

## Debating can help build better society: Sircar

By Staff Correspondent

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday stressed the need for practising debating to establish a just society and called on the students to make academic debating part of their lives.

Speaking as chief guest at the country's first national debate festival — 1994 at the Dhaka University TSC auditorium, he said healthy debates help build the image of a society.

Chaired by the president of the Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) Hasan Ahmad Chowdhury Kiran, the function was addressed by Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, moderator of the DUDS Dr Si Khan and president of the Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) Birupaksha Pal.

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said, debate is a strong medium of communication and it is a part of the learning process for human beings.

He suggested that debates should be included in the syllabi and curricula at the school and college levels and called for a national consensus in this regard.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed called for patronising the debaters. He said steps would be taken soon to remove session jams and violence from the Dhaka University.

About 1100 debaters from one hundred debating soci-

ties and clubs are participating in the three-day festival jointly organised by the DUDS and BDF.

After the morning's inaugural session, hundreds of students from different educational institutions of the country enjoyed a lively mock parliamentary debate on "The need for introducing punitive laws for control of population" participated by members of DUDS and BDF.

Two debating groups, divided into Treasury and Opposition benches argued about the pros and cons of such a bill, quite in the manner of seasoned parliamentarians.

The debate was chaired, as the 'speaker', by the Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam while DUDS member Syed Ansar Mohammad Tofael defended the motion as the 'prime minister.' The role of the leader of the opposition was played by BDC member Mahbuba Khanum Mukta.

Anwar Sadat, Syeda Firoza and Tarvir Hasan spoke in favour of the motion. Those who opposed it were Aminur Rahman, Ahsan Habib and Didit Lal Dey.

In the evening a seminar on "The necessity to organise a debate" was held at the same venue. It was participated by students of the universities of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar, Sylhet, Rajshahi and different colleges.

## Japanese boat purchase case

### Ershad ignored govt recommendation: PW-2

The Special Judge's Court Dhaka was told yesterday that deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad disregarded the recommendations of a government committee formed to examine the specifications of the relief boats procured from Japan, reports BSS.

The former president, after turning down the recommendations of the committee set up by himself, had asked for the acceptance of a separate recommendation regarding specifications of the boats.

It has been found that the specifications recommended by Ershad were actually those of the Marubeni Corporation which supplied the boats, the court was told.

The Special Judge's Court trying Ershad in the Special Case 19 of 1993 was recording the deposition of prosecution witness (PW) No. 2 GKSM Shahjahan Amin, a retired Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation (Relief and Administration). Amin started making his depositions yesterday.

The court was adjourned till August 22.

Kinoyama, an employee of the Marubeni Corporation who has remained absconding, is the other accused in this case, better known as the Japanese Boat Case.

Senior Special Judge Abdus Salam presided over the court.

A letter from the Marubeni Corporation in late 1988 set the ball rolling in the boat procurement deal under a Japanese grant.

Making his deposition, PW-2 said although the letter was addressed to the Relief minister, it was actually sent to the accused—the then president Ershad who marked it to the Secretary of the ERD.

### Paracetamol syrup 'Panamol' banned

Government has banned production and marketing of a Paracetamol syrup brand named "Panamol", manufactured by the Panasia Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, with immediate effect, reports BSS.

The government has also suspended the products already in the market for containing poisonous di-ethyleneglycol and directed the company to withdraw all its Paracetamol syrup from the market through publication of advertisements in the national dailies, according to a press release of the Directorate of Drug Administration.

Besides, other lawful actions against the company are being taken for using an unapproved raw material which is harmful to public health.

The Drug Administration also requested the physicians to refrain from prescribing, the druggists from trading and the people from using this banned Paracetamol syrup.

It has also requested the people having this particular drug in their possession to deposit it to the nearest office of the Drug Administration or to the police station.

### Chhatra Samaj declares Bari unwanted on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

The Samprodayikota Birodh Chhatra Samaj yesterday front of the office of Dr Ershadul Bari on the Dhaka University campus.

Dr Bari reportedly had supported the idea of not playing the national anthem at the first Senate meeting of the National University on July 19.

