The Baily Star Founder-Editor : Late S. M. Ali

Shared Optimism

The Gujral visit has breat hed fresh air into the suffocated Indo-Bangla relations. The prospect of good neighbourly relations with India came to a blossom for all in Bangladesh to see and savour, regardless of political affiliations. Besides setting the water sharing issue on a time-bound course for resolution before the onset of the next dry season, the testimony to India's new neighbourly thinking was palpably borne by two remarks that Gujral made in Dhaka.

In a confidence-building gesture tinged with pragmatism he categorically stated that the transit issue would only be discussed if Bang ladesh wanted it. Furthermore, he assured the opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia of India's avowed policy to seek strengthening of relations on country-to-country and government-to-government levels and not on a partisan basis.

We would not like the new thinking in India to be confused with the forward-looking neighbourliness displayed in fits and starts towards us by the short-lived non-Congress governments of Morarji Desai and VP Singh. The 15-party ULF coalition government in India may be fled, gling on the surface but it has the inner strength of running the foreign affairs by a strong, broad-spectrum collective political will. And what is even more to the point is the express will of all political parties in India including the opposition BJP to see Indo-Bangla relations back on an even keel. The mood in the top Indian leadership, as conveyed by External Affairs Minister I K Gujral and the distinguished members of the delegation he led to Bangladesh, is not merely for normalisation but also for a new texture of relationship based on equity and friendship. West Bengal Chief Minis ter Jyoti Basu's cooperation will be key to resolving the water-sharing issue at the Farakka point, which constitutes the centre-piece of the endeavour for betterment of ties. By an appropriate association of thought, three parliamentarians from West Bengal were included in the delegation.

Time has come for Bangladesh to review its relationship with India. Now that the prospect for a breakthrough in terms of a rapprochement with her is clearly visible, let's build on it and usher in a new era of productive neighbourliness.

Heading JS Committees

By the time this leader is published, the 12member parliamentary standing committee on the Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad may have reached a decision on a proposed amendment to a rule allowing MPs to head different parliamentary committees. The three-member sub-committee charged with preparing the draft of an amendment to the existing rule 247, has proposed not only for MPs heading the JS standing committees but also for an increase in the number of members from 10 to 12 for each one of them.

The move has been in the right direction. We hold the view that the parliamentary committees should work as the nerve-centre of all the JS activities. By allowing MPs from both the treasury and opposition benches to work together in a standing committee on all the ministries, we ensure not only the cooperation between the ruling party and the opposition but also the transparency and accountability of governance. We hope we are making a sure stride in getting the system to work.

Now let us raise a few pertinent points. The increase in the number of members of parliamentary committees is aimed at enriching decisions on different issues through inputs from two additional MPs. No less, if not more, important is the inclusion of MPs with proven ability, expert knowledge of the relevant ministerial affairs, fairness and integrity of character in the committees. We want to see that the parliamentary committees function as impartial bodies. National interests should be their prime concern.

To make them function accordingly, the prime minister's earlier assurances of offering the chairmanship of some parliamentary committees to the opposition must be kept. In this connection we reiterate that MPs from the opposition should be elected chairmen of a few most important parliamentary committees - public accounts committee, to name just one.

Stop the Trend

A young man's reported confession that he was under instructions from his 'boss' to be in Sylhet to make an attempt on the life of Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has been shocking - too shocking to be sufficiently expressed our condemnation. Satirical and caustic remarks about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's life from a few politician once again pointed to a political situation which is potentially highly dangerous. The so-called attempts on the lives of political opponents or even inciting some one for the same, we are afraid, have the potential to bring all that we have achieved so far to

Let it be clear that sinister moves such as these may not only jeopardise the on-going democratic process but also be highly costly for the entire nation. Settling political scores in devious ways has had tremendous negative impacts on every area of the national development. The promoters of capturing state power through unconstitutional means will simply feel encouraged by this trend.

We appeal for a political stock-taking in a sober and objective manner. All the parties must rein in their militant cadres before it is too late. The extra militancy and the bellicose attitude manifest in public speeches should be replaced by reason and healthy politics. The choice is ours — whether we build on what we have achieved or head for a disaster by pursuing the politics of violence.

Six Options on Governance

The post-cold war era is not entirely free of martial-law origin 'democracies' being tolerated as in Indonesia. However, authoritarian governance in countries like Pakistan may not be acceptable by the West on the scume equation as they do for ASEAN countries and the Middle East.

