

Five killed in violent clashes Benjedid declares state of siege

ALGIERS, June 5: Sporadic gunfire could be heard in the Algerian capital this morning and residents reported hearing shots throughout the night as troops backed by tanks moved in to take control of the city, reports Reuter.

President Chadli Benjedid overnight declared a state of siege, accepted the government's resignation and postponed general elections after three days of violent protests in Algiers by Muslim fundamentalists demanding an Islamic state.

The residents said the shooting appeared to come from areas known as strongholds of Muslim militants, but it was not clear who was responsible.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) told its supporters today to end protests which have led to violent clashes and a state of siege in Algeria, sources close to the movement told this agency.

They also said that an indefinite strike, called on May 25, could end soon.

Interior Minister Mohammed Salah

Mohammed on Tuesday night accused Islamic militants of using arms earlier in the day against security forces who had not used live ammunition.

He said a policeman and several demonstrators had been killed and others wounded.

Students

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trial of the alleged killers of Dr Milon while its rival Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) along with some other student organisations held separate rallies on the Dhaka University campus calling for withdrawal of the cases filed against nine student leaders in connection with the assault on Jamaat leader Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami.

The demands of BCL (S-A), BCL (N-S) and Jatya Chhatra League (JCL) also include ban on communal politics and cancellation of the judicial body formed to inquire into the incident of assaulting Maulana Nizami on the DU campus.

The BCL (S-A) rally held at the Aparajevo Bangla



Army tanks positioned in one of the main squares in Algeria Wednesday after violent demonstrations by Islamic fundamentalists disrupted the capital Tuesday. — AFP photo

Shahabuddin wants way out

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there is any, regarding his return to the original position.

He said the commitment of the two leaders was as good as a national commitment, and that its value was no less than the Constitution, adding, and the Constitution is the manifest will of the people, he added.

The Acting President recalled in his address at the first session of Parliament of April 5 he had pointed out that under the Constitution he could not tender his resignation to anybody and that his tenure would be complete when an elected President had assumed the office.

But if because of any abnormal situation like absence, illness or any other reason he became incapable of performing his responsibility only then the Speaker could automatically step in to assume presidency.

Justice Shahabuddin said in view of this he had urged the Parliament to add a transitional and temporary provision in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution in accordance with Article 150.

He said the introduction of such a provision could have cleared the way for him to relinquish power and return to his original post without any controversy.

The Acting President regretted that the first session of Parliament had concluded without making any such constitutional provision despite

being in session for 41 days.

The Acting President said he was a firm believer in democracy and wanted the country to be governed in accordance with democratic dispensation. He said the cabinet would have become inactive had he exercised all the powers of the President as envisaged in the Constitution. Such a situation, he observed, would nullify the long struggle for a democratic system.

Justice Shahabuddin said he had given enough power and responsibility to the newly formed cabinet under the Constitution. He said the Prime Minister was given the responsibility to preside over some cabinet meetings as well. This was aimed at strengthening the democratic system which "has enhanced the prestige of the country in the eyes of the world."

The Acting President also referred to the other steps that he had taken to strengthen the democratic system.

The steps include the Constitution of a high-powered Relief Committee headed by the Prime Minister following the recent cyclone and tidal surge, placement of the President's Relief Godown and the Relief Coordination Information and Control Cell under the disposal of that committee, and also the decision to make an international appeal in the name of the Prime Minister for emergency relief.

Justice Shahabuddin

Ahmed said he sincerely wished the Parliament, elected through a free, fair and impartial election, could complete its term of five years. He recalled that none of the last four parliaments could complete its full term.

He said it was also his desire to see the government formed with members of the majority party was stable.

The Acting President said the misery of the nation was on the increase in the absence of political stability which had also hindering economic development.

He said those who had faith in democracy would obviously want political stability, but sharp differences of opinion among the political parties could obstruct such stability.

The Acting President said conflicting opinions were prevailing as to the form of government. He made it clear that he as the non-partisan Acting President did not want to get himself involved in the debate.

