

Emergency out, rights in

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The nation has its fundamental rights reinstated today after around two years as an ordinance promulgated by the president Monday ends the state of emergency.

Another ordinance decreed the same day repeals the Emergency Powers Ordinance 2007 and Emergency Powers Rules 2007.

The laws were proclaimed to enforce the state of emergency declared on January 11 last year amid political turmoil over the ninth parliamentary polls then scheduled for January 22.

The revoking ordinance carries some saving clauses meant to be helpful to the anti-graft measures taken under the emergency rules.

With the departure of

emergency rule, articles 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 42 of the constitution get back into operation. They concern the freedom of movement, assembly, association, thought and

conscience, speech, profession or occupation, and rights to property.

From today, political parties and candidates will carry out electioneering for the December 29 general election without having to face any restrictions.

The government on the other hand will seek to put in place foolproof security measures to deal with the post-emergency period. It has already worked out some plans for that.

The military will start rolling out of barracks tomorrow. The

FAULTY SAVING CLAUSE All steps at stake

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Flawed saving clauses in the newly promulgated ordinance that repeals the emergency power ordinance and rules, make uncertain the fate of ongoing anti-graft activities initiated under the state of emergency, according to legal experts.

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TO
People's Right to Know

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War crime bill in first JS session

Demand sector commanders as nation celebrates V-Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sectors Commanders of the Liberation War from a victory day celebration yesterday asked next lawmakers to table a bill in the 9th parliament to try war criminals.

Every citizen has the ultimate weapon of vote to fight out war criminals and they must use it to prove Bangladesh a country of freedom fighters, said sector commanders and freedom fighters at a Victory Day programme yesterday.

Urging people to vote freedom fighters in the upcoming polls, speakers also said freedom fighters have been "exploited" by political parties since independence.

"A bill must be brought at the first session of the next parliament to try war criminals," Sector Commander Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiqullah also urging people to bring freedom fighters in the parliament.

"The ultimate weapon to fight war criminals is in the hand of every citizen who has the power to vote. Every citizen has become a fighter with that weapon. And they must learn everything about war criminals and make sure they don't have access

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A father with his child on his shoulders takes part in a colourful procession brought out by Sammito Sangskritik Jote celebrating the Victory Day yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Army proves a point Says Gen Moeen before emergency lifted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army has proved it wants nothing but the development of Bangladesh as it is happily returning to barracks, said Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday, a day before the withdrawal of around a two-year-long emergency.

Appearing on a number of television channels in an unscheduled briefing, Moeen appar-



ently answered to the silent suspicion of many who doubted all along that generals were out to garb power, ordering democracy into oblivion.

He said in 2006 many, especially diplomats, went to him and asked when the army would declare martial law as political violence continued. "But I said Bangladesh Army will not follow any of our neighbours. And we shall not follow any of our

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NID number a must to get loan

BB to make new rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank is going to make mandatory the inclusion of national ID card number with the particulars of loan applicant to stop cheating by loan defaulters.

High officials of the bank said the ID number of each loan-taker will be preserved in

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Khaleda sees 2/3 majority again



Says greatest chance to save country comes Dec 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday hoped that the four-party alliance would regain power through the upcoming election securing two-thirds majority in parliament.

"I started polls campaign across the country on December 12. I have witnessed high tide (of public support) in favour of 'sheaf of paddy' (BNP's poll symbol). Inshallah, we will go to power again with two-thirds majority," the former prime minister said at an election rally at Karwan Bazar in the capital.

Khaleda said, "The greatest opportunity to save the country is coming on December 29. And people have to elect a truly representative government that can solve the problems the nation has been facing for the past two years."

She also addressed campaign rallies at Bhashantek, Green Road, Hazaribagh, Lalbagh, Armanitola, Motijheel, Madartek, Madhubagh and Mohakhali to introduce the BNP-led alliance candidates in the coming polls.

