

Focus on Agenda

Amid resonant prediction of its fiery, spark-emitting nature, the second session of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad, it seemed, was robbed of the attention its agenda deserved.

The separation of the judiciary from executive is one of the major expectations built around the inchoate parliamentary session.

Also awaited with keen interest is the local government bill for a four-tier system of governance that will include village union, thana and district level units of the administration.

Sparks will continue to fly because Parliament is the place from where a pluralistic political system draws its strength, its diversity.

The Prime Minister's pronouncement on channels of communication with the opposition regarding consensus on national issues should contribute to the qualitative improvement of the session.

Well Done, Garments!

It seems that Bangladesh has largely achieved a garments industry without child labour. That they have arrived at this happy stage, subject of course to the satisfaction of ILO and the importing countries, in about two years time is quite creditable.

Together with freeing the garments sector of child labour, the BGMEA has successfully arranged for the entire 10,547 identified child workers now out of job to go to 247 schools.

Child labour is not the only malady that the garments sector, or for that matter all exportables are suffering from. Unfair business practice takes many forms.

Let the garments good news be the beginning of a healthy export industry. The child labour performance should give us confidence.

National Youth Day

National Youth Day was observed yesterday. The spirit of celebration to mark the day devoted to the youth force of the country was contrasted by a rather gloomy picture painted in one of the leading Bengali dailies.

According to Youth Development Directorate statistics, of the total population of eleven crore and ninety lakh, three crore sixty lakh are youths.

A survey conducted back in 1992 revealed that about sixty two per cent of those admitted to hospitals with drug related ailments belonged to the youth community.

While the various projects and programmes aimed at the optimal use of this great youth force now lying in waste call to be lauded, caution should also be taken against the factors that lead to the aggravation of the problem we already have on our hands.

Of Government and Governance

There is not much sense in saying that the past was bad because had it not been so, Awami League would not have been in the present. People had already rejected the past...

legally, continues to disrespect neutrality and monotone views of the party in power. At the initial phase some rays of hopes were ushered with coverage of opposition news, more or less.

The PM appears to have bagged a plus point by agreeing to face people through BTv. The programme, 'Shobinoye Jigasha' as it was called, aimed to portray transparency in the overall management of the government.

To this effect, viewers Shobinoye Protasha are as follows: (a) The PM and the Leader of the Opposition should face one moderator and four other participants.

patron: (c) telephone calls should be welcome; and (d) the querists should preferably be selected from among relatively less partisan camps.

The government is yet to get a firm grip on the deteriorating law and order situation. After a dip, the rate of hijacking, extortions, murders seem to have peaked once again.

Beneath the Surface

by Abdul Bayes



again should sit with different political parties (major or minor) and seek their co-operation in this regard. Just to remind, the law and order situation would continue to act as the most effective barometer of government's successes and failures.

The policy makers should, as many would like to see, cease to chewing the performances of the past governments too much.

People had already rejected the past post holders and voted Awami League to power on 12th June. The government should spend more of its time in devising ways and means to present a safe, secure and sustainable present for the people.

The potential fertilizer crisis that might grip the upcoming boro season, the price hike of non-rice basic necessities, the chaos in the financial sector, the unfinished agenda of reforms etc. should comprise the issues to tinker with.

As far as foreign policy is concerned, the government seems to have taken the right path. The China visit by the PM at the first step appears to be a good move.

The Malady in UP

What has been done in UP, India's one-sixth in population, to keep the BJP out of power may push liberal elements, if not the party, into the background.

Desperate remedies are in the air. The fundamentalists are sharpening their knives.

Understandably, the United Front or, for that matter, secular thinking is against the BJP forming a government in the biggest state of the country.

True, the BJP could muster only 183 members in a House of 425. But being the largest party emerging from the polls, it was within its right to ask for an opportunity to form the government.

Only recently did the United Front reiterate its resolve through a motion at the inter-state council meeting to stop the misuse of the governor's powers.

My feeling is that in case the BJP government had been constituted in UP, it would have gone the same way as Vajpayee's went at the centre.

And heavens would not have fallen if its government had been installed. It would not have been worse than the Shiv Sena-led government in Maharashtra, where its godfather, Bal Thackeray, continues to confuse Indians from other parts of the country with immigrants.

