Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Tuesday, January 28, 1997

## Participation is a must

Begum Khaleda Zia did not attend Sunday's meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad. This is the committee ideally suited to sort out things like BNP's contentious issues regarding the conduct of the JS over which the party stayed out of the House for a long time. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said as much in Sunday's meeting, why doesn't Begum Zia attend the BAC meeting? As a Prime Minister she had been absent from Parliament on many a working day, so that the nation could not be prevented from getting an impression that perhaps the JS hardly mattered to her.

The government has been responding very positively to suggestions that JS works effectively or governance is done solely through it if a system of Parliamentary committees, appropriately empowered and enthusiastically participated, backs it up by taking off much of the load. The opposition did not seem to have any different idea. But they thwarted early formation and commissioning of the committees by saying that the ruling party was filling up the BNP quotas without waiting for duly prepared BNP nominations to the bodies. By now it is clear that they were not quite ready with their nominations. Why did the ruling party insist on having Begum Zia on as many committees as was possible? And why did BNP say no to most of them?

She will do good to her party and the democratic cause and in fact to the whole nation if she participates in the JS and its committees by herself and not through deputizing. That is one way, very fetching way to keep her party and herself politically relevant — in other words to be meaningfully in the race for power. Why so? Because the JS is far more an opposition forum to reach people and do their opposing effectively than it is the government's. The ruling party would be the happiest to have the JS turn in an yes majority vote without much ado - all the time. It is the opposition that gives life to the parliament by compelling explanations from the government and forcing them to commitments not very willingly undertaken. One party rules and another criticises by pointing to as many holes it can - making democracy work and achieve. If the opposition abdicates, as is so eloquently indicated by Begum Zia's disinterest in the committees as well as in the JS sessions, the way is opened for the government to slide into authoritarianism.

The nation now is direly in need of a great opposition party and it will be a great historic feat if BNP proves up to it.

### **British Support**

The close succession in which British delegations have been paying us visits, mostly maybe as part of their regional itineraries, but with a noticeable interest evinced in Bangladesh, has gone down very well with us. In the essence, these bear a testimony to the importance the White hall and the British private sector have come to lend to Bangladesh's development agenda. All this, we believe, now awaits a reciprocation from our government as well as the private sector in a good measure.

Speaking about what we believe to be a follow-up exploratory visit of three days' duration which got underway on Sunday, led by Sir Martin Laing, Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, we must say it is shaping up extremely well. They have expressed confidence in our economic potential and prospects but stressed the need for keeping political peace at any cost down the road. They have minced no words in saying that the poor infrastructure is a disincentive to investment. It has also been suggested that our image abroad should be brought to a par with that of India and Pakistan at least. Basically, we think, our objective and intrinsic political situation is neither perhaps worse nor better as compared with those prevailing in other countries of South Asia at the present moment.

Besides, echoing the opinion of the FBCCI and DCCI leaders, we dare say that, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia affirming their support and cooperation to them, matters relating to foreign trade and investment are in no particular danger. Since our own private sector leaders are taking heart from this, there is hardly any reason why the foreign investors who are to collaborate with them need shy away. In fact their presence could exert a sobering influence on any deteriorating outlook. News is good from the trade union sector: it is in a much quieter mood than any time before. Moreover, as for the export processing zones, labour unionism seems to have been forbidden by law.

The problems then boil down to refurbishing the physical infrastructure to attract a higher level of foreign capital investment. Indeed, it is in this vital area that we crave for British collaborative assistance in funding and technological terms in order to make a difference to our infrastructure.

## Tough Task

Bangladesh Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed is now in Brussels, the European Union headquarters. He is to plead for our RMG sector's continuing access to the GSP facility which has lately come under clouds of uncertainty. An European Commission has found fault with the way we have availed ourselves of the 12.5 per cent duty exemption purportedly circumventing the three-stage origin clause applicable to our knitwear exports to the EU. In terms of this threetiered conditionality, we were required to transform progressively from fibre to yarn, yarn to fabric and fabric to garments to be eligible for the preferential access.

Bangladesh is not a cotton producing country and has a small number of spinning mills not to be able to weave yarns needed to meet the growing demand of our knitwear industries. She is evidently in no ideal condition for the three-stage transformation stipulated by the EU. She could at best cope with a two stage production line, a point of view that is being held on to by our garment sector leaders. Minister Tofael Ahmed has to sell this idea in Brussels and ask for a clean slate re-start with a full waiver given to duty rebates already enjoyed by our knitwear exporters.

