

Dhaka ratifies sci-tech accord with Islamabad

By Special Correspondent
in June 1992.

Bangladesh has ratified the bilateral agreement of cooperation on science and technology signed with Pakistan last year. The agreement is the third of its kind Dhaka has signed so far. Previously, Bangladesh concluded two similar agreements with China and India, in 1978 and 1982 respectively.

The agreement with Pakistan, signed on 10 August 1992 in Islamabad during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit, will be effective for five years from the date of exchange of notes between the two governments, which is expected soon.

The purpose of the accord is to promote cooperation between the two countries relating to scientific and technological information, industrial research and also with regard to electronics, silicon and food processing technology.

Under the agreement, Bangladesh and Pakistan will undertake joint research projects of common interest while exchange of visits by the scientists and technologists of the two countries will also be arranged. The agreement provides holding of seminars and workshops on scientific issues jointly by Dhaka and Islamabad.

After the completion of each term, the agreement will be automatically renewed for another five years unless annulled by any side with a year's notice.

Bangladesh signed her first bilateral cooperation pact on science and technology in 1978 with China which was renewed

A protocol initiated under it provided opportunities for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, livestock, fishery, poultry, forestry, medical science, nuclear science and technology, jute production and biotechnology.

Sources in the ministry concerned said 90 per cent of the programmes under the first protocol with China have already been implemented while the second protocol is expected to be concluded before the end of the year.

Another cooperation agreement on science and technology between Bangladesh and India was signed in 1982 followed by a protocol in July 1991. The protocol provides for exchange of scientific and technical information as well as exchange of visits by scientists, researchers, experts and students of the two countries.

The provision for joint studies to explore natural resources and holding of joint seminars on scientific and technological matters have also been incorporated in the protocol. However, the protocol is yet to reach the implementation stage.

Bangladesh has cultural agreements with some 30 countries most of which also provide for cooperation in science and technology. But, the provisions under the existing cultural agreements have hardly contributed to promoting bilateral scientific and technological cooperation, informed sources said.

Rao to enforce caste-based job quota plan

NEW DELHI, Sept 9: Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's government has announced it will enforce a controversial caste-based job quota plan that sparked a rash of student suicides when it was unveiled in 1990, reports AFP.

After keeping the issue on the back-burner for more than two years, the Congress (I) Party administration said it was accepting the plan reserving nearly half of government employment for 'socially backward' sections.

A notification released by the department of personnel increased by 27 per cent to 49.5 per cent with immediate effect.

Pabna JCD gheraos DC's office

PABNA, Sept 9: Activists of the ruling BNP's student front gheraoed the office of the Deputy Commissioner here today demanding withdrawal of four cases against 39 members of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), reports UNB.

The JCD activists brought out a procession from the Pabna Edward College campus and staged demonstration in front of the DC office today to press for withdrawal of the cases.

JCD district unit president Sheikh Tuhi, general secretary Mosabbir Hossain Shanju were among those who addressed the demonstrators.

Pragati Insurance

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should be no difference of value and standard between the shares of the entrepreneurs and the public, therefore selling of the primary shares at a premium to the public is undesirable," the letter pointed out.

It also said, "Thus the part of our letter referred above (issued on 14.8.93) which approved the selling of Tk 3,05,00,000 to the public at the rate of 50 per cent premium has been suspended."

The SEC also requested Pragati to correct the original prospectus and immediately publish that in a daily newspaper. It said, the corrected prospectus must offer the public the shares at Tk 100 each.

According to the prospectus of Pragati, published on 22.7.93, 5000 ordinary shares of Tk 100 each have been issued as subscribed by the incumbent managing director of Pragati Insurance A K M Rafiqul Islam.

Observers questioned how the insurance company was allowed to increase the paid-up

capital, by Tk 10 lakh to Tk 6.10 crore, in apparent violation of the insurance rules.

According to the insurance rules, all companies at the time of starting business fulfilled the conditions of the law that says Tk 3 crore of the paid-up capital would be fully subscribed by the sponsors. Subsequently, if any company sold shares in excess of Tk 3 crore, it may be regarded as violating the condition of registration by the Controller of Insurance.

In the middle of last month, the government had ordered 14 insurance companies to issue long-overdue public subscriptions, as required by the Insurance Act, by October 31 next.

The Controller of Insurance, in a letter, asked the 14 companies to conform with the regulations and float public shares by the end of October.

The law lays down that 50 per cent of the paid-up capital of an insurance company has to be allotted for subscription of public shares and offered within three years of its inception.

Izetbegovic rebuffed

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don't think that the United States can simply impose an element like that," he told reporters in an Oval office picture-taking session at the start of his meeting.

