

An Agenda from Clinton

In measured steps, President Bill Clinton has started moving towards striking a balance between protectionism against what Washington considers as unfair foreign competition and an open-door trade policy.

Significantly enough, Clinton has disapproved the notion that had gained some ground during the campaign and even later that his overall concern for pressing domestic reforms would push global issues into the background.

One interpretation is that the policy is to lead in terms of reaching agreements which actually open markets and require Washington's trading partners to do the same.

Tax-free Car must Go the Pension Way

It was nice to see our honourable members of the parliament admitting their mistake. And passing a bill giving themselves lifelong pension after retirement was a mistake.

The revoking of the pension provision is a very sensible move and we would like to commend the treasury bench for moving it and the opposition bench for unanimously backing it.

Now that our honourable members have shown the way about correcting their mistakes, we look forward to their taking up the tax, free car issue soon and correcting this privilege.

Last October, I found a 72 year old American Lady dancing at a Madrid night club till 2 o'clock in the morning.

Growing old is easy. It is inevitable. Time and tide wait for none.

If you do not use it, you lose it, for the last three months I have been pondering over the shortest possible summation of a life-style, which ought to be the ideal for the present day world on the brink of a new century.

An abandoned homestead in a village will turn into wilderness — the abode of jackals and snakes.

GREECE believes that the application of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for admission to membership in the United Nations under the denomination mentioned in its application introduces an element of further destabilization of the southern Balkans both in a short and a long term perspective.

In its request for admission to the United Nations the FYROM includes on the one hand a purported commitment to accept and observe all obligations deriving from the United Nations Charter and, on the other, a claim that its admission to UN membership would contribute towards a peaceful solution of the new crisis in the territory of former Yugoslavia.

Whereas these are welcome declarations, nevertheless, past experiences and practices, as well as the constituent acts and policies of the new republic raise serious concerns about its willingness to fulfil the obligations arising from the UN Charter.

The new republic emerged as successor to the former Yugoslav Federative Republic of Macedonia. The philosophy of its Constitution, adopted on November 17, 1991, is based, inter alia, on the principles and the constituent declarations of that federative state which were endorsed in August 1944 by the 'Antifascist Assembly of the National

Exchange rate as on November 28, 1990: buying US \$1.00 = Tk 35.44, selling at Tk 35.92; as on Feb 2, 1993: buying US \$1.00 = Tk 38.6339 OD transfer, selling BC at Tk 39.1326.

Share market reports on jute mills and textile mills are wonderful and some have been marked as 'not traded'.

they were not used any longer, became ruins. On the other hand, Rome is called the eternal city. It has been under continuous use since time immemorial.

Made to Grow Old Unfortunately, the relentless urge to remain young is so much alien to our culture.

To remain pretty and young is a matter of strident efforts that must be nurtured very carefully.

OPINION

Greek Stand on Macedonia

The following is the Memorandum submitted by Michael Papaconstantinou, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, to Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary General of the United Nations, reflecting the views and position of the Greek Government on the application of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) for admission to the United Nations.

Liberation of Macedonia (ASNOM). In these declarations, cited in the preamble of the Constitution, there are direct references to the annexation of the Macedonian provinces of Greece and Bulgaria, and to the establishment eventually of a greater Macedonia state within the Yugoslav Federation.

In the 1940's, Tito's Yugoslavia, with the 'People's Republic of Macedonia' in the vanguard, tried to accomplish these aims by supporting a communist uprising in Greece (which resulted in a three-year civil war) as a means of annexing Greek Macedonia.

It is on such grounds and on such precedents that the former federative republic in Skopje proclaimed itself inde-

Apart from looks, the women of our country tend to get older in their minds much earlier than they are due for it.

WINDOW ON ASIA Shaped Latif

Our men, on the other hand, are competing to prove themselves to be matured and experienced. They must pretend to be old, otherwise, perhaps chances of promotion might get very bleak.

construction sector no doubt but in terms of economic growth, the vibrant base of manufacturing and service enterprises is still very much lacking.

Leave aside money, since very few people have the money to bother about. But how about the brain which in physical terms we all possess in equal measure?

No Retirement

Life is work. The workaholic Japanese do not retire till they practically fall dead.

I do not think any one of the officers who retired during 1992 was computer literate. At the same time, after 30 years of no use, the capacity to acquire new knowledge and skills has been lost which in not too small measure, has been lost which in not too small measure, has been contributed by lack of physical exercise.

