

Dhaka, Monday, February 15, 1999

It Amounts to Intimidation

Politicians in Bangladesh have become known for their lack of tact, but recent comments by Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Khaleda Zia have certainly stretched the limits of credulity. While speaking to party followers on Saturday, Khaleda demanded that the Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena resign immediately, or he would have to "face trial" after the "fall of the Awami League government". According to Khaleda, the CEC would be "tried" for the loss of lives and property during the past few days of hartals which, in her words, formed part of "the movement to oust" Abu Hena. Such words do not only fly in the face of all civil norms of political behaviour, but they are akin to intimidation of a most vile kind. It is extraordinary that a former prime minister - and an aspirant in the future should stoop so low as to engage in such intimidatory tactics against the head of a statutory authority.

Since its defeat in the by-election to the Pabna-2 constituency on Nov 12 last, the BNP has been demanding the CEC's resignation. But the party has still not come up with any concrete evidence to prove the CEC's alleged partiality. The BNP has not taken recourse to any legal measures that are open to it against the CEC. Under such circumstances, the public could be forgiven for thinking that the BNP is basically making the CEC a scapegoat. But Khaleda's public uttering bears the hallmark of something far more sinister than mere scapegoat-

What Khaleda needs to understand is that her comments are anything but becoming of a former Prime Minister and a political leader of such high social responsibility. Such threats, particularly when they are issued in public, are likely to incite a type of belligerence among her supporters that would destroy whatever tolerance that is left in the political atmosphere. To shift the blame for the deaths of seven people in the hartals of Jan 26 and Feb 9-11 on the CEC also defies belief. The hartals were enforced by the BNP and confronted in the streets by the AL, and leaders of these two parties, and nobody else should shoulder the blame for the deaths. The sooner Khaleda Zia realises the need to live up to her responsibilities and shun the language of intimidation, the better it would be for all of us.

Firsts in Indo-Pak Mood

The Indo-Pak lawmakers' conference representing an entirely novel feature in the bilateral communication paradigm of the two countries ended on Saturday. It breathed life into the traditionally barren on-going off-going contacts between the two countries. Secondly, in concrete terms, it voiced the central concern bilaterally felt about a possible nuclear accident since after their nuclearisation last May. The legislators who met in Islamabad are influential politicians in their own countries so that harnessing them in the task of bridgebuilding has been a right step. So far, the two countries have engaged themselves in official-level talks between either their secretaries or their ministers, followed by rarely-held political talks at the highest level. Lawmakers being politicians have added a fresh dimension to the concept of 'political talks' at the highest level.

The credit for organising the lawmakers' conference goes to a newspaper — The News. We congratulate both The News and the honourable members of parliaments of the two countries on recording a positive contribution to peace-making in the subcontinent.

Quite a few things are happening simultaneously in Indo-Pak relations — the bus diplomacy, resumption of cricket, official level talks geared to take up Kashmir and nuclear issues bilaterally and then the legislators' conference that just ended in Islamabad. It can hardly be overemphasised that for obvious reasons both sides dread war more than ever before after attaining the nuclear status in May last. Since nuclear deterrence has worked there, positively inclining the parties to be engaged in talks, let them keep it at that wholeheartedly refraining from acquisition of missiles and their deployment along the border. They have no command structures, far less communicative ones, that can ward off "nuclear accidents".

While greeting the new confidence-building measures between the two countries, we urge them not to even entertain the idea of a nuclear arms race for their own sake and also for the sake of a proper security environment in South Asia to break out of the poverty strangle hold.

Minar's Sanctity

Once again, after an 11-month slumber, the "seasonal" clean-up drive at the Central Shaheed Minar is under way. No doubt, people will commemorate and honour the martyrs of the Language Movement in an admirably "pure" atmosphere which is, of course, something that they want at heart. In fact, it is always expected that people recall the sacrifice of Language Martyrs in a tranquil and serene atmosphere, and in a befitting manner. But we feel let down when visiting the Minar site in months other than February.

This memorial is located in the middle of Dhaka University, Dhaka Medical College and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology campuses. To our surprise and disquiet, the periphery of the cenotaph suffers from a malaise of various "uncleanliness" all the year round with the exception of February. What if interested people from abroad on their visit to Dhaka or parents of enthusiastic youngsters would like to take a look at it in the lean months? They are bound to be disappointed by observing the neglected state of the Minar surroundings.

