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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hasina to address in Joydevpur today

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will address a public meeting at Rajbari maidan in Joydevpur at 3 pm today (Sunday). The district Awami League has organised the meeting and central leaders of the party will also address the meeting, reports UNB.

### Ferry with 1,200 stranded

JAMALPUR, Apr 17: A ferry with about 1,200 passengers on board was stranded at Jigbari char, eight kilometres from Bahadurabad ghat, for about eight hours today. Official sources said MV Suhrawardi carrying passengers of Intercity Ekota express from Fulchhari to Bahadurabad ghat was stranded on the shoal till 11 am, reports UNB.

### Phensidyl syrup recovered

Police yesterday (Saturday) recovered a huge quantity of banned India-made Phensidyl syrup from a house at Gabtali Cross Dam and arrested a man in this connection. They said nearly 1,500 bottles of Phensidyl were recovered from the possession of Mohammad Shahidul Islam alias Babu, a notorious smuggler, during a drive in the Cross Dam area, reports UNB.

# Private sector must be competitive: Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

Expansion of private sector investment should be in a competitive rather than a protective environment, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said on Saturday.

Inaugurating a seminar on 'Expanding Private Investment' at a local hotel, the Finance Minister, however, noted that there was an 'overwhelming urge' from the private sector for providing preferential treatment and privileges as against a competitive environment free of rent-seeking.

This would give rise to contradictions in a market-friendly economic environment, he added.

Jointly organised by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and the World Bank resident mission, the key-note speaker at the seminar was Hernan Buchi, a former finance minister of Chile and an expert on economic reforms.

Noting that the ruling BNP has a private enterprise platform and a commitment towards a market-friendly envi-

ronment, Saifur Rahman said that resources are better utilised in a market-friendly atmosphere and that a rapid transformation is needed in the micro-economic sector in order to release resources from the public sector.

"We have undertaken a lot of these reform processes," he said. "All indications are sound and a good framework is in place for the private sector to come forward."

The Finance Minister identified two specific problems in the realm of private investment.

He pointed out that the disinvestment process of a large number of public sector units is slow and needs to be accelerated.

However, he posed a question whether the country would benefit more from new private investments rather than privatisation of the public sector units.

"The country would be much benefited by new private investment since the capital stock would not increase by

privatising public sector enterprises," he observed.

In his welcome address, MCCI president Latifur Rahman lamented that although the policy climate in the country is no longer hostile towards private investment, yet "they are implemented with the apparent attitude of an adversary".

The private sector, he noted, is still widely seen as the lesser of the evils vis-a-vis the public sector, which did not function quite well.

Saying that the macro-economic stability and liberalisation policies have provided a good foundation for private investment, the MCCI president pointed out that what is needed now is sector-wise measures to improve productivity and profitability of the existing industrial units.

"Private investment will automatically increase when profitability is restored," he said adding, "Presently, returns on manufacturing investments are either inadequate

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## DU tense again

By DU Correspondent

A tense situation was prevailing on the Dhaka University campus yesterday following firing by unidentified gunmen on a Montu-backed Chhatra League (M-L) leader Moazzem Hossain Friday afternoon.

The BCL (M-L), meanwhile, held the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-L) responsible for the attack on Hossain. Moazzem Hossain, a final year student of Political Science of the DU was shot when he was at a tea stall near the Salimullah Hall, at about 7.35 Friday evening.

For their part, the pro-Awami League BCL (M-L) said that the supporters of Montu were blaming them for the incident which was in fact an 'internal feud' of the BCL (M-L).

A large number of policemen were deployed in and around the campus following the incident.

Besides, a group of unidentified youth 'gheraoed' two BCL (M-L) supporters — Nantu Debnath and Deb Dulal — near the Arts Faculty Building yesterday noon, sources said.

The unidentified group assaulted Nantu Debnath, a third  
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# Turgut Ozal dead

ANKARA, Apr 17: Turkey's eighth President, Turgut Ozal, died today of a heart attack after suffering a sudden drop in blood pressure and being rushed to hospital, reports AFP.