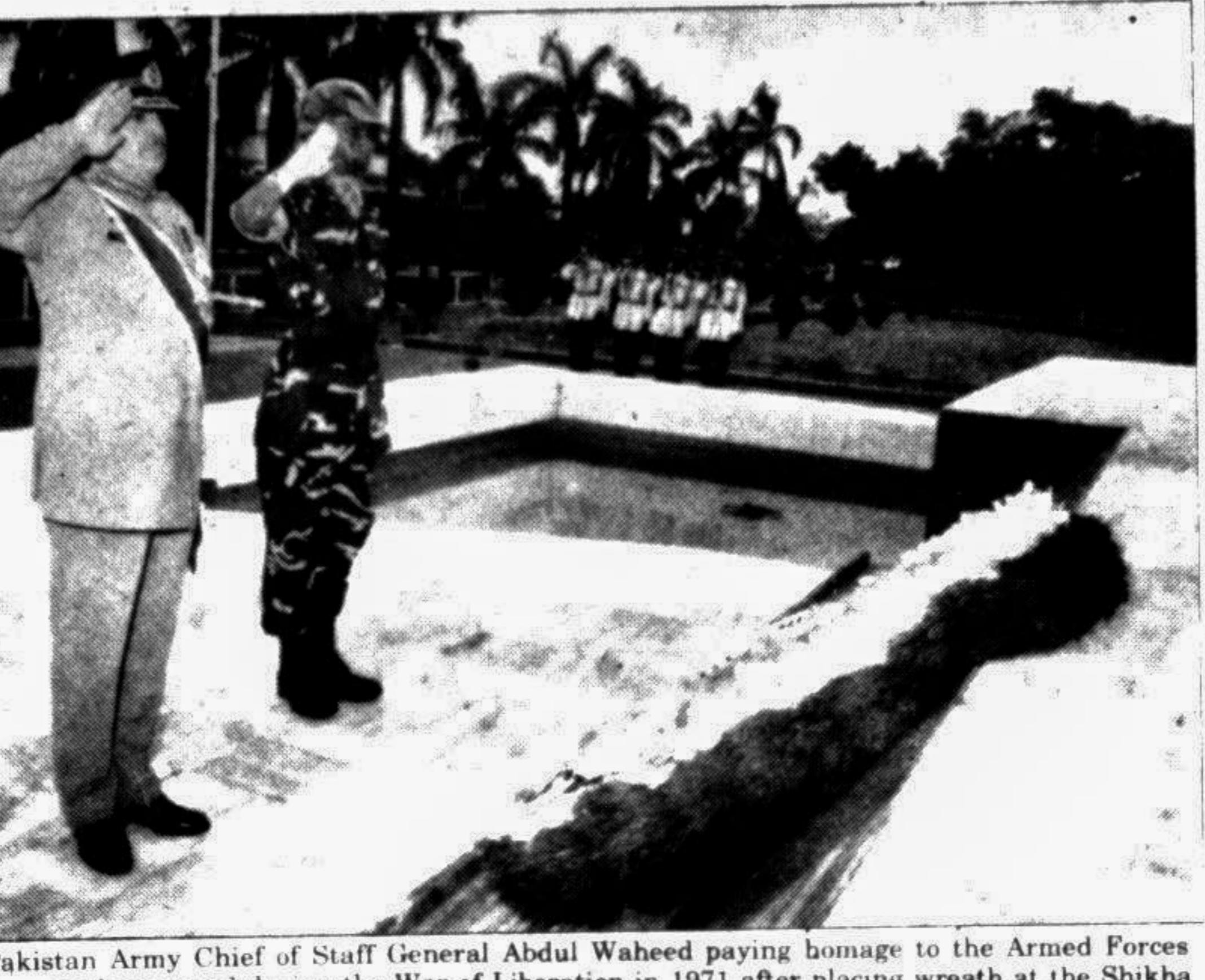
The Chhatra Samaj leaders also declared Dr Bari, Dean of the Faculty of Law, DU, an 'unwanted' person on the campus who was not there at the time.

Witnesses added that students and police chased each other at about 1:15 pm when the police on duty tried to disperse the demonstrators.

Later, a procession of the Chhatra League (M-II) from the Arts Faculty area joined the demonstration organised by the Chhatra Samaj.

