

72nd anniversary of CCP today

Beijing to celebrate the day quietly

BEIJING, June 30: The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) celebrates its 72nd anniversary tomorrow with a growing roll of members even though communist ideology is receding as the country puts its emphasis on individual success, reports AFP.

"More and more candidates apply," crowed a headline in the Peoples Daily Tuesday, welcoming the large number of applicants to join the party, already the largest in the world with more than 51 million members.

Despite growing discontent in rural areas, where four out of five Chinese live the party mouthpiece welcomed the large number of applicants among farmers and from backward areas.

Although the official press produced the ritual statements in praise of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, the 72nd anniversary, like those before it, will be celebrated quietly.

No mass rallies or military parades are planned for the occasion, which will only be marked by a speech by party chief Jiang Zemin and a gala show on television.

But the party, which many Chinese join simply to get a job

or privileges, is a giant with feet of clay that appears to be getting weaker and weaker.

A number of analysts have expressed serious doubt about the party's capacity to survive as the winds of change blow through the country once again.

Jiang's appointment as President in March, bringing the top state, party and military positions under his control, was to reassert political control over affairs of state and present the party chief as heir apparent to aging patriarch Deng Xiaoping.

But serious problems stoked by economic overheating like that in 1988 and the intensification of a power struggle to succeed Deng make Jiang's position increasingly fragile.

Deng celebrates his 89th birthday in June and social problems could erupt after his death, as they have the past when other leaders died.

The CCP, with its enormous party machinery, has maintained its grip on the country but even more than the government, the party is seen as a central power that is increasingly out of touch with the people.



An Iraqi worker salvaging pieces of electrical and telephone equipment from debris in the Al Mansour residential district of Baghdad Tuesday. —AFP photo

US action

From Page 1 Col 4

have read too much into it, Clinton said, calling the missile firing 'part of the standard ruse of engagement' in the no-fly zone.

Earlier on Tuesday Clinton said that the US missile attack on Baghdad 'sent a very important message' and indicated he believed the plot to kill former President George Bush was approved by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Asked if he believed the Iraqi President had personally ordered the plot, Clinton replied, 'our analysts have no experience of an operation of that magnitude being authorised by other than the highest level.'

Meanwhile, a top UN nuclear inspector in Baghdad said Iraq's multi-billion dollar nuclear weapons programme was dead and future UN efforts would focus on making sure it was not resurrected.

'Literally billions of dollars worth of effort had been destroyed, that's why we say the programme from before the war is dead,' the chief nuclear inspector in Iraq, Robert Kelley, told Reuters.

Another report says, the US aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, accompanied by a US destroyer, on Tuesday passed through the Suez Canal to the Red Sea from where US warships fired missiles at Baghdad on Sunday.

Iraq: New questions

From Page 1 Col 4

hand, it is also possible for Baghdad to tap support from such new allies as Tehran and Tripoli which have condemned the weekend assault in the strongest terms.

In the backdrop of the unfolding polarisation in the Middle East, the options for the Clinton Administration remain extremely limited. It is hardly in a position to go for total destruction of Iraq's military capability, while its call to the Iraqi people to overthrow Hussein, as heard yesterday over a TV network, to mark the beginning of a new Washington-Baghdad relationship is unlikely to make much impact even on moderate politicians in Iraq.

What Washington apparently fails to understand is that death of innocent civilians during the missile attack has left the Arab country and much of the Islamic world in a state of anguish and anger. At this moment, even a conciliatory gesture from Washington would be ignored, while any follow-up armed action would only further aggravate the situation.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the United States has so far failed to get the endorsement of its missile attack from the UN Security Council, with not even allies of Washington hinting at participating in any joint action against Baghdad.

On the other hand, there is the chorus of protest against the weekend raid from opposition parties in some traditional pro-western countries, especially Britain.

Many questions are raised by a section of the media in the West, especially the United States. For instance, in an editorial, The New York Times asks, 'The people need to learn about the specific goals... that Clinton hoped to accomplish by using military force. Is part of the reason to discourage terrorist attacks on New York? If so, that also merits further explanation.'

Then, the Times touches on an 'even more sensitive reason.' Is the President trying to divert attention from problems at home to a 'dramatic military action' abroad? Finally, the leading US daily feels that the 'information' Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the UN presented about the involvement of Iraqi intelligence plot 'was not sufficient for a reasonable citizen in being highly confident that force — rather than criminal trials and diplomatic measures — was the wisest course.'

The questions posed by The New York Times remain, by and large, unanswered, leaving the Clinton Administration in a somewhat defensive position.