Ozal died on arrival at the Hacettepe Hospital in Central Ankara at 2:13 pm (11:13 GMT).

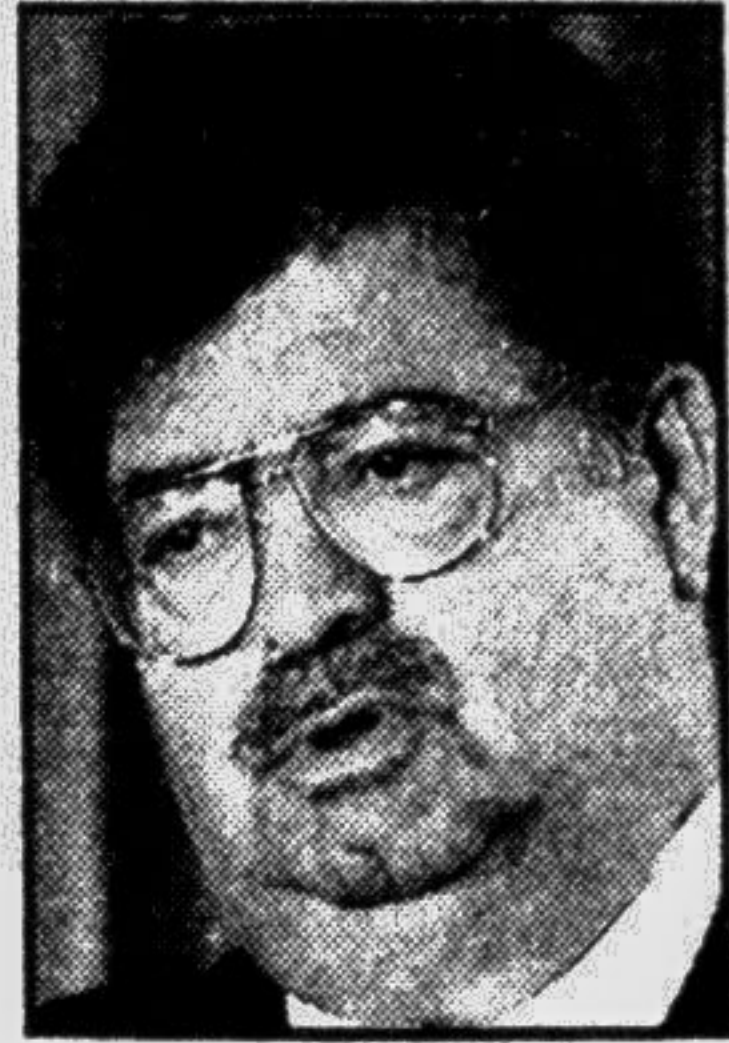
The 66-year-old head of state had a history of heart trouble having undergone a coronary bypass operation in 1987.

He had returned to Ankara Thursday after an 11-day tour of the Caucasus and Central Asia, in which he travelled 12,000 kilometres (7,440 miles).

Often criticised for interfering in government, Ozal had an uneasy relationship with a right-left coalition government headed by his arch-rival, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

Ozal had been Demirel's right hand on economic affairs prior to the military coup of 1980 which overthrew the Demirel government and was vice-premier under the military.

As President, Ozal was accused of making decisions on issues that were beyond his



(MP) in 1983. But Ozal was not able to tame rampant inflation of up to 70 per cent a year.

He was elected President in 1989 by a majority vote of MP deputies who held 292 of the 450 seats in the Grand National Assembly.

His two younger brothers, Yusuf and Korkut are also involved in politics.

Ozal, who was married to Semra Ozal and had three children, was an amateur of comic strips, especially Lucky Luke.

He was a butt of cartoonists in his own country who made fun of his paunchy figure.

## Khaleda concedes

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday conceded the sad demise of Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

She said Ozal was not only the great leader of Turkey but also a leader of the world.