Since Bangladesh's export earnings will take an irreversible dip from a withdrawal of the GSP facility, she should get at least 3-5 years of moratorium on it to be able to develop the necessary backward linkages for self-sufficiency in the RMG sector.

# Water: After Sharing Comes Augmentation

The extreme difference in water availability between high and dry flow months is the source of our problem.

We must resolve this through augmentation, that is, increasing the availability of water when the natural

flows are the lowest.

vices linking the two parts of the country is disrupted because of the low water level and rise of char lands. Even after the watersharing agreement, the water level at Hardinge Bridge will not only remain low, it will get lower still until the lowest flow period in March/April. We are currently in the low flow period, with the shortage of water an absolute reality. The question of sharing is confined to that little bit of water which remain in the rivers flowing between two or more countries. But it is not enough.

Water sharing is the beginning but not the end to the solution of water crisis that we face

each year The general perception is that water is a free good of nature and therefore has no price. However, it becomes a scarce commodity in dry months and with the spread of irrigated agriculture, the scarcity value of water is increasing in Bangladesh. With the watersharing agreement, we will not be able to make available all the water that we need. We must augment the supply of water.

After sharing comes augmentation. This must be understood by all concerned. In our country, we face one of the most complex problems of water in the world. During the rainy season, we have an overabundance of water, often causing severe floods and disasters Water sharing is not the issue at that time; we are concerned with how to get rid of too much water - draining out as much flood water as possible down south to the Bay of Bengal. However, as soon as the dry season sets in, the abundance of water is no longer there and the

flooded lands are all dried up very soon. The extreme difference in water availability between high and dry flow months is the source of our problem. We must resolve this through augmentation, that is, increasing the availability of water when the natural flows

are the lowest.

There are two aspects to this water augmentation programme. In the long run, river flows should be stabilised by reducing the difference between high and low flows. This can be done through the construction of water reservoirs, mostly in Nepal and Bhutan, which are upper reaches of the major rivers. But this may take the major part of the 21st century. Only the bare outlines of such massive endeavour can now be worked out within the remaining years of this century. It is only a dream that we are talking about at this stage. However, there is no doubt that a beginning must be made now for the eventual final solution of the water problem; of not only Bangladesh, but the sub-region covering the entire eastern segment of the subcontinent.

In the meantime, the short and medium-term solutions should be initiated.

The short run solution is the renewal of the old Thana Irrigation Programme — originally started in the 1960s. We must recognise that everything during the Pakistan period was not bad and the Thana Irrigation Programme (TIP) was unnecessarily abandoned due primarily to the pressure from the tube-

door and turned the VIPs into

that had raked the country

since the early 1980s. Abimael

movement specialised in clas-

antly and publicly as possible,

well lobby. Taking Thana as the unit, plans were prepared to deepen the water channels, resuscitate moribund water bodies and construct water control structures for irrigation during dry months. Low lift pumps were available to transfer the water for winter cultivation TIP was an excellent beginning to augment surface water supplies and low lift pump irrigation. But there was no money in it for big time contractors. New lobbies emerged to argue that surface water is not enough dur-

1970s, privatisation became the key word for development and shallow tube-wells, cheap enough to be individuallyowned and operated, it became the main source of expanding irrigated agriculture.

Low lift pumps are now things of the past and one will find tube-wells working close to a source of surface water — adequate to irrigate the adjoining lands. To say the least, the entire system now looks ridicu-

In fact, it has now also be-



## Window on Asia **Shahed Latif**

ing dry months while we have abundant supplies of underground water. Therefore, instead of big barrage and water development schemes which are any way expensive, let us dig thousands of tube-wells which are practically vertical instead of the usual horizontal canal. It would be cheaper and easier to

promote irrigated agriculture. In came the deep tube-well irrigation. The contractors with their drilling rigs made fortunes. No doubt irrigated agriculture also expanded simultaneously but at great cost since opportunities for surface water irrigation were neglected and coverage under each tubewell continued to be poor. In the

come hazardous. Due to intensive use of underground water. arsenic poisoning is now spreading all over the land although we belong to a country which is basically well endowed with water, we have mismanaged our resources and are facing a national crisis after the tube-well wallahs have made their money. The time has now come to revert back to augmen tation of water through enhancing the water-carrying capacity of all types of water bodies build water control structures and preserve surface water as much as possible for use during the dry season. The Thana Irrigation Programme is the immediate answer and we must go

all out for it.

