

Government to crack down on the drug trade *It reaches everywhere and needs a general clean-up*

THE government has declared a crackdown on the city narcotics trade from the coming New Year's day. That would be the best way to begin a fresh year and a firm test for the new government's intentions to curb what has definitely become the worst womb of crime in the city as a whole. Drug trade involves everyone, either as beneficiaries or as victims and few can claim that the baneful shadow hasn't fallen on them. The most dangerous part about the drugs trade is that, apart from being a crime itself, it spawns a whole new set of collateral crimes. To curb this trade will therefore need the best law enforcement skills of any state construct.

The police has admitted as such and the estimate is that around eighty per cent of all crime is linked to the drug business. Dug addicts hoping to make enough money to buy a fix apparently commit many crimes. The authorities have also stated that this crime is run by the drug dealers with the support of a few field level police officials who connive in lieu of money. Thus, the police are saying that they have a firm assessment in their hand and all they need is a drive to eradicate the scourge.

One also hopes that this is the case because the long arm of drug dealing has been found everywhere in other cases. In countries where the drug trade has been a major problem, the tentacles have always been found in the higher quarters. It functions by greasing the bigger palms in the land. That has been one reason why the trade has proven almost impossible to control in most or every place. It's such a lucrative business that everyone wants a share of the criminal pie. South America is a good example of this phenomenon. Only when US interest is affected has there been a visible change. Colombia and Afghanistan are two good examples.

But even there as elsewhere the trade has defied pure police actions. As an importing and consuming country, everything depends on Bangladeshi authorities. They will have to take action and on their own good will. If the authorities are willing to stamp down on some political and law enforcing figures, it will be possible. Otherwise, the case of curbing the drug trade is lost. Let's hope the strong signal given by arresting a government party MP will have a salutary impact in general.

With so many vehicles plying illegally *What's the justification for regulatory bodies?*

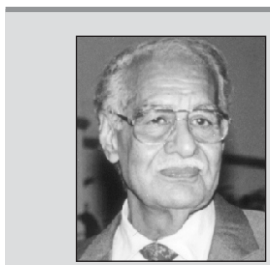
IN every category of motor vehicles plying city streets, number of transports registered with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is far outstripped by that of the unregistered ones. What is downright deceiving is that among the 'registered vehicles' are a large number that ply on fake documents with the knowledge and under the nose of authorities concerned.

The statistical break-down reads like a horrific indictment on inefficiency, corruption and deliberate negligence on the part of a nexus formed between BRTA employees and traffic policemen. Of the number of buses counted, papers of 745 are said to be in order and 373 being more than 20-year old are not entitled to renewal of licences, and 346 which while awaiting road permits are plying all the same. In the two-stroke tempo category, 1400 are operating with licences but 2000 are doing so without any valid document. The picture gets worse with auto-rickshaws. Apart from the 39,000 two-stroke three wheelers authorised since 1960 to ply we have 50,000 more that operate without any valid licence. And it has our hackles up to learn that 99 per cent of driving licences, road permits and other documents of the auto-rickshaws are counterfeit! As a matter of fact, we learnt it on good authority last year while holding a roundtable on traffic congestion that 94 per cent of vehicles might be plying with fake or defective papers.

There is a racket that keeps the circle of illegality proliferating because it fetches money to them incrementally. While it lines the pockets of BRTA men and traffic personnel there is no telling the adverse fall-out as has on the citizenry in terms of belching carbon monoxide and eardrum-ripping high decibel noises. But most critically the backlash is in shape of a flagrant violation of traffic rules and regulations, a right the operators think they have earned through greasing the palm of gate-keepers-turned-poachers.

All this is a governance failure in its most stark manifestation, something no country worth its salt can countenance *ad infinitum*. We want a fool-proof vehicle licensing mechanism put in place with adequate safeguards for monitoring its performance so that the money-spinning chaos can be replaced by a benign civic order.

