

of a tragedy

chmark country with four times the population of Pakistan, has six to seven times the enrolment in primary and secondary schools, with 16 times the enrolment at university level. It has seven times the number of primary school teachers and five times as many secondary school teachers. Thus in spite of greater aid from the US to Pakistan, Indian education seems to have received better attention. A stable secular socialistic democratic regime in India does seem to care more for the people than the military regime of Pakistan. India also has seven times the hospital beds, and 10 times the number of vehicles found in Pakistan.

It is interesting to note that the US with the highest standard of living in the world contributed \$2.4 billion to Pakistan in the last two decades. This is as much as was contributed by Bangla Desh, with the lowest standard of living in the world.

Sixty percent of US aid is loans and so to be returned, while the rest is largely tied bilateral aid, another name for subsidized US exports to Pakistan. On the other hand, all of the transfer of funds to West Pakistan from East Pakistan are involuntary untied grants. The economics of subordination or exploitation is slow and subtle but fatal in the long run.

When the accounts are settled between Bangla Desh and West Pakistan, Bangla Desh has not only a just claim for an estimated \$2 billion in damages and \$2.6 billion in compensation against net transfer of

funds as recorded by central statistical office of Pakistan, but also its due share of foreign aid.

If the new president, Z.A. Bhutto, wants to be just with his former countrymen, then a payment of \$6 billion for 20 years of rule in Bangla Desh can be justifiably demanded. This is assuming that in Islamic brotherhood and love, interest charges due to Bangla Desh are pardoned.

In real-political terms neither will the Bengalis ask for such compensation nor will the West Pakistanis give it. However, if the Canadian government and other donor countries recognize this imbalanced economic growth in Pakistan and redirect their limited aid effort from West Pakistan to the new Bangla Desh, then their efforts will serve their humanitarian ends more appropriately. To start on this road, the first thing the Canadian government can do is to recognize the government of Bangla Desh.



A motorbus, a jug of wine and thou in the wilderness.

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