**Editor : Mahfuz Anam**

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Pakistan Army Chief of Staff General Abdul Waheed paying homage to the Armed Forces personnel martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971 after placing wreath at the Shikha Aniran (Eternal Flame) at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. — ISPR photo

### Pak army chief in city

The chief of Army Staff of Pakistan General Abdul Waheed arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a four-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He is accompanied by his wife and a four-member delegation.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, Begum Sophia Khan and other senior army officers received the distinguished guests at the Zia International Airport.

Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Kemal and other High Commission officials were also present at the airport.

Later, General Waheed visited the Army Headquarters and called on General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan there. He stayed with the army chief for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Earlier, on his arrival at the Dhaka Cantonment, General Waheed placed a wreath at the Shikha Aniran — the eternal flame — and paid homage to the members of the armed forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971.

The country had to suffer a loss of Taka 32,90,80,854.70 because of awarding the contract to Marubeni, Amin told the court.

(Economic Resources Division of the Planning Ministry with a comment 'Please examine and contact'.

Several documents marked as exhibits were later submitted to the court.

While going through the documents PW-2 Amin told the court that Ershad gave two directives to the Relief Secretary asking him to arrange procurement of relief boats and engines from the Japanese manufacturers under a limited quotation. Four Japanese companies participated in the tender and Marubeni quoted the second lowest price.

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During the incomplete deposition, conducted by Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzak Khan, the PW-2 said the 2.5 billion yen grant extended to procure the boats were 'untied' meaning that the boats could have been purchased from any OECD (Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development) and developing countries except Bangladesh. But because of Ershad's directive, tenders were sought only from the Japanese manufacturers.

He further said that though the Relief Ministry had recommended steel body craft, the accused favoured fibre-glass body.

Yusuf Hossain Humayun, defence counsel for Ershad, raised objections during recording of the depositions. He mostly objected to the recording of details of some of the exhibits.

Khan was assisted by Special Public Prosecutor Asrafuddin Ahmed.

### Delhi to withdraw troops from Hazratbal

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: The Indian government today pledged to withdraw troops surrounding Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine, a rare gesture conceding a demand by separatist rebels, reports AP.

The announcement was made in Srinagar by human rights activists who had negotiated with Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao for the release of Yasin Malik, leader of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front.

Malik, a heart patient, began fast on Thursday and refused to take lifesaving drugs until troops were withdrawn from the Hazratbal mosque in Srinagar. He was arrested and flown to New Delhi as his condition deteriorated, but still refused medicine.

On Tuesday, Malik was released and flown to Srinagar in a government aircraft. He later addressed a news conference along with Kuldip Nayar and Rajinder Sachar, eminent human rights activists.

The prime minister assured us that the bunkers around the Hazratbal shrine will be removed within seven days, said Nayar, a retired journalist and former ambassador to Britain.

The Hazratbal shrine was the scene of a 32-day standoff last October between Muslim guerrillas and security forces besieging them. The militants finally surrendered.

### 30 held in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 2: A group of 30 people, including 8 young women and 15 children, were taken into custody by police here today, reports UNB.

Some of them told police that they were brought from Bara Maheshkhali with a promise of job abroad, including Pakistan, on high salary.

Police suspect two traffickers are in the group who were being interrogated.

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### JCD sweeps SSMC polls

By SSMCH Correspondent

Jatiyatabdil Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student front of the ruling BNP, swept the Sir Salimullah Medical College students' union polls held yesterday.

JCD candidates won all 21 posts of the working committee.

Hasan Zafar Rifat and Saiful Islam Munshi were elected vice president and general secretary respectively. While Rifat bagged 535 votes Munshi polled 559. There were 1141 registered voters.

Prof Emdadul Haque, who conducted the polls as election commissioner, said about 85 per cent of the votes were cast.

### Col Malek

From Page 1 Col 8

ween November 9, 1987 and September 30, 1989 at a price of Taka 7,800/- each, causing an expenditure of Taka 4.68 crore. In this way, it was alleged, Col. Malek had abused his official powers and indulged in corruption.

After Col. Malek went out of office, 3000 lights were procured by his successor at the DCC in January 1990 through competitive tenders at a rate of Taka 5,825/- per light.

