# The Baily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

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# **Good Start**

After twenty days of eerie silence, Dhaka University returned to its noisy, vibrant self yesterday. The factors which led to its unscheduled closure for the umpteenth time have been taken care of, thanks to the initiative of the acting VC and the amenability of the student leaders without either of which the ten-point contract of restraint and understanding would have been a long way off. Although the idea of abrupt closures in the educational arena is something we are more than acquainted with and there were numerous such spells of undesirable quietude in the past followed by the return of normalcy, the latest looked to be quite formidable due to the changed political reality.

Under the circumstances, the VC-brokered peace process culminating in the ten-point accord signed by the leaders of the two major and powerful student organisations last Thursday came as a welcome relief bringing along with it a touch of refreshing novelty - the scrutinished entry of all the dwellers of all the halls of residence after a complete clearing of them to flush out the armed hoods and stubborn outsiders. Partly because it never happened before and partly because we are a notoriously forgetful nation about good ideas and projects, the more sceptical among us who doubted its effectiveness could not be brushed aside at the outset.

But now that a screening system has worked to a reasonable extent, the expounders of the idea deserve to be congratulated. That we heartily do but by the same token caution should be spread in the air because along with its relative effectiveness, reports of this system being hoodwinked through the display of forged ID cards have also reached us.

The essence of crusade against violence on the campus is general awareness and vigilance round the year. For this mere administrative efforts will not do. The students will have to shake themselves out of the present numbness about asserting their rights as students. Once the general students become conscious and enthusiastic about the necessity of their moral obligation and assertion in ensuring a conducive atmosphere, the handful of criminals who get the shutters down so easily by the mere reports of guns would be study in antiq-

## Gem of a Prospect

People voted for a change in the last General Election. That news, far from going statle is coming alive again as the electorate limbers up to evaluate the start-up performance of the Awami League government.

Set against this unfolding national mood for examining the morning-shows-the-day style and content of governance, we, too, are beginning to separate the chaff from the grain. And we find that nowhere do the popular expectations seem as strongly vindicated as in the AL government's decision to overhaul the moribund local government system. The hyphenated 'self to the 'government' is no longer seen or heard of. As if to make up for the missed link people in authority have overemphasised decentralisation straining their vocal chord many times over.

Not merely that, the little connection there had been between the local government tiers — at the union, upazila and district levels - was allowed to be snapped. What was disjointed previously has turned a totally dysfunctional non-system.

We, therefore, have words of unqualified appreciation for the disclosure made by the local government minister Zillur Rahman that a bill seeking to restructure the local government system is being readied for passage through the next session of the parliament. The elected union parishads will have autonomy in spending the centrally given and locally generated funds. Shalish committees will be integrated into the grassroots structure. Both the members and chairmen of the revived upazila parishads will be elected by the direct vote of the people. The Zila parishads will be made more representative and effective than the older-vintage district boards. Coordination will be built into the system.

The bill is going to have a great import from the viewpoint of introducing participatory democracy as the bed-rock of parliamentary system. It pictures a fourth dimension to the pending separation between the organs of government - legislature, executive and judiciary - but in full rhythm with the concept as a whole. With these weighty considerations in mind, let there be a debate on the draft bill followed by a scrutiny of it through an allparty parliamentary committee.

## Could It Overheat?

The Dhaka Stock Exchange never had it so good. In only seven days' transactions, the All Share Price Index came unstuck, by as many as 275 points, from the below-1200 points it had clambered up to at the end of last month. The DSE index is now an impressive 1574.56 points and market capitalisation has a Tk 10,900.4 crore ring to its near-pedigree ranking with earlier days of big neighbouring bourses. Stock markets in the South Asia and South-East Asia regions had had such bull runs raising our hopes that before long we might will be catching up with them.

But so much of this would prove to be wishful thinking, if we should go on extolling the flashy virtues of the mad market syndrome missing out on its inner message. When too many people chase too few shares, the prices may soar and the returns look handsome for a time but sooner than later the crunch will come - down heavily with the severely pressured and consequently crumbled stocks.

So, there ought to be a new floatation of primary shares. It should start with the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh which is said to be holding off release of some of its shares. Free flow of foreign currencies and withdrawal of lock-in notwithstanding, foreign investors are yet to turn their eyes back to the DSE. The size of the cake is much too unflatteringly small for them - an added reason why new shares should brighten the faces of Dhaka and Chittagong bourses.

