

Coconut, betelnut trees can bear fury of cyclones

Star Report

Coconut, betelnut and palm trees have proved to be strong enough to withstand cyclones and storm surges in the coastal belt of Bangladesh.

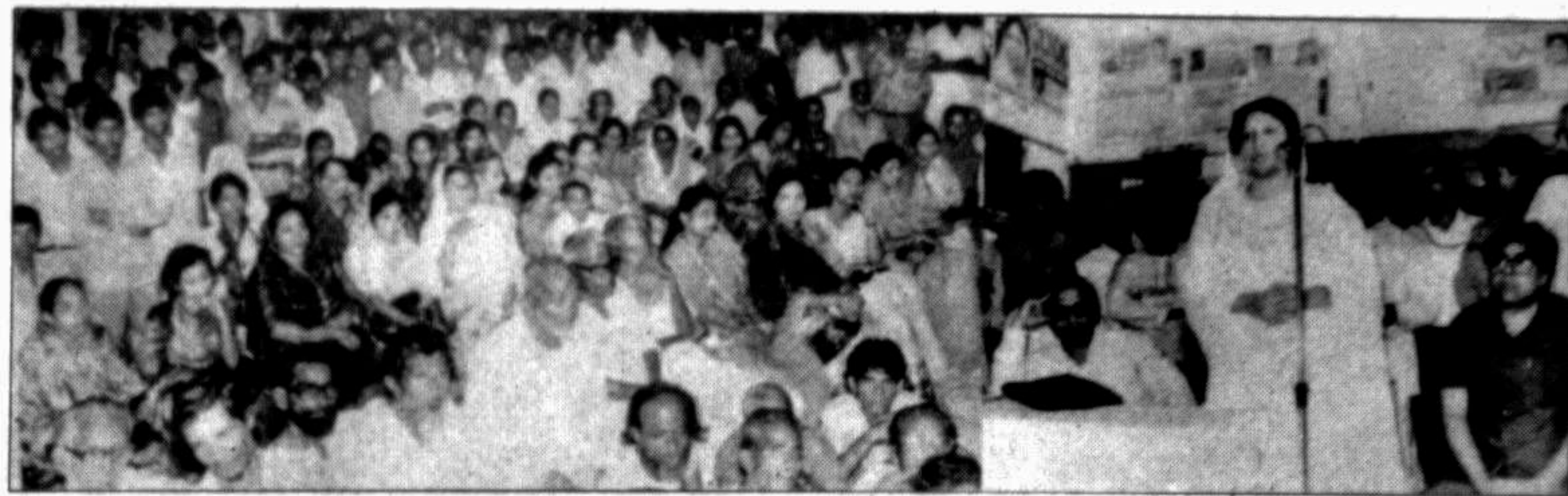
Environmentalist Prof Kazi Zaker Husain who had been to the cyclone affected areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar twice in the month of May told the Daily Star that the Department of Forests and the coastal people should take note of this if they go for afforestation of the coastal belt.

Recipient of the Global 500 Roll of Honour Prof Kazi Zaker Husain said there could be lakhs of coconut, betelnut and palm trees in the coastal areas to work as natural barriers to killer winds and tidal surges.

He said that following the April 29 cyclone some affected families took coconut and coconut water when there was no food and safe drinking water for days. Coconut and palm trees also grow well in the coastal areas, he said.

Prof Husain said the newly formed islets which were worst affected by the cyclone and storm surge are actually not suitable for human habitation, because these landmasses have not yet stabilised through 'ecological succession'.

Population pressure and poverty compel to live in these areas despite the risks. However, since they live there adequate precautions should be taken for their safety, he said.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a gathering held at the BNP office in connection with joining of Tangail district AL leaders.

Khaleda: Move to oust govt

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help democracy to flourish in the country.

The Prime Minister said the government would forgive the terrorist elements if they surrender to the law enforcing agencies. Otherwise, she warned, stern measures would be taken against them.

It is now people's government and hence there is no room for campus violence, she said and advised the students to devote themselves to studies as they had already lost academic years.

