Generation Pakistan (P)

60 years and older. Made in Pakistan. Spent their formative years in turbulent Pakistan and came of age politically during the 1960s. Produced the Last of the Mohicans of our independence movement, autocratic rulers and the collaborators. Also blessed us with institutions that are the pride our country, like Brac and the Grameen Bank. Politicians of this generation developed their specialty in independence movements and protests.

To summarise, the big picture headlines are: Generation P is near the exit. Generation M is still running the show. Generation B is here and rising.

Generation Middle (M)

40-60 years. Manufactured in Pakistan and assembled in Bangladesh. Straddled crumbling Pakistan and post-conflict Bangladesh in their formative years. Traumatised (in some cases, titillated) by the chaos of the 1970s, the autocratic governance of the 1980s, and the partisan politics of the 1990s. Consists of the inheritance-driven politicians (with confusing training and from colourful backgrounds) who privatised politics but also the great entrepreneurs in manufacturing (e.g. garments) and service sectors (e.g. media, telecom, banking). Overall, a very schizophrenic generation -- simultaneously reminding us of the potential (e.g. rapid economic growth since the 1990s) and the pathology (e.g. confrontational politics) of our nation. They are now in the nation's driving seat, with mixed records and some DUIs (driving under the influence) -- confusing us with the dreams and nightmares they have created.

Generation Bangladesh (B)

Under 40 years. Made in Bangladesh. Lack the ideological baggage or traumas of Generation M. Like children from a bitterly broken family, a large majority of them are disenchanted with political bickering and tired of taking sides. This is also the IT generation, and the most well-connected by mobile phones, internet and cable television, silently watching Asia rise, India shine and China boom. They are increasingly impatient for the time when Bangladesh will bloom. Also much more globally connected in views and experience due to labour migrations for the rural segment, and a movement to media, trade and education for the urban segment.

To summarise, the big picture headlines are: Generation P is near the exit. Generation M is still running the show. Generation B is here and rising.

But the big picture is full of ironies. At over 100 million, and by far

