

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to
BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
 The House of Peace & Rest, The Place of High Class.
 We Cordially invite you to try our Beautifully prepared
 and Beautifully presented authentic **THAI CUISINE**
 and **SEAFOOD** in the cosy atmosphere of a
LOVELY HOUSE.
 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY ROAD, NASIRABAD,
 CHITTAGONG. RSVP CALL TEL : 226803

The Daily Star

শক্তি স্বপ্নে গহ্বরে
 বাংলাদেশ শক্তি কৃষিকার ও দেশসেবা
 মন্ত্রিসভা, কামাঙ্গু
 ১৯০/১ বি.ই.সি. রোড, ঢাকা.
 ১৩ ৩৬ ৩৭
 ১৩ ৩৬ ২৯

VOL. 1 NO. 161 REGD. NO. DA 781

ASHAR 19, 1398 BS,

DHAKA THURSDAY JULY 4, 1991

ZILHAJ 20, 1411 HIJRI

10 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 3.00

Inside Today

International



Benazir Bhutto denounces swoop on Al-Zulfikar activists in Karachi
 Page 5

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

You have to have time for sentimentality, says Guirez Nahar who specialises in Khayal and Thumri
 Page 3

Business

Trade and industry in Chittagong reel under the Value Added Tax (VAT). A report by our staffer in Chittagong
 Page 6

Sport



Martina Navratilova's hope for a record tenth Wimbledon crown has been dashed by 15-year-old American sensation Jennifer Capriati
 Page 7

Supplement

Special supplement on Fourth of July (US Independence Day)
 Page 8 & 9

Tomorrow



What kind of reforms can help the banking sector in Bangladesh? How can we tackle the problem of bad debts? Can Bangladesh avoid inflation? These are only a few of many topical questions discussed by The Daily Star in a 'Conversation' with A.K. Ahmed, a former Governor of Bangladesh Bank

IT IS ALL IN TOMORROW'S STAR. DON'T MISS IT

NEWS BRIEFS

Opposition MPs meet

A meeting of the opposition members of Parliament will be held today (July 4) at 10 am at the conference room of the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad. Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Opposition, has requested all opposition members to attend the meeting on time, reports BSS.

Hartal in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
 PABNA, July 3: Hartal was observed in Pabna today at the call of Bangladesh Chhatra League (B-A) to protest the arrest of three leaders over June 29 Edward College campus incident. Rickshawpullers

Certain issues need consensus to be resolved, JS told

Call to work together for sustaining democracy

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of Parliament said Wednesday both the government and the opposition should work responsibly for the sustenance of democracy.

Winding up a discussion that followed the introduction of the Constitution 11th and 12th Amendment Bills on Tuesday, he reminded all that not only the democracy-loving people but also the enemies of democracy were watching the activities of Parliament and its members.

Dr Chowdhury emphasised the need for consensus on

certain issues. There could be differences of opinion and criticisms; but all would be aimed at securing the interests of the people and the country. Similarly it is good if the opposition doubts the sincerity of the government, but seeds of false doubt should not be sown in the country, he said.

Referring to remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition during her one hour speech in the House on Tuesday, he said those were not provoked by the Prime Minister's speech. The Prime Minister had only stated that

