

Libya given last chance, says US

WASHINGTON, Apr 1: The United States, welcoming a UN vote imposing sanctions on Libya, said Tripoli has been given a last chance to help prosecute two men charged with the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, reports Reuter.

The aviation, arms and diplomatic sanctions, approved by 10 of the council's 15 members with five abstentions, do not take effect until April 15.

"The United Nations Security Council has spoken out for collective action against state-supported terrorism," a senior State Department official told Reuter.

"The resolution is very fair ... it is well-targeted and in view of the concerns of other countries, it gives Libya another chance to comply—until April 15," he said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the resolution was specifically designed to target the means that Libya has used to support terrorism—airlines, diplomatic facilities and weapons purchases.

Earlier, at a State Department daily briefing ahead of the UN vote deputy spokesman Richard Boucher dismissed a reported offer by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi to meet President George Bush as a last-minute ploy to try to delay the UN Security Council vote imposing the sanctions.

The vote is intended to gain Libyan compliance with the terms of the previous resolution on the subject, resolution 731, Boucher said.

He did not, however, deny that the vote might be used at some point as the legal frame-

work for an armed attack on Libya if Tripoli fails to comply with the UN order.

Britain has reported that in the midst of the controversy some foreigners are having problems obtaining visas from Libya to exit the country.

Boucher said the United States had no reports of Americans experiencing such difficulties. But he admitted that Washington, which has no diplomatic ties with Tripoli, has little accurate information about the country and does not even know exactly how many Americans may be living there.

The official US estimate is 500 to 1,000 most of the Americans are believed to be oil workers.

American passports have not been valid for travel to Libya since 1981 and two weeks ago, when UN negotiations on sanctions were heating up, the State Department warned Americans in Libya to consider leaving.

Five held with forged passports at ZIA

The Anti-Corruption Bureau has arrested five persons at the Zia International Airport on March 30 on the eve of their departure for Saudi Arabia with forged passports, reports BSS.

According to an official handout, innocent people lured by agents have been selling all their assets and handing over money to them (agents) out of ignorance for going abroad. These innocent people are ending themselves in jails abroad because of forged passports.

Eliasson : Camps

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beings." He said the UN will do its utmost to help Bangladesh government in dealing with the gigantic problem.

He was optimistic of favourable response from the international community to the appeal for quick assistance for the refugees before the monsoon.

Eliasson said UN would try to achieve the return of the refugees under safe and voluntary conditions as soon as possible.

Asked if he could give any probable time frame of the solution of the problem, he said, "I can only say that UN would do its best to find the solution. I need to continue talks with Myanmar authorities."

When asked if UN would pressurise Yangon authorities for violations of human rights and persecution of political dissidents, he said, "My mission is to find solution to the humanitarian problem between Bangladesh and Myanmar, in that way a positive trend begins."

In this connection, the visiting UN emissary said he was optimistic of slowing the degree of inflow of refugees.

Women refugees in Dechuapalong and Damdama camps narrated stories of rape, murder and loot when the UN Emissary visited them. Many of the refugees burst into tears while recalling their nightmarish experiences. He talked to

some of the refugees through an interpreter and asked them the reasons of fleeing their native land. The refugees said they were forced to flee in the face of repression.

Eliasson said he had very interesting talks with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and officials of the Foreign Ministry.

State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan and Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman were among others, who accompanied Eliasson on the trip.

Meanwhile, The visiting special envoy of the United Nations Secretary General Wednesday held final round of talks with Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman on different aspects of the Myanmar Muslim refugee problem.

The first round of talks took place here Tuesday while the final round of the discussions followed the Special Envoy, Jan Eliasson's visit to the camps where the refugees have been sheltered.

The Foreign Minister told Eliasson that he had 'total confidence that the mission of the Special Envoy would produce positive results, official sources said.

Eliasson narrated his experience of the visits to the camps and stressed on the need for 'safe and voluntary' return of the refugees to their homes.

Underemployment

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with the intention of its being presented at the Paris Aid Consortium meeting this month.

According to the report the recent political changes in Bangladesh permit a fresh look at development priorities and constraints. New approaches need to recognize the wide disparities in income and in other indicators of well-being between the urban and rural areas, by gender and by access to resources and to services, the report observes.

Referring to the role of government in economy the report says that it has been a declining one and blames the government for spending a modest part of its resources on the social sectors and on the human development priorities.

