

Moscow will transfer power to Islamic govt in Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Nov 18 : The Soviet Union has endorsed a Mujahideen demand that power in Afghanistan be transferred to an interim Islamic government, according to a joint statement released by the Soviet embassy here Sunday, reports AFP.

The eight-point joint statement was drawn up in Moscow after five days of talks between a Mujahideen delegation and Soviet and Russian officials held from November 11 to 15.

The delegation, led by resistance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani is due to return here Monday after a pilgrimage to Makkah in Saudi Arabia.

The (two) sides confirmed the necessity of transfer of the entire state power in Afghanistan to an interim Islamic government," the statement said, according to the text issued by the embassy.

The Mujahideen delegation agreed, it said.

"Within two years from the moment of transfer of power

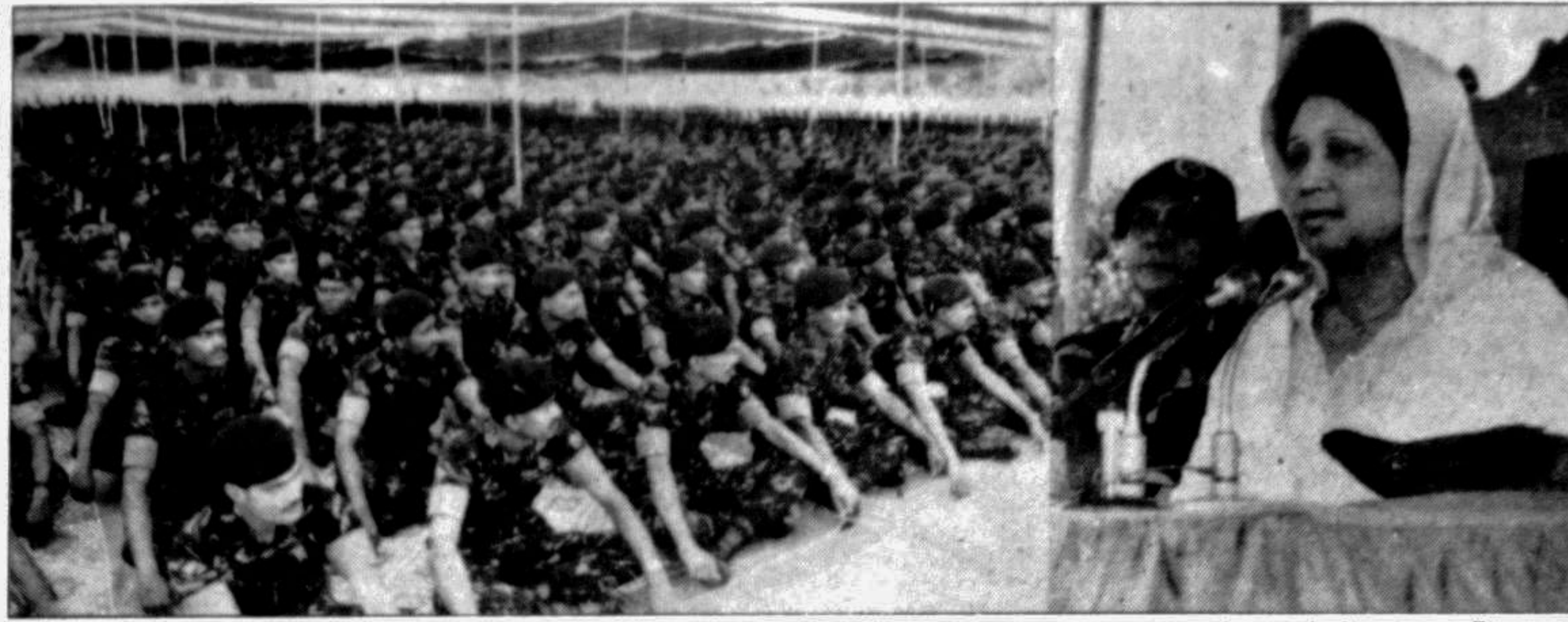
from the Kabul regime to the interim government, general elections will be held in Afghanistan with the assistance of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the UN" the statement said.

The Soviet side agreed to "stop before January 1992 all supplies to the Kabul regime of armaments, combat hardware and fuel for combat means."

Moscow also agreed to "take measures for radical reduction and consequently for the complete recall from Afghanistan of Soviet military personnel."

The statement said the Soviet Union "will definitely participate in common efforts for the restoration of devastations caused by the war."

