

Lebanese troops retake Sidon

SIDON (Lebanon), July 1: Lebanese troops peacefully took over Sidon today and threatened to use force to dislodge Palestinian guerrillas from bases around the port, reports Reuter.

The Syrian-backed government has said formal talks with the PLO will wait until after the troops have moved in.

The army initially ordered all groups obstructing its deployment to the east of Sidon to move by midday (0900 GMT), after the deadline expired, negotiations continued.

The Lebanese army is deploying on Lebanese soil under a decision of the Lebanese authority backed and welcomed by the Lebanese people, no one can stand in the way of implementing this," Murr said.

President Elias Hrawi issued a warning, apparently aimed at the PLO as much as Israel which, with its South Lebanon army militia allies, holds a self-declared security zone in South Lebanon.

Samad Azad

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too early to make any comment.

He mentioned that an amendment bill from Awami League for switching over to parliamentary system was submitted on April 14 but it was not yet introduced before the House.

"We would have appreciated if the Prime Minister had mentioned about Awami League's bill in her speech," he said.

Abdus Samad Azad said that switching over to parliamentary system was one of the commitments of three alliances. He expressed the hope the ruling party would come forward to fulfil all the commitments including transformation of radio and television into an autonomous organisation.

Led by tanks, thousands of troops entered Sidon, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut, ending 16 years of gun law and extending state control to the city.

But the 6,000-strong army contingent hit snags as it drove eastwards into Palestine Liberation Organisation territory when the PLO refused to hand over guerrilla strongholds.

Lebanese Defence Minister Michel Al-Murr threatened to use force after the army thrust was frustrated by Palestinian gunmen who appeared in at least five villages, ordering civilians off the streets.

"We wish the operation to be completed peacefully but if the army has to use force to implement the decision it will," Murr said.

The deployment operation should be completed today in accordance with the government's decision," he said.

Civilians threw flowers and rice from balconies as army vehicles flying Lebanese flags roared into Sidon at dawn and a local Sunni Muslim Lebanese militia handed over its positions.

There are some 6,000 Palestinian guerrillas east of Sidon.

The PLO had said it would cooperate with the deployment but would not hand over bases as they were needed to protect its two refugee camps near Sidon and to attack Israeli forces in Lebanon.

The PLO wants an agreement with the government on civil, social and political rights for the 300,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in return for withdrawing from bases.

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Leading Pakistani social worker Abdus Sattar Edhi speaks to journalists with his wife Bilqis Edhi on Monday in Karachi after receiving anonymous threats that his hospitals and welfare centres would be blown up. Political and religious leaders in Pakistan are concerned at his decision to migrate to India because of local violence. — AFP photo

Ultimatum to kill kidnapped executive Kashmir administration opens talks with guerillas

JAMMU, July 1: The Kashmir administration today launched negotiations with Muslim guerrillas hours ahead of a deadline to kill an Indian oil executive seized by them, officials here said, reports AFP.

"We have succeeded in establishing contact with the abductors through our mediators and negotiations are going on," an official spokesman said in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and a known militant stronghold.

But the spokesman gave no details of the negotiations. The reported contact with the hardline Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen group came as thousands of police and paramilitary forces, backed by army troops, continued a massive search for the oil executive, K Doraiswamy.

Doraiswamy, 58, was abducted from Srinagar on Friday by the Muslimeen, which has set at 3 pm (0630 GMT) today deadline for his execution if three of its jailed members are not released.

Doraiswamy is a Bombay-based Executive Director of the state-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and was kidnapped while visiting Srinagar city to oversee the construction of a gas depot.

Official reports reached in Srinagar by telephone said more than 7,000 police and paramilitary forces, besides army soldiers, were searching for the IOC official in an around Srinagar district.

Security forces clamped a virtual curfew in and around Srinagar city, restricting free movement of people, as non-Muslim government employees in the northern state asked the administration to accept the rebels' demands.

Kashmir governor Girish Chandra Saxena was in constant touch with new Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao over the abduction, official sources said.

