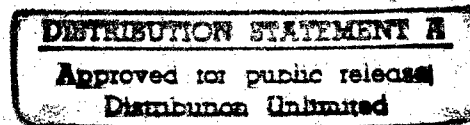


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12 February 1986

Near East/South Asia Report



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12 February 1986

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CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE ANALYZED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Dec 85 pp 1, 3

[Commentary by Ibrahim Nafi' in the column "Calmly": "A Discussion of Nasirism, Sadatism, and Mubarakism!"]

[Text] A number of those who would doubt anything and everything always prefer to give rein to their "analyses" and to their "insights" that enable them to read between the lines, discover what's behind the news, and forecast events before they become reality.

Those aficionados of analysis are no longer what they used to be--drawn only from the ranks of those involved with politics or interested in public issues. Their circle has widened terribly and now encompasses those whose work is politics and public life, those involved with trade and economy, intellectuals and non-intellectuals, party members and non-partisans, and those who have the knowledge to make sound evaluations and those who don't.

We have come to hear initiatives that analyze certain developments in our public lives--analyses that are simultaneously incredible and contradictory.

There is generally no harm in that. Initiatives and analyses are rights vested in everybody. The harm, however, is in the negative effect on certain aspects of life in Egypt as a result of hasty analyses, misguided initiatives, and creating connections, where none exist, between non-related events in order to force self-serving conclusions!

To make matters worse, this wave flows in a society whose policies are stated with the utmost clarity and are laid down by constitutional entities answerable to the concerned constitutional authorities, a society whose government is committed to publicly stated political programs that are brought up before the peoples' representatives and are subject to discussion, support, or opposition before they are approved. Once adopted, there is no way to amend them except by other programs to be presented by the same entities to the same constitutional authorities. That is because domestic policies in Egypt are not made by individuals but by organizations--a fact to be remembered by aficionados of quickie analysis!

That introduction seems necessary if we are to discuss the plethora in the past few days of analyses attempting to establish a link between the return

to newspaper pages of certain senior writers and what some imagine to be a return of certain orientations to Egyptian internal and foreign policies.

Some people sought to overload this democratic step with more analyses and hints than it can bear. Other analyses were so exaggerated that they forecast economic policy changes to conform with certain previous political orientations in Egypt.

Those who always doubt anything and everything have hastened to "exploit" the opportunity to assert that that step is only a beginning and that it heralds others not in the interest of encouraging investment, entrepreneurship, or a role for the private sector in construction and development.

How strange are the things we hear!

Every man has a right to his opinion but certainly not to impose on others his fears and wrong assumptions supported by false indicators and defunct deductions as some now do.

It is a man's right to believe his own assumptions, no matter how wrong, and to act on them. But it is not his right to ask others to act on the basis of these imaginary deductions, especially if the facts are as obvious as the sun. The current democratic environment does not allow deviations or shocks, sudden or not so sudden, because of the simple reason that ours is a society of constitutional channels not subject to individual rule that would allow swings from left to right or right to left without first indicating the reasons.

That era is long gone. History says it will not, and could not, return. Time can not be turned back. Any political experience is usually bound to its historical stage. It would be difficult, even impossible, to duplicate without the conditions under which it took place or outside its historical context.

We lived in the Nasirite era, which had both negative and positive aspects and which had its own symbols and direction.

We also lived in the Sadatist era, which similarly had positive and negative aspects and its own symbols and direction.

Then began the era of Husni Mubarak's presidency in Egypt, and I won't call it Mubarakist because the man himself dislikes the attribution of stages in Egyptian history to individuals. He views history as a chain of links, each handing its charge over to the next one in great continuity and persistent pursuit of the better and more beneficial despite difficulties and negativities and sometimes obstacles. It is our duty to utilize the positive and avoid the negative aspects of both eras.

Early in Mubarak's rule some people bent backward trying to attribute his thinking and orientation to the previous Nasserite and Sadatist eras. They did not succeed because President Muabarak stated repeatedly that he was neither Nasser nor Sadat but a president called Husni Mubarak who was given a mandate by the people of Egypt in free elections in the eighties--an era characterized by different historical circumstances and changing international

relations--in light of different priorities imposed by Egypt's circumstances during that stage. He can only be Husni Mubarak.

President Mubarak told me when we last met that he does not believe in so-called Nasirism or the so-called Sadatism. He believes only in Egypt and in what might be called "Egyptianism," which would deal with the Egyptian reality in light of the historical circumstances surrounding it, and which would work hard to utilize all means to serve Egyptian interests and pan-Arab interests.

His historical view of 'Abd-al-Nasir is that he was a giant of a leader who gained much for Egypt domestically and externally. His historical view of Al-Sadat is that he was a commander who achieved great victories for Egypt. His view is that each of them was an Egyptian president who worked hard to serve his country in light of the historical circumstances of his time.

No Nasirism, then, and no Sadatism. Because each of those eras was the product of certain historical circumstances and certain relationships. What was good for a certain era is not necessarily good for another. What was applied in the sixties is not necessarily suitable for the eighties. What was beneficial in the seventies is not necessarily beneficial now under present circumstances.

President Husni Mubarak received his mandate under conditions known to all. The foundation of his orientation was a product of those conditions and circumstances. It was honed through constitutional institutions and gained the support of the peoples' representatives.

When he received his mandate the problems of the Egyptian economy had reached their peak and the problems with utilities were so aggravated that repairs or partial solutions were useless and the need was for major solutions that would cost billions of pounds and hard currencies.

He received the mandate at a time when Egypt as a state was isolated from most of the nations of the Arab, Islamic, and third worlds and the eastern bloc. His basic direction was toward persistent, diligent effort to reform the economy, to increase production, to solve its problems, and to ignite the spark of creativity, of studiousness in resurrecting Egypt, and of reinforcing within its sons the spirit of belonging.

His basic orientation was serious hard work to reform utilities and attack their problems with profound solutions and long range, ambitious plans.

His basic orientation was to return Egypt to its natural place within the Arab and Islamic worlds and among the non-aligned and African nations and to return its international quality to a suitable position in the international community.

His basic orientation was to utilize Egypt's foreign policies and foreign relations in order to bolster the Egyptian economy, solve its problems, and shift it into high gear.

His basic orientation was to use every avenue and every means to raise the standard of living of the Egyptian people, to lighten their suffering from

utilities, routine, and the government apparatus, to make basic commodities plentiful, and to provide a minimum quality of life for all segments of the people.

His basic direction was to assure an environment of true democracy that would permit every human to practice his constitutional right to participate in ruling his country, to express himself, and to help the reform effort by contributing whatever programs, ideas, and solutions he deems fit.

Those are the general characteristics of the basic directions of the present era and none of them are tied to previous regimes or to the policies of the past. None of them raises the slogans of past stages. They spring instead from Egypt's circumstances in its present state, or as President Mubarak put it the day before yesterday:

Egypt, which needs to be rebuilt.

Egypt, [whose people's feeling of] belonging needs to be reaffirmed.

Egypt in peace, which needs an effort even greater than when she was at war.

Egypt, which needs to reverse the concept of total dependence on the state and where every citizen must contribute to some collective action to help her towards progress and a better way of life.

All are directions that express the broad-based demands of the vast majority of the people. They were all crystallized, formatted, discussed, and approved in the platforms of the ruling National Party. They are translated, through statements by the Party's governments, into specific political programs presented to the People's Assembly for approval at each opening session. Everyone inside and outside the Assembly has the right to discuss them, object to them, and vote against them. If they are still adopted, they become an obligation of the government and the state.

Where then is the potential for a sudden radical change in the direction of the state's domestic and foreign public policies?

How can the return to Egyptian newspapers of a senior writer, or writers, indicate a return to the symbols and policies of a certain regime, especially since such a return is a decision that does not involve the chief of state?

The democratic environment in Egypt allows every writer to express himself and write his views on issues of concern to his homeland, and gives him the right to choose the forum in which to have his say. National and party newspapers carry all opinions and represent all orientations.

In his speech on the great awakening, President Mubarak invited Egypt's senior writers to use Egyptian newspapers as a medium to express their views about their country's problems because Egypt does not censor an opinion or suppress an idea. It is illogical that those writers discuss Egypt's domestic issues in Arab publications abroad when Egypt does not prevent a writer from saying

what he wants or expressing any idea he chooses in either the national or the partisan press in Egypt.

Some have already begun to respond. It is a step for which credit goes to the political leadership that suppresses no opinion. Credit also goes to those writers who responded.

This is a healthy indication of the structural strength of democracy in Egypt and of the freedom of thought in Egypt. It is a true democratic step in the right direction.

But it can never "signal" a return to the policies or practices of the past because the wheel of history can never be turned back.

[signed] Ibrahim Nafi'

12945/12859

CSO: 4504/130

TRIPOLI TV INTERVIEWS ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

LD260016 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2124 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Interview with Dr Mohammad al-Mahdi, chairman of the Arab-American Relations by an unidentified correspondent; al-Mahdi answers in Arabic; date, place not given--portions within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Good evening viewers. We have the chairman of the Arab-American relations, Dr Mohammad al-Mahdi, with us this evening. This individual has defied Reagan's decision banning Americans from traveling to Libya and U.S. legal institutions banning them from traveling to the Jamahiriyah; here he is among us now in the Jamahiriyah and we ask him: How did he defy Reagan's decision and come here?

[Al-Mahdi] "To begin with, Reagan's decision was unconstitutional in relation to U.S. legislation, and second, you in Libya are right and with the right, and we support the right for this reason alone and object to Reagan's falsehood. It is an inhuman act; it is an act against the interests of the American people and against world peace. He has an inferiority complex against the leader here, no more no less. He creates excuses so that he can attack this peaceful small state and he considers it to be a great threat to America, that vast and big country. There is no doubt that Reagan is trying to prove his strength there and to influence the American sentimentalists. He might succeed in the economic measures, but I do not believe he can attack militarily."

[Correspondent] "In your capacity as chairman of Arab-American Relations, what is the effect of Reagan's decision banning Americans from traveling to the Jamahiriyah among the American people there?"

[Al-Mahdi] "In fact it is detrimental to the American people in Libya. The Americans working in Libya are safe and well and they receive large salaries; they will increase the number of unemployed if they return to America. Naturally, Americans do not want [this]. The general effect is that the American people will learn about Libya little by little; before that, they knew nothing. They now are beginning to hear and ask and understand Libya. This is a very historic occasion in terms of educating them. We [in America] try; before I came here I appeared on roughly 400 television stations, but this is 400 out of 6,000 television stations in the United States. We have a wide

field before us for acting there and to reach American public opinion gradually, to make it realize that Libya is a peaceful country that wants progress for it and for the Asians and the Africans and for the Arabs and wants to liberate the country. There is no doubt that the Americans as a people will gradually support the Libyan stance."

[Correspondent, interrupting] "And understand the issue."

[Al-Mahdi] "And understand the issue because Reagan's aggression against Libya is for one reason, namely, Libya supports the Palestinian question, and gradually Americans will understand the Palestinian question through..."

[Correspondent, interrupting] "That we are right."

[Al-Mahdi] "Naturally, if it was not right I would not be here and would not have objected to the Reagan's administration's policy."

Many thanks to Dr Muhammad al-Mahdi, chairman of the Arab-American relations, and welcome to the Jamahiriyah. Thank you.

/8309

CSO: 4500/64

BRIEFS

NORWEGIAN-LIBYAN TRADE MINIMAL--Norway in 1984 exported goods worth 27.5 million kroner to Libya. The imports were only various finished goods worth 3,000 kroner. "Norwegian exports to Libya in 1984 were so minimal that we cannot reduce them," said Managing Director Arne Langeland of the Norwegian Export Council. But even if the figure was relatively small, it can mean much for the individual company. The Export Council has never tried to develop the market in Libya; the companies themselves have engaged in this. Among companies exporting goods to Libya could be mentioned Langeland, Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk, Elektrisk Bureau, Bloms Oppmaling and Jotun. In order to gain a perspective of the Norwegian export to Libya, which was 27.5 million kroner, it can be mentioned that the total Norwegian foreign trade amounted to 50 billion kroner. [Text] [Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 9 Jan 86 p 7] /6091

VOLUNTARY WORKING DAY--Al-Bayan al-Awal, 25 Jan (JANA)--The masses of the production workers conference in the National Company for Industrial Development in Benghazi have decided to start a voluntary working day, the first Friday of every month, to support productive and economic capability in view of the imperialist challenges. The masses confirmed in a cable to the brother leader of the revolution their readiness in word and deed to fight imperialism. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 86] /8309

NEW MAGAZINE PUBLISHED--The second issue of the magazine JIL AL-GHADAB (GENERATION OF WRATH) has been issued. It is an ideological, intellectual and analytical monthly magazine issued by Educational Institutions Branch. The second issue contained a group of subjects and political and intellectual articles. It was said in the editorial of GENERATION OF WRATH, "It is the magazine of the revolutionary generation which is inciting the establishment of the popular revolution, the revolution of tomorrow and the entrenching of the concept of popular authority--as found in his [al-Qadhdhafi's] pioneering statements--which applies direct democracy as the way to realize the jamahiriyah in the world." Preparation is now underway for the publication of the third issue of the magazine GENERATION OF WRATH which will be published next month. It was also said in the editorial that editing the magazine is the responsibility of every free revolutionary among the sons of our Arab nation and of every Arab, African, and international revolutionary force everywhere. Among the topics which appeared in the second issue of the magazine were the following:--"To the Arab Nation and Not To the Vile Rulers;" "Message to the Arab Woman To Call her to Self-Liberation and Freedom;" "The Way to Popular Democracy;" "Historical Treatments Under Economic Systems and the Jamahiriyah System;" "Jamahiriyah-Arab Unity and the Role of the GENERATION OF WRATH in Achieving It;" "The Model People's Quarter." [Text] [Tripoli AL-ZAHF AL-AKHIDAR in Arabic 21 Oct 85 p 2] /12913

BRIEFS

DISSENSION WITHIN OPPOSITION--There has been talk of the occurrence of sharp dissension in the ranks of the Moroccan opposition, especially the outlawed Islamic movements that operate abroad through Moroccan emigre communities which are spread out through Europe. Every faction has exchanged accusations, among which are the receipt by some of Iranian financing, squandering money, and receipt of assistance from more than one Arab quarter. These conflicts came out into the open in recent weeks when dissension occurred, and when some accused others of "collusion" and "liquidating political dissidents in France" and aiding the government by disclosing the names of dissidents in the country in order to facilitate their arrest and their being jailed." "The Movement of Freedom Fighters (Mujahidin) in Morocco" issued a list of names of those it described as being "double agents," announcing that they are being stripped of all responsibility in the movement and warning against dealing with them.

[Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 11 Jan 86 p 13] /12913

CSO: 4504/172

BRIEFS

FORMER AIRLINE PDG TRIED--We have learned that Mohamed Belhadj, former president-director general of Tunis Air who was dismissed several weeks ago, will appear today before an examining magistrate in connection with the case brought against him and three others on charges of appropriating public funds, treason and violating exchange regulations. On Tuesday, the examining magistrate heard one of the company executives, Mohsen Badreddine. As for the other two, one of them is Hassen Ben Mohamed Larbi, representative of the American company (D.S.A.). The name of the fourth defendant is not known. Less than a week ago the four defendants were placed in preventive detention. [Text] [Tunis AL-SABAH in Arabic 2 Jan 86 p 2] /6091

CSO: 4504/165

BEGIN AND SON SUBMIT HERUT CANDIDACIES

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Dec 85 p 3

[Article by Sarah Honig]

[Text]

TEL AVIV. - A surge of excitement is pulsating through the Herut Movement - Menachem Begin has agreed to submit his candidacy as a delegate to the party's upcoming convention. As if that were not enough, there will be two Begin candidates, because the former prime minister's son, Binyamin (Benny) Begin has also agreed to stand.

Neither Begin is expected to have any trouble winning sufficient support in the Jerusalem party branch, which they will be representing, if elected, on the convention floor on February 16.

This is seen as Begin's first political move since his resignation from the premiership in 1983 and his subsequent seclusion.

Herut faithful have since been fervently awaiting their revered leader's return to the arena. Each speculative report or third-hand rumour sent the rank and file into ecstasy. Several times in the past two years the party was elated as stories that "Begin is coming back" gained currency. These were always followed by a let-down when the Second Coming did not materialize.

But this time, those who continue to dream of Begin's return have something to go on. The head of the party's Jerusalem branch, MK Yehoshua Matza, has in hand signed application forms from father and son for his city's contingent.

Believers insist that Begin would not have affixed his signature to this form had he not intended taking part in the convention.

Some among the party rank and file hope that Begin will not make do with the status of convention delegate. They say he will stand for the post of party chairman, returning Herut to its former glory.

These same hopefuls also point to the younger Begin's application. If the father won't take the helm again, perhaps the son will. (Benny Begin, a geologist, has so far stubbornly avoided politics, but friends of the family told *The Jerusalem Post* that the political bug has bitten him. The hopefuls point to young Begin's address at last week's 60th anniversary celebrations of Herut-Hatzohar (the Herut faction in the WZO), where party veterans remarked with delight that he was "a chip off the old block."

The former PM's long-time aide, Yehiel Kadishai, told *The Post* yesterday that he has no evidence that Begin is planning a comeback. "Anything is possible, but I don't know. We'll have to wait till February. So far Begin is well and reading a lot."

Kadishai isn't sure that Begin would come down to Tel Aviv for the convention, "though it is not inconceivable that he would attend the opening in Jerusalem."

Some party insiders recall that Begin held on to his Knesset seat without coming to the House even on crucial votes in the period between his resignation and the 1984 elections, and that he did not tape a hoped-for TV appearance on behalf of his party for those elections. But all this did not dishearten the believers yesterday, or calm the buoyant mood at Metzudat Ze'ev and party branches.

/9317

CSO: 4400/88

MEDITERRANEAN-DEAD SEA COMPANY CONDEMNS MINISTER'S ATTITUDE

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Dec 85 p 2

[Text]

The Mediterranean-Dead Sea Company is preparing to lay off all its staff in anticipation of an imminently expected government decision to scrap the controversial \$1.5 billion hydroelectric project.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the company condemned what it termed the "hostile" attitude of Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, who has been sceptical about the project since taking office last year.

"A government company cannot operate when the ministry supervising it declares repeatedly and unequivocally that it has no interest in the project, even though it has not officially ordered a stop to all activity," the company's statement said.

The project had been destined to exploit the 400 metre drop from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea to

generate hydroelectric power and provide cheap booster electricity for peak power demand periods. Water was to have run in a series of canals and tunnels through the Negev from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea via an 800 megawatt plant.

After years of controversy over the project's economic soundness, followed by falling oil prices and criticism of the project's management from the State Comptroller, Shahal declared the project dead last June. But the company continued operating apparently hoping for a reprieve from the Treasury.

The company spent some \$17 million on tests and studies, out of the \$100m. raised by Israel Bonds. The Bonds organization understands that money not spent on the project will go to Israel's overall development needs.

/9317
CSO: 4400/88

AGRICULTURAL PACT WITH CAIRO SIGNED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Dec 85 p 7

[Text]

A senior Foreign Ministry official was due in Cairo last night to conclude a second agricultural cooperation agreement with Egypt, the ministry spokesman announced yesterday.

The official, Avi Siton, former political counsellor in the embassy in Cairo, is to sign what officials in Jerusalem called the Gemiza II agreement, by which Israel will supply expert assistance for arid zone agricultural development at a site in the Western Desert.

In Gemiza I, concluded five years ago, Israel helped Egyptian farmers increase crop production at Gemiza, a farm in the fertile Delta area.

It is understood that under Gemiza II, a number of Israeli agricultural experts, attached to Agridev, a private company connected with the Agriculture Ministry, will commute from Israel to the Western Desert site.

The agreement, seen as the first major implementation of the agricultural cooperation provision in the Israel-Egypt peace treaty of 1979, will be signed with Egyptian Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali.

/9317

CSO: 4400/88

BANK HAPOALIM UNDER CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Dec 85 pp 1, 7

[Article by Robert Rosenberg and Pinhas Landau]

[Text]

Police are to investigate charges that the Histadrut-owned Bank Hapoalim illegally channelled millions of dollars through straw companies to Israeli corporations and kibbutz organizations. The inquiry has been ordered by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir.

The case came to public attention some 15 months ago, when MK Mordechai Virshubski (Shinui) published an anonymous letter from a bank employee who claimed that there was involvement at the highest levels of the bank in the transactions, which appeared to be in contravention of Bank of Israel rules and regulations.

The police gave their material to Zamir, asking whether the case involved criminal activity, or was merely a matter of technical violations of Bank of Israel regulations.

The year taken by Zamir's office, with help from Bank of Israel experts and police investigators, to study the material, caused several leading Likud politicians to charge that there was "political interference" by Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev and other Labour Party politicians who, the Likud charged, wanted to avoid a scandal.

The police have repeatedly denied this, most recently on December 12, after Deputy Foreign Minister Ronni Milo linked what he said were

Labour's political motives for a vigorous police inquiry into illegal West Bank land deals with what he claimed was a lax effort in the Hapoalim investigation.

In a letter to Knesset Law Committee chairman Eli Kulas, Zamir reiterated the police denial.

"It goes without saying," said Zamir, "that there was no such intervention."

The only "intervention," the police statement said earlier this month, "was in the public statements" by politicians about the case.

The Bank Hapoalim reaction last night, issued by spokesman Amnon Herzog, repeated its claims that no straw companies had been set up abroad to give loans to local economic entities. All the bank's activities had been properly reported to the authorities, whether at the Bank of Israel or elsewhere, he said.

