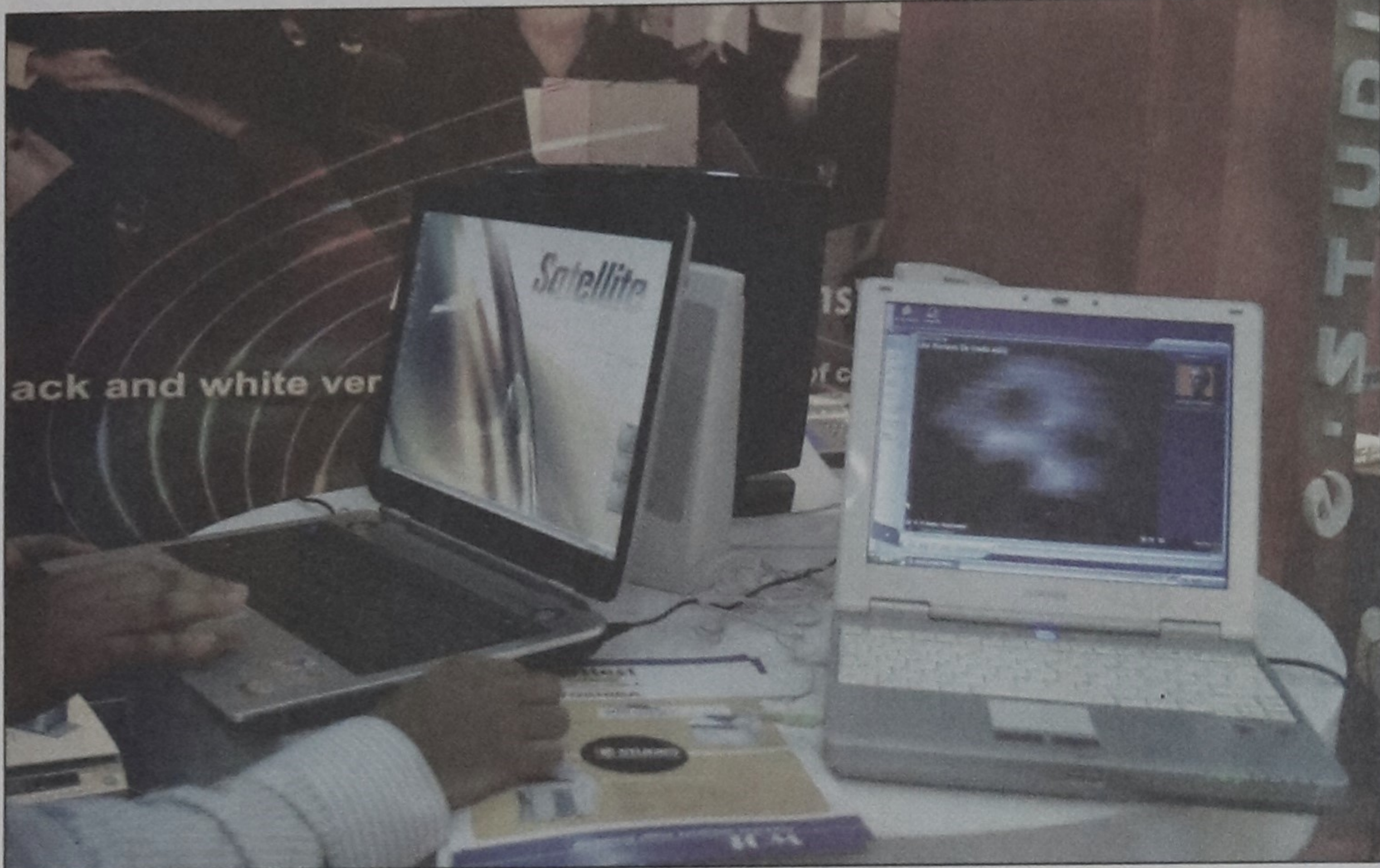


...national development



FROM PAGE 49
self-reliance, or lack of it, is, I believe a major problem in Bangladesh. I have written and spoken about it several times in the past few years. Although some relatively minor benefits do accrue, foreign aid is not only unnecessary, in the long run it is damaging, and may eventually be devastating. The late Rajib Gandhi is reported to have said in the Indian parliament that in the foreign aided projects, only 15% of the total amount allotted is spent on the actual purpose for which it is meant. Some years ago Dr D P Pattanaik, a linguistics expert from India, visited the University of Chittagong Dr Pattanaik and received the "Padma Shree" from the Indian government

and had been involved for some years in development work. He mentioned 5% instead of Mr Gandhi's 15%. Whether the actual figure is 5 per cent, 15 per cent or 20 per cent, it is clear from these remarks that a significant portion of the foreign aid funds to India used to go astray. This situation is consistent with the above statement by the UN Secretary-General. It appears that foreign aid to India has diminished considerably in recent years. It will be generally agreed that the physical and administrative infrastructure in Bangladesh is weaker than in India. The percentage of foreign aid that is utilized is likely to be less than the figure mentioned. The last paragraph of the first essay in my Bengali book Shilpo

