The Baily Star Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Saturday, November 16, 1996

BNP's Preconditions

First the 10-point condition, and now the threepoint precondition by the BNP to return to the parliament, basically, makes a mockery of the whole purpose and function of the parliamentary process. What we have here is a practice of holding the parliament hostage to a number game. The fact that BNP has 113 MPs gives it the necessary clout to do what it is doing. There can absolutely be no justification for what the BNP is doing to the seventh Parliament except the fact that the present ruling party, the AL, did the same to the fifth parliament. So, are we in a tit-for-tat game? Is that the real reason behind all the high pitched rhetoric? What the BNP condemned the AL of doing when it was running the country, is exactly what the BNP is now guilty of. The difference is that the BNP appears to have started much earlier than the AL did, thereby making its motive far more suspect. Yet, we have to try our best to make the parlia-

ment function and go forward as best as we can. With that end in view, let us examine the BNP's three preconditions and see if we can go forward from there. The first precondition deals with the release of all BNP activists. Here the issue, we think, is quite simple. Let the BNP supply the government, and the press, a full list of the so-called activists who are held by the AL government. This will bring out in the open, the whole question of opposition harassment. Mr Suranjit Sengupta has claimed that most of those detained had warrants of arrest against them from the time of the previous government. If true, this is a strong argument to disprove the BNP's claim. This list should also immediately be made public.

BNP's second precondition is that the government should start implementing the 10-point demand. Among the issues raised in the 10 points. the one to which we can immediately lend support is the demand for full TV coverage of parliament's proceedings. We think there is merit in the BNP's position that the current coverage is tilted in favour of the ruling party. Both for the sake of fairness and greater public access to parliamentary debates, full coverage instead of selected footage is absolutely vital.

As for congenial atmosphere — the BNP's third precondition — both sides will have to contribute so that no one can singularly be blamed for the deteriorating quality of our parliamentary debate.

But the real thing is sincerity. The BNP appears dangerously resolved to pay the AL back in its own coin. If this behavioural pattern remains unchanged, national interest is going to suffer, as it always does when partisan interest becomes superior to the national one.

Return of Farida

Farida, 14, was lured to New Delhi by women traffickers from her village in Barisal three years ago. There she soon got caught and landed in Tihar jail of the Indian capital. As a result of rare collaboration between the governments of the two countries, and between the human rights organisations of Bangladesh and India, it was possible to arrange for her return after three years.

We congratulate the Bangladesh Jatiya Mohila Ainjibi Samity (BJMAS) for the role it has played in making this happen, and also all organisations and individuals who have helped Farida to regain her freedom.

The task before us is now two-fold. First, to make certain that Farida's ordeal is finally over. Whatever needs to be done to rehabilitate her must be done, including giving her skill training to enable her to pursue an independent career. She will have to be protected from the social stigma for which all must cooperate, including the mass media.

Secondly, we must learn from Farida's case and do everything we can to get many other similar victims of women trafficking out from prisons in Pakistan, India and probably the Middle East. These unfortunate victims of our extreme poverty are languishing in foreign prisons without any help. This newspaper commits its support to the work of BJMAS and other such bodies involved in similar work. We suggest the formation of an inter ministerial body, including representations from the social welfare, home, foreign and law ministries, to work with the NGOs at home and abroad and foreign governments for urgent actions on behalf of those unfortunate children and women. We urge priority action of the government in this regard.

Absurd Deaths

How safe are the city footpaths from the swooping cold hands of death? Years back, the news editor of a leading Bengali daily was looking for a vehicle to hire, standing on a particularly safe footpath near the Ramna Park area. And a big lorry laden with soft-drink bottles came ploughing over the pavement and ran him over. Between then and now, vehicles have dashed into wayside houses but pavement death has been rare. On Thursday, it came with accumulated fury. A truck ran full throttle on to a footpath in Mirpur. And killed

three. Traffic accident toll of life and property has gone up steeply. We have written tons and tons about these, recommending measures that can inhibit the frequency of both accident and death. The nation has availed nothing of that. Do the Road Transport Authority and police think on the lines of press reporters who always say the accident occurred because the driver lost control of his contraption? This is a patent inanity. How does one know if the deaths were not deliberately designed and executed without nabbing the driver and getting from him the truth?

Three lives. Now they are not. Someone must take the blame. Who if not the driver and his vehicle? Such things go on happening because we do not put value on an individual's life and because traffic deaths are not proceeded against with persistence and insight. All quarters concerned feel good to take a fatalist's view of these. This must go before we can rid our cities of such absurd deaths.

