

Call to implement jt declaration of 3 alliances

By Staff Correspondent

Rashed Khan Menon, General Secretary of the Workers Party has called upon the government and the opposition to help implement the joint declaration of three alliances.

He was speaking at an Ifar party in the party central office on Saturday.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, Five Party leaders Nayeem Jahangir, Bimal Biswas, Moynuddin Khan Badal were present in the Ifar party.

Khaleda

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He said in the statement the Leader of the Opposition blamed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) members for the killing of Chhatra League leader Muhammad Sharif Hossain of Polytechnic Institute. The allegation is a travesty of truth, he said. The JCD members were never involved in that killing as no member was residing in the college hostel because of Eid holiday, he stressed. He said the authorities would find out the real culprits behind the killing. The Secretary General also dismissed the allegation of Sheikh Hasina that the BNP had an understanding with the late President Ershad, saying the allegation was baseless and absurd.

He said that the people knew who maintained close link with the late President.

AL programme

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observe the day in a way befitting to the occasion.

She said April 17, 1971 would go down in history as a glorious day and would be written in golden letters in the history of the independence struggle of the Bengali nation.

Sheikh Hasina said the first government of Independent Bangladesh, formed at Mujibnagar with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President, Syed Nazrul Islam as Acting President and Tajuddin Ahmed as Prime Minister, took the responsibility of conducting the Liberation War. This government united the whole nation and galvanised the people to win independence. It also projected the just cause of the people for independence to the world community and focussed the reign of terror, repression and genocide let loose by the Pakistani invaders on the people of this country, she added.

She further pointed out that in the absence of Bangabandhu but following his directives the Mujibnagar government conducted the Liberation War for long nine months with great sagacity and wrested independence more.

Five-party

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combine, it has dissolved automatically.

He also said that the CPB, which was a main sponsor of GOJ recently took a resolution at its central committee meeting that the formation of GOJ was politically wrong.

Rashed Khan Menon said that the Five Party alliance will endeavour to continue movement inside and outside the parliament for the democratic cause.

The Ifar party was also attended by Five-party leader Moynuddin Khan Badal and Oikya Prokria leader Noyeem Jahangir.

Journalists

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Minister for Information Nurul Huda to arrange a meeting of the journalists union and Dainik Desh management.

At the tripartite meeting, the Dainik Desh management agreed to resolve the issue while the government took the responsibility to solve the crisis through further dialogue.

The State Minister conveyed to the journalists the Prime Minister's request to withdraw the strike.

President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Rezauddin Ahmed and Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, President of DUJ Zahirul Haq and General Secretary Rurul Amin Gazi, former BFUJ Secretary General Syed Zafar, unit chief of Dainik Desh Abul Kalam Azad and Editor/Director of Desh Anwarul Islam from owner's side were present in the meeting.

Earlier in the morning the journalists held a big rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toyneeb Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. FAX: 246023-4. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday visited the Paribagh slums in the city which were gutted by fire on Friday night. —PID photo



AL chief Sheikh Hasina addressing an Ifar Party hosted by a community centre in the city on Saturday. —Star photo

JS to discuss form of govt

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in Parliament. He said BNP is committed to establish a government, which will remain accountable to Parliament. But he maintained that the Joint Declaration of the three alliances does not discard the option for presidential form of government.

During the one-week session of Parliament the issue of the form of government was raised by the Opposition members on several occasions. But there was no formal debate on this issue.

Many of the Members of Parliament said there should be a backstage parley on the issue. Without any consensus behind the screen, discussion on this issue in Parliament will yield no benefit.

Salahuddin Yousuf said, it has now become clear that BNP does not want any change in the Constitution. So, it would not be wise for Awami League to give up the chance to create an atmosphere for movement on this issue in future, he said.

On the other hand, Ganotantri Party leader Suranjit

Sengupta, who has been hammering on this issue from the very beginning of the session, told The Daily Star that any bill on the form of government from the Opposition Bench will ultimately complicate the issue and Awami League will be given a chance for agitation without achieving anything fruitful.

Dr. Kamal Hossain, an Awami League presidium member, said the Members of Parliament should utilise the Eid vacation for informal discussion on this issue.

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon said BNP has not yet closed the door to discussion on this issue. He said top BNP leaders told him that they are considering the issue seriously. He said, placing any such bill by any of the parties unilaterally will foil the issue.