If the Shaheed Minar is the symbol of Bangladesh's "cultural freedom" next to that of "national freedom", at Savar, then the site deserves best possible care all the year round. The responsibility not only rests on the government, but also on the members of the student community and their leaders who go round this place almost everyday. Do we have a regular maintenance committee?

The Transatlantic Allies: Parting of the Way

URING the post-Second Nowhere has the divergence of US-Europe perception and policies been so pronounced as they were World War era the comin Middle East since the mid-nineties. Instead of being an intra-alliance scion the difference have mon threat of Soviet Union brought them together within the fold of an enduring politico-strategic arrangements - the North Atlantic Treaty

Organisation (NATO). Eversince the US and Europe, two of the world's prosperity zones, conducted their foreign and security polices from within its framework. Even with the demise of the cold war and the disappearance of Soviet Union with its disintegration their ba sic interests remained unchanged and unity intact in spite of subtle differences on some specific issues.

Later, some European Governments were understandably reluctant to turn the alliance into a plat form for US' global military influence and concerned over giving the organisation an explicit 'out-of-area' role. Also, there emerged distinctively 'American' and 'European' views on issues like those of NATO enlargement, nuclear weapons and former Yugoslavia.

But nowhere has the divergence of US-Europe perception and policies been so pronounced as they were in Middle East since the mid-nineties. Instead of being an intra-alliance scion the difference have now come out in the open. Their attitudes, strategies and policies towards the Middle East have differed to a degree which not only frustrates their common objective of peace and cooperation in that volatile region but also damages the traditional Transatlantic relations.

It is true that the basic interests of the US and Europe are broadly similar in the Middle

HE World Economic

▲ Meeting every year

presents a unique platform for

world leaders, entrepreneurs,

thinkers, scientists etc., for

presenting their opinion on

national and global issues. The

Davos moot allows them to

make a presentation like no

other forum in an informal

atmosphere does to an audience

comprising of heads of states

and government, politicians

leading international busi-

nessmen, renowned academics

and scholars - the list of lumi-

Diverse people ranging from

President Mandela of South

Africa, US Vice President Al

Gore. Chancellor Schroeder of

Germany etc., to Ted Turner of

CNN, former US Secretary of

State Henry Kissinger, etc., par-

ticipated fully. Addressing such

a distinguished gathering is in

itself a once-in-a lifetime op-

portunity and it is for this rea-

son that countries in the world

ensure representation at the

highest possible level in

and interesting addresses was

by Mr Wang Daohan, Senior

Advisor, Foundation for Inter-

national Strategic Studies,

People's Republic of China, his

topic being "Economic Globali-

sation and the East Asian

Model". He spoke in great

length, identifying the effects,

both good and bad which are be-

ing witnessed all over the

world. Economic globalisation

is an objective process in to-

day's world and a new histori-

cal period of economic sociali-

sation and internationalisa-

tion under modern hi-tech

economic globalisation, he said

that cross border economic de-

velopment and internationali-

sation date back to a century or

more while the process of eco-

nomic globalisation really be-

gan after the Second World War

and has continued to gather

momentum over the past 50

years, accelerating after the col-

lapse of the Soviet Union. With

the increase of trade and in-

vestment among developed

countries various international

economic regimes began to

form, multi-national compa-

nies became engines of world

economic growth, a large num-

her of developing countries en-

tered the international eco-

nomic system and different

economies grew mutually-infil-

trating and interdependent.

converging with one another.

Tracing back the process of

One of the most stimulating

retired).

journalists.

(active and

international

naries is endless.

Davos.

conditions.

Forum (WEF) Annual

now come out in the open. Their attitudes, strategies and policies towards the Middle East have differed to a degree which not only frustrates their common objective of peace and cooperation in that volatile region but also damages the traditional Transatlantic relations. East — peace, regime stability, ways maintained a vague posithe free flow of oil, security of Israel, a secure homeland for the Palestinians and the limitation on the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). But

each other in the recent times. At least in the Middle East peace process the difference now run along US-European lines presenting US or American policies and perspectives. In the Middle East peace process, the US tends to back Israeli position while Europe seems to be supportive of the Palestinian goals. Although the both agree on the general principle of land for peace' as embodied in the UNSC resolution 242 of 1967s but differ on how much territory and sovereignty Israel should be asked to transfer to the Palestinians, or at least how forcefully Israel

