

View from Dhaka

The Emergence of Transparency

by A Husnain

All will be subjected to the natural clean-up process, so that the next cycle of life would be better. This time appears to have arrived. Welcome to the Year 2000.

SOMETIMES the obvious does not strike the observer/s when it should. The realisation comes suddenly, triggered by accumulated background events. Take the case of 'transparency' (or, rather, non-transparency), we all have been talking about these difficult days. Referring to events and cultures—local and abroad.

There are many examples in the macro and micro sectors. The prominent local fuzzy areas are the bank-loan default culture, political non-transparency in many sectors (successive regimes), rent-seeking, graft, and chaandabazti, terrorism and the role of the so-called godfathers, professional cheating practices, short-cuts to dubious wealth, market manipulations, nepotism, cronyism, group oppression in various forms.

At the global level foremost is the fall of the financial and stock markets in ASEAN and the tiger countries in Asia, which has now spread to Japan. The virus is attacking the S American region (Brazil), Europe, Russia, S Asia (Mexico effect so far). The USA is feeling the pressure: the interest rate has been lowered twice within a period of two weeks, sparking intense speculation. The latest announcement was so sudden that the market analysts termed it as a bolt from the blue. What is going on, or what

are the shapes of things to come? The Age of Change has finally arrived, neither late nor earlier.

The Japanese government has to role out around 700 billion dollars to rescue the ailing Japanese banks, for decades riding the crest of prosperity in an environment of non-transparency (even the questioning period was not apparent to the players or the monitoring agencies). The collapse of prosperous S Korea was also sudden. In Moscow the financial crisis did not give much advance warning; and the contemplated solution has not many options.

In India, the security market is suddenly faced with problems and the Bombay exchange tends to be vulnerable. More misery in India, suddenly publicised: a billion dollars worth of unpaid electricity bills in several states; load-shedding in Calcutta, and general overall power deficiency in India (and Bangladesh was thinking earlier of buying electric power from across the border). There is severe pressure to resolve the Kashmir issue.

The Asian market collapse released a message. The after-effects in Europe and the Americas are also giving out a message. The recent floods in Bangladesh will result in a clean-up of some of the weaknesses in our infrastructure.

Calamities and dubious operations may be blessings in disguise for those who do not

pay heed during times of prosperity or when the going is good. Adversity is, a hardtask master exposing weaknesses, unethical practices and other small sins which later accumulate and suddenly turn into (catalytic effect) big menaces when it is too late to take evasive action. There are lessons to learn from the highs and lows of life, whether at individual, group or official level.

What is the moral? Non-transparencies are firmly revealed in naked forms, and the exposures cannot be controlled or suppressed, and no defence or alibis are possible. Operation clean-up by nature, or the cosmic forces, are set into motion semi-automatically or automatically. That is a beautiful way of systems cleaning beyond human control or planning.

This is the latest chaos theory now being studied by the scientists and experts in its various applications and situations (there is order in complexity). This is the old Newton's Third Law of force applied morally or spiritually (the latter word is used in the Eastern sense or mystically). The evil or the pus will be out when the time comes. (There is another saying: 'when the time comes the Master appears').

All will be subjected to the natural clean-up process, so that the next cycle of life would be better. This time appears to have arrived. Welcome to the Year 2000.

NOVEMBER 4 was the founding day of UNESCO which gives top priority to its education programme: a) basic education for all b) education for the twenty-first century c) action for progress in education. UNESCO's constitution says that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defence of peace must be constructed". Building these defences through international intellectual cooperation remains UNESCO's prime objective. The object of UNESCO, to quote its constitution, is to "contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science, and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law, and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed by the charter of the United Nations".

The Secretary General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor declared last year (1997) prior to the 29th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, "At the United Nations conferences, regardless of the subject under consideration (environment, population, social development, human rights and democracy, women, housing), there has been a consensus that education is the key to the urgently needed change in the direction pursued by today's world... To invest in education is not only to respect a fundamental right but also to build peace and progress for the world's peoples. Education for all, by all, throughout life: this is the great challenge".

The educators worldwide have accepted this great challenge of the UNESCO Director General with courage. Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA) representing both the government and non-government

UNESCO and Human Development

by Quazi Faruque Ahmed

Bangladesh became a member of UNESCO in October 1972 in pursuance of Article VII of UNESCO Constitution. Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO has also been set up by the government with the Education Minister as its Chairman and 69 government and non-government members

school and college teachers is continuously urging upon the government to implement the recommendations of UNESCO on education. Bangladesh Government also attaches importance to the valuable support being rendered by the teachers. The Secretary General of the BFTA was included in the National Delegation of Bangladesh to attend the 29th General session of UNESCO held last year in Paris. This was for the first time that a teachers' representative from Bangladesh could participate in the international conference on education under the auspices of UNESCO.

