Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Welcome to Li Peng

We are happy to greet in our midst Li Peng, Chairman of the National People's Congress of China and the second most important personage in the Chinese leadership structure after President Jiang Zemin. He is no stranger to Bangladesh because as a former Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China he had visited us in 1989. There has been a steady growth in Sino-Bangla relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries 23 years ago. We have had four Sino-Bangladesh friendship bridges symbolising the traditional ties between Dhaka and Beijing.

Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of office as Prime Minister of the country chose Beijing as the destination of her first trip abroad, indicating thereby the importance her government, which came to power after a time-lag of 22 years, accorded to friendship with China. Since then several high level exchanges have taken place between the two countries as a mark of growing friendship based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

Though Li Peng's trip to Bangladesh is seen as a goodwill bilateral visit materialising on the last leg of his 6-nation odyssey, which had taken him to Turkey, Greece, Syria and Pakistan already, it cannot be entirely devoid of some regional and international significance. From Bangladesh he goes to Bangkok before returning to Beijing. Bangladesh which believes in friendship with all and malice towards none is perhaps in an ideal situation to work for peace and cooperation in the region.

Our trade gap with China is substantial; Dhaka's import from China was worth 690 million US dollars in 1997-98 as compared with her export to that country amounting to 68 million dollars only. If the argument is that China has a much bigger economy with a greater products range to be able to sell more to Bangladesh than the latter possibly could in China, well then, by the same token, China being a bigger market should be able to absorb more Bangladeshi products than she is currently doing. It is indeed time the right persons in the 120-member Chinese delegation, being led by Li Peng, took a close look at our non-traditional exportables on offer and arranged to expand China's shopping list. Could we request the visiting Chinese leader to send a business-cum-investment delegation to Bangladesh on a follow-up mission to provide a fillip to trade and investment cooperation between our two countries.

Agni-II, Why?

India once again digresses from the peaceful path in its pursuit of nuclear supremacy. Testfire of Agni-II effectively intensifies the frenzied Indo-Pak nuclear arms race thereby nullifying the spirit of the Lahore Declaration adopted by the two prime ministers recently. Pakistan was prompt in putting out a threat of a 'befitting' response. On cards is another round of nuclear rivalry at the expense of peace and stability in the region.

India's present leadership appears to be acting more out of political, rather than strategic considerations. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government seems inclined to use its nuclear programmes whenever it finds itself in the throes of political uncertainty. At least, that's what the timing of the testfire of Agni-II suggests.

This episode looks certain to have a negative impact on Indo-China relations as well when these were gradually showing signs of improvement after India's nuclear explosions in May last. In today's market-driven world. India's insistence on putting itself to the forefront of nuclear technology defies logic, not to speak of fuelling a nuclear weaponisation race in the region.

Both China and India, and also Pakistan, are forces to be reckoned with, not for their respective military strength alone, but also for the size of their economies. The sooner the tension generated by the testfire of Agni-II dissipates, the better it is for the region. We expect India to take recourse to the foreign policy former prime ministers late Rajiv Gandhi and Inder Kumar Gujral adopted, as we feel it is economic, not the military strength that asserts the true ascendancy of a nation.

Back Gear

The world is eagerly awaiting passage into the next millennium, but here in Bangladesh we are desperately trying to go back in time.

A front page photograph in Prothom Alo on Monday showed a couple of housewives bargaining with the shopkeepers for an almost antiquated item in city life, known as 'hurricane', (lantern to be precise). The explanation is quite obvious in these days of massive loadshedding. Since complete restoration of power supply is uncertain, a more permanent arrangement has to be thought of in place of burning costly candles in long hours of pitch darkness. Mustn't one try to see the brighter side of a crisis? Think about the technicians or artisans who used to make these contraptions known as lanterns before the people of this part of the globe were introduced to an energy known as electricity. From a thriving industry lantern-manufacturing was upstaged as a 'sick' one as more and more people were fascinated by the power and luminescence of electricity at homes and offices and in mills and factories. Take into account the thriving business of kerosene oil dealers as more and more people are taking a backward leap to lanterns for lighting their unsweetened homes. The manufacturers of candles are also 'chipping in' with good profit, as they use the cliche in the sports jargon. Do we smell some sort of connivance here between the 'efficient' PDB and the smart private sector?

