

Lebanese troops drive PLO men out of Sidon

SIDON, July 2: The army drove Palestinian guerrillas out of Shiite Muslim villages Tuesday in southern Lebanon, moving to assert government authority in the region for the first time in 16 years of civil war, reports AP.

Army gunners also pounded guerrilla positions on the fringes of refugee camps east of Sidon and advanced on a tiny enclave where Palestine Liberation Organization fighters were entrenched.

A police spokesman, who cannot be identified in line with regulations, said a Lebanese Officer was killed and 47 people were wounded since fighting renewed at dawn after Monday's southward movement by the army.

The dead soldier was infantry Lt Jirjis Abbu Abboud, 26, the policeman said. Tuesday's wounded included two soldiers, 15 guerrillas and 30 Palestinian civilians, the policeman said.

Two deaths and seven injuries were reported from Monday's fighting.

A thousand army commandoes, advancing behind a fierce barrage from tank cannons, uprooted the guerrillas from the hilltop villages of Kfar Hatta and Mjaidel southeast of the provincial capital in a lightning 90-minute assault.

The two villages were used by the guerrillas as a rear guard base to protect their enclave, two kilometers (1.2 miles) to the west.

President's actions

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Major (ret'd) Hafiz raised objection to the effect that there should not be any amendment to the Constitution for an individual which might create a bad precedent.

However, Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, who was in the chair nullified his objection saying that there was no law in the country that there could not be any law for any individual.

In the prelude of the bill it was said that in the face of the countrywide popular upsurge for the overthrow of the illegal and undemocratic government and giving democracy an institutional shape the then President was compelled to resign.

After the historic success of the students, general public, the principal political alliances

Hasina welcomes bill

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Issue which was submitted on April 14. She said the House should consider both the bills of the Treasury Bench and the Opposition with a view to making the amendment acceptable to all. She mentioned that the bill from the Opposition was formulated in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the three alliances, in which hopes and aspirations of the people were reflected.

"We have to make democracy meaningful and ensure economic emancipation of the people", she said and mentioned that neither the Treasury Bench nor the Opposition in parliament had two-third majority to pass the amendment bill. "So, mutual cooperation between two sides is essential", she added.

Sheikh Hasina regretted the comment of the Prime Minister on the Fourth Amendment and said some remarks of the Leader of the House were provocative which was not desirable. "The responsibility of the Leader of the House is to make the bill acceptable to all", she pointed out.

In her 45-minute speech, Sheikh Hasina replied to the comments of Begum Khaleda Zia on the Fourth Amendment and dwelt on the background of the independence struggle, contributions of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the necessity of the Fourth Amendment.

She said the Fourth Amendment came to meet the national necessity and its purpose was to unite the people of all classes and professions on one platform. She mentioned

Khaleda places

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But on the 25th of January 1975 the basic character of the Constitution was changed.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution provided for one-party rule, presidential system and the closing down of all newspapers besides four dailies under state control.

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution was passed on April 6, 1979 where multi-party democracy was introduced and two basic state principles were changed.

Secularism was changed to faith in Almighty Allah and socialism was replaced by social justice. But the presidential system continued.

The nine-year anti-autocracy rule raised the aspirations of the people to institutionalize democracy in Bangladesh and make provisions so that democracy could not be killed in future.

The Twelfth Amendment is the culmination of that expectation.

Salient features

UNB adds: The President will be elected by the members of Parliament as envisaged in the Constitution (12th Amendment) Bill introduced in the House Tuesday.

The President will act in accordance with advice of the Prime Minister.

A person shall not be qualified for election as President if



Awami League-backed Chhatra League brought out a procession in the city Tuesday reaffirming their support for parliamentary democracy. — Star photo

Delhi rushing more troops to hunt for ULFA abductors

No progress in winning release of Israeli tourist from JKLF

NEW DELHI, July 2: An Israeli envoy said Tuesday he saw no progress in efforts to win the release of a young Israeli tourist who was captured last week by Muslim militants in the troubled northern state of Kashmir, reports agencies.

But police in Kashmir, where Muslim militants are fighting to separate the Muslim majority area from Hindu-dominated India, said they were optimistic.

Kashmir Police Chief J N Saxena, told Israel Radio there were some "hopeful signs".... we hope this matter can be concluded as early and satisfactorily as possible."

United News of India said the authorities had "established contact" with the kidnappers of the Israeli tourist and of two Swedish engineers who have been held captive for three months.

