Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Monday April 5, 1999

Vow and Results

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) has showed itself to be in touch with public feelings by voicing a serious collective concern over the rising trend of terrorism in the country. Not stopping short at that, it has taken a vow to pull its full weight behind any crusade against crime and violence. Thankfully, it appears more concerned than the government itself over the rapidly deteriorating law and order situation and thereby put across a message that we, on our part, have failed to register with the administration so far. The ruling party's central leaders have, by taking cognizance of the gravity of the situation, paved the way for spurring the whole government machinery into action. Hopefully they will succeed where we have failed - to nudge the government. Our warnings and entreaties to deal the problem with an iron hand before it went out of hand went undeeded, but now the analysis has finally come from the home front. Our only hope is the message will be taken as seriously by the government as these have been got across by the ALCWC.

Let's look back on how we have come to such a pass, why we stand today where we do in terms of the civic security situation which is now widely regarded as a litmus test for good governance? Some ascribe the maladies to legacies of corruption and expedient use of police force, others to logistical factors including lack of training, yet others to value system degeneration, so and so forth. But basically it boils down to a question of sincerity of the government to be unflagging in its determination to strike at the roots of terrorism wherever these are located and how desperately the hangerson seek a partisan reprieve on being apprehended.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has never been red of telling the nation that criminals have no party and that when caught they will not be spared on any partisan considerations. This has been looked upon as an open vow by her to clean up the malcontents in her party and discourage the sheltering of any law-breaker within the party fold. This was the right approach to begin with, come as it did from the ruling party which was supposed to be setting standards for other political parties. This enthused the police initially to brace up for some action and raised the expectations of people for a quick turn-around in the situation. But in reality, except for a few well-publicised cases, the commitment got implemented more in its breach than in fulfilment. Even in the high profile cases convictions have been hard to come by.

Now that the Prime Minister has reiterated the same commitment of going the whole hog to punish the terrorists under definitely more pressing circumstances than ever before, the nation anxiously awaits results to follow from it - this time around.

Hospital Refuse

Public health is still in dire straits due to lack of clear guidelines for waste management both at the government hospitals and private clinics in the country, especially in Dhaka city. The Daily Star on Sunday carried a disconcerting report that all the waste generated from these "healing homes" and carrying deadly microbes are thrown into wayside bins already loaded with striking household refuse. Given the per person waste disposal everyday, which is about 0.6kg, the situation, if allowed to continue at the current pace, may go out of hand turning into a full-size public health catastrophe.

Meanwhile at the official level, a lack of assessment in registering private clinics is conspicuously visible. In fact, if computed, "unregistered" private clinics would outnumber the "registered" ones. On the other hand, government hospitals are hardly any inspiration for the private clinics, although the former were supposed to be oriented to cleanliness by tradition. The state of affairs in public health sanctuaries is far from ideal. As far as "cleanliness" is concerned, it might have improved fractionally in the face of media outcry, but no methods have been developed for "waste

disposal."

As the clock ticks, it is taking more menacing turn, taking its toll on people's health. We regard 'registration' of all private clinics as the first vital step towards improvement of the situation.. The requirements of registration must be elaborately spelt out to all manner of clinics, old and new. Then the provision must be developed so that all hospitals and clinics are equipped with waste disposal apparatus, like environment-friendly incinerators, fumigation materials etc. In addition to these, they need to link up with the city corporation for garbage disposal purposes. Moreover, an upright enforcement agency should be established after formulating appropriate laws. And the entire strategy should be backed by a legal mechanism to bring the violators to book.

More Water, Please

Drinking water crisis has been persisting in the city for quite some time now. A number of thickly populated areas are the hardest hit and residents of these places are sometimes forced to fetch water from faraway places.

Water shortage or scarcity is nothing new in the country during the dry season and in Dhaka city it takes a serious turn with supply falling far short of requirement. The situation is further aggravated by a huge number of unauthorised connections mainly allowed by an unscrupulous section of WASA employees in lieu of bribes and illegal gratification. Frequent loadshedding resulting in stoppages at the pumphouses is another problem that needs to be addressed in right earnest. It is also reported that some of the pumps required urgent re-

pairs to be fully operational. This is very much within the control of the maintenance department of WASA and they should have carried out the re-

pairs in time for the dry season.