Share Market: The Tragic Magic?

There are some irrational elements in the whole share market game. To bring forth rationality, few more stock exchanges need to be established in the country; number of members of DSE should be enhanced from 195 and the government should off load its shares to the general public.

growing number of urban population are involved in the game being played in the share market. My school going goes to highlight the imporchildren advised me to engage tance of few important varisome money in buying shares ables. First, the rise in the index They heard that their grandpa. forestalls the premise that grandma, uncles and aunties people place firm faith on the are all making hefty dividends political stability in the counfrom the stock market within try. They perceive that the govfew weeks or so. Their mother ernment is unlikely to fall or a hardboiled housewife, went crack in the near future. one step further. She suggested Throughout the world, the me to withdraw the long term share market index is closely defence certificates and buy linked with the elections, ressome shares to be wealthy (and ignation of a government, maalso healthy!) over night. There jor political upheaval etc. Sec are many people who recently ond, the rise points to the fact picked up share business as that the stakers have taken their principal source of into confidence the perforincome. A large chunk of them mance of the industrial units of appear to be students and the country. Never in the hisretired persons. Theoretically, tory of Bangladesh, people so it is the speculative demand for much flocked in to test the money that constitutes the profitability(!) of our industrial linchpin of such transfers of enterprises. Third, the portfolio savings. The hypothesis is that adjustments tend to give the people tend to convert their notion that the savers of short-term assets to stocks and Bangladesh grew into maturity bonds when they perceive a over the years. They are gradularger real yield subject to ally shifting from hoarding. minimum risks But as John real estate investments and Maynard Keynes once regold purchases and injecting marked, "irrational optimism their bucks in industrial venand pessimism rule the stock tures. Fourth, the move towards market", the recent surge seems a free market economy is on only to suggest that our innoand a retreat is ruled out altocent share holders are running fast with irrational optimism but also without perceiving the

HE share market is now

pains of pessimism, whatso-

EAVE the Muslims

alone," warned Moha

mmad Ali Jinnah, the

Muslim League president His

words were directed against

Jawaharlal Nehru, president of

the Congress Party, which had

members of all communities,

including Jinnah at one time

Nehru's sarcastic reply was:

"What does the Muslim League

stand for? Does it stand for in-

to answer the question. "It rep-

resents a group of Muslims, no

doubt highly estimable persons.

for functioning in the higher

sections of upper middle-

classes and having no connec-

tion with the Muslim masses

and few even within lower

tence was acerbetic: "May I sug-

gest to Mr Jinnah that I come

into greater touch with the

Muslim masses than most

words nor forgave Nehru for

having uttered them. Instead,

he dung in to muster support of

the Muslims so that the League

would have them all. He ap-

proached different provinces.

The exclusion of the League

from the Congress UP govern-

ment after the 1937 elections

had already reaped Jinnah a big

harvest. Influential leaders like

Khaliquzzaman, who still

worked for amity between

Congress and the League, were

It was Liaquat Ali Khan, who

later became Pakistan's first

prime minister. The biggest

Mohmudabad, a landlord who

earned Rs 2 lakh a vear at that

time. He was appointed the

League's treasurer and staved in

office with the formation of

It was at his house that

Jinnah found a black Persian

lamb cap, which he were and

which came to be known as

'Jinnah cap'. It was distinc-

tively different from the khadi

'Gandhi cap'. Anything differ-

ent, anything that made him

convey a separate entity was to

ready in his bag, he went to

Calcutta where the two state

Muslim Leagues were vying

with each other for supremacy.

He was able to get Dacca's

United Muslim League party in

his League and brought into its

ranks such leaders as M S

Suhrawardy and Khawaja

Nazimuddin. The first became

Pakistan's prime minister and

the other its governor general

Fazlul Haq, the Bengal premier,

and his Krishak Proja Party

(peasants and tenants party)

first joined the League but left it

to have a separate entity. When

he realised that he would lose

the government, he joined the

League. Jinnah could not pull

were a hard nut to crack. He

Knowing that UP was al-

Pakistan.