Concededly, the centre had a point when it took over the administration on the plea that it feared horse-trading.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Kuldip Nayar writes from New Delhi

as much true now as when it was decided to keep the state assembly in 'animated suspension'. How can the central rule stop members from crossing over to the other party as long as they can engineer a split in such a way that their number is one-third of the party's strength.

By resigning from the assembly, defence minister Mulayam Singh Yadav has rebuffed the charge that his ambition to become the chief minister had thwarted the efforts to stop any such combination coming to power as was not headed by him.

The malady in UP, Gujarat and elsewhere is that politics and power have got so intertwined that even the realisation to keep them separate is not there.

can try to form a government jointly or otherwise.

But his absence from Uttar Pradesh is like Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. He is an integral part of UP's politics and he should be involved in shaping the picture of tomorrow.

However, one redeeming feature of the situation is that the assembly is in the state of 'animated suspension'. The governor can revive it any time.

Developments in Gujarat bring no credit to political parties or members. Who forms the government is not so important to know as who is for clean public life.

The malady in UP, Gujarat and elsewhere is that politics and power have got so intertwined that even the realisation to keep them separate is not there.

Art Column: Mugsy Moke's Man

There are many people in the United States who have yet to make up their minds about how they will vote in the upcoming elections. They are the same poor souls who can't decide whether to have Wheaties or Corn Flakes for breakfast.

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.

Immigration laws of the West

Sir, I was listening to the BBC early in the morning of 25th October, 1996. BBC was giving news about Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's address in UN General Assembly and they touched only one point of her address and that was Immigration.

when he landed on the Indian shore. It is a pity that even in the United States which is a land of immigrants, the immigration laws are being tightened.

Through the exaction of apartheid like immigration laws some 75 per cent of the world population are being forced to be content with only 25 per cent of the world wealth.

These unfortunate teeming millions looked for a certain period in the recent past towards the United States for their emancipation - but alas! that also eluded them, like the way much-expected cloud vanishes away over the desert sky.

This planet called earth has yet enough resources to feed the human species which inhabit it. Unfortunately, it is the law of the high and mighty which has made unsurmountable artificial geographical barriers which has created a vast population of suffering mass world-over.

of irritation from BBC. Nurul Bashir Khilgaon, Dhaka.

Diabolic

Sir, The Dhaka-Archa highway has virtually turned out to be a death-trap for the passengers. In the recent past, some horrifying accidents occurred on this route, claiming many valuable lives.

It appears that we are not fully aware of the hazards of travelling on this route. This is a very busy road and vehicles ply on this road day and night. This is the main road-link between Dhaka and the northern and western part of the country.

We generally blame the accident on the drivers' carelessness or incompetence. In many cases it may be true. It is also true that the accidents occur because of defective vehicles.

It has now become essential to give serious thought to the problem of ever-increasing number of accidents on Dhaka-Archa route. We must take immediate steps to stop accidents. This could be done only if this vital road is widened.

Why two in one frame?

Sir, Now-a-days, in all supplements of the national dailies, a photograph of our PM is used against the message given by her, as the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister's present preferred attire (specially, in the attire she preferred to take bath as PM or in the attire she prefers to meet the member of the public and the dignitaries) is not in the photograph.

One's parent's photo is never placed in the background of an official photo of an incumbent. If the photo of the Father of the Nation remains in the heart of his people, even if, the state ceases to exist. Whereas, a PM fades after a certain term, except few like Mr Lee Kuan Yee of Singapore. So, the Father of the Nation should be respected, as such irrespectively.

the public sector borrowings? If the public sector continues to swallow a larger portion of credit expansion, and thus adds to the inflationary pressures, then why should others suffer for that? The government should, in a haste, attempt to remove the impediments bedeviling the falling demand from the private sector.

By and large, the government has been doing fine on major issues. Hopefully, these would bring large dividends for the country. However, few 'inward looking' political attitudes should be shunned so that the government can avail better scores.

Only the sycophants would say, all is well honorable PM!

ance and willingness to sacrifice. People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

system. But still there is no movement or agitation to reverse the process. Yet, if the nation is to preserve the fundamental values of a democratic society, every citizen in India must display a degree of vigilance and willingness to sacrifice.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.

People must denounce the loss of values in politics. Means are important. If the BJP forms the government in UP through offering prizes and posts, as it is trying to do, it should be as much condemned as the state governor's decision not to allow the party to show its strength on the floor of the House.