

## INDIAN ELECTIONS

## No Wave Marks the First Phase

by Zaghlul Ahmed Chowdhury

The voting pattern as assessed by the observers shows that no 'wave' is there for any party and the race for the power remains wide open with the BJP and the Congress being the forerunners.

THE first phase of the voting in the Indian elections is over while balloting in the largest democracy and population-wise second biggest country in the world will be completed in another three phases culminating in the first week of March. The results would be known immediately after the voting in the last phase is over and a new lower house of parliament (Lok Sabha) will be constituted by March 15 and a new government is expected to take over by March 20.

However, who will this time take the reins in New Delhi is uncertain since the hustings are unlikely to give a clear winner and in such an event the formation of the new government may be delayed in the midst of claims by the contending parties if none really comes up to make a rationale claim for power. In the process, exploration of the majority — whether it is the single largest parliamentary party or a coalition — may take some time to crystallise and formation of the new government may be delayed. If any clear winner emerges through the polls — either by the forerunner Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with its allies or the Congress with those supporting it in a broad-based understanding — this will come as a big surprise to all and would shatter all calculations of the polls scenario. The claims to this effect made both by the BJP and the Congress that they alone or with the help of their supporters will be able to form the government are not being taken seriously by the analysts or the authoritative quarters. Such claims are only expected by a major player of the political spectrum and are only a part of the rhetoric now. Gone are the days when a single party could command comfortable majority in parliament and could rule the country by its own strength.

Obviously, the centre of attractions are the two main political parties and their star campaigners — Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Sonia Gandhi. The 15-party United Front (UF) which ruled the country under two governments during the in-

terregnum of the last elections and the current ones makes no claim that it would secure a majority and will form the government. However, the UF says that the turn of events of the scene following the polls could be such that it may once again lead the nation like what happened after the last polls. The front has no dearth of good leaders in the form of I K Gujral, H D Deve Gowda, Sharad Yadav or Ram Bilas Paswan from the Janata Dal which is the main component of the UF or Jyoti Basu of the CPM and Inderjit Gupta of the CPI or G K Moopnar of the Tamil Nadu Congress or even Mulayam Singh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party — which all form the UF.

The UF which together had more seats in the last house compared to the single largest BJP or the second parliamentary group Congress, is unlikely to be able to retain its strength and as such suffers from no illusion that it will form the next government once again in India. But the BJP and the Congress are certainly in the thick of government formation and any of their leaders is the likely prime minister.

The first phase of the polling covering 222 parliamentary constituencies in the 545-seat Lok Sabha was spread over several states including the 'Hindi heartland' belt like the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as well as including all the seven seats in the capital Delhi. The voting has already settled the fate of such leaders like the interim prime minister Inder Kumar Gujral from Jalandhar in the Punjab and the friends and political allies turned foes like Janata Dal president Sharad Yadav and former Dal president and present Rastriya Janata Dal chief Laloo Prasad Yadav from a constituency in Bihar. Laloo is the former chief minister of Bihar and had to quit his position facing a corruption charge while his wife Rabri Devi is the current chief minister in the state. The violence in the state, the violence in India took maximum lives in the Bihar state. Here, two powerful Yadav's are fighting to retain their image and influence and much of the terrorism was reported from their parliament-

tary area while violence also erupted in some other states including the southern Tamil Nadu.

The trend of first days voting clearly indicates that no 'wave' existed for any party or group despite the assertions that a 'BJP wave' or a 'Sonia factor' is sweeping the country. It was evident from the movements of the voters. BJP's political fortune was soaring high till three weeks ago when Sonia Gandhi threw her hat in the active campaigning for the lacklustre Congress. This has not only halted the BJP juggernaut but also considerably improved the position of the once dominant Congress in the election. The BJP got 163 seats in the last elections and ruled the country for a brief 13 days by virtue of being the largest single party but bowed out of the office because of the lack of support in the parliament. The Congress secured 140 seats and lent support to secular United Front twice to form the government in a bid to prevent the 'communal' BJP from remaining in power despite serious differences with the UF.