Jinnah's liking.

now firmly on Jinnah's side.

catch was Raja

Jinnah neither forgot the

members of the League."

middle-classes." His last sen

And Nehru himself went on

dependence of India?"

the talk of the town. A

However, what concerns most of us is the perplexing rate of growth in the index of shares. The boom and the bust in Since the installation of the

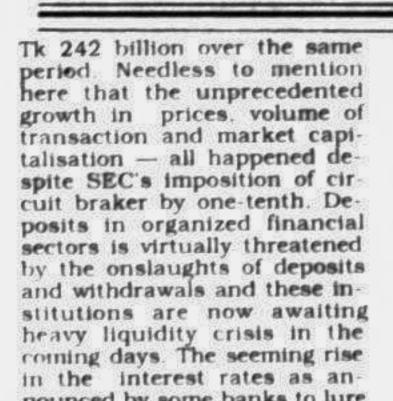
months back, the demand for shares and debentures in stock markets reached astounding heights The All Share Price index of DSE, reportedly, increased from about 1194 in the second week of October 1996 to about 3416 in the first week of November. This implies a growth rate of 186 per cent over the period. The market capitalisation is reported to have risen form Tk . 147 billion to

severs might not succeed in the face of unprecedented hike in share market. Land and nonland fixed assets also might lose their good days.

In a recent article in this page Kabir U Ahmed cited a few contributory factors to this phenomenon. These are (a) expectation; (b) reduction in capital gains taxes in the budget and (c) demand for shares lagging behind the supply of the

Beneath the Surface

by Abdul Bayes



shares. The al factor has both political and economic dimensions. People in general, as told earlier, expect that the new government has come to stay for five years. On the other hand, it is expected that the supply constraint that seemingly pervades the market might not evaporate overnight so that growing pressures are being injected into the share market

It is being alleged that there are in existence few fake tradings and manipulations that

These are, for example, licensed brokers who do not have offices and small investors have to buy shares from the streets. There is, allegedly, acute shortage of facilities in the market. There is lack of transparency in the whole transaction process. To stabilise the market, steps should immediately be taken to remove these bottlenecks. The number of members of the DSE continue to remain at 195 despite the fact that there is scope to accommodate 250 members. There is thus an element of

monopoly existing in the DSE.

The Securities Exchange Commission should be strengthened further through revitalizing its structure. There should be provisions for independent auditing since the present auditing system is not transparent. Besides, the government has a definite and positive role to play in this respect. Supply constraint can be eased by off loading large number of government shares in various organizations. While doing this, the government should see that the distribution of these shares are proper implying that there should not be any room for concentrations

The buyers of the shares should remember that there are always grave risks lying with share market is a good sign. It new government in power four nounced by some banks to lure tend to distort the market share market transactions.

First, as far as possible, they should diversify their purchases. In other words, they should never put all their eggs in one basket. Second, they should educate themselves through examining the respective balance sheets of the firms whose share they are aiming to buy. And third, purchasers should raise their voice against poor services provided by the SEC. This would mean that they would have a forum of their own to protect their interests.

By and large, the recent surge

in the share market is a good news for us. The industrial enterprises in Bangladesh should rely less on bank credit and raise more funds from the public by floating shares. The health of an economy is reflected by the various options of portfolio adjustments. Historically, the people of this country have been accustomed to holding on to gold, land, food stocks etc. Of late some of them started appearing in modern mechanism of investment. However, there are some irrational elements in the whole share market game. To bring forth rationality, few more stock exchanges need to be established in the country; number of members of DSE should be enhanced from 195 and the government should off load its shares to the general public. If proper steps are not taken to combat the distortions, the joy today may turn into tears to-

Looking Back — into the Past

When Gandhi wrote to Jinnah to enquire: "Are you still the same Mr Jinnah ... the staunchest of nationalists and the hope of both Hindus and Muslims?" he wrote back: "Nationalism is not the monopoly of any single individual and in these days it is very difficult to define it."

out the same arrangement in Punjab. Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan, prime minister of Punjab, was too powerful and too entrenched to be taken lightly. His Unionist Party. which had a majority in the Punjab legislature as against two members of the League, had also Hindus and Sikhs as its members. The League, articulating the cause of Muslims, could not admit a party with secular outlook But Jinnah could not afford to lose Punjab, heart of Pakistan, its core. Bengal was all right but its was too distant.

Jinnah made a compromise For Sikandar Hyat Khan's 'Yes' to his leadership, Jinnah gave full autonomy to the Unionist Party. The League could accommodate within its party a secular party. It was a peculiar arrangement. But if Jinnah wanted the Unionist Party and, above all, Sikandar Hyat Khan. this was the price he had to pay.

