Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Thursday, January 27, 1994

## Good Luck to You, CEC

The Chief Election Commissioner on Tuesday sought the co-operation of the candidates as well as voters to make the city corporation elections of January 30 a success. This was in continuation of the pressure he was putting on the parties and the candidates through largely the media to keep to the rules of the game. This time he met the candidates and party top people to ask them directly to co-operate, which very plainly is an euphemism for keeping off any mischief violating the EC rules. The CEC's repeated behests have been as persuasive as they were forceful. Whatever he has so far said on these elections has a constant theme of enjoining on concerned people not to take the election rules and EC lightly. There were indeed very unmistakable signs that the electionwallahs were indulging in exactly the same - camps mushroomed in Dhaka city in numbers enough to smother the poor metropolis and there was no wall here of any sizeable length which was not daubed with election blabber. The heat building in a crescendo seemed at points to be all money and vituperatives very plainly slighting the CEC's cautions and warnings.

We very happily note that there has been a noticeable change in all that and things have indeed started responding to the CEC's persistence. The CEC has given a very well-timed fillip to this change by giving the Tuesday meeting some hints that his exertions were not all talk and no substance but were solidly backed by both resolve and means to stop any infraction of the rules committed before, during and after the actual polling. Arrangement of on-the-spot summary trials reassures us as does the extensive detailing of police and BDR personnel. And his warning against unauthorised declaration of results by radio and television should prove one of the wisest of acts involving conduct of elections.

How can the nation afford not to take CEC's proddings seriously? These are no national polls and in fact hardly anything higher than local council elections. Even then the parties with their very top leaders could not ever get down to electioneering more seriously than now. Why? Their idea of the importance of these polls is highly partisan - these are important for the survival and the future of their parties. That may be quite so. But are these so important nationally? Very much so. It will be these elections which will set the tone for the national election of 1996. Any upset result will reverberate throughout the nation.

These local elections are supremely important nationally for another - and non-partisan - reasons. These elections are going to influence the course of this nation's tryst with democracy in a very crucial and long-lasting manner - by the way it comes off buffeted by government and opposition, party and candidate anxieties for a

And that way it is going to be a win or lose game for the nation as a whole represented not by the Prime Minister in this case but by the Chief Election Commissioner. There are only two days to go for it, and how we wish the CEC all the good luck in the world. We are with you. You can be sure the nation is with you.

## The Night's Message

Setting apart a whole night for prayer to the Almighty is a wonderful mental experience that we the Muslims have demonstrated. Tonight we seek the divine blessings of the Creator in all humility. On this count, this is the night of all nights for them. Through such supplication we the followers of Islam not only reach out to our fellow brothers and sisters but to all people of human fraternity.

Lilat-ul-Barat, as its name suggests, is good luck the night brings in for all. But for the luck to be bestowed upon someone, the Almighty wants that he or she has proved worthy of the same and where one has failed one is genuinely penitent for it. Unfortunately, not all that takes place on the night conforms to the sombre mood of the occasion. A festive environ with crackers blasting overtakes on the fringes the more important part of serenity and submission of the self. The beauty of the night is that it offers one a chance for rising above oneself. And what could be a better way of doing this except through a complete surrender of the self to the omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient and benevolent Creator.

The teachings of the night are quite relevant to the nation in general — one that is still striving to bring about a balance between the personal gains and the collective interests. A nation in the making showed the first indication of a true national unity but subsequent developments have pulled apart the rock-solid oneness of the national psyche. In fact, the religious teachings of the night can be of tremendous help in removing the discordant elements that stand in the way of reaching a national consensus. The message of the night, among other things, is that there should be no contradiction between the search for personal wellbeing and the quest for national prosperity.

However, to translate the ideal of Shab-e-Barat into practice, the night's good work has to be extended into a concerted endeavour for collective good round the year. Only the special fervour of the night may be absent from all other days' routine avocations; but the positive moral for collective well-being should essentially be with us.

This is at the root of every nation's success. As a nation we have proved that like all other great nations, we are capable of responding to the duty's call. And, our duty now is to strike a balance between personal gains and national weal; for, if the nation's fate does not improve, how can the individual's lot be better. Only this realisation will be a fitting tribute to the night's glory.

# The World of Vladimir Zhirinovsky

by Arshad-uz Zaman

The world of Vladimir Zhirinovsky extends not only to the borders of the Soviet Union but goes all the way down to the warm waters of Indian Ocean. If his views on many countries, leaders and issues are controversial, he reserves his choicest remarks for Turkey and the Turks,

This time his Liberal Democratic Party comes on top of the table with 25 % of the votes. Yeltsin's candidate Igor Geider's Russia's choice a distant second with 15% of the votes and the Communists

LEXANDER Vladimir

ther Apple), capital of Kaz-

hakstan in 1946. That places

him in the generation of post

war leaders like Bill Clinton.