HE state of continuing crisis requires serious consideration by concemed citizens of various options of governance on Chester Bowles's theory that "Government is too big and important to be left to the politicians." The major problem facing the Bhutto regime among a host of others being economic. to raise revenues to the satisfaction of the IMF. Bernard Berenson's "Governments last as long as the under-taxed can defend themselves against the overtaxed," would be very appropri-The primary option must be that the Bhutto regime, even

though it has tainted its own democratic credentials, completes its full term. For democracy to become a permanent fixture of this country's socio-economic culture, the Constitution mandated terms of governance must last the full period. No system of government is infallible, yet all systems of gover nance have inherent potential to function effectively provided internal and external forces do not actively conspire to sabotage the process. Most of Ms Bhutto's problems, internal and external, are self-created and even though she has also shown remarkable propensity to compromise, she has shown an equal enthusiasm for confrontation. It is also doubtful whether she has the ability or the will to rein in the forces of nepotism and corruption unleashed on this nation. Not that governments before her were saints descended from heaven. the scions of the then mighty and influential who now wallow in wealth did not have their largesse given to them by angels but from their fathers skimming off public funds, finessed into a fine art by members of this regime.

Nepotism and corruption aside, the present Government of Pakistan (GOP) is in serious trouble with respect to the economy, in particular a failure to control non-development expenditure or recover non-performing advances by the nationalised financial sector, in her defence, one must acknowl-

edge that she seems to have started a recovery process in earnest, though sullying this exercise at the very outset by political overtones that smacks of vendetta. The flight of capital from the country's economy does matter but not so much if it is plowed back to bolster the economy as in Indonesia and Malaysia. Pakistani commission agents have shown no great propensity to bring money home, their penchant is for islands, castles and mansions abroad. Regretfully, fault lines have developed in the body of every institution, the only ones that have fought back with some credible success seems to be the Army (alone tory. She deserves full credit for among the Armed Forces) and surprisingly, the judiciary (in this case, for how long?). The attempt to subvert their integrity or defame them continues on a real-time basis. Bhutto's tendency to opt for con-

the throne", albeit a well-paid Benazir Bhutto is a PR dream as a potent political campaigner but a relative disas ter as a competent administra tor, she should stay with politicking and speech-making. letting her sahib run the affairs of the State as so that things get done up front in the same effec-

tive manner as he manages

frontation over compromise

was manifest in appointing her

much-vilified husband Asif

Zardari as Minister for In-

vestment. Given the Sahib's

talents on display in which he

has, despite his rather humble

educational credentials, created

his own sahibaan i.e. loval fol-

lowers (whom he really looks

after and who make up virtu-

ally a State within a State), why

should he not be a properly

anointed Deputy Prime Minis-

ter? This way the remaining bit

of ambiguity about his predom-

inant role in the PPP and the

regime will disappear and we

can call a spade a spade while

Murtaza Bhutto can maintain

the farce of being a "pretender to

from behind the scenes. The responsibility and accountability thereof which comes from being a signing authority will formal ize the existing anomalous sitnation where his wife is the polithcal face of the government he runs quite effectively. Given that a wife-husband duo may find this country as tolerant of nepotism as the ASEAN countries, this is perhaps the last option Ms Bhutto can muster for her regime's survival. Her biggest plus point must remain ridding Karachi of a major part of terrorism, a singular ach evement of counter-guerrillat urban warfare without parallel in any democratic his-

horses' once belonged to Mian Nawaz Sharif, they have shown a remarkable proclivity in the past to being traded to the highest bidder at an opportune moment. Our legislators are quite capable of shifting loyalties in keeping with their happy tradition of doing so whenever they see the writing on the wall In the face of rapid decline of the rule of law, the looming economic disaster and a Nerolike obduracy of celebrating the regime's 'achievements' instead of accepting the facts of life. this may be the next viable proposition. The powers-thatbe'that usually act as a catalyst for change may not find the obvious Mian Nawaz Sharif al-

ASISEEIT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

giving her Minister of Interior full control and then letting this honest, forthright man do his duty without interference. She could perhaps use this non interference model in other spheres. Ms Benazir is right in her assessment that people are out to get rid of her and Mian Nawaz Sharif from the body politic of Pakistan but the making of right assessments is no substitute for making the right reforms to her rule. She vociferously preaches what she her self seldom practices, this has led to a severe loss of credibility and she shows no inclination to go the compromise route. In the absence of such an initiative. one must conclude that her period of governance may be fast

