper in Pakistan. Good news for the average consumer, but at terrible cost to the nation, both in precious foreign exchange and the closing down of a whole range of industries.

tion of which seems to be generally confidential, and 5) the Foreign Office led by Sardar Assef Ali, ignoring the advice of the Pakistani Ambassador in India, Mr Riaz Khokhar. The freight factor cannot be ignored, the land route particularly would make transit time much faster and reduce costs by multiple numbers.

The anti India trade lobby is also primarily based among the industrialists who will be affected by the arrival of cheaper Indian goods and machinery in Pakistan as their counterpart items would be relatively expensive.

A full fledged campaign has been started by the pro India lobby about separating economic and political issues i.e.

their contention is that the policy of coming to some settlement on the Kashmir issue should give way to the same pragmatic method of interaction employed by the west between former and present enemies. Moreover, the pro-India lobbyists hold that since Pakistan would only trade with India in items it found profitable, there would be no danger of India overwhelming us with their cheaper goods and machinery.

cheaper, to making our masses completely dependent on their products. Nobody fights a war today on any battlefield, economic subversion is today's substitute for all-out war.

In Siachen, the highest (and perhaps the coldest) battlefield in the world, no quarter is asked or given. Indians have regularly shot down or damaged our unarmed helicopters on logistics mission to supply high altitude posts.

As an alternative concept of government by consensus, Khaleida Zia has spoken of a broad-based national consensus on different issues as being also conceived and understood by AL and its chief - Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

temperatures or accidents induced by the extreme weather, these include landslides, helicopter crashes, etc. Periodically soldiers die or are maimed because of bullets and shells sent in their direction with intent to kill. This ammunition is made indigenously in Indian factories similar to those producing consumer products.

Along the Cease Fire Line (CFL) in Kashmir dividing Azad Kashmir and Indian-occupied Kashmir an entire community of thousands remain periodically without supply of food and essentials because Indians regularly interdict the logistics route with armed action from vantage points Indian shelling from across the border regularly claimed the lives of innocent Kashmiri civilians.

As an alternative concept of government by consensus, Khaleida Zia has spoken of a broad-based national consensus on different issues as being also conceived and understood by AL and its chief - Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

Political opinions, political parties and political leaders are desired to be invariably interlinked and if there is anything

incidents, including that of western and media hostages. While the Kashmiri Mujahideen are fighting and dying in Kashmir, what signal will Pakistan send them by having full-scale trade with India? We cannot have dual-track objectives, there must be some maintenance of commitment in our lives.

Throughout the 80s Indian Research and Analytical Wing is believed to have been targeting Pakistan's major urban cities. Through Al-Zulfikar, Jeezy Sindh and other militant terrorist organisations a later through some of MQM's militant cohorts gone astray, the port city of Karachi, Pakistan's only economic lifeline, has been targeted for the spread of anarchy.

As an alternative concept of government by consensus, Khaleida Zia has spoken of a broad-based national consensus on different issues as being also conceived and understood by AL and its chief - Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

Well, after reaching at consensus the party-in-power may now accordingly request the opposition political parties concerned to share power with it to help put the accepted consensus into practice.

AS I SEE IT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

ceptions in pursuance of their cross-commercial interests. Along the Cease Fire Line (CFL) in Kashmir dividing Azad Kashmir and Indian-occupied Kashmir an entire community of thousands remain periodically without supply of food and essentials because Indians regularly interdict the logistics route with armed action from vantage points Indian shelling from across the border regularly claimed the lives of innocent Kashmiri civilians.

ceptions in pursuance of their cross-commercial interests. Along the Cease Fire Line (CFL) in Kashmir dividing Azad Kashmir and Indian-occupied Kashmir an entire community of thousands remain periodically without supply of food and essentials because Indians regularly interdict the logistics route with armed action from vantage points Indian shelling from across the border regularly claimed the lives of innocent Kashmiri civilians.

