

Let's rise up again to rebuild world order

Kumaratunga blasts violent international events

BSS, Dhaka

Visiting Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga last night blasted the violent events in the "international arena" saying those put to question the international systems ability to maintain order in the world.

"The recent events that have taken the world by surprise, have surely shaken our belief and faith in the ability of the international systems to prevent violence by one nation against another," she said in an apparent reference to the Iraq issue while addressing a state dinner.

President Kumaratunga added that Dhaka and Colombo adhered strongly to a world order where "all nations big or small, powerful or not so powerful are recognised as sovereign and equal partners in the arena of international politics."

"We still believe the effective use of those faculties with which man alone of all living beings is blessed with, namely our minds, hearts and our spirituality to negotiate solutions"

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PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia shakes hands with Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, left, at Zia International Airport yesterday. Kumaratunga is on a two-day goodwill visit to Dhaka.

Dhaka to work closely with Colombo, says President

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday expressed the hope that the visit of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga would provide an opportunity to share views and explore new avenues to overcome the economic and other challenges facing the developing countries.

"The excellent understanding and cooperation that we enjoy as close neighbours and members of SAARC is a matter of great satisfaction to us," he said at a dinner hosted by him in honour of the visiting Sri Lankan president at Bangabhaban.

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Quit Iraq, Arab states ask America

STAR DESK

Iraq's neighbours, led by Saudi Arabia, told the United States yesterday to get out of the country and keep its hands off Iraqi oil.

Ministers of Iraq's immediate neighbours Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria, as well as Egypt and Bahrain, said the United States must restore order and then leave so that Iraqis could form their own government.

They issued a joint statement in Riyadh opposing a US call to lift UN sanctions on Iraq and said Baghdad

must be allowed to have a government of its own first.

The ministers said they wanted the United Nations to play a central role in post-war Iraq, echoing similar demands made by European Union leaders at their summit in Athens Thursday. Among those was Washington's key European ally Britain.

"The Iraqi people should administer and govern their country by themselves, and any exploitation of their natural resources should be in conformity with the will of the legitimate Iraqi government and its people," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said early

yesterday, reading from the statement.

Iraq's neighbours "underlined the obligation of the occupying powers under the Fourth Geneva Convention to ... withdraw from Iraq and allow the Iraqis to exercise their right to self-determination".

The late-night meeting was held against the backdrop of protests in Baghdad as thousands of demonstrators poured out of mosques on Friday demanding the United States leave the country.

"If what they (United States) intend is the exploitation of Iraqi oil,

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Ports to clear exports in 3 hours, not 7 days

Cabinet body takes drastic decision to do away with bureaucracy

MONJUR MAHMUD

Ports will clear all export formalities within three hours instead of four to seven days they take now, a cabinet sub-committee decided yesterday.

Red tapes will be cut drastically to bring about the change.

An exporter would now require to put only five signatures in place of 17, a meeting of the sub-committee on exports held at the commerce ministry's conference room

decided.

Some committee members suggested that the customs department process documents in one hour and the shipping department in two hours.

Besides, in case of readymade garment exports, charges for stuffing, shipping and other activities would be cut by 10 to 20 per cent.

The meeting made the decisions having gone through a draft report on the ports prepared by a secretarial

committee headed by Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed Chowdhury.

It also urged the foreign ministry to resume the Bangladesh mission in Iraq immediately so that it can report on the rebuilding process and market prospects.

Earlier, a high-level meeting chaired by the prime minister decided to send humanitarian aid including food worth US\$2 million to Iraq. This would help create a positive image of Bangladeshi products and

attract Iraqi consumers in future, the meeting felt.

The meeting also stressed on developing home brands to fetch higher prices in international market.

With Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair, the meeting was attended by Industries Minister MK Anwar, Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain, Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed and officials from the finance and foreign ministries.

3 ex-judges go to court against job non-confirmation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three former additional judges yesterday filed a writ petition with a High Court Division Bench challenging the government's non-confirmation of their services despite the chief justice's recommendation.

A lawyer also filed a similar writ yesterday with the same bench comprising justices Abdur Rashid and Siddiqur Rahman Mian.

The division bench sent both petitions to the chief justice to form a larger bench for hearing.

Earlier, two separate benches expressed their embarrassment to hear the matter when the same lawyer wanted to file the same writ petition.

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Detention on suspicion made illegal

HC issues 15-point directive on lawmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) has made illegal detention of anyone arrested on suspicion.

In a recent 15-point directive, the HC asked police officers, magistrates, jailers and sessions judges to ensure that human rights are not violated.

The Attorney General's office received the instructions Thursday for implementation.

Arrest on suspicion under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) had been used by subsequent

governments as a tool to quell political dissidents. The directives will effectively put a cap on such harassment.

From now on, the law enforcers would have to abide by the High Court directives dealing with Sections 54, 167, 176, 202, 330 and 348 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

The 15-point directive came on April 7, when a High Court Division Bench of justices Md. Hamidul Haque and Salma Masud Chowdhury gave a ruling on a writ petition challenging the abuses of Sections 54 and 167.

The copy of the verdict was signed

last Wednesday.

The court directed the government to amend the relevant sections of the CrPC within the next six months. It also ordered the authorities to follow a 15-point directive with immediate effect.

The government is still undecided on whether to appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. In the absence of an appeal for a stay on the judgement, the order came into force on April

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India, SA lock horns for TVS Cup today

SPORTS REPORTER

India will look not to choke in another final when they take on South Africa today for the TVS Cup exactly 29 days after their defeat to Australia in the World Cup.

Saurav Ganguly's men came to

Dhaka leaving behind five of their frontline cricketers including star batsman Sachin Tendulkar to get over the shock of a 125-run defeat against champions Australia.

Despite fielding an under-strength side, India faced little

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