(from page 17 try is in the blood of the people, which is rightly represented by the Awami

League. erstwhile government miserably failed to collect our right share of the Ganges water while Bangabandhu realized 44000 cusec and Gen. Ershad 20,000 Cusec. In the period of Khaleda Zia this share came down to 9000 cusec only, resulting in almost inevitable draught. The Awami League through negotiation in the proper channel successfully reached an accord of water treaty India between and Bangladesh and thus brought the issue to a dead end by ensuring her right share to the Ganges water. And then here are some more about the achievements of the Awami League government in her three years in power. Nomination of the President In our constitution President is the highest post in order of the hierarchy in the administration. To keep the person nominated for this post above every controversy and to make him acceptable to all, Sheikh Hasina chose Justice Shahabuddin instead of anybody from within the party, reflecting the wide and generous attitude and image of the Awami League.

Introducing policy of consensus

Despite clear majority in the parliamentary poll the Awami League did not form the government all of their own. Rather they allowed the other parties in the parliament to share state power. BNP, however, did not accept the offer and moreover, by distorting the reasonings and arguments for the government of consensus they misled people and involved themselves in conspiracy and other subotage to evict the Awami League from state power.

Parliamentary committees. The present government has

been making active efforts to parliamentary democracy a success and to set it on strong footing. The parliamentary committees are headed by the persons who are not ministers and moreover, sometimes represent opposition parties. State media has arranged broadcast and telecast all the major incident in the parliament. The question hour time introduced in the parliament explains clearly accountability of government.

Judiciary

Judiciary is in a position to work independently in this region. A bill on separation of Judiciary from administration is in the process to be placed before the parliament. The parliament has voided the Indemnity infamous Ordinance Bill passed after

killing of brutal Bangabandhu in 1975, which was an obvious violation of human right. basic Subsequently the trial of the case of killing Bangabandhu en-famile started followed by processing of the murder case of the four great leaders of the nation. The court has announced the judgement of the trial of Bangabandhu murder case. According to civil right the sentenced persons have appealed to the higher court. government, however, is not interested interfering into the process of law. The government has announced formation of a 'Neutral' national commission for human rights. A judiciary administration training institute is going to be founded very soon with a view to increasing skill of the concerned professionals. The process of reformation of a number of laws is in the process, while steps are being taken to share the load of judiciary by activating traditional village court and amicable settlement of the hostilities. The government is trying the level best to ensure human right in every sphere of national life.

Water sharing treaty

A historic treaty was signed on12 December, 1996 as a result of open hearted discussion between the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India, indicating milestone of removal of barrier of developing water resources. According to the treaty for a period of thirty years, sharing of the Gangas water began on 1 January 1997 Ex-Farakka Barrage. After long 9 years 32nd session of Indo-Bangladesh joint river commission was held in July 1997 and a joint specialist committee was formed. In the committee meeting in august 1997 primary negotiation on sharing of the water of some other rivers including Tista river was started. For long time the issue was kept unresolved due to proper negotiation. But the fact remains that the maximum utilization of reserved water of the Ganges and its basin is the only way to help remove deforestation salinity, process, arsenic poisoning, poverty and environment pollution throughout the Northwestern southwestern region of the country comprising of 40 million people. Bangladesh has already started up with the good consequences of the including fresh treaty operation of GK project in which had been shutdown for long 4 years but for water, now engulfing at least 75 thousand hectors of land under irrigation and more to come. The treaty will also render positive effects on

CHT peace treaty For last two decades or more ten percent of the country's area had been under malviolence ferocity and savagery. It went to peak immediately after 1975 when the government took wrong policy towards the hill area. The nation was being deprived of huge natural resources of at least one tenth area of the country. The government present undertook necessary measures immediately after coming back to power. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina initiated whole heatedly the move to finalize the negotiation between the government and representatives of the guerilla insurgents for a settlement which was earlier initiated by the erstwhile governments and was ended in futile attempts. Headed by Mr. Abul Hasnat Abdullah, the chief whip of the national Parliament, a committee was formed for this purpose comprising 12 members. Then there was a series of heart to heart discussions between the negotiating parties that resulted in a successful treaty signed on 2 December, 1997. Keeping the sovereignty and integrity of the state in tact the treaty

an MP of the ruling party was barely spared.