# The Tentacles of Indemnity

by Kazi Alauddin Ahmed

ROM the dirty quagmire of blatant lies, at long last, the truth and the whole truth has emerged. It needed 21 years to undo the evil and sordid designs of the so called nationalist forces comprising mostly anti-freedom elements, also murderers and criminals.

The gruesome murder of the Rather of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and almost all his family members including the fineyear-old Child Russell, on August 15, 1975 was perpetrated by a handful of disgruntled Army Officers. That was the first message that the people of the country was given. But, gradually it transpired that the assassination bid was a preplanned and calculated incident master-minded by some of the top-ranking Army officers at the time cunning aided by a notorious gang of civilians and politicians. If the circumstances under which the dastardly act was committed is carefully scanned and analysed many intriguing proofs shall surface. Between August 15 and November 7, 1995 things moved so maliciously fast and in ghastly confusion that very few could understand what could be the actual motive be-

hind such murderous act. The brutal killing of the four national leaders inside Dhaka Centre Jail coming by the heels of Sheikh Mujib's assassination ended in the ruthless killing of Brigadier Khaled Mosharraf, said to be by some Army Jawans Nevertheless. the role played by Ziaur Rah man in all these remains a mystery till today. It is equally true that the erstwhile Chief of the Army Maj general Shafiullah could not rise to the occasion to stop such mass killing. He sat in his chair totally inac-

HANKS to The Daily

campaign on different ci-

ty problems that immediately

brought the city mayor Mr

Mohammad Hanif in public in

an effort to vindicate his res-

ponsibility in tackling the city

problems. People co-mmend

the Mayor for his forthright

assertion to bring the DMP, and

other service organisations like

the WASA, DESA, T&T Board

and BRTA under a unified

command of the DCC to fight

out the menace of crumbling

facilities, clean-up campaign

and terrorism in and around

Mayor would definitely agree

suit the scale of its mytho-

logy. The filth, crime, law-

lessness and terrorism at the

Gabtali, Savedabad, and

Mahakhali bus terminals are

simply vicious. It seems there

are no devils left in the hell.

They are all in the terminals.

Thousands of passengers either

entering or getting out through

these entry and exit points are

subjected to all types of torture

and harassment conceivable.

People, mostly passengers, bear

with the hassles they encounter

ists, coolies, bus-owners' agents

and also addicts. People have to

inch through the clogged arte-

ries of lanes and by lanes that

are stinking with mud, urine

and filth of all varieties in the

are a bizarre place having no

amenities of seating, with no

facilities for responding to the

call of nature, or making a tele-

phone call outside on an ex-

treme emergency, not to speak

of having a snack or lunch dur-

ing long hours of waiting. De-

spite the fact that these termi-

nal buildings were constructed

ten years ago by the DCC, these

are virtually out of bounds for

either the passengers or their

relations or friends accompa-

nying them or waiting to see

them off. Much to our shock

and surprise, it is reliably

The terminal waiting rooms

terminal area.

with the mastans, extortion-

The city's problems, the

the city limits.

Star" for its bold photo

tive although, the entire Division in the Dhaka Cantonment was at his command. He could not show the guts and courage that was essential at that critical and awe-inspiring situation following Bangabandhu killing. The plea he made to defend his position to the people in recent times would never have absolved him of his responsibility. He did however confess that his conscience was being constantly bitten for his unfortunate failure. However, it was a fait accompli that is never to be retrieved by any

For the last 21 years the whole nation has been lanhe would complete the unloading assignment of Pakistani Arms from S S Swat at Chittagong port. Thanks to provtdence that he was intercepted enroute and driven back by one of his Bangalee colleague in the Army.

No one would deny that, Zia fought the liberation war in his sector with valour and credit. Indeed it was he who was on the Air through the makeshift Radio Station aboard a truck at Kalurghat on March 27, 1971 in a feeble and faltering voice declaring that the war of liberation was on in accordance

Following the hideous murder of Sheikh Mujib in the predawn hours of August 15, 1975. Mushtaque Ahmed ascended the Presidential seat all by his own and without any legal sanction Khandkar Mushtaque allowed himself to be goaded into such malevolent action by the self-acclaimed killers on condition that they he given adequate legal coverage against any lawful pursuit in future. The relief thus sought by them came at the first instance by way of flying them out of the country for the time be-

had no time to give any serious attention to the already demised Indemnity Ordinance. Evidently, with the mounting pressure from the cruel hawks responsible for the brutal annihilation of Mujib and all his family members at home on August 15, 1975, General Zia had to act to remove the uncertainties in their minds.

