# Now, it is Tajikistan caught in conflict in former Soviet Union

By S B Chaudhuri, Columnist

While Bosnia burns and Azerbaijan sizzles, a new flashpoint has emerged in Tajikistan along its borders with Afghanistan. These countries are reaping the bitter harvest of the policies of governments in the past to implant people from outside, into an otherwise homogeneous community to tighten state control on the region. And the world sees again how ethnic strife, racial prejudice and bigotry transcend

have taken their hands off even in keeping Bosnia-Herzegovina territorially one country. The land is on the way to being carved up into three ethnic states. Aggression and atrocity are being rewarded. The offer of the member-countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference, including Bangladesh, to send troops to Bosnia to join the United Nations peacekeeping forces, is said to have proved politically rather embarrassing to the western governments. Some of them are afraid that accepting such a force would amount to another way of lifting the arms embargo and allowing the Bosnian Muslims to get the weaponry they want. To them at least, an early demise of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a sovereign independent state would perhaps come as a wel-

half an hour and brought down

gallows the Imam of Baganbari

Mosque conducted pre-

execution religious rituals. A

magistrate read out the verdict

was looking a bit disturbed

before the hanging," a witness

spectators thronged the jail gate

and waited until the officials

was taken to the corridor of the

main gate and jail sources said

police photographers took

Hassan Jamil who lives in the

USA did not come to see him

before the execution, family

sources said. His only sister

who is a doctor lives in the

Medical College Principal Dr

Abul Quasem and eminent gy-

necologist Dr Meherunnesa,

Liberation War in 1971.

their troubled marriage.

his family this morning.

Munir, son of former Dhaka

Munir killed Rima on April 8,

His body will be handed to

Earlier in the day at around

2:36 pm, parents and relatives

of Munir Hussain, numbering

13, arrived at the jail gate at

Nazimuddin Road in the older

part of the city. Newsmen and

inquisitive spectators flocked

around the cars, but the group

made their way through the

throng without making any

inside the Central Jail, Munir's

mother Dr Meherunnesa was

the first to come out of the huge

iron jail gate. She was followed

by her husband Dr Abul

The relatives of the sen-

tenced man, as it appeared

Monday noon, were too shocked

to express their emotions in

public. They boarded their cars

and were . whisked . away . as

silently as they came; visibly

hiding themselves from the pho-

But, according to a jail in-

sider, who was present at the

meeting of Munir with his fam-

ily, everyone broke down into

There are instances when a

sentenced man is saved at the

last second from the hangman's

noose ... keep up the effort of

seeking clemency," Munir was

overheard pleading to his

"Ask all to pray for me," he

Hours before the hanging, a

rehearsal of the execution was

mother from behind the bars.

requested his mother.

minute complicacies.

Quasem and the others.

tographers.

Spending nearly 55 minutes

1989 just four months after

Late Munir's brother,

several snaps of his body.

came out at around 1.45 am.

at the scene said

"He puffed a cigarette and

Several hundred curious

After the execution his body

of death by hanging before him.

Before being taken to the

from the gallows at 1.00 am.

come development Stung by humiliating military losses to Armenia, Azerbaijan ousted its elected president and called in a leader from its Soviet past to rule the country. However, military reverses continue and the latest news is that the Azeries are on the way to facing a defeat. Here again, the people to whom the land should belong, would be the ultimate losers.

Tajikistan, another former Soviet Central Asian Republic, has endured nearly two years of civil war. The civil war has left an estimated twenty thousand people dead and tens of thousands of Tajiks are said to have fled across the border to Afghanistan last year. The country still hardly possesses an army of its own and so, it is Russia who supplies the troops

Russians in Tajikistan are being variously termed by them as rebels and Muslim fundamentalists. However, these fighters are ethnic Tajiks alright. On the other hand, Russia is said to be determined to protect some two hundred thousand ethnic Russians in Tajikistan, who are said to have settled down in the Tajik's land during the Stalinist era. Thus, the conflict takes the nature of an ethnic strife too.

tential threat to the stability of the present-day Central Asia The former Soviet Union fought a fourteen year war in Afghanistan to make it into a client state. Ultimately, the Soviet army had to withdraw.

The war had led to wholesale uprooting of population and had caused untold miseries to the people of the land. The latest phase of fighting

in Tajikistan is sending out reports of Russian troops firing shells into Afghanistan itself Kabul has accused Moscow of intervening in Afghanistan. Russia, in its turn, says that Tajik rebels are being granted sanctuary in Afghanistan and are also being fitted with arms. Kabul has stoutly denied supplying arms to the Tajiks.