Justice Shahabuddin said he had noticed that the cabinet during its two-and-a-half months had taken certain decisions from the party point of view.

"But my interference and application of power in accordance with the Constitution might evoke criticism as a negation of democratic principles" he said adding "I consider it appropriate to vacate (position) under the circumstances."

Ershad charged with corruption

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convinced the offence was cognizable and that he had the primary evidence regarding the case.

Attorney General Aminul Haque who was assisted by Deputy Attorney Generals Advocate Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, Hasan Arif, PPs Abdur Razzak Khan, Farid Ahmed Bashir Ahmad and Mohammad Azad first examined the Prosecution Witness (PW).

On the other hand the Defence was represented by Barrister Kazi Shahdat Hossain, Yusuf Humayun, Mosharrar Hossain Kazal, Muftur Rahman Mazumdar, Sharif Ahmed and others.

During the examination the Prosecution Witness Salauddin Ahmed further informed the Court that the Inventory Committee had also recovered 11 sets of gold ornaments, 60 sets of medals made of gold and silver, 164 pieces of electronic goods, 579 pieces of crockeries, three motor guns including one baby car, 971 pieces of clothes, 340 video tapes, 306 audio tapes, 206 pieces of furniture, and 3614 pieces of other materials.

The responsibility of the Committee was to identify the goods of the Sena Bhavan and dispose of those materials.

The Prosecution Witness said that the Inventory Committee prepared the list between December 22 and December 26 and submitted a report to the Home Ministry on December 29 as an unofficial note. The Home Ministry sent it to the President's Secretariat which again gave it to the Bureau of Anti-corruption.

At this stage the Prosecution Witness wanted to see the FIR to inform about the subject matters of the case. But the Defence Lawyer objected

to it saying that only the Investigation Officer was supposed to see the FIR and not any witness at the stage of deposition.

Attorney General Aminul Haque said that the witnesses are entitled to see the FIR under Section 159 para two of the procedure.

The Prosecution Witness however later informed everything without looking at the FIR.

Before the Court was adjourned till June 11, the accused again pleaded that he was allowed to see his Counsel Advocate Sirajul Haque face to face for consultations on the list of recovered items.

On the advice of the Judge Mohammad Ali Khan the Attorney General Aminul Haque assured he would arrange Ershad's meeting with his Counsel.

Earlier, the Defence Counsel Kazi Shahdat said that the money recovered from the Sena Bhavan belonged to the Jatya Party, which has filed a suit claiming it and as such it was not a case at all.

Shahdat also pleaded for deferring the case for at least 15 days to allow them to prepare for conducting the case as the arms case against Ershad had concluded just last Tuesday.

The Attorney General opposed him saying that the charge of the case was framed on March 19 and the Defence had had enough time for preparations.

The learned Judge allowed the start of the hearing of the case. He afterwards considered the Defence petition and set June 11 for the next hearing.

Khaleda goes to China June 18

A Star Report

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will leave for Beijing on a two-day official visit on June 18 at the invitation of her Chinese counterpart, Li Peng.

The Prime Minister will discuss various areas of bilateral cooperation with the Chinese Prime Minister. Regional and international issues will also be discussed where both sides will exchange views.

Begum Khaleda Zia will also review trade and economic relations which was established during the years of late President Ziaur Rahman.

Begum Zia will be accompanied by a 17-member entourage including Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman three members of Parliament Jahanara Begum, Amanullah Aman, and Barkatullah Bulu and Additional Foreign Secretary AH Mahmud Ali.

The Prime Minister will visit the Bangladesh-China Friendship School during her visit.

Begum Zia will be availing a commercial flight, with stopovers in Bangkok. Begum Zia is also expected to call on President Yang Shangkun and General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Jiang Zemin.

Milon's killers

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had an added responsibility in this regard. She assured the student leaders her government would never lag behind in fulfilling this responsibility.