On April 23, 1977, that is, over one and a half years after the ordinance was issued. Zia made a proclamation to revive the provisions. And about two years later, on April 6, 1979 the 5th Amendment of the constitution was made to include the provisions of Mushtaque In-

to Bangladesh, may however create a newer dimension in the case under review irrespective of the subsistence of the so called Indemnity Act. Ziaur Rahman has left a deep rooted legacy in our national history which bears eloquent testimony in the unbridled, obtrusive and insolent utterances of his living followers.

sessing illegal arms and multi-

ple passports followed by Gov-

ernment's endeavour to have

the remaining ones extradited

It appears that, besides, indemnifying the criminals. Zia had even ensured perpetual indemnity for all his successors. The leaders in BNP's student front appear now-a-days to have been enjoying the fruits of it in an unfettered manner. Their acrimonious public utterances purporting to defile the image of the father of the na-

tion carry ample evidences that

they too are capable of preda-

tory acts.

make up.

These are bunches of boys enrolled as students in the Dhaka University and are concurrently DUCSU leaders for years. They are self-infatuated by their muscle-power and hidden treasures of arms and money. As of now, they remain students unto eternity that assures them both power and leadership. Pampered and often cajoled by their leaders in the core party, they consider themselves as assets in the party hierarchy and therefore. formidable. Their tongues are unabashed. They mistake insanity for sanity and hence fail to measure the depth of what they say. A very recent utterance of one of these leaders

against the father of the nation

can be cited as an insipid exam-

ple of their present mental

One needs to look back to the vicious proceedings that preceded the enactment of the ignominious Indemnity Ordinance of September 26, 1975. Following the hideous murder of Sheikh Mujib in the predawn hours of August 15, 1975, Mushtaque Ahmed ascended the Presidential seat all by his own and without any legal sanction...

guishing with the tragic memory of the great leader. It is an irony of fate that ever since he was killed the country was ruled by people many of whom did not believe in an independent Bangladesh. Some of them were die-hard Pakistanis taking active part against our War of Liberation. It was most unfortunate that Ziaur Rahman being himself a valiant freedom fighter went all out to rehabilitate all such anti-libera tion forces eventually installing them in his cabinet. It was he who allowed the notori ous Golam Azam to come to Bangladesh on a Pakistani Passport and ultimately paved

the way for his citizenship. Such a unsavoury conjecture of Ziaur Rahman could be enough to re-establish the veracity of the much publicized story that he was a freedom fighter by a force majeure. In fact, he was destined to die after

learnt that Gabtali passenger

terminal building has not yet

been officially handed over to

the Dhaka City Corporation au-

thorities even after a lapse of 10

years. The mayor has to take

stock of the whole situation

ranging from instituting an ef-

ficient administration in the

terminals to combat crime.

mismanagement, mastaan,

type activities, to ensuring

clean up campaign, smooth in-

flow and outflow of long dis-

tance coaches and other vehi-

cles. People are inclined to be-

lieve that law enforcing agen-

cies primarily meant for the

safety and welfare of the citi-

zenry, have failed to rise up to

the expectation of the city

dwellers. People further believe

if the DMP is placed under the

with the 'command of the Father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on whose behalf he was speaking.

During his life time Ziaur Rahman did never make any boastful claim that it was he and he alone who declared the War of Independence. Nor did he ever disown that he had participated in Liberation War at the dictates of the father of the na tion Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It was again the great leader who had instantly recognized and acclaimed the heroic role played by Major Zia in the war and soon elevated him to the rank of major general making him the Deputy Chief of the Army

One needs to look back to the vicious proceedings that preceded the enactment of the ig nominious Indemnity Ordi nance of September 26, 1975

Article 92 (2) of our Constitution required any Presidential Ordinance to be duly ratified by the Jatiya Sangsad for eventual enactment and included as a part of the constitution within a specified period. It would otherwise die a natural death if such requirement of the Article above was not fulfilled within the stipulated period. The situation in the country was so between August 15 and November 7, 1975 that no such action could be taken as the Parlia ment was then not in session Naturally therefore, the Indemnity Ordinance ceased to be

Ziaur Rahman took power following the removal of Mush taque in a most unceremonious manner which he deserved Things continued apparently in a fluid state while Zia was busy consolidating has powers. The process cost many a valuable life in the Armed services. Zia

demnity Ordinance in 3 (a). para 18 of the 4th schedule. In the meantime, some of the killers were given diplomatic assignments in different embassies of Bangladesh abroad. Some more were reported to have received huge financial support by foreign countries.