The Prime Minister said the forces which had failed to gain the support of the people because of their destructive activities had become desperate and now wanted to strike the democratically elected government.

"We want to warn the evil designers that we shall not tolerate any activities against the democratic process of the country as we have assumed power for bringing about peace and stability, and not for exercising power," she said.

She called upon the elements engaged in such activities to shun the path of destruction and take part in the process of consolidating democracy.

The Prime Minister said the students had played a glorious role in the movement against autocracy. With the ousting of the autocracy the students now had to concentrate on their studies to contribute meaningfully to the growth of democracy and protecting it, she added.

But unfortunately, she pointed out, a quarter was trying to foil the academic atmosphere to realise its vested interest.

Begum Zia said the democracy-loving people of the country would not tolerate such heinous acts they would certainly resist such acts at any cost, she hoped.

Begum Zia said her party had struggled for the last nine years not for going to power but for establishing democracy, people's right and peace.

She asserted that her government would establish democracy by thwarting all sorts of intrigues and fulfill all pledges her party made to the people before the parliamentary election.

In this regard, she mentioned that the new government had already raised the age limit from 27 years to 30 for entry into government service and exempted agricultural loans and interests upto Taka 5000.

Begum Zia said that politics of BNP was the politics of production, building the country and protecting the national independence.

Outlining the party programmes, she said the politics of BNP proved correct as the people had given their verdict in the February 27 parliamentary polls in favour of production, peace and building the country.

"People wanted peace, work and to protect the country's hard earned independence," Begum Zia said the nine-year autocratic rule was marked by large-scale corruption, smuggling, bribery and plundering of national wealth.

The BNP believes in democracy, she said, and will continue its efforts to flourish democracy along with the people as they reposed confidence in it.

Referring to the post-cyclone relief operations in the coastal belts and offshore islands, the Prime Minister said her government had successfully overcome the crisis by continuing full time relief activities.

She mentioned that the international community had also come forward with assistance to help her democratic government in overcoming the crisis caused by the April 29 cyclone.

Welcoming the Awami League leaders and workers who joined BNP, Begum Zia urged people to strengthen the hands of the nationalist forces to build the country anew.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, State Minister for Forest and Environment Abdullah Al Noman, State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan, Tangail district BNP President Hamidul Huq Khan Mohan, Babul Chowdhury, Moniruzzaman Babul and Abul Kashem also spoke on the occasion.

BNP leaders, including Abdul Matin Chowdhury MP, Fazlur Rahman Patal MP, Amanullah Aman MP, Salauddin Ahmed MP, Abdus Salam Pintu MP, Barkatullah Bulu MP, Alamgir Kabir MP and Humayun Khan Panni MP were present.

In his speech, Abdus Salam Talukder alleged that the Awami-Bakshali forces were trying to create law and order situation in the country to keep their political existence.

Sounding a note of warning, he said the people would resist any evil designs of the vested quarters.

Talukder said conspiracies were still on against the new democratic government and warned that a befitting reply awaits those engaged in intrigues.

The people are now opposed to the politics of Awami League and reposed their confidence on BNP, he said.

Talukder also criticised the Awami League for giving political shelter to what he said the killers of Dr. Milton.

Call to observe June 7

By Staff Correspondent

The General Secretary of Awami League, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, on Tuesday called for the observance of June 7, marking the historic struggle against autocracy in 1966.

In a statement, she said, on that day, many people, including labour leader Monu Mia, sacrificed their lives for the country. Thousands of people, including students and workers, were jailed, she added.

Sajeda Chowdhury urged the people to unite to build a happy, prosperous and democratic Bangladesh.

WFC session begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The four-day 17th ministerial session of the World Food Council (WFC) begins today in Helsingor city, Denmark.

Bangladesh is represented by a two-member delegation.

State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda leads a two-member Bangladesh team to the session.

Huda left for Denmark, Monday night.

Bangladesh will highlight its steps to increase food production and seek assistance to attain autarky by 1992 and build a food security system. It will also seek additional assistance to replenish the crop loss by the recent cyclone and flood.

