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DACCA SATURDAY OCTOBER 4 1978

ASWIN 18, 1883 (B.S.)

RAMZAN 27 1395 (H)

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES REVIVE AUGUST 15 General elections February

Detenus will be freed : Warrants of

By A Staff Correspondent

President Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed in his address to the nation on Friday evening announced the Government's decision to withdraw restrictions on political activities with effect from August 15, 1978 and to hold general elections to elect a new Parliament under universal adult suffrage on February 28, 1977.

For the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the proper functioning of democratic rights, the Government had also decided to free all political prisoners unconditionally.

The President said that the people would be happy to know that no warrant of arrest is pending against any person for political reasons alone. For those who are being detained under specific charges the Government has constituted a committee to investigate the charges. If the charges brought against any political personality are found to be baseless and untrue he would be freed honourably.

President Moshtaque expressed Government's desire to reestablish the judiciary to its rightful place. He firmly declared the Government believes in the freedom of Press and responsible journalism.

The President told the nation that the Government had inherited three newspapers and made it clear that full freedom of Press was not possible under government control.

He said the Government had therefore decided to re-control the three newspapers and had taken necessary measures in this regard.

The President said arms and democracy could not go together. Those who are holding back their illegal arms in spite of the opportunity offered by the Government to surrender them are certainly not believers in democratic ideals, the President maintained.

The President described as anti-democratic all persons who have not surrendered their illegal arms despite the chances offered by the Government. The President held that holders of illegal arms were responsible for the breach of peace and tranquillity in the society.

The President in his speech referred to the moral degeneration and the rapid decline of human values in the post-

liberation period and maintained that these drawbacks cannot be rectified with magic wand. He said, "We will have to extricate ourselves from this vicious circle and the only way to do so was through building unimpeachable character".

Text of speech

Following is the English rendering of President Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed's address to the nation Friday evening, reports BSS.

"Assalamu Alaikum,
My dear countrymen—brothers and sisters, the new horizon of possibilities that has come into perspective in our national life after the historic change of last August 15 and the awareness that has become evident among the people about those possibilities are really praiseworthy and hopeful. On the night of 15th August, I expressed myself on of this change between that is only of 50 that has taken meantime in public mind is very nature of this change and understand more closely Within the Government h implement on emergent basis in the ad economic field trative system nised to meet spheres incl police and th nistation... A White Pa published to : the actual sta the economic field. A task force is now transforming the un forces in the econ



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PRICE 40 PAISA (WEST BENGAL 50 PAISA)

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A White Paper has been published to inform the people the actual state of affairs in the economic field. An economic task force is now engaged in transforming the unfavourable forces in the economic field

into favourable and beneficial forces. On their recommendation a number of decisions have been taken with regard to such important economic sectors as agriculture, education, justice etc. and we believe that the masses in the country have already started to derive some benefits out of them.

The Government have taken measures on an urgent basis for the proper rehabilitation of the real freedom fighters.

China and Saudi Arabia have accorded us recognition after the historic change of August 15. We are happy over these recognitions.

Durable peace

For the normalisation of relations in the subcontinent and in the interest of establishing durable peace we need establish diplomatic relations with Pakistan early. It would be our endeavour to further (Continued on page 8 col. 4)

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More arms

General elections

(Continued from page 5)

strengthen and improve our growing relations with all countries including our neighbouring state.

Our foreign policy is unambiguous. We shall actively pursue a non-aligned foreign policy within the basic framework of "friendship to all and malice to none." We have no reason to meddle in international power politics or in global war strategy. Our country is riddled with problems.

We have to devote all our energies in solving our internal problem such as hunger, disease, poverty, ever-growing population, malnutrition etc. We seek help and cooperation of all friendly countries in solving these problems. We are grateful to all those who have extended their helping hands to us.

I believe the Bangladesh have firm conviction in certain traditional and eternal values owing to historical and natural reasons. The Bangali nation and Bengali nationalism are the outcome of the inherent strength of these sense of values. This strength has expressed itself in different forms in different spheres of personal social and national life.

Democratic values

In administrative and political spheres Bangladesh are accustomed to the observance of democratic behaviour; norms and institutional exercises. The struggle for independence which ended in 1947 was a democratic struggle and the victory was the victory of democratic values. All the struggles of the Bangladesh between 1947 and 1971 for the realisation of rights were in the ultimate analysis, the struggle for achievement of democracy and through democratic methods fulfilment of the hopes and aspirations of the majority population and a struggle for economic emancipation.

The people of Bangladesh are socially imbued with a sense of struggle and they are the torch-bearers of the evolution of democratic practices. They have given appropriate replies to all the political challenges that were thrown before them from the forties of the present century till the general elections of 1973.

But somehow or other the people could never enjoy logical and lasting fruits of their right decisions. Of course on the other hand despite unfavourable flow of events the Bangladesh as a nation never faltered or failed to give a correct verdict and live upto their responsibility. In 1970 the world witnessed with awe when the Bangladesh gave an unprecedented unthinkable and unanimous decision to achieve the right for deciding their fate. Later on when they saw that the decision of ballot was being frustrated, this time also like the past, the whole nations stood in opposition and faced bullets with empty hands and open breast.

The example of such struggle consciousness, such as facing bullets to save the dignity of ballots, is rare in the political annals of the world. The Bangladesh are the great heroes of this unprecedented history. But, so long the national hopes and aspirations had to remain

helpless, waiting to be butchered at the alters of the entente of some fighters in absentia and some dishonest and so-called fighters.