"The condemnation of the anti-constitutional decision with regard to the deployment of Soviet troops in Afghanistan (in 1979) and the Soviet Union's participation in the war, that brought and continues to bring immeasurable sufferings to the Muslim Afghan people, was reconfirmed," it said.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing officers, JCOs and jawans at the headquarters of the 9th division at Savar Monday. Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen Noor Uddin Khan was also present. — PID photo

Joint declaration

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ing reminiscing while talking to The Daily Star made claims and counter claims about fulfilment or otherwise of the declaration.

The ruling BNP claims that commitments still unfulfilled are now in the process of materialisation while the opposition parties including the Awami League are frequently blasting the ruling party for 'non-fulfilment' of those.

The issues, yet to be translated into reality fully, are: autonomy for the radio and television into repeal of all laws that conflict with the fundamental rights of the people and ensuring independence and neutrality of the judiciary and establishment of rule of law in the country.

Awami League central leader Tofael Ahmed MP accused the ruling BNP for not keeping its commitments in the declaration. "The ruling party was doing wilfully with the commitments", Tofael remarked.

The AL leader described the role of the television and the radio same as that during the Ershad regime. He found no goodwill of the government to convert the state-owned media into autonomous bodies.

On laws detrimental to people's fundamental rights, Tofael blasted those in power saying that instead of repealing those, the government, in only eight months' rule has introduced some fresh black laws.

Referring to an end to politics of killing and coups, Tofael who is the Organising Secretary of AL viewed there was no alternative to repealing the Indemnity Ordinance to stop capture of power through unconstitutional means.

"Existence of the ordinance in the Constitution has legitimised

such politics", he said.

Replying to a question, Tofael said law and order has deteriorated seriously due to absence of rule of law and independence of the judiciary.

Information Minister and a BNP central leader Barrister Nazmul Huda dismissed the opposition claim. "The present democratic government has already fulfilled almost all the promises and is positively proceeding towards materialisation of others", he said. The Information Minister claimed that the radio and the television have been freed from "partisan use."

Now opposition news are regularly being aired by the radio and television, he said adding "it's a big step forward to the fulfilment of the pledge made in the joint declaration."

On wide coverage of the cabinet members, the Information Minister observed that the people have the right to watch their representatives

on the TV screen. Regarding laws conflicting to the people's fundamental rights, the lawyer said, "blackness of the Special Powers Act has been diluted to a great extent. Except the provision for preventive detention, all other black laws have been repealed."

Rashed Khan Menon, MP, of the Five-Party Alliance also accused the BNP government of not completely fulfilling the commitments. He criticised the government for not giving autonomy to the radio and the television.

Menon asserted that repeal of all black laws including the Indemnity Ordinance and the Special Powers Act could help consolidate democracy.

Menon pressed for repeal of the fifth and seventh amendments to the constitution to make parliamentary system meaningful and stop politics of killing and coup because, the two amendments validated the illegal take-over of power.

Croatians

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was deafening even in this village six km (four miles) from Vukovar which is as close as the army allowed journalists to approach.

"We demand their unconditional surrender in the presence of the Red Cross and our soldiers will not shoot unless they are shot at, Major Veselin Slijvanec said.

"But if they try any dirty tricks, we have enough fire power to destroy them and take the rest of Vukovar within two hours. We won't hesitate to do that unless they surrender."

Three grenades fired from Mitnica hit a refugee camp on

the outskirts of Vukovar, wounding a woman and setting fire to a warehouse.

The army said several groups of Croatian fighters, numbering over 60 men, tried to break out of the heavily surrounded town during the night but were driven back.

A loudspeaker vehicle toured the devastated streets of Vukovar on Sunday urging Croats to surrender and promising they would be treated as prisoners of war.

The Yugoslav army has agreed to the evacuation of civilians and wounded from the besieged town of Vukovar where 1,500 Croatian defenders are trapped.

Khaleda's 'Meet the People' date shifted

The weekly meet the people programme of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for November 21 has been called off due to some unavoidable circumstances, reports BSS.

Persons who were to meet Begum Zia on November 21 will now meet her on November 28 and the visitors for the same day will now meet her on December 5.

4 left parties

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Nahid said all patriotic and democratic forces would have to be united in the greater interest of the country and the people.

Industrialisation of the country, protection of local products and guarantee to investment for flourishing national economy will be the centre piece of their immediate goals.

Citing example, he said, Ershad's fall was possible as all parties were united. Switch over to parliamentary system was another instance.

The front will come up with programmes shortly, and its first step is likely to be forging unity of the people and political parties to fight violence and vandalism from campuses as well as from society.