This line of defence has remained consistent over the entire period since Virshubski first raised his allegations. Thus, on December 25, 1984 - exactly one year ago - the bank issued a statement rejecting charges "lately levelled at it by public figures," a reference to Virshubski. Hapoalim's management then declared that "all the bank's activities in the areas mentioned were entirely within the regulatory and legal frameworks and were under-

taken with the knowledge of the regulatory authorities."

Virshubski's original allegations covered two sets of activities. The first was the granting of loans through the straw companies such as Daisy Bell Inc., Cassandra Ltd. and others to Israeli borrowers such as Solel Boneh and the United Kibbutz Movement. The other allegations referred to loans granted to these same companies by Bank Hapoalim's Swiss subsidiary to help them finance purchases of Hapoalim shares on the Tel Aviv stock exchange, as part of the bank's regulation of its share price.

The latter allegations are no longer on the agenda – at least so far as the police are concerned.

Another interesting feature of the investigation is that Virshubski originally passed his material to Zamir, who in turn referred it to the police. Apparently nonplussed by conflicting legal opinions presented by Bank Hapoalim and the Bank of Israel regarding the alleged violations of laws and regulations, the police sent

the case back to Zamir who now, after further investigation, has instructed the police to open a criminal investigation. This would seem to indicate that the material is far from providing an open and shut case.

One of the complicating factors is that the allegations refer to activities – i.e. loans to Israeli borrowers from foreign sources – that were legal until the Bank of Israel changed its regulations on July 14, 1983. The dates of the alleged violations therefore become crucial.

It is also an open secret in financial circles that the type of activity under discussion was widespread at that time and was indulged in, at least until it was disallowed by the central bank, by all the big banks. The economic background, in the artificially slow rate of devaluation during Yoram Aridor's "correct economics" policy, encouraged the import of capital from abroad. Therefore, if Hapoalim is found guilty of violations, the case may have ramifications far beyond that institution.

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JORDAN

JOINT CORPORATION SET UP WITH EGYPT

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Nov 85 p 4

[Article: "Jordanian Industry and Trade Minister to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: '\$50 Million Capital for Egyptian-Jordanian Company To Implement Joint Projects'"]

[Text] 'Amman (AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT)--Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, the Jordanian minister of industry, trade and food supply, said that the higher Jordanian-Egyptian committee would discuss a number of economic and trade problems between the two countries and a study of the changes these problems have recently undergone. The discussion will take place during meetings of the committee to be held in Cairo next Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, the prime minister of Jordan, and Mr 'Ali Lutfi, the prime minister of Egypt, and with the pertinent ministers from both countries in attendance.

He said in conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that one of the most prominent subjects to be discussed in detail would be the joint Jordanian-Egyptian holding company recently approved within the framework of the top-level committee. It is to have a capital of \$50 million, and its function will be to set up joint projects between the two countries. The location at which it will be set up within either of the countries will be determined in the light of economic feasibility and of the optimal circumstances for its location, particularly because among the company's functions will be the establishment of complementary projects for industrial and agricultural production in the two countries, as well as the joint fisheries project at al-'Aqabah to supply the demands of the two countries for fish.

Also among the subjects to be discussed are the trade and economic agreements in the transport sector between the two countries. In this connection, a proposal to expand areas of commercial exchange by increasing the volume of reciprocal transactions will be discussed, as well as the achievements realized through the al-'Aqabah-Nuwayba' maritime line connecting the Arab East and West via Egypt and Jordan.

The Jordanian minister pointed out the existence of obstacles to commercial exchange between Jordan and Egypt, in spite of all the arrangements and facilitations on the part of each country.

He said that among these obstacles was the difference in the method of doing business in the respective countries and ignorance of these methods on the part of exporters. For example, there is the Rationalization Committee in Egypt, something about which the Jordanian exporter is ignorant. He added that procedures such as these have formed obstacles leading to a slowing of commercial exchange between the two countries. These obstacles, however, are small in comparison to the size of what has been achieved in the area. The top-level joint committee will study this subject in order to remove all the obstacles affecting this important sector between the two countries.

The al-'Aqabah--Nuwayba' Line

About the al-'Aqabah--Nuwayba' maritime line and its degree of economic feasibility and of success in increasing the volume of commercial exchange, the Jordanian minister said: "Problems are inevitable in practice when one is inaugurating a new project such as the al-'Aqabah--Nuwayba' line, especially since it is the first of its kind. Meetings between the two sides have been held to deal with these problems, and many of them will be dealt with during the meetings of the top-level committee."

He said: "We assign particular importance to this line, because we hope that it will be a link between the Arab East and West, not just between Egypt and Jordan. The first step will shortly be realized: 2 million tons of Iraqi cement will begin transit to Egypt via the line.

"As for Jordanian cement, the arrangements necessary for its export to Egypt have been made, and implementation will take place after the meetings of the committee."

Accomplishments of the Damascus Visit

About the most outstanding accomplishments resulting from his recent visit to Damascus and his meeting with senior Syrian officials, Dr al-Mu'ashshir said: "We are linked to Syria by a number of economic and trade agreements and by joint companies, the most important of which are the Land Transport Company, the Maritime Transport Company, the Joint Company for Industry, the Joint Company for Free Zones, etc.

"In Damascus, we discussed all the problems confronting these companies and ways of solving them and of developing the operation of these companies, especially since they never stopped operating in past years, even when political relations between the two countries were not what they are now.

"Also discussed was industrial and agricultural exchange between the two countries in accordance with the import-export agreement already signed between the two countries, and there was a discussion of how to overcome all the obstacles blocking its implementation.

"During the Jordanian prime minister's recent visit to Damascus, the companies' boards of directors and general organizations were invited in

order to discuss the operation and development of the companies. Also, it was decided to revive both the top-level committee headed by the prime ministers of the two countries and the committees under it: the communications committee, the electrical linkage committee, and the Yarmuk [River] committee. These committees will hold meetings before the end of the current year and will present reports to the top level committee in order to develop their activity."

Value of the Jordanian Dinar

About the Jordanian dinar and the stability of its value in relation to other currencies, the Jordanian minister said: "We are proud of the value of the dinar. We consider the stability of its value a reflection of the strength of our economy.

"More than one factor has led to the steadiness of its value. Among the most important of them is the balance of payments surplus that indicates the healthy state of the economy. In addition, there is the adequate backing available for the Jordanian dinar."

Dr al-Mu'ashshar announced that he would visit the capital of Yugoslavia at the beginning of the coming December to head the Jordanian side of the joint committee set up between the two countries. The strengthening and development of economic relations between the two countries will be discussed. In particular, Yugoslavia is the principal importer of Jordanian phosphate. On the other side, many Yugoslav companies are carrying out production activities in Jordan, in addition to Yugoslavia's exports to Jordan.

He also announced that he would visit the Sultanate of Oman in mid-December to discuss strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries. He said that during Sultan Qabus' visit to Jordan during last April, it was decided that an agreement for cooperation between the two countries needed to be drawn up. The final draft of the agreement has been drawn up, and it will be discussed with officials in the Sultanate of Oman in preparation for its signing at a subsequent time.

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LEBANON

TRADE MINISTER STUDIES SYRIAN RELATIONSHIP

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 23-29 Nov 85 p 29

[Article by Ibrahim 'Awwadah: "Lebanon Asks for 'Economic Integration' With Syria Through an Increase in Joint Projects"]

[Text] The process of reestablishing and developing economic relations between Lebanon and Syria on new foundations resting on the principle of realizing economic integration between the two countries took a step forward which is expected to lead in the next few weeks to the announcement of "unificationist" economic steps between the two states.

This important development in the course of Lebanese-Syrian economic relations took place in three principal stages. The first stage began when Victor Qasir, the Lebanese minister of economy, trade and industry, visited the Syrian capital at the end of last September. He met a number of Syrian officials in the economic, industrial, and oil sector during the visit, and there was a general discussion of Lebanese-Syrian economic relations and of ways to strengthen them. No details were gone into, since the Lebanese minister did not carry to Damascus with him any formulation of ways and means to develop these relations. The second stage came with the visit to Damascus of a high-level Lebanese economic delegation, including the heads of Lebanese economic organizations and chambers [of commerce]. During its visit, the delegation met the Syrian vice-president, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and the ministers of industry, economy, oil and mineral resources. There was agreement on the need to review trade agreements and the agreements on commodity exchange, transportation and transit that have regulated economic relations between the two countries since 1953. The position of the Syrian officials was to stress the need for Lebanon to present a working paper summarizing its economic requirements from Syria and drawing a complete picture of what the state of these relations ought to be.

During the final week of last October, a high-level Syrian economic delegation visited Lebanon at the invitation of Victor Qasir, the Lebanese minister of economy, trade, industry and oil. This delegation included: Dr Ghazai al-Durubi, minister of oil and mineral resources; Eng 'Ali Tarabulusi, minister of industry; Dr Taha Bali, assistant to the economy minister; 'Abdallah al-Salutah, assistant to the industry minister; Mr Badr-al-Din al-Shallah, president of the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry;

and Mr Shafiq Sukkar, president of the Damascus Chamber [of Commerce]. Receiving the visiting Syrian delegation, in addition to Minister Qasir, were deputies from the ministries of economy, industry and oil, prominent economic leaders, heads of the Lebanese chambers [of commerce], and a number of Lebanese security and government officials. They all met at a banquet given by Minister Qasir in the Biqa] [Valley] city of Zahlah in honor of the visiting Syrian delegation. After the banquet, there was a round of official discussions between the visiting and host delegations. During these discussions, the Lebanese delegation presented some initial ideas about the future of economic relations between Lebanon and Syria, defining what it wanted from Syria and what it was as appropriate for the development of Lebanon's economic relations with Syria. The Syrian side also presented some principal ideas about Syria's view of the sort of relations that ought to exist with Lebanon.

Sources in the Lebanese delegation that participated in the discussion of the Lebanese-Syrian "economic summit" said to AL-TADAMUN that the Lebanese economy minister assured the Syrian delegation of Lebanon's readiness to carry out complete economic integration with Syria, especially since the economies of the two fraternal countries, Lebanon and Syria, complement each other. Minister Qasir suggested that initially there should be a review of economic agreements and of the agreements on the exchange of goods and services concluded in the past between the two countries, because they have come to need substantial adjustments in the framework of developing and modernizing them. The matter requires that one focus on problems of industrial production exchange, oil and its derivatives, transit and the exchange of commodities. Afterward, one can proceed to discussion of ways to secure economic integration between the two countries.

The Syrian view of the nature of the economic relations that ought to bind Lebanon and Syria was summarized as follows by the visiting Syrian delegation:

--Syria is eager for special and distinctive economic relations to exist with Lebanon in the economic field in order to succeed in realizing the principle of integration between the economies of the two countries.

--Within the framework of implementing the concept of distinctive relations and of realizing economic integration between the Lebanese and Syrian economies, Syria believes that attention should be paid to the following:

[1] Establishment of joint Syrian-Lebanese companies relying on primary materials available locally in the countries, so as to ensure the needs of the Syrian and Lebanese people in food, provisions and [foreign] exchange, and thus saving the importation of many of these needs, with a consequent improvement of the foreign exchange situation of the countries.

[2] The announcement by the Syrian industry minister, 'Ali Tarabulusi, of Syria's determination to begin setting up the first joint food products company: the raw materials (fruits and vegetables) are abundant in the two countries during the same periods, and the project will absorb surplus production and improve the income of the farmer-producer in both countries by

marketing his products. The Syrian minister announced that in a few days a law will be issued in Syria encouraging joint companies and welcoming any Arab-Lebanese investor to Syria.

[3] Syria's desire for mutual cooperation in the tourist industry through the establishment of mixed Lebanese-Syrian companies to work on organizing joint tourist excursions to the two countries.

The Syrian delegation also announced its readiness to study the Lebanese proposals presented by Minister Qasir for developing economic relations between the two countries, foremost among these being a review of trade agreements, commodity exchange agreements, and the agreements on transit and the labor force. Discussion of these matters would take place through a bilateral committee in which political and economic officials from both countries would participate in order to arrive at an agreement that would stress the bringing about of economic integration between the two fraternal states, thus serving the joint interests of the two countries.

The second Lebanese-Syrian economic summit meeting is expected. Reliable Lebanese political and economic sources say that Lebanon and Syria will doubtlessly proceed on the path of entrenching economic integration between the two countries, because integration will serve the common interest of each country's economy.

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LEBANON

WRITER RECALLS DOMESTIC COMMUNIST PARTY STRUGGLES

Beirut AL-NIDA' in Arabic 3 Nov 85 pp 6, 7

[Article by Karim Muruwah: "Many Great Significant Points on the 61st Anniversary of the Lebanese Communist Party"]

[Text] It is important that on this day of each year we remember the history of the emergence and development of the Lebanese Communist Party, in which, among the things that are presented to us by this commemoration of the history of the labor movement, incorporated into the history of the national and people's movement, lie lessons and conclusions which are always new and rich. On these days, specifically, we feel, as we end the 61st year of life of our Lebanese Communist Party, that something important and new has happened and a great turning point has occurred in the development of the party and the national movement. While our celebration of the 60th anniversary last year was distinguished by the revival of hope for the return, implantation and consolidation of democratic life in Lebanon and stressed that the civil war had entered into one of its advanced new stages, the stage of democratic national resolution, our celebration, this year, of the 61st anniversary is taking place in conjunction with the the advancement of this process and its approach toward its conclusion. We are giving the struggle for the liberation of Tripoli from the darkness, the return of this city to its Arab national democratic domestic position, the quantum leap in the war of national resistance which is embodied in great operations, the most important of which has been the operation of destroying the agent Lahad's radio station, and the obvious progress in the Lebanese people's conviction in the pioneering Arab democratic national solution to the Lebanese crisis -- we are giving all these things the character and substance of assured development toward democratic change in Lebanon from which there is no turning back.

On the 60th anniversary, which was a real holiday for the people and the nation, we uttered many slogans which were focussed about the subject of democratic change as a realistic goal whose instruments and the circumstances for whose realization were at hand. We truly considered that the dilemma of factional solutions had in its aggravated nature reached the point where the possibility of retaining the factional system in Lebanon was out of the question. This made the national democratic solution to the crisis

inevitable, from the objective and practical standpoints. That is, it alone became the solution, and there is no solution beside it. In the context of this turbulent development of events, in the light of this profound change in conditions, we stressed that it was no longer possible for the country's affairs and the questions of its development to be dealt with and resolved unless the working class and its party had a basic role. In the slogans we uttered and the facts we stressed, we did not stop at the formal aspects of things; rather, we basically stopped at the essence, at the substance, at the basic issue regarding development and the directions it takes. We fully realized that the civil war which we have waged and have been waging for more than 10 years with our national democratic allies of all political, intellectual and class tendencies and affiliations had, in some respects, assumed a factional form dictated by the historic conditions of the outbreak and development of the war. At the same time, we realized that that odious form of one of the aspects of the war continued to preserve its status as form, and no more, and that all the bourgeoisie's intellectual and political means and instruments, and all its means of repression, could not hide the real essence of this war and its class substance, since it was a war between two plans, a national Arab democratic one and a fascist separatist factional one.

This great profound development in the civil war and this advanced stage in it, in whose context we are living today, have underlined the validity of our appraisal of this political and class substance of the war, and at the same time have underlined the extent of the objective force and control of real instruments the national democratic plan enjoys. This puts it at this level of power, so that it may realize this kind of progress along the road to its final triumph over the fascist factional plan.

It is certain that the national resistance to the Israeli occupation, its great accomplishments in the liberation of the land, the role of the working class and its party, and the effect of its thinking and program in this resistance have all played an extremely important role in these transformations we have witnessed, whose manifestations we are continuing to witness.

The resistance has not basically been a recent, haphazard, spontaneous action; rather, it has, profoundly, been a continuation of a glorious fighting legacy with deep roots in the history of our people and our country, forged by the national and people's movement. The party of the working class has always been present with its thinking, its platform, its program, its political policy and its revolutionary practices in its heart and its vanguard.

Our pride in the history of our Communist Party can be explained not just by its having represented the future our generations aspire to, through its thinking, program and articulation of the interests of the working class, but also by its expressing, in various stages of its development and through its great contribution to the Lebanese, Arab and international revolutionary movement, in spite of errors to which it succumbed and which it criticized boldly and rid itself of, the true role the party of the working class must assume regarding the national and social question about which, and about whose horizons, the class struggle is polarized in its various stages and in the present stage of it in particular.

On this basis, at the party's second conference held in 1968, we determined in tangible form the domestic, national and social tasks which must be the tasks of the party of the working class, in the first place, in the circumstances of our country, in the heart of the Lebanese national revolutionary movement and the Arab national revolutionary movement, and the forms of the struggle it must engage in bravely, creatively and without hesitation, this vanguard party, before others and more solid and harmonious than others.

Therefore, from this position specifically, the second conference in the party's history constituted a great event, a turning point which led the party to the vanguard position it occupies today in the name of the working class and the toiling masses at the heart of this modern Lebanese national revolutionary movement, in its various organizational forms and in the various stages of its development, in the essence of this stage specifically, a stage we could not have reached and in which we could not have realized great achievements had the party of the working class not been at this level of innate power in terms of political policy and combative practice of playing the role it is accustomed to.

Our pride, then, in the history of the Communist Party is part of the pride felt by the national forces and the masses of the people which have an interest in the development of the revolutionary national struggle through the achievements which have been realized in this stage along the road to the desired national change. It adds to this pride of ours that the struggle is continuing firmly today and is constantly realizing new achievements, in which our party, our national movement and our people are offering grievous sacrifices of which this great caravan of martyrs is only one of the most important, deepest and most brilliant expressions.

These days we can only view with great hope this development in the Arab nationalist revolutionary movement, in spite of the difficulties it is suffering from, which in part constitute a manifestation of profound crisis; of this, we can observe one flagrant example in the Palestinian revolution. The Arab nationalist revolutionary movement is preparing itself today to rise up from its difficulties to a new situation whose features began to appear in more than one place in the Arab nation. Following the victory the Sudanese revolution achieved, Egypt is witnessing the beginning of a people's movement on a progressive nationalist basis, with the aim of bringing down the Camp David agreement and bringing Egypt back to its Arab national liberationist heritage and achievements, to the Egypt of 'Abd-al-Nasir and the revolutionary movement in it.

We can only evaluate this combative solidarity between the Lebanese national democratic movement and the Palestine national forces hostile to the platform of rightwing deviation with a great positive spirit. It is solidarity which has permanently relied, and is relying now, on the basic role our fraternal Syria is assuming in the Arab national struggle of enmity toward imperialism, Zionism, reaction and its plans and the constructive role it is assuming in supporting the Lebanese national resistance against occupation and helping to set out the national and Arab democratic bases for resolving the Lebanese crisis.

Through the action of the splendid combatitiveness of our people, through this solidarity and support and through the Arab nationalist forces' solidarity with us, it has been possible to realize these great historic achievements in opening broad horizons to the realization of further ones.

On the 61st anniversary, we feel that we are drawing closer to the realization of our aspirations for a united, independent, Arab and democratic nation liberated from Israeli occupation. We feel that we are best able to restore the nation in its optimum form, a nation for all its people, liberated from factionalism and its artificial barriers, liberated from oppression in all its forms, one where the revolutionary movement is headed firmly toward its goal of establishing national democratic rule, preparing the way and opening room for full national and social liberation for the nation, the people and the workers.

The confidence which draws us to the future and its horizons is founded on this splendid combativeness which our brave heroic people possess in all their struggles and along all their fronts, on the support of the Syrian and Arab brothers, and on the sincere support in principle, the splendid internationalist support we have always considered the cornerstone of our struggle and the struggle of all man toward liberation, peace and progress, which the Soviet Union offers us and all peoples from its position as a vanguard and a basic strike force for the world revolutionary movement.

On the 61st anniversary of the establishment of our party, our confidence in the friendship with the country of the Soviets grows deeper; this has not been as abused as our struggle has been by this sort of impudent provocation carried out by gangs linked to our people by no bonds, through the kidnapping of Soviet diplomats and the commission of the crime of murdering one of them.

In addition, these facts we see becoming clearer and more brilliant are great and profound; in them, we see the signs of the vanguard role of the party of the working class, the Communist Party, which these days is ending one of its life's years replete with struggle and self-sacrifice and is being born again, just as the cells of life are born in man and society, along the road to development, along the road to progress.

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LEBANON

BRIEFS

HIZBALLAH INFORMATION CONFERENCE--On the occasion of the first anniversary of the martyrdom of the learned scholar Sayyid 'Abd-al-Latif al-Amin, Hizballah held its first information conference, the Martyr Sayyid 'Abd-al-Latif al-Amin Conference. It was attended by information officials of all the sectors in Lebanon, by the Central Information Committee, and by representatives of the Islamic information organizations. There was discussion of all the affairs and concerns of Islamic information in Lebanon, coordination between the Islamic information organizations, and their development. At the conclusion of the conference, a final communique containing a summary of the suggestions presented to the conference was read. A committee was set up on behalf of the conference to follow the implementation of feasible suggestions. [Text] [Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 21 Nov 85 p 11] 12937/9435

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TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DAM CITED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 3 Nov 85 p 3

[Article by Munir Sallum: "The Actual State of Exploitation of the Al-Hulah Dam: Water Flow Channels Are in Violation of Technical Conditions"]

[Text] Has the al-Hulah Taldu dam realized the objective intended by its construction and initiation of actual operation during the agricultural year 1983-84 of irrigating the land lying downstream from the dam, which has been turned into irrigated land? Have the farmers in this area actually been benefiting from the water of the dam, or have problems and disturbances obstructed the exploitation process this year? This is what we will learn in the course of our field visit to the site of the dam and our meeting with the citizens of this area, and through the information which has been obtained from the accumulation of statistics and planning in the agriculture department and derived from the department of land reclamation and the project management in Taldu and the technical services department.