When the elections were announced, the BJP appeared as a formidable force with all the prospects to improve its tally significantly and some quarters had even predicted that the party with its allies would command absolute majority in the house and would rule for five years without much difficulties. The BJP had three regional parties as its allies in the last polls — but this time it found more allies in the form of unexpected development like getting support from the secular 'Lokshakti' of R K Hegde in the southern Karnataka state and former chief minister Jayalalitha in the Tamil Nadu. It also made every effort to woo the minority Muslim voters and perhaps succeeded to some extent. A clear trend favouring the BJP emerged sometime ago till the 'Sonia factor' began playing positively for the Congress — as the widow of the former prime minister and Congress president she started drawing big crowd in most of the places as the political inheritor of India, Nehru family, that is inextricably linked with

the history and governance of the independent India.

The constituencies covered in the first phase are seen as BJP and also the Congress stronghold and much of their expected returns are to come from these 222 seats. But the trend did not indicate any pro-BJP wave in the mood of voters although the party is expected to fare well in these areas. The percentage of the voters who turned up the polling stations was more or less like that in the last elections when no party had any clear favourable trend. Sonia factor is expected to help Congress also by bringing more female voters to the booths since Sonia is considered as closer to the womenfolk for a variety of reasons including being herself a woman and her solemn glamour.

The BJP launched scathing attack on the Italian-born lady for her being a foreigner and having what is called less links with the Indian culture. But the general people were not much disturbed by this allegation as Sonia delivered her speeches in Hindi and in most cases was accompanied by her daughter Priyanka and son Rahul. She cast her vote in a New Delhi polling centre with son Rahul who has been called back from London especially for the Congress campaign.

A notable feature of this election is that the country's president Dr K R Narayanan cast his vote making a departure from the former head of the country. In the past the Indian presidents refrained from casting votes evidently to give an impression that this ceremonial highest office is supposed to be neutral. But president Narayanan and his wife cast votes as they stood on a queue in the 'Rastriya Bhaban' polling station. The president coming from an humble but educated background in the southern Kerala state felt that he like any other citizen of the country should also take part in the important voting process.

The voting pattern as assessed by the observers shows that no 'wave' is there for any party and the race for the power remains wide open with the BJP and the Congress being the forerunners.

Letter From America  
Are Some UN Inspectors Spies?

Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed writes from Princeton

Iraq is defenseless. Does the West want to prove their manhood by taking potshots at a caged animal? According to sane American public opinion, the US has no legal or moral right to attack Iraq.

ACCORDING to the Wall Street Journal, America's largest circulation daily, some UN arms inspectors to Iraq are close to being spies for their government, as the Iraqis allege.

The Journal wrote on February 11: "United Nations inspectors routinely have given briefings to military officials in their home countries after returning from Iraq missions. The briefings run against the official policy of the agency conducting the inspections, the UN special commission, Unscim, which tells its inspectors to keep all information confidential."

The Journal continued: "The briefings could fuel Iraqi claims that the US and other inspectors are spies for their governments... The briefings are a touchy subject these days for Unscim, says one US inspector who gave briefings to Pentagon researchers and US arms control officials... Richard Butler, head of Unscim, denied there were routine briefings, while acknowledging he has no way of knowing what inspectors do when they return to their employers."

Ronald G. Manley, a British Unscim inspector until 1994, says: "Every time I returned home I was wheeled in to the Ministry of Defense. The government is paying for you, so they feel they have the right. Manley says the practice raised concern within Unscim because the government that gets the briefing may reach a starker conclusion about Iraqi weapon programme than Unscim itself. Tim Travan, an Iraq specialist who worked for Unscim, says that some inspectors are using their experience to help their governments fight political battles over how to deal with Iraq."