government advanced with the laws formulated for women and children (Special Regulation) including the special courts already started functioning. Some more of this type will follow. Further, some reform to the Act is in process for regulation of more tough punishment for the crime like violence against women and children. Local government structure The present government is determined to develop strong local government structure in various stratum of the state. The government is also committed to discharge its constitutional responsibilities and to ensure peoples participation into administration according to the electoral pledges of the political parties as was into the 12th inserted amendment of constitution. There should be four-stratum government structure as the government has decided to develop recommendation made by the government commission. The stratums will be village, Union, Thana

and Zilla. The Parliament and

the cabinet has enlarged the

recommendation and the

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Bajpayee welcome the passengers of the opening run of Dhaka- Calcutta Bus service at the premises of Osmani Memorial hall on 19 June, 1999. Among others Joyti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal was also present.

forms to their selfish end and never paid attention to any of the developments. The present government under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina did it. The information ministry has undertaken a massive reform program with a

with a view to enable more

and more people of the remote areas to enjoy TV programs. More four TV relay stations are under construction at Rajshahi, Cox's bazar, Ukhia and Rangamati. TV program has

improved in quality and is

reflecting strong foundation

of democracy and increasing

popularity as well as income.

The present government is

determined to ensure

uninterrupted flow of

information and transparency

statecraft and that is the

reason why prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina has instructed

to allow private owners to

setup electronic mass media

and to compete the state

owned media in a healthy

atmosphere. Many private

investors have come up and

setting up of radio and TV

channel is under process,

which is expected to be able

to contribute positively to the

institutionalization of

government

democracy in the country.

accountability of

Construction

slay-spot at Rayer Bazar.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Instead of using discretion of distributing advertisements as weapon to strangle press freedom for group interest as in the past regimes it is now fairly done just by ensuring fulfillment of the necessary preconditions. Newspapers under trust are denationalized and free of government control. All the dues of the working journalists and worker of the denationalized trust newspaper are paid in

of the Monument of Liberation The present government has initiated a number of projects to preserve with due solemnity the memorials of the great war of liberation. A square of liberation and a liberation monument are going to be constructed where father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered historic speech at Sohrawardi Uddyan, the then race course, on 7 March, 1971. Some other measures are also taken to educate the present generation about correct history of the Independence war including stimulation of the inspiration of liberty with the newly constructed 'Shikha Chironton', ie "The Flame Internal" and another huge memorial for the martyr

Foreign policy

The Present government is still on foot with the success it achieved immediately on return to state power. The peace-loving country is now following a pragmatic foreign policy of friendship and cooperation with full respect towards mutual dignity honour and economic development. The Prime Minister has made a number of visit to the foreign and friendly states to reflect the

intellectuals at the historic

initiated negotiation between India and Pakistan on the enmity regarding nuclear bombs and other border conflicts. The world leaders have applauded her initiative. In 1997 Sheikh Hasina joined the micro-credit Summit conference held at Washington DC, World Food Summit at Rome, Inter Parliament Union Conference at India, special OIC Summit conference at Pakistan, 9th SAARC Summit Conference at Maldives, D-8 summit Conference at Turkey and many other international summits and paid visits to Saudi Arabia, Japan, Philippines and Indonesia that brought Bangladesh great honour. The government is taking all

out efforts to increase trade and with commerce neighbouring countries especially in the fields of capital investment, transit and tourism for an obvious prositive influence over our economy. The present government played a very vital role in constituting BIMSTEC comprising Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Cylone and Thailand for a greater subregional cooperation, while Turkey has initiated D-8 a new regional forum comprising Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. The D-8 conference held at Dhaka very successfully. The father of the nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Started governance of the newly liberated Bangladesh in a literacy empty hand. The situation was almost same with Sheikh Hasina while she took over the charge in 1996. But the very comeback of Awami League to power made the difference with new hope and aspiration. People got back their right to poll. The Awami League had committed to the people through the electoral program of remaking the golden Bengal, free from hunger and poverty, illiteracy and unemployment violence corruption Bangabandhu dreamt his lovely Bangla would be. But the task is certainly not very easy. It is really tough and time consuming to wipe out the jam and rush of the hindrances and shortfalls cumulated for many years. But Awami League is convinced that however difficult it may be they would we shall overcome all this through unity of the entire nation.