Nahid said the front would remain open to any party or individual willing to work with the identical aims.

They have talked to many other political parties, including the 5-Party Alliance and Ganatantri Party, for unity and will continue parleys with them, he said.

The Midnight File

Somali President flees capital

NAIROBI, Nov 18: Interim Somali President Ali Mahdi Mohamed fled the capital Mogadishu today after 48 hours of clashes between rival factions of the ruling United Somali Congress, sources contacted from here said. USC Military Chief General Mohamed Farah Haided appeared to have won control of the capital, they said, reports AFP.

20 killed in Soviet plane crash

MOSCOW, Nov 18: Twenty people were killed, including the six-man crew, when a Soviet military transport aircraft crashed at the weekend in the far north of the country, Tass news agency said today. The plane, identified as an AN-12 transport, crashed on Saturday in bad weather at the Amerderma Air Field in the Polar Karskoc sea, reports Reuter.

9 neo-Nazis injured in rebels' attack

KOENIGS WUSTERHAUSEN, Nov 18: Nine neo-Nazis returning from a memorial ceremony were injured in an attack at Koenigs Wusterhausen station outside Berlin by some 25 masked people wielding baseball bats, police said today. About 650 people had attended the ceremony Sunday at a local cemetery in memory of German soldiers killed during World War II, reports AP.

37 killed in Colombian violence

BOGOTA, Nov 18: The government said Monday that 37 Colombians had been killed in weekend massacres, guerrilla clashes and a police shootout. Police said the people were killed Sunday in Medellin, Colombia's second-largest city and home of a powerful cocaine cartel, when assailants in a car and a motorcycle opened fire on people eating snacks on a street corner, reports AP.

Hardliners, BSF

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Abdur Rashid Sarker was killed by the Shantibahini, a riot took place between the non-tribals and tribals. However after that riot, no other similar incident occurred due to the timely precautionary measures by the government.

The recently declared fifth amnesty was also criticised by the tribal leaders and the Chairman of three hill district council who pleaded for holding a dialogue to end the crisis.

The Chairman of Rangamati District Council Gautam Dewan said that the process for holding the dialogue and the scope of amnesty should not be allowed to go side by side. The tribal insurgents have not accepted the amnesty but rather discarded it, he added.

The negation of the Shantibahini to the latest amnesty has been reflected in recent acts of violence committed by them, he said adding that the Shantibahinimen are stand fast in their demands.

A government official said that the fifth amnesty was meant only for those willing to surrender in advance without waiting for the dialogue. It might take a long time to hold the dialogue as the hardcore members of the Shantibahini in collaboration with their front organisation leaders were still playing a very tricky game on the way to solving the 18 years-long problem across the discussion table, the official added.

The fourth amnesty, declared on August 23, 1989 and ending on September 30, 1989, drew only seven Shantibahini men with arms and 30 others without arms to surrender, officials sources said.

The motivation meetings urged the agitated people to be patient and not fall prey to the instigation of the trouble-makers.

Security sources said the situation was under watch and in control and all concerned quarters had been alerted to foil any attempt to disrupt the existing harmony between the tribals and nontribals.

In May 1989 when the upazila Chairman of Longadu under Rangamati district

Nasiruddin

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of 81 was celebrated Thursday. Responding to the reception accorded to him, Mohammad Nasiruddin said it was the gesture of deep love that people bear for him. His written speech was read out by Dr. Rafiqul Islam. He urged all to guard against intrusion of alien culture and injustice in the society. "Illiteracy, superstition and ignorance which stalked the society in our time still exist", he cautioned.

Poet Sufia Kamal wished Nasiruddin a happy and a healthy life.

Writ

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The writ petition was filed by Sudhir Burman and Debnath Roy against the state of West Bengal, District Magistrate, Cooch Behar and special land acquisition officer, Cooch Behar.

Meanwhile: The West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu today assured his cabinet colleagues that India's sovereignty would not be undermined after the lease out of Tinbigha to Bangladesh.

Basu, who chaired a cabinet meeting in Calcutta, told members that he would soon hold talk with the Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao on the various aspects of leasing out of the strip.

He said that the process of leasing out of Tinbigha would be completed only after removing the fear and apprehension of the people there.

Clashes

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The injured students are Biplob, Sagor and Selim. The leaders of Sangrami Chhatra Samaj said they brought out a procession to demand the release of former President Ershad and the activists of Jatayatadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) had attacked them.