The activities of UNESCO fall under eight broad headings: 1) Education: eliminating illiteracy and encouraging fundamental education, raising educational standards, promoting through education greater respect for human rights, making available information on education techniques; 2) Natural Science: creating greater collaboration between scientists and encouraging the popularization of science; 3) Social Science: encouraging the study of the psychological and social problems involved in the development of mutual understanding and religious differences; 4) Cultural Activities: developing cultural exchanges between member states and giving people access to works of art, literature, and philosophy; 5) Exchange of Persons: Providing information as to the opportunities for work and study abroad, and

providing travelling fellowships; 6) Mass Communication: keeping the public informed about the work of UNESCO and significant events in the fields of education, science and culture, and campaigning to help people to obtain easier access to knowledge; 7) Rehabilitation: assessing and making provision for the educational needs of schools, libraries, and scientific institutions in war-devastated areas and under-developed countries; 8) Technical Assistance: providing expert advice in the fields of fundamental education, teacher training, technical and general education, scientific research, and scientific advisory services. Member states are advised in such matters as their literacy campaigns, school building programme, surveying of mineral resources, teacher training, etc.

UNESCO also contributes to the translation of certain masterpieces of world literature, recording of traditional music from all regions of the world and renders valuable assistance and advice in the maintenance of cultural heritages of nations and nationalities throughout the world and participates in the prevention of drug abuse and AIDS through education programmes and through a centre set up to gather, assess and distribute educational material on AIDS prevention.

Teacher training, access to education for girls and women, education for peace and international understanding, environmental education, education for AIDS prevention, nutritional education, scientific and technology education, vocational and technical education—these are some of the important aspects of education covered by the Organization, particularly under its Education for the twenty-first century programme. UNESCO publishes and distributes numerous periodicals, documents and books dealing with the various aspects of education, including the World Education Report, which first appeared in 1991 and which analyses major educational trends and policies in today's world.

Why is UNESCO in high esteem in the eyes of teachers worldwide? To recall a few words of history, it was at the first session of the UNESCO General Conference that a delegate requested to "draft and promulgate a World Teachers' Charter, which would tend to 1) ensure the material conditions of the teacher; 2) raise his moral condition; 3) protect freedom of teaching". As a follow-up of this, a special inter-governmental Conference held in Paris on October 5, 1996, under the auspices of UNESCO, adopted the Magna Carta for teachers world-over known as "The UNESCO/ILO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers". Again at the 26th General Conference it was decided that a World Teachers' Day should be observed and accordingly October 5 was chosen in view of its historic importance due to adoption of the "Recommendation" on the day. Bangladesh became a mem-

ber of UNESCO in October 1972 in pursuance of Article VII of UNESCO Constitution. Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO has also been set up by the government with the Education Minister as its Chairman and 69 government and non-government members including eminent personalities in the field of education, science and culture. While visiting Bangladesh last year, Director General Federico Mayor made important announcement of enlisting Bangladesh in preserving its cultural heritages under UNESCO programme.

In the international arena, UNESCO works in many fields hand in hand with other international bodies and forums. Still then, UNESCO is the pioneer and the only body that works extensively for human development through education, culture, science and technology.

UNESCO activities, centre around its headquarters in Paris and different regional offices viz. the Regional Office for Science and Technology for South and Central Asia in New Delhi (ROSTSCA), Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok (PROAP), Regional Office for communication in Kuala Lumpur, for book development in the Asia Pacific Region in Karachi. Besides these, the Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), Tokyo, Japan jointly organized by the Japanese Governmental and non-governmental Organizations, arranges for regular annual co-operative programmes of activities on culture including book development and literary materials development in the member countries of UNESCO through the National Commission.

The writer is Principal, Shaikh Burhanuddin Post Graduate College, Dhaka and Secretary-General, BFTA.

Ban on Islamic NGOs Follows Bomb Attacks

In response to the bombings of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, the Kenyan government has de-registered five agencies that do development work with the country's Muslim community. As Gemini News Service reports, there is concern that the move is just part of a broader crackdown on Kenya's Muslim minority. Robert Otani writes from Nairobi

entirely anti-Islamic actions, could produce fundamentalist retaliation.