As the dry spell continues it will be unwise to expect any early rise in groundwater level. The report published in a leading Bangla daily also points to the unhygenic, illegal connections being given by armed mastaans in exchange for money. WASA should immediately start disconnecting the spurious connections, make all pumphouses fully operational and adjust the timing of these machines with loadshedding so that the capacities of the pumphouses are fully utilised and drinking water is made available to the people. Citizens in their turn should refrain from misusing this vital lifesaver and also stop wasting valuable drinking wa-

NATO Intervention in Kosovo: Too Late, Too Little

Whoever is a Serb, and of Serbian seed And doesn't come to fight the battle of Kosovo Let him never father a child, neither male nor female Let whatever he grows never yield fruit Neither red wine nor white wheat Let him rot in evil shame till his last progeny.

IX hundred years ago the Serbians' en masse Capitulation to the advancing Ottoman forces and their medieval defeat at Kosovo have been queerly the symbol of the nation's greatest pride. Because nothing else of their history could bring Serb solidarity and distinctiveness so glaringly in focus. Even when Serbia, a vassal principality of the Turks since 1389 was established as an independent kingdom by the treaty of Berlin in 1878 its national consciousness remained anchored to Kosovo, the country's tiny (4203 sq miles) southern province. Both during the Balkan War (1912-13) and World War I the birth of every Serb peasant male prompted the greeting: "Hail, little avenger of Kosovo." The messianic fervour of Serb nationalism - kindled by that defeat and reborn with each new infant - still renders Kosovo a badge of honour as well as a call-to-arms. Regarded by Serbs as their national Golgotha. Kosovo is integral to the national identity of the Serbians who think that their country is incomplete, and even impossible without Kosovo subsumed in

Slobodan Milosevic, the sly dictator of a truncated Yugoslavia has thoroughly exploited this Serbian emotion and craftily manipulated the Serbian orthodox church to his advantage. He has been, through his diabolical propaganda machine, able to create an image depicting the Serbs as holy warriors, an iconic reference to Serbian resistance through the centuries of Ottoman occupation. After commg to power in 1986. Milosevic at his first opportunity on the occasion of 600th anniversary of the battle of Kosovo in 1989 revoked the autonomous status of Kosovo enjoyed by her since 1974. That portended the present phase of the crises in Kosovo calling for the West's

military intervention. But do the Serbians have a case in Kosovo to defend except their obsessive claim of it? Paradoxically, more than 90 per cent of Kosovo's population is ethnically Albanian Muslim. not Serbian. Yet, the Serbian authorities are unwilling to accord Kosovar Albanians equal right with minority Serbian population. They are also unwilling to grant Kosovo an autonomous status - what to talk of making it republic within the new Yugoslav federation, even though the number of Albanians (2 million) in Kosovo is greater than the population of Yugoslavia's only other repubiic. Montenegro.

an autonomous region in socialist Yugoslavia after a prolonged period of Serbian repression and the Albanians' struggle and, in effect, gained the rights of a republic within that federation. A fresh wave of repression followed in the name of Milosevic's infamous 'ethnic cleansing' after that autonomous status was revoked by Belgrade in 1989. Since then police intimidation and violence have pervaded the lives of Kosovar Albanians who are

Kosovo received the status of

history where the religions, cultures and kinships are in perpetual conflict. viewed as unwanted squatters on territory that Belgrade (Inscription on the monument at the battlefield of Kosovo) wants to resettle with ethnic

> Given this desperate situation the Kosovar Albanians have now become strident and even violent. They already suffered some of the worst persecutions from the Serbs also before the socialist regime of Yugoslavia. Under pressure and discrimination by the Serbian authority hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians migrated to West Europe and United States. Before they are totally wiped out from Kosovo

thing between the autonomy and independence, it is bound to be a trauma for the people who have been pursuing their discriminatory policy vis-a-vis Kosovars for years with impunity and are well entrenched in their demand. It will be an impossibility for the West which allowed the situation to build up to this boiling point to make the Serbs comply. Leaving far behind them the demands of an equal status or a republican status the Kosovars have since crossed the rubicon. The moderates in Kosovo have already lost their grip over the