despite this similarity of basic

interests, the polices of the both

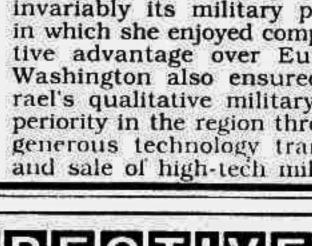
have consciously drifted from

should pressed to do it. The Europeans have been unequivocal in their condemnation of Israeli occupation of the land acquired in the 1967 war, wanted the building of Jewish settlements in the West Bank to be stopped and insist on Israeli abidance of UNSC resolution 425 of 1978 calling her to withdraw from Lebanon. They consider Israeli's occupation of East Jerusalem illegal and clearly support a Pales-

tinian presence there. On the contrary, the US altion on these issues. The US insisted that it was for the parties concerned to decide what would make stable peace and stayed away from imposing an agreement. She held similar views also about the future of Jerusalem and Palestinian statehood. The US' ambiguity favours Israel because on most issues she is in the giving end, The US refusal to force an are gument appears blasphemous because it was US which im-

other resolution that wanted Israel to stop her housing projects

in East Jerusalem. Security has been the primary focus of the US policy in the Middle East and the key tool the US used for the purpose was invariably its military power in which she enjoyed comparative advantage over Europe. Washington also ensured Israel's qualitative military superiority in the region through generous technology transfer and sale of high-tech military



PERSPECTIVES

by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz

posed Dayton Accords on Bosnia-Harzegovina.

Despite having little practical leverage Europeans often argue that more diplomatic and economic pressure should be exerted on Israel to make her accommodative in the peace process. They also favour international diplomatic pressure through the UN and often supported resolutions critical of Israel. Far from extending cooperation to Europe in this regard, the US blocked such resolutions through her veto power. In 1991 she vetoed the resolution that censored Israel for her 'Grapes of Wrath' operation and in the next year anequipment to her. Europe on the other hand pursues its main goals in the region - overall political stability and friendly relations with the regional states - with primarily economic means. Since 1995, the EU contributed some 54 per cent of total aid funding to Pales-

tinian Authority (PA) alone. These differences in perception and policy between the US and Europe are however not without reasons. The US sympathy and inclination for Israel stem from range of factors including a shared self-image as new immigrant-absorbing society. Both traced their earlier history in wide-scale persecu-

The US finds Israel to be a strategic asset in a hostile but indispensable distant land. European tends to see the region through different historical

tion by the European.

lens. As colonial state European nations dominated parts of Middle East including Palestine for centuries and remained influential political, economic and military actors well into the 1960s. They are obviously unwilling to totally abandon the people with whom they have the history of wide interaction in multiple fields.

The differing perception owe a great deal to the role of pro-Israeli lobbying groups in the US and their relative weakness in Europe. The difference in Transatlantic approaches to the Arab-Israeli dispute are also the result of Europe's geographical proximity to the Middle East which leaves it more vulnerable than the US to immigration, terrorism and threats from missiles and WMD now under proliferation in party of the region. Europe, unlike the US, is critically dependent on imported Middle Eastern oil. The OPEC oil boycott and price rises of the 1970s is still a nightmare for Europe which finds friendly relations with oil-rich Arab countries an inescapable compulsion. The US can easily ignore possible Arab anger because of her clear tilt for Israel.

In European perception, a

unified Europe of today qualifles for a much more significant role in the Middle East than it is accorded now. Given Europe's stakes in the regional security. its financial contribution to one of the parties in the conflict and apparent inability of the US to bring peace on its own Europe has begun to claim a greater role in the Middle East peace process. Few Americans are, however, ready to accept Europe as a full partner in it. To them the Europeans' statements and actions affecting the peace process are simply "meddling" which only complicates the already difficult task of promoting political understanding among the local parties. Even the most liberal Americans supportive of greater European role assume that the US must remain the partnership's clear leader. These attitudes are certainly not relished by the Europeans. They have grown frustrated with the near monopoly of regional diplomacy enjoyed by the US in the Arab-Israeli dispute and repeatedly criticised perceived US partiality towards Israel.

The tensions between the US and Europe in the Middle East are not, of course, new phenomenon. They already have a history of disagreements over policy towards Arab-Israeli conflict and also in general, the US and European interests and strategies in the Middle East' clashed since 1950s when the US began to displace the UK and France as the main outside power in the region. But those disagreements have widened since the peace process has

There are few signs that they can be bridged up in near future.