The Journal report concludes with: "An Iraqi official said yesterday that Iraq has protested flagrant violations of the confidentiality agreement, including American Unscim inspectors' telephoning their offices in Washington directly from Baghdad to pass on information, using US-supplied phones. Rolf Ekeus, head of Unscim from 1991 until last July, confirms the incidents, but says he put a stop to them quickly because it was very seriously harming the credibility of our

operation. Washington was not happy." Mr. Richard Butler, the head of Unscim: are you the reason why Australia has joined the coalition against Iraq?

As was stated in this column earlier, chemical and biological weapons are not 'weapons of mass destruction'. They are pretty useless and ineffective. According to the New York Times, that is why the US, Britain, China, France, Russia and Israel have stockpiled nuclear weapons, "real weapons of mass destruction" and not chemical and biological weapons. According to the New York Times (February 8): "When President Nixon renounced America's biological-weapons research in 1969, he certainly had pragmatic considerations in mind."

## US and Britain do not have the UN mandate to attack Iraq

Professor of Law John Quigley of Ohio State University wrote in the New York Times on February 12: "...it is a dubious conclusion that a bombardment of Iraq by the United States and Britain would be lawful. You rely primarily on Security Council Resolution 687, adopted at the end of 1991. Persian Gulf war, which requires Iraq to destroy weapons of mass destruction under international supervision. If the Security Council's mandate has been violated, it is, under the United Nations Charter, up to the Security Council — not the United States and Britain — to do something about it."

The previous day, Messrs Michael Ratner and Jules Lobel, two lawyers who litigated Delums vs. Bush, the case that forced President Bush to obtain Congressional approval before the 1991 war against Iraq, also disagreed with the New York Times contention that the January 1991 law and various United Nations resolutions grant the President sufficient authority to attack Iraq. "The January 1991 law does not apply to subsequent resolutions, and cannot be stretched to cover a United Nations resolution covering inspections passed months later. Nor do any United Nations resolutions give the President, or the Congress

for that matter, authority to use force to enforce Resolution 687 regarding inspections. The clear intent of the Security Council was only to provide authority to oust Iraq from Kuwait."

Mr John Carey, an international lawyer echoes the same sentiment in the New York Times the same day: "Upon Iraq's breach of its obligation to allow full inspection of its chemical and biological weapons, the cease-fire enacted by Resolution 687 ended. That brought back into play Resolution 678 of November 29, 1990 which authorised the Desert Storm effort to remove Iraq from Kuwait." Iraq is now out of Kuwait.

## The West's hidden agenda

According to the Wall Street Journal, February 13: "The US says it is threatening to attack Iraq for refusing to comply with UN resolutions. The US also has an interest in hitting Saddam Hussein to keep him from building up new economic, military and political strength. 'We've all agreed: the most difficult situation is if he complies,' says one top US analyst of Iraq. Iraqi officials believe that the US and Britain have targeted Iraq because its state-owned oil industry is difficult for the West to influence. Western powers may indeed have an economic interest in continued tension in the Gulf. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are both considering huge weapons purchases, including jet fighters from the US, Britain and France." War tensions spur more purchases.

## A big mistake

President Clinton is about to make a big mistake. The US was expecting street riots to erupt in Muslim countries during the Gulf War. They were surprised when nothing happened. There were two reasons for it: Muslims did not like Saddam invading Kuwait, and Muslim nations were part of the Gulf War coalition. Muslims are now seething with anger. They realize that they have been used by the West's real agenda, hidden from them, was the complete destruction of Iraq. That is why there are no Muslim nations in

the present coalition. If President Clinton is expecting the same muted response from Muslim masses, he may be in for a big surprise.

What can one say about Britain. They were up to no good when they were powerful. Now that they are not, they are still best friends with the devil. It is a pity that the only way a nation of no consequence can attract attention to itself is by exposing its shame, and by licking America's boots! In the juvenile parlance, the British need a good hiding!