Izetbegovic said after his meeting that Clinton told him the United States was not ready for 'unilateral' air strikes but that the strikes were not excluded by NATO.

The United States has urged Bosnian Serbs and Croats to yield more territory to the Muslims in talks over partitioning the republic which were suspended last week in Geneva.

Izetbegovic said he felt confident the United States would use its 'big influence' to ensure the Muslims get a 'fair map' in the negotiations.

The peacekeeping force would be used to enforce a peace agreement which Clinton said must be fair and not forced on the Muslims, who have lost ground constantly during the 17-month civil war.

Senior officials said the administration's insistence that US troops deployed in Bosnia come under NATO command was due to problems encountered with the UN force in Somalia.

man Mike McCurry stressed that Washington would have to know more about the final peace settlement before the exact nature and extent of the US commitment could be determined.

McCurry stressed the US view that Bosnian Muslims should return to the bargaining table with Serbs and Croats. He acknowledged that Muslims face 'grim choices' in deciding whether to accept the peace agreement being negotiated in Geneva, or continue their civil war.

Clinton said last week that air strikes were an option he would consider if conditions worsen in Bosnia.

Abiola returns home Sunday

LAGOS, Sept 9: Moshood Abiola, the man widely believed to have won Nigeria's annulled presidential election, will return home on Sunday from a prolonged tour during which he has been lobbying for foreign support, his deputy said. "We decided that it is time he should return home," Baba Gana Kingibe, Abiola's running mate in the June 12 election told Reuters today.



BNP chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the newly-elected leaders of the Dhaka City BNP's labour unit at Sugandha yesterday. BNP Secy General and LGPD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder is also seen. —PID photo

Israel-PLO recognition

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PLO covenant that refer to the destruction of Israel.

—Establishing a process that will solve in a peaceful manner any problems that might arise.

President Bill Clinton said on Thursday that Rabin had confirmed to him that Israel and the PLO had reached agreement on mutual recognition.

"I called to congratulate him on the agreement reached today," Clinton told reporters on arrival in Cleveland, where he was promoting his plan to reform the US government bureaucracy.

"I'm extremely happy," Clinton said, "I hope they can keep this process going."

Clinton said that if the PLO has renounced terrorism and met other US conditions, "then we will resume our dialogue with them and go on from there."

He did not say if that meant the United States would give formal recognition to the PLO. He also did not say if the parties would be ready to sign the plan in a ceremony that he has offered to host at the White House on Monday.

But in another indication that a signing might occur Monday, Israel's delegation to the peace talks in Washington has decided to stay over the weekend rather than return home Thursday as planned.

In Washington, Israeli delegation said an agreement granting autonomy to the Palestinians will be signed here on Monday.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official said the accord was worked out between two Israeli and two PLO officials at the Bristol Hotel in Paris.

The Israeli side consisted of Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and legal adviser Yoel Zinger. Ahmed Qureij, a or Abu Alaa, headed the Palestinian team.

Arafat and two other top PLO officials participated in the telephone negotiations from Tunis.

The PLO's ruling Executive Committee discussed the plan for four and a half hours earlier

Thursday, and Arafat appeared to have the necessary majority approval from nine of the 13 committee members present.

The sticking point had been the clause about the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands, which has wracked the occupied lands since 1987.

A senior PLO official said a compromise would have Arafat announce that "the PLO will encourage the Palestinians in the occupied territories to work for reconstruction and will urge them to avoid violence."

The PLO had balked at wording proposed by Israel that would have read as a call to end the uprising against more than a quarter century of Israeli domination.

Some PLO members and other Palestinians have criticised the plan for ignoring key issues such as Israeli settle-

ments in the occupied territories, the status of Jerusalem and the future of refugees.