She was given a guard of honour. She also inspected the guard. Later she went to the Operations Room at the headquarters and was briefed about the activities by the GOC. She was also introduced to the senior officers.

Begum Zia also signed the visitors book at the Officers Mess. She talked to the officers there and enquired about their welfare.

Ershad's trial

JP decided to raise Tk 2cr for purchasing party office

N. Q Alam Chowdhury, a defence witness in the corruption case against the former President H. M Ershad, Monday deposed that Jatya Party during a meeting last year had decided to raise Taka 2 crore to purchase a house for the party, reports BSS.

He told special tribunal trying Ershad of amassing wealth beyond his known source of income that during a meeting of the JP Parliamentary Party a decision was taken to hand over the money raised through subscription and contribution to accused Ershad for it (Monday) might be necessary at any time to purchase the house. Besides instant availability, the decision to deposit money with Ershad was taken because the joint signature in the party fund was posing a problem for quick withdrawal of such amount, the witness fifth in the series, said during deposition conducted by counsel Yusuf Hossain Humayun.

Chowdhury said as per party decision, he as a member of 1988 parliament contributed Taka 12,000 in two instalments, the last time on November 2, 1990 and produced counterfoils. Besides contributions by party MPs, funds were also raised by membership drive and subscriptions from ministers, state ministers and zila parishad chairmen, he added.

When asked whether marital law was needed in 1982, Chowdhury looking at Ershad sitting in the dock, said, "Only the man who imposed it can say."

Chowdhury testified that the counterfoils of the subscription, receipts which were deposited with the court did not carry any signature either of the Treasurer or the General Secretary as prescribed by party (JP) manifesto. During interrogation he said he did not recall that there was curfew on November 2 last year, the day he was supposed to have deposited the money. The Attorney General then produced a newspaper file on November 2, 1990 where it said curfew was imposed in the city from November 1. The witness then corrected himself and said that money might have been deposited on some other day, but the receipt might have been issued on that day.

Chowdhury denied to have lied to save Ershad. He also denied of having taken any privilege but added whatever he got as Chairman of Zila Parishad was similar to other chairmen. He, however, admitted that he was made PP during the Ershad regime.

He denied of gross misconduct by not observing rules and regulations of Bar Council despite being a lawyer.

Although the next witness appeared in the dock, the judge at the request of the defence adjourned the hearing till November 20.

Police open fire on workers: 10 hurt in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 18: Ten people were injured when police opened 15 rounds of blank fire to disperse unruly transport workers when they tried to swoop an accused from police custody.

The ten people were injured in the melee.

They became unruly when a bail petition for Abul Kalam Azad, district Secretary of transport workers union was rejected. Kalam was taken to court hjat.

Shopkeepers

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ing sold in the shops.

Presided over by M Shamsul Haque, the meeting in front of the Baitul Mokarram Market was addressed by Amirullah, Atiur Rahman, Abul Bashir and M Khayer.

The press conference was addressed by Alhaj Ali Akbar Khan, president of Baitul Mokarram businessmen group.

UNB adds: Nearly 18,000 shop owners in Dhaka city are planning to launch an agitation from November 30 to protest the government's decision to raid shops, which they fear would victimise the shopkeepers.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Central Markets Convening Committee at a meeting Sunday discussed action plans which include demonstrations, road barricades and token and indefinite strikes at the city's shopping centres.

The committee announced demonstrations on November 30 and token or indefinite strike on December 1 to protest the possible raids on shops.

The government earlier announced that it would crack-down on smuggling from December 1 to seize contraband and smuggled goods. As part of the drive, shops will be raided to recover smuggled

goods. MA Zaman, Joint Secretary of the Convening Committee, said that shop owners fully support the anti-smuggling operation but expressed fear that innocent shop owners might be harassed and victimised during the drive.

"We are not smugglers. We are against smuggling and want to help the government. But unfortunately we were victimised in the past in the name of recovering smuggled goods", he said.

There are 180 big or small shopping centres in the capital housing about 18,000 shops. In 1989 many innocent shop owners were victimised during the recovery of smuggled goods at different shopping centres in the capital, he said.

Zaman said that the anti-smuggling drive would prove futile unless the smugglers are identified and smuggling points sealed.

Sources said smuggled goods worth Tk 500 crore enter the country each year through air, sea and land routes. Major smuggled items include Indian saree, clothes, crockery, perfumes, expensive garments, cigarettes, electronics etc.

They alleged that organised groups with the help of a section of corrupt officials are engaged in smuggling business.

Editor: S. M. Ali