On February 13, a New York Times reader could not resist a swipe at President Clinton: "At the same news conference at which President Clinton contended the use of military force against Saddam Hussein, we find the President telling us, on the question of Northern Ireland, 'Nothing worth having can be accomplished through violence.' My, how circumstances change principles!"

Iraq is defenseless. Does the West want to prove their manhood by taking potshots at a caged animal? As quoted above, according to sane American public opinion, the US has no legal or moral right to attack Iraq. Yet they seem hell bent on doing so. What does that tell the world: that if you have the might, you have your way. Is that the reason why the West does not want others to have sophisticated weapons; so that they be the world's only bullies?

President Clinton, in light of the fact that we have heard so many lies from you regarding the situation in Iraq, how can we believe you when you say you have had no sexual intercourse with Monica Lewinsky, and that you did not ask her to lie about it! You have already forfeited personal moral authority to lead the world. Now please do not squander the US's role as the moral leader of the world.

It's the West that is killing the Iraqi children, not Saddam. It is they who enforce a "no fly" zone. It is they who stop food and medicine from reaching Iraqi children, not Saddam. Next time the US State Department recites human rights violations in other countries, some one ought to take two days to recite the names of millions of the Iraqi children murdered by the US-sponsored embargo.

## The US\$ 82 Question

... barring one or two exceptions none of the top 16 businessmen of this country accompanying the PM refused the US\$ 82. Some of these honourable gentlemen bought perfumes duty free for several hundred dollars but the US\$ 82 they took as a matter of right!

PAKISTAN'S Economy has two major fundamental problems that don't seem to go away, viz (1) more than 90 per cent of the economy is not documented and thus those covered are out of the tax ambit and (2) of the 10 per cent that does pay taxes, only the salaried class pay anything close to their actual dues, the self-employed (i.e. businessmen, tradespeople like doctors, engineers, etc) do not pay even 10 per cent of what they actually should. Of the 90 per cent undocumented, more than half are in the rural sector i.e. almost the entire tax burden today is on the shoulders of the unfortunate salaried class who make up about 50 per cent of the 10 per cent who do pay. And they pay only because most of it is deducted at source. This principle of deduction at source can be applied elsewhere though in different mode and style. The size of major loss of revenues are the Customs and Excise duties, customs rebate being an open scandal. If Pakistan has to survive economically a major effort has to be made to raise revenues so as to have money to meet not only our non-development and development expenditures but also the amount needed annually for debt-servicing. As the PM explained quite graphically in a recent Investors Conference, we are borrowing money externally to meet our foreign debt commitments and internally to meet our recurring governmental expenditures, paying out from one hand what we are receiving on a beggar's platter. Unless we simplify our tax laws which are presently confusing (and as such very fair game to be circumvented), and bring down taxes, customs and excise duties into simple, affordable slabs, the problems will persist as it gives the tax collectors enough room both in volume and ambiguity to maneuver pilferage.

When the Nawaz Sharif regime came to power, it was on the crest of public belief expecting radical change for the positive in the economy. Politics has never been a strong PML suit, but the advent of a businessman PML leader saw a marked perception in public opinion that fundamental reforms would see the amelioration of their miseries. One year later, public opinion is not so sanguine anymore as the perception has developed that even this businessman PM is a hostage to special and vested interests, most of whom are averse to paying taxes and duties of any kind. It is evident that instead of implementing far reaching reforms the regime is still groping for ideas from external sources with very few clues how to implement these suggestions. They are also rather too sensitive to their own business constituency as the threat by the traders to go

## AS I SEE IT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

on strike on the GST issue is nothing but open blackmail. No wonder the PML hierarchy is now looking to expatriate Pakistanis to come and rub some of their magic charm on the homeland to reinvigorate the economy.