PERSPECTIVES by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz

the Kosovar Albanians now wanted to resist the Serb persecution which however remained passive till 1996. That year the elusive, seemingly well-

organised and probably small Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) appeared and began killing Serbians, largely the members of the Serb constabulary. The recent violence in the province seems to indicate that odds may have changed somewhat in favour of the Kosovar Albanians, made possible at least in part by the clandestine influx of weapons from Albania and elsewhere. Before the NATO bombing started the inter-ethnic fighting in Kosovo turned

Now as the Serbians are asked to renegotiate the status of Kosovo which can be any-

events and the Kosovar Albanians' leadership now lies in the hands of more radical-minded people like Adam Demaqi who is not only for full independence for Kosovo but also the Unification of All Albanians. Many Kosovar Albanians do not want to live within a Yugoslav state, federated or not; they want to live in an all-Albanian entity. In January 1998 KLA declared that it has launched an armed struggle for the unification of Kosovo and Albania. While Tirana's policy towards Belgrade has not essentially changed. Albania has firmly denounced Milosevic's policy toward Kosovo. In the meantime the Albanians of neighbouring Macedonia who

constitute one quarter of the

country's population are also

strongly inclined to a pan-Albanian idea.

The NATO bombing may be able to produce an agreement — of a sort — at gun point. But that will

be little more than a patchwork for a deep seated crisis. The Balkans lie at the crossroads of

In the circumstances even if the NATO is able to make the conflicting parties sign an agreement, will that work? Perhaps, only a huge NATO presence will make it work as the Dayton's effectiveness is contingent upon its presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The US administration is deeply split over the idea of sending US troops to Kosovo. Why then NATO is eager to enforce peace in Kosovo after years of callous nonchalance? The West seemed to be awakened only during the last year when conflict became increasingly violent sending streams of refugees to neighbouring Macedonia - already hostile to its ethnic Albanian minority. By no means the NATO initiative can be construed as its love's labour because NATO's alacrity stems only from its own sense of insecurity. As the conflict escalates it may soon engulf the neighbouring countries including the NATO partners. Greece and Turkey. The Kosovar refugees in Macedonia at the doorstep of Greece and Turkey's sympathy for ethnic Albanians in distress run the risk of drawing both the NATO countries in open con-

NATO's new 'strategic concept' adopted in the late 1991 did acknowledge new threats facing the allies including those in the Balkans. But to the observers both in the US and Europe it was an European problem to be resolved by the European organisations and not by a transatlantic outfit like NATO. The US, the only NATO member which could unilaterally play a role in ever-deteriorating Bosnian crisis dithered for long

and failed to develop a workable approach. As European diplomacy failed and Clinton administration, with its foreign policy inventory almost blank at the fag end of Clinton's first term, began to play more active role in Bosnia, NATO was increasingly called upon for military cover to peace efforts. But by then the worst crisis for the Bosnians passed over.

Today after nearly four years the same NATO game is repeated for Kosovo although the crisis has been brewing up since 1989. The NATO bombing may be able to produce an agreement - of a sort - at gun point. But that will be little more than a patchwork for a deep seated crisis. The Balkans lie at the crossroads of history where the religions, cultures and kinships are in perpetual conflict. It is from where the World War I sparked off. The Serbs are master intriguers and their 'Black Hand' terrorist organisation was known to have complicity in the murder of Austria's Archduke at Sarajevo in 1914. They fought a protracted partisan war against the Germans during World War II. A Slavophile fraternity binds Russia tightly behind them. Mere pinpricks of leisurely NATO bombing will not humble them to submission. Only prolonged investment of significant NATO resources and placing personnel at risks are likely to prevent the return of open conflict and a resumption of genocide in the Balkans. Events in 1998 in Kosovo suggest just how volatile the region remains. All eyes are now fixed on NATO to see how serious and sincere it is to invest an extraordinary effort in Kosovo.

BJP Govt: Cracks in Coalition

The government will be in a precarious position if the AIADMK calls off its support. The meeting between Sonia Gandhi and Jayalalitha, two powerful women in Indian politics, is undoubtedly causing worry in the ruling circles but it remains to be seen whether the AIADMK finally snaps the ties with the government.

MATTERS ##

AROUND US

Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury

RACKS in India's ruling coalition have begun to surface. A scheduled meeting on April 11 between AlaDMK chief Jayaram Jayalalitha and President K. R. Narayanan has given rise to intense speculation over a possible withdrawal of her party's support from the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. In case the 18 AIADMK legislators pull out of the ruling coalition, it will result in its instability and off the fall of the Vajpayce government. It is not, however, clear why Jayalalitha has requested for the appointment with the president but it is being linked with her recent meeting with Congress supremo Sonia Gandhi. The two leaders gave indications after the meeting that they were willing to come closer politically.

