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The Daily Star

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VOL. 1 NO. 137 REGD. NO. DA 781 JAISTHA 23, 1398 BS, DHAKA FRIDAY JUNE 7, 1991 ZILQAD 23, 1411 HIJRI 12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 3.00

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Magazine

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Article



The Baker shuttles around the Middle East aimed at setting up a peace conference are stalled. But a bonus for him was the sudden decision of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council to deal directly with Israel. A major influence in this change was Saudi Arabia. King Fahd has moved from quiet diplomacy to a more upfront role in the Middle East Page -4

International

Police abandoned their positions to eat just before Rajiv Gandhi was due to arrive for the late night meeting and fled after the blast Page 5

Metropolitan



Amena belongs to the tiny section of the people who, once written off by society, are making valiant efforts to stand on their own feet Page 3

Sport

Arch rivals Mohammedan SC and Abahani KC clash in today's BTC Club Cup soccer final which will mark the culmination of the 8-day 6-team tourney. Page 7

NEWS BRIEFS

Nasrin's body exhumed

The body of teenaged housewife Nasrin Akhter was exhumed today for re-post-mortem on allegation from her parent that she was murdered, reports UNB.

BNP EC meet

A meeting of the Executive Committee of BNP will be held on June 9 at 3 pm at the party office at Yusuf Market, reports BSS.

Entry to Sangsad area restricted

Entrance of all persons except the valid entrance card holders have been forbidden inside the restricted area of the Jatiya Sangsad with effect from Monday, June 10 on the occasion of the coming session of the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

ALPP meet June 9

Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will hold a discussion on the report of Economic Task Force on June 9-10 at the Parliament Members Club at 3 pm, reports UNB.

'I am ready to give blood to protect democracy', a mammoth meeting in city told



BNP has formed government not at anybody's mercy, says Begum Khaleda Zia while addressing a huge public meeting in the city on Thursday. — Star photo

Khaleda warns against move to destabilise Govt

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said on Thursday she was ready to give blood to protect democracy.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting in the city, the first after her assumption of the office of Prime Minister, she said BNP had come to power with people's support, and not with anybody's favour.

BNP is determined to establish democracy on a firm footing so that there can be change of a government without affecting the system, she said.

She said those who were not happy with the success of the BNP government in tackling the aftermath of the devastating cyclone and floods were conspiring to incite terrorism.

She said the Government, which had confidence of the people could not be unseated by damaging vehicles and creating terrorism on the campus. These elements had dreamt of finishing BNP in collaboration with autocratic forces in the past. They had said that BNP would not get more than 10 seats in parliament, she told her audience.

Begum Zia said anybody, trying to conspire against BNP, as was done in 1982 should know that today's BNP had emerged from the streets and was different. "I took to the street to establish people's rights, not for power," she said adding, "and I will make all sacrifices to protect democracy." She told the cheering crowd that the conspirators would not be able to do any harm to democracy so long she was alive. "I shall be on the street to protect democracy and the conspirators should realise that they are being isolated from the people because of their behind-the-scene moves to destabilise the Government," she said.

The first public meeting held after BNP was installed in power was attended by a huge cheering crowd. The venue stretching from Fulbaria bus stand to Zero Point was packed with people who came in processions. The processionists carried banners, portrait of late President Ziaur Rahman and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The responsive crowd listened to Begum Zia braving inclement weather.

The meeting was addressed by central BNP leaders Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Majeedul Haq, Abdus Salam Talukder Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, Khondaker Mosharraf Hussain, Matin Chowdhury, Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddiqui, Sikander Ali, Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali, Mirza Abbas, Gayeswar Roy, Amanullah Aman, vice-president DUCSU, Zahid Hossain Chunnun and Kazi Azad of Jatiyatabadi Samajik-Sangskritik Sangstha.

In her 36-minute speech Begum Zia said BNP has close understanding with the people, and so they would come to the streets to keep the people informed about developments from time to time.