On the brink



KULDEEP NAYYAR
writes from New Delhi

SEVERAL years ago, both Benazir Bhutto, then out of power, and Nawaz Sharif, then the Pakistan Prime Minister, told me separately at Lahore not to ever give up the effort to pursue people-to-people contact between Pakistan and India. Both more or less said the same thing: the rulers of the two countries would not be able to reach a settlement, people might find it one day. New Delhi has scotched that hope by stopping the 25-year-old Samjhota Express and the bus which has ferried 30,000 passengers for 22 months. Understandably, after the attack on Parliament, New Delhi had no option except to recall its High Commissioner in Islamabad. The public felt horrified and the MPs unanimously demanded action against Pakistan, the headquarters of the various terrorist groups, particularly Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaise-e-Mohammed, or whatever their new names are. The government's hands were forced. Recalling the High Commissioner is a serious step. But this is the minimum New Delhi could have done to mollify the angry opinion in India. In fact, it takes the wind out of the sails of those who have been demanding hot pursuit, crossing of the Line of Control or bombing of the training camps in Pakistan. The hawks will

still not be satisfied because they want war, not realising what it can mean when both sides have nuclear weapons. Since the general public wants peace, it will consider the recall of the High Commissioner enough. In no case should the government go beyond that.

However, the other, unthinking act of New Delhi will nearly stop people-to-people contact. Both the Samjhota Express and the bus gave an opportunity to the public on

how do people meet? They are neighbours, whatever the state of relationship between the two governments.

People-to-people contact was, in fact, the only bright spot in the otherwise strained relations between India and Pakistan. New Delhi has committed a blunder. Whatever pressure has been building up for the two governments to come to the negotiating table Vajpayee went to Lahore and Mushraf came to Agra it was

from the other country puts the receiver in trouble. Ignorance about the other side is appalling. In such a situation how do the sentiments of people count? They want to trade, tour and meet each other. How impossible does the whole task look now! True, there is no war, but there is no peace either. Both India and Pakistan are relentlessly moving towards a situation where difficulties will increase, not lessen. It is unfortunate that America, which

State Department. Even when it talked about closer and deeper relations with New Delhi, it never meant the relationship of equality. How amenable to influence, if not dictation, were the military regimes in Pakistan this is at the back of America's mind all the time.

It is understandable why Bush does not find fault with Musharraf. Washington believes that poor Islamabad is being destabilised by terrorist organisations like the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jais-e-

sador to India that Washington would make amends for the impression that it tilted towards Islamabad. One knows that Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh, like Colonel Blimp, is enamoured of the West. His whole-hearted support to America within one hour of the September 11 attack showed how solicitous he was of America's interests. One can condone his obsequious attitude if India has got even a fraction in return. Not long ago, he had 40-odd rounds of talks with Talbot, the Under Secretary in the Clinton regime. Was anything achieved? Jaswant Singh could not even announce the lifting of the economic sanctions imposed after India exploded the nuclear device.

America's game is the same which the British played during their 150-year-old rule: Keep them divided. It may be given some nice-sounding names like "equilibrium" or "equidistance." But if tear off the mask, it is a policy to encourage distance between India and Pakistan to ensure that the two wallow in distrust which has been created by America and other powers. Both New Delhi and Islamabad have not seen through their game. Perhaps they would do so one day. They must do it today. Tomorrow may be too late. India underestimates its own power. It is a huge market which America needs to dump its goods into. Let it use its economic clout. But the problem with New Delhi is that it has neither the guts nor the inclination to annoy America. It means living within one's own means. It means austerity and hardship. It means that India has to cut its coat according to the cloth that is available. And it also means a big cut in the standard of living of the elite. Can we really do it? Time alone will answer the question.

Kuldeep Nayyar is an eminent Indian columnist.

BETWEEN THE LINES

America's game is the same which the British played during their 150-year-old rule: Keep them divided. It may be given some nice-sounding names like "equilibrium" or "equidistance." But if tear off the mask, it is a policy to encourage distance between India and Pakistan to ensure that the two wallow in distrust which has been created by America and other powers. Both New Delhi and Islamabad have not seen through their game. Perhaps they would do so one day. They must do it today. Tomorrow may be too late.