At the Hazaribagh rally, Khaleda said, "A certain party claimed that the present caretaker government is the outcome of its movement. Prices of essentials have shot up during the tenure of this government. And if that party comes to power, there might be further price hike and a famine like the one in 1974 (when Awami League was in power)."

She went on, "If you (people) vote for the four-party alliance (led by BNP), then the country will see development, investment,

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Vote for Boat for digital Bangladesh

Hasina tells rallies en route to Tungipara

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Gopalganj

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she faced "foreign" pressure to sell country's natural gas to other countries during her rule between 1996 and 2001 but did not give in.

"I as the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman neither yielded to any pressure nor agreed to sell gas," said the former premier without naming the pressure group.

Hasina was addressing several election rallies on her three-day tour to South including Tungipara, Gopalganj through which she started her election campaign outside Dhaka.

She was accompanied by her younger sister Sheikh Rehana and Rehana's daughter Azmina Siddiqui Ruponti.

Addressing a rally at Sreenagar Stadium under Munshiganj-1 constituency, the AL chief said gas would be utilised for internal use. "First the volume of natural resources will have to be determined and then explored for public use."

Thousands of party leaders, activists, supporters and commoners joined the rallies carrying party's electoral symbol 'Boat' and chanted slogans in support of Hasina-led grand alliance.

They also stood in long queues on both sides of Hasina's travel routes in different places. Tight security measures were taken by SSE, Rab and police to ensure her safety.

Pointing to the youths Hasina said, "The Awami League-led

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Ershad beats Rawshan in possessing ornaments

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad has more ornaments than his wife has and fewer assets than she owns, reveals his wealth statement submitted to the Election Commission along with nomination papers.

According to his affidavits attached to nomination papers for Dhaka-17, Rangpur-3 and Kurigram-2 constituencies, Ershad possesses gold and ornaments worth Tk 1.50 lakh while his wife Rawshan owns ornaments worth Tk 1.25 lakh.

The former army general says he has movable properties worth Tk 3.50 crore, of which Tk 2.50 crore in fixed

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ANNOUNCEMENT
The Daily Star soft-launches its new website today to bring you an array of interesting, interactive and multi-media contents. The website will carry news as it breaks, round the clock. So log on to it and explore its features.

1971 remnants still active in politics

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK, for Star Online

A band of key players, who made a botched attempt to abort the birth of Bangladesh, is none other than the top brass of Jamaat-e-Islami, young in 1971.

They had joined forces with the Pakistani occupation army to commit what shaped up into a full-blown genocide in the nine-month bloody war.

For Motiur Rahman Nizami, now chief of Jamaat and the then president of Islami Chhatra Sangha, it was a parallel struggle to protect every inch of Pakistan during the Liberation War.

The head of the Islamic party said the activists of the student front had been pledge-bound to attack the mainland Hindustan (India) to protect a united Pakistan.