It is very much palpable now as to why Begum Zia and her government in 5th Parliament blocked the Indemnity Act Repeal bill brought by the then Opposition even often making a verbal commitment to support it. Obviously, BNP, government retracted fearing that the 'cat would be out of the bag' if the bill was allowed to be discussed in the Jatiya Sangsad. Even now, the present government may not be able to win the support of BNP to comprise the two third majority vote for passing the bill. The recent arrests of three of the alleged accomplices on grounds of pos-

# The Mayor Speaks Out

effective

### by Md Asadullah Khan

and TGJC injections believably smuggled in from across the border have almost infected the young population in the city. They have already acquired a violent culture, that is now exacerbated by drug money and drug addiction. If the Mayor claims to have any solution to these menacing problems, he must envisage a programme to improve the quality of life and create jobs for the unemployed, vagabond youths who are increasingly drawn towards drug addiction and also drug trafficking in absence of any other avenues of income.

Dhaka city has long prided itself on being one of the world's safest cities, but a surge of

pline. How can the Mayor root out terrorism without hitting politics and the politicians' People are looking askance at the Mayor's ability to face the colossal and gigantic problem of terrorism that stems mainly from the student wings in the universities and colleges in recent times. Nothing in the country's experience in recent times compares with the Mayor's monumental task that the himself proposed to embrace: Curbing a decade old terrorism disarming the combatants, professionalising and restructuring the police and making a democracy to work. Making a wounded society heal again would be a daunting mission

anxiety that along with Dhaka City the whole country is crumbling apart. This feeling

must be arrested. The Mayor also faces a colossal problem of rehabilitating the pavement dwellers or at least settling them somewhere within the city limits. About a million people are either occupying the street pavements or huddling in shelters close to the streets and eking out a life of desperation on the street. Their life on the street pavement or ficking in women and children affecting the minds of city dwellers in an increasing pro-

along the posh suburban dwelling houses magnifies a myriad of social ills. People see the festering malaise of traf-

portion, not to speak of the

The government has to reckon that people had waited in vain for years for the collapsing law and order situation to return to normalcy, and deteriorating economy to show signs of life. It is time to end the staleness and selfishness that prevailed in the past years.

authority of the city Mayor lif at all feasible) things might start showing a change.

The Mayor has seemingly thrown a challenge and the present government that is apparently committed to combat terrorism, rid the city mainly and the country as a whole of anarchy in the form of toll collection, hijacking and killing should not have any reservation in putting the DMP and other service organisations under the authority of the Mayor The Mayor went so far in asserting that "if he fails, he would resign." After all, what people and the government want is a society shorn of crime, violence and one that will be reverberating with beneficial productive activities not overriding the envisaged atmosphere of peace.

City dwellers are also wondering if this city that was once renowned for nice fellow-feeling, and now for criminals, can be rescued from the brink of a drug-induced breakdown. Phensedyl bottles, pathedrine

armed robberies, killing and extortionism — often in broad day light — now threatens its inhabitants. Armed goons are demanding tolls at gun point often killing the victim and looting the money. People fear that the crime wave signals a break down of law and order in the country and instills an all pervasive despondency among the citizenry. The Mayor, it is believed, has pondered all these escalations and their possible links to party politics. Terrorism, mastaan type activities extortion-spree did not grow by itself. This festering malaise of hostilities, bickering and rising to each other's throat either for money or influence proliferated through political patronage. In curbing terrorism, the Mayor has to heal the politics of the city that in a sense spreads over the whole country. The recent flare-up of gun-battle between two rival student fronts belonging to two distinct and prominent political groups in the Dhaka University halls point to a breakdown of party disci-

anywhere, but combating Dhaka City's problems is specially daunting, may be, a mounting challenge. The public euphoria that greeted the return of democratic governance, it appears, is evaporating fast at the return of brutalities, continued fighting between rival groups of students' in the University reportedly, on the issue of sharing toll booties for a big project in that arena. Can we not bring these talented but misguided youths back to text books and classes?