Moshe Yegar, of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said the Indian government was leaning toward rejecting the militants' demand that the Israeli be released through a United Nations representative.

"There is nothing definite yet. But the tendency is not to go along with the demand," Yegar said. "That's a problem for us, because I don't see any other way out," he said.

Israel contacted the UN Secretariat in New York earlier this week on whether it would be willing to help, but no reply has been received, said Israeli officials in India.

A spokesman for the Indian External Affairs Ministry called the demand for UN involvement an attempt by the militants to divert attention from the kidnapping.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the oldest and largest of the militant groups, has been holding Israeli Yair Yitzhaki since Thursday.

Yitzhaki was one of six Israelis kidnapped by a more fundamentalist Muslim group. The Israelis snatched the weapons from some of their abductors and fought their way to freedom, but Yitzhaki was later captured by the JKLF.

The centre today decided to send additional paramilitary forces to Assam in the wake of the kidnapping 14 people including a Soviet national by suspected ULFA Militants, Home Ministry sources said.

These additional forces would participate in the large scale operation launched by the Assam government to trace the kidnapped people.

The BJP today warned that any attempt by the Congress (I) government to denotify elections in Punjab would invite "serious complications and grave repercussions."

In a letter to the Home Minister, S B Chavan, the BJP Vice-President, Krishan Lal Sharma also urged the government to convene immediately a meeting of all parties contesting elections in Punjab to decide upon an early date of polling in Punjab.

Politics, economics linkage

From Page 1 Col. 4

inter-related aspects. "We will not go in for an ill-conceived programme in haste as was done in the eighties under the fallen autocratic government.

Such a programme in the past has landed in a mess as most of the disinvested units are now lying in an idle state with poor utilisation of productive capacity," he added.

He blamed the over-expanded bureaucracy including the overextended upazila outfit for the swelling growth of current expenditures.

The efficiency of administration has deteriorated to an alarming level because of the misdirected operations under autocracy, he observed.

He noted, it is becoming politically impossible to trim the government because of its overexpanded bureaucracy.

Likewise, the white elephants in power, jute, railway and other sectors are responsible for massive wastage, and inefficient uses of resources. Such bodies are a drag on the public exchequer and the people, he said.

The Finance Minister stressed the need for a better discipline in the banking sector.

He called for a national consensus at the political level on major economic issues to help support sustainable development, overcoming the chronic problems of stagnation and backwardness.

"The nation must decide what it wants and a political framework under an institutionalised democracy is the first essential prerequisite to promote the objectives of sustained development", he said.

In his opening remarks, the US Ambassador, William B Milam said, there is a direct linkage between political and economic freedoms. "A key function of government is to establish and impartially administer a legal framework that assures that no individual or group is above the law", he observed.

He said, an economic framework that unfetters and nurtures initiative, enterprise, innovation, risktaking and hardwork has the flexibility to respond to opportunities offered by the world market and the resiliency to minimise hardship from outside shocks. "We see clearly that such a framework has begun to take shape in Bangladesh", he stated.

The Ambassador observed that the establishment of a freely elected government in Bangladesh, accountable to its people, "represents a promising first step toward economic growth".

He rebutted the claims of those who maintained that democratic government "lacks the vigour and decisiveness needed to make the hard choices economic development often requires."

"I would argue that history instead shows that it is autocracy, dependent as it is on secrecy and special privilege to reward those loyal to it, which is incapable of implementing the hard choices needed to bring about economic reform", he said.

He stressed the role of the government in promoting an environment conducive to investment.

He felt that Bangladesh's extensive system of government controls and regulations "imposes significant limits on flexibility and makes the economy less efficient." "Rather than focus on the process of production, businessmen are instead forced to spend much time in the role of supplicant", he observed.

He noted that there has been some progress in reducing regulations and controls but Bangladesh business is still strangled by a bureaucratic mentality that insists on the need to obtain a myriad of approvals and authorizations before any actions can occur.

The US Ambassador commended the success of the garments industry in Bangladesh in the space of a decade.

Whether that success can be replicated in other industries is a key question for consideration in economic management in Bangladesh, he said.

(A detailed report on the deliberations by the participants in the discussion meeting appears on to-day's Business page-8.)

A historic day for nation

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December 6 the same year.

The Constitution amendment bill, when passed will send back Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to the Supreme Court as Chief Justice.

He assumed power as Bangladesh's Acting President to head a neutral government on the assurance that he would be sent back to his post of Chief Justice of the country.