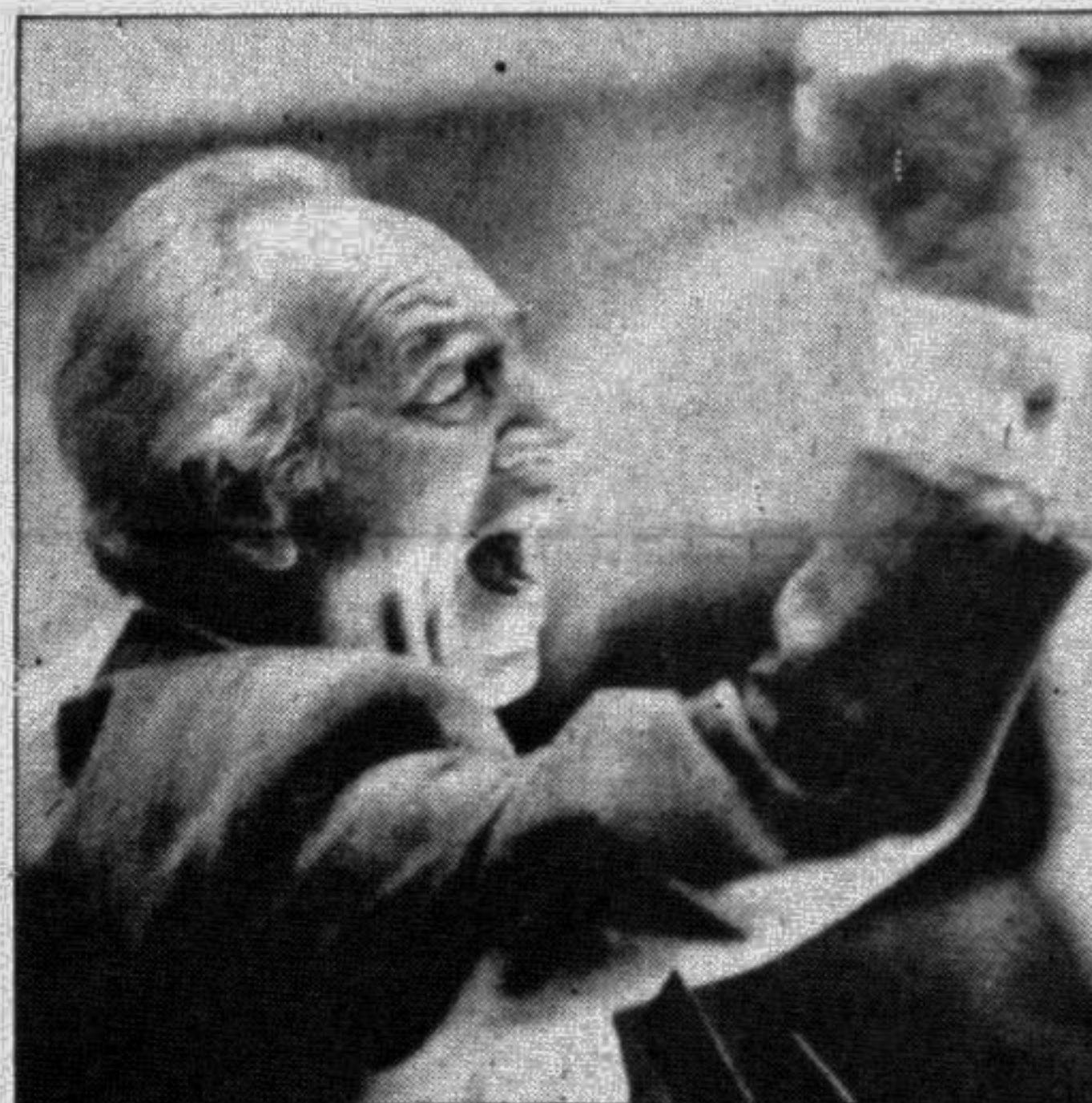
The agreement for self-rule could then be signed later this month, probably before Sept 20, the official said.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan government Thursday reiterated support for the PLO as the sole representative of Palestinians.

"Any steps taken by PLO in the peace process will be in the interests of Palestinians," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters in Islamabad.

Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao has welcomed moves by Israel and the PLO to recognise each other.

Rao, in a message to Arafat released today, also said that India hoped the peace plan aimed at giving self-rule to Palestinians would be a success.



Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres raising his fist while reacting to opposition criticism during a debate in the Knesset (Israeli parliament) in Jerusalem yesterday on the government's nearly finalised agreement with the PLO regarding self-rule for the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho. —AFP photo

Mitford nurses on a rampage

By SSMCH Correspondent

A group of agitated nurses of the Mitford Hospital ransacked the director's office in the hospital premises yesterday.

The nurses were on strike demanding withdrawal of a decision to relocate the nurses' sickroom which they have been occupying since 1991.

According to Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) sources, Crescent Jute Mills exported some 450 bales of jute goods to a party in Japan in May last. Later it was proved that the goods were of low quality and off-size, they said.

The Japanese importers brought the matter to the notice of the Bangladesh authorities through their embassy.

Oli seeks tribal leaders' help to repatriate refugees

RANGAMATI, Sept 9: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed called upon the tribal leaders of Rangamati Hill District to wholeheartedly contribute towards immediate repatriation of the tribal refugees from the Indian state of Tripura, reports UNB.

He was addressing a meeting with the tribal leaders of the Rangamati Hill District held at the conference room of the Local Government Council Wednesday.