Irked by Congress, he was willing to do so. I was a student at that time. A few of my Muslim friends described how Jinnah sat glum and lonely when the council of the Muslim League passed the resolution for Punjab's 'autonomy' with thunderous cheers. Jinnah's plan was to bring all Muslim leaders on one platform to prove to Congress, more so to Nehru, that the League or, for that matter, he represented the Muslims — and he alone. He went about his business relent lessly and with an evangelistlike zeal. Compromises did not

matter. Once the best ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity Jinnah was now an inveterate separatist. He said in his presidential address to the Lucknow meeting in 1937 that the Congress governments "were pursuing a policy which is exclusively Hindu" and that "the Mussalmans cannot expect any justice or fair play at their hands." He declared: "The present leadership of Congress, especially during the last 10 years, has been responsible for alienating the Mussalmans of India more and more, by pursuing a policy which is exclu-

sively Hindu. A year later, he appointed an inquiry committee to report on the emissions and commissions of the Congress governments the Hindu Raj, as he used to say What came to be known as the Pirpur Report (since the chairman of the probe committee was Raja Sayed Mohammed Mehdi of Pirpur) said that the Congress failed "in spite of its oft-repeated resolution of guaranteeing religious and cultural liberty to the various communities because its

BETWEEN THE LINES

Kuldip Nayar writes from New Delhi

actions are not in conformity with its words." A Muslim League committee from Bihar in the Shareef Report was more acerbic and gave an account of atrocities perpetrated by Hindus at various places in Bihar.

We doubt these reports were exaggerated but they did reflect the mood of the Hindus at that time. After hundreds of years of subjugation, first by Muslims and then by the British. Hindus did feel emancipated even though they were enjoying only limited self-rule. And there were instances to show that chauvinistic trend, that had long been dormant were coming

to the surface. Maulana Azad, a Congress leader, in his book, India Wins Freedom, criticises the Pirpur Report. He says: "Stories of atrocities circulated by the Muslim League were pure invention but two things happened at that time which left a bad impression about the attitude of the Provincial Congress committees. I have to admit with regret that both the Bihar and Bombay, the Congress did not some out fully successful in its

test of nationalism. The Maulana mentions how Nariman, leader of Congress in Bombay, was denied the state's premiership because he was a Parsi. The position was given to a Hindu, B G Khar. Similarly, in Bihar, Dr Syed Mahmud should have been the state's first Congress chief minister. But he was not appointed because he was a Muslim. Sri Krishna Sinha, a Hindu, was asked to the government. Rajondra Prasad played the same role in Bihar as Sardar Patol did in Bombay," said the

Maulana Jinnah used the Pirpur and Shareef reports to highlight the differences between the Hindus and the Muslims and made it appear as if the Congress governments had been wreaking vengeance on "the helpless Muslim minority." Then they began submitting their resignations from October 28, 1939, to protest against Britain's decla ration of war in India's name without consulting them Jinnah used the opportunity to celebrate it as a "Day of Deliverance and Thanks Giving." To the surprise of the Congress, many non-Muslims including Hindus, joined in the

Hindus and Muslims?" he wrote back : "Nationalism is not the demonstration. By this time Jinnah had al-

monopoly of any single individual and in these days it is very difficult to define it."

parochial furrow When Gandhi

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Again, when Gandhi conferred on Jinnah the title of Quaid-e-Azam (the biggest leader) the latter merely said "What is in a prefix? After all, a

rose called by any other name smells just as sweet." In reply to Nehru's letter of April 16, 1938, saying that "the Muslim League is an important communal or organisation ... but the other organisations, even though they might be younger and smaller, cannot be ignored, Jinnah said: "Your tone and language again display the same arrogance and militant spirit, as if the Congress is the sovereign power... Unless the Congress recognises the Muslim League on a footing of complete equality and is prepared as such to negotiate for a Hindu-Muslim settlement, we shall have to wait and depend upon our inherent strength."