The East Asian Model

Viewed in the context of development achieved in the last 30 years there is no doubt that the East Asian Model is efficient and dynamic with the East Asian economy accounting for over one-third of the world economic aggregates, as a whole East Asia has registered the highest-ever growth rate since the Industrial Revolution.

In spite of this, because of historical reasons, the transition from planned economy to market economy has just started. The economic aggregates of the developing countries only represent a small amount in world economy, one of the responsible factors being the non-development of the Information Technology sector. With the beginning of the 1990s economics and international politics have undergone historical changes, this has resulted in an accelerated development towards economic globalisation. Information Technology has greatly helped in promoting the global flow of capital and technology transfer, changing the pattern of economic cycles. Today, economic globalisation

has become a powerful trend of

According to Mr Wang Daohan, economic globalisation is highly conducive to world economic development as it brings along a high rate of growth in international trade, enabling balanced supply and demand in international trade on a larger scale, conducing the flow of production factors to low-cost developing countries thereby promoting the emergence of new capital markets. In a period of just seven years from 1990 to 1997, the international inflow of capital into developing countries registered a fivefold increase with an average annual volume of \$ 265 billion. this in turn greatly increasing the vitality and opportunity in

world economic growth. Despite this seemingly rosy picture there have been some negative trends also, a widening of wealth disparity throughout the world and the instability of emerging markets having a negative effect on the developed countries. Unless a combined effort by the international community is made to determine whether the rules of the game are just or not, things will not improve. The major imbalance in wealth disparities could lead to serious social upheaval, an example is seen in Indonesia.

Trade and investment liberalisation and internationalisation of macro-economic regulation and control are essential requirements if a sound relationship between states and market is desired. While international economic organisa tions urge developing countries to speed up their liberalisation. most international economic organisations and developed countries have shown a relaxation of their supervision and regulations over international mobile funds, thus ignoring their not only moral responsibility towards the poor but their

technology, etc. Nevertheless, viewed in the context of development achieved in the last 30 years there is no doubt that the East Asian Model is efficient and dynamic with the East Asian

economy accounting for over one-third of the world economic conscience in "beggaring" entire aggregates, as a whole East Asia

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

nations in order to provide profit for a handful of currency speculators.

The financial debts owed by the developed countries runs into trillions of US Dollars and in the present circumstances where there is irrational economic structure, inadequate financial system and a high foreign debt burden there is risk of an outbreak of financial crisis in a number of such countries. This will lead to social unrest hence the developed countries should take up the responsibility to not only prevent but to check the excessive speculation of international capital and the irrational fluctuation of finan-

cial markets.

All contradictions which

globalisation process. Mr Wang was of the view that "various structural problems of the East Asian Model have slowly surfaced: undue intervention by governments into the market mechanism, conflicts between incompetence in international competition and over rapid opening of domestic markets, between rapid growth and relatively slow structural readjustment and between increase of labour cost and inade-

ASISEETT

Revolution. Many East Asian

governments have rushed in to

help their neighbouring coun-

tries creating an environment.

both internal and external

which were necessary for devel-

opment. Though Mr. Wang

Daohan did not state so, one

has registered the highest-ever growth rate since the Industrial

developing countries were facing was brought into sharp focus by the East Asian financial crisis. In some of the crisis afflicted countries, their GDP dropped by 5-10 per cent, their currency devalued by as much as 30-50 per cent, their debts inflated several times over with social crises and even political turmoil emerging in some countries. This crisis has resulted in debates by public opinion leaders on the East Asian Development Model and whether this model can maintain its vitality and effective operation in the

quate input in science and

reason for stabilising the situation was China's refusal to devalue their currency. East Asian countries have been able to fully exploit their low labour costs for the speedy development of manufacturing and producing sectors which further opens up their markets to the world.