Formation of the federal government was possible just more than a year ago through support of some regional parties like the AIADMK and the TDP. in another southern state of Andhra Pradesh which had initially been on an anti-BJP platform. The government came into being with a waferthin majority in the lower house of the parliament and the support of 18 AIADMK members was vital for mustering the strength necessary for governing the nation in the 544-member lower house of parliament (loksabha). Since then, the present government has been firm

on the saddle, although some of BJP's errant allies have caused discomfiture on and off. There have been occasions when the coalition appeared on the verge of disintegration, but nevertheless, it survived. AIADMK in Tamil Nadu. Trinamul Congress in West Bengal, the Lokdal in Haryana, and even the Samata Party in Bihar have, from time to time, differed on a number of issues ranging from fulfilling demands of their respective states. However, the survival of the Vajpayee government has so far not been put at stake. But this time the AIADMK appears at loggerheads with the BJP.

The BJP and the AIADMK have entertained sharp differences on a variety of reasons. Sacking of naval chief Admiral Vishnu Baghwat is the foremost of them. Like the opposition parties, the AlADMK disapproved the government's decision to terminate Baghwat's services. Jayalalitha also voiced support to an opposition demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) investigation on the issue including charges of corruption against

Defence Minister George Fernandes raised by the sacked naval chief. The government. refusing to entertain the demand, attributed the dismissal of Baghwat to the naval chief's refusal to accept a government choice for the second highest post in the Navy. Certain remarks by the BJP leaders and ministers against the AIADMK in recent days further queered the pitch. The law minister of India, who is from the AIADMK, took serious exception to remarks made by Power Minister P. Kumarmangalam of the BJP that presence of the AlaDMK in the government is causing embarrassment for the ruling coalition. He said the AIADMK would quit the government if the prime minister also felt the same way. How-

mangalam's comments by saying that those were the personal views of the power minister. But the prime minister told the meeting of the executive committee of the BJP in Panaji that his government would not succumb to pressures from any ally, alluding to Jayalalitha's demand that the defence minister be shifted to another ministry. This has only deepened the schism.

The government will be in a precarious position if the AIADMK calls off its support. The meeting between Sonia Gandhi and Jayalalitha, two powerful women in Indian polilics, is undoubtedly causing worry in the ruling circles but it remains to be seen whether the AIADMK finally snaps the ties with the government. Although Jayalilitha has said that there is nothing static in politics and

has described her meeting with Sonia as a "political earthquake", she will expectedly weigh the pros and cons before taking the crucial decision. The question of the Congress succeeding in forming a government even with the support of the AIADMK will be a matter of great importance for the former in taking such a step. The Congress is far short of an absolute majority required to govern the nation and will have to count on the support of the leftists and centrists to form a government in the event the present one steps down. If the leftists of the United Front are keen to extend such a support. the centrists, like the Samawadi Dal of Mulayam Singh Yadav, are lukewarm in this respect. The Rastriya Janata Dal of Laloo Prasad Yadav in Bihar may be keen to support Congress since it has supported the former's bid to regain power in the state as the president has revoked the sacking of the state

The Congress which seeks every opportunity to pin down the government may not encourage the AIADMK or any other ally of the government to pull the rug from below the carpet unless it pays dividends to it. Fortunately for the government, no other ally is at the moment threatening to disrupt ties like Jayalalitha's party. If any decision by the allies or any ally causes the fall of the government with no prospect of an alternate government in sight, the country will obviously move towards a midterm election which most people do not want to occur so early. Will AIADMK take the burden of such a situation that may not be liked by the electorate? The calculations of all these thorny issues are surely difficult but the coming days will certainly witness intense heat in the political milieu of India. The rupture that is being witnessed in the ruling circle is unlikely to be healed even if it does not aggravate much. Cracks will certainly weaken the authority of the government and may also lead to fall its if the situation centring the support of the allies, mainly the AIADMK, persists and compounds.

government.

Lothe Editor ...

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.