He had a difficult childhood

and lived in virtual poverty

with his working mother and

step father 15 years his

mother's junior, who often

came home drunk and smoked

Alma Ata, he found his way to

Moscow and joined the

Institute of Oriental Studies.

He studied Turkish and this

may be considered a turning

point in his life. He later came

to Turkey, worked for almost

eight months and even landed

in Turkish jail for distributing.

according to the Turkish po-

lice, Marxist Rozettes and, ac-

cording to him, Pushkin

Rozettes, for 'he has never

been a communist', In any case

he managed to learn fluent

Turkish. Dr. Turkkaya Ataov,

professor of political science at

the Ankara University and a

columnist of the Daily News of

Ankara (four decades ago when

I started my diplomatic career

in Istanbul he was editor of our

magazine and translator) who

has known him quotes him as

saying that the Russian people

are hostile to two words:

Communism and Capitalism

According to Ataov Zhirinovsky

pooh poohed so called re-

forms of Yeltsin' and predicted

that he would defeat Yeltsin in

Although the latest parlia-

mentary elections in Russia are

sending shock waves through-

out the world, this is not the

first time that Zhirinovsky

fought elections. He was a

candidate for presidency

against Boris Yeltsin and out of

6 candidates came third and

received nearly 6 million votes.

HE term 'Third World'

the world's poor nations from

the rich, but development

experts say the label is now

diverting scarce aid resources

larised into have-alls and have-

nothings but also now incorpo-

rates a 'middle class' of nations

where incomes and living stan-

dards have dramatically in-

oil-producing nations such as

Iran and Kuwait and the newly

industrialising countries (NICs)

such as Thailand and Malaysia

Also lost in this jumble are

countries in the Far East that

have been called 'tiger' nations

such as South Korea and

still listed as Third World coun-

tries and often compete with the

world's poorest and most needy

nations for development assis-

together and calling them the

Third World, clouds issues,"

says OXFAM development ad-

viser John Magrath. "The term

is increasingly becoming

meaningless as it does not ac-

Inside the Third World is more

blunt. He says the terminology

not only oversimplifies but

HE man credited with

wildlife resources, Dr Richard

Leakey, is fighting for his

refused to accept Leakey's res-

ignation before completion of an

inquiry into the allegations

Before Leakey's 1989 ap-

pointment as head of the Kenya

Wildlife Society (KWS), the

country's game parks were in a

mess. Poaching was so rampant

that many species were in dan-

ger of being wiped out. Park

management was so bad that

rangers were unkempt and de-

both at home and abroad,

President Moi named Dr Leakey

to put the country's precious

animal house in order to ensure

In Leakey, President Moi saw

Four years later, the

that its crucial role in the econ-

a man of distinction, resolve,

President and most Kenyans

are satisfied that tourism, the

country's main foreign exchange

In response to an outcry

President Daniel arap Moi

political life.

moralised.

omy was not lost.

courage and integrity.

made against him.

restoring order to the

exploitation of Kenya's

Paul Harrison, editor of

curately reflect reality."

Nevertheless, all of them are

"Lumping all these countries

Including in this group are

creased.

The world is no longer po-

from more needy countries.

may have been useful in

the past of differentiate

a straight contest for presi-

After indifferent studies in

endless cigarettes.

Zhirinovsky was born in

Alma Ata (meaning Fa-

The world of Vladimir Zhirinovsky extends not only to the borders of the Soviet Union but goes all the way down to the warm waters of Indian Ocean. If his views on many countries, leaders and issues are controversial, he reserves his choicest remarks for Turkey and the Turks. whom he calls 'barabarian' and adds 'if all the Turks died it would not mean a thing to the world. He says that the 30 million Kurds deserve to have a state of their own. 'It should be noted here that Turkey has been fighting the Kurdish PKK guerillas in the South eastern part of Turkey for the last nine years. This blood letting has cost on both sides more than 10,000 lives and there is a virtual war in the region. Under Turkish prodding Germany and France have recently outlawed PKK activities on their soil. Travelling back in history Zhirinovsky talks about the massacre of one and a half million Armenians in Anatolia during the Ottoman rule in 1915 and adds 'no Nuremburg was set up against the Turks'. He advocates breaking up of 'Turkish speaking world' for they want to set up a Turkish state stretching from Istanbul