At the same time, Government rules allow public servants to retire from their job after 25 years of service entirely at the discretion of the officer concerned.

We lack entrepreneurs. The retired Joint Secretaries, Colonels, DIGs, XENs... should constitute a strong core group promoting economic growth.

The most tragic example of 'If you do not use it, you lose it' is my longstanding school friend Rafique, a promising painter in his twenties, when tried again to dabble with brushes and paints after 32 years within the four walls of the office, he failed to revive his old talent.

effort by the European Community and individual members of the community in seeking a peaceful way to settle the problem.

Unfortunately, the authorities of Skopje have persisted in pursuing an inflexible and uncooperative attitude by rejecting all proposals aiming at a peaceful settlement of the outstanding issues.

It is in the competence of the Security Council not only to resolve disputes but also to take necessary actions to prevent them as well. This is a clear case where preventive diplomacy is urgently needed.

Greece wishes to point out that the admission of FYROM to UN membership prior to meeting the necessary prerequisites, and in particular abandoning the use of the denomination 'Republic of Macedonia', would perpetuate and increase friction and tension and would not be conducive to peace and stability in an already troubled region.

pendent in 1991 and is now seeking admission to the United Nations.

Since the declaration of independence, a series of initiatives taken by the authorities of Skopje have shown that there is a clear link and continuity of aims and actions in particular against Greece.

These are just a few examples which show that at this turning point, when the applicant is seeking membership to the United Nations, its authorities have not abandoned their

long cherished ambitions to claim neighbouring territories.

The name of a state is a symbol. Thus, the fact that the authorities in Skopje have adopted the denomination 'Republic of Macedonia' for their state is of paramount significance.

To prevent such destabilizing situations from threatening

peace and good neighbourly relations in the area, the European Community, to which FYROM applied for recognition, has set prerequisites for the recognition of the applicant by the Community and its member states.

During the past year, Greece has conveyed to Skopje, on a number of occasions, its sincere determination to proceed with the development of all round economic and political cooperation with the neighbouring republic, as soon as FYROM adopted the foregoing EC prerequisites for recognition.

To the Editor...

Letters for publication in these columns should be addressed to the Editor and legibly written or typed with double space. For reasons of space, short letters are preferred, and all are subject to editing and cuts.

Economic growth

Sir, Congratulations to Mr Shah A M S Kibria for his informative write-ups published in The Daily Star on different dates and the one 'The Bangladesh Economy: How does it Look after Two Years of BNP Rule?' published on January 31.

Tk. 50,42,000/- (b) Assets — Gold coin and bullion Tk. 88,62,19,000/-

Certainly Mr Sattar has been aware that in Bangladesh there are nearly 203 political parties/organizations and many of the newspapers are affected by the 'isms' of the political parties.

Furthermore the money market and the financial activities of Bangladesh has gained some backward momenta, though we had expected that the scientific Budgets of 1991-

92-93 would create the starting points for the future.

Andrew D'Costa Hemendra Das Road, Dhaka

Autonomy of agricultural colleges

Sir, Congratulations to Mr Andrew D'Costa for selecting the art of writing criticism (as a hobby) on the write-ups of other people.

Well, in reply to his criticism (9/2/93) of my letter on the BAI's autonomy issue I would like to say that before going to write criticism on other's opinion/criticism, one should gather relevant information on the issue.

Danesh Krishi College to let the nation know why autonomy was being solicited for the Agriculture Colleges.

The teachers, students and staff of these colleges went to the street in support of their autonomy demand.

M Zahidul Haque Assistant Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural Institute, Dhaka

Bread or brick?

Sir, People of Royar Bazar/Gigatala area have been suffering miserably at the peak hours of day on account of paucity of Titas Gas flow in this area.

consumers Titas Gas authority gave gas connections to brick fields of this area, which consume bulk of the gas leaving only a little for domestic consumers, simply to the suffering of housewives.

Titas Gas authority should rectify/reverse their faulty decision. Alternately, load shedding may be imposed on brick fields during peak hours of day till capacity of main line of this area is raised, so that domestic gas consumers can have a sigh of relief.

K Ahmed Gigatala, Dhaka

ERRATA

In the column 'BEHIND THE HEADLINES' published yesterday (Friday), a line of the first sentence in the second para was inadvertently dropped. The sentence should be read as 'The developments saw the virtual split in the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB). Dr Kamal Hossain's move to float a new political platform and the emergence of a rightist alliance that brings elderly politician Khander Mushtaque Ahmed back into limelight.'