US offers draft document to Palestinians

WASHINGTON, June 30: The United States offered a draft document to Palestinians today aimed at moving the Middle East peace talks forward, and is likely to offer the same document to the Israelis, sources in both delegations said, reports Reuter.

Palestinian delegate Hanan Ashrawi said the US document was part of an 'exchange of views and ideas, some of them verbal and some of them written.'

Girls' cadet college in Feni soon

FENI, June 30: The government has decided to establish a Girls' Cadet College in Feni soon, official sources here said yesterday. They said a site of 75 acres of land has already been selected for the college in the Old Airport area of the town, reports UNB.

Energy Ministry

From Page 1 Col 4

parliament and necessary action taken, said Nasim, a front-ranking leader of Awami League. Besides the Saipem scandal, Nasim said the Energy Ministry gave work order to six companies, including Occidental Oil Company, to explore oil and gas in the country. He said the local agent of the Occidental Company is the relative of a top man in the present government. The work orders were given to these six companies on terms and conditions worse than those of Scimitar, he added.

Nasim called for formation of a parliamentary committee to probe into the matters and report back its findings to parliament. Advocate Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party and A M Riasat Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami also spoke on the cut-motions.

Responding to Nasim's allegation, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister D. Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain said the report of Dr Iqbal Mahmud is now with the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Energy. The committee will submit the report to the Speaker who will decide the next course, he said.

The minister termed 'untrue' Nasim's allegation about payment of a 14 million dollar to Saipem and said the government is implementing every recommendation of the Dr Iqbal Mahmud Commission which was set up by the Energy Ministry.

Refuting the charge that six companies were given work permit for extraction of oil and gas, the Energy Minister said these companies, including the 'world famous' Occidental Oil Company, had applied for the work and their papers were now under consideration of the government.

Ashura today

From Page 1 Col 8

The sacrifice and great heritage of Karbala still inspire us for dedication, he said.

Begum Zia called upon the people to take fresh vow, being imbued with the great Karbala spirit of sacrifice and dedication to resist untidely all evil designs to bring greater welfare for the country

Editorial on page 4

The Prime Minister said that the observance of the holy occasion would be meaningful if we could obtain lessons from the martyrs of Karbala following the teachings of Islam and establishing justice and truth.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said the memories of supreme sacrifices made by Hazrat Imam Hossain (R) and his followers at Karbala would inspire the struggling people of the world over the ages to come.

The Awami League chief said it was our sacred duty to resist all kinds of wrong doings, oppressions, injustices and exploitations being imbued with the great teachings of Karbala.

Different socio-religious organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes in observance of the Ashura.

Shia community in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country will bring out commemorative processions in different parts of the country.

Dhaka-Yangon flag meet held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 30: A flag meeting between Myanmar and Bangladesh border guard officials was held today at the country's frontier town Teknaf, official sources said.

The sector commander level border talks focused on border issues in a bid to maintain peace and tranquillity along the 176-mile border.

The talks starting at 11 am today at the R&I Rest House in Teknaf continued for about three hours, sources added.

The Midnight File

UN needs reforms to help poor

GENEVA, June 30: The UN needs reforms to help 1.3 billion people who live in poverty around the world. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today. The UN chief said the same number lack access to safe drinking water, making development a major challenge, reports Reuter.

Serb forces block UN convoy

SARAJEVO, June 30: Bosnian Serb forces blocked a UN convoy with fuel for Sarajevo today and brought up a tank to confront its French military escort, a UN official said. The Serbs have brought up a T-55 tank, said Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Sarajevo. He said the situation was very tense and the drivers of the nine-truck convoy had taken refuge in one of the escorting armoured personnel carriers, reports Reuter.

Partial accord to end Haiti crisis

NEW YORK, June 30: Negotiators in New York have reached a partial agreement aimed at resolving the crisis in Haiti, international mediator Dante Caputo said today. Caputo said an agreement had been reached on some of the essential elements to end the crisis sparked by the September 1991 coup, reports AFP.

Foreign policy clear

From page 1 col 7

He said that out of 3 lakh tribals in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, 50,000 had left their homesteads. Recently a team comprising Parliament members led by Communications Minister Col (Retd) OI Ahmed visited India, talked to leaders, visited camps in Tripura and persuaded the tribal refugees to come back, he reminded.

"Now it is within your knowledge why they are not returning... from our side there is no reservation. We are ready to take them back", Mostafiz said, adding that they have given a 13-point demand which he called a sort of pretext for not coming back. "If they want to return at all, they won't place any new demand."