A Recap on the Dam

The al-Hulah Taldu dam lies west of the city of Hums on the Hums-Masayif public road. Construction work on it was begun in 1969 and its construction was completed in 1978. It was put in actual operation starting with the 1983-84 agricultural season. Its storage capacity is 15.5 million cubic meters and actual capacity is 15,145,000 million cubic meters. The lake's area at maximum storage is 157 hectares and the volume of the water available for irrigation uses is 10,000 cubic meters. The presence of this quantity of water has permitted the irrigation of the land surrounding the dam in the villages of Taldu, Kafr Laha and Talldhahab. The area exploited by the project is estimated at about 20,700 donums and the area of channels, drains, roads and lands taken out of cultivation at about 130 hectares.

This project has contributed to the agricultural development of the region, since for the first time sugar beets, cotton and irrigated summer vegetables have been cultivated alongside dry farming. The farmers have shifted from dry farming crops to irrigated crops and a new pattern of agricultural relations has been introduced among farmers, agricultural cooperatives and the project management. One of the dam's objectives is to irrigate land, raise

fish, provide potable water, provide water for livestock and create resources for forests.

Before addressing the most important matter, which is irrigation of the land, it is necessary to provide an outline of the remaining goals and their economic and social consequences in creating suitable living conditions. Concerning fish cultivation and the planting of newborn carp by the Hums fish organization since the dam was put into use in 1983, these fish have not been used yet. Why not? Concerning the provision of water for livestock, then the outfitting of five watering ponds for this purpose, distributed among Kafr Laha (two), Taldur (two), and Talldhahab (one), these ponds are adequate to provide water for 20,000 head of sheep in the future.

Drinking water is provided in a natural manner through the seepage of water from the basin; that is estimated at 2 million cubic meters a year.

On the creation of resources for forests, forestation work started in 1979 and the area planted with casuarina, eucalyptus, pine and fig trees and grapevines has been estimated at 40,000 donums; however, there is great potential for planting forest trees in the project area, especially in the area of the confines of the dam, which comes to 500 donums, and on the outer edges of channels A and B, over a length of 13,691 meters, in addition to planting on the drainage land, the farm roads and broad drains, and emphasis on the planting of wind equipment.

Farmland Irrigation

This is considered the prime, direct objective in building the dam. The area used has been estimated at 20,700 donums. The agricultural plan needed to operate the project was set out in the light of crops which can be farmed within a crop cycle prepared for this region. This information and the information to come subsequently has been drawn from the report of the committee assigned on 3 April of this year to study the al-Hulah dam, the extent to which it is used, the benefits from it and difficulties and recommendations.

A review of the agricultural plan for the current year, 1984-85, should be considered an indication of the extent to which farmers have been receptive to irrigated farming. One should bear in mind that the villages of the dam are covered by agricultural cooperatives. That is, the area exploited has been estimated at 17,270 out of a total of 20,700 donums and the total winter crops in the form of high-production wheat, ordinary wheat, winter vegetables and peas are 8,800 donums, matched by a comparable figure for summer crops, cotton, summer beets, summer sweet potatoes, corn, summer vegetables, red onions and tomatoes. That is, the total planned area came to 17,600 donums and the crop area to 20,900 donums, including implicitly intensive crops such as corn, green beans and autumn sweet potatoes covering an area of 3,300 donums.

The report pointed out that cotton acreage was 1,650 donums and that of sugar beets 1,500 donums; considering that the beet acreage in the governorate has dropped to about a third, the cotton acreage has been increased, coming to 2,610 donums, and that of sugar beets comes to 540 donums.

What areas, however, have been granted permits by the agriculture department from the beginning of the season to April of this year for winter crops? For cooperatives, that comes to 2,604 donums and for private land 891 donums, or a total of 5,295 donums out of a plan total of 8,800 donums. The ratio of permits granted for winter crops is 60 percent, that for summer crops 47 percent and that for intensive crops 103 percent.

The observations the department of agriculture has produced regarding the grant of permits may be summarized as follows:

Permits have not been granted for the fava bean crop over an area of 140 donums since permission was granted to a society after the planting date.

Seeds were taken into account when permits were granted, along with summer vegetable crops.

The spring sweet potato acreage which did not exist in the plan was shifted to summer sweet potatoes in the case of agricultural cooperative societies.

The corn crop was taken into account as part of the intensive crops only. The ratio of permits granted is 61 percent. When we realize that the area planned for the winter, summer and intensive crops is 20,900 donums and the area granted permits is 12,850 donums, and that the areas granted permits have not exceeded these percentages, the reason for that is the existence of obstacles, including the small size of holdings, the population expansion, the expansion of forest planting and the presence of land which is not easily irrigated and is above the channels. The area granted permits which has actually been planted with winter crops by irrigation is estimated at 4,790 donums and that by dry farming at 11,345 donums. Dry farming is outside the plan, since the area is now irrigated.

We told Mr 'Abd-al-Mu'ti Ahmad Qays, the village chief, "The shift from dry to irrigated farming takes time and expertise, so why are you continuing to increase the dry farming areas, since water is available, and reducing the area of irrigated land?"

He did the talking, so that the discussion could be organized and in the words of everyone who had chosen him to talk: "How can we irrigate our land, if the irrigation channels are depressed and not covered with cement? This bad feature can be attributed to the channel contractor's disrupting the conditions of the contract and leaving the water not pumped, so that the water seeps out of the channels and goes to waste into the ground. This year we have used just 10 percent of the dam's water, and 90 percent of this water has been wasted. They also opened canals for us on 1 June, but they are supposed to be opened on 1 May. This has forced some farmers to plant cotton twice. There is no organization, no supervision and no provision for paving these channels.

"They say that the al-Hulah farmers have not yet mastered the new stage of irrigation operations and there are no quotas with respect to the water channels for each property. Does this mean that this was not mastered except when we provided 100 artesian wells, after losing hope of using the dam

water, and the people had installed pumps over the wasted water to pump it up and irrigate their lands, providing us with many material burdens? There is no supervision, oversight or organization of the irrigation cycles from the department of agriculture and technical services in the governorate. On this subject, a reference was made to all the obstacles lying in the way of operating activities as regards the technical aspects of irrigation work, which include lining, finishing work, improvement of the channels, the process of beautifying them, getting the water flowing early, determining water allotments for each piece of property and their periods, carefully observing them and removing waste.

"For use to be made of the dam's stored water this year, which comes to 10 million cubic meters, it is necessary to put an end to some shortcomings, among them:

"The area which is not included in gravity irrigation has been estimated by the project management at around 2,000 donums. This is being studied by the ministry of irrigation, with the condition that it is to be finished by the end of the year. The same area was estimated by the department of agriculture and cooperative societies at about 2,950 donums.

"There has been finishing work of about 15 kilometers in the lining of secondary dirt channels, supplementary work on the lining of various channels, improvements in accordance with two contracts with the Sarico company starting 5 December 1984 and the drain contract starting on 15 August 1984, with the condition that work on it is to start on 25 April 1984 in cooperation with the department of technical services and the company, which will study the subject together.

"On getting the water flowing in irrigation channels, the process of opening up the weirs was started without any preliminary maintenance. They were delayed and the number of workers, 20, was inadequate for the pursuit of diversion activities.

"The need to finish setting out the allocations to be given to all the land (the assignment of figures) and the effort to remove the rocky debris present alongside the main canal in Taldu.

"The need to work to set out a solution to the problem of floods and flood losses for the citizens, the irrigation system and the three-way dirt channels and to provide machinery to broaden the river channel.

"Regarding the subjects related to agricultural features and the regulation of the investment and permit granting process, these can be reviewed as follows:

"The number of holdings of less than 1 donum came to 7,073. These make up 40 percent of the holdings. There are 2,742 holdings of between 1 and 5 donums, accounting for a ratio of 36 percent, and so on. This means that about 76 percent of the holdings are less than 5 donums, and this actually obstructs the operating process, when we realize that some real properties are included in the depreciation on behalf of the dam and channels and some of them are still registered in the names of deceased farmers.

"The plan set forth has stipulated that the area being exploited and under irrigation is 17,600 donums, but in accordance with the obstacles and the project management this area, which is not irrigated by gravity, is estimated at 2,000 donums, and has also been estimated by the department of agriculture and cooperative societies at 2,950 donums, which means that 2,000 donums are to be removed from the irrigation plan. These abovementioned problems make the farmers hesitate to carry out farming permit grant activities. They perform dry-farming rather than irrigated farming, since the water does not get to their land. The officials must also stop the population encroachment on the irrigated land, while there are fallow lands which should be authorized for building; this removes areas set out in the plan from exploitation.

"It is also necessary to plant fruit trees on dry-farming land, not irrigated land, since the al-Hulah area is considered a primary area of stability."

The demands have been summarized as: the need to regulate the water channels, review setting out the annual agricultural plan, isolate these main and secondary channels, open an agricultural cooperative bank branch in Taldu, provide grading equipment, delimit the farmland, study violations and transgressions against agricultural roads and the areas set aside for channels and drains, provide farmers' requirements, raise fish, carry out forestation operations, terminate the lists of names specifying water allocations for all real properties, form local working groups for all villages represented by the peasant organization, the administrative authority, the project management and the department of agriculture and form a followup committee on a regional basis to supervise the execution and resolution of existing problems and inform the branch agricultural council, while demanding the establishment of a complete agricultural meteorological station and the setting out of a program to provide practical training for farmers in cooperation with the peasant organization, the department of agriculture and the guidance unit, involving technicians and the research center and providing permanent means of transport for the Taldu agriculture department, along with the need to establish and name an agency available full-time to administer and operate the project by technical services and provide accessories in a manner in keeping with the tasks assigned to them.

Finally

We can state that the dam, in spite of its relative newness, is a mixture of obstructions which require that officials strive to eliminate them and realize the demands included within the subject in a manner serving farmers, providing them all the desired accessories and helping to set out the actual agricultural plan within the current situation so that use may be made of the water of the dam.

COMING YEAR'S EDUCATION PLAN REVIEWED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 6 Nov 85 p 2

[Article: "The Compulsory Education Plan for 1985-86"]

[Text] The compulsory education plan for 1985-86 has been issued by the Ministry of Education under the slogan "A compulsory year for all children."

The plan includes the general and particular objectives of compulsory education, in addition to means for carrying them out through the activity of the educational board and the tasks of the educational guide, the region's secretary for compulsory education and the central secretary.

It also describes the tasks of the educational guide for compulsory education, the compulsory education branch and its activities and the tasks of the compulsory education department office.

Proceeding from our country's need to keep abreast of progress and create a technical generation which is capable and educated, and in execution of the resolutions of the party conferences, government orientations and directives of our comrade the secretary general of the party, the fighting comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the compulsory education plan has been set out because it is one of the basic requirements of an education which is democratic in nature and a right which belongs to everyone, and because the execution of the plan entails development for the society and realization of development.

The plan had the goal of including all people born in 1979 in the first primary grade; preventing truancy, especially at the primary level, and following up on people who are of primary education age to whom the registration and admissions instruction for the 1985-86 academic year apply.

It has also had the goal of including all illiterate children whose ages range from 10 to 12 in accordance with the statistics of each governorate in classes attached to the primary schools and educating them up to the end of the primary level in the course of 3 years.

The plan has also defined the activity of the educational board and has considered it responsible for carrying out information bearing on schools

concerning all the instructions reaching the schools, the receipt of names of children present outside the school, the definition of the areas for searching for them, and identifying their homes. In this area, the plan has requested the board to seek the aid of the pupils' guardians and write out announcements specifying the penalties imposed on citizens who abet their children's truancy from school.

It requested the directors of schools to set out a plan of action bearing on their schools, through which they state their plan for carrying out compulsory education, while setting out statistics on pupils in each class and demanding that each teacher keep the number of pupils in his class and prevent them from staying away to the end of the year. All truantries will require that the teacher contact the committee in the section or village to bring back the truant children.

It has defined the educational guide's powers as receiving information from schools, drawing up an integrated picture on them, especially as regards pupils' truancy, helping the educational board solve problems facing them in a manner which will bring about the inclusion of the greatest possible number of pupils, monitoring the listing of truants by school directors, and submitting a monthly report on the state of compulsory education.

The central secretary must make weekly tours to become informed of the state of compulsory education and the course of action of the educational board, coordinate information coming from the secretaries of the regions, prepare lists on children in hiding and provide the necessary publications.

Educational statistics have pointed out that the number of children who entered the first primary grade came to 252,800, while the number of truants, up to the end of the school year 1984-85, came to 50,850. This field survey concerned with compulsory education is a permanent ongoing one and is subject to constant revision.

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AFGHANISTAN

TRADE WITH USSR INCREASING

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 18 Nov 85 p 3

[Text] Moscow (BIA)--Trade and economic relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are developing on a basis of equality and mutual benefit. Their mutual supplies are diverse, ranging from machinery, equipment and transport facilities to foodstuffs, raw materials and energy resources.

Soviet exports to Afghanistan are topped by various equipment for its industry as well as consumer goods.

For their part, Soviet organizations buy products needed by the Soviet economy from their Afghan partners every year. Natural gas forms the bulk of Afghan exports to the USSR. Last year its supplies amounted to nearly 260 million roubles.

The joint construction of economic projects is another important area of bilateral business links. There are more than 200 such facilities in Afghanistan which have been built or under construction with the involvement of Soviet organizations and their technological assistance. These include hydroelectric power stations, chemicals factories, consumer goods and food factories, and motor-road and railway bridges and lines.

The partners pay much attention to further developing Afghanistan's fuel and energy sector. They have, for example, jointly built gas production facilities at major gas deposits in Afghanistan.

A recently-signed agreement between the USSR and the DRA provides for their cooperation in building more economic projects in Afghanistan, in housing construction and in building transportation facilities.

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CSO: 4600/185

STATE RETAIL TRADE ENTERPRISE SAID TO IMPROVE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 23 Nov 85 p 4

[Text] Among the measures that have taken place in the interests of the working people after the victory of the April Revolution, one is the establishment of the retail trade enterprise in the framework of the Ministry of Commerce.

The enterprise was founded and started functioning in 1984 on the instruction of Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC and President of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

The aim of the enterprise is to establish the prices, bring about a sound competition at market, strengthen the state sector and eventually ensure further welfare of the working people.

Eng Mohammad Ehsan Khursand, General Manager of the Retail Trade Enterprise in a talk to a reporter of the Kabul New Times said:

'As our compatriots witness, the one-year activity of the enterprise has not only resulted in preventing disorder and dispersion in supplying materials as well as unreasonable fluctuations in prices, in favour of consumers but has contributed to the growth and development of the national economy and domestic products through execution of the plan on offering national industries and domestic outputs by its related stores.

'Currently, 60 sugar, and 24 essential goods stores of the enterprise are at the service of our countrymen. The goods of the enterprise are not only 5 to 15 percent cheaper than those at free market, but the prices are also fixed in all its stores in the capital and provinces.

'If we compare the activities of the first six months of the enterprise with that of the last six months of the past year, the volume of sale and profit shows an increase of 17 percent.

'The enterprise opened during the current year 10 sugar, two essential goods stores in Kabul city and similar stores in Parwan, Balkh and Nangarhar provinces.

'It is planned for the next year to open a number of sugar stores in the capital and provinces of the country. Apart from that, four several-storey stores will be built in Kabul city, one store in Mazar-e-Sharif city as well as Nangarhar, Kunar, Paktia, provinces and Khost division.

'Of course according to the socio-economic plans of the state, it is considered to expand such social services institutions to all provinces and even to villages and localities.

'The enterprise which feels a responsibility in supplying essential goods to the population of the country arranges its import plans after overall necessary assessment and taking into account the people's economic status and strengthening of the national industry and put it at the disposal of import departments of the Ministry of Commerce.

'After passing its necessary stages and agreement of the companies or countries willing to establish mutual trade relations with the DRA, contracts are signed on purchase of goods.

'The goods sold through the stores of the enterprise are controlled by the supervisors of the enterprise and the Auditing Department of the Ministry of Commerce.'

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CSO: 4600/186

COOPERATION IN ENERGY FIELD EXPANDING

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 18 Nov 85 p 3

[Text] Afghan-Soviet friendship and co-operation in different fields have a long, over 60-year record.

It is difficult to name any of the fields in Afghanistan's economy now in which Soviet experts would have not taken part.

For the revolutionary Afghanistan which inherited the most backward economy, the development of each field is equally important, whether it is construction of residential houses or cannery, agricultural farms or building of highways and roads, exploration and extraction of natural mineral resources and so on.

One of the most important fields for Afghanistan is supply of electric energy without which it is impossible to make function any industrial enterprise. The Soviet Union helps the DRA in this sphere, too. The work on electric transmission line USSR's state border Kholm-Mazar-e-Sharif is nearing completion. Through the already completed stages Afghanistan has become able to receive energy from the Soviet Union. The Energovolt firm (v/o Energomachexport) is the company which supplies electric energy to the DRA. Together with Afghanistan among the buyers of energy from the USSR through the Energovolt firm we can name major companies in Bulgaria, Finland, the GDR, Greece, Hungary, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia. Afghanistan joined last year.

A wide range of goods offered by the Energovolt firm find their buyers in more than 40 countries. The exports of high-voltage equipment have grown 17 times in 15 years. The firm supplies metal supports for high-voltage power transmission lines which can be built to customer drawings and specifications from rolled stock, carbon and low-alloyed steel.

Soviet enterprises put out a wide range of high-voltage switch gear, which is highly reliable, simple in design and has good switching characteristics.

Electric power transmission and distribution systems make use of a large number of power transformers in a wide range of capacities and several voltage ratings on the low-and high-voltage sides, adopted in every specific country. Although a power transformer appears to be a simple device at

first sight, only a technologically advanced manufacturer can make it so as to meet modern reliability and energy-saving standards. The Energovolt firm places export orders with factories having the most up-to-date production equipment. This allows no-load and short-circuit losses in the transformers produced to be held to a minimum; the transformers, thanks to the use of the best electrical-grade steels and modern insulating materials, are capable of carrying considerable overloads under a power system's faulty operating conditions.

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CSO: 4600/185

ROAD CONSTRUCTION PRIORITY PROJECT

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 16 Nov 85 p 4

[Text] The Road Construction Section of the Central Project-Making Institute (CPMI) of the DRA completed the construction work of more than 20 projects during the first six months of the current Afghan year (begun March 21, 1985).

Eng Faruque, head of the section, speaking to a KNT correspondent said: Those projects include among others, Khair Khana base, Afshar, plan for the sixth parish of Herat city, 3 projects of Milli-Bus, plan for residential blocks of Kabul Municipality, Nursery of Watan Kindergarten.

Roads built by the Section connect many parts of the cities, remotest districts and highways of the country.

The Road Construction Section of the Institute was set up in 1976.

From that time onwards we have completed the construction work of more than 250 city projects.

Since our Institute is a state profitable organization, we conclude contracts regularly with firms and state institutions and companies due to the construction works.

To cite as an example, the Road Construction Section of the Institute profited over Afs 2,059,960 during the first six months of the current Afghan year.

Faruque added: Our Section is divided into three chambers: roads and highway, leveling roads construction, decoration of spaces and courtyards.

Besides, we construct roads and ways in the provinces, districts and the remotest villages of the country.

Eng Nazifa Rasuli, one of the graduates of Kabul Polytechnic Institute, who started work in the same section recently, answering a question said: 'I have graduated from the Roads and Construction Faculty of the Polytechnic Institute two months before and began to work here.

'Roads and highways are the blood arteries of each country which not only connect cities but the hearts of the people as well.

'Roads construction is my favourite field, for it is priority need of my country.

'I work tirelessly now, in order to put the scientific knowledge I received in the Institute into practice.'

Right now there are 16 engineers technicians and the Soviet experts working in the Road Construction Section of the Central Project-Making Institute of the DRA.

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CSO: 4600/186

OPPOSITION LEADER FIGHTING APATHY TOWARDS HIS COUNTRY

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 6 Jan 86 p 3

[Article by Peter White]

[Text]

Mr Ghairat Baheer's life is divided incongruously between the war-torn mountains and valleys of southern Afghanistan and the sedate, tree-lined streets of suburban Canberra.

For four months of the year Mr Baheer fights Russians.

The rest of the year he spends in Australia, South-East Asia and New Zealand fighting what he sees as the growing apathy of the non-communist world towards the plight of his countrymen and women before the might of the invading Soviet forces.

Mr Baheer, the representative in Australia of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen, has just returned to Australia after his annual tour of duty in the Afghan battle fields and the Iranian and Pakistan refugee camps where more than five million Afghan refugees now live.

His task, as official Mujahideen representative based at Canberra, is to lobby government leaders and attempt to pass on information about the fighting to the Australian public.

He admits that his divided life has a great potential for loneliness and culture shock.

"We people of Afghanistan are not jealous of Australia people, we are happy that they can live in such peace and happiness.

"But there's no way the Australia people can comprehend the life in Afghanistan, there's nothing like it even in the Australian outback.

"On one mission we were camped out on a mountain.

"We had only potatoes to eat for eight days.

"We had to sleep in the open in the severe cold — the one of us who was sleeping in the tent was the lucky one.

"We were going out to attack a Russian position.

"Even when we are not able to confront the enemy, we still create some hazard to keep alive the resistance so the Russians will not sleep confidently, so that they will never feel safe anywhere in our country.

"We walked, carrying all our arms, for five hours, then we fought the Russians for five or six hours then we had to walk back for five hours."

He said that he and his fellow freedom fighters accepted that on such missions casualties might be high.

"We control most of the country and there is complete security and safety in those areas, but we know that when we go out to fight there's a high chance of being injured or killed.

"We will accept no solution other than the setting up of a pure Islamic government.

"That goal is so important to us that we don't worry about our own life; that's such an important motive that we welcome death, there's no power on earth that can defend against that motive."