Save Muslims of

Kosovo Sir, The Muslims of Kosovo are passing their worst time at the present moment. The Serbian atrocities have gone to a sickening extent. The Serbs have shown a total disrespect to human rights. In such a critical situation, our demands to stop genocide are simple and clear: : Sustain air strikes until total Serb withdrawal; 2: Recognise independence of Kosovo; 3: Arm Kosovars to defend them: selves: 4: Arrest and try war criminals.

Mahmud 266. Elephant Road, Dhaka-1205

K for Kosovo

Sir. The big yellow "K." which is being seen these days by millions of viewers while watching news about Kosovo on the BBC World Television, has a great resemblance to the logo of the Kodak, the US photography and graphic arts company.

BBC could have easily collected millions of dollars from the US company for promoting it in prime time news all over the world. The money could then be donated to the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees, who are suffering the worst possible atrocities at the hands of the Serbs - and inspired the BBC's big yellow K for Kosovo in the first place.

Muhammad Abd al-Hameed GPO Box 109. Lahore, Pakistan 54000

Public urinals may go private

Sir. To relieve the DCC of bladder-pressure, the public urinal sector (not public latrines, let us be magnanimous) may be opened to the private sector and the NGOs, for setting up simple public urinals in thousands in all major cities to

start with, for saving the citizens from embarrassing sights and ammonia poisoning (in addition, the lead poisoning released by the octane-car wallas). Urination is an essential public function when outdoors, therefore the issue of public urinals deserves high priority (the matter need to go up to the level of the parliament). There is no shortage of capital funding lonly provide the site free of charge on government land. and a copy of the approved blueprint for the construction), as the owners/contractors may charge 50 paisa per head as servicing charge from millions of desperate relievers in a year.

Go private for public urinals. What's the harm in allowing a profit of 10 per cent for providing such essential service? The capital investment would be recovered in no time (running water must be there all the time). It is better than nothing.

We are not business-minded and fail to see business opportunity in unusual fields such as this one. Where is our entrepreneurship? Next, attack the public toilets issue.

A Zabr Dhaka

We want peace

Sir. With deep sorrow and utter desolation we are observing the present situation of our country, and our future seems bleak as nothing seems to go

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is always saying that her crusade is to serve people, "vote ebong bhater odhikar" but how could we expect to get it when the country's two-thirds of people are being ignored by the government? Sixty-four per cent people demanded the removal of CEC in the recent municipal election but their demand was turned down and the election was held. Abu Hena remaining as the Chief Election

Commissioner. Protesting this, the opposition political parties resorted to hartals and the ruling party protesting hartals arranged anti-hartal activities which resulted in widespread violence and loss of valuable

ever. Vajpayee sought to dis-

tance himself from Kumar-

Death is stalking everywhere. On February 16 '99 Kazi Aref Ahmed, a senior leader of JSD and five others were murdered by gunmen at a public meeting in Kushtia. Eight persons were killed and more than one hundred injured when two bombs exploded at a cultural function of Udichi Shilip Goshthi in Jessore on March 7. and every day we hear about violent deaths taking place somewhere or the other.

in Chittagong the situation is very highening. Crimes of all sorts are taking place almost routinely, we wonder whether there is at all any police force in the port city and it seems that the government is least concerned about the safety of the people of Chittagong and the rest of the country.

> Nur Jahan Chittagona.

Yep, the YEs are right

Sir, I have been scanning the DS YEP page. The main thrust of the grievances by the young entrepreneurs is on the poor and unacceptable quality of political leadership, and the abominable standard of politics as practised in our country. again due to the self-centred and hypocritical leadership. The student politics practised today has been denounced. In one word, politics is not for the gentleman and the ladies. In another word, the present type of politics is the greatest enemy of the country!

The current style of pride and prejudice in politics is not acceptable. The leaders are hypocrites in thought and action. Also, the bureaucratic attitude has to change. Hartal should not be used as a destructive weapon. The progress of the country is stalled, due to narrow political vision. The very roots are rotten. Still there is no response from the politicians! The universal demand is for clean politics.

Family life has also been

criticised. The parents are fossilized or corrupt in the majority of cases. The society has become self-seeking; each one for

Conclusion: the leaders of the society won't bother to respond to the reactions in the YEP page. Now what do we do next to set the ball rolling? The round ball has been turned into a cube, which cannot roll.