WFC, meeting annually, is not an implementing agency, but a forum of its member countries which presents food stock and security position of its members to the FAO for review and consideration.

Caution against a section govt employees

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Coordination Committee on Tuesday urged the Government and members of the public to be on guard against what it called 'evil design' of a section of government employees. They are doing it in the name of the coordination committee, the meeting said.

Presided over by Mirza Adul Jalil, Secretary General of BCS Coordination Committee, the meeting assured the Government that all members of the committee were ready to help its efforts for a better administration.

Representatives of different BCS cadres, Bangladesh Medical Association and leaders of the Institute of Agriculture attended the meeting.

Benazir

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The former Pakistan Prime Minister was quoted as telling Eyewitness, a monthly video service, that the government had approached her father-in-law Hakim Ali Zardari, to persuade him to make his jailed son Asif divorce her.

"It would be farcical if it was not cruel that even my father-in-law was approached that my husband should divorce me or else he would not be spared," she was quoted as saying in an interview to be shown in the June edition of Eyewitness.

The transcript was released in advance by the network, which is attached to the daily newspaper Hindustan Times.

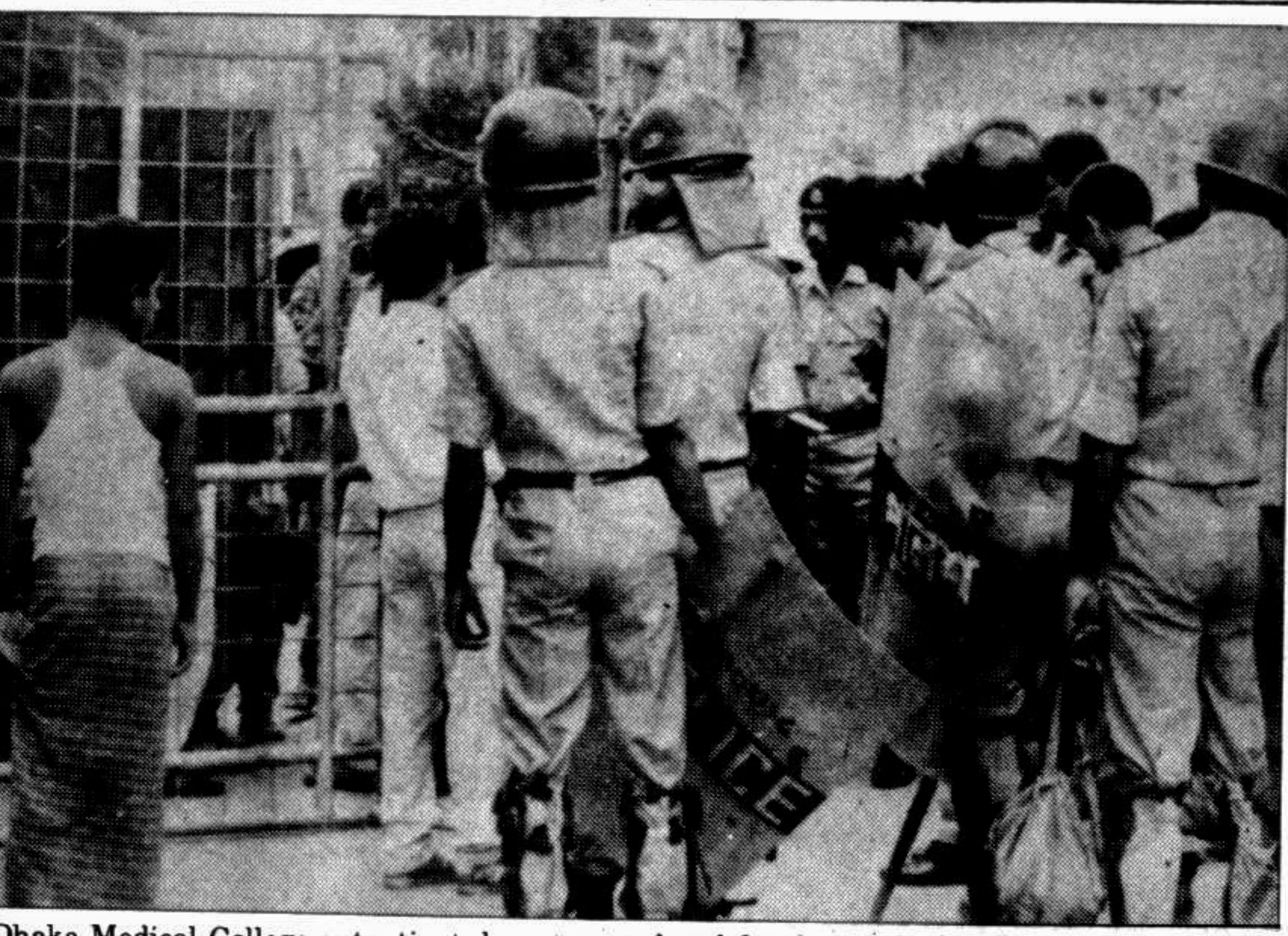
Ms Bhutto, in New Delhi late last month for the funeral of the assassinated former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi, accused Pakistan government of conducting a vendetta against her family and colleagues.