Now that we are rushing towards 21st century under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, cleansing the barriers in every respect including politics and economy, education and health. We are pretty hopeful that the rest two years will be of restless, work of reconstruction and development which shall erect strong foundation for the further advancement of the nation, in a graceful march towards a new millenium in parallel with the other countries of the world.

> Translate by Khandker **Mazharul Karim**

A POLITICAL REVIEW

development, cultural industrialization and human rights of the entire population living in the Hill tracts of Chittagong. This ensured permanent and peace environment lifting communal harmony and development. As a result, Shantibahinee insurgent surrendered arms and ammunitions on 10 February 1998 in several phases. The government has under taken development massive program worth Taka 220 million for the hill area. Both from within the country and outside world, including the the treaty was applauded. By now a separate has started ministry functioning on this issue. The HT regional Council has been formed and started functioning.

ensured political, social,

Anti violence programs

The government had an electoral vow that every possible measure will be taken to safeguard law and order in the society and to improve peace. government is in all-out efforts to fulfil it by ordering the law enforcing agencies to " Arrest terrorists whoever they are and whatever party belong. they announcement is right from the Prime Minister and worked magic with the age long violence prevailing in the country. A number of miscreants has been arrested handed over to lawenforcing agencies.. Even

village council Act has been announced already. The Act, when implemented in full ensure proper empowerment of women and develop the way of women leadership throughout the society. The election for Union Council held in December, 1998 was in all respect free, fair and impartial, specially since the Ministers and state ministers of the ruling party refrained themselves from taking part in the election in any manner in response to the advise of the election commission. Reorganization and reformulation of other bodies of the local government and the electoral process is on

Free flow of information.

Free flow of information is a primary condition to the democracy and that of freedom of speech. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of Nation, the greatest progeny of Bangladesh ever born in thousand years, had fought for this cause throughout his life. In this country there had been no mass media in true sense before he came to power through a popular mandate in 1970, nor it prevailed after the brutal killing of Bangabandhu en-family in 1975. The creative institution was destroyed purposefully. The government used these

view to restore and strengthen the values and perception's of the history and tradition, culture and the great war of liberation of Bangladesh and its people. Television is the most powerful media in the present

world. It is doubtlessly playing a very effective and vital role in rendering exact information, healthy entertainment and to educate and inspire people. The present government has taken measures to eradicate all indiscipline and, BTV has been effectively upholding the true history of the liberation and helping recover the distortion of the facts. Due to lack of confidence of the government of Japan upon the erstwhile government of Bangladesh, the regular grant for BTV was suspended. Now Japan has agreed to refresh the grant, reflecting special confidence of the foreign states upon the present government of Bangladesh. BTV has been modernized through a project amounting to Taka 690 million including Taka 410 million as Japanese grant. In six months time of coming to power, the present government has installed full fledged TV station at Chittagong for a wide telecast of colorful life and culture of the people of Chittagong and

announced and implemented the Fifth wage Board Award for the greater welfare of the working journalists, workers and press workers. The first of this kind of wage Board Award in the country was introduced by the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahmna in 1974. At the moment Bangladesh under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu, is enjoying full freedom of press. The rate of payment for government advertisement has been increased for smooth development of the

newspaper industry while

duty for import of newsprint

has been reduced.

(from page 17)

clinch with the tribals of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, as move that has without am biguity of any kind made it easier for Bengalis to concentrate full time on national

development. Over the years, the presence of thousands of tribals on foreign territory, specifically Indian territory, often raised questions of the nature and overall state of links between Bangladesh · and India. A continuation of the conflict in the CHT was endlessly fraught with lethality. In the first place, the tribals had turned into the recipient of sympathy as also assistance, morally and materially, of the people who hosted their presence on Indian territory. That situation quite naturally obviated the need for them to identify with the Bangladesh cause, to the immense detriment of the state created through a strenuous war of liberation in 1971. In the second place, and

because of the wider dimensions the CHT conflict was taking in the face of a failure on the part of successive administrations in Dhaka to address the issue, a good portion of the nation's military talent and expertise was increasingly getting bogged down in the hills. The

casualties over the years, for both sides, dented badly the fabric of politics. It was effectively this state of affairs, that the Awami League government brought to an end through an employment of political will and finesse.

