

We condemn the attack on Indian parliament

Let restrained approach be taken to avoid escalation

Error has struck in the immediate neighbourhood of Bangladesh. Last week's dastardly attack within the high security precincts of Indian Lok Sabha is yet another proof of how no-holds-barred terrorism can really get in the choice of its targets.

The choice of sensitive targets for a special effect and their accomplishment through hell-bent suicide mission have given terrorism a horrific new dimension.

We fully understand New Delhi's sense of outrage at the dastardly mayhem and share its concern for an early counter action against the perpetrators.

Restore road sanity before normal traffic resumes

Post-Eid ease provides an opportunity which one should take advantage of

One of the great blessings of the post-Eid season is the traffic situation in Dhaka. The privilege of watching a city traffic scene which borders on the sane is surely nothing short of a miracle.

Some of the typical problems that can be resolved involve making intersections actually traffic facilitating points. To ensure that necessary and sufficient space is available to enable vehicular movement instead of massive gridlocks, which remain unmoving throughout the day.

And not all the crazy parking is because of space constraints. Much can be attributed to the lack of concern and knowledge about traffic rules as well as deliberate flouting of the same.

The bus stops have in fact become informal super markets of the vendors and street shops. This may be providing space to the shopping under-class but it's also playing havoc with the traffic movement and contributing to the already extremely high level of confusion on the roads.

Of course, the great contributor to the traffic madness of Dhaka are the rickshaws and with every passing season they become mightier in size and diminish the ability of the managers to establish order and sense on the road.

ourselves for the society to which we belong. Some of us talk in terms of social injustice, corruption, terrorism, political instability etc. Maybe if their utterances were true in spirit, many of the social ills and prejudices would have vanished with the passage of time.

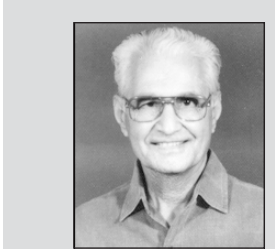
What we need most today is a spirit of patriotism and love for the country. Let us hope that "The Daily Star" will play a vital role in enlightening the minds of people in power and those in opposition for the nation's security in future.

Abul Ashraf Noor, Uttara, Dhaka

E-cash advert in bad taste

I found the E-cash ATM advertisement on the back page of December 3 Daily Star inappropriate and in bad taste.

Governments need help



M B NAQVI writes from Karachi

FOLLOWING the 13 December terrorist attack on the Parliament in New Delhi, India and Pakistan seem set to slide into war --- now or a little later.

They obviously need help, if not of a government, then non-official for resuming a serious civilised dialogue.

polity not only needs to be preserved but strengthened. On the other hand, the present insurgency in Kashmir cannot be allowed to go on; it is killing youngmen on a large-scale; wealth is not only being destroyed but its new creation is being preempted; and horrible violations of human rights are being perpetrated by 'both' sides.

spread genocide, not to mention trampling of human decencies and rights underfoot in the days of 1947 partition of British Indian Empire.

side to obliterate a city or two before using one's own nuclear weapon; both may in fact race to be the first to use it.

point and which would drive each other away.

But the task of sustaining this official dialogue will then devolve on prominent intellectuals of India and Pakistan.

PLAIN WORDS

Let there be an international seminar of prominent persons.... Let it suggest a committee of five, seven or ten. This would, after studying the problems at issue exhaustively, make the two governments begin the dialogue at appropriate levels....

one dimension of terror for common people on either side. It will not be like US' war on Iraq or even Afghanistan. Here religious passions of well over a billion persons, men and women, are being steadily roused by hardliners on both sides.

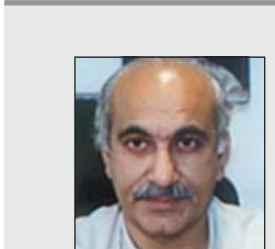
are nuclear powers. Should a war erupt, there will be strong temptation to use nuclear weapons to quickly crush the losing side and by the weaker party to avoid being defeated.

found mistrust that the mere existence of nuclear weapons on the 'other' side inevitably generate, can cloud judgements, especially of the kind of political decision-makers there are.

We have thus to find individuals of wisdom as well as high stature who can be persuaded to undertake this difficult task.

Let me set the ball rolling about selections. For the international committee, one should look for men and women who have experience of national affairs, have conducted international talks, possess high integrity as well as stature, not to say wisdom.

Yeh dil maange less! Is 13 December the Kargil of 2001?