In the event of failure of the elected government, the second option is the constitutional route i.e. change through the elected Assembly. Some of her

coming to an end.

ternative any more palatable. The third option would be if

the President of Pakistan should decide that enough is enough and national considerations outweigh loyalty to the PPP. It is no secret that Faroog Leghari has grown into the job and despite himself becoming a victim of scam artists like Younus Habib who led him up the garden path in the land scandal that never was, he has conducted himself extremely well. His finest decision must certainly be the selection of the present COAS but he needs to be also commended for not knuckling down to motivated brow-beating and histrionics over dismissing the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who refuses to submit or be submis-

President Faroog Leghari cannot be oblivious of the [1] impending economic doom. (2) a rapid breakdown of institu-

to mass upsurge in 1990 and

thereafter, the free and fair

election in 1991. The then Edu-

cation Minister of newly elected

BNP Government, Dr B Chowd

hury, went to Chittagong cam-

pus on 7th August, 1991, with

the objective to meet the Vice-

Chancellor Prof. Alamgir

Muhammad Sirajuddin, who

was held captive by Islami

Chhatra Shibir. But, nothing

truitful ensued and on 31st De-

cember, 1991, Professor Alam-

gir was relieved from the re-

sponsibility of Vice-Chancel-

lor, by appointing one from

Zia Parishad'. It is reported

that virtually there was no

administration in the Chit-

tagong University during the

last four and a half years. Now.

everybody is looking at the ini-

tiative of the present Education

Minister as to how he intends to

set right the dormant situation

in Chittagong University and

elsewhere. May we recall, at

that time a Judicial Enquiry

Committee was constituted.

who held enquiry into the

tions within the country and (3) a series of disasters in our foreign policy considerations. As Supreme Commander he must be aware of the restlessness within his command, particularly in the Army, at the nonstop shenanigans going on in every institution of this country. Bhutto may even now be readying her legal defences on the lines of the Ishaq-Mian Nawaz encounter in case of an adverse Presidential move. One expects her to try and neutralize the Judges of the Supreme Court by doing an 180 degree turn and an early implementation of the SC verdict. Bhutto's handicap is that she does not have the overwhelming massive support of the populace that Mian Nawaz Sharif had when taking on Ishaq who was universally disliked, in comparison the likable Farooq Leghari has built up an impressive reputa-

tion just by doing the right

thing, mostly.

In the event that President Leghari remains a party man in utter exclusion of the destruction of this country, there may be a situation where even he may have to leave along with the PM, in the same manner as in 1993. Obviously this cannot take place without the Army giving up on him, that would go against the evidence of the respect they presently have for him. However, if this far-out eventuality does take place then the appropriate way to legalize things would be for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to take over as President and the Chief Justice of the Provincial High Courts to take over as Governors of the Provinces, the Bangladesh experiment in 1990 at the fall of the Ershad Government serving as an example to forestall a vacuum. In this fourth option, the Chief Justices can then appoint caretaker governments of national and provincial consensus from those people who confirm they will not be participants in the

ensuing elections.

The fifth option would be to have a caretaker government under either of the two aforementioned options for a much longer period than the mandated 90 days so as to effect meaningful reforms. The Moeen Quereshi caretaker solution promised much but did little in actual practice because of the limited time, even the election process was later discovered to be flawed by being weighted in favour of PPP by a combination of heavy handed methods (keeping the MQM's 14 seats at the NA level out) and a sophisticated computer subterfuge of the IBM-kind. Meaningful reforms in the country must include (1) majority vote to decide candidate in each constituency. (2) proportional representation in order to ensure women and minority representation in the Assemblies. (3) a direct vote for all offices from the lowest tier to the President's and 94) strong Local Bodies having full financial powers in a direct relationship between

taxation and spending thereof. The post-cold war era is not entirely free of martial-law origin 'democracies' being tolerated as in Indonesia. However, authoritarian governance in countries like Pakistan may not be acceptable by the West on the same equation as they do for ASEAN countries and the Middle East. The worst type of democracy is better than the most benign martial law but having a martial law is better than having no country at all This last-case scenario damages the credibility and effectiveness of the Army, diverting from its primary mission.

