

## Editorial

# Historical Necessity

It was in greater national interest and in response to 'the historical necessity', as President Khondker Mushtaque Ahmed put it in his address to the nation over Radio and TV last night, that the Armed Forces of Bangladesh had to take over the country's administration yesterday under his leadership. President Khondker Mushtaque Ahmed has undertaken the responsibility as the Head of State to discharge the sacred duty of 'materialising in totality and collectively the true aspirations of the seven and a half crore people of Bangladesh' after the valiant Armed Forces of the country had 'come forward to clear the path for unflinchingly performing the hitherto neglected task of changing the condition of the people.' That the Bangladesh Army, Navy, Air Force, Bangladesh Rifles, Rakshi Bahini and Police have expressed their unequivocal loyalty to and confidence in the government and are working together shows how widely and genuinely this 'historical necessity' was felt and how sincerely the consequent concern was shared by all of them.

Although quite obvious, a clearer understanding of the situation will be facilitated by a fresh analysis of the circumstances that irresistibly led to the change of government. The normal and natural expectation of the people that the independence achieved at the cost of the sacred blood of three million martyrs and honour of two lakh mothers and sisters as well as the lives of many in the friendly country would open a vista of a new, happy and prosperous life for the fighting people of Bangladesh was mercilessly frustrated by the conspiracies during the past years to monopolise and cling to power the unholy moves on the political chessboard. The logical improvement in the lot of the people overlooked during the centuries of colonial domination was made subservient to the gross self-interest of a few favoured and fortunate people who concentrated the national resources in their greedy, grabbing and robbing hands. Corruption and nepotism inevitably led to continuously increasing prices and the economic misery of the masses that left no alternative for them but to languish and perish. In this suffocating situation the Armed Forces could not be true to their conscience and the nation except by coming forward to bring about a change in the corrupt and oppressive government.

As the President has rightly stressed, justice has now to be established and social values rehabilitated so that human dignity may be a matter of real experience rather than an unrealised concept for which the new government is determined to take necessary measures, however difficult they may be. The achievement of these goals, from which the society was made to drift away, calls for an attitude of love and amity among the people of Bangladesh irrespective of religion, respect for civil rights of all and maintenance of peace and discipline.

In conformity with this policy at home the foreign policy will continue to be based on the principles of equality and respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of every state and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. So will continue the government's policy of opposition to racialism, apartheid, colonialism and neo-colonialism, and its active pursuance of the policy of non-alignment. Fully committed to the UN charter and its principles, the government will remain respectful to all agreements and obligations which determined our relationship in bilateral and international spheres.

Not only will our close relation with the Islamic conference, non-aligned conference, the Commonwealth of nations remain unimpaired but we shall make special efforts in accordance with our policy of 'friendship with all and malice to none' for normalization of relations in the subcontinent and establishment of friendship with the big powers including those countries with whom direct friendly relations have not hitherto been established. The government has also reiterated its unstinted support to the just struggle of the Arab brethren in recovering the lands and holy places from Israeli occupation and to the just struggle of the Palestinian people for establishing their legitimate rights.

From all accounts the people are convinced of the government's crusading determination to obliterate the last traces of corruption, nepotism, and all other social vices and therefore they are ready to co-operate with the government in facing the great challenge thrown by history. With the infinite mercy of Allah the Government and the nation will overcome all obstacles and resolutely march towards the cherished goal.