

# We embrace what's best for Bangladesh

PLEASURE IS ALL MINE



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

TAKE the name of New Delhi, Beijing comes along. If not in the same breath, by association of thoughts, for sure. You know only too well that each pair of bilateral relationship is distinct from another, but it cannot be put in an airtight compartment either. Nor is it desirable for a country like Bangladesh to fancy a straightjacket, especially in relation to two giant neighbours like India and China.

They themselves are launched on what they rejoice in as a model of relationship between two big powers. Bangladesh only wants to grow with them under the cusp of transparency. The interrelationships should be upfront and above board with honesty-being-the-best-policy-even-in-diplomacy kind of overarching commitment.

Of neighbours it can be said that they are as much a matrix of engagement as crucibles of conflict. We are happy to say that with India one of our conflicts is out of the way, another is nearing resolution, hopefully. The silver bullet for Teesta is Modi's leverage with Mamata having to repay the huge cumulative debts to the union government contracted by the long drawn out communist rule in the state. Subsidies from Modi can take the strain off Mamata's shoulders thereby fetching her acquiescence in delivering a deal to Bangladesh.

When India cuts far reaching deals with Bangladesh, China cannot be left behind. This is the message you draw from two recent initiatives taken by Beijing.

The first one relates to Dhaka having received a draft memo from Beijing for a deal with Bangladesh on Blue Economy and Maritime Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal. Apparently spurred on by India signing two deals on the subject, Beijing has come out with the memo, months after Bangladesh had

actually approached them for it.

One Indian deal envisages cooperation on blue economy and maritime sphere for capacity building, training and joint research collaborations, and setting up of a Joint Working Group for further cooperation in this area. An MoU has also been signed between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India and University of Dhaka for joint research on oceanography in the Bay of Bengal.

Lately, a six-member CPC delegation from China led by Vice Minister Guo Yezhou has been on a visit to Bangladesh on the invitation of the government.

While their official news agency Xinhua in a report based on PTI said, "Modi leaves Bangladesh thirsty," at party and government levels a more mature judgment comes forth. The delegation chief welcomed the deals struck between Dhaka and New Delhi hoping that the benefits of connectivity in South Asia will not be confined to the region alone, they will girdle beyond it.

The Chinese vice minister met BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia on June 15. BNP standing committee member Abdul Moeen Khan said, "China wants political stability and peaceful atmosphere in Bangladesh for the sake of its democratic progress and overall development." The BNP spokesman, however, did not say whether extremism and violence drew any attention.

General Secretary of the ruling Awami League Syed Ashrafur Islam conveyed to the CPC delegation that "... a friendly relation now exists between the two countries, which will be cemented further in future".

Some high level visits from China are expected in September to mark the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Dhaka and Beijing. Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang's visit is on the cards when an MoU is likely to be signed on maritime cooperation.

Our PM, in her talks with special envoy, Chai Xi in May had mentioned the allocation of land in Chittagong for establishing a Special Chinese Economic Zone. She hoped that China would relocate its labour intensive

factories to Bangladesh as much as possible.

C. Raja Mohan, a senior *Indian Express* journalist, writes how Modi has changed India's foreign policy direction. "No, Delhi does not need to formulate connectivity linkages by road and sea with Dhaka in opposition to China," says he. On the western front, India is opposed to the attempted China-Pakistan economic corridor through Palk Strait (having huge cultural and religious significance to Hinduism) between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. But India is not averse to Chinese connectivity on the eastern front. The four-nation expansion of communication encompassing India, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh has been in incubation for a number of years. This is famously known as the BCIM corridor.

Both India and Bangladesh are parts of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) established by China as a formidable parallel to Bretton Woods institutions (IMF, World Bank). Xi's one-belt-one-road-policy vision crops up.

That Modi has a positive vibe towards rapid expansion of regional cooperation taking Bangladesh along with China is seen by Raja Mohan as marking a departure from the South Block's traditional foreign policy predilections.

Modi's 'neighbour-first' policy is complemented by his wider-spectrum cooperation with Japan and United States on the basis of reciprocal interests.

An important sphere where China would eventually have to be drawn into concerns joint river basin management, an agenda that needs the collective attention of all co-riparian states.

A last word of wisdom in international relations reads like this: "There are no permanent friends or foes but only permanent national interests."

In cultivating relations with other countries we needn't have any dilemma over choices because the sole criterion for friendship is who serves our national interest best.