How can we be oblivious of the romantic atmosphere that is so often created by loadshedding? Talking love in dim light despite the sweltering heat, is almost a forgotten art. Thanks to PDB for rejuvenating this lost technique. New York city had a massive blackout in 1968 as supply from the hydel project in Canada was snapped. The looters took their chances, so did the lovers. There was a baby boom next year. We hope lovers here will be more discreet and patriotic, for the last thing we need in Bangladesh is a babyboom.

Spotlight on SMEs

Conducive Policy and Socio-political Tintend to conclude my dis-**Environment Needed** cussion on SMEs today. In

Pervasive loan default in the business and industrial sectors is a serious problem. Surely, there are those who cannot repay the money because of genuine difficulties faced in starting up or running their enterprises. But there are others whose default may be intentional and contrived. Obviously, the problems cannot be wished away. If the defaulters wish to clear the deck they should come forward with genuine proposals on the basis of the problems they have been encountering, and the

loan giving agencies should look into each case on its merits.

with little money after meeting their food requirements. The consumption patterns of the richer segments of society, certainly from urban areas but also from rural areas, are oriented to foreign goods. Also, because of relative inadequacies concerning the quality and design, exporting remains elusive for many products turned out by the SMEs. On top of all these, there has been a squeezing of the domestic markets for many products of Bangladeshi SMEs as a consequence of the precipitous economic liberalisation introduced in the early 1990s. In fact, that precipitous im-

the last piece (16/3/99) 1

talked about supply side factors

of information, skill, credit,

and technology. Other impor-

tant supply side factors include

infrastructure and quality raw

Bangladesh is now fairly well

developed, covering different

parts of the country, although

there are certain areas which

remain inadequately/poorly

served by road connections. In

so far as SMEs are concerned,

road and waterways connec-

tions should be fairly adequate

in most areas of the country.

particularly so if locations are

carefully chosen. But, more se-

rious problems arise in relation

to electricity supply, telecom-

munications, water supply,

sewage disposal, etc. Either

there are outright short-

ages/inadequacies, or bureau-

cratic procrastination and cor-

rupt practices create difficulties

in relation to access of en-

Shortage is often a problem.

But a more serious problem is

the corrupt behaviour of the

people responsible for sanc-

tioning/installing these ser-

vices. This a problem that in

fact cuts across all segments

and levels of public administra-

tion. It is now agreed by all con-

cerned that corruption is a de-

bilitating force in the country,

with serious adverse impacts on

the country's economic and so-

erally use domestically pro-

duced raw materials. Therefore,

there is often a strong linkage

with agriculture, but, unfortu-

nately, this has not been ex-

ploited in any significant way

through appropriate promo-

tional measures. To the extent

small enterprises use imported

raw materials, they do not usu-

ally import them directly.

Therefore, they have to pay

mark-ups on the import costs

as handling charges and profits

of the importers; and, hence,

their raw material costs are

higher than if they had im-

anomalies in the tariff struc-

ture, with raw materials

charged higher rates compared

to those imposed on finished

products in the production of

which those imported materi-

als are used. Even when tariff

rates on raw materials are

lower than those on the rele-

vant finished products, the dif-

ferentials are too small to act as

sue relates to the slow growth

and highly unequal distribu-

tion of income. The poor are left

On the demand side, one is-

an incentive.

Moreover, there are cases of

ported the items directly.

The small enterprises gen-

cial processes.

trepreneurs to these facilities.

The road network in

materials.

port liberalisation without first taking action preparatory to liberalisation (APL) has created a seriously disadvantageous situation for the domestic SMEs, particularly the small enterprises. All kinds of foreign goods including ordinary consumer items have been coming into the country easily. The domestic industries, given their relative inefficiency, cannot compete with these imports in terms of price and, also, not infrequently, quality. As a result, existing enterprises have been failing and possible new ones have not been coming up, initiating a process of deindustrialisation. To the extent domestic production has been replaced by imports, there has been an 'import institution'. Such is known to have been the experience of not only Bangladesh but also of many other developing countries around the globe, embarked upon economic liberalisation without regard to the domestic economic conditions. Sub-Saharan African countries and other least developed coun-

tries have been particularly hit. The pace and pattern of liberalisation should have been so designed in Bangladesh, as also in other countries in a similar situation, as to allow the domestic enterprises to make necessary preparations in terms of raising their efficiency to compete better with imports. In order to help them raise their efficiency, certain selected industries which have potential for growth should have been provided with needed assistance for the purpose. But no such breather or assistance was allowed. This is not an argument

favouring a protectionist regime. The argument is in favour of creating a level playing field for the domestic enterprises vis-à-vis imports.