"Our foreign policy is clear," he said. "Like oil floating on water, it should be clearly visible to any one. But the question is what sort of spectacles you are using to look at it," Mostafiz added cryptically.

He strongly opposed the allegation that Bangladesh remained silent on the question of Bosnia-Herzegovina or the US strike on Baghdad. Bangladesh has already made clear her stand on Bosnia at different international fora, he added.

The Foreign Minister also denied the charge that he has been pursuing 'silent diplomacy' regarding the repatriation of Rohingya refugees and said the MOU signed with Myanmar on the subject has been widely publicised. He, however, added that it would take sometime to complete the process of repatriation of Rohingyas.

On repatriation of Chakma refugees from India, the Foreign Minister did not clearly say why the planned repatriation was stalled despite agreement between the governments of India and Bangladesh.

Fazlur Rahman made envoy to ROK. The government has decided to appoint A K Md Fazlur Rahman, Director-General of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Korea. Fazlur Rahman has been serving as a Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since October 20, 1990, reports UNB.

Shibalaya

From Page 1 Col 8

Jahaji Oikya Parishad called on June 16 for a protest rally at the venue today. Later, three other organisations — pro-BNP BIWTC Employees' Union, Awami League-backed BIWTC Workers' Union and BIWTC Muktiyoddha Sangsad called a joint meeting at the same venue.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8

"The government claimed that the flood situation in Sylhet was a minor problem," the Leader of the Opposition said.

She expressed her readiness to help the affected people with the limited resources of her party.

The AL chief visited Balaganj, Biswanath, Sylhet Sadar, Golapganj, and Baniabazar areas of greater Sylhet yesterday.

She was accompanied by AL general secretary Zillur Rahman, Dewan Farid Gazi, Moutaz Hossain, Dr Mostafa Jamal Mohiuddin and others.

JS: Budget

From Page 1 Col 3

The unanimously passed demands for grants were made by the ministries of Culture, Religious Affairs, Youth and Sports, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs and Communications.

When the Finance Minister sought leave of the House to introduce the Appropriation Bill after the demands for grants had been adopted, Colonel (Retd) Shawkat Ali of the Awami League raised objection.

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, however, overruled the objection.

The Appropriation Bill was passed at 9:43 pm and the Speaker adjourned the House for the next minute to resume at 5:15 pm Sunday.

At one point of time there was scuffle between the media men and security staff and one of the security personnel was seen pulling out his revolver in despair.

Punjab govt defies

From page 1 col 7

The President has already asked the Cabinet Secretary to explain the authority... under which he has signed the proclamation without his (the President's) prior approval or even information, the Presidential spokesman said.

Ishaq Khan must approve such a resolution if it is presented to him and his signature is required by law, he said, "without the President's signature this resolution has no validity."

A special joint session of parliament adopted the resolution imposing emergency rule in Punjab on Tuesday and naming former provincial governor Mohammad Azhar to take over the administration.

Azhar took over as the representative of the federal government and would exercise the powers outlined in the emergency resolution, the official APP news agency said.

They are trying to establish a parallel government," Governor Chaudhury Altaf Hussain said in an interview on his return from discussing developments in Punjab with the President. They are issuing orders without legal authority.

Political analysts said Sharif's move had set him on a new collision course with the President.

Political analysts said that Ishaq Khan was likely to seek the opinion of the Supreme

Court on Saturday. Sharif decided to impose emergency rule in Punjab province, bulldozing the resolution through a stormy session of parliament, to try to tame the rebellious provincial government.

It came after the Governor dissolved the 248-seat Provincial Assembly late on Monday on the mandatory advice of the Chief Minister a few hours after the assembly was restored by the provincial High Court.

The Law Minister said emergency rule was necessary because the second dissolution of the Provincial Assembly in less than a month was unconstitutional.

Sharif has been fighting to buttress his fragile government since he was summarily sacked by Ishaq Khan on April 18 and then reinstated by a landmark Supreme Court judgment 39 days later.

Regaining authority in Punjab, lost when many supporters in the Provincial Assembly defected after his dismissal on charges of misuse, is crucial to his campaign, political analysts say.

The provincial parliament has reeled from crisis to crisis in the past few weeks as supporters of the beleaguered Prime Minister have battled his bitter foes — backed by Ishaq Khan — for supremacy in Punjab, Sharif's main power-base until his dismissal.

Biman signs lease for two DC-10

Two DC 10-30 wide-bodied aircraft will join Biman fleet next month following a lease agreement signed in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Douglas Aircraft Company, the manufacturer of the DC 10-30 aircraft, have finalised and signed the lease agreement.

