## Lebanese troops retake Sidon

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

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

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 guerilla 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 posi-

There are some 6,000 Palestinian guerillas east of

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.

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

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 is sued 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

From Page 1 Col. 5

too early to make any com-

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 Awams League's bill in her speech,"

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 organisa-

# Parliamentary form

From Page 1 Col. 7 tragically killed in 1981 through intrigues and conspiracies. In the same trend, H M Ershad as hireling of autocracy seized power on March 24. 1982. By ousting the elected government of BNP headed by Justice Abdus Sattar.

The Prime Minister said within 39 days after formation of the new government the century's worst-ever cyclone and tidal surge swept the coastal regions of the country on April 29.

She said despite the devastated economy resulting from the dictatorial rule on the one hand and resource constraints on the other, the success was achieved to alleviate people's suffering as a result of spontaneous relief effort and unqualifled assistance from the world community which, she said, constituted an expression of massive confidence on the newly-elected democratic gov-

ernment. Describing her recent visits to some foreign countries to discuss bilateral relation as "highly fruitful". Begum Khaleda Zia said the support extended by the governments and the people of the coun-

#### VAT Bill From Page 1 Col. 4

the floor and said the oppositions arguments were 'illogical'. He said that if realisation of taxes under VAT was unjustified then it could be challenged in the court, but the introduction of the bill could not be opposed.

At this stage the Finance Minister rose again to introduce the bill, but the opposition members demanded a ruling from the chair before the introduction.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas said that law would take its own course if there was anything against it. Then he put the issue of introducing the bill to voice vote. The opposition did not participate in the vote and all the opposition and independent members staged walkout under the leadership of Abdus Samad Azad, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Immediately after the bill was introduced, the Speaker adjourned the House till 4 pm

Later, Abdus Samad Azad and other leaders of opposition groups told newsmen that they did not oppose the bill since it was not at that stage. They maintained that the introduction of the bill had violated articles 81 to 92 of constitution. The leaders said that they wanted a ruling from the chair. but it was given to voice vote which was not desirable.

While introducing the bill the Finance Minister in his statement turned the VAT as a "modern and dynamic" taxation system. The Minister said it's popularity was rapidly increasing throughout the world because of its various advan-

tries visited demonstrated their faith on the newly-

elected government as well as on the people of Bangladesh. Begum Khaleda Zia said the BNP with its intimate involvement with the hopes and aspirations of the people has started fulfilling the assurances given by it one by one despite many obstacles.

The government, Begum Zia said, has taken appropriate measures to check irregularities in the banking sector for the recovery of huge outstanding loans and improve the sys-

tem of monetary circulation. The Prime Minister said the autocratic rule had destroyed all democratic values, organisations and the judiciary. The administrative system was made subservient to one-man

She said after the democratic victory of the people. the government have taken steps to buildup a dynamic. honest and corruption-free administrative structure. She said investigation was going on at different levels to obtain a clear picture of corruption, irregularities and financial indiscipline during the last nine years.

Begum Zia assured that the government would ensure the political, social, economic, cultural and religious rights of all the people of Bangladesh, irrespective of religion, caste

She said her party was pledge-bound to build up a prosperous exploitation-free society on the basis of democracy, Bangladeshi nationalism and social justice keeping unflinching faith on Almighty Al-

#### Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 7

mentary form of government, Sheikh Hasina said, although late, the decision proved that BNP had accepted the political reality, and the hopes and aspirations of the people.

She noted that Awami League had been demanding reintroduction of the parliamentary form of government through different alliances during elections since 1978. The amendment bill submitted by AL has honestly followed the framework of the three alliances announced on November 19 last year to give democracy a permanent insti-

tutional shape, she said. She said, "Awami League's relentless movement to establish parliamentary democracy is not a matter of upmanship. as we truly believe that through this system democracy can achieve a permanent institutional form and the reestablishment of autocracy

will be blocked." Sheikh Hasina said in the reintroduction of parliamentary democracy and establishment of rule of law, Awami League would continue, through united efforts with all democratic and liberal forces. to implement the basic principles of democracy.



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.

### Ultimatum to kill kidnapped executive

# Kashmir administration opens talks with guerillas

JAMMU, July 1: The kidnapped while visiting Kashmir administration today launched negotiations with Muslim guerillas 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 Bombaybased Executive Director of the state-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and was 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

deadline threat. A caller identifying himself as a representative of the

asked to comment on 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 tailed 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

## Ershad's trial: Articles' valuation

From Page 1 Col. 4 any article from the Sena

Nurul Alam: I was not in the and the former Deputy Inventory Committee. I was a member of the sealing committee.

SH: Do you know the price of the arms submitted to the Thana with licences?

about the price of the arms from the shops.

prices of the three double-barrel guns ?

NA: From different persons. SH: One gun was made in Czechoslovakia. Do you know that Czech made guns are not

so good ? NA: I know that all Europemade guns are very good.

SH: Do you know when the Czech made gun was bought? NA: I don't know.

SH: The gun was bought 10 to 15 years ago. And at that time the cost of the gun was not more than two to three hundred Taka. Moreover the gun was given as a gift. Do you no that?

NA: The Present value of the point 22 rifle is not less than Taka 30 to 40 thousand. Ten years ago it would not be less than Taka 10 thousand.

SH: I say the price was only Taka 275. You could see the price if you would look at the licence.