Let us take the potential taxable sectors one by one. First are the half a million or so unfortunate souls in the salaried class, bearing most of the tax burden, a majority percentage being government servants. The initial premise must be that everyone who gets a salary must pay taxes, irrespective of the size of his salary structure, on a flat basis, clubbing together all his receivables. Suppose we were to levy 5 per cent on all income, the person getting a minimum Rs.3,000 per month would get Rs.150 deducted and someone getting Rs.15,000 per month would get Rs.750 deducted and so on. This premise must be then implemented for all the self-employed without exception, whether it be a small trader, a barber, a tailor, etc. A local Council must decide the quantum of flat tax to be levied, the minimum slab being designated by the Federal Government. For those getting under Rs.3,000 per month, the employer will have to pay 5 per cent taxes without deducting any tax from employees — but everyone who earns a salary must be in the tax slab without exception. As regards Corporate taxes, these should be brought down to 30 per cent of profits, calculating profits at 15 per cent of total revenues. The aforementioned can be computed into a flat 5 per cent on the corporate revenues, something in line with the GST.

So as not to allow revenue slippage at the lower slabs, Corporations will be restricted to paying at the very minimum what they had been paying on the average for the past three years. It would be the duty of the local Union Council to ensure that everyone and every property in their area is registered as a tax-paying entity. To cover various loopholes experts' advice must be taken. We must get everyone into the tax net, one way of doing this is to decentralize the levying of taxation down to the grassroots level under revenue proceeds deposited under Federal Heads in banks. Every area wants to show it has more population so as to get more government funds, increase in population means need of more civic services. Commensurately the local taxes must be related to popu-

lation size. The fundamental premise is to lower the tax rate and get everyone to pay taxes according to his/her estimated earning. Further there is a need to levy heavy fines as well as confiscation of property for tax dodgers. This country has paid enough for their sins of omission.

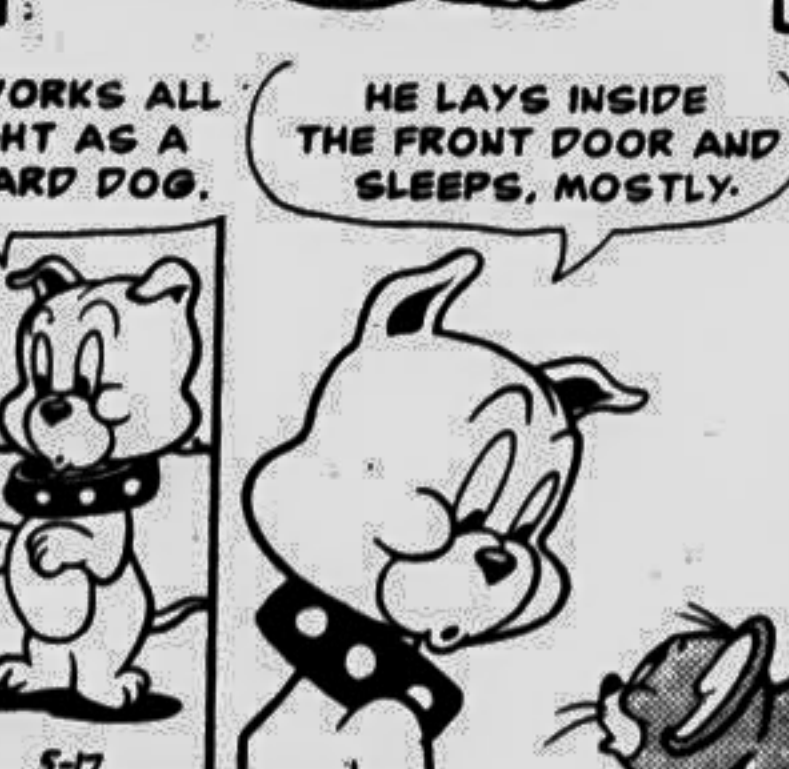
There is a dire need to reducing customs and excise duties as the present high rate means more pilferage. For all finished goods and products the customs duties must be 15 per cent while the excise duties must not be more than 5 per cent with capacity tax levied on industries to avoid manipulation by individuals. On raw material, spares etc the customs duties must be kept at 5 per cent so as to encourage the manufacture/assembly of products in Pakistan in view of the cheaper labour available. Instead of protecting industries which are not viable, this would encourage our small industries to establish manufacturing relationships with outside entities.