The agreement provides for delivery of the first of the two aircraft by July 14 and the second one by July 25. Under the agreement one DC 10-30 aircraft will be on dry lease with Biman for six months and the other for 36 months.

Dhaka to get WFP aid worth \$63m

Bangladesh will receive foodgrains and other materials worth 62.90 million US dollars under a plan of operation signed yesterday with the World Food Programme (WFP), reports BSS.

The allocation was made for implementation of vulnerable groups development: Self-reliance for poor women programme.

Under the agreement, the WFP would provide Bangladesh 250440 M T wheat, 1092 M T pulses and 3364 M T vegetable oil. Besides, 150 motor cycles, 8 desk top computers with printers and software and technical expertise required to set up the appropriate computer management information system would also be provided by WFP under the plan of operation.

Missile attack on Aideded's stronghold

MOGADISHU, June 30: American Cobra helicopter gunships launched a missile attack against a suspected weapons cache in the south Mogadishu stronghold of fugitive warlord Mohamed Farah Aideded today, reports AFP.

Tofael

From Page 1 Col 3

had appeared in an interview, held in Khulna, for the appointments.

While reading out Majid-ul-Huq's letter of recommendation in the House, Tofael told the chair, "I do not know the fate of the proposed parliamentary probe, but the nation should know that the corruption charge I brought against the Irrigation Minister was not baseless."

The Irrigation Minister was present in the House at the time, but did not seek the floor either to protest Tofael's version or to explain his position on the letter.

Meanwhile, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali decided to form an investigation committee on Sunday and asked for eight names from both benches to constitute a 17-member body headed by himself.

The committee was due to be announced on Tuesday but the Speaker informed the House that it would be delayed since he needed time for consultations on the terms of reference of the committee with both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

Anti-terrorism Act has helped restore peace, says Matin

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury told Parliament yesterday that all offenders would be seriously dealt with according to law irrespective of their position or status, reports UNB.

"Every law breaker will be taken to task, no matter he or she is the Prime Minister, Minister or Parliament Member," he said while winding up discussion on cut-motions on budgetary allocation for police.

The Home Minister said peace and discipline returned to the country with the application of the Anti-Terrorism Act, a claim disputed again and again by the opposition, which charged the government with using the law against political opponents.

Chowdhury also claimed that the educational institutions were freed from violence by enforcing this law.

Refuting the opposition allegation of police inaction, the Home Minister said police is doing their best to maintain law and order. To substantiate his contention, he said, 20 policemen were killed in 1992 while trying to prevent chaos and conflict.

He said there will be no law and order in the country and MPs would not be able to come out of their houses if the police force is abolished complying with the demand of the opposition. Admitting that there are some bad elements in the

police force, the Home Minister said there are also some good people in the department.

The minister informed the House that the investigations into the attempt on the life of Rashed Khan Menon, MP and police assault on Mohammad Nasim, MP and Jahanaara Imam were in progress. Menon, however, disagreed with the Home Minister's version about the progress of investigation, saying that what the minister had said was not correct.

Referring to charges against Akhtaruzzaman Babu, MP, Matin Chowdhury said police was searching for him and that he was yet to appear before the court.

The Home Minister said Dr Kamal Hossain was not allowed to hold a meeting in Faridpur and police would certainly take action against those responsible for this act of terrorism.

"We all talk against the police but we cannot live without the police," the Home Minister said demanding that more allocations be made to modernise the police force.

Participating in the debate on cut-motions, Awami League leader Abdur Razzak called the police force "anti-people" and alleged widespread corruption in the force. He accused the government of using the police to cling to power.

Haji Rashed Mosharrar (AL) pointed out some specific incidents where police were used as private force against political opponents. There are

many instances when police even refused to take any case if their palms were not properly greased," he alleged.

Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim referred to police atrocities on journalists on June 21 inside the Jatiya Press Club. He accused the government of using police in filing false cases against opposition political leaders and workers. Nasim also blamed the Home Minister for disturbing political stability in the country.

Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party blasted the police for "double standard" and accused the government of using the police force with political motive.

Shahjahan Siraj (JSD) said the country has become a police state. He urged the government to build the police force suiting the needs of an independent state.

Suranjit Sengupta (Ganatantri Party) blamed the Home Minister for failing to stop smuggling, which, he said, is ruining the economy. Police receive bribes openly, he alleged, and said that people can no longer depend on the police to act fairly.

Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party blamed the police force for their failure to ensure safety and security of people.

He strongly criticised the government for not allowing Jatiya Party to hold meetings, rallies and processions, and using police to foil meetings and harassing leaders and workers.