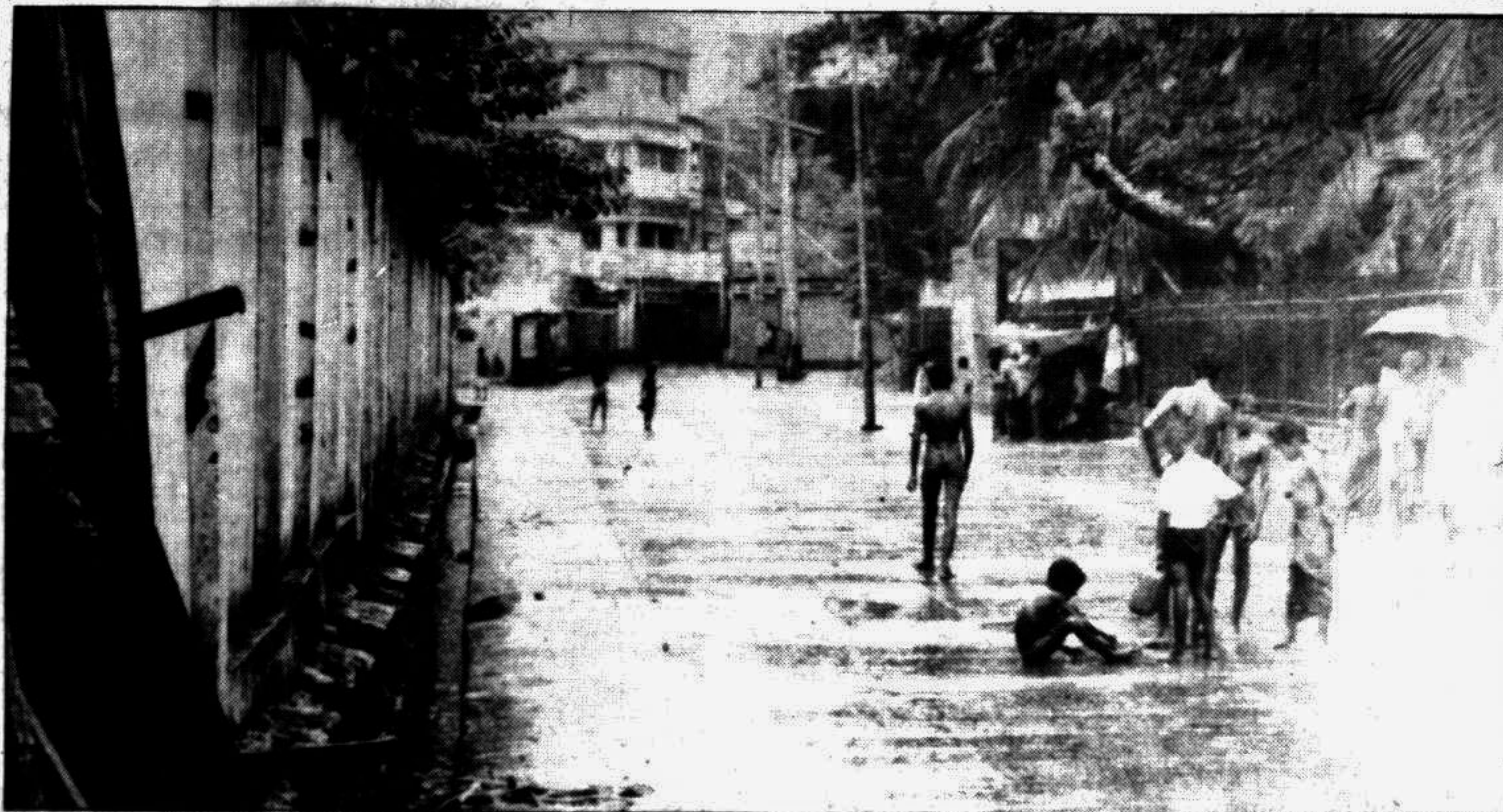
in 1974 one-party presidential system was introduced by ending a multi-party parliamentary system.

Acknowledging that most opposition members were vocal for restoration of parliamentary democracy, he posed a question as to why they had remained silent when presidential system was established in the country.

About the claim that Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had brought the constitution amendment bills submitting to the public opinion, he said his party had

acted according to its own policy. "We do not feel shy to bow down to the people," he said adding the ruling party for two months gave a patient hearing to all, discussed the thing at its own executive committee, parliamentary party and finally the party standing committee. He said BNP had said repeatedly that the parliament would take a decision in this regard. It took time to introduce the bill because the party consulted all before taking the decision.

Referring to Sheikh See Page 10 Col. 1



Traffic on a city street came to a halt Wednesday in the cross-firing from two rival student groups of Jagannath College, locked in a hours-long armed battle in which about 30 persons were injured. — Star-photo

Prosecution-Defence row in Special Judge Court

Ershad's statement distorted: AG

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Judge Court was stunned as the Attorney General Aminul Haque lashed out at the accused former President Ershad yesterday to stop his making a distorted statement against the Prosecution.

The Special Court trying the accused for amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income resumed at a quarter past eleven yesterday morning with the producing of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Azizul Haque Bhuiyan for deposition.

The resumption of the Court was delayed because of the absence of the chief Defence Counsel Advocate Strajul Haque.

Barrister Kazi Shahadat

Hossain was also absent yesterday. Strajul Haque was reportedly sick while Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hossain was busy as was disclosed by their juniors. Defence Counsel Yousuf Hossain Humayun conducted the case for the accused.