"All possible efforts to secure the release of Doraiswamy are continuing," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted an administration spokesman as saying in Srinagar.

"Let us hope for the best," the spokesman said when asked to comment on the deadline threat.

A caller identifying himself as a representative of the Muslimeen said in Srinagar on Sunday that Doraiswamy's body would be dropped at the gates of the state secretariat in the Muslim dominated city if their demands were not met.

IOC spokesman D Bhojwani said here that the company had heard nothing further from Srinagar, where it has set up a separate cell to deal with the abduction.

"We are after the government whatever it is, it needs a political decision," he said. "Our people have told the (Kashmir) Governor that he should get our man out."

The Muslimeen said the federally controlled Kashmir Government had promised the release of three colleagues after a kidnapping in March, but had reneged on the swap.

The names of the three jailed rebels were not available, but the group said the government was aware of their identities.

Two other Muslim militant groups in Kashmir are also holding an Israeli tourist and two Swedish engineers. The Israeli abductors said Sunday that they would release him.

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Soviet reformers split over new party

MOSCOW, July 1: Reformers remain split over the scope and structure of a new political party but still hope soon to found the organization as a rival to the Communist Party, officials said Sunday.

"We cannot wait any longer to form this party," said Nikolai Travkin, anti-Communist leader of the radical Russian Democratic Party. "The signing will be (next) Friday," he told the Associated Press.

Yevgeny Savostyanov, an aide to Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov, who is a key participant in the founding effort, said reformers would hold more private meetings this week.

"I am certain that in the nearest future, we'll have a new political institution," Savostyanov said Saturday during a meeting of reformers.

Creation of a single, powerful organization to rival the 16.3 million-member Communist Party.

Amendments

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amendment bill seeks to switch over to a parliamentary form of government changing some protected and unprotected Articles.

The bill is likely to bring some changes in Articles providing for the independence of the judiciary.

The Constitution of Bangladesh came into effect on December 16, 1972. Since then there had been 10 Amendments to this Constitution.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of January 25, 1975 changed the basic character of the Constitution providing for a presidential form of government and making the then Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman President of Bangladesh.

Ershad's trial : Articles' valuation

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Later the Defence Counsel also cross-examined Abdul Hamid Chowdhury Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home and the former Deputy Secretary of the Home Ministry Major (retd) Mamtazuddin.

They both corroborated the statements of the informant of the case Salehuddin Ahmed, the Senior Officer of the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

The accusation in the case was framed on March 20 along with that in the arms case.

The court met on June 19 when the Defence prayed for time.

60 bottles of drinks

Before beginning the cross-examination yesterday Ershad's chief Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque told the Court that he would not be able to understand the motive of the case unless the scheme of the Prosecution was revealed.

He further said that the Defence was yet to see the articles and the goods for which the accused had been charged.

At this stage the Attorney General Aminul Haque said that the case would proceed on the basis of evidence. The seized materials would certainly be produced before the Court, he submitted.

He said that among the seized articles were 60 bottles of drinks, most of which were made in America.

He said that the catalogue of all those drinks would be produced to prove the price of the articles.

The Midnight File

State holdings denationalized in USSR

MOSCOW, July 1: The Soviet parliament approved a law today to denationalise vast state holdings but conservatives managed to slow the pace of private acquisitions and to exempt some key industries altogether. They also successfully defended the bill's priority on the sale of state enterprises to work collectives, defeating liberals' calls to distribute much of the state property free. The bill, approved overwhelmingly after lengthy debate, formally spells the beginning of the end of the state's monopoly on property, reports Reuter.

Bush-Gorbachev meet July 17

MOSCOW, July 1: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush will have a working meeting in London on July 17, the official news agency Tass said today. Bush will be in London for the Group of Seven (G-7) annual summit of major industrialised nations on July 15-17. Gorbachev is to present his case for western aid and investment to help Soviet economic reform to the seven leaders afterwards, reports Reuter.