The recognition that the cultural aspirations of all people, even if their numbers are relatively small, count within the concept of the modern state has enabled the government to forge a new

the right share of the river

Tista. Underground water

level throughout the area has

increased and helped

greenery to great extent.

order in the political Chittagong hill Tracts. The return of the tribals, together with the reality of political devolution for them, has struck at the roots of those political beliefs which have for more than two decades tried to promote instability in the hills. Modern diplomacy is in a very

large sense the operation of

foreign policy by skillful means. That is particularly true of nations circumscribed in these times by their smallness of size, their shortcomings in terms of economic resources and a general sense of deprivation that is linked to the uncertain development of political structures. All too often, societies captive to the

Upholding self esteem



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcoming Captain of Bangladesh Cricket Team Aminul Islam Bulbul, in Dhaka on 4 June 1999.

ailments cited above fail to claw themselves out of the

With Bangladesh, the Awami

CHT, while four broadcasting

center of TV has been set up

at Patuakhali, Thakurgaon,

Bhahmanbaria and Jhenidah

League government has tried a new approach, which has been a full-scale gearing up of activities at the international level. Credit for that must go to the politicians who have governed the country since June 1996, for it is they who have gone into the job of letting foreign policy grow as an offshoot of political idealism rather than have it remain a thing without substance in the hands of a politically uninspired bureaucracy. The positive side to foreign policy taking shape at the hands of politicians is the new dimension it can come to acquire through an injection of energy into it. The energy takes account of the ways of the world. Under Sheikh Hasina, therefore, the concept of South Asian cooperation has been accorded further substance within the aegis of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). And while the development of ties within SAARC continues to be the goal, the Awami League administration encouraged the opening of new doors leading to newer roles for Bangladesh in the global arena.

The D-8 summit in Dhaka

and the role of BIMSTEC are unmistakable signs of the expansion which characterized the foreign policy of the country in the last three years. The survival and strength of small states relies, in this day and age, on the ingenuity they can bring into their approach to the around them. Bangladesh has been busy shaping that kind of ingenuity not merely in the region it is part of but in the larger community of

nations as a whole. The country's links with nations on an individual basis have been forged anew in the years since 1996. Political and economic relations with China have moved up, a process most assuredly helped by the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Beijing and the trip to Dhaka by former Chinese premier Lipeng. The Clinton administration, at another level, has systematically expanded its focus on developing ties with Bangladesh, a process that has considerably been assisted by the numerous visits made by significant American government and political figures to Dhaka. On Bangladesh's part, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government have consistently sought to impress upon western governments that democracy is alive and well in the country, and that the nation is prepared for an

economic take -off.

formulation operation of sound economic policies has indeed become the matrix upon which the country's foreign policy can be helped into moving ahead. The policy of economic diplomacy is an idea whose time the Hasina government believes has come. And therefore has it become imperative that reputed foreign companies be invited to invest their skills in the exploration and taping of Bangladesh's natural resources. Sheikh Hasina was making this point at the Micro Credit Summit in Washington, DC, in early 1997. The point was brought into sharper focus through the inauguration of the new offices of Cairn Energy in Edinburgh, Scotland, in October 1997 by the Bangladesh and British Prime Ministers.

As a further boost to the idea of promoting foreign policy through a promotion of liberal and in vestment-friendly economics, the Awami League government has over time organized, or helped to organize, investment seminars in various world spots since 1996.

There are clear conclusions to be drawn from the foreign policy record of the last three years. And the most noteworthy is the truth that the pursuit of relations with the outside world has since 1996 been based on the twin concept of the interests of the state and the self- esteem of the

country. The efforts of the government towards deepening the roots of democracy in the country have enormously augmented the zeal in the promotion of links with the rest of the world.

The new bus route with India speaks of the new spirit at work. With Britain, relations are defined by substantive cooperation, a process that appears set to be reinforced during the forthcoming visit to London by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Senior British including functionaries, Secretary of state for Development International Clare Short, have trooped down to Bangladesh in the past three years. The European Union and Bangladesh have been reinforcing their links, an idea that has also come to define Bangladesh's ties with other regional bodies (read the Commonwealth and ASEAN here) as also individual states. Farooq Sobhan, Bangladesh' nominee to replace Emeka Anyaoku, prepares to take on the foreign minister of New Zealand in the elections for the next Secretary General of the Commonwealth, the people of Bangladesh can afford to rest easy in the knowledge that with the Awami League in power, the nation commands respect abroad. That is a tribute to the majesty of the people of Bangladesh.