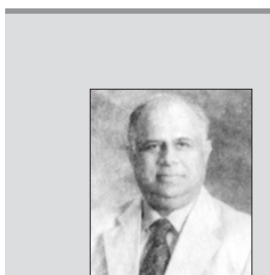
both sides to meet and talk. Many men, women and youth have visited the two countries at various levels. They have made friends. Even others, hearing their experiences of love and warmth, have picked up the thread. Farewells after their trips have been tearful because people on both sides get emotional about their ties. Separated relatives, because of the government's steps, would be the worst sufferers. The Pakistan air service is very expensive and operates for only four days between Delhi and Lahore. Indian Airlines has also a tenuous link with Karachi. They are no substitute for a wider contact. But now with closing of airspace they also cease to operate. Most people have traveled by train or bus. The crossing of the border on foot is not allowed. Then

because of the occasional meetings between people's delegations at different levels from both countries. A weak and tenuous link but a link all the same has been gaining strength in the past few years. Even that has now been snapped. One shudders to imagine what will happen in the absence of sane voices coming from outside the governments. The bureaucracy on both sides is prejudiced and the two foreign offices have a difficult-to-change mindset. The military is trained to consider the other country an enemy. Will this improve the chances of peace or expose us to the dangers of war? The two countries exchange no books, no newspapers. Each harasses friends of visitors of the other country, with intelligence men chasing them. Even a postcard

could have played a positive role, is playing politics. America's tilt towards Pakistan, particularly when the Republicans are in power, has been clearly visible since the days of President Nixon who sent the US fleet Enterprise to the Bay of Bengal during the Bangladesh war in December 1971. Even otherwise, Washington has always felt comfortable with the countries headed by military rulers or where democracy is only on paper. In fact, if one were to go back several decades, one would find how comfortable had America been at places where the people did not matter. President Musharraf has slided into the same thinking groove as that of President Bush who, in the beginning, could not even recall his name. Democratic India has been messy and unpredictable for the

Mohammed or whatever their new names are. Therefore, the statement by Bush that the Lashkar is undermining Musharraf should not come as a surprise. Poor Musharraf was first harassed by the Taliban and now by the terrorist outfits. If this is an argument by the State Department to sustain its anti-India prejudice, it makes sense. Otherwise, the policy-makers in America are a bunch of nincompoops. In fact, the statement by Bush is ridiculous. He has called the Lashkar a Kashmir-based organization and at the same time has exonerated Musharraf. Equally senseless is India's statement of welcoming the observations of Bush. How hard America could have slapped? And this happened when the BJP members came after a dinner with US Ambassadors

The three Tajiketeers



IKRAM SEHGAL
writes from Karachi

WHILE the Taliban Regime was decidedly Pashtun-heavy, the new interim government installed in Kabul on Dec 22 has swung to other extreme, weighted so blatantly in favour of the Punjsheri Tajiks, it calls into question the credibility of UN as a fair adjudicator. This distorted parity does not auger well for the peace process, it is a sure recipe for continuance of chaos and confusion. Afghanistan has thirty two provinces with one, Nuristan, in name only. There are 315 Illuswalls and Alaqadars (Districts). Pashtuns are a majority 55 per cent while Tajik make up about 20-25 per cent, Uzbek 10-15 per cent and Shia Wahdat (Hazara) about 8-10 per cent. Less than 5 per cent are other races, eg. Turkmen, etc. Instead of one (and at maximum two) ministerial slots for Punjsheri Tajiks on basis of proportional representation, on the strength of Kabul's occupation they have blackmailed their way to three of the most important portfolios, Defence, Foreign Affairs and Interior, the only Ministries required for total control over governance in third world countries. The Punjsheri Tajiks rule the capital by default, they walked in without a fight because a combination of US precision and carpet bombing pulverized the Taliban. Besides being Pashtun and proking, Hamid Karzai is the hand-picked nominee of Zalmay Khalilzada, an important member of Bush's National Security Council, who had invited Karzai to address Rand Corporation when he was with

the "think tank". Finally, being relatively a political and military lightweight cleared the way for Karzai's appointment as Head of the Interim Government. Emerging from Masood's shadow, three Punjsheri, claimed centre stage as his natural political heirs, Gen Fahim, Qanooni and Abdullah Abdullah. All three hail from villages within half an hour's drive of Rokha, Fahim from village Omarz (15-18 kms from Rokha), Qanooni from Rokha itself and