She said she had "time and again" been warned to leave Pakistan or "I would not be spared."

"My husband is in jail and he has put up very stoically with the difficulties..." she added. "He is not being given any television or radio and even a cold tin of Coca-Cola was refused. Ice was refused."

"What makes it very difficult for me is having two small children. One two years old and one is one. And they don't understand where their father is," she said.

Asked whether she would retire from politics and live in exile outside Pakistan to stop the alleged persecution of her husband, she was quoted as replying, "I can't succumb to blackmail."



Dhaka Medical College outpatient department closed for the whole day Tuesday owing to a clash between DU student and DMC employees.

Clash closes DMCH outpatient deptt

By DMCH Correspondent

Hundreds of patients suffered when the out-door service at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital was closed Tuesday following a clash between Dhaka University students and DMCH employees.

The clash occurred over the severe beating up of a pickpocket by a group DU students on the DMCH campus.

Three of the students were confined by 30 to 40 DMCH employees for more than an hour.

The DU students had come to the out-door for treatment when one of them Humayun fell into the hands of a pickpocket who tried to pick his wallet but was caught red-handed.

The students then started beating up the pickpocket.

The DMCH employees opposed this as the pickpocket claimed his innocence.

A clash ensued and over 200 students from the DU campus came to free the three students trapped in the premises.

Hospital authorities sought the help of the Ramna police and the situation was controlled at around 3 pm.

A meeting was later held between hospital authorities, the proctor of the DU and student leaders where a three-member probe-body was formed to look into the incident.

A case was filed with Ramna police station.

Concern at campus unrest

By Staff Correspondent

Shafiq Alam Pradhan, President of Jatyo Ganatantrik Party expressed his concern over the continued violence on the Dhaka University campus.

In a statement on Tuesday Pradhan said that educational institutions cannot be allowed to be held hostage by a handful of armed hooligans.

He urged the government to deal with the situation with a strong hand staying above party considerations.

Albania's govt resigns

VIENNA, June 4: Albania's month-old Communist government resigned today to make way for a national unity coalition that will prepare fresh general elections next year, the state news agency ATA said, reports Reuter.

The Midnight File

Bush lobbying hard for China

WASHINGTON, June 4: President George Bush lobbied hard Tuesday to preserve China's most-favoured nation trade status with the United States on the second anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, reports AP.

Unidentified plane bombs Soviet village

MOSCOW, June 4: An unidentified plane bombed a Soviet village near the border with Afghanistan today killing four people and wounding others, the official Tass news agency said. The jet fighter was flying along the border early in the morning when it dropped five bombs on the village of Namadgati, on the banks of the river Payndh, reports Reuter.

Israeli jets bombs Lebanon: 13 die

MAJDALYOUN (Lebanon), June 4: Israeli warplanes pounded guerrilla bases in south Lebanon today, killing at least 13 Palestinian fighters and wounding 38 people, including a dozen school children, reports Reuter.