But, the report argues, "in some respects progress was made, but not at rates commensurate with the magnitude of the problems. Efforts are noteworthy which attempt the provision of direct access to employment and income."

On the question of resource scarcity and its utilization, the report observes that for the country resource scarcity reflected by low savings and low taxation levels remains a crucial problem.

The report further observes that more resources are no solution unless ways are worked out to strengthen the implementation and delivery capacity at the grassroots and intermediate levels.

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) the report says 'there is considerable collaboration between the government and NGOs in the delivery of social services. In education some slow progress is made by the government in the formal part, and more rapid by the NGOs in the informal part. But the report observes 'donor assistance grows but the total effort in primary and secondary education falls far short of minimum needs.'

The report has identified the highly centralised functioning of the government as a serious handicap to its effectiveness in contributing to human development. The report says 'the role of the government in human development must start from the recognition that there is a complex pattern of social organizations, which can and need to be brought to convergence towards objectives of human development. The government can play a catalytic role in this process and mobilise part of the resources needed.'

Observing that human development is emerging as a shared concern of the government, the NGOs, the external donors and the people themselves the report suggests 'these need to be welded together in a coalition where each contributes according to strengths and experience. The role of local governments in these coalitions is an essential one, as clearly expressed in the country's Constitution.'



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the newly elected members of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries at the International Conference Centre, in the city Wednesday. Story on Page 7. -PID photo

PM assures

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joint convenors, and Anwarul Islam, AGM Jainul Abedin, Amanullah Kabir, Shahjahan Miah, Altaf Mahmud, Mosharraf Hossain, Bazul Rahman Milton, Jahangir Kabir and Mozammel Huq as members.

The committees, referring to the recent attacks on newspaper offices, told the Prime Minister that employees of the print media felt insecure owing to the outrageous acts.

Begum Zia called for the leaders of the community to play a positive and constructive role in nation building activity under the new-found democratic system.

Country's newspapers are enjoying full freedom, but some of them are not catering objective information, the Prime Minister pointed out, urging them to be more responsible and sincere.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Barrister Moynul Hussein, Sanaulah Noori, Reazuddin Ahmed and Shahjahan Miah also spoke at the meeting.

Exodus

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Eliasson was talking to the newsmen after visiting a refugee camp at Teknaf.

The UN Special Envoy who arrived in Cox's Bazar Tuesday for an on the spot assessment, moved among thousands of people carrying documents of their Myanmar nationality.

He visited Dumdumia-1, Dumdumia-2 and Dechuapalong-2 camps at Ramu upazila of the district, housing an estimated 95,304 refugees.

Eliasson witnessed reintegration of the refugees, the housing facilities, supply of food and health care activities of the government and other volunteers organisations in the camps.

"It is very difficult task and the problem is humanitarian," he said, "We must try to prevent influx."

When asked if he was convinced that the refugees are Myanmar nationals he said "It is evident that they have come from Burma (Myanmar) ... I have noticed some important documents belonging to the refugees."

Replying to a question whether he would suggest UN economic sanction or use of military action against Myanmar, Eliasson said "It is too premature to suggest such steps at the moment, we are holding talks with both the governments."

The Special Envoy of UN Secretary General returned to the capital this afternoon.

Eliasson arrived in Bangladesh Monday at the first leg of his two-nation tour to resolve the refugee problem between the two countries.

Armed operations against ULFA

GUWAHATI, Apr 1: Armed operations against ULFA militants were resumed in Assam last night, two and a half months after it was suspended, while hardliners of the outfit have announced their decision to resume armed struggle for an independent Assam.

The information minister said, by taking 'so-called people's court under the jurisdiction of the country's constitutional court did not mean that the government intended to harass or oppress the accused persons.'

He said it was necessary to see the legal validity of the 'so-called people's court and its character' through this case.

Barrister Huda said those who had helped or extended cooperation to 'this illegal act' must face trial and accept the verdict of the court of the state.

The Information Minister made it clear that the government had no intention to take repressive measure against any particular individual or group rather he added, it was determined to uphold the rule of law.

Describing press as a democratic institution he said those who had attacked the newspaper offices were the enemies of democracy and warned that the government would not tolerate any such heinous activity.

Tinbigha : Cong-I backs Jyoti govt's stand

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CALCUTTA, Apr 1: The Opposition Congress(I) today extended its full cooperation to the ruling Left Front in the state in implementing the Indra-Mujib accord to lease Tinbigha to Bangladesh, reports PTI.