To protect against the slippage of revenues, industries will not be allowed to pay less than what they have been paying on the average for the past three years. Private sector expertise can be obtained by the government in locating tax dodgers with an incentive remuneration of 10 per cent of whatever extra taxes are collected.

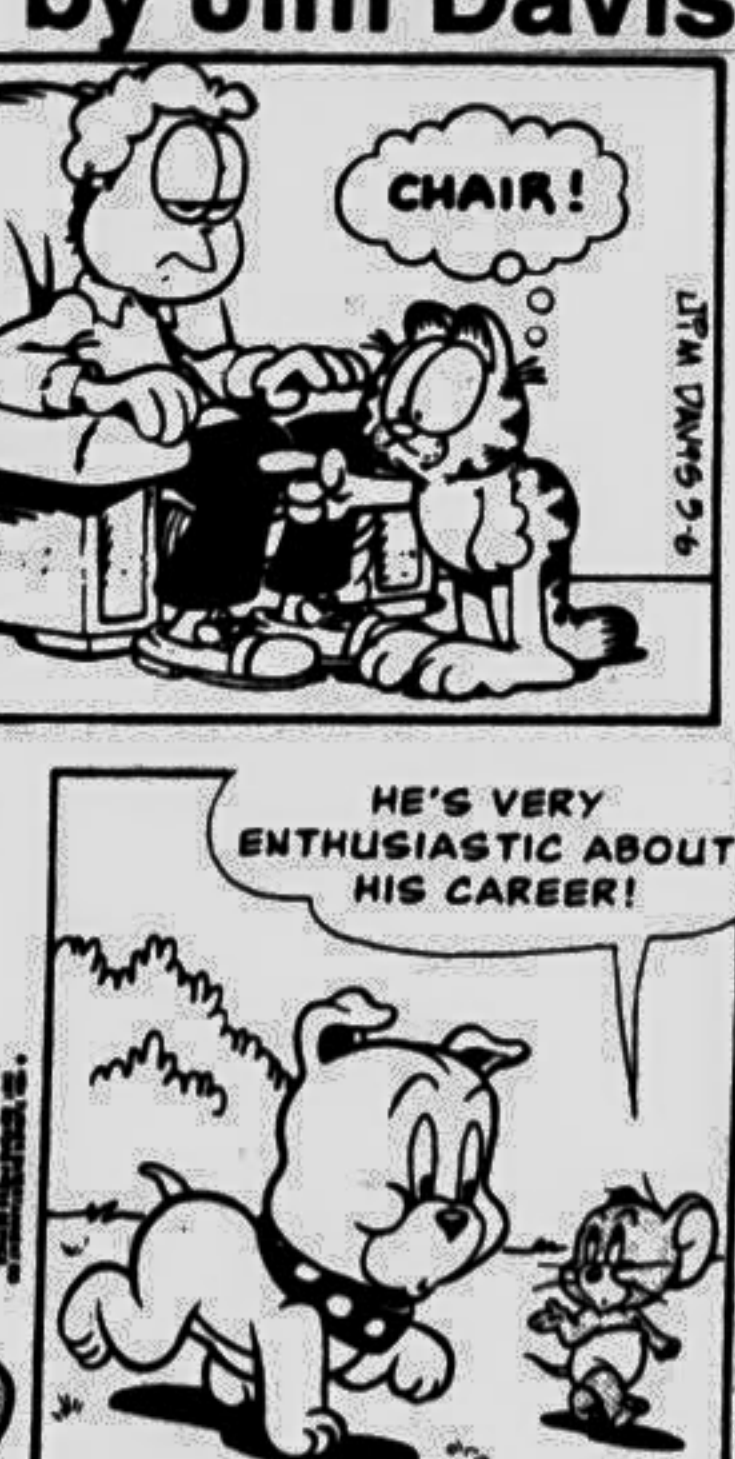
Within days of Mian Nawaz Sharif coming to power, he reduced taxes across the board to generate enthusiasm among businessmen. While congratulating themselves for getting the concessions, what the businessman gave back to the PM was a kick in the teeth as they demanded more and more concessions. The moral of this example is that this is a bunch whose greed can never be assuaged. On a recent visit with the PM's entourage a gentleman came down the aisle in the aircraft bearing envelopes containing US\$ 82 as daily allowance for the three days stay. While it was understandable that the government functionaries needed the money as they have limited means of income, except for one or two exceptions none of the top 16 businessmen of this country accompanying the PM refused the US\$ 82. Some of these honourable gentlemen bought perfumes duty free for several hundred dollars but the US\$ 82 they took as a matter of right. And we expect this bunch to pay their taxes! Most of them are defaulters in the banks and still are brazen enough to flaunt their wealth, both here and abroad. What they need is focussed private sector investigation to locate their income and wealth, with no mercy of any kind for looters.