However, by drawing from a vast reservoir of retired ex-servicemen and ex-bureaucrats to run the day-to-day affairs in a martial law, this must remain a reluctant but viable option. If a stage comes where the last option is the only viable one left. then we are in serious trouble with respect to governance. Why should not Ms Bhutto, who remains a leader with a vast mass following, take stock of the situation and let things not slide past the first option?

Appointment of VC, DU: People's Expectation

URELY, it is regrettable to note that the resignation of Prof 12majuddin Ahmed from the post of Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University, on 24th August. 1996, has raised political controversies of different magnitudes. The fact remains that he resigned on ground of deteriorating law and order situation almost beyond control in the university. What was his performance before as a VC is a different issue, which should be dealt separately by concerned quarters rather than mingling it with party politics to side the track 'Inferno' in the 'varsity area. The Government has accepted his resignation and appointed Prof. Shahiduddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, to hold the charge of vice-chancellor temporarily. It is learnt that he will hold the charge till the VC panel is prepared which, supposedly may not talte a month from the date of his taking over charge on 31st August, 1996.

It has come to the press that VC may be elected from the blue panel' which commands the majority in the senate. The likely candidates are : Awami League's Advisory Committee member and Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy Prof. A K Azad Chowdhung: DUTA President Prof. A T M Zahurul Haq and Prof Mashih uzzaman. Acting VC. Prof Shahud has termed his responsibility as of caretaker type to hold election of VC under Dhaka University Ordinance, 1973. According to the ordinance, senate will elect three candidates by secret ballot; out of which the President will select one and appoint him. It is now for the 'varsity teachers to bring back the glory of Dhaka University as 'Oxford of the East', which, however, the outgoing Vice-Chancellor and his colleagues could not ac-

Education Minister ASHK Sadeque gave a statement on 26th August, 1996, in the Parliament on the resignation of Prof Emajuddin and listed the incidents of campus terrorism during his tenure as VC. What the Education Minister has mentioned are known to all. particularly the students. guardians and teachers, who actually suffer the agony. We always expressed our indignation to the failure of DU administration to maintain academic freedom and serenity for our boys and girls at the varsity premises. But, that does not mean that at no time the VC's conscience did not prick to ask the government to stop the violence. Education Minister has said that his resignation would bring in good for the country. Well, let us see

On the other hand, the outgoing VC gave a letter to the Speaker of the parliament to expunge the statements of Education, Minister, Post and Telecommunications Minister and Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, MP from the proceedings of the parliament, as reported in the press on 29th August, 1996. We are not interested or competent to say 'who' has misquoted whom! Apparently, the outgoing VC has conceded violence while he could forge some developments! Anyway, it is for the appropriate authority to inquire into the matter in a lawful way and make the public know the exact situation. What was disturbing for us to note was what the Education Minister asked the former VC when he called on him, to make two transfers at the level of women provosts; which not only violates DU Ordinance '73, but also an instance of unwanted interference. Prof. Emajuddin concluded that he resigned, because he was unable to play any effective role in the prevailing cir-

cumstances. We would prefer to Supreme Cour!

tor and seven Provosts. They have rather legitimately raised the question : was there not terrorism earlier, during the tenure of Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed, much before his resignation? Yes, it is reported that 22 students were killed during the tenure of the outgoing VC. Particular mention may be made that during violence in Dhaka University in August-September, 1994, a non-party student named Bulbul was brutally killed. This year when police let loose terror on the students of Jagannath Hall, Prof. Emajuddin did not resign in protest. In such circumstances, when Prof Emajuddin is also the convener of 'Zia Parishad'. the other group of teachers will

of the new government. It is an irony of fate that 'resignation is construed differently in our country! Everywhere 'resignation' is deemed as legal and ethical weapon, exercised by a person to protest the prevailing disorder, perpetrated by an authority, to rouse the consciousness of the colleagues. government and people, alike. Alas, it is yet to be seen here! However, we are to wait to see how the 'varsify teachers tackle the issue to ensure peace.

by Muhammad Quamrul Islam

have an impartial report, conducted by an Enquiry Committee, headed by a justice of the

Meanwhile, a section of intelligentsia and varsity teachers in their writings in the press have imputed political colour' to the resignations of VC. Procnaturally suspect 'sincerity of purpose in his resignation. They may also find in it an 'attempt' to prove ineffectiveness

It takes us back to have a look at the situation prevailing in the Chittagong University, following the fall of Ershad due

above incidents of Chittagong University and made some valuable recommendations in the interest of 'varsity administration, teachers and students. Unfortunately, those recommendations were not implemented by the then government. The Enquiry Committee pointed out the inadequacies of Varsity Ordinance '73, dependence of elected Vice-Chancellor on the group/panel politics. absence of teachers from the university on various counts, such as, longer period of stay abroad than scheduled. It would be in the fitness of things if the present government perused the above report, at least for reference, before appointment of new Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University.