Meanwhile, Russia is reported to be rushing additional troops into Tajikistan. The Russian Defence Minister also paid a visit to Tajikistan last

Whatever be the inherent reasons for the Tajik conflict, its undertone of ethnic strife calls for urgent and honourable solution of the problem. Both Afghanistan and Russia are said to have called for UN intervention. Fighting must stop before it spills into lands across the border. After all, the disgraceful sell-out in Bosnia could well set a pattern for tensions in other parts of the world.

Netrakona From Page 1 Col 5 In Netrakona town water level is below the danger level. Some places in the town are in knee-deep water. All the 10 thanas of

Netrakona have been affected by flood while situations in Durgapur, Kalmakanda, Netrakona Sadar, Khaliajuri, Mohangani and Purba Dhala are worst. During a visit to several

flood-hit areas of Sadar thana, this correspondent saw thousands of people stranded in their homesteads by flood waters while vast tracts of cultivable lands went under water.

People standing along the dry land waved red flags in a bid to draw attention of the relief workers. At some places people were seen cutting erroneously built embankments to reduce the pressure of the gushing flood waters.

Shantu Mia (35), a sharecropper at Panchpai village of Tarkona union, was trying to collect bits and pieces from the debris of what was once his

His bamboo and straw shanty was struck down by flood waters of Mogra river a week back and was completely destroyed.

Shantu Mia's family lived on the roof-top of the house for days with all his belongings and

"This river has left me a beggar once again," Shantu Mia said with all his wrath against the river. The farmer recalled that only

four years back the Mogra rose to a similar height and engulfed everything that he owned." This year it is once again starving hardship," Shantu told

the correspondent, adding "sir, what can you do for me?" The flood in Netrakona has damaged a substantial portion of this year's Aman crop on

473,000 acres of land. The Aus rice was about to be harvested. Farmers unsuccessfully had

tried to save some of their crops from the destruction before the river began to rise. District officials said the

damage to the crops by the flood was yet to fully assessed. So far 200 metric tonnes of rice, 90 of wheat and Tk 2 lakh have been doled out to the flood affected people.

rhoca has been reported from a number of places at Durgapur thana where at least 5 people The DC of Netrakona Dewan Ashraf Uddin said, emergency

Meanwhile, breakout of diar-

medical aids have been sent to Durgapur. "More is needed and the

want is monstrous," said the

#### One beaten to death in Khulna

KHULNA, July 26: An old man was beaten to death allegedly by owner and employees of a Chinese restaurant at Babukhan road in the town Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police said Ansaruddin (60), died after he was beaten mercilessly by the owner and employees of Pyongyang Chinese restaurant at about 10 pm. The incident occurred when Ansaruddin refused to pay the amount mentioned in the bill charged for dinner by the hotel management.



Litterateur Humayun Ahmed appeared before a Division Bench of the High Court yesterday. He is flanked by his wife, lawyers, publishers and admirers. He was charged with contempt of - Star photo court for his comments in one of his publications.

# Demand for delaying Pak polls rejected

ISLAMABAD, July 26: Pakistan's acting President Monday ruled out the possibility of delaying the October elections, reiterating the interim government's resolve to establish credibility of the polls pro cess, reports AFP.

"Elections will not be postponed on any demand or under any pretext," Wasim Sajjad , 52, said in his first nationwide broadcast since he assumed office after the July 18 shake-up in the country.

Sajjad, a jurist, was appointed interim President under an army-brokered settlement of the six-month old bitter power tussle between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, 78, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, 44, who both stepped down to pave the way for the mid-term elections.

The interim government has fixed October 6 for the National Assembly election and October 9 for the polls to elect the country's four provincial assemblies.

Several leaders have proposed changes in the electoral laws to ensure the fairness of polls while some have suggested that the polls be put off until early next year to make the process fool proof. Election held in 1990 were

marred by charges of rigging

levelled by a former premier Benazir Bhutto who has been in the forefront of demands for fresh elections.

"The government is fully determined this time to make the election process so much trans parent, fair and impartial that credibility of the process is es tablished beyond any tota of doubt," Satjad said.

He said steps would be taken to prevent bogus voting and rules would be framed so that positive suggestions were ac commodated to ensure neutral

The democratic system would be installed on sound foundations and the future government would be able to implement its programme for the stipulated period, he added.