Begum Zia said the killers of Shaheed Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon would certainly be tried and punished.

The Prime Minister who is also the Home Minister, said the teachers were mainly responsible for keeping the campuses of their institutes free of terrorism. She also reminded the students of their important role in ensuring peace in educational institutions.

New Navy, Air Force chiefs call on Shahabuddin

The newly appointed chiefs of Navy and Air Force Commodore Mohammad Muhaeminul Islam and Air Commodore Altaf Hussain Choudhury made courtesy call on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed separately at the President's secretariat Wednesday, reports BSS.

JUCSU polls on July 6

JU Correspondent

Elections to the Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU) and hall unions will now be held on July 6.

This was decided on Wednesday in a meeting of the Election Commission, Provosts of halls, Deans of Faculties, and Proctor with Vice-Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed in the chair.

The elections were earlier scheduled to be held on June 6 but postponed in view of the law and order situation on the campus.

The Midnight File

Bush-Gorbachev meet June 25-27

MOSCOW, June 5: The summit meeting between presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush will be held June 25-27, an independent news agency reported Wednesday. It said the dates coincided with terms reached at talks between US Secretary of State James A Baker III and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, reports AP.

Iraqi pilgrims heading for S. Arabia

BAGHDAD, June 5: A group of Iraqis will soon leave for the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, despite the Saudi role in the Gulf War against Iraq, official sources reported Wednesday. The Iraqi News Agency, quoting officials at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, said Saudi officials had agreed to receive the Iraqi pilgrims at the Arar border crossing, reports AP.

OAU declaration on S. Africa

ABUJA (Nigeria), June 5: The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) today adopted a declaration on South Africa which re-affirmed the maintenance of sanctions but made a clear overture on ending the country's isolation, reports Reuter.

US space shuttle takes off

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), June 5: After two weeks of delays due to technical problems and a last-minute weather hold, the US Space Shuttle Columbia took off today carrying seven astronauts, 29 rats and thousands of jellyfish for nine days of medical research in space, reports Reuter.

Commonwealth summit postponed

LONDON, June 5: A summit of 10 Commonwealth nations scheduled for next week has been postponed because of political upheavals in India and Australia, the organization's secretary general said Wednesday, reports AP.

Entire blame has been put on borrowers

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come the credit recovery problem. The recommendations of such a commission should be implemented on top priority, they suggested.

The chamber chiefs noted that the merits of their suggestion for setting up an industrial commission would emerge very clearly if "the overdues were split up." This should be done to ascertain: (1) how much of the total overdues related to the principal amount of loan and how much to the interest; (2) the impact of deterioration of Taka value vis-a-vis the currency in which the loan was funded; (3) what percentage of the original loan and interest has so far been repaid and (4) the peculiarities of industries like jute, textiles, leather and many others which account for the bulk of the overdues, they said.

They reiterated their strong support for repayment of bank loans for this re-cycling and also in the interest of national economy. But, they stressed, a clear distinction must be made between the delinquent borrowers who siphoned off the borrowed money and others who invested the funds in approved projects but unable to repay in time due to ever-changing prohibitive government policies, fiscal measures and reasons beyond their control. In such cases, sectoral studies should be undertaken to find out the measures which will help the concerned industries generate fund and repay, they said.

They expressed their deep concern and disappointment at the recent publication of the list of defaulters by Bangladesh Bank in the national dailies. "We are at a loss to understand for whose benefit the list has been published. If the intention was to force twenty odd businessmen who have squandered the bank finance for their personal fortunes to re-

pay, then inclusion of 223 names in the published list has certainly diluted the objective. Indeed, Bangladesh Bank's list has worked to protect them," they said.

The chamber leaders observed, such protections to the delinquent borrowers were, in fact, not accidental. Most of their dues are to the nationalised banks which are under the control of the government and Bangladesh Bank.