Prior to the formation of the Councils of Ministers, the Five-Party Alliance leaders discussed this issue with BNP. At that time, Sheikh Razzak Ali, now Deputy Speaker, told the Five-Party leaders that he hoped they would be able to

reach a consensus on the parliamentary form of government.

But now many of the BNP leaders have become tight-lipped. The Five-Party Alliance, Otkya Prokria and United Communist League in a recent meeting discussed the issue of the form of government. Many of them now see the issue as a contradiction between two groups of the bourgeois class. They opined that there is no difference between the two systems so far the interests of the common people are concerned.

Jamaat-e-Islami, which has given unconditional support to BNP to form the government is now thinking about the issue seriously. Jamaat which has changed its stand and now wants a compromise between the parliamentary and the presidential forms, also expressed its keenness to debate the issue. Jamaat leader Mattur Rahman Nizami said a balance between the power of Parliament and the presidency can give a better government to the nation.

Daylight murder in DU hall

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along with a girl and went to the room. Police found the motorcycle near the hall gate and seized it also.

When asked to know about the allottee of Room 404 where Khokan was killed the Provost said that the room was allotted to a student who had shifted to another room. Prof. Musa could not say if the room was re-allotted to anyone else since the concerned House Tutor was not available.

The Provost has constituted a five-member committee to enquire about the incident. Dr. Ashrafuddin, a House Tutor of the Hall, is heading the committee.

A case has been filed with Ramna Police Station, but none was arrested till writing of the report Saturday night. However, police sources said that they were interrogating two girls about the death and other investigations were continuing. The body of Khokan was

sent for post mortem.

Meanwhile, Amanullah Khan and Khairul Kabir Khokan, Vice President and General Secretary of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) condemned the gruesome killing and demanded arrest and exemplary punishment of the persons responsible.

In a joint statement Saturday night, the DUCSU leaders said a young outsider was killed in a planned way at Zahurul Haq hall yesterday.

1,440-man peacekeeping force

Officers said, reports AP.
The 1st Armoured Division was the first division-sized unit to be pulled out of the 100,000 strong VII Corps in occupied southern Iraq.

U.S. President George Bush's administration seemed to be moving quickly to get the troops out amid criticism that the United States did little to help the rebels fighting Saddam Hussein.

The withdrawal was completed as the first elements of a United Nations peacekeeping

force that eventually will replace the remaining Americans flew to Kuwait City to begin organising the transition.

The 1,440-member force was established by an official U.N. cease-fire that went into effect Thursday. Its mission is to keep the peace in a demilitarised zone between Iraq and Kuwait.

Reuter from Piranshahr (Iran) adds: The Kurdish refugee situation in Iran is beyond control and far more international help is desperately needed, the governor of the most crowded refugee town said on Friday.

Not only Piranshahr but the whole of Iran cannot cope with this exodus because it is so huge," said Ahmed Ziyat Farmandar, governor of Piranshahr in northwest Iran.

"Animals have protection on this earth but these people have nothing (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein is torturing them and killing them and the international community is sitting and looking and waiting."

Ziyat said his overworked staff had given up counting how many Iraqi Kurds had flooded across the border into Piranshahr.

Earlier this week the total exceeded 300,000 — nearly ten times the town's usual population — and up to another 300,000 had arrived since then.

"We have done our utmost, but it is not in such a way that everyone is satisfied," Ziyat admitted. During a visit to the town, two trucks with bread arrived and were emptied in moments.

Situation in Palestine devastating: Perez

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 13: The Gulf crisis was devastating for the Israeli occupied territories slashing revenues and worsening Israeli-Palestinian tensions, according to a United Nations report released on Friday, reports Reuter.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait proved devastating for the territories remittances and transfer payments from the Gulf region plummeted, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in his report to the Security Council.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, Palestinian workers, many of them criticised for backing Baghdad, streamed out of the region as refugees bereft of money and jobs.

Palestinian support for Iraq led to increased tension between the inhabitants of the occupied territories and the Israeli security forces and more broadly cost the Palestinians much goodwill, Perez de Cuellar added.

The report was mandated under a December Security Council resolution passed in

December criticising Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the occupied areas, it was based on findings by his personal representative Jean Claude Aime, who visited the area in March days after the Gulf war ended.