Uzbekistan) and Herat (for Iran), they went public in announcing their reservations and resentment, accepting the *fait accompli* grudgingly and reserving the right to demand adjustments, "keeping the unity" by turning up for the inauguration. Earlier Gen Fahim's Tajik troops had to drive out Shia Wahdat's Jafiri who had seized Pol-i-Khomri briefly, reportedly with moral support from Dostum. Hamid Karzai bought temporary peace by

the Hazaras make up most of Kabul's population and do all the menial work like load carriers, sweepers, cheap labour, etc, social progression being a very rare option. That the Kabul population is vocally opposed to the Pashtuns (and Pakistan by default) is not surprising. Born in 1955 Gen Fahim, alias Mouvi Muhammad Qasim, the Defence Minister, the son of Abdul Mateen Deobandi, completed his religious education in 1977 at the

who also speaks Arabic, joined the Faculty of Shariat Law in Kabul University but left in his Fourth Year and came to Peshawar for two years before joining Ahmed Shah Masood around 1985. He did military service during Najibullah's regime. His family lives in India, his wife is a Pashtun from Kama, Nangarhar Province, the niece of a supporter of King Zahir Shah, Uzbek Dr Seerat. Qanooni walks with a stick because his leg was injured in a car bomb

himself for some time. Reportedly an atheist, Abdullah Abdullah has lived since 1996 in the US, UK and India, and speaks Pashto, Persian and English. Beginning his career as Masood's Secretary, Abdullah became his spokesman and then Deputy Foreign Minister. Receiving funds from Russia, Iran and India, Abdullah Abdullah's anti-Pakistan stance is understandable. Abdullah Abdullah's father being Pashtun, he is not taken as a Punjsheri by the other two. Since Fahim and Qanooni are from the same Illuswal, ultimately only one can represent the District. Their differences came to a head after the death of Masood, whose brother Wali supported Abdullah against Qanooni while Rabbani and the Punjsheri veteran commanders supported Fahim. Even after the formation of the Interim Government, residual differences remain.

Bonn took into consideration the interests of most of Afghanistan's neighbours but by minimizing the interests of the Pashtun majority, gives only lip service to Pakistan's concerns. Some Pashtuns have deep loyalties to King Zahir Shah, himself from the Populzai tribe, the same as Hamid Karzai. The political patchwork does not truly reflect the wishes of the majority, the presence of the King's men being simply window dressing Pashtuns. Late Abdul Haq's strong personality would have been anathema to the three musketeers. Out of 31 Provinces, the eastern 17 always look to Pakistan for their long-term existence and even the others invariably look to Pakistan. We should play it cool, the forces of affinity and time do not need prompting to go their natural urges. For their survival, Afghanistan needs Pakistan, and whatever the three musketeers do, all the west's forces will not be able to keep them riding herd in Kabul long. The occupation of Kabul does not make Afghanistan. This is not a prediction, it is a rendition of facts as they were, are and will be!

Ikram Sehgal, a former Major of Pakistan Army, is a political analyst and columnist.

AS I SEE IT

Bonn took into consideration the interests of most of Afghanistan's neighbours but by minimizing the interests of the Pashtun majority, gives only lip service to Pakistan's concerns. Some Pashtuns have deep loyalties to King Zahir Shah, himself from the Populzai tribe, the same as Hamid Karzai. The political patchwork does not truly reflect the wishes of the majority, the presence of the King's men being simply window dressing Pashtuns.

Abdullah's mother from Barazak, only 6 kms from Rokha. Punjsheri constitute only 3 per cent of the Afghan population, yet very little is known about the three who now control the destiny of Afghanistan. Would the US public accept Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of the Justice Department Austin or within 20 miles of Austin, Texas as a fair distribution of power? The three musketeers can run Hamid Karzai out of town as callously as they dumped their nominal leader and fellow Tajik, former President Burhanuddin Rabbani. The inauguration was dominated by huge posters and loud slogans glorifying Tajik leader late Ahmed Shah Masood, conveniently overlooking the fact that he was the force behind the gross misrule from 1992-96, creation of that led to the Taliban in the first place. However, the memory of the US bombing of the Taliban will serve for Afghans to keep their faith.

Powerful warlords, Uzbek Rashid Dostum and Tajik Ismail Khan, control the extremely important gateways of Mazar-i-Sharif (for naming Dostum Deputy Defence Minister. This only confirms that the future Armed Forces will be dominated by Tajiks and Uzbeks, will this make the Pashtuns happy? Even former President Burhanuddin Rabbani expressed public disquiet about the Bonn agreement, though the wily fox had the grace to go peacefully and live to fight another day. Given his contacts with Dostum and Ismail Khan, that may not be long in coming. Russia ended the Khanate rule in Central Asia, their ruthless governance saw large segments of Muslim population forced south of the Amu Darya (Amu River, dividing Afghanistan from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) and settle in Afghanistan. Most Tajiks settling in Punjsher Valley, Kapisa, Takhar, Badkshan, Balkh, Parwan and Kabul, Punjsher Valley Tajiks calling themselves Punjsheri to differentiate themselves from others. Masood's elders had migrated from Samarkand in Uzbekistan, Rabbani's father was a cleric from Dushanbe in Tajikistan. Both are referred to in Afghanistan as Par Darya (from across Amu Darya). These mountain people alongwith