In a statement in the West Bengal Assembly, the Congress(I) Deputy Leader of the House, Satya Bapuli, said that his party's stand on the issue was "absolutely clear" for "we want 100 per cent implementation of the accord as early as possible."

Expressing his satisfaction at the measures taken by the ruling front in implementing the accord, Bapuli said that his party also appreciated the

209 prisoners released

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Government has ordered release of 209 undertrial prisoners, detained in jails for minor offences, on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr, reports UNB.

The government expressed hope that released persons would play their due role in the socio-economic development of the country, said an official handout Wednesday.

Earlier, the government had ordered 36 detenues released after reviewing their cases under the Special Powers Act 1974 on the occasion of Eid.

Three killed in road mishaps

A middle-aged man was hit and killed by a speedy truck near the Technical Training Centre at Mirpur Tuesday night, police said Wednesday, reports UNB.

An address found in the victim's pocket identified him as Hazi Abdus Salam of Madaripur.

BSS adds: At least two persons were killed and one injured in three separate accidents Tuesday in Kushtia district.

One truck driver Sirajul Islam (55) was killed under the wheel of a tractor when he was crossing road near Borobazar railgate. The driver came from Chittagong driving a truck with goods.

Police seized the tractor and registered a case.

One old woman Fuljhura Khatun (70) was killed under the wheel of a truck at Bheramara in front of Sonali Bank.

In another incident Asad Ali, member of Motor Sramik Union was injured in a truck accident at Majampur railway.

Huda

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urged the press to help maintain healthy atmosphere in this regard.

Barrister Huda said the government believed in the application of the existing laws of the land and anyone taking law in one's hand would be accountable in accordance with the law.

The information minister said, by taking 'so-called people's court under the jurisdiction of the country's constitutional court did not mean that the government intended to harass or oppress the accused persons.'

He said it was necessary to see the legal validity of the 'so-called people's court and its character' through this case.

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JP rule

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parties was disclosed to newsmen by Golam Azam himself prior to his arrest, Chowdhury said.

Replying to a question, Chowdhury said no one had the legal right to withdraw or reverse and punishment given to the anti-liberation elements, including Golam Azam, on specific charges. The governments of Zia, Sattar or Ershad did not restore his (Golam Azam's) citizenship, he added.

Asked why JP did not take any action while in power against Golam Azam, Chowdhury said "none raised any demand and we were silent about it."

In reply to another question, he said that neither the "Ghatik Nirmla Committee" nor the Jamaat-e-Islami made any formal contact with the Jatiya Party on the current controversy.

WB suggests

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dealers. To facilitate private sector imports, quarantine procedures should be simplified and made applicable to plant species rather than particular varieties, while all import restrictions should be removed on seeds for "uncontrolled" crops as well as approved varieties of "controlled" crops.

Registered growers may also import small quantities of seeds of unapproved varieties of controlled crops for testing. Release of new varieties of controlled crops could remain subject to government testing and approval, following a streamlined procedure.

There should be a gradual elimination of subsidies on BADC seeds—a measure which will be accelerated to allow the private sector to compete in the seed market.

The bank report said among the goals of the new policy were to "promote balanced development of public and private sectors at all stages from breeding to marketing" and simplify import procedures for seeds and varietal material.

BADC has an extensive network of seed farms, processing facilities and sales centres reaching down to the upazila level and, until recently, BADC was the sole supplier of improved seeds for most crops (with exception of jute and certain vegetables).

Many farmers either don't have access to improved seeds, or rely on smuggled varieties from abroad, the World Bank report said.

It said import of improved seeds or germ plasmas for development of new strains had been largely restricted, while the quarantine and approval processes had been cumbersome.

Golam Azam

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If one becomes or is made stateless he or she will never be deported according to a judgement of the High Court in 1981 which is printed in DLR 32. He can simply live in a country without enjoying the rights of a citizen.

But the source, a lawyer, said quoting the World Book Encyclopedia Volume Four that "some people become stateless as a result of government action and a government might punish citizens by expatriating them, leaving them stateless."

"In the United States, a stateless person is considered an alien," the source said adding that "unlike other aliens, however, stateless persons have no government from which to ask protection."

According to the lawyers, the Encyclopedia also says, that many aliens have a permit called a 'visa' allowing them to visit or live where they do not hold citizenship. 'Illegal aliens' are non-citizens living in a country without proper papers.

Golam Azam, 70, was stripped of his citizenship after the country's independence in 1971 for his collaboration with the Pakistan occupation forces during the nine-month war.