The Minister who is also the convener of the special committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts said the government of Begum Khaleda Zia had shown every sincerity to put an end to the ongoing state of affair in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Police said the accused persons, during a recent drive, seized 400 smuggled Indian sares worth about Tk 80,000 at Khuthirhat village. But without depositing the sares to the police station they allegedly misappropriated the entire lot.

23 staff of Crescent Jute Mills suspended

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 9: Eight officers and 15 employees, including the General Manager and Deputy General Manager of the Crescent Jute Mills, Khulna were suspended yesterday for negligence of duty.

The suspended officials are: General Manager Abul Mansur Gohar Mustafiz, Deputy General Manager Gohar Mustafiz, Manager Production Kutubuddin, Manager Quality Control Hafizur Rahman, Deputy Managers Sheikh Abdul Mannan and Ataharuddin, Assistant Manager Abul Khair Bhuiyan, Production Officers Mukhtar Hossain and Abdullah Al-Mahmud and 15 other employees.

When contacted, a high BJMC official confirmed the report but declined to give details.

Corruption

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Anwarul Islam. A group of AL central leaders visiting northern parts of the country with their 'Save the Peasant — Save the Country' campaign today arrived at Tinbigha Corridor, Dahagram and Angapota enclaves, Patgram and Kurigram.

Samad Azad said the government had failed to ensure production in industries and thus shattered the national economy and also blamed it for failing to play 'any role' in developing the lot of commonman.

Referring to the Indemnity Ordinance, he accused the government of hatching conspiracy not to pass the ordinance repeal bill moved in parliament. "Two types of law can not exist in the country," he maintained.

BMA to campaign for increased health budget

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), the forum of the country's 22,000 registered doctors, will launch a fresh campaign from today to demand increased budgetary allocation for the health sector.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital Thursday, BMA secretary general Dr Gazi Abdul Haque announced that their movement would also be directed at drumming up support in favour of their 21-point charter of demands.

The demands include expanding the present health-care services, setting up more hospitals in the country and appointment of health professionals, balanced staffing pattern and promotion, upgrading the salary structure of the thana-level health officials, a proper appointment and transfer policy, and establishment of private medical colleges only after fulfilling the necessary prerequisites.

BMA president Dr M A Majed, treasurer Dr Fakhrul Islam Chowdhury, vice president Dr A B Bhuiyan, joint secretary Dr Rafiq Chowdhury, organising secretary Dr Mainul Hasan Sadik and other leaders were present at the press conference, held at the BMA Bhawan in Tophkhana.

Dr Haque informed newsmen that at present there was only one doctor for every 5200 people.

Bashanti Guhathakurta dead

Bashanti Guhathakurta, widow of martyred intellectual Dr Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta of Dhaka University, died at a Calcutta nursing home yesterday morning, family sources said, reports BSS.

Bashanti Guhathakurta, 72, has been suffering from acute liver cirrhosis and was shifted to a Calcutta nursing home from Dhaka recently. She was in coma for last 20 days.

UNB adds: Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday condoled the death of Bashanti Guha Thakurta.

In a condolence message Hasina said Bashanti in her long teaching career established herself as a kind and selfless teacher and earned great respect from all.

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

BNP may delay

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position of the committees but reiterated that incumbent Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder will continue in his post for the time being.

In a post-council press briefing on September 3 Barrister Talukder had said that the committees would be announced within a day or two.

But he told The Daily Star at the party's Naya Paltan central office yesterday that he had no inkling about the developments regarding formation of the committees.

He, however, said that he would hold soon talks with the chairperson and expected that the committee would be announced in the near future. He did not elaborate.

JP (N) body

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but the source said that Mahbubur Rahman has been assigned to work on the draft amendments readied earlier by Sheikh Shaheedul Islam, another of Ershad's ministers.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shamsul Huda Chowdhury last night confirmed the press conference and said all preparations have been completed to float the Jatiya Party (Nationalist).

He, however, said that he would not be the convener of the party.

"I am giving way to someone who will be accepted by everybody in the JP," Huda said over telephone.

The dissidents have charged that the present leadership, headed by acting chairman Mizan Chowdhury, is autocratic and leaning towards the Awami League.

Saifur

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borrowers." He said, high rate of interest is not only frightening the investors inside the country but it is also discouraging potential investors from abroad.

Referring to the healthy investment climate prevailing in the country, the Finance Minister urged the bankers to take the opportunity and come forward for investment credit particularly for industrial financing. He also urged the overseas private banks to use a reasonable part of their credit programmes for industrial investment.