If it is possible to revive the TIP in all thanas of the country by 1997, the next step for the medium-term solution will be to plan for the river barrage schemes, starting with the barrage on river Padma and other such projects which are amenable to early implementation. Simultaneously, lifting water from big rivers by installing big pumps on rafts should be explored. It should be possible to feed the canals and augment water flows for an expanded lift irrigation system. The overall strategy should be to intensify pump irrigation and avoid the bad old tube-wells as far as possible.

There is nothing new in what has been suggested. The weakening of the Local Government structure after 1971 had weakened local development efforts of all types, including irrigation. The Rural Academy at Comilla, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Akhtar Hamid khan, did wonders once upon a time. Rural Works Programme, followed by TIP were significant innovations and became the mainstay of Union and Thana Council based local development initiatives. Privatisation of irrigation through promotion of tubewells, led to the collapse of the TIP. Practically, the whole of Bangladesh, excluding Chittagong Hill Tracts can be brought under irrigation. That means 3 to 4 high yielding varieties of crops from 20 million acres of cultivable land every year and rice will not be the

only crop. Agricultural diversification, that is growing high value crops presently constrained by lack of water, will be feasible on a country-wide scale. Consequently, value added from agriculture should grow at a sustainable rate of 3 to 5 per cent per annum, in spite of the hazards of floods and cvclones — while droughts will be avoidable for all times to come.

Irrigation is basic to agricultural growth in Bangladesh and the ambitious targets in this respect can be achieved only if we augment supplies when natural water flows tend to be minimum. We have all heard of Cherapunji in Assam, just north of Sylhet, where the rainfall is one of the highest in the world and all these blessings from Heaven ultimately end up in the Bay of Bengal as saline water. Water is a critical resource. We ignore it when it is

TIP is confined to micro level frrigation development. It would not provide for irrigation at the desirable scale. We must proceed to implement a comprehensive barrage building programme in the Brahmaputra-Meghna-Padma river basin to augment water supplies on a bigger scale. Eventually, barrages may not be enough. High in the mountains of Nepal and Bhutan, we must retain water in big reservoirs so that the huge differences between high and low river flows are considerably narrowed down

The water-sharing agreement has opened a new horizon. It will be an important milestone in our development history. And, along with the sharing of water, should come the augmentation of it, using strategies old and new.

## Stalemate over Release of Hostages in Peru Continues

by ASM Nurunnabi

Despite growing pressure from outside, the roughly 20 MRTA guerillas holed up inside the Japanese ambassador's home showed no signs of crumbling. Nestor Cerpa, leader of the group holding the hostages, told journalists: "We are inflexible in our original position."

OR the background to the hostage crisis in Lima, the capital of Peru, it may be noted that Peru is the third-largest nation of South America, situated on its west coast. Quechua Indians are the largest ethnic group in the country, encompassing almost half of the total population; mestios and whites are the other major ethnic groups. There are also minority populations of blacks and Asians (particularly Japanese).

In the recent history of Peru, a military junta seized power in 1969. In August 1975, another military coup replaced the ruling junta and paved the way for a return to civilian rule in 1980. The popularly elected civilian government in the 1980s and 90s. however, were beset with skyrocketing inflation and unemployment, a gigantic foreign debt and violence by guerilla groups using terrorist tactics such as neo-Maoist Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

On 17th December last, the Japanese embassy in Lima, became the seat of a high drama of terrorism by leftist Tupac Amaru guerillas when they seized more than 500 hostages to press demands that at least 400 of their comrades jailed in Peru be released.