That import institution has taken place in many lines of production and many possible new enterprises have not been set up in Bangladesh as a consequence of precipitous economic liberalisation are accepted widely. But no comprehensive study has yet been unment in the country. Such a study is overdue and should be

two parties directly involved (i.e. the loan giving agencies and the creditors) as well as the economy of the country.

The SME sectors are currently beset with myriad problems which are hindering their development, of which a number of issues have been highlighted in this series of articles. These must be resolved to en able the SMEs to play their potential role. Since the SMEs particularly the small enterprises, can be set up in different parts of the country and can usually utilise domestic raw materials and generate employment opportunities on a wide scale, both directly and through backward and forward linkages, they can contribute significantly to the two overrid-

Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCIB), which, as the name suggests, is concerned with small enterprises, not with medium enterprises. Also, there are as many as 152 trade associations in the country. Many are reportedly dormant. These associations are generally Dhaka-based. They usually do not represent the whole country nor even the whole sector or the sub-sector concerned. It is also the case that these associations are, not infrequently, dominated by few larger industrial/business houses.

A study conducted by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) has found that the existing associations and bodies do not provide services to the entrepreneurs effectively. Often they are weak in terms of organisational/managerial capability, have limited financial capacity, and also lack technical know-how. Some of them. however, organise short training courses for their members. But mostly their activities are limited to advocacy. However, even regarding advocacy only a few are visible. In particular, the FBCCI has in recent years been making reasonable impacts on policy reforms and changes. But, in so far as the implementation of the policies are concerned, the state of affairs appears to remain as bureaucratically entrenched as ever, despite vigorous campaign by the FBCCI and other trade

bodies. A major focus of the trade associations and bodies should be to gather information regarding existing and potential markets and advise entrepreneurs regarding products and their qualities which are in demand now or can be in demand in future. What design and packaging changes and improvements would make particular products more attractive to customers, particularly abroad, should also be regularly assessed. Properly designed market development efforts. such as negotiations, advertisement and exhibitions, both at home and abroad, that would be helpful towards expanding sales should be in the portfolio of their market development activities. Before I conclude, let me

make a few comments on the prevailing unfavourable environment for investment in the country. There can be no disagreement that an environment characterised by political confrontations and uncertainties hampers investment. The SME sectors are bound to be afflicted by it as are other types and sizes of investment. Industrial investment is irreversible. Once undertaken, it cannot be easily disposed of, particularly when political uncertainties loom. And investments in, for example, marketing and advertising are usually firm-specific and are, therefore, sunk costs. Investment will not be made

in the first place unless there are economic opportunities, which are explored through costs and returns calculations. Once this assessment has been done and a project is found worthwhile in terms of its profitability (the decision rule usually applied is to invest if the present value of the expected cash flows is at least equal to the present value of the associated costs, over the project life), an investor would like to be sure that the investment is secure and social and political upheavals and disruptions would not bedevil the operation of the firm. These factors do not enter into cost-return analysis. but that analysis holds only if socio-political environment enables a smooth operation of the enterprise set up. Hence, investors would consider the so-cio-political environment carefully before they make the plunge. They will not usually invest if the situation is too volatile. In Bangladesh, political volatility has been a key negative, discouraging not only foreign but also domestic investment. This is corroborated by the fact that only a small proportion of registered foreign investment has actually been materialising. One Board of Investment (BOI) survey shows that only about a third (involving about \$ 1.54 billion) of the total foreign investment registered during the two year period, 1996/97 and 1997/98, was converted into actual investment (i.e. the projects have either gone into production or are in different stages of implementation). No physical progress has been made regarding the other two-thirds (involving \$ 2.86 billion) of the investment registered during the two years. In the national interest and

all concerned.

dertaken to establish the facts and inform the policy making process as to what are the options available to stem the rot and help enterprise develop-

undertaken.