#### 516 more Rohingyas go home

COX'S BAZAR, July 26: As many as 516 Rohingya refugees voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar through three transit camps at Teknaf here today

An official source told BSS here tonight that with this 69th batch of repatriation, the total number of repatriated persons now stands at 31,068.

#### Lanka agrees to exchange experts in agri sector

experts and students in the to enhancing appropriate techfields, official sources said, reports BSS.

# DU plans stern action against

ties at a meeting with student organisations yesterday decided to take stern action against trouble mongers for maintaining congenial academic atmosphere on the campus, reports

Vice Chancellor and the Awami League.

vesterday agreed to exchange

# Bangladesh and Shri Lanka

agricultural sector with a view nology and knowledge in these

The agreement came during discussion between the visiting Food, Cooperatives and Janasaviya Minister of Shri Lanka, Weerasinghe Malliamaratchi and Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq at the latter's office.

## trouble mongers Dhaka University authori-

Emazuddin Ahmed chaired the meeting at the university's administrative building, attended by the student organisations active on the campus, including the student fronts of the BNP



A Shi ite family crammed into a pick-up truck leaving their village in South Lebanon yesterday to escape the Israeli raids.

# Israeli raid on Lebanon continues

KIRYAT SIIMONA (Israel). July 26: Israel pounded guerilla targets inside Lebanon today for a second straight day and army radio said an armoured column was moving north towards the border, reports Reuter.

Israeli leaders assured nervous citizens the fighting would not spin out of control and draw them into costly ground wars like Israel's inconclusive 1978 and 1982 invasions.

Israel said it would stop its punitive offensive immediately if guerillas ended retaliatory rocket attacks, but guerillas in Lebanon fired more Katyusha rockets at Israeli settlements. "Near the army radio studio

here in the north a column of armoured personnel carriers and tanks has been moving north on highways toward the sécurity zone (inside Lebanon)," said army radio. "For the first time tanks of

the armoured corps are making their way north," said the radio. Israel radio said one Israeli

woman was lightly wounded on Monday, following Sunday's attacks that killed two and wounded 23 other Israelis. Up to 150,000 civilians were sheltering in reinforced rooms and bomb shelters. After two days of air, sea and

artillery bombardments - and Israeli radio warnings to thousands of Lebanese civilians to flee their homes - Lebanese refugees were flooding north. Meanwhile, Reuter adds: The 51-member Organisation of the

Islamic Conference today urged

the Security Council to inter-

vene immediately to stop Israel's offensive in Lebanon.

A statement by OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Ghabid said the attacks on Lebanon 'once again reveal the aggressive and expansionist nature of Israeli policy and its continuous attempts to abort the peace process."

#### ROK plane From Page 1 Col 8

night as rescuers battled rain, mud and debris strewn over the hillsides, witnesses said. It was the first major air-

craft accident in Korea since 1989 and the first ever for 5year-old Asiana Airlines, the nation's second-largest carrier. The Asiana Boeing 737-500

was en route from Seoul to the southwestern port city of Mokpo when it crashed at 3:50 pm (0650 GMT) in a heavy wind and rain storm, officials said. A stewardess, Park Jin-ah,

23, said the plane was on its third attempt to land at Mokpo when it hit a hillside near the village of Haenam, about 30 miles (48 kilometres) south of Mokpo. There was a huge crashing

sound soon after the pilot's announcement that we were about to land," she said. There was heavy fog and poor visibility, she added.

"I thought I was going to die," said Kim Hyong-kyun, 30. "I hugged my wife next to me. On impact, the plane was broken in two pieces and my wife was under her seat."

#### — AFP photo Diarrhoea

From Page 1 Col 5 several places of Kurigram and Netrokona districts. Sources said the people were not getting any relief or medical aid and there were serious scarcity of drinking water in the affected low lying areas.

Most of the rivers in greater Sylhet registered fall till 6 am yesterday, but was still flowing above the danger level. The Kushiara was flowing 171 cm above the danger level in Amalshid and the Surma was flowing 126 cm at Kanaighat.

The Meghna was flowing 68 cm above the danger level at Bhairab Bazar point and the Gumti at Comilla fell by 42 cm in 24 hours till 6 am yesterday yet remained at 125 cm above the danger level.

An official of the Flood Forecasting Centre, however, added that usually river erosion takes serious shape following the floods.

Meanwhile, the Relief Secretary M A Hakim in a news briefing on flood yesterday said that goods and cash valued at Tk 25 lakh had been allocated for the flood victims yesterday in addition to a previous sanction of Tk 97 lakh as gratuitous relief. Tk one crore as house building relief and 6635 metric tons of rice. The Secretary expressed his

hope that flood situation would get better very soon if no rainfall took place.