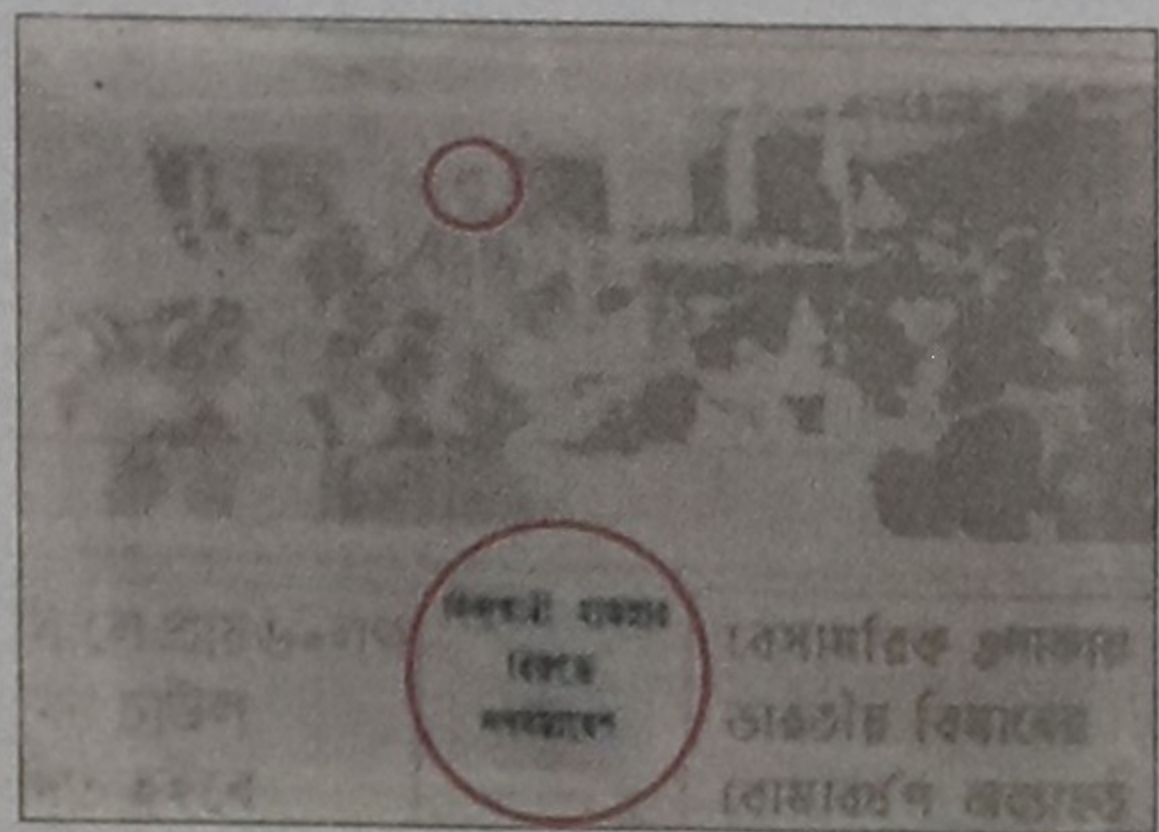
Nizami's speech is evident in the September 8, 1971 issue of the Daily Sangram that carried a report headlined "Chhatra Sangha activists will protect every inch of Pakistan's land".

Nizami worked his way deeper into mainstream politics with the backing of the BNP-led four-party alliance. He is now an alliance candidate from Pabna-1 constituency for the year-end national elections.

Nizami is not alone. Many of the current Jamaat top leaders had moved against Bangladesh's liberation. Leaders of Islami Chhatra Sangha, now known as Islami Chhatra Shibir, and some other groups had been involved in anti-liberation activities.

Jamaat's present secretary general Ali Ahsan

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The daily Azad news and photograph published just five days before the Victory Day shows Jamaat's Ali Ahsan Mojahid talking as Al-Badr chief against the birth of Bangladesh.

Grand opening of Konabari Branch

45th Branch

at
Plot # A-147/148
BSCIC Shilpa Nagari
Konabari, Joydevpur, Gazipur

Date
December 17, 2008

সাউথইস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
Southeast Bank Limited
Eunoo Centre, 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Daily Star
10TH 'O' & 'A' LEVEL
AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY, 2007-2008

Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools

Private Candidates
Private candidates who fulfill the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star Office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:
Criteria for 'O' Level
Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2007 to May/June 2008
Criteria for 'A' Level
Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2007 to May/June 2008)
Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Risalat Khan at The Daily Star office with their original Results Certificates along with a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on December 20, 21, 22 & 23 between 11:00 am and 2:30 pm.

Schools
Any school that has students meeting the criteria above but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Risalat Khan at The Daily Star office at the aforementioned dates and times or email him at coordinator_dailystaraward@yahoo.com by December 24 with:
• The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative (who will attend the meetings) and a valid email address that is checked regularly
The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of the results certificates for each candidate.

NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.