Azam returned Bangladesh in 1978 from Saudi Arabia on a Pakistani passport, became involved in Jamaat politics and was elected Amir of the party last December creating a public outcry.

The authorities arrested him under the Foreigners Act on March 24 and detained him in the Dhaka Central Jail.

Sal producers demand sound policy soon

CHITTAGONG, Apr 1: Sanua (Banskhali) unit of Bangladesh Salt Producers Association has called upon the government to constitute a salt board and announce a salt policy immediately, reports BSS.

A rally of the salt producers held at Sanua union parishad hall with association leader Abdul Khaleque in the chair observed that the salt producers' problems could not be solved without a sound salt policy.

The rally by a resolution demanded of the government to sanction Taka 5000/- bank loan for each salt producer, betel leaves grower and fisherman of the coastal areas for their rehabilitation.

By another resolution the rally called for construction of embankment and cyclone centres in coastal areas of Banskhali.

15 hurt in clash over land dispute

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 1: At least 15 people were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash over land dispute between two rival groups of village Bagdumir in Sadar upazila today, reports UNB.

The feuding groups belonging to Muttur Rahman and Saiful Islam of the same village, attacked each other with lethal weapons at about 9 am, police and local people said.

Muttur and Saiful both were injured in the clash that lasted for half-an-hour.

Muttur Rahman (42) was rushed to Bhadrachal health complex of Khamarkhond upazila and Saiful Islam was admitted to Sadar hospital.

Their condition was stated to be critical, hospital sources said.

Another injured Rafiqul (19) was also admitted to Bhadrachal hospital and they were released after first aid.

Muttur and Saiful were cousins.

A case was lodged with the police in this connection.

The Midnight File

Bush's aid package for democracy in CIS

WASHINGTON, Apr 1: President George Bush today proposed an aid package worth several billion dollars to promote economic stability and democracy in the former Soviet Union. I have just met with the congressional leadership to request their bipartisan backing for a new, comprehensive and integrated programme to support the struggle for freedom under way in Russia, Ukraine and the other new states that have replaced the Soviet Union, Bush said in unveiling his proposal at a White House news conference, reports Reuter.

Benazir for arms reduction treaty with India

KARACHI, Apr 1: Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto today called for an arms reduction treaty with neighbouring India, saying such a pact would help to cut defence spending in both countries. Bhutto told a news conference that government policies were to blame for what she called Pakistan's widening budget deficit and soaring inflation. She gave no details, reports Reuter.

Eight killed as IAF planes crash

NEW DELHI, Apr 1: Two Indian air force aircraft crashed in Punjab Wednesday, killing eight crew members, United News of India reported. UNI attributed the crash to "some technical snag." The agency did not elaborate. The AN-32 planes came down in Punjab's Ludhiana district. The 115,000-marpair force has 701 combat aircraft. Most of them are from the former Soviet Union, reports AP.

Sanctions on Libya may raise tension : Benazir

KARACHI, Apr 1: Pakistani opposition leader and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto warned Wednesday that UN imposed air sanctions on Libya could aggravate tensions, reports AFP.

In a statement here Bhutto called on the Muslim world to try to avoid a new backlash over Tripoli's refusal to cooperate with investigations into allegations that Libyans were involved in destroying French and US airliners.

She accused the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of indifference to the crisis. No reaction was available from Pakistani authorities on the vote or on Bhutto's remarks.

Pakistan "should play a constructive role in consultation with the Arab League members to seek a political solution so as to save the Arab people from further problems," she said.

Bhutto said the suspension of all flights to Libya and restrictions on the size and movements of diplomatic missions effective from April 15 "will disrupt the chances of a just solution through diplomatic channels."

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- On acceptance of offer, the successful bidders/ tenderers shall have to deposit 50% of the bid or tendered money within 7 (Seven) days and the balance within 30 (Thirty) days from the date of acceptance of tender. In case of failure in making payment of the bid amount within stipulated time, the earnest money or the tender money (as the case may be) shall be forfeited and the mortgaged property may be resold. The project assets will be handed over to the successful bidder (s) by the bank on fulfilment of the conditions.
- Tenders will be opened on 3-5-92 at 12-30 PM at the Assets Disposal Department, BSB, Head Office in presence of the tenderers (if any). For further information, if any, the undersigned may be contacted. Bidders may purchase the above mentioned movable and immovable property in a lot or separately.
- The BSB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders/offers without showing any reason.

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