M.J. AKBAR

Kargil came out of the blue, or rather the white of Himalayan mountaintops, for the Vajpayee government. Not to mince any words, Kargil was a massive intelligence failure.

and instead of offering an alternative government, a dysfunctional Opposition fractured in full view of television cameras.

base. No voter thought Jyoti Basu was unpatriotic.

rounds, but that is only a part of the drill for even better capability. A grateful government is not counting the number of rounds.

and consider. Men in such an operation are most effective when they do exactly what they have been programmed to do.

achieve a number of inter-related objectives through 13 December. The passage of the anti-terrorist law is part of a package that is expected to deliver Uttar Pradesh in the crucial Assembly elections ahead.

BYLINE

The most important difference between today and two years is the gap in credibility. Today, voters are more likely to call the performance of the government incredible rather than credible.

the betrayal of their Lahore initiative. By the end of the Kargil war, and before the beginning of the general election, the voter was telling Vajpayee: Yeh dil mange more!

available evidence or equipment and supplies that they carried, they wanted to hold a sufficient number of the highest rung of politicians hostage and then bargain with the Indian government over at least ten days to get a number of demands met.

Prime Minister was Vajpayee or Basu since both have the good sense not to interfere with professionals, and provide all the logistical support they need.

embarrassing square with the third factor. There is one reference to Kargil that the government is trying hard to forget: the coffin scam, extraordinary not so much for the money involved but for the sheer audacity.

When politicians start running from their mistakes, they quickly discover two things: first, you can run, but you can't hide. Second, you also run out of excuses.

TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR TO THE EDITOR

Movie of the week

The timing of the Movie of the week on BTV Saturday morning at 10:40 am should be changed.

If this government declares Sunday as a holiday, BTV can change the time schedule of Movie of the week either Saturday night or Sunday afternoon or Sunday night.

BTV once used to care about which programmes could be put on which time slot but they aren't so considerate now.

When bad habits can ruin one's life, all of us should try to mobilize public opinion to save our younger generation from being destroyed. Unfortunately, most of us do not exert

ourselves for the society to which we belong. Some of us talk in terms of social injustice, corruption, terrorism, political instability etc. Maybe if their utterances were true in spirit, many of the social ills and prejudices would have vanished with the passage of time.

What we need most today is a spirit of patriotism and love for the country. Let us hope that "The Daily Star" will play a vital role in enlightening the minds of people in power and those in opposition for the nation's security in future.

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Women should be in purdah

The news on the activities of the IPRC (Islamic Paribash Rakha Committee) of Islamic University has drawn my attention. There used to be a time when Muslim women of Bangladesh practised purdah (veil). I remember my mother and other elder female relatives used to go out covering the rickshaw by a saree.

Female students can't be isolated from the prevailing culture of our society. Strong motivation is required. All Bengali Muslim families

SSC and HSC results

The Education Boards should encourage newspaper reading. Good students need to read newspapers to do better. The trouble is that only their parents and guardians read the daily newspapers.

Hasina's three left-overs

Sk Hasina, after her defeat in 2001 election, started blaming each and everyone. She blamed the 4 party alliance for crude rigging, the caretaker government and the Election

Does the government know how?

One question that baffles many is the failure to curb terrorists activity especially in the capital city? Is it because that the government does not really mean to eliminate terrorism from the society as their party members are involved in these activities?

Laden tape confirms evidence

Even before the release of the tape showing bin Laden gloating over attacks on New York and Washington, the earlier released tapes showed0 him congratulating the

hijackers and calling for more such attacks.

The discovery of terrorist training camps in Kabul and Jalalabad were proofs that he and his Taliban henchmen were plotting for such attacks.

physical fitness, latest tactics, weapons, communication facilities and logistics.

Under these circumstances, to curb crimes and terrorism from the society following suggestions may be taken into consideration:

whether the police has any real intention to catch terrorists.

And, two, whether the police has the ability to catch them.

Under these circumstances, to curb crimes and terrorism from the society following suggestions may be taken into consideration:

1.Special Force should be deployed to monitor the activities of the police;

Under these circumstances, to curb crimes and terrorism from the society following suggestions may be taken into consideration:

- 1.Special Force should be deployed to monitor the activities of the police; 2.Community participation should be ensured; 3.Honest and dedicated party men may recruited as volunteer; 4.Local bodies (Ward Commissioner, Member, Chairman) should be brought to book for restoration of peace in their respective areas. 5.MPs may be given the responsibilities to supervise the activities of the enforcement agencies.

Matin bin Zahir Gopibagh, Dhaka