He said that despite the stepping up of military activity by the Soviet forces and the increase in such atrocities as the use of chemical agents and the dropping of booby-trapped bombs, the Afghan people's will to fight had not weakened.

"During my trip it became obvious that the appalling conditions have boosted rather than lowered the morale of the Afghan people," he said.

Mr Baheer said the Mujahideen gave no credence to media reports last week that the Soviet-backed Afghan regime had presented a timetable for the withdrawal of all Soviet troops within a year during recent UN-sponsored talks in Geneva.

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CSO: 4600/188

IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS FOR FRONTIER TRIBES PLANNED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 20 Nov 85 p 2

[Article by Asmat Sadat]

[Text] The question of upgrading the living conditions of the Afghan people has always been at the centre of attention of the PDPA. After the victory of the April Revolution, especially its new and evolutionary phase, numerous decisions have been taken by the DRA state in order to improve socio-economic conditions of the fraternal nationalities residing in our country. In this regard paramount importance has been attached to the promotion of social, economic and political conditions of the frontier tribes.

During the past despotic regimes no attention was paid to the improvement of the living conditions in the tribal areas. On the contrary, Afghan rulers deliberately implemented a policy aimed at preserving the frontier tribes backward, isolated and divided in order to prolong their despotic rule.

Following a principled and sound policy, the PDPA and the DRA state have taken numerous steps and decisions regarding the improvement of the living conditions in the tribal areas. These plans cover economic, political, cultural and social spheres of the life of the frontier tribes.

Political Measures

In order to democratize socio-political relations of tribes and give them their due share in the process of the decision-making, great importance has been attached to Jirgahs (assemblies) and consultations with authoritative representatives of tribes.

Since the beginning of 1980, hundreds of Jirgahs have been convened with the participation of party and state officials for solving the problems and difficulties of the frontier tribes. Similarly, the representatives of the frontier tribes have held talks with the party and state leaders and with Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC and President of the RC of the DRA in person. These jirgahs culminated in the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) held in late April this year and the High Jirgah of the Frontier Tribes convened recently wherein apart from all other important

issues domestic and foreign policies of the DRA were discussed and endorsed. The representatives expressed their views on the current vital-for-destiny problems facing our people.

Similarly, 88 Permanent Consultative Jirgahs have been set up among all the Frontier Tribes of the country to which 500 trustworthy tribal representatives have been elected by the tribes themselves. Through these Jirgahs the frontier tribes participate in the socio-economic and administrative affairs of the state. In the same way, the High Jirgah of the Frontier Tribes which was participated in by 3,700 representatives of the tribes, elected 154 authoritative representatives of the frontier tribes to the Central Council of the High Jirgah of the Frontier Tribes.

A part from this preliminary work for the elections to the local organs of state power and administration has already begun in the frontier provinces. It will help the people there to further participate in the administrative, economic and political affairs of these provinces.

In Nimroze the elections are over, in Nangarhar province the elections are successfully going on.

Economic and Trade Measures

Economic uplifting of the living conditions of our people in general and that of the frontier tribes in particular, has always been in the centre of attention of our revolutionary state, despite financial difficulties and continuous subversive activities of the criminal counter-revolutionaries. The DRA state has taken a series of measures towards this end.

These include 200-bed hospital in Nangarhar province, Eye Institute in Herat province, dormitory for nurses and regional hospital in Kandahar, survey and repairs of Kunar road, including Sorkhakan bridge, installation of TV transmitting stations in Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Farah and Badakhshan Provinces and construction of apartments in Kajaki, Khybar and Chani Khel, construction of hydro-power plant in Asad Abad of Kunaar Province, building of Lashkari Irrigation Canal in Nimroz Province and diesel power project of Herat, installation of medium-wave radio stations in Farah and Nimroz provinces.

Since 1357 HS (1978) 750,000 hectares of land have been brought under irrigation. As many as 664 deep and ordinary wells have been dug since the revolution, 281 big and small bridges have also been built during this period.

So far, the Council of Ministers of the DRA has either planned or put into practice irrigation constructional, economic and educational projects costing over 16,000 million Afghanis.

Similarly, a number of projects costing Afs 260 million have been included in the development plans of the state for the frontier provinces. Furthermore, in order to meet the economic requirements of the frontier tribes,

a huge quantity of goods such as edible oil, wheat, tea, footwear, clothes, sugar etc., costing Afs 231,004,470 have been rendered to the frontier tribes free of charge.

The Pashtun tribes also play a remarkable role in commerce, transport, industry and private sector of the economy in the DRA. Six thousand traders from the free tribes are engaged in trading in the markets of Afghanistan. The trade dealing of the Pashtuns of the free tribes through DRA exceeds 4 billion rupees while the share of the traders of the free tribes in Pakistan does and exceed 650 million rupees.

The session of the Politburo of the PDPA CC dated September 22, 1985 while evaluating the work of the High Jirgah of the Frontier Tribes also discussed the issues related to the betterment of socio-economic position of the frontier provinces.

Socio-Cultural Spere

The DRA government based on the resolutions of the Politburo and the Central Committee of the PDPA has adopted wide-scale measures for betterment of socio-cultural condition of the frontier tribes and other minor nationalities.

The Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs of the DRA has established the department of Publicity and Publication for the growth of the cultural of various tribes and ethnic groups. The department brings out the following publications. The magazine 'fraternal nationalities' in Pashto, Dari, Turkman, Uzbek, Baluchi, Nooristani and Pashai languages once in two months. The magazine "Jirgah" is published for the Pashtun frontier tribes. Similarly, 'Ulduz' (star) and Gorash (struggle) periodicals are published in Mazar-i-Sharif and Sheberghan cities in the Uzbek and Turkoman languages. Likewise, the Sub (victory) periodical is published in the Baluchi language. All these magazines and periodicals have started publication after the April Revolution.

After the revolution the research work started for collecting historic data on culture and language of all nationalities, especially those of Pashtoons. International Research Centre of the Pashtu Language functions within the framework of the DRA Academy of Sciences. Over the seven years of the revolution the volume of publication of books in Pashtu has been two times more than over the past fifty years. The DRA State pays profound attention for providing vast educational opportunities for the sons of all nationalities residing in our beloved homeland.

Annually tens of millions of Afghanis are being spent on the education of the sons of tribes. Khushal Khan and Rahman Baba lycees in Kabul and Bayazid Roshan University in Nangarhar Province have been organised for this purpose and the state has appropriated a considerable number of scholarships in the USSR and other friendly countries for tribes.

Only during the current year, 400 youths belonging to all nationalities of the country were sent to friendly countries for higher education. About 360 youths from the frontier tribes were admitted to Khusyal Khan and Rahman Baba high schools during this period.

In order to strengthen the unity of the fraternal nationalities living in the country, the social composition of fraternal nationalities are kept in view.

At present, Pashtoons form 60 percent of the officers of our armed forces of which the sons of the frontier tribes constitute the major part. Likewise, from among the 23 members of the Council of Ministers, 13 are Pashtuns. In the same way one hundred and twenty-five Pashtuns have been elected to the Jirgahs of municipal districts of Kabul city along with representatives of other nationalities. Similarly, among representatives to the local Jirgahs of Kabul Province 280 deputies are Pashtoons and the rest are Baluches, Nooristanis and other nationalities.

All these measures adopted by the DRA state for elevating the living standard and for betterment socio-political, economic and cultural life of tribes and all nationalities residing in our ancient homeland reflect soundness and correctness of the special policies of the PDPA.

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CSO: 4600/189

BRIEFS

MUJAHIDIN EXECUTE SPIES--London, Nov 13 (IRNA)--Agency Afghan Press (AAP) said here that eight Parcham faction office bearers disguised as Mujahideen were convicted on spying charges and were sentenced to death by an Islamic Court of liberated areas in southern Afghan province of Helmand. AAP sources said that Parcham Party workers had joined the Mujahideen under the instructions of Karmal's men after receiving long training from the KHAD intelligence agency for the purpose of extracting information about Mujahideen activities. Reports said a KHAD spy was captured in Musa Qila town of Helmand province on Oct 22 while passing information to his masters on wireless. During investigation the KHAD agent identified seven other culprits who were immediately arrested. The security cell of the Mujahideen had kept the suspected agents under surveillance for some time, AAP reported. They later faced a trial in an Islamic court of liberated areas and were shot dead for betraying the resistance and Afghan masses. Meanwhile, the governor of Qandahar, Hameedullah Roohi has been replaced by Mohammad Zaham Bari of Parcham Faction. The administration claimed that the measure was consistent with its policy of promoting locals to the higher office, however resistance movement in Qandahar rejected the claim. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Nov 85 p 1] /9317

LITERACY MOVEMENT GAINS MOMENTUM--Lashkargah (BIA)--Over 2,800 workers, peasants, women, artisans and state employees, as well as soldiers of the army and Tsarandoy (people's police) are currently engaged in 140 literacy courses in the centre and outskirts of Helmand province. This was stated by Mohammad Lal, head of Literacy Directorate of Helmand province. He said that out of the number of the students of these courses, 380 are housewives who are engaged in 38 literacy courses and the rest of the courses are being run in the party, state, Tsarandoy and other institutions. He added that during the six months of the current year (begun March 21, 1985), 20 literacy courses have newly been set up in the capital and suburbs of that province. One hundred persons are engaged in the newly opened courses. The courses are being taught by 109 official and volunteer teachers. [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 17 Nov 85 p 4] /9317

CSO: 4600/186

REPORTAGE ON SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Text of Declaration

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The seven South Asian leaders concluded their two day summit expressing their confidence that with effective cooperation, they could make optimum use of the region's substantial human and natural resources for the benefit of their peoples and accelerate the pace of development enhancing national and collective self-reliance.

In a declaration, the leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka constituting the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) acknowledged that "they were conscious of their individual and regional strengths, their potential as a huge market, their substantial human and natural resources and the complementarities of their economies."

The declaration called "Dhaka Declaration" reaffirmed the regional cooperation for the peace and stability and development in the region.

The five-page Dhaka Declaration marking the formal launching of SAARC, acknowledged that the countries of South Asia were faced with formidable challenges posed by poverty, underdevelopment, low levels of production, unemployment and pressure of population compounded by exploitation of the past and other adverse legacies.

They felt that bound by many common values rooted in their social, ethnic, cultural and historical traditions the regional cooperation provided a logical response to these problems.

The seven leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the UN Charter and the principles governing sovereign equality of states, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in internal affairs and non-use of threat of use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of other states.

They reiterated that the UN constitutes the most important forum for the resolution of all issues affecting international peace and security. They also reaffirmed their support to the Non-Aligned Movement.

The heads of state and the government of the seven nations emphasised that strengthening of regional cooperation in South Asia required greater involvement of their peoples. They agreed to increase interaction and further promote people-to-people contacts at various levels among their countries. They also decided to take steps to create awareness and public opinion in the region.

They also welcomed the progress already made in the implementation of the integrated programme of action in the nine mutually agreed areas expressing their desire to consolidate and further expand cooperative efforts within an appropriate institutional framework in a spirit of partnership and equality.

Following is the text of the declaration:

Following is the text of Dhaka declaration of the heads of state or government of the member states of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

The President of Bangladesh, the King of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Maldives, the King of Nepal, the President of Pakistan and the President of Sri Lanka met in Dhaka on December 7 and 8, 1985.

2. The heads of state or government underscored the historic significance of their first ever South Asian summit meeting. They considered it to be a tangible manifestation of their determination to cooperate regionally, to work together towards finding solutions towards their common problems in a spirit of friendship, trust and mutual understanding and to the creation of an order based on mutual respect, equity and shared benefits.
3. They recognized that periodic meetings at their level were central to the promotion of mutual trust, confidence and cooperation among their countries.
4. The heads of state or government reaffirmed that their fundamental goal was to accelerate the process of economic and social development in their respective countries through the optimum utilization of their human and material resources, so as to promote the welfare and prosperity of their peoples and to improve their quality of life. They were conscious that peace and security was an essential pre-requisite for the realization of this objective.
5. The leaders of the South Asian countries reaffirmed their commitment to the UN Charter and the principles governing sovereign equality of states, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in internal affairs and non-use of threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of other states. They reiterated that the United Nations constituted the most important forum for the resolution of all issues affecting international peace and security.
6. They also reaffirmed their deep conviction in the continuing validity and relevance of the objectives of the non-aligned movement as an important force in international relations.

7. The heads of state or government acknowledged that the countries of South Asia, who constituted one-fifth of humanity were faced with the formidable challenges posed by poverty, underdevelopment, low levels of production, unemployment and pressure of population compounded by exploitation of the past and other adverse legacies. They felt that, bound as their countries were by many common values rooted in their social, ethnic, cultural and historical traditions, regional cooperation provided a logical response to these problems. They were conscious of their individual and regional strengths, their potential as a huge market, their substantial human and natural resources and the complementarities of their economies. They were confident that with effective regional cooperation, they could make optimum use of these capacities for the benefit of their peoples, accelerate the pace of their economic development and enhance their national and collective self-reliance.

Remaining Text of Declaration

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Dec 85 p 3

[Text] Following is the remaining part of the text of Dhaka Declaration of the Heads of State or Government of the member states of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), issued at the end of two days' summit in the city.

They were convinced that their countries which had made important contributions to the enrichment of human civilization, could together play their due role in international relations and influence decisions which affected them.

8. The Heads of State or Government emphasised that strengthening of regional cooperation in South Asia required greater involvement of their peoples. They agreed to increase interaction and further promote people-to-people contacts at various levels among their countries. To this end, they decided to take steps to create awareness and public opinion in the region.

9. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the progress already made in the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Action in the nine mutually agreed areas. They expressed their desire to consolidate and further expand cooperative efforts within an appropriate institutional framework in a spirit of partnership and equality.

10. The leaders were convinced that they could effectively pursue their individual and collective objectives and improve the quality of life of their peoples only in an atmosphere of peace and security. In this context, they expressed concern at the deteriorating international political situation. They were alarmed at the unprecedented escalation of arms race particularly in its nuclear aspect. They recognized that mankind today was confronted with the threat of self-extinction arising from a massive accumulation of the most destructive weapons ever produced. The arms race intensified international tension and violated the principles of the UN Charter. The leaders called upon the nuclear weapons states for urgent negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty leading to the complete cessation of testing, production

and deployment of nuclear weapons. In this connection, they welcomed the recent meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva and expressed the hope that the meeting would have a positive effect on international peace and security.

11. The Heads of State or Government expressed deep concern at the continuing crisis in the global economy. they underscored that deteriorating economic and social conditions had seriously retarded development prospects in South Asia and other developing countries. Sharply falling commodity prices, deterioration in the terms of trade, intensification of protectionist measures, spiralling debt burden and a decline in the flow of external resources, especially concessional assistance, had caused a serious setback to the economic development of the developing countries. These had been compounded by natural disasters and precarious world food security situation affecting developing countries. They also expressed concern over the diminishing capacity of international financial and technical institutions to respond effectively to the needs of the disadvantaged and poorer countries and regretted that the spirit of multilateral cooperation had begun to falter and weaken. This was particularly disturbing in the face of increased interdependence of developed and developing countries and the fact that economic revival of North was closely linked to economic progress in South. They believed that developments during the past decades had clearly demonstrated the structural imbalances and inequities inherent in the existing international economic system and its inadequacy to deal with problems of development.

12. They strongly urged that determined efforts should be made by the international community towards realization of the goals and targets of the International Development Strategy as well as the Substantial New Programme of Action for the least Developed Countries. They called for urgent resumption of the North-South dialogue and early convening of an International Conference on Money and Finance for Development with universal participation.

13. The Heads of State and Government were conscious of the historic importance of the Dhaka Summit and reiterated their conviction that the launching of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which they had established at this meeting, would place regional cooperation on a firm foundation, play an important role in accelerating the pace of economic and social development of their countries, promote the objectives of individual and collective self-reliance and further the cause of peace, progress and stability in their region and the world.

14. The Heads of the State or government of Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were deeply appreciative of the exemplary Chairmanship of their Meeting by the President of Bangladesh. They expressed their profound gratitude for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to them by the government and the people of Bangladesh and for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

Report on Ershad Press Conference

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Shamsui Huq Zahid]

[Text] President Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad, who is also the Chairman of the first SAARC summit told a post-summit press conference on Sunday that the summit had "certainly" reduced fears and mistrust among SAARC member-nations and created an atmosphere congenial to resolving outstanding bilateral issues.

President Ershad addressed the crowded press conference sitting on a flag decked dais of the Committee Room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the summit venue.

The summit Chairman termed the launching SAARC as a momentous event and said that for the time in the history of South Asian Region, countries now have an institutional arrangement for periodic consultations at the highest level and to concert efforts in the economic, social and other spheres for improving the quality of life of peoples of the region.

He said that summit meeting had been characterised by a remarkable degree of warmth enthusiasm and understanding. There had been a clear stress on the part of all leaders that to make the new organisation viable and in time transform it into an important instrument for co-operation and peace.

President Ershad said that no acrimonious bilateral issues would be discussed in the newly launched SAARC forum. He, however, said, "We have created an atmosphere in which seven South Asian countries can sit and discuss. All outstanding issues can be resolved through this organisation."

President Ershad said that there was a possibility of including trade as an area for co-operation among SAARC member nations in an "appropriate time". He said that the summiteers had discussed the issue.

The SAARC Chairman said the SAARC did welcome the Nepalese King Birendra's offer to harness her vast resources for mutual benefit of the countries of the region.

President Ershad termed as unfounded the apprehension that in course of economic cooperation, less developed members would turn into hinterland of the more developed members.

He said that the summiteers had confined their discussions within regional issues and that had not discussed the Afghanistan or Kampuchea issue.

On a question on terrorism, the summit Chairman said that the South Asian leaders had a positive attitude towards terrorism. The leaders had asked the Foreign Secretaries to form study groups to look into the drug abuse and terrorism issues and recommend measures how to combat those problems. He informed that till a Secretariat of SAARC was selected Bangladesh would provide secretarial services.

Asked what he would do in the event of any conflicting situation between two SAARC member-nations, President Ershad said, "We are brothers let's hope such situation does not arise."

BSS adds: President Ershad told a questioner enlargement of the SAARC by inclusion of more Asian members or changing the Charter itself would require unanimous decision of the member-countries.

Asked whether the other members would demonstrate SAARC spirit to help Sri Lanka stop bleeding in the interest of peace, stability and harmony in the region--one of the forum's objectives--President Ershad said the summit gave birth to a "positive attitude". "So we entrusted the Foreign Ministers with the task of how to tackle the problem of terrorism," he added.

Answering a question President Ershad said that the Foreign Ministers would go into the issue of terrorism but refrained from defining it saying, "Please wait till the Foreign Ministers give their report."

Asked whether Sri Lanka's accusation against India of helping Tamil terrorists or India's accusation against Pakistan of supporting Sikh separatists came up at the summit discussions he said, "in the discussions there was not accusation of one another."

President Ershad told a questioner that the Ganges is an international river.

Pakistan President Talks to Press

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Pakistan President Ziaul Haq on Monday said that he was happy that SAARC conceived in Dhaka was born in this historic city. "It is one day old but it took five years" of hard labour, he said observing that a good beginning had been made. "Its a good augury," he noted.

Talking to a group of journalists in response to their requests for interviews, President Zia said the new organisation which would have entirely an economic overtone for the time being could not be equated with any such organisation past or present. He was confident that the SAARC will succeed.

He pointed out that politics had been put out of the ambit of the organisation but it would feature in it in due course of time. "You can not avoid politics. You can postpone it," he said.

President Zia noted that leaders of seven South Asian nations with various degree of problems between them "mingled, talked and discussed" for three days in an atmosphere extremely friendly and relaxed. He thought this itself was a great advancement.

"It wasn't a social gathering. True politics was not there since it is a taboo for the SAARC but we discussed a lot," he said, specially referring to four hours river cruise which had been "most productive". He refused to

draw the subjects of discussion into public.

"But we must have something concrete before we meet next year," Pakistan President said on necessity of economic advancement.

TRIBUTES TO ERSHAD

President Zia paid glowing tributes to Bangladesh President H. M. Ershad for holding the SAARC summit. "It would be difficult for the successor to hold a summit of such high standard. While there were visible things like beautification there were invisible efforts of a year of the officials and others," he said while congratulating those working for the summit.

AFGHANISTAN

he said that Afghanistan or Kampuchean issues were not discussed nor were these designed to be discussed because politics is out of the ambit of the organisation.

But replying to a host of questions he said that Soviet-Afghan incursions into Pakistan territory could be intensified in future. He attributed the reason to the serious military situation inside Afghanistan. A super-power like Soviet Union could not subjugate a tiny country with its 150,000 soldiers. Of the 15 million, five million were pushed into Pakistan. As a measure of desperation they would step up attacks on its citizens spilling over into Pakistan. "We would not retaliate for that might escalate the situation," he said.

He thought Moscow also agreed that military solution of the issue was not possible. He said Pakistan Foreign Minister would meet the Afghan side in indirect political talks for sixth round on 16 December at Geneva.

BSS adds: Asked how the six other fellow SAARC countries can help Sri Lanka combat the insurgency it is facing, President Haq said a study group will go into the problem in all its aspects.

The Pakistan President said SAARC has already described terrorism and drug trafficking as evils. "We want to see terrorism eradicated from all the countries in SAARC", President Zia said.

Asked how best five other members in the regional grouping can help Bhutan and Nepal overcome the problems they face because of being land locked, he said, "that's why we have incorporated the economic component in the SAARC, so that all the members are benefited and no one feels not benefited."

"We will develop the mechanism at the expert and the technical levels. You will know the results before the next summit. President Zia said.