How to tackle these young minds who will run the country in the near future? the politicians have to take notice, before the next avalanche.

Dhaka

Abul M Ahmad

one's own self.

Power failure

Sir, Faridabad and Gandaria are well-known residential areas in the old part of Dhaka city. Seven or eight lac people

live in this locality. For the past few weeks resi dents of this area have been experiencing intermittent power failure. Power failure has been virtually chronic in our area every day and night.

All of a sudden electricity goes off and the suffering of the residents especially the school and college going students knows no bound.

We therefore urge the author ity concerned to take immediate steps and save us from this miserable state.

17, Hari Charan Roy Road Faridabad, Dhaka-1204

Mahbubuddin Chowdhury

Unesco Club

Nannu — the scapegoat

Sir. Bangladesh Cricket Board has declared the national cricket team for the upcoming World Cup. We are surprised to know that one of the most experienced, popular and competent cricketer of Bangladesh; Minhazul Abedin Nannu is not included in the team. The news is shocking to us. This is a total misappropriation of power in which somebody's personal disliking towards an innocent player played vital role in order to scratch him out of the national team.

Syed Ali Akber Ana Heim, California

OPINION

Do the President and the Prime Minister Believe in Fact?

Abdul Quader

As in the past the President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sent messages to the nation on the occasion of the Independence and National Day on 26 March, expressing good wishes and felicitations. I have come across their messages this year. The President in his message greeted the "countrymen" and the "Bangalees" living abroad. The Prime Minister expressed her good wishes and felicitations to all members of the "Bangalee" nation living at home and abroad.

Unfortunately neither the President nor the Prime Minister did specify the kind of "Bangalees" and "Bangalee nation" addressed in their messages. Who did they mean by these "Bangalees"? Are they Bangladeshi Bangalees, Indian Bangalees, Myanmar Bangalees or Pakistani Bangalees? There are many Bangalees living in India, Myanmar, Pakistan and elswhere who are not citizens of Bangladesh. In addition, do other Bangladeshi citizens such as the tribal people (Chakmas, Garos) living in Bangladesh and abroad fall within the definition of "Bangalee"? Have they been addressed or recognised in the messages by the President and the Prime Minister?

It is preposterous to address all Bangladeshi citizens as Bangalee, because while the majority of the citizens of Bangladesh are Bangalees by ethnicity (language and culture) there are many other Bangladeshi citizens (Chakma Garo, Hajong etc) who are not Bangalees. The President and the Prime Minster know this very well. A narrow approach to a broad nationality issue has no relevance in modern day political governance. Meaningless emotion, illogical stubbornness and unnecessary obsession with something not real should have no place in society. This does not help progress of a nation, rather it nurtures the seed of discord and conflict. Truth shall prevail.

The citizens of Bangladesh living overseas are locally known as Bangladeshi, not as Bangalee. An Indian Bangalee (be it from West Bengal or Bihar) is known as Indian, not as .Bangalee. So if the citizens of Bangladesh living overseas are called Bangladeshi, they will be instantly identified as the people coming from a particular

country of origin.

The President should have used the term "Bangladeshis living abroad" instead of "Bangalees living abroad". Similarly the Prime Minister should have used the term "Bangladeshis" in place of "Bangalees". "Bangladeshi" is an inclusive word referring to all Bangladeshi citizens while "Bangalee" (in a nationality sense) refers to those Bangladeshi citizens who speak Bangla and predominantly follow Bangla culture in their

I do not find any conflict between the words Bangalee and Bangladeshi. These two words are not substitutes of each other. They mean different things. The word Bangalee connotes ethnicity of a person. including his or her culture. while the word Bangladeshi means the nationality or citizenship of a person, and has only geographical connotation. This is why a Bangladeshi passport holder, in his or her passport, is noted as Bangladeshi, not as Bangalee, in terms of his or her national status. So it will be improper to call all people or citizens of Bangladesh, whether living at home or overseas, as "Bangalees". For example, A Chakma living in Rangamati is not a Bangalee, he or she is a Bangladeshi. If a Chakma were a Bangalee, there would not have been any Chittagong Hill Tracts problem and the Government would not have required to reach a peace agreement with those representing the majority of the people living in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari.

We should all understand and recognise the reality and should not mix this reality with myth. This particularly applies to those holding the highest positions in the government because they can set good examples to be followed by others..