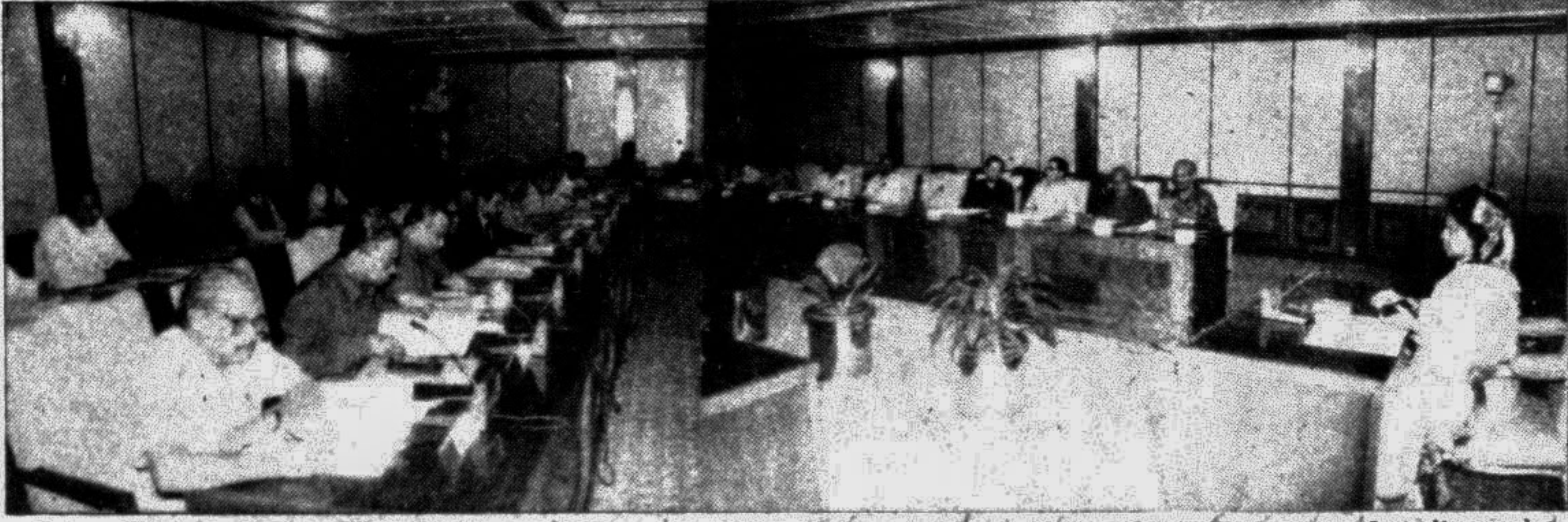
The Prime Minister recalled the contribution of Ozal in the development of Bangladesh-Turkey relations.

She expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

powers, including declaring Turkey's support for the western-led alliance against Iraq in the Gulf war without consulting parliament.

Nickname 'uncle', Ozal was a supporter of 'harmonious marriage' between traditions and modern technology.

Born on October 13, 1927, in the eastern region of Malatya, he was an electrical engineer by profession and introduced Turkey to free market economics after becoming head of the Motherland Party



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a high level meeting to discuss the improvement of quality and performance in the primary and mass education sector at the International Conference Centre yesterday. — PID photo

## Pry education to get maximum attention

The government has decided to undertake a two-year massive plan for reconstruction, rehabilitation and expansion of the country's existing primary schools to accommodate the growing number of students, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a high level review meeting chaired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the International Conference Centre (ICC) yesterday evening. Progress in Primary and Mass Education sectors under the Annual Development Programme 1992-93 was also reviewed.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan, Cabinet Secretary Ayubur Rahman, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister K M Rabbani and concerned senior officials attended the meeting.

The meeting decided to pay maximum attention to primary education to improve the literacy rate and underlined the need for improving the syllabus, training of teachers and ensuring regular attendance of teachers at the schools.