The government has to reckon that people had waited in vain for years for the collapsing law and order situation to return to normalcy, and deteriorating economy to show signs of life. It is time to end the staleness and selfishness that prevailed in the past years. The public in the preceding years have been rankled by a perceived deterioration of all infrastructural facilities and by

OPINION

staggering increase in the various sex-related diseases in the young population. For the slum and pavement

dwellers in the city, life has become a slow death. With 4 to 8 persons including women and children packed in a ramshackle one-room shanty made of plastic sheet and crate lumber, the colonies known as "bustees" look like a bizarre place on earth of forlorn hope. The distended bellies and redstreaked hair of the children signal the malnutrition that is endemic. The streets and parks, are undesirably bustling with young men - some barely in their teens - with their eyes bright under the influence of drug and sometimes their fingers quick on the trigger. Poised on the edge of homelessness and joblessness, the city is moving in directions none of which is encouraging and almost all of them are infinitely sad and frightening. The Mayor must

have taken stock of the whole situation when he proposes to take command of all the service organisations like the DMP. DESA, WASA, T&T etc. People have heard about the

US \$30 m ADB-aided project that the government proposes to undertake with the avowed intention of upgrading the living standard of slum dwellers of the Dhaka city. People are excited to learn that the project divided in two parts — a 5 million dollar pilot housing programme and a 25 million dollar rehabilitation programme envisages infrastructural development, income generating schemes, vocational training, informal education, sanitation and EPI health programmes.

The Mayor must be aware that the slum population in the Dhaka city is rising at an alarming rate. More than half of the total slum population of the country live in Dhaka city alone. Statistics also reveal that every 2500 people share just one acre of land averaging almost 42 people over one katha in the slums while over 90 per cent of the families have just one room to live in. Further statistics are pretty gloomy. Almost one third of the population of the Dhaka city are slum dwellers and over 80 per cent of them have no access to basic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation facilities

Against the backdrop of such a bleak scenario when the citizenry are passing through frenzied moments, public utility services are crumbling apart unemployment is at its peak, the Mayor has to rise to the occasion and go ahead with the implementation of the project that may work as a model for the whole country. The project, as it surfaces, beckons impressively, promising a secure shelter and living for people long

worth the name.

### Mr Speaker, Can you deny it?

Sir, When a dog bites a man, it is no news. But when a man bites a dog, it is a big news. We have seen man-fights, bullfights, ram-fights, dog-fights and cock-fights and not the opposite gender fights. But recently we have seen on the front-pages of the newspapers. some printed beautifully coloured pictures and some black-and-white, our female students fighting a sensational 'woman-fight'. The fight seems to have been so fantastic that the insane dogs would have been ashamed witnessing it.

Mr Speaker, sir, we observe on TV, the members of parlia-

BTV: Jatiya Sangsad

doze, Bother, Bug - take your

choice) or even Bore The View-

ers (to death?), they are succeed-

ment fight, sometimes orally. sometimes manually and sometimes physically walking out. You observe and enjoy those dramatic fights sitting high safely at a long distance. But have you seen, the Speaker, the police observing and enjoying that fantastic 'woman-fight' so closely but helplessly?

Our two political ladies fight on the street and in the Parliament. That's the way it should normally be. Have you seen those pictures, Mr. Speaker? How violently they can pull one down and kick mercilessly! Oh, God! are you not scared that it may happen in your House also! Can you imagine the condition

We are illiterate and savage

Theke Sir, I must be one of the very few who have resisted taking a cable connection for their TV. Not that I consider BTV the epitome of entertainment but with M, EL, V, Zee and the like it would have been jumping from the frying pan to the fire. Of late however the Idiot Box has degenerated from the 'SAHIB BIBI GHOLAM' of the 80's to 'BIBI BIBI and GHOLAM' of the early 90's to 'BIBI BIBI and BIBI from mid-June '96. But if the theme world. from 13/8/96 is any indication This definitely is the last it is going to be 'BABA BABA and BABA' from now on. If it is BTV's intention to Browbeat (or connection. Bludgeon, Bully, Batter, Bull-

ing beyond their wildest expec-While the new 'Jatiya

Sangsad Theke' is sometimes more entertaining than most package dramas, the 5-minute speech (at Tk. 15,000 per minute) of a Member (Opposition no doubt) emphasizing the deteriorating law and order situation by disclosing that his freshly laundered lungi had been pinched from the MP Hostel clothesline takes the cake. I wonder if the lungi-napper realises that he has the most expensive lungi in the

straw and I am now on my way to my local cable operator for a

Quazi Akhlaque uz Azeem 147 Helping Hand Road, Anderkilla, Chittagong.

people. We do not know the secrets of politics. We have passed our life without learning those lessons. But we become extremely amazed to the magnanimous outburst of secret lessons in such a mawkish manner. Do both the high profile ladies realise where are they dragging this poor nation with those

charismatic lessons? If any crooked one says now that the woman leadership is evidently leading the nation to an unwanted destiny, can you deny it Mr Speaker?