Referring to the Central Bank Circular No 15, they observed that it brought the banking system virtually to a standstill. The circular requires that banking facilities must not be provided to the defaulters, their families etc. Banking and credit facilities are two different things. Denial of banking facilities surely cannot be the intention of the Government," they said.

The top functionaries of the chamber bodies said Bangladesh Bank, as an after thought, "is reportedly asking the commercial banks unofficially to ignore some of the instructions in BCD (Banking Control Department) Circular No 15 to retrieve the situation. Such advice appears to be highly dangerous as the bankers, following the same, can land themselves into problems including imprisonment at a later date, they felt. They observed that bank-customer relations should be the essence in all banking transactions.

Disaster management

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National Conservation Strategy of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, the seminar was chaired by Dr Mohammad Abdur Rashid, Additional Secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

The seminar was attended by the cabinet ministers, diplomats and high officials.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka Court of the General Certificate Officer

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank
8, DIT Avenue, Dhaka

VS (1) M/s Jutep Industries Ltd
(2) Major (Retd) Sadeq Ali (Managing Director)
(3) Mr Sayed Anwarul Kabir (Director)
(4) Sayed A K Aminul Huq (Director)

Subject: Declaration of auction sale of Mortgaged property of Certificate Case No 21-BSB/85.

It is hereby notified for general information that the property of the following schedule of Debtor will be sold in public auction in the court of the undersigned at 11 am on 20-6-91 for realisation of Tk 1,75,41,585/- (Taka one crore seventy five lac forty one thousand five hundred eighty five) only claim of the above mentioned certificate case. Persons interested to participate in this auction may contact the court of the undersigned for detailed terms & conditions of the auction. Property will be handed over to the successful auction bidder by the court.

Schedule 'A' Schedule of property

District	PS	Mouza	Khatian	Plot No	Quantity of land
Dhaka	Kaliakoir	421 Safipur	80,82	620	33 decimal

Machinery

- High sigd middle looms type NCI/130(G) ZU 8U
- Mess of acimorim for the above looms 1 Lot
- Krids for 192 cason U with tension roller scrapes 8 sets
- Brake weight 82 K G verminal 1 set
- Mat of square parts 1 lot

Sd/- Rebeka Sultana
General Certificate Officer
Dhaka.

Editor: S. M. Ali

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BCL students lock SSMCH Principal's room

By SSMCH Correspondent

Students belonging to the Chhatra League unit of Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital yesterday locked the Principal's room in protest against the tearing of an enquiry commission report as it was being typed.

They said that the Principal had failed to take action against those involved in the incident.

The commission report was on the allocation of four rooms being forcibly occupied by Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) students.

404 BRDB officers demand withdrawal of termination

By Staff Correspondent

404 employees of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) Wednesday demanded withdrawal of authorities termination notices served on them, effective from July 1, 1991.

Hassan Soharwardi, representing the 404 employees of the Jatya Press Club that the termination was unlawful.

The authorities had served the termination notices to the 404 employees saying they were working for the BRDB's Rural Development Project-2.

Continued ban on export of wet-blue leather urged

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Finished Leather Exporters Association (BFLEA) Wednesday demanded of the government not to re-introduce export of wet-blue leather.

Addressing a press conference at a city hotel, he said that 40 units under BFLEA and 25 others under modernisation programme needs about 200 million square feet of leather annually. If the export of wet-blue leather is re-introduced, the units will face shortage of raw materials, he said.

Opposition reaction

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ical alliances — Eight-party Alliance, Seven-party Alliance and Five-party Combine to solve the present crisis.

Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami, Workers Party and Communist Party of Bangladesh in separate statements called for amendment to the Constitution to go back to parliamentary form of government. The leaders of these parties held the ruling party responsible for the political stalemate. They hoped that the BNP Government would take initiative in the next parliamentary session to the nation out of the present crisis.

Abdus Samad Azad, acting president of Awami League and Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Parliament welcomed the Acting President's address to the nation and said, "It is a timely speech."

Giving his reaction, Abdus Samad told the Daily Star last night that Awami League is determined to fulfil the commitment of three alliances which was made on November 19 last year.