He successfully held the parliamentary elections February 27 in which the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) formed the government under him.

The Speaker will act as President in absence of the President until he resumes the functions or a new President is elected.

Prime Minister, will assume full executive powers.

The ruling party has proposed some strict provisions to check floor crossing and cut arbitrary powers of the ceremonial President in a parliamentary system.

The provisions have been made from experiences of instability in the Parliamentary systems in India and Pakistan in recent years.

In India, the former Prime Minister formed a splinter group from VP Singh's Janata Dal to form a government which is considered as floor crossing in a group. This has been plugged in the proposed amendment.

The President's power has been cut to stabilise a democratic government.

In Pakistan, President Ghulam Ishaque Khan dissolved the parliament without consulting the Prime Minister Ms Bhutto.

In the proposed bill the President's power has been limited to dissolving parliament with the written consent of the Prime Minister.

The change to the Constitution may disqualify ousted President Ershad as a member of Parliament as he has sentenced to ten years jail for possessing illegal arms.

The Constitution will disqualify a person if he is convicted in an offence involving moral turpitude unless the conviction is reversed by the higher courts. Ershad has not yet gone to higher court.

Gallery

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marked a milestone in the evolving history of struggle for democracy in Bangladesh. Democracy had come of age. Though considerable time and effort still needed to be expended to bring his bill into fruition, yet the foundation was laid and our transition to parliamentary democracy was off to a resounding start. We had come a full circle. What we had lost in '75, we were in the process of finally getting back.

In her introductory speech to the bill the Prime Minister made an appeal for the co-operation of all, and said "let us all take part in giving a permanent institutional form to democracy in our country". In a clear hint against those who usurped power through illegal and unconstitutional means the Prime Minister said "we want to create such a parliamentary system which no body should be able to take away from our people."

The euphoric and festive atmosphere in the House suddenly became chaotic when the Leader of the House referred to the events of '75 that led to the demise of the parliamentary form of government. The Awami League members tried to disrupt the PM's speech and, we in the press gallery, could hear the PM say about the pandemonium that "if we believe in democracy then we must learn to accept the truth." Begum Zia's speech was emotion charged, forward looking and conciliatory but for that reference to the events of '75.

The Leader of the Opposition, in her hour long reply to a 12 minutes speech of the PM, went into a long narration of politics since the birth of Pakistan upto the present, laying special emphasis on the period of the liberation war and the years following it.

In defending the Awami League rule during the post liberation period, Sheikh raised some awkward questions as to why the BNP government, had not repealed all the acts of the BKSAL period such as the presidential form of government and the Special Powers Act. "If Awami League is to be blamed for all these 'bad' things then those who utilized these powers afterwards should not be spared the blame", she said.

The critical comment of the PM, followed by a long confrontational reply by the Leader of the Opposition created a stormy atmosphere in the House, which resulted into a number of members taking the floor and giving their own interpretations to the events of the past. This led to further problems, though all of them talked about forgetting the past and to be forward looking.

Likewise so many other things we do, petty quarrels here and an unnecessary comment there, made us forget for a time, the historic moment that we were in. The members did not talk about the merits and demerits of the bill (which we expect will happen when it is actually debated) but dwelt on the irrevocable (at least for the moment) events of the past. We forgot that what the PM had introduced was something quite extraordinary. Through an act of our parliament we started the process of restoring the power, the glory and the prestige which had been snatched away from it in '75. Through the passing of this bill—perhaps with some modifications—we will be removing the future possibility of usurpation of power.

Following after Sheikh Hasina, Rashed Khan Menon tried to diffuse the atmosphere by saying that the establishment of the parliamentary form of government was not a victory of one party and defeat of another. It was the victory of the people. He termed the PM's bill as bold and courageous. But at the same time he invited her to examine the other constitutional amendments carried out since '75, some of which, he said contains elements of autocracy.

Leaders of all parties represented in the parliament welcomed the bill presented by the PM and congratulated her and the BNP for this move.

Earlier the Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz introduced the 11th Amendment Bill paving the way for the Acting-President to return to his former post of Chief Justice. In introducing the bill the law minister appealed for the understanding and co-operation of the opposition and made a special appeal to its Deputy Leader Abdus Samad Azad. Mr Azad in his reply expressed his concerns but invited the minister to sit across the table in informal negotiations and overcome all differences.

One could not help wishing that such friendliness and civility would become the norm of our parliamentary practices and not the exception.