UZ administration may be trimmed soon

Upazila administration, including the judicial service, is likely to be trimmed to effect austerity in revenue expenditure, highly placed sources told UNB on Tuesday.

An official announcement is expected to be made soon, abolishing the Upazila Courts, they said.

Some other "unnecessary" posts in the upazila administration tier may also be abolished to reduce the bulk administrative costs which has come under severe criticism from donors, sources indicated.

Also the BNP government is against pressure on national exchequer due to superfluous administrative costs at upazila level.

Power of upazila chairmen will be curtailed and MPs would be given the responsibility of leveraging local level policy decisions.

Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) are also likely to enjoy more power in implementing policy decisions.

Sources said the government is making preparation to revive Gram Sarkar system as soon as possible.

This time the government is planning to give Gram Sarkar an institutional set up. Terms of Reference of responsibilities of Gram Sarkar are being drawn up so that its function does not conflict with Union Parishad.

Ziaur Rahman government introduced Gram Sarkar to draw local support and participation in implementing policies. But the system worked insignificantly because it had no institutional set up.

Judgement on June 12

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which deals with criminal offences by any citizen should not be applicable in case of President Ershad because the very FIR of the case did not mention the time of the commission of the offence, necessary for the ends of justice.

He argued that Justice Mursheed in one of his judgements had also mentioned about the importance of the FIR.

Sirajul Haque said that Ershad was arrested on December 12 and shifted to another place while the inventory list was made much later. So the time of occurrence was when Ershad was staying at the Sena Bhabvan as President of the country.

The Defence Lawyer said that in spite of the fact that the arms were presented at the Sena Bhabvan by Mustafizur Rahman, he was not being tried and even though the box was taken by Ershad's mother-in-law, she too was neither a witness nor an accused in the case.

Only Ershad has been made the accused for possessing illegal arms, he added.

He said that as the arms could be shifted from the Sena Bhabvan by any person those were in no way kept or controlled by the Sena Bhabvan.

He further said that the arms were kept in the Sena Bhabvan by the staff who assisted the President in his work and the President himself had no time to look into all matters.

"Please don't think that all the arms were kept there for distribution among the students of the university", he added.

Justifying his arguments, from different angles as was said by the Prosecution, Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque cited an example from a Judgement delivered by Justice Shahabuddin who had said that the Defence can say anything relevant or irrelevant for the ends of justice.

Sirajul Haque said that the informant of the case did not want to lodge the FIR but was compelled to do so at the instruction of the Home Ministry.

Sirajul Haque further said that the two 7.65 mm and one 9 mm bore pistols were not in the absolute possession of Ershad as was evidenced from the FIR.

Sirajul Haque again said that the President could not do any wrong as he works institutionally and there was no mention in the Constitution that a President could be tried when he would not be in power. So no one should invoke for arguments' sake what is not mentioned in the Constitution, he added.

He further submitted that intermediate bore means the bores between .441 and .455 as was envisaged in the Arms Act 1924 and as such the accused could be exempted from the accusation against him for crossing the permissible limit of possessing illegal arms, because the arms did not include the bore beyond the permissible limit, he added.

The Defence had first pleaded that the items produced as subject matters in the case were gifts, then it said those were surrendered, later it pleaded that everything could be exempted under the Arms Act and lastly it said that the accused was in the ambit of the general amnesty.

Sirajul Haque said that the guideline for lodging the FIR was politically motivated and that in this case politics was apparent after the change of government.

The war can be stopped at any moment politically, he added and sarcastically said at that time "we would be nowhere."

He said that the licence of the arms produced at the Army Museum would be given within two or three days.

Attorney General Aminul Haque intercepted every plea of the Defence effectively and said that the accused was very much responsible for possessing illegal arms and in this case the law was very much applicable.

He said that the FIR of a case was not an encyclopaedia and that it was mentioned in the Penal Code that the FIR was a matter for putting the law into motion.

Replying to the Defence plea that the production of the arms was tantamount to their surrender the Attorney General said that this production was made for the purpose of the inventory.

In his conclusion the Defence Lawyer drew an instance of the swan saying that the swan has a rare quality of isolating the milk from the water and that in this case the Judge also had that quality and he would be able to filter the truth from the arguments of both the Defence and the prosecution.