Abdul Latif Molla Shakhipur House Sec-11, Block-A, Mirpur Dhaka-1206.

## Attack on Iraq

Sir, America's cruise missile attack on Iraq is a blatant infringement on Iraq's sovereignty. President Clinton talks about human rights and what not, but, his attitude is "Don't do as I do, do as I tell you".

Where was President Clinton when the Russians massacred the Chechnyan's, don't they deserve to have their own independent state? It seems that the West is so

afraid of Muslim upsurge that they are trying to suppress Muslims at any cost. I think it is about time that the Muslim World stand against the West. The attacks on Iraq should be condemned by each and every free nation of the world.

Md Iftikhar Rasul 2/3, Nawab Street Wari, Dhaka-1203.

# Can He Ride the Tiger?

You can easily break some eggs and make an omelet, but you cannot make eggs out of an omelet. Similarly, you can nationalise everything and say it is ours, but to denationalise the state-owned enterprises, is rather difficult and very complicated.

Success of Mr Kibria, our Finance Minister will largely depend on his privatisation zeal, his 'intelligent' policy to reduce the size of our public sector, supply-side reforms and appropriate measures to bring fiscal disciplines in the economy.

Most economists now accept that the low inflation and a competitive real exchange rate is essential for lasting growth. Unfortunately most of our industries, banks, insurance and its work force are still confined to the absurd economies of the state-run system.

We live in a world that is changing very rapidly, today, privatisation means more jobs, more choices, increased efficiency and less prices paid by the consumers.

In Latin American countries, privatisation is providing improved living standards and opening market opportunities for those who will risk their money and efforts. Mr Kibria should cross the

line of political convention and stand up, where our wellknown former Finance Minister Mr M Saifur Rahman caved in and back-pedaled in panic in the face of trade union obdu-

Mr Rahman was far better at diagnosing problems than recommending prescriptions, said a World Bank official. I think

Anam A Choudhury our huge domestic debt and large public sector borrowing requirement are largely responsible for our fiscal disarray. By selling off graft-ridden and inefficient state-owned white-elephants, ranging from

banks to steel mills at public

bidding, we can reduce the pub-

lic sector borrowing sharply

and immensely enrich our national coffer. Proceeds of privatisation will not only slash our domestic debt, but also generate savings for social programmes. Sale proceeds of nationalised assets can be prudently used to right

many wrongs committed by

previous governments. By privatising, our government can also turn Bangladesh into something of an investment bazar. Bangladesh is the new target-country that Asians are looking at. Korean and Japanese firms are competing for our beach-heads to set up

On 30th June 1997, China will regain control over Hong Kong, the last British colony in Asia. The colony's best known billionaires are already look ing for promising alternative sites to relocate their business

private EPZs.

and build their factories. Most Japanese manufacturers suggest that their Asian subsidiaries enjoyed respectable profit margin, while subsidiaries in America and in Europe made little or nothing. The stronger the yen, the greater the pressure on Japanese firms to shift manufacturing to cheaper bases in

Our work force is hungry for jobs, and this country with a population of 120 million people, eager for consumer goods, has the potential for a booming domestic market as well. Asian entrepreneurs are increasingly willing to bet on Bangladesh.

Our coastlines are regarded as the best sites for projects that can take off right-away. Competitive export-oriented industries to produce TVs, VCRs, motorcycles, electric generators, steel products, fertiliser, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and food-processing industries can survive and prosper in this lowest cost production region of the world.

Predictably enough, western oil companies are currently prospecting for oil and gas in the Bay of Bengal under production sharing agreement. If we succeed in only few of our oil and gas exploration projects, we will be able to ease the power

crunch in our industrial zones. This nation is blessed with so many gifted people. Thousands of our talented professors, doctors and scientists are gracing the chairs of many prestigious universities and in-

stitutions of the world. Our language, music food and above all our sense of family values are among the best in the world. I don't understand why this nation remains so desperately poor for so long

think inflamed political climate and bureaucratic maddening frighten foreign in vestors. Economic potential of this country will never be realised until and unless our bureaucrats and politicians decide to give Bangladesh a chance.