The Pakistan President said he discussed individually with all the South Asian leaders including the Prime Minister of India the question of renunciation of force or threat of force by SAARC member nations.

Asked whether he got any response to his initiative President Zia said all agreed that peace would be the basis of cooperation in the region.

President Zia said SAARC has brought about "greater personal relationship" among the seven Heads of State and Government of the region which he thought can help resolve bilateral problems in a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

In such conferences, he said, some problems are not discussed officially, though, they are discussed informally which is helpful in solving problems.

During last one year, the Pakistan President said, he had five meetings with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the funeral of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in New Delhi, in Moscow at the funeral of President chernenko, at the UN commemorative session in New York, in Muscat at the National day celebrations of Oman, and the last one HERE.

President Zia said when he called on Premier Rajiv on Saturday they did not discuss any serious issues. He said that he was served "fine tea" and sardines, adding "he likes sardines, I like too."

Interview with Zia

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] An emergency meeting of the central working committee of Awami League held yesterday with its presidium member Abdul Malek Ukil in the chair demanded an end to marital law and establishment of people's rights in the martial law held countries of the region, including Bangladesh.

The meeting reviewed the outcome of the SAARC summit.

The meeting deplored that important issues like elimination of poverty and establishment of fundamental rights of the people of the region had not found place in the declaration of the luxurious and expensive summit.

It was affirmed that the prospectives of their own. We in SAARC have our own unique problems and therefore a comparison is not possible. What is important is how much potentiality SAARC has. It's a question of potentiality. SAARC can succeed. It must succeed.

Q. Mr President, in what way do you think OIC can influence SAARC?

A. It can strengthen SAARC because three member nations of SAARC are also in the OIC. All seven are in the Non-aligned Movement and all are also in the United Nations. A multiplicity of membership makes SAARC that much richer and I believe this inter-action will benefit all of us.

Q. Turning to other more global issues, Mr President, what is your present assessment of the situation in Afghanistan?

A. The Soviet Union is in difficulties in Afghanistan because of the insurgency. This insurgency by now has assumed an indigenous nature. However, we in Pakistan are always in favour of a political solution to the issue. As you know, indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been going on in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations.

Q. If I may be so bold as to point out to you, Mr. President, the recent statement of Indian Prime Minister Pajiv Gandhi to the effect that the Soviets are willing to leave Kabul provided they are given some guarantees. How does your government react to this statement?

A. I have not read the statement. But let me tell you that what the Soviet Union needs is a face-saving device because they are clearly in difficulties. Pakistan is willing to offer such a face-saving device, one being Geneva talks. The indirect talks there contain reasonable chances of success.

Q. Mr. President, would Pakistan be willing, at a later stage to negotiate directly with the regime in Kabul?

A. Pakistan is categorical in the belief--not that we are adamant about the whole thing or have our own reservations--that there can be no talks with the Kabul regime. It is not a Pakistani decision, but a decision reached by the Organisation of Islamic Conference. It is, moreover, a question of principles. You cannot talk to people who rode to power on Russian tanks and put the freedom of their own people in jeopardy.

Q. You have been in power for more than eight years, Sir, and one of your avowed goals has been to Islamise Pakistani society. How far would you say you have succeeded in achieving that goal?

A. I believe that we have been able to do what we set out to do and that was to create an impact on Pakistan because Pakistan has peculiar characteristics of its own. It is not for me to judge how much success we have achieved. Only posterity or history can do that. But we have done our best.

Q. Mr. President, there is a clear recognition of the fact that you have set in motion a new political order in your country. There is also the apprehension that such an order, based as it is on factors such as the registration of political parties may not last. Would you like to comment on that, Mr President?

A. Every country has its peculiarities. As a result of the last eight years, these are changes in Pakistan, I was encouraged to go for the creation of an elected regime and I can tell you that we have successfully installed an elected government in the country. However, how it works is something that only time will tell. Will we carry this experiment--if you call it experiment--forward or will it be an exercise in futility? You see, in any situation there are tangibles and intangibles and I can tell you that in our present case, there are more of tangibles. Personally, I am very hopeful.

Q. Turning to the subcontinent, Mr. President, India has lately been expressing its concern about Pakistan acquiring nuclear capability. What would you say about such fears on the part of New Delhi?

A. Such fears are unfounded and are there only because they are based on a lack of communication. May be there is a particular lobby that would benefit from the propagation of such fears. But if India has fears about us, we to have our fears about India. Fears are there both ways; it is a two-way traffic. However, we have always said that Pakistan will use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes only. That is our stand. Let us renounce the use of force in our dealings with each other.

Q. Mr. President, you will soon be in India on an official visit. How do you perceive Indo-Pakistan relations at this point of time as also in the coming years?

A. I would say that we have satisfactory relations. Being in SAARC, India and Pakistan have common interests and these common interests, I think, can transform our relations from being merely satisfactory to cordiality.

Q. Mr. President, as far as relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh are concerned, how do you survey the overall situation, particularly in the political and economic fields?

A. There is a lot that could be done in the economic field. Earlier, the volume of trade between the two wings of the then Pakistan was on quite a high level. But why is the volume between Pakistan and Bangladesh now lower than the earlier one? The trade volume can increase four times over what it is now. Here we can really improve the situation. As for political relations, I can tell you that they are excellent and we are happy.

Q. The repatriation of stranded Pakistanis has persisted as an issue since 1971, notably the fact that a great number of Bihari Muslims who opted for Pakistan after December 1971 have still not been accepted by your country. do you think, Mr President, that under existing circumstances a solution to the issue could possibly be hammered out?

A. There are two aspects to the issue--the legal and the humanitarian. From the legal point of view, Pakistan is under no obligation to accept the non-Bengalees as its citizens. However, it is purely from the moral or humanitarian standpoint that we have agreed to consider the issue. Rabita too has tried to help the situation, but they also are under no obligation.

I was talking to the leader of the Biharis, Mr Nasim Khan, this morning. I told him plainly that it was up to the non-Bengalees to adopt Bangladesh as their homeland. Bangladesh too would have helped them but they (Biharis) themselves decided to opt for Pakistan. Now I can only say that until a solution is found they have to go on living the way they have. You see, Pakistan is also a poor country, but will do all it can.

Pakistan is the home of all muslims and so we can have no objection to taking them. However, there is also the question of resources which we are trying to pool from international agencies and richer Muslim countries.

I am a Muhajir and so is Foreign Minister Sahibzada (Yaqub Khan). But that does not mean that we will always be Muhajirs because the act of creating Pakistan was to provide a homeland for Muslims.

Q. Mr President, what impression of Bangladesh will you be carrying back home now that the SAARC Summit is over?

A. I am greatly satisfied with my visit. We had a river cruise the other day and I would see people on the banks. It made me conscious of the commonality of our problems and interests. Pakistan and Bangladesh can work together and, God willing, they will have the best relations.

The last time I was here, there was a press conference where a correspondent asked me a particular question. I remeber the answer clearly. I told him that your houses were our houses. This time we all went to the national memorial and paid homage to the dead. I myself went to the mazars of three leaders in the city to pay my respects.

Q. Mr President, we appreciate the fact that you found time to visit the graves of three of our national leaders yesterday.

A. They were all great leaders. They were your leaders--they were also our leaders.

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CSO: 4600/1300

NEGATIVE EFFECT OF U.S. QUOTA ON GARMENT TRADE NOTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The garment industry workers in Chittagong are now at a fix. The uncertainty in their job has put them in doldrums.

With the closure of about 70 garment industries out of 131 over 30,000 workers have already been rendered jobless. Another 10,000 workers' fate in at least 15 industries is hanging in the balance.

The sudden imposition of quota in the USA and some Western Countries the export of men's garments from Bangladesh forced a significant curtailment of production. This ultimately turned majority of the industries unprofitable and there by compelled to close down many of them.

The imminent possibility of imposition of quota on the export of women's garment from Bangladesh will make further setback to the situation. This step will possibly force to close down 80 per cent industries and throw thousands of workers out of employment. The Trade Surveillance Bureau (TSB) which is scheduled to meet in Geneva soon will decide on the quota of Bangladesh manufactured women's garments.

According to Chittagong Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Council about eight lakh dozens womens garments were exported from Bangladesh during last fiscal year.

Of the present 30,000 jobless workers 27,000 are female. They came of low income families. These workers aged between 16 and 35 years are mainly from the families of rickshaw pullers mill workers labourers and low paid government and private employees.

According to garment industry owners, a garment worker in Chittagong on an average earn about Taka one thousand per month. Their duty hours range eight hours with half an hour break for lunch. They sometimes get overtime for additional work. However the garment industries here usually run in one shift.

The salary that they draw generally supplement the short fall of their family budget. Thus these young workers with their earning have become

indispensable to keep the families meet bare necessities of life.

About 10 per cent of these working force solely depend on the earning from garment industries. This 10 per cent consists of husbands and wives working together for garment industries.

Social impact

The debacle in their life due to loss of job will have a severe impact on the society. This newly raised cadre of working force being unemployed will further affect the social life. The female workers in particular will suffer most. Because this new source of earning changed their style of living. Since they came from downtrodden section of the society, they will hardly find a substitute means for their livelihood.

A 20-year old girl Bina Mallick is served with retrenchment notice. In emotion charged voice she said that the notice ruined all her hopes and aspirations. Bina who did her HSC now is a student of night section of a girls college.

Similarly Kamrunnesa Bina Pani Devi Kohinur Zebunnessa and many others lost jobs. They are now thrown into extreme miseries. All of them in choked voices sought a way out of the situation.

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CSO: 4600/1297

PAPERS REPORT, COMMENT ON TRADE PACT WITH PRC

Commerce Minister Gives Details

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Commerce Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed told a news conference in Dhaka on Saturday that China would be importing an additional quantum of goods worth about five million US dollars from Bangladesh under the 8th Barter Trade Protocol. He disclosed that the time period of the 8th Barter Trade Protocol had been extended for a period of three months up to March '86 facilitating this additional quantum of Bangladeshi exports to China beyond what was originally estimated at 31 million US dollars trade each way.

Giving a detailed account of the 9th Barter Trade Protocol which was signed on December 13 last in Peking, the Commerce Minister said that the new protocol was the largest barter deal ever concluded by Bangladesh with any country. The total turnover of trade (both ways) has been envisaged at the level of 87 million US dollars for 1986 (calendar year) under the 9th Barter Protocol which would be about 36 percent higher in value than the related level of bilateral trade turnover under the 8th Barter Protocol, he added.

Kazi Zafar said that the new Barter Protocol included new export items like tobacco, tea, jute carpets, jute yarn, wood pulp and light industrial products (electrical cables, wires etc) from Bangladesh, and sugar from China. Steam coal imports from China will also be resumed after long many years under the new barter, he pointed out.

Giving an item-wise breakup of Bangladesh's exports to China the Commerce Minister said that the new protocol envisaged exports of jute goods including jute yarn and jute carpets at 2.5 million dollars, raw jute ten million dollars, finished leather two million dollars, hides and skin 13.50 million dollars, light industrial products one million dollars, tea six million dollars, wood-pulp one million dollars, synthetic fibre one million dollars, tobacco 0.50 million dollars and miscellaneous goods six million dollars. The exports by China to Bangladesh under the same Barter Trade Protocol will include pig iron (one million dollars), M.S. billets (one million

dollars), dyes and chemicals (three million dollars), light industrial products and hardware (2.5 million dollars), machinery equipment and spares (seven million dollars), scientific and surgical equipment (one million dollars), diesel oil (nine million dollars), lubricating base oil (four million dollars), cotton (two million dollars), sugar (four million dollars), steam coal (three million dollars), refractory materials (one million dollars) and other items (five million dollars), he added.

'Model' Cooperation With PRC Hailed

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 Dec 85 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text] The signing of the 9th barter protocol by Beijing and Dhaka is indicative of a new spate in economic cooperation between two friendly capitals. The barter deal happens to be largest that China has signed with any country and it is higher by 35 percent in dollar value compared with the previous protocol we had with China. The current one envisages 87 million U.S. dollars in both-way trade.

As a mark of striking a better balance of trade between the two countries Bangladesh has added seven new items in her list of exports to China. The Chinese side is learnt to have underlined that they were keen on setting up industries in Bangladesh whose produce they would undertake to but with a view to increasing trade volume between the two countries. We are hopeful that the Joint Economic commission, already established to consider modalities of expanding the bilateral cooperation, will duly address itself to the question of devising concert steps for ensuring not only a balance between exports and imports but a total expansion in their volumes as well.

For an expeditious movement of Bangladeshi goods to China, a suitable shipping arrangement has to be hammered out. Obviously, it is the national flag carriers that will be relied upon to take the goods to and from our respective ports. Therefore, proportionate cargo-sharing may be a good idea.

Increasing Bangladesh's capability in industrial production is linked to her having joint venture projects with China, which in turn will evidently involve some technology transfer from that country. The need for technical cooperation is specially highlighted against the backdrop of China having made educative strides in indigenous technology. Besides, her knowledge in comparative technologies, following her opening up to the West, can be of great interest to us.

There are endless possibilities of collaboration projects between China and Bangladesh. The fields that seem quite prospective are: machine tools, furnace, spares, fertilizers, electronics, textiles, leather, rubber, marine foods, among others, of course.

The last July visit of President Ershad to Beijing has ushered in a new phase of cooperation between Dhaka and Beijing, and as manifestations of which we now have an enlarged barter protocol, joint collaboration prospects, compensatory trade, easy suppliers' credit and possibilities of technology transfer.

The growing China-Bangladesh economic relationship has all the elements in it to be a model in South-South cooperation.

Possibilities Need Exploration

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 18 Dec 85 p 5

[Text] Bangladesh and China have recently signed a barter protocol in Beijing envisaging a total trade deal of 87 million U.S. dollars (equivalent to Taka 300 crore) in one year with each way export of U.S. \$43.5 million). This is the biggest ever barter protocol Bangladesh has concluded with any country. The items to be exported from Bangladesh include jute goods, jute yarn, raw jute, finished leather, hides and skin, tea and jute carpet. The last item China is buying for the first time under this item. In exchange Bangladesh will receive from China items including pig iron, M.S. billets, dyes and chemicals, scientific equipment, machinery, diesel, etc.

Our experience of trading with China suggests that expanding trade relations with that country can be mutually beneficial. China has proved to be a reliable trading partner which is interested in developing commercial relations on terms gainful to both the countries.

This is the time when China is opening up and is initiating a process of gradually liberating its economy. Bangladesh is also in a similar position and has taken a series of steps which are going to restore the due role of entrepreneurship in the economy. There is therefore enormous scope for expansion of trade between the two Asian countries.

The possibilities of barter trade have so far been insufficiently explored. One advantage of barter trade is that it does not adversely affect the balance of payment. Bangladesh is burdened with a chronically adverse balance of payment. Besides, the prices of our export commodities are falling in the world market relative to the prices of the commodities we badly need to import. In this situation expansion of barter can have a healthy impact on the economy.

We trust the signing of the protocol is a good beginning towards realising the goal of \$400 to \$500 million barter trade between the two countries as per the long term (1985-89) trade agreement concluded last year.

For developing trade relations it is necessary that there be greater flow of information between the two countries. Our diplomatic mission in China, as elsewhere, should intensify efforts for tapping the country's trade potentialities to the full. A growing trade is a guarantor not only of prosperity but also of world peace.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1302

PAPER GIVES DETAILS OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a credit of 20 million dollars for Bangladesh for her rural and agro-based industries credit project, according to an ADB press release yesterday. The credit, in various currencies is equivalent to SDR 18.56 million.

The loan will provide critical and timely support to the government's plan to raise agricultural production and its economic value through industrial processing, and to improve rural income and employment through increased private sector investments in rural and agro-based enterprises.

The credit will assist 200 rural and agro-based enterprises involving a total capital outlay of 50 million dollars. Sub-sectors to be financed by the loan will contribute considerably towards meeting domestic or export requirements in edible oil, fish, leather, dairy products, some horticulture crops, animal feed, cotton and other products.

It is estimated that the loan will lead to the creation of about 18,000 new jobs.

CEMENT PLAN

The ADB has also approved a SDR 14.662 million (dollars 15.8 million equivalent) loan for the Chhatak cement plant expansion project in Bangladesh.

While Bangladesh's industrial sector accounts for only nine per cent of its gross domestic product the Government envisages that it will become both a driving force toward development and a source of employment for a rapidly expanding labour force.

Under the Government's Third Five-year Plan (1985-90), one of its principal industrial objectives is to increase the domestic production of cement. This will be achieved first through the rehabilitation and expansion of the country's only integrated cement plant at Chhatak, and later through the construction of a new integrated cement plant in Sylhet district.

In 84-85 about 1.04 million metric tons of cement was consumed in Bangladesh, of which about 70 per cent was imported. Cement demand in Bangladesh is projected to grow at an annual rate of 5.2 per cent, and will reach 1.99 million tons per year by 1995-96.

Borrower of the loan is the Government of Bangladesh, which will relend the proceeds to the executing banks, the Agrani Bank and the Rupali Bank. The executing banks will lend the proceeds of finance eligible sub-projects.

The United Nations Development Programme is to make available a technical assistance grant in conjunction with the loan, to strengthen institutional capabilities of the country's commercial banking system.

Maximum size of individual sub-loans will not exceed 400,000 dollars and only sub-projects with a total capital outlay of not more than dollars one million equivalent will be eligible for financing under the credit. Sub-borrowers will contribute as equity a minimum of 25 per cent of the total project cost.

The credit is from the Asian Development Fund, the bank's concessional lending window. It has a term of 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years, at a service charge of one per cent a year.

The project approved by the bank is designed to expand the production capacity of the Chhatak cement plant from 133,000 tons to 267,000 tons a year by implementing a balancing, modernization, rehabilitation, and expansion scheme. Maintenance equipment, quality control facilities and spare parts will also be provided under the project to ensure reliable operation of the Chhatak cement plant. The increase in domestic cement production will enable the country to save about 3.8 million dollars per year in foreign exchange.

The total cost of the project is estimated at 27.7 million dollars, including a foreign exchange component of 20.35 million dollars and a local currency component of 7.37 million dollars. The bank's loan of 15.8 million dollars will finance most of the foreign exchange cost. The balance of 3.7 million dollars will be funded by a bilateral credit from France. The government of Bangladesh will contribute about 821,000 dollars in foreign exchange as well.

Drawn from the bank's special funds resources, the loan is repayable over 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years, and has a service charge of 1 per cent per annum.

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CSO: 4600/1305

ERSHAD MESSAGE ON SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] President and CMLA Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad reiterated Bangladesh's total support to Palestinian cause, an official handout said, reports BSS.

In his message on the day of "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people" he reaffirmed total and unflinching solidarity with the Palestinian brothers in their just and legitimate struggle for restoration of their inalienable rights to freedom and independence under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

In the message sent to the Chairman of the Committee on the exercise of the Palestinian People's Inalienable Rights, he said, it is now universally recognised that the question of Palestine is at the core of the problem in the Middle East.

Following is the text of the message from President H. M. Ershad to the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

"Excellency, on the occasion of the observance of the "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" by the International Community, I, on behalf of the government and the People of Bangladesh, would like to reaffirm our total and unflinching support to the solidarity with our Palestinian brothers in their just and legitimate struggle for restoration of their inalienable rights to freedom and independence under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation their sole and legitimate representative.

It is now universally recognised that the question of Palestine is at the care of the problem in the Middle East. The present explosive situation in the Middle East is a direct consequence of a historic injustice.

When the Palestinian people were forcibly uprooted from their hearths and homes and an alien people were imposed on the Arab world through the creation of Israel.

No other issue in the contemporary history has evoked so much, thought, unleashed such an intense indignation as this issue and yet this tragic problem remains unresolved.

The United Nations, after a great deal of deliberations had accepted the political entity of the Palestinian people and their rights to establish a state of their own in their homeland.

This right is also based on the principle and purpose of the UN Charter as well as International Law and Jurisprudence. The developments of the last four decades have demonstrated beyond any shadow of doubt that it is not possible to bring just and lasting peace in the Middle East unless the legitimate and inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people are finally restored.

Bangladesh, on the basis of her firm and principled position on the issue, has made sincere and persistent efforts to uphold the just cause of the Palestinian people in all International Forum, especially the U.N.

We are firmly and irrevocably committed to support oppressed people all over the world who are waging a just struggle to free themselves from the bondage of colonialism and racism.

It is our sincere hope that the international community on the historic occasion of the nations, will make a determined efforts for early realisation of the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian People.

I also take this opportunity to convey our deep appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Massamba Sarre, Chairman and the distinguished members of the committee of the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for their sincere and tireless efforts for the cause of the Palestinian people. Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration."

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CSO: 4600/1293

ERSHAD REVIVES SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Saturday revived the Supreme Judicial Council by restoring the suspended Article 96 of the constitution of Bangladesh.

The Supreme Judicial Council was kept under suspension when Martial Law was proclaimed throughout the country on March 24, 1982.

Proclamation

Another report adds: The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. General Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Saturday issued an order amending proclamation of 24 March 1982 in the schedule in Paragraph 10 of sub-paragraph (4), PID handout said.

Following is the text of the order:

"Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Proclamation of the 24th March, 1982 for the purpose hereinafter appearing:

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the said proclamation and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the Chief Martial Law Administrator is pleased to make the following order:

1. short title:-this order may be called the Proclamation (Sixth Amendment) Order, 1985.

2. amendment of the proclamation-in the proclamation of the 24th March, 1982, in the schedule, in paragraph 10 sub-paragraph (4) shall be omitted".

/12828

CSO: 4600/1296

ERSHAD PROMISES ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN 1986

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

JAGANNATHPUR (Sunamganj), Dec 23 (BSS) : President Hussain Muhammad Ershad today reiterated his government's determination to fulfil its pledge to establish democracy in the country.