"We also want to fulfil the commitment of three alliances to the Acting President that was made on December 6 last year prior to his assumption of office," said the AL leader. He mentioned that Awami League has already taken initiative to materialise the framework as defined in the joint declaration of three alliances to establish a sovereign Parliament and transfer of power to it by forming an accountable government. A constitution amendment bill has been submitted in the Parliament for this purpose on April 14 which has been approved by the concerned Parliamentary Committee.

As regards Acting President's desire to return to his previous position of Chief Justice, Samad said that AL and its leader Sheikh Hasina is committed to fulfil his desire.

He expressed optimism about solving the issue on the form of government during the coming budget session of the Parliament as desired by the Acting President and said that all concerned should come forward to keep their commitment to the nation.

Jatya Party

The Acting Chairman of Jatya Party Barrister Moudud Ahmed termed Acting President's address to the nation as 'unfortunate' and said, "he has

BNP decision

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government, and to facilitate the return of the Acting President to his original post.

However, Wednesday's development will help and the BNP's three-month-long silence on the question of the form of government.

Following the February 27 election all other parties except the Jatya Party started advocating for a return to a parliamentary form of government.

BNP leaders only said that the question would be resolved in Parliament.

A constitutional amendment will have to be passed if the BNP opts for a parliamentary form of government. Support of two-thirds of the MPs of the 330-member House is necessary for this. The BNP now has only 164 members in Parliament. It has to obtain support of another 57 members to pass any amendment.

If the BNP decides to continue with the present presidential form no constitutional amendment is necessary. All it has to do is go for holding presidential election.

placed the acute constitutional crisis before the nation."

In a statement issued last night, the JP leader deplored that the Treasury Bench did not take initiative during the last session of the Parliament to solve this biggest crisis of the nation.

Barrister Moudud maintained that diarchy cannot help a poor country like Bangladesh and added "it can never strengthen democracy."

He expressed the hope that the assumption and tenure of office by the Acting President should be validated through a constitutional amendment and proper steps taken to save the nation from the constitutional crisis.

"The consequences will be grave for the nation if the government fails to solve the crisis," the JP leader said.

Jamaat

The Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Abbas Ali Khan, hailed the Acting President for his urging the Jatya Sangsad and the people to continue the democratic process in the country.

He said that if the Jatya Sangsad fails to fulfil its historic duty of deciding the type of government to consolidate democracy, then the people's struggle for democracy will be useless.

Abbas Ali Khan observed that the mainstream opposition parties, now forming majority in the parliament, could establish a sovereign parliament by overcoming the current crisis. This could be done during the ensuing budget session of the Parliament.

CPB

Saifuddin Manik, General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), reacting to the Acting President's address said we hope that BNP would now initiate materialise the joint declaration by the three mainstream political alliances with a view to give democracy a permanent shape.

He said under the existing constitution, the Acting President is the head of state as well as the government. But it is regrettable that the Prime Minister is acting as head of the government as well," he added. "We want Begum Khaleda Zia to become the real head of the government through establishing Parliamentary form of government by amending the Constitution, he said.

Workers Party

Rashed Khan Menon, MP, General Secretary of Workers Party and a leader of Five-party Alliance appreciated Acting President's address to the nation and said "his speech has reflected the anxiety of the people on the political and constitutional issue."

Giving reaction to the Acting President's speech Wednesday evening, Menon said that the Acting President has expressed the desire of the people for establishing democracy in the country. The Five-party leader called upon all including BNP Parliamentary Party to take initiative unitedly during coming session of the Parliament for the removing political and constitutional uncertainty.

BKSAL

BKSAL General Secretary Abdur Razzak welcomed the address of the Acting President saying that it reflected his respect for democracy.

The address has once again proved that the Acting President was determined to honour his pledge to the nation.

Razzak called for implementing the outline of the joint declaration of the three alliances to save the nation from the constitutional crisis.