The East Asian Model is a very special way towards modernisation and can be effectively used by the less advanced developing countries for maximum benefit. To make the East Asian Model more vital and succe isful certain measures must be taken at government and private levels viz., indirect governmental regulation and control can be maintained and an increased input in science and technology by government and other enterprises. Countries must take precaution against financial risks both within the area and from outside as well while strengthening co-ordination of economic

policies among countries and ensuring greater co-operation in currency exchange rate mechanism. Today's crisis is but a temporary situation. Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Senior

Minister of Singapore agreed with Mr Daohan, recognising that while today it is in a crisis, Japan is the real Role Model for East Asian countries. Japan has experienced an explosion in its economic development, this has come about because in the aftermath of the Plaza Accord of the 1980s, Japanese companies relocated their factories solely due to the Yen's strength as a viable currency. European and American multinationals then started to come in with new investment which proved to be the greatest economic boom to Japan.

He said that in order to restore confidence it is incumbent upon the affected East Asian countries to take up reforms in a pragmatic manner including cleaning up their banks and introducing bankruptcy laws. Investing in human resources is the key to success and as Mr Lee put it: "those who have invested in human resources will emerge as winners in the future".

King Hussein's Death and a New ME Equation

Since Hussein was a strong leader with big say on the West Asia peace efforts with personal rapport with western leaders including the American presidents at different phases, it was possible for Jordan to chart an independent line at times that annoyed different countries at various stages.

MATTERS ##

AROUND US

TRAQ'S circumspect response to King Hussein's death resonates the tone and tenor of the ties Lthat exist between the two Arab states. The nineties witnessed both high and low in the relations between Amman and Baghdad. In 1990 when the Gulf War began, the late monarch of Jordan, widely considered pro-west, broke ranks with the western nations and most of the Arab countries to support Baghdad. Amman's position at that time was unexpected. Even Egypt, Iraq's fellow member in the Asian Co-operation Council, opposed Saddam Hussein. President Hosni Mubarak felt Iraq's occupation of Kuwait was unacceptable under any cir-

However, the Iraq-Jordan relations turned sour in 1995 when Jordan gave shelter to two prominent defectors from Iraq, including Saddam's son-in-law. The two, upon return to Iraq, were killed when, according to Baghdad, they opened fire on a security contingent. How-ever, it is widely believed they paid the price for 'betrayal'.

Iraq sent vice-president Taha Mohieuddin Marruf, little known in the outside world, to Hussein's funeral whereas top Arab leaders like President Mubarak and others attended it. Nevertheless, that

Baghdad wants to improve ties with Amman became apparent two days

"We will give all possible support to sister Jordan. said The Babel. an Iraqi news daily

run by Saddam's son Uday.

Despite persistent criticism from the west and many of its Arab neighbours, Iraq remains unquestionably one of the principal players in the Middle Eastern political scenario, not because of its relentless fight against the west but for the size of its armed forces and stable leadership. Baghdad's willingness to revive friendly ties with Amman is an indication of change in the Middle East political equation following the death of King Hussein, who was not only firmly entrenched at the helm for 47 years but had enjoyed considerable clout in the Middle East and the international world. His son Abdullah has now taken over but fears persist that Hussein's death will bring problems not only for the region but also for Jordan itself which may have to struggle for stability. And an unstable Jordan could be more vulnerable for the Arabs while dealing with the Israel for settlement of the west Asia and peace

in the embattled region. Jordan is certainly a major exponent in the Middle East political scenario simply because of its strategic geographical location and the importance of its late monarch on a global scale. The country has three notable neighbours - Iraq, Syria and Israel. Jordan lost sizeable area of its territory to Israel in the 1967 war and obviously is keen to get back the lost land. It signed a peace accord with Israel in 1994 which expectedly brought it into sharp differences with Iraq and Syria. Since Hussein was a strong leader with big say on the West Asia peace efforts with personal rapport with western leaders including the American presidents at different phases, it was possible for Jordan to chart an independent line at times that annoyed different countries at various stages. But this is likely to change now as Syria is calling for cancellation of

the peace accord that Jordan signed with Israel. Tel

Aviv is wary that Hussein is no more but at the same time will seek to take advantage of the immature leadership in Amman while settling its scores

Hussein enjoyed tremendous importance in the west for his role in the West Asian politics and this was amply demonstrated when he was drawn from his sick bed in an American clinic by President Bill Clinton last year as the peace efforts were in progress in Maryland between the Israeli and Palestine leadership and all concerned were burning the mid night oil. The Jordanian monarch was suffering from cancer and when he died, the funeral not only brought President Clinton to Amman but as many as three former United States Presidents -George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. Also present was Russian President Boris Yeltsin. This showed Jordan's importance in the international

But transfer of the crown in Jordan has not been smooth. Hussein's younger brother Hassan had been the crown prince for several years and it was only a few days before his death that the monarch changed his mind. The "weak leadership" of Hassan during his long absence for medical treatment in the

United States has been cited as the

reason. Abdullah is a major general in the army which is strong and may seek to call shots in the kingdom in the event of instability. As such Hussein might

Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury have considered Abdullah who is known to be popular in the army as the right choice.