He said with that end in view, a democratically elected people's representative government will be established by next year.

The President was addressing two huge public meetings at Jagannathpur upazila in Sunamganj district and Companyganj upazila in Sylhet district.

President Ershad said the government wanted several times in the past to hold general elections to establish an elected government. But he regretted that as a result of the negative attitude of some opposition political parties, this could not be materialised.

The President said the nation no longer believed in the politics of tall talks which had been the rule of game in the past. He categorically said the present government which believed in the politics of work could successfully generate enthusiasm among the masses to work hard to improve their lot.

He said the objective of his government was to ensure minimum basic necessities of life like food, shelter, clothing education and medicare to the people. To achieve these objectives, he said, his government had effected various epoch making reforms and implemented different welfare-oriented programmes during the last four years.

President Ershad pointed out that the people had already started getting positive results of these reforms and programmes and said with the introduction of the upazila system, the hub of development activities had been shifted to the rural areas from the urban centres.

In this context, he said the enthusiasm for development that had been generated in the country would have to be carried forward to improve the condition of the people. "We must establish Bangladesh in an honourable and dignified position in the world community by building the country on sound economic footing," he said.

The President said successful holding of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Dhaka had brought honour for Bangladesh. "It is a pride for us all," he said adding, "we must strive hard to make headway in other international fora too."

He stressed the need for maintaining peace and discipline for achieving uninterrupted development and said today the nation was united to achieve all round development of the country. "We must set up more industries and build roads, railways, schools, colleges, hospitals and power generation facilities to reach our cherished objective of building the country," he said.

Referring to the contributions and sacrifices made by the freedom fighters in 1971 to achieve independence of the country, President Ershad said it was the present government

which had established them in an honourable position in the society. It was unfortunate that they were earlier totally neglected, he pointed out.

He said the spirit of the War of Independence would always remain as a source of inspiration for the nation in its march ahead to reach the ultimate objective of building a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh.

In this connection, the President referred to the building of the Osmany Airport in Sylhet, and Osmany Uddyan and Osmany Memorial Hall in Dhaka to pay respect to late General M. A. G. Osmany, the Commander-in Chief of the liberation forces during the War of Independence.

Turning to the students, he advised them to dedicate their valuable time and energy to the pursuit of knowledge to build themselves as worthy to shoulder the future responsibilities of the nation. "If you can build yourselves properly, you will be able to make meaningful contributions in the development of the country and the society," he said.

President Ershad spoke of the priority given by his government to education sector and said allocation of a huge amount of money in the budget for the sector is the manifestation of earnest endeavours of the government to eradicate illiteracy from the society. Referring to his personal interest in the spread of education he said, wherever he went, he always made efforts for the

development of education of those areas.

Underlining the importance of imparting education to women, he said women folk of the country should be given proper education so that they can make meaningful contributions in the development of the country. He said women who constitute half of the country's total population should be given opportunity to take part in the nation building activities alongside their men.

The President said, "We cannot achieve allout development of the country while keeping half of our population idle." They must be ensured of their rightful place in the society and should be provided with adequate opportunity to take part in the development activities.

He mentioned about the various steps taken by his government to protect the interest of women like anti-dowry law, law against acid throwing and establishment of family courts to resolve family disputes and urged the country's women folk to come forward to educate and dedicate themselves to the task of improving the lot of the people.

At Companyganj, President Ershad said the Companyganj-Sylhet Road had already been taken up for construction. He announced Taka 20 lakh for the development of the upazila including construction of a high school in the upazila headquarters. He also announced Taka five lakh for building a junior girls high school.

At Jagannathpur the President announced a grant of Taka 10 lakh for the development of educational institutions in the upazila and Taka 10 lakh for other development activities.

Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury the Upazila Parishad Chairman of Companyganj, Al-haj Mudaris Ali, and Upazila Parishad Chairman of Jagannathpur, Abu Khaleque Chowdhury, representatives of the freedom fighters and local leaders also addressed the meetings. The ZMLA, Zone 'D' Major General Abdus Salam was present.

Earlier on arrival President Ershad was given a rousing at reception at both the places by the people of all walks of life including students and freedom fighters. They raised welcome slogans expressing their support to the leadership of President Ershad and solidarity with his the policies and programmes.

On his way to Companyganj and Jagannathpur, the President made a brief stop-over at Sylhet where he performed ziarat at the Mazars of Hazrat Shah Jalal and Hazrat Shah Paran. He also offers fateha at the Mazar of General M.A.G. Osmany.

At Sylhet he was given a warm and hearty reception by the people men, women students tea garden workers and freedom fighter stood on both sides of the route from the airport to the town and greeted the President with welcome slogans and clappings. Several ceremonial arches were also erected all along the route to welcome the President.

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CSO: 4600/1305

ERSHAD ADDRESSES DEFENSE COLLEGE GRADUATES

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 Jan 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said in Dhaka yesterday defence forces are essential elements of any sovereign nation, reports BSS.

He said, "We must not forget that our nationhood was achieved through the war of independence in which the valiant members of our Armed Forces provided the nucleus and leadership for all military activities that forged the issue of independence into a reality."

The President was speaking at the graduation ceremony-1985 of Defence Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by Begum Raushan Ershad, DCMLA and Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, DCMLA and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, ministers, diplomats, Principal Staff Officers and high civil and military officers.

President Ershad, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of Bangladesh Armed Forces, said being essential elements of nationhood, our forces are more so by heritage from the very inception of the country. The nation's expectations from the forces are high, he said, adding: the members of the Armed Forces are required to play their rightful and definite role side by side with all organisations and people in our nation-building activities and thereby ensure national stability, peace and progress.

He said 'threat perceptions' form the basis of entire doctrine of institutional military learning. But our threat perceptions are more centered around hunger, famine, disease, natural calamities, population and many other woes, he said.

President Ershad said: "While you have been trained to be a modern military leader, we expect from you the awareness of these threats. You are to work shoulder to shoulder with the teeming millions to fight these real threats for national causes."

President Ershad said the main pillar of our national policy is fully committed to maintaining friendship with all and malice to none. We strongly believe in amicable resolution of all issues, he said.

Turning to the graduating officers of Bangladesh, he said they must always remain aware that territorially Bangladesh may be a comparatively small country, but we are not a small nation in the regional and international context. We have to play our due role, he said, and added: to hold our head high in the community of nations, we must resolutely strive for attaining self-reliance.

We must also undertake austerity measures to make the best productive use of our meagre resources, he pointed out.

President Ershad referred to the recently concluded SAARC summit in Dhaka and said it has added a new chapter in the history of the region by unifying the nations of the South Asia for their common well-being. He said Defence Services Command and Staff Colleges is a recognised institution of international standing and it has been contributing to the spirit of SAARC by including nominees of the member countries.

He said brotherly Muslim countries and other friendly countries are also represented in the institution. "We will welcome the participation of more countries from the region and other friendly countries," he said, adding: "I have no doubt it will provide a unique forum for training of military leadership in the matrix of third world setting."

Felicitating the officers who have come from various countries, the President expressed his firm conviction that this institution and other similar institutions of the region and outside will be able to contribute towards more affinity among the people and the forces of the participating nations.

President Ershad congratulated the participants for successfully completing the courses and thanked the Commandant, the directing staff, the college staff and all ranks for their upholding the aim and image of the institution.

The commandant of the college, Major General Abdul Mannaf, also spoke on the occasion and gave a brief resume of the courses run by the staff college, the highest seat of military learning in Bangladesh.

The President distributed certificates to 44 student officers who graduated from the college. Besides Bangladesh, 18 officers from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya, Malaysia and USA participated in the army, navy and air staff courses.

President Ershad later posed for a photograph with the graduating student officers.

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CSO: 4600/1308

WEEKLY DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENTS IN JATIYA FRONT

Front Under Strain

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 7 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Amanullah Kabir]

[Text]

The government-sponsored Jatiyo Front and the Janadal are in disarray and differences of opinion among the leaders are surfacing with statements and counter-statements being published in the national press. The former Prime Minister of the present regime, Mr Ataur Rahman Khan and the former Prime Minister of the BNP government, Shah Azizur Rahman who had joined the Jatiyo front breaking away with the Begum Khaleda Zia-led BNP are both accusing President Ershad of breaching commitments made to them.

Mr Mahbubur Rahman, who once emerged as a very powerful government functionary and later dismissed as minister by President Ershad, is again trying to gather strength and has joined Mr Ataur Rahman Khan in a bid to prove his effectiveness as a heavy-weight in politics.

The leaders of the Jatiyo Front are sharply divided into two groups. The Janadal under the leadership of

Mr Mizanur Rahman Choudhury strongly opposed the formation of the Jatiyo front and he is yet to reconcile himself with it. The leaders of the other components of the Front are trying to capture its leadership.

Meanwhile, President Ershad, who is also the de facto chief of both the Front and the Janadal, has initiated a process of fusion of the component political parties into a single party and has summoned a meeting of the front leaders. The meeting, scheduled to be held on December 12 after the SARC summit, will also be attended by the convenors of the local steering committees. It is obvious that President Ershad took the decision of uniting the components of the front into a single party to make the pro-government political forces more effective and organised. But with the beginning of the merger process the front encountered difficulties as Shah Azizur Rahman is opposing merger of

his party with others. However, it is learnt that UPP, Ganotantrik Party and the faction of BNP led by Mr Mayeedul Islam have agreed to the merger proposal of President Ershad.

Meanwhile, Mr Ataur Rahman Khan, who is also the senior Vice-President of the Janadal, has recently observed that he has done the greatest blunder by joining the Ershad government. He also expressed his doubt about free and fair election citing the experience of upazila polls and the referendum. He told this correspondent that there were no reasons to believe that an election under the present government could be free and fair.

Mr Ataur Rahman Khan has virtually stopped keeping contact with the government and the Janadal. On the contrary, he, along with Mr Mahbubur Rahman and some of his old political colleagues, has launched a new move to organise a political party in the context of the new situation.

He told me that they would sit together in the middle of the current month to finally decide about their political strategy. Former

Muslim League leader Mr Hashimuddin, Col (retd) Anwarullah and some other elderly politicians whom he had already contacted are expected to join hands with him in the new process. When asked whether he had any communication with President Ershad, he said neither he nor the President felt it necessary to contact each other.

Mr Khan who also opposed the formation of the Jatiyo Front did not accept a proposal of President Ershad to become a member of the steering committee of the front. He said that he had joined the Ershad government with a view to accelerating the process of transition to democracy, but General Ershad did not allow him to work. "I had nothing to do but to guard the No. 30 house for long seven months", he said, adding that within ten days of his joining the government he could realise the futility of his efforts. He said he then told the President to relieve him of office, but the President consoled him saying everything would be alright in a few days' time. But the President's assurance was never matched by his acts, he added.

Politics of Azizur Rahman

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 7 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Reaz Ahmed]

[Text]

Political volte face by Shah Azizur Rahman is not a new thing. He has never been steady in his links with political parties. He changed sides with the twinkling of an eye several times in the past. Another change of side is in the offing.

Shah Azizur Rahman who was the number one signatory to the government backed Jatiya Front as the leader of breakaway BNP will snap his connections with the front. He told this correspondent on Wednesday that he is no more with the

front. He had said in an earlier interview with me that he would never betray BNP and will not leave the party. He has amply proved that there is no last word in love and politics. It is difficult to rely on his recent statements which are clearly directed against the present government.

Shah Aziz is aggrieved with the present political arrangement with the government as he was not made prime minister or any government functionary. He is bitter about the President and stated on several occasions that the President breached his promise. What was the promise?

Shah Aziz sympathisers, however, claim that the recent interview of President Ershad with a London weekly and his comment about 15th August, 1975 forced Shah Aziz to take the decision to leave the front. They said Shah Aziz cannot agree with the pro-Awami League politics reflected in the interview by President Ershad.

The Shah Aziz faction of BNP strongly protested the terming of the night of 15th August as black night and said the nation got multi-party system only after 15th August. The democracy in Bangladesh was killed by Awami League on January 25, 1975 through Fourth Amendment of the constitution. The democracy was retrieved after 15th August, Shah Aziz supporters said.

Another argument in favour of Shah Aziz's decision to leave the front is the President's announcement to merge all the component parties of the front into one party. But the political observers view that Shah Aziz is leaving the front because

of the reservation of the government to take him in the cabinet. The Muktijhodha Sangsad leaders have warned if Shah Aziz is included in the cabinet Zakir Khan Choudhury will quit.

The two ministers of Shah Aziz's BNP, Mr. Mayedul Islam and Mr. Sultan Ahmed Choudhury will not leave the front. Insiders say since they got the share of power they are ready to abandon Shah Aziz.

Shah Aziz who is scheduled to leave for Saudi Arabia shortly is exploring the possibility of realignment with like minded political forces. The Muslim Leaguers will not accept him as their leader as he had deserted them in 1977. He is likely to have political dialogue with former President Khandaker Mustaque Ahmed and former Prime Minister Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan.

The two former Prime Minister Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan and Shah Azizur Rahman may get together to build up a movement against the government although Shah Aziz himself prevented BNP from joining the dialogue at Bangabhaban with Ataur Rahman Khan in the government team.

It is being speculated in the political circle that the elderly trio-Ataur Rahman Khan, Khandaker Mustaque Ahmed and Shah Azizur Rahman may be united to form an anti-government and anti-Baksal front. When contacted Khandaker Mostaque said he is thinking to do something. But he declined to say whether he will like to form an alliance with two former prime ministers.

HASINA DEMANDS RELEASE OF ARRESTED AWAMI LEAGUE MEMBERS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 13 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in a statement yesterday demanded release of all political detainees before the Victory Day on December 16.

She said that freedom fighters and Awami League workers Biswajeet Nandi, Azizur Rahman, Mohammad Aziz, Mohammad Shajahan, Babu Samar Chakki and Mohammad Bachchu Miah, Student League leaders Mohammad Faruq, Nirmalendu Barman, Mohiuddin and Mohammad Hossain Hazari, Student Action Committee leaders Zahiruddin Swapan and Mukul Bose, Latif Siddiqui, a former MP Jubo League leader Mohammad Arif and many others of her party, its front organisations and the 15-party alliance had been languishing in jails for months and years together.

She also demanded release of all convicted and under-trial freedom fighters and right of appeal in the higher courts for those who had been convicted by the Martial Law courts.

Sheikh Hasina stated that while the freedom fighters had been living in sub-human condition in jails being victims of intrigues even after 14 years of independence had been rehabilitated in various ways and even provided with ministerial positions.

She said that certain quarters were active to hatch conspiracy to uproot the spirit of independence and reminded them that the freedom fighters had fought against the occupation forces at the call of the Bangabandhu.

She said that the nation which failed to honour the freedom fighters could not move forward with dignity.

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CSO: 4600/1298

AWAMI LEAGUE ATTITUDE SAID TO SHAKE ALLIANCE

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 13 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hassan Abul Quasem]

[Text]

The Awami League's strong attitude toward projecting the image of Sheikh Mujib from the platform of the alliance, if necessary by ignoring the norms and conventions of the united movement, is said to have shaken the very foundation of the 15-party alliance.

The intra-party relationship within the alliance is getting worse following the walkout incident at the mazar of Shaheed Suhrawardy on the eve of observing his 22nd death anniversary on December 5.

The alliance members have taken a very tough attitude towards Awami League and want to settle the behavioural problem once and for all. They are exchanging views privately with each other on how to make Awami League behave. But all except a few want to maintain unity without letting anyone to use the alliance to further his selfish ends.

The alliance, at its meeting on Wednesday, however, carefully avoided the issue and mainly concentrated on different aspects of implementation of the alliance programme on the eve of the Victory Day and Shaheed Intellectual Day. It

will meet again on Saturday morning to discuss the whole gamut of the intra-party relationship within the alliance. The meeting is likely to witness a hot debate over the issue.

Most members of the alliance believe that the December 5 incident was designed "to break the alliance from within" to satisfy the will of a powerful quarter. Some of them said the engineers of this incident have close connection with the government.

ANTI-ALLIANCE MOVE

A section of Awami League Leaders and some other alliance partners however, believe that Awami League's Acting General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury was instrumental in engineering the incident. She was allegedly supported by other front ranking leaders who are opposing the Awami League's participation in the alliance. But these leaders feel that the incident will in no way help Awami League; rather it will force the AL to shoulder the responsibility of breaking the alliance and creating roadblocks to carrying forward the five-point movement.

But Awami League has its own assessment of the alliance. In a number of formal and informal deliberations of the party leaders feelings were expressed in a way that suggested that the alliance is of little utility to Awami League. These deliberations were held during Sheikh Hasina's stay abroad.

Sheikh Hasina, mainly supported by Amir Hossain Amu, Joint secretary of the Party and chief of the youth front of the party, and some others, are supporting a united movement, while Abdul Mannan, Abdul Malek Ukil, Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Abdus Samad Azad and others are opposed to it, according to party insiders. These leaders favour an independent movement.

These anti-alliance elements think they will have a commanding majority in case of any sharp political differences among the component parties. A front-ranking leader of Awami League told this correspondent that they will enjoy the support of nine out of 14 components, including Awami League, leaving out only five parties—two factions of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Workers Party led by Abul Bashar and Rashed Khan Menon, Sammyabadi Dal and Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal (SKSD) with virtually no noticeable strength.

He claimed that all the eight members will rally their support behind Awami League at any crucial time. He also claimed Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, led by Sultan Raja and Shahjahan Seraj, and Workers Party, led by Nazrul Islam, will support Awami League. A

decision has already taken to this effect by JSD further claimed.

Meanwhile, Shahjahan Seraj, General Secretary of JSD, at a public meeting at his home constituency Kalihati (Tangail) reportedly his party's "no objection certificate" on the question of using the word 'Bangabandhu' by the alliance. The issue has been a contentions one in the alliance for a long time. This indicates that a sort of regrouping within the alliance is under way.

An alliance leader opposed to Awami League, however, dismissed the idea that Awami League was gaining strength within the alliance, but observed that a significant regrouping is in the offing. He said the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) is changing its attitude towards Awami League. CPB's desire to have a national colour is the stimulant for taking this attitude, he maintained.

CPB staged a walkout along with other political parties in protest against the placement of Mujib's portrait besides Suhrawardy's and the inscription of party slogan "Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu" at the podium which was deemed to have offended the spirit of the alliance. During the meeting, Farhad, General Secretary of CPB, and Suranjit Sengupta of Ekota Party followed the path of Mohammad Toaha, Rashed Khan Menon, Shahjahan Seraj Pankaj Bhattacharjee, Khalequzzaman Bhuyan, Siddiqur Rahman, A.F.M. Mahbub-ul-Huq and others who left the venue of the meeting at Suhrawardy mazar. Presided over by Abdul Malek Ukil, it was addressed among others, by Dr. Kamal Hossain, Zillar Rahman, Abdus Samad

Azad and Abdul Mannan. Besides, Mohiuddin Ahmed, (Baksal) Pir Habibur of NAP (Muzaffar), Saiful Islam (Ekota) and Chowdhury Harun-ur-Rashid of NAP (h-p), addressed the meeting as close associates of Suhrawardy, according to an alliance leader.

The programme of observing the death anniversary of Sunrawardy was proposed by Aodus Samad Azad at an alliance meeting. It was designed to project the alliance to the foreign journalists attending the SAARC summit, and also to provide a forum for announcing an action programme in case of any casualty during the 24-hour SKOP programme in the labour belts across the country.

Political quarters therefore believe that it will be difficult to turn the 15-party alliance into an effective locomotive for a fresh five-point movement.

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CSO: 4600/1299

SHEIKH HASINA GIVES PARTY POSITION ON ELECTIONS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday made it unmistakably clear that her party would under no circumstances participate in any election unless and until atmosphere conducive to it is created.

Spelling out her party position with regard to polls she said the Government must comply with certain pre-conditions to ensure free and fair elections. The conditions include return to the barracks of the armed forces, no Martial Law administrator to run the administration and debarring the political parties associated with the present government from taking part in the polls.

Talking to ENA Sheikh Hasina said Awami League would consider the question of participating in the polls only after these conditions were complied with. She thought pre-fulfilment of these conditions would create congenial atmosphere for free and fair election.

Tracing the background of current struggle of the opposition for a free and fair election which, she said, could alone help restore a representative government in the real sense of the term, the Awami League leader said, "We have been fighting for a free and impartial election under a non-political government." She said election does not necessarily mean restoration of democracy or the rights of the people. She demanded from the government full guarantee that power would be transferred to the elected representatives of the people. Such a guarantee would create a climate of confidence throughout the country about the government's sincerity to its electoral commitment, she added.

The Awami League Chief ruled out the possibility of any dialogue between her party and the present government, as such dialogues in the past proved futile, unproductive and time-consuming exercises.

Explaining why Awami League boycotted elections in the past, Sheikh Hasina said the Government was not at all sincere in its commitment to hold free and fair elections and transfer power to the elected representatives. "We cannot allow a regime to legalise its rule by staging a mock election," she said.

In reply to a question concerning conditions fulfilled by the government before March 1, 1985, Sheikh Hasina said the government partially complied with the opposition demands. But the government's intentions were not honest and that was the reason why election could not be held.

Commenting on the present political scenario, Sheikh Hasina censured certain ambitious generals for dabbling in politics from their safe sanctuary in cantonments. She said armed forces, as a whole, stand opposed to the involvement in politics of individuals or a group of individuals from among them.

Sheikh Hasina criticised the President for frequently villifying the politicians and projecting his own political views during his addresses to army units. "If General Ershad, as Chief of Staff, can talk politics to officers and jawans, I, as daughter of the Father of the Nation can jolly well do so and explain my political views to them," she said.