The writer is Associate Editor, *The Daily Star*.

# The Hubble BUBBLE

HUMOROUSLY YOURS



NAVEED MAHBUB

IT'S two in the morning. My car is stopped at the check point on Kamal Ataturk Avenue at the entrance to Gulshan. "Who are you and where are you going?" "I'm the CEO of Nokia Siemens Networks and I'm going

home." I am confident that my designation would draw an end to the conversation. After all, we are a people who take pride in upgradation through association. Just look at the security guards at embassies...

To my surprise, my car is strip searched for fifteen minutes. I am then asked the stern question, "Presume you are aware of the 'illustrious' ladies on the streets? Are you affiliated with their business?"

"Why no!" My shocked response. The incredulous security personnel search my car for another ten minutes before we are allowed, reluctantly, into the 'Green Zone'. And then my driver, himself tired after a long day, tells me, "Sir, I think you need to wipe your face."

And then it hits me. I am returning from the recording of NTV's *Busy Der Easy Show*, a reality show where I'm the host. After a marathon recording session, I completely forget to take my make-up off. So picture the scene. A chauffeur-driven nice car entering the 'Tri-State Area', a well dressed, suited-booted gentleman in the back seat with full make-up on - foundation, lipstick, gel and mascara. Perhaps a new, high end variant of the nocturnal offerings of the area, a far cry from the cry of foxes several decades ago, and a far cry from a sleepy, residential area from even the nineties.

Somewhere the flood gates broke. Single family homes are replaced by high-rise buildings with twenty apartments. I pity the sewage pipes, enduring the excrements of twenty families instead of one. And zoning? Forget it. Offices, schools, restaurants, beauty parlors, clinics and banks peacefully co-exist with residences while snubbing at the neat RAJUK sign being crystal clear about zoning. Only a comedy club is foolish enough to bite its losses and closing shop just to set an example of obeying the law.

The winner is, of course, the landlord. Given a choice, one would choose a hijacker over a landlord as one can at least negotiate with the former. "Me Landlord, you [in] chain!" - says the lord of the concrete jungle. And so, be prepared to pay whatever number is pulled out of his behind, that is, of course, if you're lucky enough to circumvent the sign sporting 'To-Let: Foreigners Only'. Then again, that's the safety net as the transient foreigner may not be like some other permanent tenants making their rental homes their own, private abode, thanks to the rental court.

And so, the price of real estate has skyrocketed. Even with 'declining prices', Gulshan is more expensive than the US's Beverly Hills - the only difference, you don't see clothes hanging from balconies at the latter.

The metamorphosis - Gulshan is Gulistan, Baridhara is Jatrabaridhara and Banani is Banana Republic. At least Gulistan and Jatrabari have retained their character.

And God help us if there is an earthquake...

The writer is an engineer at Ford & Qualcomm USA and CEO of IBM & Nokia Siemens Networks Bangladesh turned comedian (by choice), the host of NTV's *The Naveed Mahbub Show* and the founder of Naveed's Comedy Club. E-mail: naveed@naveedmahbub.com

# CYBER CRIMES

## A threat that must be countered

GAZI MIZANUR RAHMAN

THE cyber world might be at its peak today but it's not necessary danger-free. There are thieves, robbers, killers, cheats, and thugs in this world. This is where cyber security comes into the picture. Cyber security means keeping the cyber world free from all sorts of incidents that hinder the free and fair use of the internet.

Bangladesh has achieved some progress in creating a cyber-friendly atmosphere by adopting a number of initiatives. We have the ICT Act 2006 along with its subsequent amendments. The law provides law-enforcing agencies the authority to investigate an offence and bring the offender to book under a special court of law known as the Cyber Tribunal. This law has given concerned authority ample power - for the sake of quick action - to arrest the offenders and seize, confiscate or otherwise dispose the properties involved in these crimes. The Act has created an office of the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) with a view to promoting e-commerce through extensive use of electronic signature properly certified by licenced authorities.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Act 2001 has created a powerful regulatory authority in the telecommunication sector and section 53 of the Act gives the sector ample power to intercept the communication system to stop any sort of unwanted cyber incidents with the use of telecommunication tools in the country.

The ICT Division has introduced a number of projects in which awareness building activities are being undertaken

for the prevention of cyber crime. The Division has promulgated two guidelines which are helpful for cyber crime control. These are the Information Security Guidelines 2014 and the National Cyber Security Strategy of Bangladesh 2014. With the financial support of a project under the ICT Division, the national data centre located at the BCC Building has



been upgraded with necessary tools for proper storage and monitoring of data.