The Midnight File

Y'slav army to force Slovenia accept ceasefire

BELOGRADE, July 2: The Yugoslav army said today it would force Slovenia to accept a ceasefire after days of fighting in the breakaway republic. "We will force the enemy to accept a ceasefire, General Bjugojc Adzic, Chief of Staff of the armed forces, said in a television speech, reports Reuter.

Pakistan: Punishment for keeping illegal arms

ISLAMABAD, July 2: Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan promulgated decree today that calls for life imprisonment and confiscation of property for anyone holding guns and ammunition without a permit, reports AFP.

Meet on limiting arms sale next week

PARIS, July 2: Officials of the five biggest weapons-selling nations will meet here next week to begin drafting a code limiting arms sales to the Middle East, the Foreign Ministry said. The United States, Soviet Union, France, China and Britain — which supply an estimated 85 per cent of the Middle East's arms — will participate in the meeting Monday and Tuesday, said ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard, reports AP.

Pass the bills : PM

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"We want to ensure through this amendment such a system which would be suited to the realities of Bangladesh, so that no one can deceive the people and snatch power from them," she said.

Her address was punctuated for a few minutes by out-cry from a section of the opposition and cheers from others when she recalled the introduction of one-party presidential system.

She said differences of opinion was natural in politics but common objectives and programmes should be resolved through negotiations and understanding. She emphasised the need for political prudence so that differences of opinion did not hamper the achievement of great objectives.

In this connection she said both parliamentary and presidential systems could ensure people's welfare. Both the systems might lead to autocracy and instability which the people did not want. She urged the opposition MPs to evaluate the experiences of different countries, our past and the situation prevailing in the neighbourhood in this connection.

She hoped that the parliament elected by the people would set an example by implementing dreams long cherished by the people. She urged all to associate themselves with the task of giving democracy a permanent institutional shape for future generations. This is not for any narrow party gains, or for securing the interests of any individual. "Many things may change with the change of time, but democracy will continue to shine for ever," she said.

Begum Zia said that the people of the country shed blood for democracy time and again. Nationalist and democratic aspirations of the people expressed through the language movement of 1952, had become stronger through the mass upsurge of 1969 and the war of independence of 1971, she said.

Begum Zia said it was deplorable that the hopes and aspirations of the people were tarnished reportedly. One-party presidential system was introduced in the sacred Parliament chamber within a span of few minutes in 1975 by demolishing parliamentary democracy, multi-party system, press freedom, independence of the judiciary and fundamental democratic rights of the people.

Amid shouts from a section of the opposition bench she said, "you have to accept the truth if you want democracy." At a critical juncture of history, she continued, late President Ziaur Rahman and Bangladesh Nationalist Party had given the correct leadership and sense of direction to the nation. Late President Zia introduced multi-party democracy in place of one-party system, and restored all fundamental rights. He had created a feeling of confidence in the nation for its existence with an independent entity. But conspirators did not allow him to make continued progress and killed him. His ideals however, survived, she said.

The leader of the House said BNP did not make any compromise with the autocratic regime during the last nine years, and did not participate in any farcical election. For this, the people gave their free and fair verdict in favour of BNP she asserted. She said the people were sovereign, and their word was final.

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

AUCTION NOTICE

Sub:- Notice for auction sale of mortgaged ship of Messrs Chattala Navigation Co. Ltd. debtor under Certificate Case No. 42-BSB/86

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank
Head Office, Dhaka

VERSUS

- Messrs Chattala Navigation Co. Ltd.
- Mr. Rabul Hossain, Managing Director
- Ms Amena Khatun, Director

61, Shantinagar, Dhaka

It is hereby notified for general information that to realise the total demand under the above case Taka 24,91,393/- (Twenty four lakh ninetyone thousand three hundred ninety three) only (up to 30-9-86 with interest thereafter, the property of the certificate debtor mentioned in the schedule below will be sold in public auction at the court of the undersigned on 14-7-91 at 11am. Persons intending to participate in the auction may contact the court of the undersigned to obtain detailed terms and conditions of the auction. Successful bidder will be handed over possession of the property by the court.

SCHEDULE

Name of the ship : " MV Chattala-1"	
Length (O.A)	40.58 meter
Breadth (N.L.D.)	8.08 "
Depth (M.L.D.)	3.05 "
Draft (Load)	2.44 "
Carrying capacity	350 tons

Sd/
Rebeca Sultana
General Certificate Officer
&
Magistrate First Class
Dhaka.

D-59