Madrasah Imam Abu Hanifa Darul Alvan Arabi and also speaks Arabic. He came to Peshawar in 1978, but fought briefly alongwith Mouvi Jamilur Rehman in Kunar before shifting to Punjsher to join Masood under the banner of Burhanuddin Rabbani's Jamaat-e-Islami. He fought against the Soviets in Gulbahar, Salang, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar Provinces. When Masood installed Sibghatullah Mujaddedi temporarily as Interim President in 1992 before securing the Presidency for Rabbani, Fahim was appointed head of the Afghan intelligence agency Khad. His three brothers are all settled in Dubai, his two wives are now shifting house from Meshed to Punjsher valley. As Khad chief, Fahim was very brutal and ruthless. He loves horses and enjoys good living, spending very lavishly. While Masood was alive, he remained unknown to the media. He is not close either to Qanooni and Abdullah but is clubbed with them because of his/her association with Masood. Younis Qanooni's father, Mullah Muhammad Yusuf, was a teacher in Madrasah Abu Hanifa in Bagram. Born in 1959, Qanooni,

explosion in 1994 for which he blames Gulbadin Hikamtyar, this may have been because of internal Punjsheri feuding. As Masood's political advisor he was the representative of the Shooraa Nazir in Peshawar, off and on from 1984 to 1992. Haughty and arrogant, Qanooni is an outspoken critic of Pakistan for what he calls Pakistan's pro-Pashtun policy.

The third musketeer, Abdullah Abdullah, was born in Kabul of a Pashtun father, Mr Mohyuddin from Kandahar. Abdullah, whose family lives presently in the US, only did one year in 1984 in Kabul University as a medical student and left to join Masood in 1985 at the suggestion of his elder brother, Amaruddin, who served Najibullah rising to the rank of General. From 1985 to 1987 he lived in Peshawar. He then visited Pakistan in 1992 with Engineer Arif, a senior member of Khad. During Ms Benazir's second tenure as PM, he visited Pakistan in 1994 as a member of President Burhanuddin Rabbani's delegation. A member of Masood's inner circle, he was trusted far more than Younis Qanooni and Dr Abdur Rehman, from whom Masood distanced

TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR

Religion and secularism

There are groups in Bangladesh who claim that religious practices are private matters and that should not be mixed up with politics. However, Islam is a type of religion that can't be devoid of political contents. That's why, it provides a complete code of life, including the management of state affairs. Therefore if you believe in Islam, you have to follow in full. You can't segregate between private practices and public matters and the latter should be devoid of politics. If you do so, that will be totally un-Islamic. However, there are options. If you strongly believe that state management should not follow religious codes, just discard Islam from both public and private practices. Be a fully secular state where people don't have any belief in religion and God. China is an example of this type to some extent. Western countries have in fact 'reformed' Christianity to suit their own interests. In a true sense, they are secular countries. However, there is no place of reform in Islam.

You have to have both full Islamic State and practices or a fully secular state.

It is the act of dubious people to make the distinction between private and public affairs of Islam. By doing so they create the condition to do all the nasty things while dealing with public or state matters. Therefore, be either a true believer or non-believer. It is not altogether bad if you are a non-believer, still you are doing justice to the people, to the community and to the society. I would rather prefer a non-believer to a half-religious person.

Jubair Ahmad
Sharjah, UAE

Purdah- personal choice, or not?