splitting up of the Islamic world since other religions do not promote war.' Zhirinovsky is entirely in favour of Russia moving south for "this would bring freedom to the 20 million Kurds, thousands of Baluchi, Pashtuns, Dari and others. This move would remove threats between Iran-Irak, Iran-Turkey, Tajikistan-Afghanistan and Pakistan-India. This move will be beneficial for the Russian army, who have gone lazy living in the caserns and forgotten who the enemy is and whose

muscles have become flabby'. adds Zhirinovsky. Zhirinovsky is holding centre stage in Turkey due to his views and also because of his fluent Turkish. He is readily available to the Turkish media and immediately after his election victory he appeared on a largely viewed TV program. A large circulation daily is serializing his book where he frankly elaborates his views on Russia's destiny towards the south.

If his election victory brought him on centre stage, Zhirinovsky has already established a solid reputation for public activities, which are provocative and outrageous. He has told his host the Bulgarian President to step down and make room for his own friend. ( in the days of the Soviet Union such a result could no doubt have been obtained by other methods). The result was that he was expelled from Bulgaria and his visit to

Germany cancelled. Zhirinovsky has threatened to sent 300,000 Russian soldiers back to East Germany. Zhirinovsky appears to have avid curiosity for the world beyond Russia's borders and one of his earlier trips took him to Baghdad and he has specially friendly feelings for Saddam

If at first sight the views of

Zhirinovsky appear extreme, a

closer examination would reveal that they are not so far removed from the traditional Russian foreign policy. Only it is articulated in a colourful and provocative language. During his conversation with Turkkaya Ataov he forecast that most members of the armed forces would vote for him and that appears to be the case. What we witness today since the collapse of the Soviet Union nearly 3 years ago, is an attempt on the part of the current leadership to recover lost ground and regain her control over the members of the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS). The Communist Party became the target for all the misfortune of the Soviet Union and there appears no effort to resurrect

it although this was the arm

for Moscow's reach throughout

the world. Here the views of

Yeltsin and Zhirinovsky are

strikingly similar. In the

aftermath of Zhirinovsky vic-

tory when the media was

branding him a fascist and

comparing him with Hitler. ing NATO. the Russian Ambassador in

south, they say.

countries."

more deserving.

There are many poor nations in

the northern hemisphere, just

as there are rich nations in the

Overseas Development Institute

notes: "Chile, Argentina,

Australia and New Zealand are

all in the southern hemisphere

but they are not exactly poor

Winpenny believe that more

precision in terminology is

needed if aid and other devel-

opment assistance is to be tar-

geted at the poorest and the

most needy countries that are

Experts also say that one

As James Winpenny of the

Ankara put out a statement that Zhirinovsky was a nation-

Russia and Turkey have

fought many wars in the past

The collapse of the Soviet

Union resulted after many cen-

border with Russia. Turkey also seized the opportunity to stretch her hand towards the Caucasus and Central Asia. She was the first to recognize the newly independent states fol-CIS states. lowing the break up of the Soviet Union, exchange Ambassadors, start flights to all those capitals, set up an organisation in Ankara within the Foreign Ministry to channel aid to her kith and kin, in a word put her diplomacy on high gear for the opportunity appearing before her. Late President Turgut Ozal coined the phrase ' from the Adriatic to the border of China." In June 1992 Turkey hosted a Summit of Black Sea countries including Russia and a Secretariat has just been set up in Istanbul. As Russia tightens her hold on these countries a period of uneasy co-existence between her on the one hand and neighbours like Turkey. Iran becomes inevitable. In the world of Zhirinovsky there is no room for outsiders in the former Soviet Union. In Eastern Europe the picture is not much different. Boris Yeltsin has flatly told them that they of Daily News of Ankara caught must shun such desire as jointhe right mood in his editorial 'thank God we did not disman-In the emergence of tle NATO.

and environmental conserva-

side of IMF/World Bank circles of the UN Development Programme's Human Development Index (HDI) reflects the fact that, even though it has its own drawbacks, it is, presently the most accurate measure of levels of human needs and development in dif-

money terms, the HDI takes into account three indices: levels of health, education and purchasing power. For example, according to the UNDP's HDI 'league table' for 1993, Japan is ranked first, while Guinea, at the very bottom of the table, is

As a measure of the relative accuracy of the HDI, Shri Lanka and Costa Rica are ranked higher than they are in the World Bank's GDP per capita league table - levels of education and health in these coun-

Although the HDI has been criticised as being too crude and simplistic, many experts including ODI's Winpenny believe it is the best index of development available. They say it

# Third World: Poverty by Any Other Name

serves as a device to conceal how much aid is going to those who don't need it".

to Altai'. Zhirinovsky advocates

Along with other aid experts. he says this categorisation of countries at disparate levels of development - under one Third World grouping - leads to the current situation where middleincome countries receive more aid per capita than the poorest nations.