The de-registration of the five Islamic NGOs has elicited sharp reaction from the country's Muslim community. The chairman of the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM), Abdulfatir el-Busary, has threatened mass protests by followers of the faith countrywide if the decision is not rescinded. SUPKEM also demands an apology from the government.

At the centre of the controversy is Mercy Relief International (MRI), an agency funded largely by Saudi Arabia. The organisation has been operating in Kenya since 1995, conducting relief, social development and education work mainly in areas inhabited by Muslims.

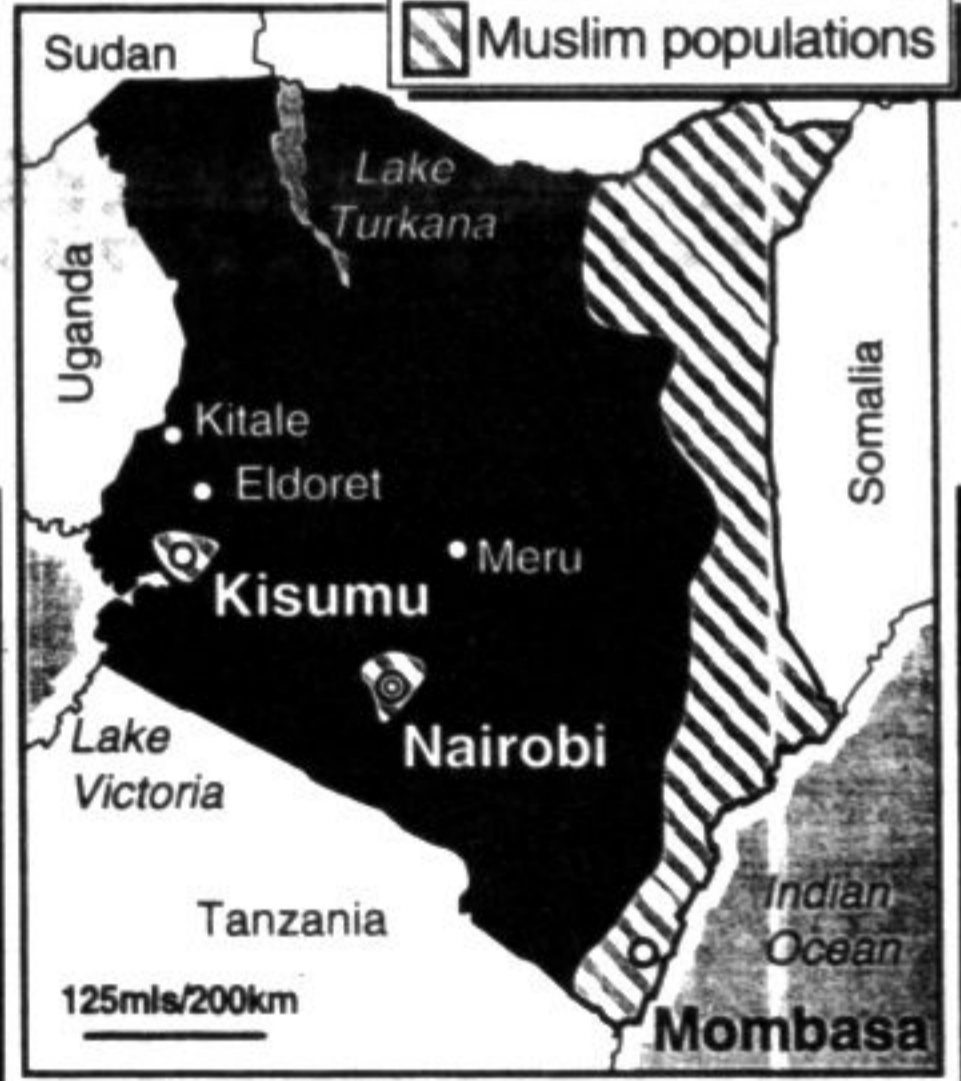
Immediately after the Nairobi blast, officers of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Kenya's Criminal Investigations Department (CID) raided MRI offices at a Nairobi residential area and confiscated an assortment of documents. The detectives suspected that bomb components

Muslims in Kenya

Kenya's government has so far not allowed the formation of an Islamic political party

Most Muslims live in northern and coastal Kenya as well as urban areas

30 per cent of Kenyans are Muslims



Islam came to Kenya in 8th century, brought by traders from Oman in the Middle East

had been smuggled into the country as part of the organisation's relief supplies. "The supplies are not exempt from customs inspection," argues Gishira Kibara, a member of the council's regulatory committee. "The only thing they are exempt from is duty."