She said the people fought nine years to defeat autocracy, establish democracy and peace to have two square meals a day. BNP stood for elections under a neutral government because it knew that in such free and fair elections the people would vote patriotic nationalist forces to power, who would safeguard democracy, peace, independence and sovereignty, she said adding BNP proved its popularity through elections. It has been voted to power again because President Zia, its founder, had restored multi-party democracy and press freedom, she said.

Begum Zia said, BNP government faced the cyclone and flood devastations with all resources under its command. It had adequately alerted the people and thus the loss of life and property was less compared to the intensity of the cyclone. BNP government had to start from zero because the autocratic regime had left a bankrupt economy. The government had to appeal for international help and it received good responses. "Heads of state of a number of countries came to Bangladesh. Relief and rescue teams including the US Task Force arrived. Japan, Britain, China and other countries came up with help. See Page 12 Col. 4

Another US ship comes in a week

By Staff Correspondent

Another US naval ship, carrying members of engineering corps of the US army arrives in Bangladesh within a week to participate in the post-cyclone reconstruction work in the coastal areas.

The ship is likely to come from the US base in the Philippines, according to a Foreign Ministry source here Thursday.

Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, when contacted told the Daily Star that the US troops arriving next week, will support the on going Joint Task Force Relief Operations.

He said that the members of the Task Force were experts in handling disaster and were See Page 12 Col. 3

US Task Force personnel leave today

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 6: The US Task Force personnel who stayed back have packed up to leave Chittagong after ending their 'Operation Sea Angel' today, an official source said.

A group left for Dhaka today on their way back home while the rest will leave tomorrow afternoon by C-130 aircraft. The five 'Blackhawk' helicopters have already left Chittagong airbase. The support ship Saint Louis will leave Bangladesh water tomorrow morning, the source added. US President George Bush ordered the Task Force here on their May 15 while they were on their way to home See Page 12 Col. 3

AL urges BNP to move amendment bill

Awami League Thursday urged the ruling party to move a constitutional amendment bill in the coming budget session to revert to parliamentary democracy honouring the November 19 joint declaration and end "dual rule" in the country, reports UNB.

It also urged the BNP, the majority party in Parliament, to take effective steps removing constitutional snags obstructing the exit of the Acting President.

The party's working committee met in an emergency session at its central office Thursday morning to discuss in detail Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed's address to the nation.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition and presidium member Abdus Samad Azad chaired the meeting which also took stock of the prevailing political, constitutional and administrative affairs.

The meeting, in a resolution, welcomed the Acting President's speech televised on Tuesday as "timely and realistic reflection of the actual situation."

Due to dilly dally in implementing the declaration of the three alliances which call for a sovereign parliament and an accountable government, the country had plunged into a constitutional and political crisis, it said.

The meeting said the historic declaration of the three alliances led to the ouster of Ershad regime facilitating a free and fair parliamentary election under the neutral caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

It's now the responsibility of present parliament, particularly the majority party, to give constitutional shape to democratic values earned through a protracted anti-autocracy movement.

But without honouring the joint declaration of 8-party Alliance, 7-party Alliance and 5-party Alliance by establishing an accountable government, BNP formed cabinet under the Acting President to initiate "an evil process of dual rule."

The entire nation is moving towards uncertainty in the wake of diarchy, which will not See Page 12 Col. 2

BNP Standing Committee talks form of govt

Star Report

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is likely to take a decision on the form of government prior to the beginning of the ensuing budget session of parliament, party sources said.

BNP Standing Committee member and Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman told The Daily Star that the party was ready to discuss the form of government in the budget session.

According to party sources, the Standing Committee was continuing its discussion till filing this report on Thursday night on the form of government.

The Committee was also discussing the Constitution amendment bill which was notified by the Awami League presidium member and Deputy Leader of Opposition, Abdus Samad Azad. The Scrutiny Committee of Private Members' Bills has already okayed the amendment bill.