"Let our prisoners go, or we

will all die in here," one of the guerillas told a local radio station. Not quite; they soon released the women and some elderly men. But the rest - including two government ministers, the head of the Supreme Court, the head of the anti-terrorist police and his predecessor, plus some 17 ambassadors were firmly held at gun point. And there, except for a few who were freed to act as mediators, they stayed while the Tupac Amaru haggled for the release of their jailed comrades.

laborated with them; if need be, All these hostages were invitees to a garden party held by kill most of the inhabitants of an entire village, to teach oththe Japanese Ambassador in ers a lesson. The Tupac Amaru Peru in honour of Emperor movement, Cuban-inspired and Akihito's birthday. The festivinamed after two historic leadties were suddenly halted by an ers of the rebellion against explosion and bursts of gunfire Spanish rule centuries ago, was as about 25 guerillas of the Tuless ruthless, preferring empac Amaru Revolutionary Movement crashed into the bassies, bank and businesses as party from a rented villa next its targets.

For a time, those defeats for

the two groups looked final. The The affair was a bitter blow guerillas' only future was to to the government of President keep out of sight, or risk the Alberto Fujimori, the son of much-feared "faceless" military Japanese immigrants. This was courts that try people accused of possibly the single most audaterrorism. Both groups were not cious act in the history of teractually finished, though the rorists' hostage taking. The police made such a claim. Both prominence of the prisoners. groups had been hiding in along with the fact that the mountains, and had links with siege was technically taking (and used to prey on) drug dealplace on the soil of a foreign ers. In the past 18 months both embassy, turned what might groups had revived, especially have been simply a debilitating the Shining Path, which split domestic emergency in Peru after Gurman, in 1993, called into an international scandal for it to lay down its arms. In It dealt a staggering blow to Fu-July 1995, the Shining Path jimori, who has staked much of carried out several bomb athis political fortune on stamptacks. They grew even bolder ing out homegrown terrorism. since then. Several attacks last At the same time, it lent world July brought the resignation of wide recognition to a group of the chief anti-terrorist police insurgents that Fujimori only As if to rub in the victory, the two month ago dismissed as a Shining Path, two days later spent force. took temporary control of an Fujimori's strong-arm tacentire village and later three tics between 1990 and 1992 Indian villages were overrun. seemed to have smashed the two

"collaborators" getting the far-left guerilla movements usual treatment. Far less had been heard of Gurman, leader of the Shining the Tupac Amaru guerillas. Path (nastier and bigger of the thought to number at best a few two) was captured in 1992. His hundred. But last December Lima Spectacular did more sic "Maoist" terrorism, would than bring them into the limekill local officials, as unpleaslight. Though smaller than its notorious rival, Tupac Amaru kill ordinary people who coldrew inspiration not from

China but from Cuba, and recruits from the country's farthest shanty towns of the dispossessed poor.

From its first attack in 1982, the group leaned towards urban terrorism, much of it aimed at the US. It hurled a rocket propelled grenade at the American embassy, lobbed mortars at the US Ambassador's residence and bombed several restaurants in Lima. Those acts initially imbued the guerillas with an aura somewhat between Robin Hood mystique and radical chic. In 1990 the group staged the most spectacular stunt when nearly 50 members tunneled out of the Canto Grande prison near Lima, supposedly the nation's most secure jail. Two years later, Fujimori seized near dictatorial powers

that savaged virtually every democratic institution in the country along with measures that enabled him to implement draconian security steps that eventually crippled both the rebel movements. Now while through a well-

planned operation designed to catapult Tupac Amaru into international limelight, Fujimori wrestled with conflicting advice from his two most important allies: Japan pressed for negotiation, and the US counselled him not to cut any deal. Batches of hostages were re-

leased, but the impasse still remains unbroken. Freeing a few bedraggled hostages at a time, the rebels occupying the Japanese ambassador's residence have kept their bargaining power strong by holding on to the President's brother and other select captives. The remaining 73 captives include five Supreme Court Judges eight generals, five congressmen, two foreign ambassadors. The Japanese Prime Minister felt that the situation was becoming more tense as the number neared a level the guerillas could control. It was also felt that a reduced number of hostages could increase the likelihood of an attempted breakout or make the Peruvian government more likely to use force to end the crisis. Having fewer hostages would also reduce the rebels' bargaining

The rebels in recent days seemed to have hardened their stance, reviving their original demand that their 300 comrades be freed from Peruvian jails as a price for the hostages' liberation. President Fujimori repeatedly said he would not permit that even though his brother was among those held In a communique read out by one of the released hostages on behalf of the rebels, it was stated that the hostage takers were 'willing to withdraw from the occupied residence by way of dialogue. For this it is important to reflect why this extreme situation arose in the first place and to look at the situation in the prisons and the trauma through which the families of our jailed comrades have lived

President Fujimori's refusal to bow to rebel demands received full backing from the world's leading nations. In the strongest show yet of world condemnation of the hostage crisis, the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations and Russia ruled out any concession to the Tupac Amaru holding remaining hostages, backing Peru's rejection of the militants demands.