It was observed that social mobilisation should be intensified for the success of the National Primary Education Programme.

The meeting was informed that a total of 19 projects had been taken up in the revised ADP for 1992-93 of which 18 were to be implemented with foreign assistance and one with government funds.

Eleven of the foreign-funded projects are progressing fast. They include Education Development Projects of Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions, Development of Primary Education Project of Chittagong Division and Programme for Rehabilitation of Cyclone Affected Primary Schools and Curriculum Development.

Curriculum Development of Primary and Secondary Education Programme and Informal Education Expansion Programme are also among the 11 on-going projects under the 1992-93 ADP.

The meeting discussed the problems in implementing the projects and possible measures to remove those.

## Biswas shocked

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed his deep grief and sorrow at the demise of Turkish President Turgut Ozal, reports BSS.

In a condolence message, President Biswas conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and the people of Turkey.

He recalled with gratitude the contribution of President Ozal to the development of friendly relations between Bangladesh and Turkey and to the promotion of world peace.

President Biswas hoped that the people of Turkey would have enough strength to bear the irreparable loss.

He also prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

## BSF pushes in 52 more

LALMONIRHAT, Apr 17: Fiftytwo Bengali-speaking Indian Muslims were pushed in by BSF through Shimulbari border in Fulbari thana of Kurigram district Friday night, reports UNB.

Village Defence Party (VDP) members held the Indians who said they had been picked up from New Delhi and its adjoining areas for the illegal deportation.

They were later taken to the Chairman of Shimulbari Union Parishad where they have been under BDR guard, police and local people said.

Seven women and four children are among the push victims.

## Mongla strike called off

KHULNA, Apr 17: Normal activities of Mongla Port resumed early today (Saturday) as the port users called off their indefinite strike following fruitful discussion with the representatives of National Board of Revenue (NBR).

They went on the strike April 12 demanding removal of the Collector of Khulna Customs House and other corrupt customs officials.

Acting President of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Nazrul Islam told UNB they reached a settlement with the government regarding their demands Friday night. He did not elaborate.

## Ctg Dock Sramik Dal leader shot dead

CHITTAGONG, Apr 17: Abdul Hannan (40) a convener of the Jatiyatabadi Port Dock Sramik Dal was killed by unknown miscreants in front of the port house here today, reports BSS.

According to port police, Hannan while crossing a road, was shot at from a running private car. The bullet hit his abdomen. He was rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injury. His body was taken for post mortem.

Immediately after the incident, port police arrested ten persons on suspicion, most of them were dock workers. However, no case was filed till the writing of this report.

## Ershad delegates party powers

By Asiuzzaman

Jatiya Party's jailed chairman former President H M Ershad, in the face of widespread demands for democratising the party constitution, has reportedly delegated full powers to the presidium to run the party, informed sources said yesterday.

"This is a kind of resignation. He will no longer exercise his powers to dictate party affairs," the source, holding

a vice-president post in the JP, told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

Ershad reportedly conveyed his decision verbally through a central committee member on April 5 when a presidium meeting of the party was on, the source said without disclosing the name of the emissary.

The source said that in light of the dramatic decision of the

party chairman the presidium would meet again on April 26 to review the situation.

The acting party chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, whose activities were barred by a court injunction, has also lost his 'unilateral powers' on decision making because of Ershad's decision.

Some other JP leaders declined to comment directly on  
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## Khaleda SAARC chairperson for 19 months

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will remain in the office of SAARC Chairperson for 19 months as the next summit of the Association will be hosted by India in December 1994, officials said in Dhaka on Saturday, reports UNB.

The seventh summit of the seven-nation South Asian forum, held here April 10-11, decided that India would be the host of the eighth summit.

SAARC charter stipulates that summit of the forum be held annually with heads of state or government of the member countries heading it for one year by turn.

Begum Zia is the second woman to become chairperson of SAARC. Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, held this office after the fourth summit in Islamabad.