Sameer Ahmed Khan Majlish has responded to my letter where I termed Purdah as a woman's personal choice. He insisted that it is prescribed by the Almighty and therefore there is no question of choice. I would like to remind him that it is always a matter of personal choice. It is one's choice to pray, to fast, to

give away portions of one's assets, to visit the Holy Land, and to do everything that is prescribed and recommended in the Book. Such choices are constantly made by us with our understanding of the laws, whether our judgement is sound or not, is to be judged by the Creator. If Mr. Majlish follows every word of Holy Quran by taking its literal interpretations only, he should also know that there is no compulsion in religion. It is Allah who gave us free will and as long as that doesn't infringe upon other's rights, no government or society should take it away. Different people interpret and comprehend Allah's words differently depending on their backgrounds, and their intellectual capabilities. Hence there is such a wide variety of opinions on everything from *jihad* to *purdah* to form of government. There is Iran that makes women wear *hijab* but allows them to have a career; there was Taliban that forbade women from working, going to school, or being examined by male doctors. Then there is the Bangladeshi government, which, despite thousands of

its faults and crimes, respects women's right to choose their attire.

Men in Bangladesh have already taken away our sense of security and thus our freedom of movement (in fear of crimes), please do not propose more ways to make us uncomfortable against our will.

Accornced citizen
Dallas, USA

Men should wear veil

These days we see hundreds of women on the streets and in the market places. Many women work at public places side by side with men.

As men and women are equal, men have no right to keep the women off the streets. Women are hundred per cent human beings just like their male counterparts. Being human beings they have passion and desire as much as like men. Some of them under the influence of passion and desire cast lustful eyes to men. Even some of the women wrapped in veil from top to toe look at men with covetous eyes through the net covering their faces.

To save themselves from the lustful gaze of some women, men

should wear veil from top to toe when they come out on the street and go to workplaces.

Faruque Hasan
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Order to nab 23 top terrorists

Kudos to the government for arresting Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and ordering the arrests of 23 other terrorists.

But, at the risk of being pedantic, why were these people allowed to commit crimes for three months before action was taken against them? Isn't this just a knee jerk reaction of a party suddenly aware that people are getting fed up with them? The real question is, once the fuss has died down, won't they go back to their usual tricks? People bore Awami League folly patiently for five years. I don't think BNP can look forward to the same latitude.

MA, on e-mail
Include some American Presidents

in the league

In his letter of December 24, Mr. Mahmood Elahi considered Hitler and Laden as evil and the American President as the protector of human rights. But Mr Elahi should also include some American Presidents in the league of Laden and Hitler.

For the sake of argument, let us consider that the history of the World War II written by Britain and its allies was 100 per cent correct and Hitler was a ruthless killer. I do also agree that Laden is also a murderer. But what about President Bush when in 1991 he attacked Iraq to liberate Kuwait? After the Gulf War didn't USA sold arms worth 190 \$ billion by displaying the video of the war?

USA needs Saddam for its arms business so Saddam is still in power.

Here is a list of the countries that America has been at war with -- and bombed -- since World War II: China (1945-46, 1950-53); Korea (1950-53); Guatemala (1954, 1967-69); Indonesia (1954, 1959-60); the Belgian Congo (1964); Peru (1965); Laos (1964-73); Vietnam

(1961-73); Cambodia (1969-70); Grenada (1983); Libya (1986); El Salvador (1980s); Nicaragua (1980s); Panama (1989); Iraq (1991-99); Bosnia (1995); Sudan (1998); Yugoslavia (1999). And now **A f g h a n i s t a n**. Can Mr. Elahi tell in how many of the above mentioned countries enjoyed democracy and human rights after the war? Actually the purpose was to make those nations American slaves and not to establish democracy and human rights. Thus American Presidents killed millions of innocent people all over the world to fulfil the American interest. So it is the American Presidents who should be compared to Hitler before Laden.

Dr. Mahboob Hossain
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Political crisis

The nation is facing two crisis: the epidemic of immoral practices; and bad politics. Both are due to abominable standard of leadership, led (unopposed by the intellectuals) by the politicians, who are entrusted with the governance, on a rotating 5-year term.

These weak and propped-up leaders are held hostages to their supporters and sycophants, who extract the life-blood of the masses, and create economic disparities, which has created capitalism and fake consumerism.

General election is not the primary remedy. The movement has to start from the bottom, to tame the errant leaders at the top. The followers of political parties have to be strictly disciplined. On the one hand, 5-year rule is too long in the DCs and LDCs, and encourages immoral practices, graft and corruption; while a three-year term is too short and unstable and economically not viable. The civic society has to find a viable alternative to the present system of governance.

There is something elusively wrong with the approach to the right philosophy of life. Perhaps periodic change is the right way to bring about the required changes. Wait and see, or come up with alternatives?

Abd Dhaka