Besides, his wife is a Palestinian and this may also help Abdullah in running the nation since nearly half of Jordan's population is of Palestine origin. But the decision has triggered undercurrent of tensions within the royal family. New king's uncles Hassan and Mohammad seem unhappy and stayed away from some of royal family functions after Hussein's death. Analysts feel that this could snowball into major family crisis at a later stage and spawn instability unless the young king tackles the issue with great skill and adroit. An unstable Jordan can be source of concern and anxiety for those who have seen the country playing an effective

role in crucial Middle East affairs The signals coming from Amman following the death of an efficient and popular monarch may not be encouraging. Israel, the Arabs and the west are obviously keeping a close vigil on Jordan. The time is particularly critical since the issue of declaration of a Palestine state is on the card. The Arabs have mostly experienced but ageing leaders like Hosni Mubarak, Hafez al-Assad of Syria, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia while the new king in Jordan is young. He has to adjust with the situation and may need the help of his experienced uncle Hassan to cope with the challenges. Needless to say that the West Asian issue constitutes a major segment of world peace and King Hussein's death has thrown different aspects of the peace process and other related

works to be done there into somewhat uncertainty. The coming elections in Israel and who would be in power is also an important factor in this regard. As one of the main figures in the whole scenario is now gone, it could only be a logical corollary that strategies and priorities may also change.

.City without newspapers Sir, May I thank the Prime

Minister for the comments she made to the Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity on 26.01.99 to realise a day without newspapers? We did not have newspapers for four (19th to 22nd)

Way back in mid-sixties, there used to be an advertisement on the huge glass window of the India Tea Centre Oxford Street London that "Air India is as regular as your morning tea and newspapers".

A city without newspapers is like a body without Pulse. Mashar Haq

Rd. 28, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212.

Hse. 52, Apt. A5.

Smuggling of 'London'

Sir, The government is shouting hoarse about its transparency in all sectors, but the country is flooded with smuggled 'London' brand of foreign cigarettes, selling at a much cheaper price than cigarettes of similar quality produced locally (the local taxes and levies on costly and imported cigarettes are very high, as a punitive measures on smokers).

The retail price, if imported legally, would be much higher.

The authority is aware of this smuggled trade, as per press reports from time to time. Some vested groups are making money by the ton, breaking all political barriers. The price of a packet has gone up from Tk 22 to Tk 32 - the illegal toll on this popular smuggled goods

Our South-eastern borders are as porous and democratic like London. London may be falling down in nursery rhymes, but this 'London' trade is sky-rocketing upwards. Make il an election issue?

Non-black Smaker Dhaka

having gone up!

Dear Democracy

Sir, I can support any party I like. But that does not mean that whatever that party or the party chief will do l support it blindly. If that party or the party chief makes a mistake or does something undemocratic I will criticise it

As a believer of democracy I will request our political leaders to practice democracy in their own party. The parties must be freed from dictatorship. The party chiefs will be elected democratically, and not unanimously or unopposed. We want democracy, not "family-cracy".

The people of Bangladesh

fought for democracy against the Pakistani rulers for long 24 years and for familycracy. The future of Bangladesh is bleak and proper growth of democracy will not be possible as long as familycracy outweigh democracy. So we must get rid of familyeracy and replace it with democracy.

The sooner it is the better it will be for the country, the people and democracy itself. These I express as a supporter of Bangladesh Nationalist Party. In fact I have been supporting BNP since its birth. Hope the supporters of other parties will express similar

Iqbal Ahmed Dhaka - 1000

Gas meters

Sir, The letter written by Nur

Jahan about installing gas meters should get some attention from the government, for she very rightly pointed out how gas being one of our most important natural resource is being wasted. Bangladesh is very poor in

natural resources and hence its conservation is essential. Since awareness hasn't developed among the Bangladeshis, installation of gas meters is an excellent idea.

Dr Nazneen Nizam Old DOHS, Dhaka