It is widely known that about 26 thousand students of Dhaka University have been held hostages in the hands of about two hundred terrorists for a long time. Neither the 'varsity administration nor the government could free the general students from this miserable state so far. It is imperative

that these terrorists are now arrested and brought to trial, irrespective of 'party' affiliations. They are mostly non-students or students in name only. They have no right to stay in any University Hall, any time, to only spoil the discipline. Such situation would not have arisen, had there been regular clections to DUCSU and Halls. in the traditional way of Dhaka University. During the last 15 years, elections were held only thrice - in '82, '89 and lastly in

We expect 'varsity teachers will make determined efforts to usher peace in the academic arena — free from party politics and in-fighting. Let the next Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University be elected, by unanimity, rather than panel voting. We hope that 'varsity teachers will be able to resist party politics and uphold the past glory of Dhaka University. All citizens, guardians and students have respect for teachers; let it be up-

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TRIBUTE TO AN EDUCATIONIST

Lest We Forget Dr Ataul Hakim

R Ataul Hakim was born in 1888 in a respectable Muslim family of village Naikhine under Patiya police station of Chittagong. He breathed his last on 11th September, 1969 at a clinic in Dhaka.

 He showed his eminence as a brilliant student from his earliest days having matriculated under the old scheme of Madrassah Anglo-Persian Department securing first position. He then did his IA and BA from Chittagong College.

He took his MA in Mathematics and secured first class first in 1918, and in the subsequent year, did his MA in Arabic also getting first class first.

In the undivided Bengal her served under the education department in various capacities as Professor at Chittagong College. Vice-Principal of Calcutta Presidency College, Principal of Calcutta Islamia College and, for sometime, as honorary Professor in the University of

Calcutta. In recognition of his distinguished academic feats, on entering service life, he was awarded scholarship for higher studies in the UK. But his mother, plain and simple, a village woman, could not with stand the idea because she was very much apprehensive that his son, being a bachelor at that time, might get attracted to the English way of life and even get involved in some affairs. So upset she was that she went into seclusion and gave up eating. Young Ataul Hakim on hearing this immediately went to the village home and promised her that he will never ever go

abroad leaving her back. Determined to reach the peak of fame and glory in the field of education without going

abroad, young Ataul Hakim became deeply engaged in research work on Mathematics. He began self-study of the original works notable Mathematicians. After 22 years of perseverance, he completed his famous research work "The

Arab Mathematics comprising

of 3706 pages typed on full scape

paper in four volumes. The volumes contained as many as 3000 names of Muslim Mathematicians who had contributed towards the development of the science of mathematics.

For his memorable work. the University of Calcutta bestowed him with a doctorate in 1942 being the first Muslim of Bengal to the honoured by the said university with a PhD. The name of Dr Ataul

Hakim, MA PhD was proposed as first choice for nominated ICS of British India from undivided Bengal with hints to shave up his beard and discard using red "Fej" cap. Not being of the type to surrender principles of life for earthly gains, he showed no interest to get through. So, the second choice Mr Nurun Nabi Chowdhury became the nominated ICS from

the then Bengal After partition he came to Pakistan on option, and served as Divisional Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Range from where he retired in 1949. He then joined Dhaka University as Reader in Mathematics and later joined as Head of the Department of Mathematics in Rajshahi University. He was for sometime. Controller of Examinations, Rajshahi Univer-

Dr Ataul Hakim presented a copy of his prized thesis "The Arab Mathematics" to the Uni versity of Dhaka for publica-

Dr Hakim was the author of many books particularly on mathematical subjects to meet the requirements of the students from school to university level Having sold the copyright of all his publications, none of his books is available with his descendants.