In essence what we have to do is to dangle the carrot but also display a big stick. The US\$ 82 symbolises both a question and an answer, nobody will pay taxes voluntarily unless we reduce taxes but a visible threat must be there to make sure everyone pays or else this country is headed down a financial black hole.

## Garfield®



## by Jim Davis



by Dr F H Chowdhury

The impasse has to be resolved by diplomatic means only as the world has no appetite of subjecting the innocent Iraqi civilians as hapless preys of collateral damage in search of Saddam's 'evil weapons.'

IN the dying days of Iraq's unpopularity, Hashemite monarchy and in 60s, Iraq had the ablest Arab diplomat and thinker in the name of Nuri-Es Said who played the role of a roving ambassador of his country and the Arab world. That was a period of turbulence in the Middle East as independent Arab nations were coming into being with the departures of British, French and Italian occupying forces from their respective colonies. Many of these countries including Iraq, which came through British mandate, were rich in oil and mineral resources.

For a time the Arabs were basking in the glory of their Pan Arab nationalism led by the patriotic leaders Nasser and Gaddafi. Egypt, Libya and Syria formed United Arab Republic to bolster the Arab Nationalism; the dream was, unfortunately, for the Arabs short-lived. The question of Palestine and the existence of Israel were the intractable problems that united and divided the Arabs during the last half a century. Their alliances formed and faltered around it.

Kuwait had an independent existence even before Iraq came into being in its present form and the boundary, Kuwait's ruling family never saw them as a part of Iraq although Iraq always thought otherwise. During early 70s the question of Iraq's claim over Kuwait was raised but not permanently solved. Iraq had always thought that at an opportune moment in the future it would annex and occupy it and nobody would raise an eyebrow. Such an opportunity

arose after the indecisive Gulf War in which Iraq and Iran both suffered massive losses and Iraq more heavily, economically, when Saddam miscalculated the risks of Kuwait invasion and subsequent annexation in the face of the total opposition from its Arab neighbours and Western allies. Iraq lost the war heavily.

Iraq was forced to disgorge its illegal occupation of Kuwait, Iraq once again suffered mightily in the hands of the superior allied war machine. The allies imposed no-fly zones to the North and to the South and imposed economies sanctions and Iraq was not allowed to sell its oil, dependent on which was its entire economy.

UN passed resolutions under which UNSCOM was formed whose duty it was to destroy Iraq's nuclear capability, its weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological war arsenals. Iraq, to give it its due credit, for a long time, co-operated with the commission and

great deal of its war machinery was destroyed by the commission with its own co-operation; but unfortunately as the sanctions started to bite hard and there were no prospects of lifting them in the offing, Iraq saw a hidden Anglo-American agenda in the name of the UNSCOM activities. Iraq then started playing its sovereignty card and returned the UN inspectors home branding them as US spies.

US and the UK, however, would not take it for an answer. They are resolved to bring Saddam to his knees. A game of great brinkmanship is being played now in the name of implementation of UN resolutions.