In 1990-1991, for instance, Israel receive 10 times more aid than a country like Madagascar. Analysts have estimated that Malaysia gets 50 per cent more aid per capita than Bangladesh, even though per capita income in Malaysia is 10 times higher.

Development experts charge that aid currently bears little or no relation to need and than an accurate index that exposes where poverty and suffering are harshest must be found preferably soon.

To substitute 'developing world' for 'Third World' does not solve the problem, says

"It is long, boring and valueladen," he says. "Developed countries are developing too toward God knows what future, but at all events, different from

The same sentiments are ex-

Aid experts say the term 'Third World' is no longer helpful in determining which country needs the most assistance. Julian Samboma of Inter Press Service reports from London.



pressed by OXFAM's Belinda Coote, who says the term "is a misnomer because much of the so-called developing world hasn't done any developing

Another favourite term, which many analysts say will soon take over from the other

very pertinent fact that the generic Third World glosses over is that the members of the group of countries it loosely refers to require different kinds of assistance.

The middle-income and industrialised economies will benefit most from trade concessions, loans and technological cooperation, say the experts.

But those countries in the most needy group where poverty and population explosion have wreaked havoc on the environment should get all the available aid resources to assist in human resource development

should replace its predecessors to help focus provision of aid and assistance to the mostneedy. Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife official: "Dr Leakey's only sin is that he has slammed the strongroom door shut on the corrupt

government officials who would

have loved to dip their dirty fin-

Robert Otani writes from Nairobi

Kenya's already troubled relationship with Western aid donors has not been helped by a row over the country's "Mr Wildlife," the legless paleontologist widely credited with restoring order and profitability to the game parks. Gemini News Service looks at a dispute that could affect the nation's biggest foreign exchange earner.



Richard Leakey

earner, is no longer threatened by the wanton killing of wild animals for trophies.

But some Kenyans are not

satisfied by the performance of the distinguished paleontologist, both of whose legs were amputated after an air crash.

The opposition has been led by Local Government Minister William ole Ntimama, who accuses Leakey of running the state corporation as his own bistro and defying the President's directive that part of the proceeds from the parks and reserves be ploughed into the coffers of the local authorities which harbour or border

Ntimama and a few other politicians also accuse Leakey of spending large sums of money from foreign donors without proper consultation with the Wildlife Society's board of trustees.

Ntimama followed up his opening salvo against Leakey with other attacks in news conferences and rallies.

Most of his support comes from MPs with constituencies next to the parks. Ntimama's power base is next to the famous Masai-Mara game reserve, and that of his fellow Cabinet Minister, Darius Mbela, borders the Tsavo park.

Leakey's political supporters, many of whom are Opposition MPs, say his problems are the result of a ploy by the government to replace him with someone more amenable to the powers-that-be. Leakey, they argue, is standing firm against those who would like a share of the large sums of money which the wildlife industry attracts. He

has also blocked plans by politicians seeking to establish tourist resorts in the game sanctuaries.

One of the major bones of contention is the long-drawnout wrangle between the Wildlife Society and Narok County Council over management of the Masai-Mara, which earns millions of shillings a

Another sore point is that the Society has been despicably skimpy in compensating families whose members have been killed or maimed by stray animals or who have had crops destroyed.

Among them are the Masai. the group represented by Ntimama.

gers in the KWS funds. He is a dedicated conservationist who had both legs amputated but who returned to work as if nothing had happened." The Society's chairman, journalist Hillary Ng'weno, says compensation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife not of the

however, do not draw a line between the two, as their roles are complementary. A complicating factor has been the Government's silence on the issue, which has been so loud that ordinary Kenyans have taken it as acquiescence in

Society. Most Kenyans,

the anti-Leakey campaign. And when Moi finally spoke in mid-January, after weeks of controversy; the general reaction was that his intervention was the application of a ban-

dage to an ulcer rather than treatment. ROBERT OTANI is a freelance

the help of WASA, DESA and

T&T cuts off all facilities to the

doctors for 10 days; the veg-

etable seller, the foodgrain

seller, the butcher and others

refuse to sell their commodities

and services, - only then the

doctors will realize what is the

taste of a strike. People should

socially boycott the doctors, for

Government should take

strict stand against the doctors

who left the stations and joined

each time they go on strike.