The other NGOs proscribed by the government are Help Africa People, Al-Haramain Foundation, the International Islamic Relief Organisation and the Ibrahim bin Aziz Al-Ibrahim Foundation. Another, Rabat Islam Ali, was banned because it was not registered. Yet another, Muslim World League, was also said to be operating illegally, although the NGO Council says it has a registration certificate dated 23 October 1992.

BCIC Tender Notice

Managing Director, Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi invites sealed quotation in two-envelope system for supply of 8 (eight) sets Walkie Talkie from ready stock from the bonafide suppliers/stockist against Tender Enquiry No ESAKA/KROY-6.003/98/99/133 dt 26-10-98 so as to reach the office by 11:00 AM on 23-11-98 which shall be opened immediately thereafter. Tender documents available on payment of Tk 25.00 (non-refundable) from (i) Accounts Division, BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (iii) Accounts Division, Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi. No tender documents shall be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC 966-1/11/98 DFP-23252-2/11 G-2480

Italy Celebrates Rebirth of the Three-wheeler!

Sanjay Suri writes from Palermo (Sicily)

It must be hard to remember this every time one rides in it in India, but the now ubiquitous three-wheeler considered one of the greatest Italian inventions since the Roman chariot.

The Italian Fiat came to India and transported a generation or two before the present-day snazzy aerodynamic models made it anachronistic.

But the autorickshaw has a different utility, in spite of its vintage, and whatever anyone may think on clambering on to one of these jaunty contraptions in Delhi or anywhere in India, in Italy they are celebrating the golden jubilee of this great invention.

Italy invented this tricycle of the automobile world, and rather quickly forgot about it. Not so India.

Delhi was once reputed to have more two-wheelers than the rest of the world put together. That claim rested on the two-wheel Vespa scooter designed in Italy. Maybe Delhi, and certainly India, now has more of its three-wheelers, cousin than the rest of the world.

Back in 1946, Enrico Piaggio looked at the two-wheeler his company had built, and declared: "It looks like a wasp." That gave that scooter its name, Vespa. Nobody remembered what Piaggio said when, two years later, the first autorickshaw was built. There is only agreement that it was called Ape.

These are about the first two things Italy did when it came to

its senses after the end of World War II. Piaggio had until then been making bombers and anti-submarine boats. The Allies flattened those factories towards the end of the war. Enrico Piaggio went in for quite a change then, and produced the Vespa and the Ape.

It was not suspected then that Ape could turn out to be a fairly lethal invention in ways never anticipated. Delhi's drivers were unknown in Pontedera in Italy where the scooters were invented, but the pollution theory contributed to the city's air has already made world headlines.

It was none but The Times of London that declared the Vespa and its cousins "a completely

Italian product such as we have not seen since the Roman chariot." The invention caught on. In 1946, the company built 2,484 Vespas. By June 1956 it was a million, and by this year 15 million. The Vespa has been through 91 models and more than 20,000 changes, they say at Piaggio.

The three aims Piaggio set out behind these inventions were "reliability, a sense of style, and the freedom to live as they wish." They seem to realise, even in faraway Palermo, that somewhere along the way someone lost all three.

And so the Ape is being reborn. Piaggio signed a joint venture agreement with Greaves Limited of India last year. — India Abroad News Service

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Agriculture Information Service Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215 Tender Notice

Memo No. AIS/1557 Dated: 11-7-1405Banga/26-10-98 Scaled tenders from reputed contractors/suppliers/firm experienced in preparing diary calendar registered with government establishments and group-wise enlisted with this office for supplying the goods and completion of the work of Agriculture Information Service mentioned below

| Sl No | Description of goods and work | Quantity/number |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1     | 2                             | 3               |

- White offset paper (local/foreign) size 23"x36"-50grms (one hundred and eighty-seven) rims
- White offset paper/white art paper (local/foreign) size 23"x36"-80/100 grms 28(twenty-eight) rims
- Only printing of agriculture diary/99 in As per schedule. case of urgent requirements (subject to approval of ministry)
- Only printing of agriculture calendar/99 As per schedule. in case of urgent requirements (subject to approval of ministry)
- Binding of Agriculture diary/99 6000 (six thousand) copies.
- Colour separation of photographs of agriculture calendar/99 As per schedule.
- Binding of agriculture calendar/99 500 (five thousand) copies
- Only printing of monthly Krishi Katha As per schedule. in case of urgent requirements
- Repair of aircooler 2 (two) nos
- Supply of complete agriculture As per schedule. calendar/99 (subject to approval of ministry)