OPINION

Bangladeshis — a Forgetting, Forgiving Lot!

ready joined issue with

Mahatma Gandhi and Mahan

and had given ample evidence

that he wanted to plough a

I have been an avid reader fond of anything that is printed and make sense. In short, you can say that reading is my pastime. But I have never been anywhere near writing, because that calls for style, knowledge. command over language, reasoning and many other hidden qualities. I cannot ever dare to match the prolific writers and commentators like M/s. SAMS Kibria, (present Finance Minister). Rezaul Karim. Arshaduzzaman, Waliur Rahman, Abdul Bayes, AZM Haider, Zillur Rahman, Sadeq Khan, Enayetullah Khan, Kabir

U Ahmed and many others. Actually I should not have tried to pen down some of my comments on issues which have either surfaced now or have been events of the past. I am doing it because as a citizen of this country I feel that I should also give vent to my feelings in order that it may help someone or appear useful to some. Let me give you an unforget-

ful incident, which occurred in my life. I cannot recollect the date, month or year. But the whole event keeps on flashing in my memory lane. I was on a business-cum-pleasure flight to Europe. The next seat was occupied by an European, who was returning home after. I believe. completing his tour of duty in Bangladesh. The long flight: boredom was taking over and as such we stuck slowly to converse with each other. The more talked to him, the more I got convinced that he was an explorer. He knew almost everything of our country, which included history, geography, culture, nature, politics, etc. During our conversation one of his comments about us hit me right on the head. As such, even so much time has passed, I cannot but remember it even today. Let me quote exactly what he said. "You Bangladeshis are a forgiving and forgetting lot, who do not pick up or learn from history but are very kind and amenable." Then he went on to describe two distinct events to prove his point. First even was the frequent visit of cyclones in our country. First one occurred in 1960 taking a heavy toll of life. The then government planned and executed. in close cooperation of many donor countries, measures and systems to develop early warning system. This was then disshould react and leave for safer areas. Yet the cyclone of 1970 got a heavier toll. Needless to say in April, 1991 death rose to a figure of 1,46,000 (approx.). Then he said that the political party like Jamaat-e-Islami basing its politics on religion has been once again allowed to do politics (needless to say what role they played during the liberation war). Forgiving lot we

I do not wish to occupy the centre stage of your esteemed newspaper for too long. Therefore, I intend to limit my comments to a few events of today, yesterday or yester yesterday. Let me begin with the event of Mrs Rashid's case (Col. Rashid's wife). Whatever my comments are based on news in newspapers. She, I believe has

Onlooker been arrested for possessing illegal arms. (I believe from her possession they found Col Rashid's licensed arms). She has been taken on remand for questioning. Then my question is whether the licensed arm of husband can be kept at home during temporary absence of the husband or need to be deposited somewhere. What is the legal position? Let the police give out the finer points, or else many of our wives may also be

subjected to such actions. I was pleasantly surprised by a point raised by Maj. (retd) A in a very lively debate on the floor of the Parliament. The point raised: "Two persons jailed for having taken active part against liberation war are now Ministers". The "two" are certainly sweating, but what about other members of the government party, who failed to recognise them, even failed to protest the induction of the two Surely in government party majority of them are Freedom Fighters. (Forgetful/forgiving lot we are!

When the civil servants were

introduced the main theme must have been to have an efficient lot, who will run administration properly. Warlords would come and go but the "Mandarins" in China were a class by themselves. In Bangladesh, we had inherited the civil service from Pakistan who in turn inherited it from the British. Objective was same. But what we witness in Bangladesh is overzealous civil servants, who tend to go beyond the call of duty. Mr Waliur Rahman, in his recent article "Politics and Pilgrimage" printed in The Daily Star has tried to belittle the ex-Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. I must admit that is the right attitude of a civil servant. Serving the present might help him to get his job back. But how will he be able to negate the vision of those who had seen him visiting/frequenting the office and residences of the then PM and FM and spending hours and marshalling support for his own needs. The Daily Star editor should not be that forgetful of the articles this gentleman wrote against SAMS Kibria's comments trying to support the then government's stand during seminated to lowest tiers of non-cooperation movement coastal dwellers so that on re- (Forgetting and Forgiving lot we ceipt of information they are!) (Latest! in a news item I saw that he has been rein-

Now let me make a few comments with reference to articles published in the weekly "Holiday" dated 1 Nov. 1996. A renowned journalist like Mr Ataus Samad in his article "What is Or is Not Fit to print" has elaborated how journalists are commenting about other members. He talked about owners avoiding printing the truth. All I can say "go back to January, 1975 and you will get the answer." We have elected this government. (Forgiving

and Forgetting lot we are! The article titled "Foreign Ministry's Woes" by Yasmin Chowdhury, associate professor, has really impressed me. The systematic synthesis leave hardly any doubt about the au-