He pleaded to the Court that the accused was being provided the bare minimum facilities in the Court and his living place was a mere 'mini-concentration camp' and not at all a 'mini-circuit house' as claimed by the Attorney General.

He also proposed a joint-investigation into the affairs by both the Prosecution and the Defence lawyers.

He said that the accused

Ershad had written to the Home Secretary more than six times to allow him to meet his wife and children but the Home Ministry remained oblivious to his prayer.

He said that the accused should be provided with reasonable facilities to pass his days inside prison.

When the Attorney General was replying to the allegations made by the accused saying that the house allotted to Ershad was a 'mini circuit house' with full facilities including a garden in front of it, Ershad suddenly stood up in the dock and said, "There is no garden or flowers except grass and you are saying everything by guessing."

See Page 10 Col. 2

Shahabuddin, Khaleda greet Bush on US Independence Day

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia have felicitated President George Bush on the occasion of the Independence Day of the United States of America, re-report agencies.

The Acting President in his message said, "I take this opportunity to express my conviction that the bonds of friendship, mutual respect and all-round cooperation that so happily characterise the relations between your great country and Bangladesh will be further developed and deepened in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of our two peoples."

He also conveyed his greet- See Page 10 Col. 6

BCL (A-A), BCL (N-S) talk campus situation with DU VC

By DU Correspondent

Leaders of Awami League backed Chhatra League (A-A) and JSD (Inu) backed Chhatra League (N-S) met jointly with Prof Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Wednesday evening and discussed ways to keep congenial academic atmosphere when the DU reopens on July 6.

The Vice-Chancellor asked them to control their followers and to show restraint.

The leaders assured him of their cooperation in any attempt to maintain peaceful atmosphere on the campus. Ashim Kumar Ukil and Quamruzzaman Ansari General secretaries of BCL's (A-A) Central Committee and Dhaka University unit respectively attended the meeting while See Page 10 Col. 5

Meghna-Gumti bridge : Accord with Japan soon

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh and Japan will soon sign an agreement for construction of the Meghna-Gumti bridge at Daudkandi on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. The bridge will cost 60 million dollars and take five years to be completed.

Talking to journalists over luncheon at a local hotel on Wednesday, minister of the embassy of Japan Tetsuo Ito said the detailed design of the bridge had already been completed and its configuration would be identical to that of the Meghna Bridge — completed a year ago. The proposed bridge will be 1.5 kilometre in length. See Page 10 Col. 1

Govt urged to help keep CU free from Shibir's grip

By Staff Correspondent

Fifteen teachers of the Dhaka University urged the government to help keep the Chittagong University campus free from the clutch of armed Shibir workers.

In a press release on Wednesday they said "we welcome the ousting of armed Shibir activists from CU halls before Eid-ul-Azha as a positive step of the government to make the campus violence-free but we are worried at the news of gunbattle between the Shibir workers and the police at Fatikchhari recently."

That armed group may occupy the campus again after reopening the university on July 16, they said urging the government to ensure a violence-free campus.

A STAR SPECIAL

Private sector offers no panacea for development, says Conable

From M Syeduzzaman, The Daily Star Guest Columnist

WASHINGTON DC: President of the World Bank Barber B Conable has warned the developing world against thinking that the growth of the private sector could serve either as a "panacea or a magic which they must pursue", but he stressed that relying on market forces was an "efficient economic technique."

During a recent exclusive interview to The Daily Star, the first of its kind given to a Bangladeshi newspaper, the head of the world's largest aid agency described the expansion of the private sector in a developing country only as a "modality of economic management" and argued that re-



Conable: Priority and efficiency are what the donors look for.

sources could be saved "if government withdraws from what can be done better by the private sector."

In this connection, he differed with some critics that the growth of the private sector invariably leads to greater corruption.

"Corruption and rent seeking activities emanate from discretionary authority of government functionaries and agencies at the interface between public and private sectors," he added.

Referring to Bangladesh, Conable who is due to retire from the Bank on September 1, expressed his satisfaction See Page 10 Col. 7

Over 30 people injured Students fight hours-long gunbattle

By Staff Correspondent

Fresh gunbattle between two rival student groups at Jagannath College in the city Wednesday left over 30 persons injured, most of them with bullets.