Despite growing pressure from outside, the roughly 20 MRTA guerillas holed up inside the Japanese ambassador's home showed no signs of crumbling. Nestor Cerpa, leader of the group holding the hostages. told journalists: "We are inflexible in our original position." He said he was "open to any mediator Cuban leader Fidel Castro or Russian President Boris Yeltsin or whoever." An opposition legislator, Congressman Harold Forsyth, urged Peru's government to ask former US President Jimmy Carter to mediate in negotiations with the Marxist rebels. Carter, who has acted as trouble-shooter in various international crises, might be acceptable to the MRTA guerillas.

In the latest development, Peruvian President Fujimori said he would not rule out the possibility of using force to end the hostage crisis. He added: "If some hostages are killed or injured, we might choose a different option." Putting aside the issue of the release of the jailed MRTA rebels, Fujimori said his government was ready to discuss a variety of other issues in a "flexible" manner in face-toface talks with the rebels.

Letters for publication in these columns should be addressed to the Editor and legibly written or typed with double space. For reasons of space, short letters are preferred, and all are subject to editing and cuts. Pseudonyms are accepted. However, all communications must bear the writer's real name, signature and address.

#### Lawyer goes unlawful

Sir. As a very ordinary citizen and possibly a very naive one at that there are many occurrences in this country that I do not understand. Thus it is incomprehensible to me how a busy highway can be altogether shut down by a mob for hours at an end to seek remedy for some of their personal grievances. This was on a Sunday morning (5 January, 1997) as I was on my way to Joydevpur. I was stopped just outside the city limits, harassed, roughed up and almost beaten up and my car damaged by a mob who were protesting against the DC of the area.

it also has become a common practice by major political parties to close down a major thoroughfare of Dhaka to have their political meetings or even some so-called cultural functions like, singing and dancing, causing untold misery to common people. This sort of occurrence has become so common that the average citizens have given up protesting and have accepted this as their fate - almost like an act of God.

It seems only the powerful power derived through the might of arms or political patronage — have the unfettered freedom of movement while the rest should conduct their daily lives at the mercy and whim of the ones who wield power.

Here, I will relate a situation

which I believe cannot happen in a law-abiding and civilized society and if it does, I would like to know about it. A very close relative of mine has become the victim of treachery of a lawyer. The case is like this: my uncle and his sisters own large parcels of land in Sherpur Town — a small community about 120 miles north of Dhaka and also in two villages near there. As my uncle who ordinarily resides in Dhaka, but is away from the country for extended periods of time on business and personal reasons, has given the responsibility of looking after the property to one of his cousins who is now a prominent lawyer of the town.

All the living and educational expenses of this lawyer were provided by my uncle's father. This man roomed and boarded in my uncle's house for over 15 years while he pursued a law degree and later worked in a private firm at Motijheel. As this lawyer's family were

needy, my uncle never asked him to give him the income from his properties. After the lawyer became quite successful - even prosperous, my uncle wished that he start giving the income of these properties. At this, the lawyer at first claimed that nothing much grow on these lands and later insisted that not much land is left there. though my uncle all along knew the details of the lands and had all the documents. On investigation, it was found that the

lawyer and his brother had sold plots of land to various illiterate and poor farmers. In this situation my uncle is in a great quandary as the farmers who bought these lands are really very poor. My uncle is reluctant to dislodge these farmers from the lands as they were tricked by the lawyer and they bought the land in good faith, though the purchases were not legal and valid.

Now the question is: what must my uncle should do without causing any harm to these farmers? Of course, legal action against the lawyer is an option but that will be a 20-year ordeal and this lawyer fellow committed these crimes knowing full well the harrowing difficulty, delay and expense of obtaining justice in Bangladesh courts.