Explaining her future programme of action, Sheikh Hasina said Awami League along with other components of her alliance would soon embark upon a countrywide mass movement to secure an end to Martial Law and restore democracy in the country. "We are left with no other alternative but to go for mass movement." At present, she said, Awami League is engaged in gearing up the organisation to meet the future challenges.

In reply to a question relating to contradictions from which the components of the 15-party alliance are suffering, Sheikh Hasina, who is also the chief of the alliance, said on her return from London she had ironed out all petty differences and bickerings within the alliance. "We are now united like a rock for the ensuing battle for the restoration of democracy," she said.

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CSO: 4600/1306

WRITER PREDICTS RETURN OF HILL TRACTS TO NORMALCY

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 13 Dec 85 p 1

[Article by Shehad Ahmed]

[Text]

The adjourned meeting between the government and the Paroattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, the political wing of 'Shanti Bahini', headed by Jyoti-priya Bodhipriya Larma Alias Shantu Larma is expected to be held somewhere in the Hill Tracts soon.

Earlier, on October 21 both the sides met for the first time in an effort to halt the decade old insurgency by Chakma tribesmen dominated by Jana Sanghat Samity at Poochgang in Khagrachari district.

The meeting arranged through a liaison committee headed by another tribal leader and former member of parliament Upendra Lal Chakma was adjourned for an indefinite period. Talks took place when the Shanti Bahini representatives came out of their hide outs following a radio Bangladesh broadcast in its morning English news bulletin about the talks.

Meanwhile, in anticipation of return of tribals from across the border, the government opened up reception centres to welcome

back the hillsmen who left their homes being guided by rebels.

A flag meeting between border forces of both Bangladesh and India took place at Demagiri in the Indian state of Mizoram in the last week of November to facilitate return of the tribals.

Their return depends on the concrete outcome of the talk, informed sources said.

The government side has proposed that the next round of talks should take place on December 19. But the Jana Sanghati Samity wants it in the last week of December.

It is likely that an agreed date of meeting will be worked out by the Liaison committee. The talks, if successful, could lead to a peaceful settlement of the Hill Tracts problem.

The government looks into the problem as an economic one—resulting from the backwardness of the area while the Jana Sanghati Samity believes it to be political.

The decision of the rebels to hold negotiations with the government, did not

come all on [a] sudden. It was in the offing following an amnesty declared by the government and surrender of a large number of armed elements and supporters of Priti faction of the Shanti Bahini in April.

Already the position of the armed rebels had weakened following a series of infighting between themselves. It resulted in the murder of Manabendra Narayan Larma, former member of parliament and founder of the Jana Sanghati Samity. He was killed by the members of Priti faction.

After Manabendra Narayan Larma's death the mettle of leadership of his faction fell upon Jyotipriya Bodhipriya larma. His son-in-law Rupayan Dewan led the rebel delegation at the talks on October 21.

Bloody infighting and largescale return to civilian life by members of Priti faction and government's thrust to develop the Hill tracts area helped the peace process take shape gradually.

The hill tracts is on the verge of returning to normalcy, the sources believe.

/12828

CSO: 4600/1299

PAPER REPORTS SPLIT IN DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 23 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The split of Democratic League has been finalised through action and counter-action by the two rival groups--one led by its president Khondaker Moshtaque Ahmed and the other steered by its senior vice president Oli Ahad.

Following expulsion of Oli Ahad from the party on Friday by Mostaq-led faction, central and district leaders of the party and its front organisations supporting Oli Ahad in a joint meeting held yesterday reacted sharply against Khondaker Moshtaque and stripped him of his position.

The supporters of Oli Ahad have entrusted him with the responsibility of acting as president of the party till the holding of its next council.

The meeting of Oli Ahad-led faction of the party was held yesterday in the central office of the party at 41/3, Purana Paltan while that of the Moshtaq faction took place on Friday in the residence of Moshtaq Ahmed.

Democratic League chief Khondaker Moshtaq himself presided over the meeting of his faction that expelled Oli Ahad and the meeting of his rival faction was chaired by Oli Ahad who spearheaded the move to remove Moshtaq Ahmed from his party position.

According to a press release of Oli Ahad faction, central leaders of the party available in the city and its metropolitan leaders, leaders of Democratic Sramik League, Democratic Jubo Front, Democratic Krishak League, Democratic Legal Aid Committee and Ganatantrik Chhatra League attended the joint meeting of party held yesterday.

On the other hand Moshtaq faction claimed that its meeting held on Friday was participated by 43 members of the central committee of the party.

The resolution concerning removal of Khondaker Moshtaq Ahmed from the highest position of the party by his rival faction said, "This meeting quite pertinently thinks Khondaker Mostaq Ahmed has been acting against the struggle to put an end to martial law and to resist the hegemonist Delhi-Moscow axis and has deviated from the avowed policy of the party.

In another resolution the meeting urged all political parties within and outside the alliances to adopt a programme for united movement to put an end to martial law and establish a constitutional and representative government of the people.

Addressing the joint meeting of his supporters Oli Ahad said "we will carry on movement on the streets in the face of all intrigues, conspiracies and odds. We never bowed down our heads and we will not do it in the future as well. We have built up the Democratic League through strenuous efforts and we will not allow anybody to destroy it by means of his aversion to movement or betrayal.

The meeting was also addressed by the party's cultural secretary Momenul Huq, organising secretary Shajahan Khan Abu, Democratic Sramik League president Fazlur Rahman Khan, city Democratic League president advocate Mahbubul Huq and its general secretary Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Demoractic Jubo Front president Enamul Huq, Democratic League Legal Aid committee convener advocate Afsaruddin, Democratic Krishak League general secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Moni and others.

The meeting termed the meeting held in the residence of Khondaker Mostaq as "illegal" "repugnant to democratic norms" "undemocratic" and "a bid to satisfy the military government."

The meeting observed that Khondaker Mostaq had resorted the path of division of the Democratic League just to serve his petty personal interests.

It further observed that his long inactivity, aversion to movement, collaboration with the military regime and unreserved congratulations to the government for forming the Jatiya Front had evoked resentment and protest from among the leaders and workers of the party.

It said that Khondaker Moshtaq had not even paid lip service nor even issued a statement supporting the demand for release of the party leaders arrested and detained by this government.

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CSO: 4600/1303

REPORT ON MEETING OF OIKYO FRONT PRESIDUM

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Khondaker Moshtaq Ahmed-led Jatia Oikyo Front has charged the government with paving the way for implementation of the 'blue-print' of the Indo-Soviet aggressive forces by frequently postponing the elections under various pretexts as a part of a set game with the collaborators of the aggressive forces.

This charge was brought in the meeting of the front's Presidium yesterday at the residence of Khondaker Moshtaq with Khondaker Moshtaq Ahmed in the chair.

The meeting discussed in detail the latest socio-economic and political situation prevailing in the country.

It strongly demanded announcement of a definite date of national-level elections to establish a representative government putting an end to martial law.

The meeting expressed deep concern and resentment at the genocide by the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. It demanded immediate and complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from the soil of Afghanistan and Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea.

A programme was adopted in the meeting to observe a mass-contact week from January 3 to 10 at the initiative of the Front. The programme includes public meetings, roadside meetings, rallies of workers, discussion meetings, wall writing, processions, posterage and distribution of leaflets.

A resolution of the meeting called upon all patriotic democratic parties to be united on a

broad-based national platform on the basis of four principles—reflection of Islamic tenets and values in the state and social life, end of martial law, establishment of a representative government by holding a neutral election free from the influence of the government and resistance to aggression.

Another resolution of the meeting said that in the absence of a representative government of the people for last 44 months there had been utter frustration and void in the political, economic and social spheres, anarchy had followed deterioration in the law and order situation, corruption and nepotism taken firm root in different tiers of the administration, industries of the country had been facing destruction due to smuggling under patronisation of the administration and moral degeneration and social vices had been eating into the vitals of the society.

The Presidium of the Front in its meeting expressed hope that there would be immediate and just settlement of the outstanding issues with India including sharing of the Ganges water, South Talpatti, Angorpota and Dahagram issues as a result of the formation of SAARC.

It was observed in the meeting that there had been huge deficit in the agricultural and industrial sectors under this government. It also observed that sky-high prices of essentials was due to the wrong policy of the government.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1305

LONDON PAPER QUOTED ON BANGLADESH POLITICAL SCENE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The influential London daily "The Financial Times" has observed that general apathy and despair about the abilities of political parties and development of a popular political image of President H. M. Ershad represent the general political scene in Bangladesh, reports DSS.

There is no indication outside urban areas of a wide-spread wish to upset relatively benign administrations. The political parties have been suffering from poor leadership, lack of popular policies and general ineffectiveness, the Financial Times commented in a write-up by one of its staffers who visited Bangladesh recently.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed "distinguished former Bangladesh public servant" who told its reporter, "the poor know they will be kicked by whichever government is in power, so why should they help the political parties which have failed in the past".

The Financial Times said President Ershad is credited for introducing a new tier of local councils (upazilas) which give "developed executive responsibility" to elected representatives and increased local involvement in development schemes.

About 460 of the upazilas covering an average of 266,000 people have been set up in rural areas during the past two years staffed by civil servants from Dhaka but headed by local chairmen it said.

President Ershad visited 370 of them in the past two years talking to upazila chairmen, officials and farmers about practical problems, the news paper reported, commenting: he (Ershad) has been developing a popular political image for which the 55-year soldier traveled a long way.

The Financial Times quoted President Ershad as saying: "the days of old political parties are over," and their present leadership cannot deliver anything to the nation. We need a new younger generation. The paper commented it is a view that is developing generally in the country and one for which the disorganised opposition parties have only themselves to blame.

/12828

CSO: 4600/1304

REPORT ON MEETING OF COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Dhaha THE NEW NATION in English 30 Dec 85 p 8

[Text]

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has vowed to play a firm role in carrying forward the united movement to put an end to martial law; restore democracy and establish a representative government in the coming year.

The vow was expressed in the two-day meeting of the central committee of the party that ended Saturday night. The meeting was chaired by Abdus Salam, a Secretary of the party.

CPB General Secretary Mohammad Farhad submitted a report in the meeting focussing on recent activities of the party and national, international and regional affairs. The secretaries and members of the central committee participated in the discussion.

The meeting resolved that the party would maintain its 'pragmatic and logical' stand on the question of carrying forward the united political movement and remain active to make posi-

tive and objective contribution towards consolidation of unity as 'it did in the past.'

The resolution protested against the disinvestment policy of the government and said, 'the government has, in fact, taken the country in line with the economics of Pakistan.'

The meeting observed that frequent visits by US warships and recent arrival of a Chinese warship at Chittagong have proved that 'military exchanges and rapport of the country with the USA and China have been increasing.'

The party emphasized the need for a united movement on the basis of the five-point demand for establishing a 'national patriotic government' through elections.

It said, all democratic parties have to come ahead to strengthen the united movement without waiting for an official announcement on election.

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CSO: 4600/1307

BEGUM ZIA SPEECH TO BNP STUDENTS' FRONT REPORTED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 Jan 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, the chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party yesterday called for building a broad based unity of the students, peasants and workers to wage a greater movement for restoration of democracy.

Addressing a rally of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, students front of the BNP, at the Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University, Begum Zia reiterated her demand for holding a free and fair parliamentary polls on the basis of the five-point opposition demands.

She observed that whenever the movement for the restoration of democracy neared its goal, attempts were made to stop the movement through repressive measures.

Urging everybody to attend today's programme of the Seven-party alliance at Gulistan intersection, Begum Zia called for building a strong resistance against autocratic rule. She said there was no power that could face the united force of the people.

The BNP chief said her party believed in systematic movement and never supported the course of violence and indiscipline. She also called upon the people to be vigilant so that fascism cannot surface on the campus.

She also demanded release of all imprisoned student leaders irrespective of their organisational affiliation.

Earlier she inaugurated a photo exhibition on late President Ziaur Rahman at the traffic island in front of the Teacher-Student Centre. When Begum Zia reached the Arts Faculty premises workers of Chhatra Dal brought out a procession with Begum Zia at the head. The processionists chanted different slogans for the restoration of democracy and release of students and political leaders. The procession ended at TSC crossing after parading the university premises.

The meeting was also addressed by BNP leader K.M. Obaidur Rahman and Lt Col (retd) Mustafizur Rahman.

ENA adds, in an interview with it Begum Zia reiterated her call for holding election under neutral, non-party government.

She said 'If government fails to provide a framework for polls under a neutral, non-party government, we shall compel it to do so through popular mass upsurge.'

Dwelling at length on her party's stand on the polls she said BNP would take part in the election only after the five-point demand of the opposition and seven pre-conditions set by her alliance were accepted. She thought acceptance of the opposition demands and its pre-conditions would help create congenial atmosphere for free and fair election.

The BNP chief rejected the offer for the talks with the government on the question of election. She said the proposal for dialogue was nothing but a convenient tactics of defusing the opposition movement. If the government was sincere, it should, instead of going for dialogue, accept demands and pre-conditions of opposition. That would help resolve present political tangle.

The BNP chief declined to give direct answer to the question if her party would participate in the polls under martial law. She merely stated her party would take part in the election if condition conducive to it was created.

She criticised President Ershad for addressing army units and villifying opposition leaders before the Jawans and officers. She alleged President Ershad was utilizing the armed forces to serve personal ambition. 'If he (Ershad) as a serving officer can play politics with the armed forces, the political leaders should also be given the opportunity to address the army units and explain their viewpoints before them.'

On the prospect of joint movement of the opposition alliances and parties for restoration of democracy, Begum Zia said her alliance stood for simultaneous action programme with the 15-Party combine and Jamaat.

When her attention was drawn to resumption of open politics from today the BNP chief said "we are already in movement."

She demanded freedom of press and projection of opposition news and views over the government control media like radio and television.

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CSO: 4600/1308

PAPER REPORTS PLAN SHORTFALL, NEW PLAN PROSPECTS

Increased Growth Planned

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] A Taka 38600 crore Third Five-Year Plan setting a target of 5.4 per cent annual growth was announced yesterday with the main objective of alleviating poverty.

The size of the Third Plan showed a 22.7 per cent increase over the actual outlay of the Second Five Year Plan which ended in June last.

The share of the public sector in the new plan envisaged Tk. 25000 crore (64.8%) while that of the private sector Tk. 13600 crore (35.2%).

Of the total outlay, Tk 17572 crore would be mobilised from domestic resources and the rest Tk. 29,028 crore or 54.5 per cent from foreign assistance, Domestic resources included Tk. 5,960 crore government savings and Tk. 11,612 crore of the private sector.

The planners envisaged that dependence on foreign assistance would come down to 54 per cent from 58 per cent in the Second Plan, 63 per cent in the Two-Year Plan and 77 per cent in the First-year Plan.

Announcing the plan at a largely attended press conference at the Planning Commission, Minister for Planning Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury said it represented a major redirection of the country's economy.

Explaining he said the decentralisation and devolution of administration and development process that was initiated towards the end of the Second Plan would be completed when all administrative and physical infrastructures would be built leading to accelerated development activities undertaken and executed at the local level by upazila parishads.

Secondly, he said, there would be rational sharing of development responsibilities between the public sector and the private sector. "It is intended to entrust the private sector with all those enterprises, operations and institutions which can be more efficiently handled in the private sector. This will be done through continuous review of both the public sector economic enterprises as well as the private sector undertakings, he added.

Thirdly, the minister said, monetary stability and price rationalisation were important planks for implementation of the plan towards achieving a relatively stable economy in the face of adverse external circumstances like protectionism, fluctuating terms of trade and aid flow.

The minister said the Plan was approved by the National Economic Council which met yesterday under the chairmanship of President Lt General H. M. Ershad. Publication of the plan that actually started in July last was delayed because of the Planning Commission's endeavour to reach a broad based consensus on the major objectives, strategies, policies and targets of the plan through discussion with informed groups and individuals of the country.

It was unrealistic to expect unanimity on many issues related to so complex a matter like a development planning for a poor country, he noted. However, attempts were made to formulate the plan based on the generally accepted national priorities, availability of resources and feasible targets, he added.

Replying to a question, the minister said the government in power always tries to reflect the political will of the people in planning country's future. "It's not a gospel truth, it can be changed by the elected government if found necessary", he added.

Mr Chowdhury said the targets of the plan could be achieved only with the fullest participation of the people. It, however, depended on good weather, political stability, more conducive external circumstances and the like. Moreover, he said, the plan greatly relied on the private sector and as such achievement of plan targets depended to a large extent on the performance of the private sector as well.

The minister said the broad objectives of the plan are:

1. Reduction of population growth.
2. Expansion of productive employment.
3. Universal primary education and human resources development.
4. Development of technological base for bringing about a long term structural change.
5. Food self-sufficiency.
6. Satisfaction of minimum basic needs of people.
7. Acceleration of economic growth and 8. Promotion of self reliance.

Giving details, he said, family planning programmes would be stepped up to bring down the population growth from 2.4 per cent now to 1.8 per cent in the terminal year of the third plan when the population would go up to 11 crore five lakh. An amount of Tk 940 crore would be allocated to family planning during the plan to bring down the population growth.

Mr Chowdhury said recent survey and studies revealed that employment opportunities for only one crore ninety three lakh people existed in the country. One of the main objectives of the Third Plan was to create additional direct employment opportunities for fifty one lakh people to raise the total employment opportunities to 2,44 crore by 1990.

The minister said Tk. 2,250 crore would be spent for improving infrastructural facilities and development projects of the 460 upazilas during the plan period. The upazilas would not only be centres of the administration but also the base of all production-oriented economic and constructive social activities of the rural areas.

He said alleviation of poverty was a national concern and therefore the effect of development on various sections of the population needed close monitoring. For this plan adopted a social accounting matrix (SAM) as an essential component of its macro-frame work he noted. The matrix was divided into ten groups--eight in rural areas and two in urban areas.

These were: (1) landless, (2) marginal farmers having less than 1.5 acres (3) medium farmers (up to 5 acres), (4) medium farmers having share cropped land, (5) large farmers, (5-10 acres), (6) very large farmers (over 10 acres), (7) Rural informal employment group, (8) Rural formal employment group, (9) Urban informal employment group and (10) Urban formal employment group.

The government would have a number of economic instruments to ensure desired economic status for each of these groups. These would consist of investment programme, tax and price policies and food for works programme, the minister added.

The plan envisaged a 4 per cent annual growth in foodgrains production bringing the total output to 207 tons by 1990 as against 161 lakh tons in 1984-85. This would ensure per capita consumption of 16 ounces a day and a security reserve of 14 lakh tons.

Outlining the strategies for resources mobilisation, the minister said it would consist of promotion of public and private savings, efficient use of national resources, austerity in public consumption and reduction of subsidies, improvement of tax administration and rationalisation of tax structure. Tax system would be made more responsible to domestic economic growth rather than heavily relying on foreign trade for revenue receipts. Both fiscal and monetary systems would be directed to broadening the domestic resource base through encouragement of household saving and channeling it into financial market, he said.

The plan envisaged the tax revenue increase at the rate of 6.7 per cent a year from Tk 2,920 crore (84-86) to Tk 4,032 crore in 1989-90. Domestic savings would rise from Tk 1,387 crore to Tk 3,000 crore and the national saving from Tk 2,357 crore to Tk 3,795 crore. Domestic saving would increase from 4.2 per cent to 7 per cent and national saving rate from 7.2 per cent to 8.9 per cent.

During the plan period export was expected to increase at an annual rate of 4.6 per cent to Tk 30,57 crore in the terminal year of the plan. Import would grow at the rate of 2.8 per cent to Tk 8,076 crore in 1989-90, thus, trade deficit would increase to Tk 5,457 crore in 89-90 and the current year deficit to Tk 4,199 crore taking the dollar rate at Tk 26.

The share of agriculture in GDP in the terminal year would decline to 46.9 per cent from 58.4 per cent in 84-85 but the share of industry would increase to 11.9 per cent, gas and electricity to 0.9 per cent, construction 2.3 per cent, transport and communication 5.6 per cent, trade and services 23.3 per cent, housing services 2.8 per cent and public services 6.3 per cent.

Second Plan Shortfall

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh suffered a billion dollar loss in international trade during 1980-85 due to deterioration in her terms of trade, according to a review of the Second Five-Year Plan (SFYP).

Aid inflow actually declined in both nominal and real terms in the first year of the SYFP and it remained below the 1979-80 level in real terms for two consecutive years, the review contained in the Third Five-year Plan said.

Total real resource inflow in the first two years of the plan amounted to 2240 million dollars against a projection of 3094 million. Low level of aid flow and a deteriorating terms of trade adversely affected domestic resource mobilisation which was compounded by the crop failure in 1981-82.

As a result, the public sector plan outlay of Taka 2681 crore in 1980-81 was realised to the extent of Taka 2191 crore drastically cutting the size of the following year's annual development programme (ADP) to Taka 2715 crore against the plan outlay of Taka 3243 crore. In view of the shortfalls of resources in the first two consecutive years of the plan, it became apparent that the plan outlay of Taka 20,125 crore for the public sector could not be matched by the necessary resources.

In order to adjust the plan with this situation, the review said, efforts were made to improve the cost effectiveness of public sector programmes by cutting down their less essential expenditures and concentrating scarce resources more on productive activities rather than compromising planned targets. The cost of the public sector programme was thus reduced to Taka 15,897 crore against Taka 20,125 crore. But the resource situation continued to deteriorate and only Taka 1971 crore and Taka 2391 crore at current prices could be realised in the second year, the review document said.

In the backdrop of continuing shortfalls in both domestic and external resources, the plan was thoroughly recast in May, 1983 reducing its size to Taka 17,200 crore (at 1979-80 prices) from the original size of Taka 25,595 crore--Taka 11,100 crore of the public sector and Taka 6,100 crore

for the private sector. However, in real terms the total investment in both public and private sector amounted to Taka 15,095 crore which was 88 per cent of the target. Growth target was also reduced to 5.4 percent from 7.2 percent while the actual achievement was 3.8 per cent.