The second case against Ershad for accumulation of wealth beyond his known sources will begin today at the Special Judge Court.

The case has been transferred to the Court of Divisional Judge Mohammad Ali. The case will also be held at the same place.

The Attorney General was assisted by DAG Hasan Arif, DAG Amrul Kabir Chowdhury, APPs Farid Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed and Mohammad Azad while the Defence Lawyer Advocate Sirajul Haque was assisted by Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hossain, Barrister Rabiya Bhuiyan, Mufizur Rahman Mazumdar, Sharif Ahmed and others.

Jiang's suicide

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China of all lingering "bourgeois" influences, she called rally youth groups called Red Guards to attack Mao's enemies and her own.

She fell shortly after his death in 1976, and was convicted in a 1980-81 show trial of trying to seize state power and wrongly persecuting officials and ordinary Chinese.

She was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve and the sentence later was commuted to life in prison.

The government repeatedly denied rumors in recent years that she had been released for medical treatment, rumors that Xinhua's death announcement finally confirmed. Xinhua did not say what illness she suffered or why she had committed suicide.

Its announcement of her death was terse. It identified her not as Mao's widow but as the "principal criminal of the case of the Lin Biao-Jiang Qing counterrevolutionary clique."

Lin Biao, Mao's defense minister and heir-apparent, allegedly tried to oust Mao in 1971. When his plot failed, he and his wife and aides fled in a plane that ran out of fuel and crashed in Mongolia, killing them, according to an official Chinese account.

Several of Lin's military associates were tried together with Jiang and the three other members of her Cultural Revolution clique, known jointly as the Gang of Four.

The three other gang members - Wang Hongwen, Zhang Chungiao and Yao Wenyuan - also were sentenced to long prison terms.

Reuter adds: Armed police withdrew from Beijing's Tiananmen Square this morning after sealing it off during the second anniversary of an army crackdown on pro-democracy protests.

Speculations

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holding of elections, cyclonic storm and relief operations. He will thank the world community for helping Bangladesh. The political part, if any, was not prepared on Tuesday. His close aides hinted that the Acting President would personally prepare the political part. None of the senior ministers could say anything about the content of the Acting President's address.

It was speculated in the political circles immediately after the announcement of the timing for the Acting President's address that Justice Shahabuddin would say something very positive about transfer of power. The speculations included announcement of date for presidential elections, relinquishing power or sounding a warning about delay in taking a decision about transfer of power.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting tomorrow (Thursday) at Gulistan. The announcement of the public meeting which coincided with the replacement of Navy and Airforce chiefs and Acting President's address gave rise to a further speculations.

Environment Day

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A walkathon of people of all ages will start from the Park and terminate at the Shishu Academy.

Mass media will put up special programmes and newspapers will publish supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

Ministry of Forest and Environment has organised a seminar at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium at 10 am today. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the seminar as chief guest while State Minister for Forest and Environment Abdullah Al Noman will be the special guest.

In the afternoon, a discussion meeting will be held at the National Science and Technology Museum at Agar-gaon.

Directorate of Environment will initiate an action programme today to check black smoke emission and sound pollution of transports in all the major cities including Dhaka in cooperation with the police.

Besides, Forest Department will launch an afforestation programme on the day and distribute saplings.

Naziur

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to the government.

In January last, the Anti-Corruption Bureau filed a case with the Sutrapur thana against Nazirur Rahman for personally making illegal financial gains or helping others to do so.

The charged persons have been asked to surrender to the court for trial.

The nine others charged are: Qamruzzaman Mahmud, Chief Engineer of DMC, Abul Kalam, Chief Accountant of DMC, Qamrul Hasan Chowdhury, Supervising Engineer of DMC, Mustafizur Rahman Munshi, Assistant Engineer of DMC, Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, Sub-Assistant Engineer of DMC, Abdur Rouf, former Secretary of DMC, Abdus Salam, former Deputy Mayor of DMC and businessman Manzurul Ahsan and Shahzad Ali.