Shahitto O Shamaj ('Art, Literature and Society') published by Rahat-Siraj Publications in Chittagong in March 1998, reads, in translation, as follows [the chapter is entitled 'Development of Bangladesh']:
"Let us not impose on the tribal people the enormous imbalance that foreign aid has created in our country. We are more or less tolerating this condition (how much longer?); they will not be able to tolerate it. At the same time, we must resist the negative effects created by foreign aid in our country. In reality, this is also one of the main reasons of the competition, sometimes leading to violence in the elections. Any

government can bring under its control and enormous amount of money without sufficient accountability. Even though many in the government have good will, be are not sufficiently aware. Although there is some improvement, this helps to create that "secret jealousy," which eventually adds fuel to violence. I have said before, that I am for not taking a single penny of foreign aid. After my return to this country twelve years ago, this conviction and opinion has grown stronger and stronger."
I returned permanently to this country in 1984. Although the book from which this extract is taken was published in 1998, clearly the piece was written around 1996. I might add, in the year 2002, that after more than seventeen years of return to this country, this conviction is even stronger.

Writing about "experiments in economic development in the modern era," Noam Chomsky, in his book 'Profit over People' published in 1999, makes the following remarks:
"...the designers tend to do quite well, though the subjects of the experiment often take a beating."
The first major experiment was carried out two hundred years ago, when the British rulers in India instituted the "Permanent Settlement," which was going to do wondrous things. The results were reviewed by an official commission forty years later, which concluded that "the settlement fashioned with great care and deliberation has unfortunately subjected the lower classes to most grievous oppression," leaving misery that "hardly finds a parallel in the history of commerce," as "the bones of the cotton weavers are bleaching the plains of India."
The remarks following the above excerpt from Chomsky's book are very significant.
"But the experiment can hardly be written off as a failure. The British governor general observed that "the Permanent Settlement," though a failure in many other respects and in most important essentials, has this great advantage, at least, of having created a vast body of rich land proprietors deeply interested in the continuance of the British Dominion and having complete command over the mass of the people."
The situation depicted in the last excerpt, I believe, has continued to the present times, in one form or another. In view of what I have said earlier about foreign aid, one could make a parody of the above remarks, as follows:
"Foreign aid, though a failure in many other respects and in most important essentials, this

great advantage, at least, of having created a considerable body of rich professionals, administrators and politicians, deeply interested in the continuance of Western (and Eastern!) influence, domination and markets, and having a significant power over the mass of the people."

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The writer is Director, Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences University of Chittagong, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

সবধরণের ব্যাংকিং চাহিদা মেটাতে আপনার কাঙ্ক্ষিত ব্যাংক

শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

আপনার অনেকদিনের স্বপ্ন নিজস্ব একটি বাড়ী অথবা ফ্ল্যাট। সেই স্বপ্ন বাস্তবে পরিণত করতে দু'টি আকর্ষণীয় প্রকল্প...

মুদারাবা গৃহায়ন আমানত প্রকল্প
Mudarabah Housing Deposit Scheme

প্রয়োজনে মাসিক কিস্তির মাধ্যমে ১ থেকে ১০ বছর মেয়াদে বাড়ী বা ফ্ল্যাট ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে আপনার নিজস্ব পুঁজি সংরক্ষণ করতে পারেন

গৃহায়ন বিনিয়োগ প্রকল্প
Housing Investment Scheme

সীমিত আয়ের লোকদের আবাসনে বিনিয়োগ

বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য অনুগ্রহপূর্বক নিকটস্থ শাখায় যোগাযোগ করুন

শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক

আন্তর্জাতিক সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ

গ্রন্থন কার্যালয়: ৯৫৭০৮১২, ৭১০০০১১, ঢাকা মেইন শাখা: ৯৫৭০৭৯৫-৮, ধানমন্ডি: ৯৬৬৭৭৬৮-৭, মিরপুর: ৭৩১৫৫০৩, ৭৩১৫৭৮৮, ফুলবাড়ী: ৯৮৯০৫২০-২১, বৈদ্যনাথ: ৭১৩০৩২০-৩, মতিবিল: ৯৫৬০৩১৫, ৯৫৬২৭৬৩, কাগজ বাজার: ৯১১৪০৪৪, উল্লাহ: ৮৯২০৫৮৬, বংশাল: ৯৫২২৯২২, ৭১৭২৯১০, বনানী: ৮৮২৮৭৪০, ৮৮২৮৮০১, সাতমসজিদ রোড: ৯১২৯৮৮৮, ৯১২৯৯০১, মিরপুর: ৯০১২৯৬২-৩, বাইপাইল (ঢাকা ইপিজেড): ৭৭০২৫১৭, ০১৫৫২ ৪১৭২১৫, সাতার: ৭৭৪২৮৯৪-৫, জয়পাড়া: ৮০০১৪, নারায়ণগঞ্জ: ৭৬৩১৭২-৩, জয়দেবপুর চৌরাস্তা: ৯২৬২৯০৮-৯, অত্রাবাদ: ৮১৩০৫১-৩, বাতুলগঞ্জ: ৬৩৭২৫৬-৭, জুবিলী রোড: ২৮৫০১০১-২, মুরাদপুর: ২৫৫২৫৮৯-১১, সিলেট: ৭২৫১১৫, দরগাহ গেট: ৮১৪২২২, বিয়ানী বাজার: ০৮২২৩-৮৭২৪২, মৌলভীবাজার: ৬৮৮৭৪৮, ফুলনা: ২৮৩০৪৫৭-৬০।

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