BNP insiders said, if the party decided to go for parliamentary form of government, the bill which was notified by See Page 12 Col. 1

2 killed, 100 injured as workers clash at Adamjee Jute Mills

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed and over one hundred injured in a violent clash between two rival groups of workers at the Adamjee Jute Mills Thursday afternoon. Firearms, cocktails and lethal weapons were used freely in the clash that continued till evening. The production in the mills came to a halt and tension was prevailing in the mill area till writing this report last night.

The persons killed were identified as Suruj Meah, 25, and Fazlul Karim, both workers of Adamjee Jute Mills. Suruj Meah sustained bullet injuries and died on the spot while Fazlul Karim was reportedly throttled by a group of attackers.

Of the injured, nine were admitted at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious injuries while others were treated at hospitals of Narayanganj.

Shops and market around the mill were looted and ransacked during the clash and a reign of terror prevailed in the mill area after evening. Movement of traffic on the roads near the mill ground to a halt.

Stenguns, pipeguns, cut rifles, knives, swords, sticks and hundreds of cocktails were used in the clash.

Tension had been prevailing in the Adamjee Mills for a See Page 12 Col. 3

and another group backed by Siddique Sardar of Jatiya Party, broke out at about 2 pm. The union leaders alleged that their supporters were attacked by an armed group who used firearms. Union worker Suruj Meah was shot dead while Fazlul Karim, who also belonged to the union was strangled to death by the attackers. The union leaders held the mill management responsible for this attack. About one hundred of union workers were injured, most of whom were treated at hospitals in Narayanganj.

Body to probe DU incident

The government has constituted a one-member enquiry commission headed by Justice MM Huq of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court to investigate the incident that occurred in the office of the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University May 27, reports BSS.

The office of the commission has been opened Room Number 3 of the Central Circuit House, Bally Road.

Interested persons who have witnessed the incident or are well aware of it have been requested to deposit or give written statement appearing before the commission from 10 am to 2 pm between June 8 and June 10.

Overall help and cooperation from all concerned have been sought, the handout said adding that the name of the persons who would register their name for deposition or giving written statement would not be disclosed.



In this photograph released by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi greets Congress-I supporters before being killed. At lower left stands the as yet unidentified assassin suspect. — AFP photo

US, USSR, China urged to broker accord Pak call to make S Asia N-free

ISLAMABAD, June 6: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif urged the United States, the Soviet Union and China today to help broker a regional accord to make South Asian nuclear-free, reports Reuter.

Speaking to a restricted audience at the National Defence College in Rawalpindi, he said he wanted the three nuclear-weapons states to try to resolve the nuclear issue in South Asia through talks with India and Pakistan.

"A regional non-proliferation regime, containing guarantees for non-nuclear-weapons states and agreed to by all the regional countries, is a practical method of resolving the problem in all its dimensions, he said.

Urging a quick response, the Prime Minister said a conference should be held as soon as possible.

"The nuclear non-proliferation regime to be negotiated during the proposed multilateral consultations should be equitable and non-discriminatory, he said.

Indian defence experts reached cautiously today saying it was a ploy for resumed US military aid. "Nuclear shadow-boxing is going on... Pakistan is also trying to send signals to the Arab world that it has nuclear weapons," said the chief nuclear expert at the Indian Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), R R Subramanian.

India exploded a peaceful nuclear device in 1974. The United States suspended all new aid to Pakistan last October because of fears it had accelerated its nuclear weapons programme in response to tension with India over a secessionist revolt in Kashmir.

Sharif, in his speech which was released later, said Pakistan was ready to have a bilateral or regional agreement with India to ensure South Asia remained free of all weapons of mass destruction.

We are prepared to adopt measures aimed at mutual and balanced reduction of forces consistent with the principles of equal and undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, he told the Defence College audience.