The review said the actual utilisation under the ADP's amounted to Taka 13,648 crore (at current prices) against Taka 16,060 crore envisaged in the plan. ADP (revised) allocation was however Taka 15,293 crore, that is 95 percent of the planned outlay while the actual utilization was 15 percent short of that. Although the plan was scaled downward in 1982-83 in view of serious resource constraints since it was launched resource gap continued to bedevil ADPS even after the revision. The planned outlay was Taka 11,304 crore for the remaining three years-1982-85 but actual expenditure was Taka 8,893 crore only.

During the Second Five Year Plan, the private sector suffered more seriously than the public sector due to poor recovery of loan by the development finance institutions (DFIS) which led to the freezing of their lines of credit. This break of the credit line brought the (DFIS) virtually to a standstill situation and together with them the activities in the modern industries of the private sector particularly in the last year of the plan. Total private sector investment was estimated at Tk 4969 crore, about 18.5 per cent less than the plan projection while the annual growth of private investment was 7.4 per cent only.

In spite of substantial effort for savings mobilisation, Bangladesh continued to live under the spell of saving investment and export-import gaps during the plan period, though the growth of remittance and domestic adjustment measures narrowed the gaps significantly. Declining export-import speak themselves of the effort made by Bangladesh to face reality and its urge for development but the decline reduced the investment ratio from 15.9 per cent in 1979-80 to 15.1 per cent in 1984-85 against the plan target of 16.3 percent.

The review pointed out that the expectation about the resource mobilisation particularly that of domestic resource did not fully materialize over the plan period because of unexpected developments in both domestic and external sectors. In 1982-83 world trade declined and the international aid and trade situations remained depressed until 1984-85. This late recovery had little impact on aggregate resource mobilisation for the plan. Aid inflow increased slowly and amounted to 3,768 million dollars during the last three years of the plan. Compared with the stagnant condition of nominal aid, export increased at the average rate of 1.5 per cent a year in nominal terms and import at the rate of 2.6 per cent.

During the plan period, the balance of payments came under serious strain due to increasingly difficult international trade and aid conditions. However, despite the debilitating effects of international trade condition, export earning increased from 722 million dollars in 1979-80 to 939 million in 1984-85 at current prices although real export fell short of target by 8.7 per cent.

The total imports in real terms reached 12,195 million dollars against a target of 11,485 million showing an annual growth of 1 per cent though the plan projected a nominal growth of 0.3 per cent.

During the Second Plan growth of different sectors were affected by diverse factors such as weather affected agriculture and demand affected the performance of the industries sector but "factors common to all were firstly constraint of resource and secondly institutional weakness," the review said.

/12828

CSO: 4600/1294

PAPER SEES BLEAK PROSPECTS FOR SPRING HARVEST

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Dec 85 p 5

[Text]

According to reports, winter cultivation is being greatly hampered even in areas covered by irrigation projects for lack of adequate power pumps. Another report has it that when farmers are busy preparing the seed-beds and producing seedlings for the coming IRRI crop unsatisfactory position of the supply and operation of deep tubewells stands as a great hindrance to smooth cultivation of this crop in thousands of acres of land, particularly in the northern regions of the country. Prospects of Rabi cultivation in the targetted 80 lakh acres has become extremely bleak, while one crore 35 lakh acres out of the total cultivable land of two crore 15 lakh acres are lying uncultivated for lack of irrigation facilities.

According to a survey conducted on 233 deep tubewells in twelve districts of the country, 40 per cent of such tubewells are lying out of operation due to mechanical faults, the discharge rate of another 45 percent is utterly inadequate while another 7 per cent are lying out of commission for years together. The responsibility of supplying power pumps in most cases and supply and operation of deep tubewells in all cases lies with BADC. But the inaction and ineptitude of the concerned Division of the organisation are resulting in such a sorry mess.

Circumstanced as we are, floods and droughts are almost annual visitations this country suffers from. In the present situation, change in the cropping pattern, a shift of emphasis to winter cultivation, introduction

of high yielding varieties of crops on more and more areas seem to be the most plausible alternative, as we have stressed time and again. The total cultivable land in the country being limited, increase of food production through increasing the acreage of irrigation—cultivation and adoption of the above mentioned methods seem to be the most viable alternative open to us. According to experts, our food production can be doubled in the near future through such measures. We can not only fight out the recurring shortage of foodgrains averaging 20 lakh tons per year, but can in that case have enough surplus that can contribute to the building of a good industrial base.

Not only inadequacy in irrigation facilities, but delay and irregularities in the supply of other inputs like seeds, fertilizers and loans are seriously hindering our agricultural development. Responsibilities need to be properly fixed and efforts must be geared up to remove these impediments with dispatch and drive in the interest of solving our chronic food problem and ensuring a better future.

GIFTS OF VISION

Even if belatedly, posthumous donation of eyes has been gaining a slow and still very limited popularity. Recently 25 intellectuals and eminent citizens have in a ceremony fulfilled formalities of posthumous donation of eyes and eyes have in fact been posthumously collected from one or two deceased celebrities. What is more concrete evaluation of the humanitarian move, the cornea from the eyes donated by late Dr Alim Al-Razi has been utilized in restoring the eyesight of two sightless men by cornea grafting. There is also evidence that our country has made laudable progress in eye treatment. We have ophthalmologists with advanced training whose skill has merited the appreciation of expert bodies like Orbis' team. Treatment with laser which is an advanced technology is also being introduced in the country. But so long cornea was not locally available and for cornea graft operation cornea had to be

let from abroad. But due to efforts of some professional and voluntary groups an appeal for posthumous eye donation was made and the response now is better than before.

The actual collection of posthumous eyes however has to depend on the cooperation of relatives—and their timely contact with the eye bank. If relatives of the deceased cannot act at the right time, the donation becomes meaningless.

Although we said above about our modestly developed facilities for eye treatment and eye surgery, the fact remains that all these facilities are confined to big cities. For the rural populace the only accessible facilities are the periodically organised eye camps. Unless the resources are horizontally extended, the common people can derive little benefit from them. Initially, an ophthalmic unit should be set up in all the upazila hospitals. They should be equipped to treat the simpler eye diseases and operate uncomplicated cases.

The incidence of eye diseases is increasing and children are becoming victims of blindness merely due to poor diet. Many of the cases of blindness which cripple the young and old alike in villages are curable. Our problem is great and it is time for us to attack it pragmatically.

/12828

CSO: 4600/1292

BANGLADESH ECOLOGY DAMAGED BY FARRAKA BARRAGE

Drought in North

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Dec 85 p 7

[Text] Satkhira, Dec 18--Drought which has been persisting throughout the southern zone of the country, specially in 62 upazilas under eleven districts of the area is a great problem for Bangladesh.

According to report Jhenidah Sadar, Sailkupa, Harinakundu, Kaligoni, Kotchanpur and Mohepur Upazilas under Jhenidah District. Kotwall, Sarsha Jhikorgacha, Cheregacha, Avoinagor, Bagharpara, Monirampur and Keshabpur Upazilas under Jessore Dist, Magura Sadar, Sreepur, Salikha and Mohammedpur Upazilas under Magura District, Narail Sadar, Kalia and Lohagara under Narail District, Rupsha, Batiaghata, Daulatpur, Fultala, Terokbada, Dumuria, Dakop, Paikgacha and Boira under Khulna District, Mollahat, Kachua, Sarankhola, Rampal, Moralongi, Mongla and Chitalmari under Bagerhat District Satkhira, Sadar, Kalaroa, Kaligoni, Tala Debhata, Assasuni and Shyamnagor under Satkhira District, Rajbari, Sadar, Goalado, Pangsar and Baliakandi under Rajbari District, Kushtia, Sadar Bheramara, Mirpur, Daularpur, Kumarkhali and Khoksa under Kushtia District, Chuadanga, Damarhuda, Alamdanga and Jibannagor under Chuadanga District and Meherpur, Sadar and Gangni Upazila under Meherpur District have been affected badly and the cultivation of paddy and other vegetables is being hampered.

Almost all the canals, ponds and marshes have dried up following the drought during the last few months. Although there was scattered rainfall recently but it was quite insufficient in comparison with requirement.

Terrible drought

Hot spell still persist throughout the day. The weather becomes very dull and the fields dry following the drought.

The farmers tried their best to save the crops by irrigation from nearby canal, ponds and marshes, but the source of water has become almost nil. On the other hand, tubewells installed for irrigation in different parts of the area are not supplying sufficient water as underground water level has gone down abnormally.

It is also gathered that following abnormal fall in the ground water level a large number of tubewells of these areas have gone out of order.

Besides salinity in river water of the southern zone is alarmingly increasing, causing adverse effects on agriculture and navigation.

According to report proportion of salinity in the rivers Garai, Kumar, Begbotion in Jhenidah District and that in the Kobotak, Belka, Kilindi, Ishamoti, Kholpetua, Sanai and Morischap in Satkhira and Jessore Districts is on steady increase.

Normal position of salinity varies from one thousand five hundred to two thousand centimetres. Under such position agricultural production does not suffer nor the navigation. But it deteriorates abnormally during the dry season.

Statistical reports show that the proportion of salinity in 1982 was 20 thousand centimetres. In 1983 it was 22 thousand, while last year figure was slightly over 18 thousand centimetres.

It is also learnt that production of wheat boro and aus crops in Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Jessore, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Rajbari and Faridpur districts in 1983-84 was drastically reduced. It is unfortunate that the situation has been aggravated due to the aftermath of Farakka Barrage.

Acute water problem

A correspondent from Jessore reports: The availability of water has been an acute problem for the northwestern districts of the country. Vast areas of the districts of Rajshahi, Kushtia, Pabna, Faridpur, Jessore and other northern regions have already become almost desert.

Irrigation is nearly impossible either from rivers and canals or from underground water resources through deep tubewells, shallows and pump tubewells because rivers and canals in most cases have either dried up or become narrower.

The underground water levels have reached the deepest level in various parts of the northwestern districts.

About 40 percent deep tube wells, shallows and tubewells of these areas need to be resunk. But the government will have to incur an expenditure of crores of Tk for this, whereas all these problems have been created by the adverse effects of Farakka Barrage and the situation has further been aggravated due to drought.

Change in River Course

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 30 Dec 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] Commissioning of the Farakka Barrage has brought about great morphological changes and shift in the original course of the Ganges during last ten years.

And the map of the old Rajshahi district where the Ganges first enters into Bangladesh, has also undergone changes.

Mr Abdul Mannan, assistant professor, Department of Geology and Mining, University of Rajshahi, told the fourth national geographical conference on Sunday that the Ganges, which ten years ago had only one entry point into Bangladesh, had changed its course and now entering at two different points having a curved course of about 12 kilometre in the Indian territory.

The Farakka Barrage also causes erratic and catastrophic floods besides the changes in the courses of the Ganges. The diversion of siltfree water to Hoogh through netting system has pushed large quantities of silts into the Ganges in Bangladesh causing unprecedented rise in the sediment loads in our river which is responsible for the untimely flush floods in the country.

Divided into two sessions, the conference heard 17 papers on 'Region and development' and the 'Teaching of geography' on the concluding day. The morning session was presided over by Prof M. Aminul Islam of Dhaka University while Prof A.F.M. Kamaluddin, Vice-Chancellor of the Jahangirnagar University chaired the afternoon session. Both the sessions were held at the auditorium of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Mr Abdul Mannan in his paper noted that at present the Ganges was entering into Bangladesh at two different places (Monoharpur and Hakimpur). The river had shifted towards northeast direction of Monoharpur and had crossed the international boundary towards the south of Char Panka of present Chapainawabganj district and after flowing about 12 km in the Indian territory it had again entered into Bangladesh through Hakimpur in a more or less east-west direction. For the last ten years the river had been approaching a meandering pattern, he added.

The paper revealed that the confluence of the Ganges and the Mahananda had substantially shifted about 13 km upstream over the last ten years. The channel in between the international boundary and Godagari had been choked up with bars and shoals and had become expanded to accommodate the Choto Raningar, Alatuly and Manikchar under the Chapainawabganj district. During this period the main channel had bifurcated the Char Raningar, the smaller portion of which was situated on the south bank of the river was now called "choto Raninagar" by local people. Formation of mid-channel

islands and bars were active in this area and deposition in an increasing rate was also taking place here, the paper said.

The paper noted that about 40 km channel from Godapari to Charghat had been shifted towards north and was now entirely flowing through Bangladesh. Major portion of the left bank of its river was now eroding alarmingly. During the floods of September 1984, the bankline of a vast area was seriously affected. Bularpur sluice gate and some portions of the earth-dam near Sardah were also damaged, the paper said.

According to the study, major shifting of the channel took place at Bagha. The channel had shifted about 3.5 km towards the south with the formation of a meander causing about 12 kilometre flow through Kushtia district. Chars and shoals have been formed in Bagha and Narayanpur and Kadirpur due to gradual deposition during the last ten years, the paper said.

The paper said that the erratic and catastrophic floods caused by tropical monsoons was a conspicuous factor. The adverse effect of the Farakka Barrage was another striking phenomenon causing frequent floods.

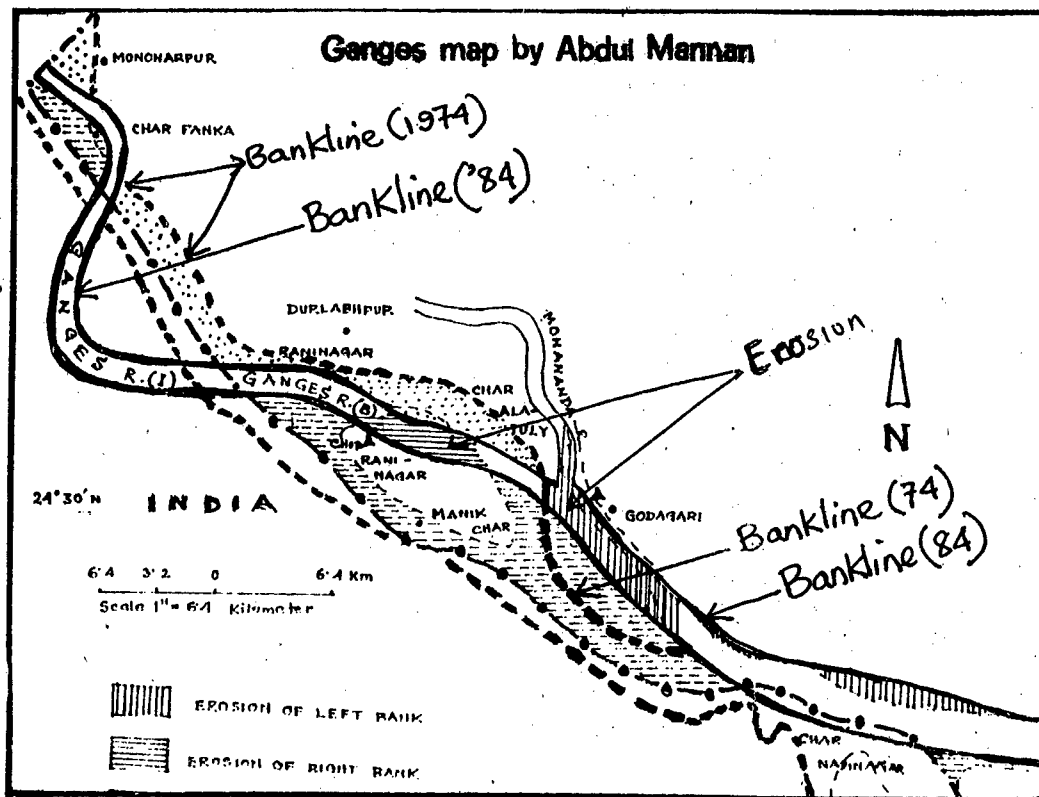
The deposition of shoals and bars were due to massive fluctuation between flood and mean flow, heavy sediment load etc. The regulation of the flow at Farakka had been producing large scale fluctuation of the flow in the downstream, the paper added.

It pointed out that the diversion of siltfree water from the Ganges into Bhagirathi river was causing sudden flush of more silt into the Ganges in Bangladesh and a corresponding rise in river bed which necessarily meant serious degradation on the channel geometry of the river.

The paper said that the changes were quantified by a simple geological investigation of Ganges river for a length of 120 km within Rajshahi district.

It observed that during the last two centuries the courses of Ganges did not undergo remarkable changes. But since the commissioning of the Farakka Barrage it had shown alarming shifting in its course.

To improve the river condition of Bangladesh, he recommended the immediate implementation of the Ganges Barrage' project, the primary work which was done some years ago by the Water Development Board. He suggested a comprehensive study on the morphology of the river to identify effective measures for its remedy.



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CSO: 4600/1302

BRIEFS

DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE EXPELLEE--A meeting of the central working committee of Democratic League held at the residence of Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed under his chairmanship on Saturday expelled Mr Oali Ahad, Senior Vice President, from his primary membership on charge of indiscipline and anti-party activities. The meeting also decided to observe organisational fortnight from January 1. In a resolution the meeting demanded immediate transfer of power to the people's representatives through fair and impartial elections free from government influence. The meeting expected the hope that following the formation of the SAARC effective steps would be taken by the government to solve all outstanding disputes with India including the sharing of the Ganges water, South Talpatty, Dahagram, Angorpota, Tin Bigha issues. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 Dec 85 p 8] /9317

DANISH GRANT--Denmark agreed on Sunday to give Bangladesh 375 million kroners (about Taka 443 crore) during the current fiscal year (1985-86), an official hanout said, reports BSS. The two countries signed agreed minutes to this effect in Dhaka on Sunday. External Resources Joint Secretary Dr S.A. Samad and Danish Foreign Ministry's Asia Division Chief Ole Moel Gaard signed the minutes. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Dec 85 p 1] /9317

AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY--The government has decided to appoint Maj Gen Abdur Rahman as Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey, Foreign Office announced in Dhaka on Saturday, reports BSS. Gen Rahman is now Bangladesh Ambassador to France. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 15 Dec 85 p 3]

LOAN FROM IDA--Bangladesh will receive 107 million dollars from the International Development Association (IDA), a World Bank lending affiliate, for its two projects under two agreements signed between the two sides in Washington yesterday, reports BSS. The two projects are: rural electrification and second forestry. Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mr A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan and acting Vice-President of World Bank South Asia region, Mr Russell J. Cheetham, signed the agreement on behalf of the two sides. The rural electrification project will support expansion of power supply in the villages and finance installation of distribution network in six new Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) areas and in existing five PBS areas as first part of the phase-three government rural electrification

programme. The forestry project aims at establishing about one lakh acres of mangrove plantations and maintaining two lakh acres of existing forests to provide protection of coastal areas against calamity. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 21 Dec 85 p 1] /9317

AMBASSADOR TO NETHERLANDS--The government has decided to concurrently accredit Bangladesh Ambassador to Belgium M.M. Mohsin as its envoy to the Netherlands also, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Dec 85 p 7] /9317

ENVOY TO GAMBIA--The Government has decided to concurrently accredit Bangladesh Ambassador to Senegal, A.N.M. Nuruzzaman as its High Commissioner to Gambia the Foreign Office announced on Tuesday, reports BSS. Another report says: The government has decided to concurrently accredit Bangladesh Ambassador to Belgium M. Mohsin as its envoy to the Netherlands, also the Foreign Office announced on Tuesday. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Dec 85 p 3] /9317

AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE--The former Planning Minister Dr A. Majeed Khan, has been appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to France, the foreign office announced in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS. Dr Khan will succeed Maj Gen Abdur Rahman who has been transferred to Turkey as Bangladesh Ambassador. Dr Khan was appointed a Minister in May 1982 and held the portfolios of Education, Planning Science, Technology and Culture. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Dec 85 p 3] /9317

AMBASSADOR TO BRUNEI --New High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam Mr Iftekhar Karim presented his credentials to Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah in a brief and simple ceremony at the Nurul Iman Palace on Wednesday, a message received in Dhaka, according to a Foreign Office Press release. Mr Karim is the first resident High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Brunei. After the presentation ceremony, High Commissioner Karim had a meeting with the Sultan of Brunei. During the meeting the Bangladesh Envoy gave the Sultan a brief resume of reformatory measures and developmental programmes of the present government in the administrative judiciary and economic sectors and other efforts to improve the quality of life of people. Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah expressed deep satisfaction over the existing bilateral relations and growing cooperation between the two countries. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Dec 85 p 8] /9317

CSO: 4600/1301

FADLALLAH URGES UNION OF ALL ANTI-ZIONIST FORCES

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Nov 85 p 1

[Text]

BEIRUT, Nov. 16 (IRNA) — Leader of Friday prayers here, Allama Fadlollah stressed that Lebanese resistance forces were ready to cooperate with all forces struggling against the Zionist regime. He also called for an end to the country's militia warfare saying that any peace project which returns tranquility to Lebanon based on a campaign against Zionist rule in that country was welcomed.

Fadlollah said that the Lebanese problem in the south was started by the Zionist regime and that any improvement there would only come at the expense of the Zionist regime and the United States.

In his sermons to worshippers in a southern district of Beirut Friday, Fadlollah stressed that national resis-

tance forces were prepared to wipe out Zionist influence from every inch of Lebanese territory and pave the way for the establishment of a just system of government.

He castigated those who talk about resuming security negotiations with the Zionist regime, warning that the Zionist regime wants security only for itself in order to perpetuate its expansionist plans. "It does not recognize security for others," he said. "And everyday its aggressions upon southern Lebanon is more evident."

He reminded that the Zionist regime intended to annihilate all who opposed its expansionism. Fadlollah said that the best guarantee for preventing the Zionist and U.S. aggression was with force of arms for Islam.

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