The above mentioned initiatives have made a positive impact on the cyber crime control and management system in our country. Still there are some areas that need further attention. For example, we may speak of establishing a coordinating organisation like the Computer

Emergency Response Team-India, CERT-UK or CERT Australia. All computer-related crimes and incidents are addressed by these organisations. In Bangladesh, cyber crimes are referred to BTRC or the CCA. These might not be the appropriate organisations to deal with the matter. If CERT or CIRT (Computer Incident Response Team) is in place effective



issues can be better coordinated while proper advice can be given to individuals or organisations that fall victim to cyber crimes. CERT or CIRT's have expert representatives of different stakeholders who are actually concerned with computer-related felonies and the prevention of such crimes.

The IT Act was promulgated in India in

2000 and was amended in 2008 to introduce, inter-alia, CERT-India. In Bangladesh, the CCA is still in-charge of handling cyber crime cases. Actually, a single office without any help from a team of experts working in this sector is not sufficient to handle the issue. It is reported that the ICT Division is planning to introduce a new law named the Cyber Security Law. We know that the enactment of a separate law takes a long time and there is every possibility of introducing conflicting provisions when the subject matter is identical. Thus, it is safer and more convenient for us to follow the Indian IT Act amendment procedures and establish Cyber Security Councils and/or CERTs by adding a chapter to the existing ICT Act.

The CID is responsible for dealing with cyber crime incidents. Cyber crime is one among many routine duties of this unit. If there were a separate cyber crime unit within the Bangladesh Police, it could be provided with specialised training; furthermore this unit could be equipped with the latest technological tools.

There should be a department or authoritative body that will have regulatory overseeing power which can safeguard personal and sensitive data. This authority may issue guidelines and call for any data or file created and preserved in a company or any other entity in the course of its communication with a data-subject or client to ensure that these are not subject to theft or revealed. In this way, we can ensure that cyber crimes are snipped at the bud.

The writer is former Joint Secretary, ICT Division.

### QUOTABLE Quote

**KAHLIL GIBRAN**

BETWEEN WHAT IS SAID AND NOT MEANT, AND WHAT IS MEANT AND NOT SAID, MOST OF LOVE IS LOST

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- Does a yard job
- Tater
- Available, in a way
- Principle
- Pick from the menu
- Worker's reward
- Mariah Carey, for one
- Mints holder
- Much of N. Amer.
- Cotton-woods
- BB, e.g.
- "Got it"
- Software buyers
- Took turns
- Blackened
- Kids' shooters
- pro nobis
- Terminate
- Cinema snack
- First veep
- Bother
- Fix a loose lace
- Hag
- Tenant's fee
- Watch over

**DOWN**

- Gloomy
- Buddy from way back
- Hoe target
- Bill Murray film
- Satchel part
- Stew sphere
- Quarterback Johnny
- Yen
- Refresh, as a cup of coffee
- Keyed up
- Turns thumbs down
- Maggie's sister
- Breathing need
- Aretha Franklin hit
- Mammoth hunt weapon
- Muse
- News recap
- Cheer for
- Gofers' job
- Inferno describer
- In a state
- Give a hoot
- Hr. part

### BEETLE BAILEY

THESE SURVEILLANCE MISSIONS SURE ARE IMPORTANT

YEAH, WE CAN SPOT ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS

I WONDER WHAT SHE SEES IN HIM!

GREGG NOT WALKER

7-24

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### BABY .....

PAD! I GET TO BE A COLON IN OUR CLASS SHOW!

A SHOW ABOUT PUNCTUATION?

NO. GOOD DIGESTION.

OH.

I GET TO MAKE TONS OF RUPE NOISES!

WELL, YOU SHOULD NAIL THAT PART.

YIPPEE & SCOTT

### Yesterday's answer

S	P	A	R	S	T	A	G
K	E	N	Y	A	C	O	N
A	D	D	E	D	A	D	D
T	A	R	H	O	N	O	R
E	L	E	M	E	N	T	E
S	W	O	R	E	S	W	A
J	O	E	L	I	L		
S	P	O	T	D	A	L	I
A	A	H	G	E	T	O	N
V	E	N	T	U	R	E	C
E	L	S	I	E	S	M	O
S	L	O	E	S	T	I	L
H	A	N	D	S	A	N	N