NA: I assessed the present SH: One point 22 bore rifle was bought from the Shooting

Federation. Do you know that? NA: There is a difference between the number mentioned in the licence and the number inscribed on the body of the point 22 bore rifle.

SH: One shotgun was brought from Lahore in 1960. NA: I don't know.

SH: The point 22 bore rifle was given by Commodore (retd) Islam as a gift and in a of transfer, Air Commodore Moinul Islam also handed over the licence in 1989. There is no price on presents.

NA: I don't know whether the arms were any presentations at all.

SH: Do you know that the collection of arms was a hobby of Ershad?

NA: I don't know.

Later the Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque: Did you seize also cross-examined Abdul that only one lawyer should ar-Hamid Chowdhury Joint gue and that the other lawyers should assist him in defending Secretary, Ministry of Home the accused, as per Court

Ministry Major (retd) Mamtazuddin. They both corroborated the statements of the informant of the case Salehuddin Ahmed. NA: I have come to know the Senior Officer of the Anti-

Secretary of the Home

Corruption Bureau. The accusation in the case SH: How did you know the was framed on March 20 along with that in the arms case.

The court met on June 19 when the Defence prayed for

60 bottles of drinks

Before beginning the crossexamination 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.

He said if the Defence could prove that the prices of the articles were not true, the accused would obviously be relieved of the accusations. At the stage Ershad passed

supplied by different embassies as gifts. At one stage he stood up in the dock to say something before the Court.

a remark that the drinks were

The Attorney General protested that the accused could not say anything at this At this the Defence Lawyer Barrister Kazi Shaadat Hossain

stood up and said the accused

had a right to defend himself.

He cautioned the Attorney

General not to overdo things.

Related story on page 5 The Attorney General said

At this stage all the Defence lawyers stood up and pleaded to Judge Mohammad Ali Khan whether they should stay in the Court or leave.

They said that the Attorney General had always been preferring to listen to the arguments of Sirajul Haque and therefore they should not stay and if the Court asked them to do so they would leave, they

At this stage Judge Mohammad Ali Khan intervened and settled the dispute requesting both sides to exercise restrain.

The Court also heard a petition of the accused Ershad which contained complaint of "highly inadequate and unsatisfactory" opportunity being provided to his lawyer for consul-

He also protested against his "solitary confinement" and described it as violation of Section 73 and 74 of Cr P C. Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haq

while moving the prayer said that his client Ershad was not allowed to see his wife for the past 72 days and that he was not given the chance to meet her and their two children even on Eid day.

They Attorney General protested the contents of the prayer and the contention of the Defence Lawyer and said a number of attendants were looking after the former President in the jail. Aminul Haque said that

Ershad's cell was in fact a "mini circuit house" provided with all amenities. He said his lawyers had met him on 53 occasion and mentioned that an intercom set

the accused.

had been installed to facilitate consultation between the Amendment was scrapped by Lawyer and his client. Haque, however, assured the Court that he would look into the difficulties raised by

The judge directed the Prosecution to enquire into the allegations of the accused mate in the elections. and report back on July 3, the date fixed for the next hearing of the case.

### 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." Nikolai Travkin, anti Communist leader of the radical Russian Democratic Party. "The signing will be (next) Friday," he told the Associated

Yevgeny Savostyanov, an aide to Moscow Mayor Gavriil 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, power-

ful organization to rival the million-member Communist Party

### Amendments

From Page 1 Col. 5 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 o 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. The Fourth Amendment also abolished multi-party democracy and introduced one

party BAKSAL. The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution was adopted on April 6, 1979 ratifying the activities under Martial Law The Fifth Amendment provided for multi-party democracy and changed the funda mental state policies from sec-

ularism to all faith in Almighty

Allah and socialism to social

justice. The First Amendment to our Constitution was passed on the 15th of July 1973 providing for trial of prisoners of war and the second one was passed on September 2 the same year empowering the Prime Minister to declare state of emergency. The Amendment was the border agreement with India.

The Sixth Amendment to the Constitution was passed by the BNP government in 1981 providing for the Vice-President to contest the presidential election staying in office of profit. Ousted President Ershad

Amendment ratifying the actions taken under Martial Law including the usurping of power from an elected government. The Eighth Amendment to the Constitution created a po-

the

Seventh

litical furore in the country which mace Islam the state religion and decentralized judiciary. Later the decentralization of judiciary part of the

the Supreme Court. The Ninth Amendment was passed by Ershad limiting the tenure of the President to two consecutive terms and making the Vice-President his running

The Tenth Amendment provided to reserve seats for women in Parliament.

# 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 ruledout an eventual move to western-style democracy in China, reports

"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 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 col-

lapse of communism in a num-

ber of countries over the last two years was only "a temporary phenomenon. Despite an ongoing programme of economic liberalisation in China, Jiang indi-

cated 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 re-

### Announcement

unification.

From Page 1 Col. 5

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 all concerned would help continue parliamentary democracy in the

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

Bangladesh. Leaders of Bangladesh Fed eral 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 Hug 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

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

### Rangpur APMG

From Page 1 Col. 8

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

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 Ganotantry Party, Shahadat Hossain Secretary and Shankar Bose member of CPB, Shah Abdur Razzag President and Elias Ahmed Secretary of Awami League, Haresuddin Sarker ex-Whip, Khondakar Golam Mostafa Batul and Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantoo of Jatiya 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 Jatiya Sramik Party also came under

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

the same order.

### 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.

D-57

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