The question of debilitating

Lest We Forget ...

by Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad

corruption in public administration has been raised earlier. At the same time, pervasive loan default in the business and industrial sectors is a serious problem. Surely, there are those who cannot repay the money because of genuine difficulties faced in starting up or running their enterprises. But there are others whose default may be intentional and contrived. Obviously, the problems cannot be wished away. If the defaulters wish to clear the deck they should come forward with genuine proposals on the basis of the problems they have been encountering, and the loan giving agencies should look into each case on its merits. Together, they should find a solution. It is possible that in certain cases rescheduling or writing-off of a part of the accumulated interest may be justified on the basis of the surrounding circumstances, while in other cases contractual and legal action would be the response in order and that must be seriously

ing national goals of poverty alleviation and sustained progress.

To assist SME, particularly of small enterprise, development in Bangladesh in accordance with the large potential that such enterprises hold, one important factor is institutional support in terms of promotional and facilitating services, which may be provided by the public or private sector institutions. In the public sector, the BSCIC has programmes to assist the development of small enterprises, notably through its industrial estates. However, in many industrial estates, the performance has been unsatisfactory to say the least. There is no such public sector institution specifically dealing with the promotional needs of medium enterprises.

In the private sector, there are trade associations, chambers of commerce and industry and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). These associations and bodies are concerned with small, medium and large enterprises. There is also a National

in the interest of all segments of society including the political protagonists themselves, this volatility must be removed by

The Awami League, while in

opposition between 1991 and

1996, eventually resigned from

the fifth parliament, which was

widely criticized. But, now it

appears the present opposition

both as the opposition leader

and the Prime Minister, main-

tains good attendance in the

parliament, but Begum Zia apparently has less interest. Ac-

Sheikh Hasina, however,

too is planning to follow suit.

Breaking the Ice in a 'Civilised' Parliament

THE Jatiya Sangshad Bha-Let the country have a chance to see live debate between Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, which, if we ban stands out in its architectural beauty. Louis are blessed, could lead to a direct contact and "break the ice" between the two leaders. I. Kahn's mastermind made it beautifully elegant for the very august members of the Bangladesh parliament. His vigorous, massive forms represented a break with International Style that dominated architecture of the mid-20th century. Visitors to this crowded city

are taken to enjoy the manmade lake and the greenery around it. In summer, specially when the heat is unbearable and made worse by power cuts. the verdure and the long stretches of stairs of the Parliament House are the favorite spots for Dhakaites.

Now its is a regular outing site for families too with the traditional Chatpatti vendors along with the new-comer mobile fast food shops converging to sell their stuff. Of course, all kinds of people are there and sometimes one may come across members of parliament strolling in their spare time or regaining strength with a dose of "fresh air" for the next day's session.

But, life is not really there outside of the imposing parliament house, it is there inside it. When I first ventured into the complex with an engineer linked to its construction, thought "wow, how awesome ... people can get lost here." Then a time came when I joined the foreign ministry as a student volunteer for the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Five or six of us with the Chief Coordinator Ambassador

Farooq Sobhan's office were regularly getting lost. I told my friends that I was not wrong

years ago when I thought people might get lost unless one was regular visitor or keeping marks to find the right way. The mind-boggling stairways could really get your brains off, specially if the air-conditioning is not working or for that the human system fails control too the blood pressure.

Thank God I don't really need to go there daily but only on major occasions. The stateradio is the savior at least in this regard.

Actually it is a small town by itself with huge lamps guiding your way and the restaurants serving - better not leave out the menu.

The chamber, according to psychiatrists, with its green carpet and chairs have a cooling effect on the people sitting? around the speaker's podium. However, I guess we needed even greener pasture for our lawmakers as they lose their head so often.