thenticity of the write-up. The chronological details given in her commentary really takes the readers by surprise. Being one such reader my only comment is that she being miles away - how is it possible for her to have such insight. Two possibilities — one that she has been fed by someone of Foreign Ministry or the other is that she may be serving in the ministry in cognito. If my both contentions are wrong, then she is really a research scholar. Be it so then she will also have good knowledge of Indian Foreign Service. In India most of Foreign Secretaries, before taking up assignments, have been those who served in the neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, etc. in last stages. Mr Dubey, Mr M N Dixit Mr Srinivashan are few of them. Then why is it in Bangladesh Foreign Service posting in Washington, London, Paris, etc. appears to be so important? In order to keep the SAARC spirit alive, as commented by the PM recently, it is all the more reason for us to keep experienced senior ambas-

sadors in and around

always the practice to condemn

In Bangladesh politics it is

Bangladesh.

the previous regime. Therefore, I strongly contest against anyone who says that our PM is overdoing. She has to do it to keep her politics and aims on course. She has every plausible ground to say that her previous government's policy has led to all the bad things that are happening in the country be it economy, law and order or any other issues. If I can recollect every Home Minister at the time of taking over invariably have assured us that he would ensure a better law and order situation. The present incumbent only recently in the Parliament has assured the members in an emotionally choked voice that he would take a neutral stance in matter of who commits lawlessness Bravol saying in the Parliament at least assures me of his sincerity. Now the question arises whether he will be able to do so being a member of a party. In a party government, the biggest problem the Home Ministry faces is from within Moreover, the law enforcing agencies, who have since liberation served different governments, on arrival of a new government, would try to prove "that they are holier than Pope". This results in the embarrassment of the Government. (I would like to warn the Hon'ble Home Minister by saying — be careful or else you will also prove my

point! We are forgetful lot!) Bravo! The Hon'ble Prime Minister! at your intervention, postings of five customs officials have been "stayed". Their fault was that they stood up against pressure from some influential minister to do something unethical. So far so good. Now the question arises, why only "stayed", when PM thinks it was wrong? We hope this action will not die down in the gallery, instead people are ex-pecting to see some "fireworks" even against such ministers. (Let it prove my contention wrong at least once.)

Newspaper holiday

Sir, Most of the people have developed a habit of reading newspapers 'everyday'. We fail to understand why a vast majority of people are deprived of their thirst for newspapers for days together on national holi-

In this modern age of market economy, science and technology, latest computer, fax and telecommunications system and no shortage of man-power. why do we cease publication of newspapers on national holi-

If the electricity, water supply, railways, air and bus services do not remain closed on national holidays in our country, and radio and TV can continue to operate without any disruption, why then the newspapers cannot continue their publication?

Cannot our newspaper own-ers, publishers, editors, journalists and media personalities find out ways and means to bring out newspapers on national holidays and meet the requirement of millions of peo-

The issue of grant of weekly and closed holidays for news media men is not a problem at

all. This can easily and amicably be sorted out and solved by all concerned through discus-

We strongly feel and demand that there should not be any newspaper holiday in the future. If necessary we, the readers, may launch a countrywide campaign "No Newspaper Holiday" in the future. We would request our learned readers to kindly enlighten all concerned with their valuable opinions and suggestions on the matter. O H Kabir

Wari, Dhaka-1203 An appeal to Khaleda Zia

Sir. Since the installation of

the Awami League government, Begum Khaleda Zia, the former prime minister and the present leader of the opposition has been found absenting herself from all important state functions on lame excuses. She didn't attend the opening ceremony of the seventh parliament. She took her oath after an unusual delay. She neither attended the oath-taking function of the present Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina nor that of the President Justice Shahabuddin. The other day she once again was found

absenting from the parliament on the occasion of first day of the second session of the Jatiya

Sangsad. I do not think such behaviour will in any way come to her advantage or to BNP's interest. In democracy a government may be dragged down by the people through free and fair election even if its head might be a top-most politician. Many leaders of sterling qualities have been defeated by their rivals of less importance. Indira Gandhi was defeated by Morarji Desai, Bush by Clinton and recently Simon Peres of Israel

A country is not the personal property of any politician. Governments come and go. Peoples verdict must be accepted by the defeated parties gracefully.

lost to Benjamin.

It would be better for Begum Khaleda Zia to fulfill her national obligations by partici-pating in politics wholeheartedly as the leader of the opposition. She must not feel roiled at the present situation to make fuss over picayune matters ignoring burning problems faced by the nation. This will prove a bonanza for her.

K R Zakhmi Khulna