Under his patronage many schools and colleges got recognition and flourished Poor students received education free of cost in such institutions Meritorious students in addition were awarded scholarships

named after him Dr Ataul Hakim had estab lished many charitable dispen saries and became a firm be

liever in the homoeopathic theory of treatment after witnessing the miraculous cures by homoeopathic medicines dispensed by his elder brother. So much so that, in his old age, instead of applying for honorary Fellowship of the Homoeopathic Society, he appeared in the Homoeopathic examination in the year 1949 standing first in Pakistan. Later, he wrote a 450-page book on materia med-

ica and had it published. Wife of Dr Ataul Hakim is still alive. She is now too old and of frail health. She recalled that her late husband was very friendly with Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq, H S Suhrawardy. Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. Dr T Ahmed, Dr B Karim and many others.

Many years having elapsed after the death of this great scholar (Dr Ataul Hakim) many notable personalities of his time who knew and held him in great esteem are also no longer alive. Many notable juniors, mostly his students, still remember him with reverence. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Justice Monzur Murshed, Dr Md Shahidullah, Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda, Justice Abu Saveed Chowdhury, former President, Fazlul Kader Chowdhury, ex-Minister, Nurul Haq Chowdhury, ex Minister Dr Muhammad Ibrahim founder of BIRDEM, Justice Md Sayem, ex-President, Shah Az izur Rahman, former Prime Minister. Khan A Sabur Khan

were among his admirers Dr Ataul Hakim, MA Phi deserves due recognition. It is rightful position in the society The biography of this illustri ous son of the soil may be in cluded in the text books of pri mary and secondary schools so achievements. Special mention the relentless effort made by him to spread education among

our sacred duty to secure his that the present generation may know about his deeds and may be made of his piety and of backward Muslims of his time

- M. A. Mansur

Budget '96-97

complish so far.

Sir, This has reference of an article written by Mr. Mustaq Ahmed, FCA in the Focus page of your paper on the 2nd September titled "Brief Commentary and Reflections on Finance Bill '96-97," I have gone through the article and found some facts as discussed by the writer. It reveals that the following vision in details are missing from the budget:

1) The budget should show clear disposal and downsizing the state-owned enterprises and its privatisation.

2) The development of infrastructure is very important for any development activity of a country.

3) The foreign investment in energy and telecom cannot be ignored. 4) The scheme of national savings has not been clearly in-

dicated, and 5) The budget has ignored taxing large agricultural income etc., including development of co-operative societies which is vital for our country. Therefore, we hope that the new administration will fulfill its commitment.

So, we all should help the government to materialise our real and rational expectations. without any delay.

M Alt. Rajshahi.

BTV — Not to be an autonomous body

Sir, I do not think that by turning BTV into an autonomous body it will be able to function neutrally and independently. There are hundreds of autonomous bodies in the country, and these are not in a position to function independently. All the time these are under acute interference of the government.

Let us look at our universities. All of our universities are fully autonomous bodies and we know how horribly these are functioning. Once BTV is turned into an autonomous body, all the political parties will simply tear apart this body to establish their clan and influence right from top to bottom.

In fact under the government control, in this country where we need a caretaker government to conduct our national elections, it will not be possible to establish a TV like BBC. Autonemous B'TV will ultimately turn into a chaotic body like the university campuses. In my opinion TV channels are to be allowed to operate in the private sector like newspapers. Keeping present channel of BIV as it is, a few more channels should immediately be allowed in the private sector.

M R R Khan 38, Naya Paltan, Dhaka-1000

We want faith

Sir. Mainuddin Kashem Tareq. son of M A Kashem, chairman of Southeast Bank and Managing Director of Mutual Group of Companies, has been missing since 14th Aug '96. It has been alleged that there has a deep conspiracy behind his mysterious missing. Parents of Tareq have accused that dead body of Tareq was hidden after he was killed and his friend was the main culprit of this misdeed. A lot of questions has been raised following the failure of police administration's recovery of Tareg's body till today. At present, CID police

has taken charge to investigate this case. Present government preferred to the development of law and order situation and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared with strong voice that criminals must be punished. Undoubtedly, it is quite an initiative. There is no language to express consolation to the parents of Tareq who first introduced Internet in the country and was a highly meritorious student of North South Univer-

I would like to draw kind attention to Home Minister and the authorities concerned to disclose the mystery so that people do not loose faith on the role of law enforcing agencies.

Bappi Dhaka-1229.