US and UK have amassed a formidable air and naval armada in the Persian Gulf and the neighbouring "friendly" countries to launch a massive attack on Iraq if diplomacy failed. Fortunately for Iraq, no other members of the UN Security Council are in favour of

solution of this problem by application of force; their preferred route is diplomacy and various members of the UN including France and Russia have sent in their emissaries to Baghdad to find a solution short of war. Arab League have of late become involved in a thorough search of diplomatic solution and are about to submit a proposal to the UN allowing UNSCOM to take two months of free access into 70 sites which have been hitherto barred.

Neither US nor UK have, however, sent their envoys looking for a solution as they maintain that it is up to Iraq to abide by the UN resolutions fully. The impasse has to be resolved by diplomatic means only as the world has no appetite of subjecting the innocent Iraqi civilians as hapless preys of collateral damage in search of Saddam's 'evil weapons' of mass destruction, fanned by the unholy Anglo-American alliance. In the end, diplomacy will prevail.

## BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

## Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of 53rd &amp; 55th Prosecution Witness

Cross-examinations of PW-53 in Bangabandhu murder case, Syed Siddique Rahman, began when the trial proceedings at Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court resumed this (Wednesday) morning.

Following are the excerpts from his examinations by Adv TM Akbar, lawyer for accused Lt Col (ret) Muhiuddin:

Q: Where did you stay from 1972 to 74?  
A: I was stranded in Pakistan after the war.  
Q: When did you return to Bangladesh?  
A: I returned from Pakistan, I returned to Bangladesh through Afghanistan in April, 1973.  
Q: When did you go in your service?  
A: In June, 1973 as SDO in Khulna.  
Q: Where did you go in August, 1975 outside Khulna?  
A: I can't recall.

Examinations by Advocate Fakhruddin Mukul, defence counsel for accused former state minister Taheruddin Thakur:

Q: Were you with the process of establishing Bangabandhu Museum?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Were the records of the evidences shown in the seizure list seized?  
A: No.  
Examination by advocate Khan Saffur Rahman, lawyer

for accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Ferooz Rahman:

Q: Did you examine the veracity of the evidences placed before the court?  
A: Yes.

Q: Were the two daughters of Bangabandhu in the country when he was killed?  
A: No.

Q: Where were you when the house of occurrence and properties inside it were handed over to Sheikh Hasina?  
A: I was in Dhaka in government job.

Q: Were you with her when Hasina received those?  
A: No.

Q: How many spectacles Bangabandhu belonged to?  
A: One. That was deposited to the court.

Q: When did you involve yourself with the Bangabandhu house?  
A: Since I began to work as the member secretary of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

55th Prosecution Witness

Cross-examinations of PW-55 Lt Col (ret) Syed Ali Ansar, by advocate Mahbubur Rahman, state defence for absconding Accused Major (ret) Bazul Huda:

Q: When did you go to retirement?  
A: In 1982.

Examinations by Advocate Abdul Wahed, defence counsel for absconding Accused Major (ret) Shariful Haq Dalim:

Q: Did any court-martial take place against Major Dalim before he was dismissed from army?  
A: I don't know.

Q: Did you know that the left hand of Major Dalim was damaged during the Liberation War?  
A: One hand was damaged, but I can't recall which hand — left or right.

Examinations by Advocate Khan Saffur Rahman, lawyer for accused Lt Col (ret) Syed Ferooz Rahman:

Q: Was he Shamsu — the soldier of your unit — who was killed on August 15?  
A: Possibly.

Q: Was one Mofazzal, among the three injured?  
A: I knew one of the soldiers of my unit was injured.

Q: Were the two injured from other units?  
A: I don't know.

Q: Did any court of enquiry take place over the death and injuries?  
A: No court of enquiry took place at Comilla. I don't know whether any court of enquiry took place in Dhaka.

—UNB

Further texts of cross examination will be published as and when received.