National Consensus: Polemics or Reality?

by Sinha MA Sayeed

liament belonging to the respective political parties in the 7th Sangsad. In fact Khaleida Zia's assertion that the concept of government by consensus is a constitutional has been reflected in the maiden talks of the president-elect justice Shahabuddin with the press and media. He told the waiting journalists at his Dhanmondi residence that the constitution did not envisage such concept like government by consensus.

On the other hand, in an instant reaction to the concept of government by consensus both BNP and Jamaat rejected the idea with a logic that it was not necessary to share power with the ruling AL just to prove that consensus has been agreed upon, rather the most important point was on what issues and grounds the ruling party wanted consensus to run the government smoothly and fairly.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

litical parties that once it is established the party-in-power may leave no stone unturned to prove it politically a great victory branding the politics of the opposition as totally within the fold of bankruptcy. Similar feeling must have worked in case of AL also when they were in the opposition camp. This phobia should finally be buried for the interest of the nation as well as the country and it is the party-in-power who can take the initiative to prepare a solid ground of confidence which is mutually rewarding.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

litical parties that once it is established the party-in-power may leave no stone unturned to prove it politically a great victory branding the politics of the opposition as totally within the fold of bankruptcy. Similar feeling must have worked in case of AL also when they were in the opposition camp. This phobia should finally be buried for the interest of the nation as well as the country and it is the party-in-power who can take the initiative to prepare a solid ground of confidence which is mutually rewarding.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

litical parties that once it is established the party-in-power may leave no stone unturned to prove it politically a great victory branding the politics of the opposition as totally within the fold of bankruptcy. Similar feeling must have worked in case of AL also when they were in the opposition camp. This phobia should finally be buried for the interest of the nation as well as the country and it is the party-in-power who can take the initiative to prepare a solid ground of confidence which is mutually rewarding.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in the 7th Sangsad Khaleida Zia categorically pointed out that there could not be any government by consensus as the very concept negates the existence of a viable opposition in Sangsad which is in fact a pre-condition to a democracy and multi-party system.

To the Editor...

Municipal garbage collection

Sir, I would like to thank Samia Islam for her article Dhaka in the Rainy Season in the column 'Dhaka Day by Day' of July 26th '96. I think that the garbage problem is one of the major problems along with the traffic jam for the people of Dhaka which should be solved by the new government immediately.

I would like to add here to bring to the notice of the authorities that the large dustbin skips supplied by the Dhaka City Corporation (financed by the World Bank) are not appropriate for our city because of the following reasons: 1) These kind of skips need a collection truck every time, which makes it very expensive to dispose the garbage in a country like Bangladesh.

the existing traffic jam in the city. 3) The placing of the large dustbin skip on the street in the corner or junction of a road occupies a lot of road-space especially when the garbage in aluminium skips is piled up outside the bin, helped by the rain water the decomposed and obnoxious smell irritates the road users and the residents who lives near the place. This large skip is hazardous to both the traffic and pedestrians.

nicipal dustmen/women and put in the local garbage site to be collected by the truck. b) Big plastic bags can be used, but for various reasons the process may not be efficient. Some of the reasons are: i) Piling up of plastic sack/bag might take place. ii) Plastic bags are not environment-friendly. iii) Besides, the big plastic bags can be dangerous for the children. I am in favour of the system mentioned in the paragraph 'a'.

mentioned again that enormous quantity of garbage can be filled at each time so that trips become fewer and thereby saving fuel and not fueling the existing traffic jam. Flora Anwar, Class VI, Sunbeams, 54, Dhanmondi R/A, Road 3A, Dhaka 1209

whether in the government or in the opposition benches suffer from superiority complex. Before being elected and as MP candidates they canvass from door to door, they behave in a different manner, make lot of promises and mix with the people very gently, but after being elected as MPs most of them live in a different world, suffer from superiority complex and become indifferent to people.

their sincerity and honesty in practice? OH Kabir, 6, Hare Street, Wari, Dhaka

Condemning torture

Sir, As a member of Amnesty International I want to express my concerns at the beating and arbitrary arrest of students from Jagannath Hall on 31 January 1996. Amnesty International appeals to the government of Bangladesh to investigate the incident and bring to justice those found responsible for these human rights violations.