Pakistan has previously floated plans for a regional accord, but they have been rejected by India which said it would agree only to a global mechanism.

India went to war with China in 1962 and has argued that any regional arrangement with Pakistan would leave it vulnerable to Chinese nuclear missiles.

'World Bank pressing for devaluation'

A prominent economist said the government was under pressure from World Bank to follow the economic policy pursued by the previous regime in preparing the national budget for fiscal 1991-92, reports UNB.

"Already a proposal for withdrawing import tax has been made (by the World Bank) and a new proposal is in the offing for devaluing the currency," Dr Shafiquzzaman told a seminar. But none of the propositions will be beneficial for the country's economy, he observed.

Dr Shafiq, a Teacher of the Economics Department of Dhaka University, made the observation, in his paper on "The 1991-92 Budget in Light of Bankruptcy and Foreign Dependence of National Economy: Search for an Alternative" See Page 12 Col. 4

Khmers take up guns again as peace talks fail

BANGKOK, June 6: The Khmer Rouge, military backbone of the resistance coalition fighting Phnom Penh, announced today the end of the cease-fire in Cambodia following the failure of peace talks in Jakarta, reports AFP.

The announcement was broadcast over Khmer Rouge Radio, monitored here, which ordered the faction's guerrillas to "continue to actively and constantly fight" government forces.

Among reasons for ending the cease-fire — implemented on May 1 — the Khmer Rouge cited the failure of Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government to fully accept a United Nations peace plan as well as "diplomatic manoeuvres" by Hanoi and Phnom Penh.

This was a transparent reference to an agreement reached in the Indonesian capital between Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the nominal leader of the anti-Phnom Penh Resistance.

The Prince, leader of one of two non-communist factions allied to the Khmer Rouge, agreed with Hun Sen on the leadership of the Supreme National Council (SNC) — a body grouping all the warring factions — and on the continuation of the cease-fire.

The Khmer Rouge, which has constantly turned down such bilateral deals, immediately rejected the Jakarta Agreement under which the Prince would become SNC chairman and Hun Sen its Vice-Chairman.

Prince Sihanouk announced later today that he would return to Phnom Penh in November for a two-month visit. The Prince said he would travel to Phnom Penh at the invitation of Hun Sen, adding that the Premier had accepted an invitation to visit him at his residence in the North Korean capital Pyongyang in July.

Asked whether this was going to isolate the Khmer Rouge, the 68-year-old former monarch said, "No, No, I don't want to isolate the Khmer Rouge. I just continue to be a bridge between the factions".

A spokesman for the Prince here said his faction would continue to observe the cease-fire despite the move by the Khmer Rouge, Cambodian's former Marxist ruling group which was toppled in 1979 following a Vietnamese invasion.

The Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge had said last month that the truce which began May 1 would end if Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government did not fully accept at just-ended peace talks in Jakarta on a United Nations plan to end the war in Cambodia.

The Jakarta talks ended inconclusively with the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's former radical Marxist rulers, blocking a peace agreement between its ally Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The Khmer Rouge "guidance" was issued by the faction's High Command. It accused Hanoi and Phnom Penh of "playing a trick with the so-called cease-fire".

"In fact, as all battlefields and units have witnessed for themselves through direct fighting, the Vietnamese enemy and puppets have not for a single day stopped fighting," it said.

Vietnam and its client government in Phnom Penh continued during the June 2-4 Jakarta meeting "to carry out manoeuvres" to destroy the UN blueprint, the Khmer Rouge charged.

Frozen food sector needs Tk 388 cr for rehabilitation

Star Economic Report

The country's frozen food sector immediately needs at least Taka 388 crore for the survival of the industry following the April 29 cyclone which caused colossal damage to the sector.

Stating this at a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon, President of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association AU Ahmed said, unless the sector was refurbished soon, Bangladesh would lose the highly competitive international market. Thailand, See Page 12 Col. 7