He also added that the cabinet meeting yesterday discussed the situation in details and instructions had been issued for taking all possible measures for the aid of the flood affected people. Editorial on page 4

# The Midnight File

US endorses new security arrangement in Asia

SINGAPORE, July 26: The United States Monday endorsed the establishment of a new security arrangement in Asia, a fledgling effort that some Asian officials foresee as a potential NATO-style defence pact. For now, the architects and participants of the new arrangement, the ASEAN Regional Forum, are vague about its mission. The forum was endorsed by foreign ministers at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations last week and launched at banquet Sunday night, reports AP.

#### LDP, opposition in Japan rush to back reform plan

TOKOY, July 26: Japan's longtime ruling party and opposition groups both rushed Monday to support a reform plan offered by two parties whose votes could determine whether power changes hands for the first time in 38 years. Both the Liberal Democrats, who lost their majority in Parliament in elections July 18, and an opposition coalition are trying to win over the Japan New Party and the Sakigake (Pioneer) New Party. if the two parties stay neutral, the LDP has enough votes in the 511 seat lower house to form a minority government and keep the power it has held since 1955. But if swing parties unite with the other five opposition parties, the opposition will take power,

## Rao faces no-confidence

From Page 1 Col 4

right-wing Hindu Nationalist party and a coalition of socialist parties that have refused to support each other in the past.

On Monday, the new leader of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, A B Vajpayee, said his party supports the substance of the noconfidence motion, even though it also criticizes Rao for failing to rebuild an ancient mosque that BJP-backed Hindu radicals destroyed in northern India last

"We have supported the proposal for no-confidence, but not the causes in it," Vajpayee said during the debate.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has gained power in Parliament in the last three years by capitalizing on growing Hindu nationalism and fundamentalism

in India.

The Congress Party and its allies control 254 of the 531 votes in the Lok Sabha, the powerful lower house of Parliament. That is 12 short of a majority, but the Congress Party says it hopes to win the support of small parties and narrowly defeat the motion.

Mukhopadhyaya, the Communist Party of India-

#### Bank liquidity From Page 1 Col 4

a person starts savings with Tk 2000 in the beginning and then pays Tk 274 each month for three years. At the end of the period, the person gets back Tk 14500 from the bank. SYFANZ also has a five year long savings programme.

Sources said the Grindlays Bank has been able to utilize Tk 50 lakhs within three weeks of the launching of these two products.

On the other hand, Standard Chartered in its Bonus 1-2-3 programme offers the chance of investing Tk one lakh with the bank for 36 months. The bank in return gives the investor Tk 1000 a month and another Tk 14000 at a time at the end of three years along with his initial investment of Tk one lakh.

But while such programmes of the foreign banks are making a headway inutilizing excess funds, the Deposit Pension Scheme (DPS) offered by the nationalised banks has bogged down because of high interest rates and managerial problems.

#### JP: Mizan From Page 1 Col 5

He said that the JP was the party of former President H M Ershad and without Ershad no faction inside the party would

The veteran politician said by way of example that many people deserted the present ruling party and also the opposi tion Awami League but the main streams with major leaders remained the major force of the respective parties.

He said that both the JP and the AL were now the opposition parties, so there could be some identical programmes which in no way meant that 'I am making the party a B-team of the

He also rejected charges of misusing the party funds by saying that the funds were kept frozen by the government. The party was now being run by small amount of subscriptions of the well wishers.

"I am shocked at the untrue and baseless allegations of Shamsul Huda Chowdhury whom I helped become the Speaker, Mizan Chowdhury

Recognising Huda as one of the founders of the party, Mizan Chowdhury said "He is ignoring and dishonouring the founder father who is now in jail."

The JP leader who is not officially using the post of "acting chairman' because of a court order said in reply to a question that they had no talks with the government about sending Ershad into exile.

About the amendment of the party constitution, he said that the central committee of the party decided to defer the matter until the release of the jailed party chief. A draft copy was however prepared for possible amendments, he added.

Marxist legislator, criticized the government for its economic policies, which he said were being dictated by the World Bank and the International Monetary

Buta Singh, a senior legislator of the Congress Party, told Lok Sabha that Mukhopadhyaya does not realize the whole world is marveling at the recovery of India's economy 'from the deep depths of a dark well to the height it has achieved now." He said his party would never adopt a Communist economic pro-

Rao has spent his two years in power reforming India's closed economy and has succeeded in attracting foreign in vestment.