Sons of the Sun

After independence, the nation in the fitness of things, realised a democratic constitution which was praised, all over the world. Under this constitution the people elected a national Parliament which is the protector of democracy, as well as the promoter of the institutional norms. The leadership which got mandates to uphold democracy betrayed the people and their trust. The people's mandate was dishonoured and misused to the maximum extent by the leadership. To suit their needs these leaders threw the nation into the dustbin of history and engaged themselves in making a parody of it. The national existence and the hopes and aspirations were trampled under the steam-roller of the unholy forces. Nothing remained before the nation except an insurmountable wall. As there was no room for retreat and for the sake of existence, the nation and, for that matter, the national soul itself had to step forward and had to snatch out the new sun of 15th August. The whole national existence manifested itself as the saviour through the valiant "Sons of the Sun" of the Armed Forces.

I had to come forward as the pilot of the chariot of hope. Our responsibility was to salvage not as sinking boat but a sunken boat and to carry it safely to its cherished goal. We are honestly aware of our responsibility and we are also conscious of our limited ability.

We are respectful of the democratic rights of the people. We are the fighters for and upholders of the people's sovereignty. But the sovereignty is jeopardised at every stage and ultimately lost if it not accepted and practised properly and with responsibility. The society at all levels will have to admit this truth and will have to stop repetition of such events by all forces and by invoking the truth. There is no humiliation in admitting the truth. With honourable exceptions, most of us from the conscious sections of the society failed to play our role properly. In other words, many of us were caught in the trap set by our enemies. As a result by trying we had to prove that we did not die. It is unfortunate that we tried to get unpardonable self-satisfaction even through this death.

Restoration of Democracy

We shall have to atone for this self-deception bred out of our self-complacency. My Government the parliament elected under a democratic constitution and I believe in an unadulterated parliamentary democracy. We further believe that the people of the country want democracy and are fully capable of meeting the challenges of the holders of illegal arms, the corrupt and undemocratic forces through their sense of

possibility of performing this national task.

Political leaders

We have taken the decision to release from now on prisoners held only for political reasons with a view to creating a democratic environment in the country. People will be happy to know that now there is no warrant of arrest pending against political leaders only for their political beliefs. A high-level review committee has been constituted to determine the validity or otherwise of the allegations against political leaders or workers, arrested on the basis of specific charges. The arrested persons will be honoured.

As we believe in democratic values we want to restore the judiciary to its own place of honour. For the same reason we believe in the freedom of the Press and in responsible journalism. We don't believe in taking away freedom or the ownership of newspapers.

Press freedom

The responsibility of three daily newspapers have however devolved upon the Government through inheritance. We believe that full freedom of newspapers is not possible under Government ownership.

We have decided to take effective measures to release these three newspapers from governmental control. We are however against introduction of further mismanagement on the plea of solving problems.

In connection with the restoration of lost rights of the people we must remember that we had the rights and we lost them. The leaders, deluge of whose had swept us from our rights and threw us into a sea of deprivation as well as their followers still exist in society. They are biding their time and they are used to sycophancy.

Illegal arms holders

Arms and democracy go ill together. Those who have not surrendered their illegally held weapons and are still keeping them are definitely not democratic. Peace in people's life are threatened by those who are holding illegal arms. It is due to them that people cannot sleep in peace and it is by them that the honour of mothers and sisters are defiled. The holders of illegal arms become puppets in the hands of anti-Bangladesh forces and it is they who like raving patients, indulge in un-brotherly machinations against the interests of the country and the people in the name of politics. It is they who reject and burn for trivial flaws and send down the house in order to light a cigarette.

Democracy is not restored merely by a declaration to do so. The responsibility of removing all obstacles in the way of democracy devolves on the people and the Government. But, democracy must be preserved through the total endeavour of the masses.

Sense of values

The wide chasm that has developed in the sense of values and of humanism in our social and state management in the post-independence period cannot be bridged by magic. But we cannot afford not to do it. We must come

Congress defers vote on Sinai technicians

WASHINGTON Oct. 3.—Congress is not now expected to vote on the sending of U.S. technicians into the Sinai under the new Israeli-Egyptian disengagement agreement until after Oct. 5, the date when the accord begins to take effect reports AFP.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger appeared Thursday morning before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee but his testimony did not achieve and end to the conflict between the executive and legislative branches over disclosure of U.S. commitments under the agreement.

The administration wants only a summary of the documents involved made public while the Congressional committee examining them insists

Despite Mr. Kissinger's assurances Thursday morning that the U.S. had made no secret undertakings regarding the Sinai accord, Congress has put off the vote on the technicians. Kissinger was to testify again in the afternoon in closed session and on Friday morning in public.

The administration meanwhile has expressed fears that the Congressional delay would lead Israel and Egypt to delay in turn their implementation of the agreement perhaps jeopardizing the entire accord.

On Tuesday, President Gerald Ford wrote to Congressional leaders urging a "bridge vote" on the issue. He held out the possibility of further negotiations afterward on other clauses in the agreement and their publication.

While the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate both agreed to vote before the weekend, Congress as a whole was not expected to render its decision before Tuesday at the earliest.

tion of a beautiful, lovely, intellectually rich future free from vice.

Self-reliance

It is no use blaming the past for the failure to transform the self-determination we had achieved in 1971 into independence. By relying on Allah we must determine our own destiny. There is no short cut to prosperity. The key to prosperity lies in hard toil with determination, by relying on one's own resources and muscles. In order to live and in order to stand with our heads high in the councils of nations we must build up a self-reliant economy in the country. As every citizen must defend the independence and sovereignty of the country, so, on our own and at the cost of our lives, we must become self-reliant so that independence becomes meaningful. We must gather our harvests from this very soil of Bangladesh. Indomitable power lies locked in the muscles and the minds of the toilers of Bangladesh. That power must be used to increase production instead of frittering it away.

We have indulged in much destruction. Let us say enough. Let us desist from destruction and engage ourselves in constructive work. Let us forge national unity through work to build up a country to live in.