Terms and conditions

- Separate tender schedule containing terms and conditions of tender and relevant rules and regulations can be purchased from Manager, sales till 4:00 PM on 16-11-98 from the office of the undersigned by producing the certificates of groupwise enlistment and registration of government establishments, trade licence of current fiscal year, tax payers identification number (TIN) up to date, certificate of payment of income tax, VAT registration certificate, original copy of bank solvency certificate issued by scheduled bank and on payment of fixed price.
- Tenders will have to be deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned till 2:00 PM (18-11-98) and will be opened before the tenderers present (if anyone remains present) the same day at 3:00 PM.
- No tender schedule will be sold without producing the original certificates of all those mentioned in serial no 1.
- No tender schedule will be sold after the stipulated date of 16-11-98 and no tender will be received after 18-11-98.
- Tenderers must submit tenders by abiding by the detailed terms and conditions of tender schedule.
- The authority is not obliged to accept the lowest rate and reserves the power to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Director

DFP-22864-28/10/98 Agriculture Information Service Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215. G-2479

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Tender Notice for Purchasing Car

Sealed tenders are invited from local distributors selected by car manufacturer for purchasing a new car and a new pick-up (petrol) for BCSIR Secretariate, Dhaka and Development of Aromatic and Medicinal Plant of BCSIR, Chittagong. Tender documents (schedule and terms and conditions) etc can be purchased till 22-11-98 during office hours on payment of usual fees (non-refundable) from the Cashier of the Council Secretariate with the permission of the Project Director/Superintending Engineer and Cashier of BCSIR Labs, Chittagong.

Tenders will have to be submitted in the tender box kept at the office of all Directors in Dhaka/Superintending Engineer/Secretary/Development of Aromatic and Medicinal plant of BCSIR, Chittagong till 3 PM on 23-11-98. Besides tender can be sent by mail through registered mail with acknowledgement receipt/courier service to all Directors in Dhaka/Superintending Engineers/Secretary, BCSIR Secretariate, Dr Quadrat-e-Khuda Sarak, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Director, BCSIR Labs, Post-Chittagong Cantonment (4220), Chittagong. Tenders will be opened at 3-30 PM on 29-11-98 at the Dhaka Office of Member-Secretary, Tender Committee-1, before the tenderers/representatives (if anyone remains present).

Earnest money at the rate of 2% of the total quoted price in the forms of Pay-Order/DD from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh must be submitted with the tender.

The Council authority reserves the power to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-23210-2/11/98 BCSIR Dhaka. G-2481

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Local Government Engineering Department, Gopalganj Memo No-LGED/EE/Gopal/3179 Dated: 29/10/98

**Tender Notice**

- Tender Notice No : 10/98-99.
- Description of work : Work of 6 RCC bridges and 6 roads in Gopalganj under Programme-4 of Rural Development Project during 1998-99 fiscal year.
- Estimated cost : A total of Taka 3,15,64,000/- (three crore fifteen lakh sixty-four thousand) only for 12 groups.
- Places where tender documents to be had : Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka, Rural Development Project-4, LGED Bhaban, Agragaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1027. Deputy Commissioner, Gopalganj/Executive Engineer, LGED, Faridpur/Madaripur/Shariatpur/ Rajbari/ Thana Engineer's office, Gopalganj Sadar/ Tungipara/Kashiani and office of the undersigned.
- Last date and time of selling tender documents : 18th November 1998, Wednesday till office hours.
- Last date and time of depositing tender documents : In the offices mentioned in serial no 5 till 2 PM on 19th November 1998, Thursday. Mentionable the tenders received on the stipulated date and before the stipulated time will be acceptable.
- Date of opening tender : 23rd November, 1998 at 3 PM.
- Eligibility of contractors : Contractors under Rural Development Project-4 of roads and bridges category enlisted and renewed till 1998-99 fiscal year.
- Date and time of lottery : If there is more than one contractor with the lowest rate, contractor will be selected through a lottery on Thursday, the 26th November 1998 at 12 Noon in the conference room of the office. All interested contractors may remain present during lottery.
- Cost of tender documents and amount of earnest money will be available in the detailed tender documents from the office of the undersigned. Mentionable, this notice is brief. The office of the undersigned may be contacted for detailed information.
- The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer Local Government Engineering Department, Gopalganj DFP-23184-2/11/98 G-2478