He also has been trying to suppress the Hindu extremists who destroved the mosque in city of Ayodhya on December 6. setting off communal riots that killed 2,000 people across India

expected to introduce legislation aimed at making it more difficult for groups such as the Bharatiya Janata Party to use religious issues during their campaigns. If he loses, he will be asked

If Rao wins the vote, he is

to form a caretaker government until another political party can form a coalition that wins a confidence vote in the legisla-

#### Fresh row over Bofors scandal

NEW DELHI, July 26: Indian opposition members walked out of Parliament's Upper House today over new disclosures relat ing to alleged bribery in a controversial arms deal with the Swedish firm Bofors, reports

The walkout followed 30 minutes of noisy wrangling between ruling Congress (I) Party and opposition MPs, who insisted on a government statement over the payoff scandal and were turned down.

### US dollars

From page 1 col 7

also release foreign exchange in excess of the present limit of personal travel quota in genuine cases against supporting documents in favour of actual requirement.

From now on, Bangladeshi nationals working abroad and holding foreign currency accounts with authorised dealers will be free to remit balances out of their accounts to any country irrespective of their country of residence. Until now they could remit to the country of their residence only.

Bangladesh nationals working abroad, on their permanent return to Bangladesh, may now continue to maintain their foreign currency accounts held with the authorised dealers as long as they want, according to the sources.

The authorised dealers are permitted to issue internationally acceptable credit cards to the intending Bangladeshi travellers in lieu of their admissible travel quota, the sources added.

The government also decided that the additional one per cent interest rate over Euro-dollar deposit rate now being offered on non-resident foreign currency deposit accounts will no longer be admissible.

to provide the additional interest rate to encourage foreign currency deposits. However, banking circle

The government earlier used

feels that this new order will discourage such deposits. The present practice of ex-

tending counter-cover by the Bangladesh Bank in different currencies against forward contracts entered into by the authorised dealers with their customers also came under review. It was decided that from now on the Bangladesh Bank will extend such counter-cover in US dollar only. Premium or discount of this counter-cover shall be determined by the Bangladesh Bank at commercial

Detailed guidelines in this regard will be circulated by the Bangladesh Bank shortly, the sources said.

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elitism and enlightenment. The major powers seem to

People who are fighting the

There is another worrisome aspect of the latest flare-up. Many see, in this conflict, a po-

place. Even the guards at the gate were unable to give details on the hanging. One however, remarked, 'It is better not too ask too much about govern-

ment secrets ... afterall every-

one cares for his job. Munir killed his wife on April 8, 1989 near village Mizimizi under Demra thana while returning from Cox's Bazar and Chittagong after a belated hon-

Magistrate on April 27 that he repeatedly stabbed and killed his wife to maintain relation with his paramour Khuku. Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Md Strajul Islam after more than one year of investigation and trial hearings convicted

Munir and his paramour Khuku

He confessed to the

for murdering Rima and sentenced both of them to death in May 1990. During he trial, besides Khuku business associates of Munir, Salim and Liakat, his friend Deen Mohammad, employee Mostaque and a nurse Minati Dutta with whom Munir reportedly had an affair, were

also arrested by police during

was convicted and sentenced to the investigation. death for murdering Rima, The High Court after an apdaughter of martyred journalist peal upheld the verdict against Nizamuddin Ahmed who was Munir but acquitted Khuku of killed during the country's the charges of abatement and

ordered her release. On June 20 last the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court rejected Munir's review petition and upheld the death sentence.

under constitutional provisions also rejected the mercy petitions of Munir and his parents early Munir's case was as much publicised as that of Dr Ehteshamuddin Iqbal, who was

right to commute the sentence

The President who has the

banged for murdering his wife Saleha in the city more than a A number of organisations including Amnesty International appealed for commuting the sentence but some other women

## his execution.

organisations campaigned for

Directive From Page 1 Col 5

water and medicare as and when required. The cabinet directed the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake agri-rehabilitation programmes for providing seeds and other agri-inputs and the Ministry of Finance to make necessary arrangements for

It also approved the proposal of the Ministry of Land for amendment of The Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property Ordinance-1982 (Ordinance No. 2 of

According to the amend-

ment, the compensation for ac-

providing agri-loan to affected

quisition of land would be fixed carried out by the jail authoriat 50 per cent higher than the ties to avoid unwanted last market-value of the property in consideration of the compul-From early Monday, strict sory nature of acquisition and security measures were taken to ensure justice to the afat the Central Jail as senior offected people. ficials were seen visiting the