Activists of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) fought over occupation of Dr. Milton Hall of the college for hours together.

The college was closed since and students were asked to vacate the hall earlier when the rival student groups had

fought a night-long gunbattle leaving two students dead and over 100 injured on June 15.

Of the injured, seven were admitted to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) and six to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injuries. Besides, 15 more were given first aid at the SSMCH.

Attending physicians at the DMCH stated the condition of Arif (21), a degree final year student, and two pedestrians — Anwar (13) and Liton (12) as serious. Besides, automobile technician Haroon-or-Rashid (18), wood trader Hiru Mia (20) rickshawpuller Bolal (30) and street urchin Moti Mia (13) were admitted to the DMCH with bullet wounds.

The seven injured persons admitted to the SSMCH are: Alak (28) of 29 Shakhari Bazar, Suman (15), Iman Ali (25) of Bahapur of Faridpur, Sujon Das (25) of Kolampura of Keraniganj, Shekhar Sen (25) and Rajeshwar (30) of Shakhari Bazar and Mohammad Yousuf (20) of Kabiraj Lane of Patuati. Others were treated at different city clinics.

According to witnesses and local people the clash began around 3 AM Wednesday when the JCD armed activists stormed into the hall compound breaking a portion of the boundary wall to oust their BCL rivals. Exchange of fire between the groups continued without intermission till BCL activists were flushed out around noon.

See Page 10 Col. 3

Keep National Flag flying high, PM tells Air Force men

From Staff Correspondent

JESSORE, July 3: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon the newly commissioned officers of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) to discharge their duty to the nation by protecting country's independence and sovereignty.

Addressing the cadets at the passing-out parade marking the commissioning of the cadets of the 22nd general duties pilot, and the 26th ground branch courses of BAF, Begum Zia said, "the nation expects your firm commitment to keep flying high the flag of independence achieved through supreme sacrifice and blood."

She expressed confidence that the young officers would be able to fulfill people's aspirations.

See Page 10 Col. 6

AL amendment bill may be tabled today

Opposition Awami League's constitutional amendment bill seeking switchover to parliamentary democracy is expected to be tabled in parliament today (Thursday), reports UNB.

The private members' bill titled, the Constitution (Eleventh Amendment) Bill, 1991, has already received clearance from the Acting President for its introduction.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad submitted the bill April 14 on behalf of the opposition in Parliament.

When contacted, Abdus Samad Azad told UNB that the bill would be placed before the House today which is a Private Members' Day.

If the bill is tabled today, See Page 10 Col. 1

WE MOURN

We deeply mourn the sad demise of Mrs. Saleha Khatun, mother of our Chairman Jonab Mohammed A. Awwal & our Director Jonab M.A. Malek. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May her soul rest in peace (Ameen).

Management, Officers & Staff of Pragati General Insurance Company

US supports Slovenian secessionists

LJUBLJANA, July 3:

Powerful Yugoslav armoured columns thrust north into Croatia today heading for Slovenia after the army vowed to smash the rebel republic's independence drive with a massive military strike, report agencies.

Fresh fighting erupted inside Slovenia with tanks and troops battling independence fighters, as at least six armoured columns rumbled

northwards towards the Slovenian border.

In a policy shift, the United States said on Tuesday it would support independence for secessionist-minded Yugoslav republics if it was achieved peacefully.

"We support whatever the Yugoslavian people decide the Yugoslavian people want for themselves," said State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler.

Earlier US statements had placed stress on the need to preserve Yugoslav unity, but Tutwiler's statement, echoing support comments to Reuters by a senior Bush administration official, expressed a new tone.

"The United States supports the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia as the Yugoslavian people themselves determine what that is through peaceful means," she said.

A Yugoslav general said troops had been ordered to fire only in self-defense. Gen Andrija Raseta, deputy commander of federal forces in Slovenia, did not make clear in his cease-fire comment whether the army had fully accepted a truce offered late Tuesday by Slovenian leaders.

Raseta did say the army command "only carried out legal decisions," denying speculation of a military coup.

"The army has no reason not to recognise Mestic and the presidency, who have been elected legally," Raseta said. Related story on Page 5

He said that under the Constitution, Mestic is Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces

Late Tuesday, the army had rejected Slovenia's offer of a truce and appeared to be acting without the approval of federal government leaders.