## Auranga sent to jail again

By Court Correspondent

Awami League MP Hemayet Ullah Auranga has been sent to jail again after a court refused to extend his bail Saturday, court sources said.

Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Nasir Uddin Ahmed rejected his prayer to extend the expired one month interim bail approved by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on March 14, the source said.

## 50 more killed in Bosnia

ZAGREB, Apr 17: At least 50 people have been killed in fighting between Bosnian Croats and Muslims in and around the town of Vitez in Central Bosnia, a British Army spokesman said today, agencies reported.

Captain Lee Smart, a spokesman for British U N troops in Vitez told Reuter by telephone the victims had died after fierce fighting erupted between the two sides on Friday.

Smart said the dead and wounded were found in Vitez and in at least five surrounding villages. "At least 50 have been killed in the Vitez area. We have no exact figures yet on the number of wounded," he said.

Vitez, a town of 28,000 people before Bosnia's civil war broke out a year ago, had a population of almost 50 per cent Croats and 50 per cent Muslims.

Meanwhile, U N officials

adjourned talks with Bosnian Serb and Muslim military commanders today at which they had hoped to secure a ceasefire for the besieged Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, a UN military spokeswoman said in Sarajevo.

U N Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokeswoman Shannon Boyd told reporters the adjournment would let General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, Commander of UN peace-keeping troops in former Yugoslavia, and General Philippe Morillon, UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia, review results of the meeting so far.

There was no immediate word on when the talks might resume.

Outraged by a Bosnian Serb onslaught on the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, the Security Council scheduled an emergency Saturday session to punish Serb-ruled Yugoslavia with more sanctions and a tighter naval blockade.

But no one knew in advance of the meeting whether Russia would drop its threat to veto a resolution increasing sanctions at this time.

In a compromise adopted earlier this week, the council delayed a vote on the sanctions resolution until April 26, the day after the Russian referendum on President Boris Yeltsin's powers and economic reforms.

With the Bosnian Serbs closing in on Srebrenica's final lines of defence, the Security Council late Friday night declared the city a haven for Muslim civilians.

The Serbs were reported within 1,000 yards (metres) of the enclave in eastern Bosnia, and some news reports had said earlier that Serbs had taken the town. UN diplomats, however, said that the Serbs apparently did not move in.

"The fall of Srebrenica to the Bosnian Serb forces would  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Sharif tells nation he won't quit

ISLAMABAD, Apr 17: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif declared today that he would neither resign, nor accept any order to quit his post in his current tussle with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, reports AFP.

Striking a defiant note, Sharif in a nationwide broadcast said, "I will not resign. I will not dissolve the assembly and I will not accept dictation."

Without naming the President, he said "Conspiracies had been hatched from a place which is supposed to defend the Constitution to destabilise" his 29-month-old government.

The confrontation started between the two top leaders after Sharif moved to trim the sweeping powers granted to the President under the Constitution.

Xinhua adds: Former State Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali who resigned recently has been arrested and would be tried for treason, according to a federal minister.

Religious Affairs Minister Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi disclosed this to news-men in Multan, over 410 kms south of here Friday, saying after registration of case against him. Sardar Asif had

been arrested under the orders of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, local press reported today.

Police sources at Lahore, capital of Punjab province where Multan is located, confirmed the arrest.

Sardar Asif who resigned from the federal cabinet on April 6 alleged at his resignation press conference that the Pakistan government had not done enough to clear the country of terrorists and despite his repeated requests to the Prime Minister over the last year sufficient steps were not taken to check the movement of terrorists in and out of

the country.

Nawaz Sharif, who issued the orders for his arrest, said earlier Sardar Asif had involved Pakistan in terrorism and could not be spared.

The Religious Affairs Minister was quoted as saying the irresponsible utterances of Sardar Asif created serious difficulties for the government and weakened the country's stand abroad on various vital issues.

Pakistan is facing the threat of being declared by the United States as a terrorist state on the allegations that it has been abetting terrorist activities in Kashmir, a claim denied by Pakistan.