We know that there are professional bodies like the Medical Association, Bar Association and the like in this country whose duty is to monitor and discipline their members for malpractice, ethical violations and other unprofessional acts. Could a lawyer or a knowledgeable reader of The Daily Star advise us what my uncle should do in a situation like this? Any advice, suggestion or information by the readers will be highly appreciated.

Naz Shafinaz 6 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka

### "Formalising a Uniform Watchdog Mechanism"

Sir, Thanks to Ikram Sehgal for his writings on Pakistan. It is apparent from his writing how Pakistan is pulling through. He maintained that martial law was imposed in

Pakistan for ensuring accountability. But truth is different

We have strong objection against his remark on Bangladesh in connection with imposing martial law by Lt Gen H M Ershad. Martial law was not meant to salvage us, rather he grabbed power and fulfilled his desires only. We had to pay

price for this. True essence of our liberation struggle in '71 was to establish democracy in all fabrics of life, and still, the sprit remains the same. This is the only system that has no scope for anybody assuming the highest position in state to become recalcitrant for any cause, as the system itself always has approval of transparency.

True democracy does not need facade. The so-called elite and organised forces in order to ascend to power very often use state machinery.

A Democracy Loving Citizen Chittagong-4212

### "Why Should the Students Listen?" Sir, I would like to thank Dr

A K Monow-war Uddin Ahmed for his valuable article published in The Daily Star on 21st January 1997. I am really convinced about his valuable suggestions regarding prevention of further deterioration of university campus affairs.

Recently, we had a research abhors a vacuum). study on "Campus terrorism: a It would appear to the disincase study of DU," under the guidance of Dr Imtiaz Ahmed and held a seminar on the subject in which we suggested various methods regarding preven tion of campus violence. Mr Arif Hossain Khan

BSS (Hons) IR Dept. DU OPINION Curing Political Malaria

Hopeful changes over the BTV: the late president Zia's birthday public programme was screened for a lengthy few minutes in the main news bulletin: soon after BNP resumed its

presence in the JS.

After a surfeit diet of nonstop, bitter bilateral political activity during the last two years which disrupted life at all levels and all sectors of the society (there was no foreign invasion), the masses got a salutary taste of what it is like to be caught between political feuds.

A similar 'stop-everything' movement is not an experience to be relived with relish, especially for reasons which look trifle after removing the mindless egos of the spoilt politicians. The opposition is aware of this type of negative sensitivity in the mood of the majority; and the party in power have to handle the current confrontation judging by the ear.

With this familiar background, the 'draw-attention' notice is on the individual politicians: are they willing to change their style (in degree or kind?) for better, acceptable performance, and try to curb the unethical practices of the party? The national consensus is slowly but surely veering towards one focus: trouble-free politics, without involving the non-politicians (the students are included here), the labour and staff unions, and the bureaucracy. The politicians are squarely responsible for the development (positive or negative) of the governance of the country since its birth, whether they were in the seat or not (nature

terested and outside observers as if the two major political parties were created for the sole purpose of wasting time on each other, neglecting the priorities of the country and the masses develop the party first, then pay attention to the development of

the country. The politicians link up too many issues to push their party objectives, and spoil the broth. In food and eating we also have the epidemic 'systems loss'; the greatest loss (No 1

prize) is in the political sector. Now the opposition has decided to adopt the old maxim of building up public opinion against the big neighbour. It is going to create smoke and heat and some tears, beatings and physical damages. The gamble is on the sudden change in public opinion.

The party in power has opened too many fronts top soon, and the opposition has added a few more to create diversions. After the stock exchange fiasco. the KAFCO crisis appears to have been deliberately created to embarrass the administration and the foreign investment watchers. Other spoke-in-the-wheel minimovements are naturally expected in the coming months. The consensus on the national economy is as far away as ever. despite the forthcoming Eid Mubarak greetings.

Each MP of the JS has to abide by a self-regulatory code of conduct to keep the parties derailing from the moral tracks (if they cannot do it, then the outsiders will try to do it, according to plain and simple logic). Who will be the convenor and the referee? We are fond of playing (not working), but hardly bother about the rules and the regulation of the games. The encouragement comes from the top, and not from the bottom. There are many political gods (or goddesses) at the top, and the heavens are split asunder with thunder and squalls, to spoil the fields below. The professed fertilisers act as antidotes, and tend to breed political mosquitoes.

Any cure for political malaria? The preventives don't