### Says David Kariuki, a Kenyan journalist.

### Voters' list

Sir, A correct voters' list is a must for any fair election, for if qualified voters are left out of the list, or if the voters' list contains spurious names, it largely affects the result. In the last election it was so detected that the name of less important a personality than the mother of the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was not in the voters' list, although her name was very much in the voters' list that was used in the election held prior to that. The discrepancy was rather serious and it caused a great uproar. It was, however, not known as to what action, if any, was taken against the person/s responsible for using a defective voters' list.

People very often cry for a fair election. But for a fair elec-

tion, the pre-requisites are many and of that the voters' list is certainly of great significance. To illustrate the point, I am inclined to mention that during the 1954 general election, the total number of votes polled were only 40 per cent of the total number of voters as per voters' list. It otherwise means that if the idle voters were active in the election then entirely a new set of members could be elected in the Assembly. This large number of 60% voters were not certainly genuine voters and they very much include dead and absent voters.

It is true, one who is not voter now may be qualified as a voter as soon he crosses the minimum age limit required for the purpose. So also it is very much necessary that as soon as one dies his name has to be

struck off from the voters' list. But there is reason to think that the process of revision is not done as a matter of routine and is taken up only when there is talk of election and in a haste whatever revision is made, is not conclusive and correct. That is why the preparation of correct voters' list in any election can only ensure a correct and fair election. It is perhaps known to many that at the time of voting, the names of a good number of dead persons and those who have left the place on business or otherwise. happen to appear in the voters'

To my mind, when the date of any election is announced, it is incumbent on the person or department responsible for the preparation of the voters' list to take proper and effective steps

as may be necessary to undertake revision of the last used voters' list to ensure that the dead and absent persons are excluded from it and the new persons qualified because of acquiring requisite age are included, without which the election itself will not be fair.

It is hoped that the democratic government now in office should give the matter due importance and make elections meaningful. M I Gias

6. Mirpur, Dhaka.

## Doctors' strike

Sir, According to newspaper reports "doctors' called off their indefinite strike on Thursday night" following an agreement with the Government on the implementation of some of their demands. But a local English weekly says "BMA defers strike for 3 months."

Whatever may be the fact, it

remains that we are hostage in the hands of some trade unionists who want to have their demand accepted by any means even at the cost of human lives. Although the correspondent in his signed article in the said weekly tried to defend (!) the doctors and claimed that the rate of death was normal, on the other hand, the BMA claims no death during the hartal pe-

ment.

the inhuman strike and caused tients. Now, hypothetically speaking, the patients and their relatives have every right to say and justify that the doctors who denied medical aid during the

sufferings to the helpless pa-Human Right organisations must come forward and file suit for damages and criminal cases for negligence, to let the doctors feel the bite of their irresponsi-

strike period, deserve punishble trade unionism. Md Pasha 51, BCC Road, Dhaka.

Suppose, those people with

the members of the CIS. Similarly there are sizeable Russian population in all the The fall from superpower status has been a traumatic experience for the Russians. Russians are unable to see the fruits of market economy and signs of frustration are visible all around. Vladimir Zhirinovsky is no doubt a demagogue and has played smartly on people's sentiment of hopelessness. How else can one explain his rise on the centre stage of Moscow, when in normal circumstances his kind of politics will appeal only to the marginal voters? He has challenged Boris Yeltsin to a straight presidential contest and has claimed that he would get 40% of the votes. With his

Zhirinovsky, the Russian

armed forces factor deserves

special attention. The mighty

military establishment was

thoroughly humiliated thanks

to the inept coup which failed

to topple Gorbachev but ulti-

mately brought Yeltsin to

power. Recent events make it

clear however that the military

establishment has reestab-

lished authority. Last autumn

the tanks of Defense Minister

Grachev pulled the chestnut

out of the fire for Yeltsin. The

military has undoubtedly

played key roles in the conflict

between Azerbaijan and

turies of Turkey not sharing Armenia and the uprising within Georgia and Tajikistan. Russian army is stationed in all present showing that does not look far fetched. A Vladimir Zhirinovsky in Kremlin is bound to provoke every kind of

apocalyptical thought. Such thoughts are bound to cross the minds of NATO leaders. when they assemble shortly in Brussels. The Editor-in-Chief

tion, they add. The rising popularity - outconsidered an inaccurate term to describe poor countries.

> ferent countries. Comparing degrees of development in more than mere

tries are higher than their GDPs

# two, is 'South'. But this, too, is Critical MPs Try to Out-gun the Game-keeper