It was alleged that Col. Malek, through the deal, had obtained pecuniary advantage for himself to the tune of Taka 1,18,50,000.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, on receipt of the charge sheet against Col. Malek, had sent the case records to the court of the Senior Special Judge, Dhaka, and the Sessions Judge duly framed charges on November 12, 1991 against Col. Malek. Deposition by the prosecution witness began in February 23, 1992.

A quashment petition was filed by Col. Malek and the High Court issued a rule on May 3, 1992. The matter was taken up for hearing on July 31, 1994 and the High Court discharged the rule yesterday.

Senior Advocate Abdul Malek and Advocate Azizul Huq appeared for the petitioner.

### Ajker Kagoj

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Ershad in the arms case in which he was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in jail by a special court in 1992.

The Ajker Kagoj report, quoting the Attorney General, said the government will seek a transfer of Ershad's case to another court in apprehension that it would not get justice in the present court.

The Attorney General was further quoted as having said that the government wanted hearing of both the bail petition and review of the judgement on the same day and accordingly the date of hearing was set for November 24. But suddenly it was changed and the bail petition was taken up first. This has caused apprehension in the government.

Before taking up the bail petition for hearing, Justice Naim Uddin read out the newspaper report and enquired from the Attorney General if he had said so.

"Every word of the report is correct.... I'm not a coward that I shall deny what I have said," Aminul Haq submitted before the court.

Earlier, the Attorney General submitted a petition to the bench praying for transfer of the hearing of Ershad's bail petition to another court.

The learned judges adjourned the court for two weeks and kept a decision on the submission of the Attorney General pending.

### 40 doctors

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among these professors are: Dr Dewan Akram Reza Choudhury, professor of surgery of Rangpur Medical College, and Dr Asia Akhter Khaton, professor of gynaecology of Rajshahi Medical College.

The suspended officers of the Tongi hospital include the superintendent of the hospital, Dr Md Serajul Islam, consultant of surgery Dr Dewan Ahsan, gynaecologist Dr Shabnam Ferdousi, paediatrician consultant Dr Md Rafiqul Islam, Ophthalmology consultant Biplob Chandra and resident medical officer Dr Khanda Abu Azam.

Disciplinary proceedings are being started against these officers suspended on the basis of the report of the vigilance team, the ministry sources said.

Besides, the vigilance team, formed earlier last month, also paid surprise visits to several thana health complexes and found a number of doctors absent without any authorization. These doctors have also been suspended and departmental proceedings are being drawn against them, the sources added.

The demands include taking security measures, and providing facilities at the newly started bus terminal at Sunamganj town.

However, further details about the suspensions were not available.

### The Midnight File

#### Gambia's ex-ministers freed

BANJUL, Aug 2: Gambia's new military rulers today freed all the former government ministers who were detained after the July 22 coup, witnesses said. Earlier, Finance Minister Bakary Darbo, who fled with ousted President Sir Dawda Jawara after the coup bloodless coup in the former British colony, resumed work. The ex-ministers went straight to their offices to formally hand over files to their successors named by the new head of state Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh. Local journalists were invited to observe the brief ceremonies, reports Reuter.

#### Haitian leader shot

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Aug 2: The leader of a small political party in Haiti who supports the return of exiled leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide was shot and wounded Monday, his wife told a radio station here today. Reynold Georges, leader of the Alliance for the Liberation of Haiti, was shot in the eastern district of Delmas, apparently from a police car, the wife said. But she said would was not life-threatening, reports AFP.

MOSCOW, Aug 2: Opposition forces declared Tuesday they had overthrown the president of Chechnya, a breakaway region in southern Russia, news agencies reported.

It was not immediately possible to confirm the report, based on a statement ITAR-TASS and Interfax received from Chechnya's opposition Provisional Council.

Spokeswoman for Chechnya's parliament and information ministry, reached by telephone in the Chechen capital, Grozny, denied the report and said President Dzhokhar Dudayev remained firmly in power.

The whereabouts of Dudayev were not immediately known, however. The former Soviet bomber pilot has led the tiny mountainous republic in its independence drive from Moscow since being elected in 1991.

For weeks there have been reports of fighting between Dudayev's forces and his opponents. The Russian government issued a statement last Friday vowing to protect the lives of Russian citizens living on Chechen territory.

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