Governor of the Bangladesh Bank Khurshid Alam and Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed were present in the meeting.

The Midnight File

Pak soldier killed in Somali clash

MOGADISHU, Sept 9: One Pakistani soldier was killed and eight other United Nations soldiers were wounded today in clashes in Mogadishu with Somali militias who suffered heavy casualties, UN military sources said. Fighting erupted when a large force of American and Pakistani UN troops moved into the October 21st road area of the city, a hotbed of support for fugitive warlord Mohamed Farah Aided, and attempted to clear street barricades. The UN troops came under heavy fire from a sizeable force, United Nations military spokesman Major David Stockwell told reporters, says Reuter.

Ukrainian PM resigns

KIEV, Sept 9: Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma resigned today, saying attacks on his policies made it impossible for him to introduce market reforms in post-Soviet Ukraine. Kuchma's departure cast Ukraine's institutions further into confusion after months of paralysis caused by power struggles and indecision. "There is no legislative or other real possibility to halt the negative factors in the economy and unjustified accusations are still being made against the government," Kuchma said in a statement to his cabinet, reports Reuter.

GF signature campaign

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members of the executive council of the new party. The adjourned meeting held at the Baily Road with party president Dr Kamal Hossain in the chair, divided all national functions into 17 areas.

Portfolios

Party chief Dr Kamal got two portfolios — Foreign and International Affairs and Administration — besides leadership and coordination.

Other leaders of the President who got different duties are as follows:

Pankaj Bhattacharya — Employment and Poverty Alleviation and Health, Population, Planning and Social Welfare.

Ziaul Haq — Industries and Labour.

Barrister Amirul Islam — Rule of Law, Law and Order and Judiciary, and Local Government.

Advocate Zahurul Islam — Agriculture, Water Resources and Environment (Rural Economy).

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik — Political Affairs.

Abul Mal Abdul Muhiit — Financial Management.

Begum Nurjahan Murshid — Education and Technology, and Women Community.

Maj Gen (rtd) Khalilur Rahman — National Security.

Mattur Rahman — Commerce.

Shamsuddoha, MP — Energy, Power, Mineral Resources and Environment, and Communications and Transport.

Shahjahan Siraj, MP — Rural Economy and Environment.

Treasurer — AU Ahmed. A financial committee will be under him. He will control party fund.

The meeting also distributed duties on the members of the Council of Secretaries. The name of the secretaries and their duties.

Shahed Ali — Information,

Statistics, Public Relations and Cultural Groups.

Maulana Ahmedur Rahman Azmi — Agriculture, Farm Workers and Labour.

Mozharul Haq Baki — Public Relations and Political and News Media.

Mafizul Islam Kamal — Education and Sports.

Engineer Abul Kashem — Youth Community.

Mortuza Khan — Publication and Publicity.

Nazrul Islam Khan — Social Welfare.

Mostafa Mohsin Montu — Public Relations, Party Level and Meetings.

Nurul Islam Nahid — Office Administration.

Enayetur Rahman — Research and Planning.

Commander Abdur Rouf — Training.

Bagum Rabeya Siraj — Women's Affairs.

Benazir: Murtaza

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ber Benazir's struggle against the military dictatorship of General Ziaul Haq, after the overthrow of her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977. Z A Bhutto was hanged two years later on a political murder conspiracy charge.

Murtaza, along with his younger brother Shahnawaz, fled into exile after the military coup and later became the leader of the Al-Zulfikar Organisation (AZO), a shadowy group based first in Kabul and later in Damascus.

The AZO gained attention after its alleged involvement in the 1981 hijacking of a Pakistan international airlines plane to Kabul and Damascus.

The organisation was formed to oppose Zia's military dictatorship. The Bhutto brothers became its leaders.

Benazir's youngest brother Shahnawaz Bhutto died in unexplained circumstances in his apartment in Cannes, France, in 1985.

Special Drive for Gas Line Disconnection

With a view to realising the arrears, the special drive for gas line disconnection of all defaulting consumers, including govt & autonomous establishments, has been started from 31-7-93. In this first special drive of 1993-94 financial year, total 1699 gas connections have been disconnected up to 8-9-93.

All esteemed consumers are requested to pay the arrear gas bills immediately and show the payment receipt to the disconnection squad on the place of gas use. On production of the bill payment receipt by the disconnected consumer at the concerned zone/office of the company by 5-00 pm on the day, steps will be taken for immediate restoration of his line.

If the reconnection is not taken within 3 (three) months of disconnection, the gas line will be permanently disconnected with cancellation of gas supply contract.

Pay the gas bill in time and abstain from any sort of illegal gas use.



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