Yes, we are better (so far) than the Taiwanese parliament, where the lawmakers leave bandaged often after fighting it out. In North Korea, where its parliament is nothing but a rubber stamp one, the members of the Supreme People's Assembly this month debated numerous issues to salvage the starving the nation the last Stalinist bastion from its present crisis, but it

was yet to compromise with the West on missile proliferation

pursued. This is a sensitive is-

sue but one that calls for urgent

resolution in the interest of the

The first session of a Bangladesh government was held in this architectural wonder, our Jatiya Sangshad Bhaban, on February 15, 1982 and was abruptly cut short on March 2 amid an unstable political scenario. This was followed by yet another "nation-

eral who served under President Abdur Rahman Biswas and then under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in The Daily Star was enough for the Bengalis to understand (and the gossips that followed) what could happen in the days ahead.

wish him good luck. If one goes around the roadside tea stalls crowded with people listening to the parlia-



In Fool's Paradise

by Nadeem Qadir

saving" coup, although bloodless, on March 24 by the then army chief Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammad Ershad. Ironically, Mr. Ershad, his wife and brothers are all members of the seventh parliament elected in June 1996.

Of course there are also two other ex-army chiefs and an air force chief in the treasury bench, with multiple numbers of ex-defense officers on both sides of the divide. Many more may follow "for the sake of saving the country" as they were committing their "allegiance" to either side, significant among them is the immediate past arm; enter lieutenant general M. Mahbubur Rahman. The front-paged picture of the genmentary debate, I wonder how many would skip the idea of becoming a politician. Of course, there are rows on partisan lines, but most understand and feel miserable at the state of shouting and screaming in the

"Why can't they (MPs) at least remain cool inside such a beautiful place instead of always trying to fight each other out?" asked one roadside tea stall owner. "If they (children) hear them (MPs) speak so awfully and abusively, what will they learn?" was his other question, to which I had no answer.

The most recent such episode was on April 6 when opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) MP Alamgir Kabir de-

liament as a "Shuorer Khoar" (pig shed) and his comrade retired army major Akhtaruzzaman amended it further saying, "No not a pig shed, but a pig farm (Shuorer Khamar) (Banglabazar Patrika, April 7. I hope my tobacco supplier

scribed the 330-member par-

friend was too busy at that time to listen such "garbage" comments by "highly respected" men sent by their people, who now might wonder were they (voters) wearing magic glasses as they voted a human, but now they (MPs) say they are not! The BNP chief Khaleda Zia

too at one time had used unprecedented abusive language when she was being shouted by opponents. Many took it that it was an outburst after losing the 1996 elections.

Some treasury bench members also go out of the way to inflict opponents with hard-hitting words and unpalatable

tales of their past. Maybe, for the sake of their own prestige, they would try to

use GENTLE words and also for the sake of the younger people, some whom might one day become leaders, to learn good parliamentary languages and not abuses.

Do we spend billions in elections or do we spend more than 60,000 Taka approximately daily to run the house built at an approximate cost of 1.5 billion Taka, to get that kind of behavior from our lawmakers?

cording to a published report, during 1212 working days of the current Seventh Parliament, Sheikh Hasina was present on 176 days, while Begum Zia only on 24 days. Begum Zia, who became Prime Minister in Bangladesh's first free elections, should join

the sessions more and fight it out there even if her allegation of "not allowed to speak" are true. That would generate more interest and output from the lawmakers following her. It would also give the coun-

try a chance to see live debate between Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, which, if we are blessed, could lead to a direct contact and "break the ice" between the two leaders.

Both the leaders and all the MPs in the parliament should know that the electorates want to hear from them as they evaluate the bickering politicians. Accusing each other by using "unfriendly" language or issuing statements does not help the country.

Let democracy work in the gracious greens of the parliament plaza. Let us reap the fruits of independence. Ahoy! Are you listening (reading)?

to the Editor ...

Illegal electric connection

Sir. With the passing of time country's overall power supply situation does not improve rather in some zones it has drastically deteriorated. Authorities have also failed to take any step against stealing

and illegal connection of power. In Dhaka city illegal connections are given to slum dwellers and roadside shops. While for a domestic power connection DESA ask for a number of official documents like ownership, holding tax etc., but in case of roadside shops and slum houses what kind of document DESA collects from them? If somebody travels from Malibag Rail Gate to Khilgaon through Biswa Road after dusk, he will find all the roadside vegetables and fruits shops are illuminated with electric lights. At dusk all over the city roadside shops inside the residential areas are using electricity through illegal connection. In this country national power requirement could not be met up by mere generation of power through installation of plants unless systems loss and illegal power connection are curbed. For this purpose a strong power adminis-

tration is needed to function by

setting up numbers of mobile courts. These courts should visit different parts of the city after dusk in order to detect the illegal power users. Similarly mobile power court should be formed in the districts.