Four killed by gunmen in Sukkur

KARACHI, July 1: At least four people were killed and six injured today when unknown gunmen went on a shooting spree in Sukkur, north of here, in Pakistan's southern Sindh province. Paramilitary Rangers have been called out to patrol the old area of Sukkur where shops have been closed and tension was high after the firing incidents, ambulance sources and witnesses said, reports AFP.

Jiang rules out western-style democracy

BEIJING, July 1: Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin today categorically ruled out an eventual move to western-style democracy in China, reports AFP.

"China must not weaken or abandon the people's democratic dictatorship, nor should it ever practise a western-style multi-party system," he said in a long speech to the National People's Congress, or Parliament, on the occasion of the party's 70th anniversary.

The dictatorship of the party must be preserved, Jiang said, "because the class struggle will exist for a long time in certain parts of our country, and because there are still hostile inter national forces which are attempting to subvert our socialist system."

"The turmoil and the counter-revolutionary rebellion which took place in Beijing in the late spring of 1989 is proof of this point," he added.

Jiang told delegates the collapse of communism in a number of countries over the last two years was only "a temporary phenomenon."

Despite an ongoing programme of economic liberalisation in China, Jiang indicated that it would have its limits in keeping with communist orthodoxy.

"We must first of all consolidate and expand the publicly owned socialist economy and never toward developing a capitalist economy," he said.

Xinhua adds: General Secretary Jiang Zemin proposed here today that the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese Kuomintang send delegates to hold direct talks so as to gradually reach an agreement on the principles of reunification.

Announcement

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which they struggled.

"We think belief in democracy and practice of democratic norms were a must to establish democratic system and rule of law in the country," they observed. The Jamaat leaders also said concerned would help continue parliamentary democracy in the country.

The General Secretary of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal (M-L), Dilip Barua, termed the address a historic incident in the democratic movement in Bangladesh.

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalist Monday called for a national consensus to institutionalise democracy by establishing an accountable government.

In a joint statement, Reazuddin Ahmed and Amanullah Kabir, President and General Secretary respectively of BFUJ, and Zahirul Huq and Ruhul Amin Gazi President and General Secretary respectively of DUJ, hoped that all democracy loving people would unite to avail themselves of the new opportunity to root out the last traces of autocracy from the country. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's announcement to go back to parliamentary democracy through constitutional amendment opened new scope for the nation to march ahead for the re-establishment of the spirit of the liberation war by establishing unfettered democracy, they said.

BNP's student wing Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession from the Teacher-Student Centre of the Dhaka University

Rangpur APMG

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17 had instructed all branches and sub-post offices of Rangpur to divert all letters and goods of those 11 politicians and 12 organisational heads to the Police Superintendent for censorship.

This order would remain valid for one year from its date of issue. Jahangir Alam disclosed recently that he issued the said office order as per instructions of the Home Ministry.

Meanwhile, Additional P M G of Rajshahi range made a surprise visit to Rangpur APMG office on Saturday and returned the same night hurriedly after holding an enquiry secretly.

However after 24 hours of the enquiry, the APMG in question was withdrawn from Rangpur.

Names of the political leaders on whose correspondent censorship was imposed are Md Afzal President and Shamsuzzaman Secretary of Ganotantra Party, Shahadat Hossain Secretary and Shankar Bose member of CPB, Shah Abdur Razzaq President and Elias Ahmed Secretary of Awami League, Haresuddin Sarker ex-Whip, Khondakar Golam Mostafa Batal and Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantoo of Jatitya Party, Principal Ruhul Islam central Organising Secretary and Nazrul Islam Political Secretary of Jamaat.

Besides these persons, Presidents and Secretaries of BDSA, BMA, BADC, BATESCOP, Motor Sramik Union and Jatitya Sramik Party also came under the same order.

Although the APMG in question has been withdrawn from Rangpur, his censorship order has yet not been withdrawn.

Milad & Doa

A milad mahfil will be held after Asar prayer today, 2nd July at 1/4, Asad Gate, Mohammadpur to pray for the departed soul of Late Mr. Helalud Din Chowdhury (former C. S. P) of Rankeli, Sylhet. He passed away on 27th June due to heart ailment.

All his relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend.

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