In Calcutta city power systems loss is between 12-15 per cent against Dhaka's 45 per cent. PDB and DESA should send their experts to Calcutta who can learn the techniques to reduce the power systems losses. It is really shocking to note when farmers of the country are to shutdown their irrigation pumps for want of power, city's thousands of illegal consumers put on the switch of their luxurious modern elec-

M A Jalil 372/B, Khilgaon, Dhaka.

Bangladesh cricket in World Cup

Sir, For those with keen interest in cricket, the performance by Bangladesh team caused great pain and disappointment. It's painful to see how thoughtless, unplanned and tactless our team was; it batted with spirit (though it could have made many more

runs) against Zimbabwe but

then failed to convert it to a

Our fielding and bowling looked like those of a junior under-18 team. No one accuses our team of lacking experience and skills, but why should the players lack a winning spirit, confidence, alertness, and aggressive bowling - especially on home ground with all the

support from the gallery. Those of us who love to see Bangladesh win are not just dreamers; we know we cannot win frequently but of course we must try to win occasionally.

It appears rather strange, if it is true, that our Cricket Board is more busy toying with the idea of getting Bangladesh the test status rather than with serious home work to get the team off its miserable performance. Is it not more important to raise a world class team before aspiring to enter into the test

league?

One critical investment is to nurture our young but committed players who show promise, and train them regularly and rigorously. Is anyone thinking of a professional Cricket Academy? What about private endowments in cricket? Surely, there is enough money in private sector some of which can become available to nurture serious efforts like a Cricket

Academy.

These are days of very tough contest in the world of sports and cricket is no exception. Excellence is a prized commodity. And excellence does not come with mere wishes and day dreams; it comes through disciplined and hard toil. There is a lot of good in the old adage: "If it is worth doing, it is worth doing it well". I believe it is true for cricket as it is for many other

Dr M Zakir Husain 4/4/1-b, Block-a, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207

human endeavours.

A pleasant surprise!

Sir, The report titled 'Sycophants work up works minister' published in the DS on March 19 is very interesting. It described how the new minister for Works and Housing reacted to the reception given to him by the employees at Purta Bhaban under the Works Ministry. When the minister got down from his car, one of the employees' leader started chanting slogans and the rest of the crowd, about 200 employees who stood forming two lines some of them carrying bouquets, followed him in a chorus, "Joy Bangla,

Joy Bangabandhu, Desh Chaley Kishey? Bangabandhur Adarsney

But the minister was not impressed and he sternly asked them to stop the slogans and said that though he is an Awami Leaguer like them he is not happy by their wasting time to receive him and chanting slogans, he would have been happier if they were doing their job sitting in the offices.

We heartily thank the minister for such attitude, it is a pleasant surprise, a breath of fresh air in the suffocating atmosphere which has been materialised by the over-zealous activities of the Awami Lea-

Nur Jahan Chittagong

Transparent BTV!

Sir, The 'Anti-autocracy Day', observed on March 30 by some sections of the politicians and citizens, was elaborately publicised over the BTV in an over-long documentary programme, followed by a wellwritten BSS press report.

No objection.

But what was not fair and democratic was that the BTV did not bother to offer similar time slot to the parties in oppo-

sition to this Anti-autocratic Day to present their side of the story. It is a lame excuse that BTV is denied access to such contacts. All news items, local or foreign, are not available first hand; hence BTV could have creeded the other side of the story from other sources (without camera coverage); or denied this time slot to the allotted organisers, to be fair and objective. But the electronic media is controlled by the regime, hence the explanation for this type of frequent onesided presentations is obvious to all fevels of the citizens, because the action is very 'transparent', no doubt about it! How long this 'democratic

hypocrisy' will continue in the name of 'fathers' and 'godfathers'? Even the souls of deceased person who return to their Maker are not allowed to rest in peace by the super-active politicians. How much they have taken the country forward in 28 years is know to all. Why these all-powerful politicians were shunted out by 'outsiders' for long 16 years is also not properly explained by them, as it was due to their political weakness in not being able to guard their own fortress.

Abul M Ahmad Dhaka