The resolution asked Perez de Cuellar urgently to monitor the territories which were captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Perez de Cuellar said tensions during the Gulf crisis were exacerbated by violence in Jerusalem last October that left at least 17 Palestinians dead and more than 20 Israelis wounded.

"These tragic events once again highlighted the need for greater safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians living under Israeli occupation," Perez de Cuellar said.

He also criticised travel restrictions, deportations and a curfew that Israel subsequently imposed and called detentions and "collective punishments"

\$75m IDA credit

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has been pressing elimination of the system on the ground that it is a discriminatory regulation which also causes procedural problems.

But, sources said, in the wrap-up meeting with the WB mission on April 4, Industries Secretary Shaful Alam strongly opposed the suggestion saying that the abolition would compel small importers to depend on large import houses.

The government side also argued that Bangladesh can hardly afford such a suggestion of free import in view of its scarce foreign exchange.

Officials also vigorously opposed the World Bank proposal for withdrawal of tariff concession for machinery import for the least developed areas.

They argued with the WB

BNP firm to free society from anarchy

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Professor AQM Badruddoza Choudhury Saturday said the BNP government was determined to establish a society free from anarchy and corruption for materialising the hopes and aspirations of the people, reports ISS.

The Minister was addressing a gathering of Jatiyatabadi Sheshchasebak Sangathan (JSS) at Mohammadpur Community Centre in Dhaka.

Presided over by Delwar Hossain, Convener of Mohammadpur Thana Unit of JSS, the gathering was also addressed by central convener of JSS Kazi Asad, Advocate Abul Malek and Mohammad Hanif.

The Minister said, BNP had already taken steps towards welfare of the poor people through exemption of land revenue upto 25 bighas, agriculture loan of Taka 5,000 with interest and with held of certificate cases.

He said, BNP had to relation with those who raised fund forcibly from the people and created violence in the name of politics. He also sought cooperation of the people in maintaining peace

appraisal mission that the suggestion is contrary to the constitutional commitment of balanced development in the country and it would cause serious political problem for the new government.

The WB recommendation of withdrawal of development surcharge and licence fees on import and subsidiate the revenue loss by corresponding Taka devaluation was also opposed.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) argued with the WB mission that the abolition of development surcharge would cause a huge revenue shortfall.

The two sides also failed to reach a consensus on the launching schedule of the controversial Pre-shipment Inspection system.

Sources said the WB mission cautioned the government that any cut in the reform package would cause the Bank of reconsider the entire credit package.

Two monkeys put to death for cruelty

NEW ORLEANS, Apr 13: Two monkeys that had been part of a decade-long animal-rights battle were put to death Friday hours after medical researchers received US Supreme Court clearance to euthanize and experiment on them, reports AP.

The macaques Titus and Allen were among 17 monkeys confiscated by authorities from a Silver Spring, Maryland, lab in 1981 amid charges of cruelty.

The National Institutes of Health was given custody of the animals and housed them and two others at Tulane University's Delta Regional Primate Central in Covington.

The pair were killed within hours of the Supreme Court ruling, said Dr. Peter Gerone of the centre.

"The animals slipped from surgical anaesthesia to death with no problems whatsoever," Gerone said.

Brain and euthanasia experiments were performed on Titus after he was put to sleep

The Midnight File

Tank backed assault on Kurds

DAMASCUS, Apr 13: Iraqi Kurdish rebels said on Friday that Saddam Hussein's soldiers had launched another tank backed assault on guerrilla strongholds in northern Iraq. They said the Iraqi troops were using helicopters, tank and heavy artillery. Spokesmen for the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) told Reuter that attacks against the Ezmir mountains overlooking the city of Sulaymaniyah began shortly after midnight on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Georgia invites Gorbachev

MOSCOW, Apr 13: Georgia's nationalist leaders have invited Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to begin talks with them to "establish good neighbourly ties between our two states". Interfax independent news agency reported Saturday. The talks offer came less than a week after Georgia proclaimed its independence unilaterally from the Soviet Union, reports AFP.

Talks on hostages in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Apr 13: Muslim rebels holding two Swedish hostages extended a Saturday deadline until Tuesday to meet with international human rights teams. Police said a militant leader of the Muslim Janbaz Force who was captured last Tuesday, was negotiating from jail with his organisation for the hostages' release. The Muslim Janbaz or Martyr's Force has threatened to kill the Swedish engineers unless the government allows United Nations and Amnesty International officials to investigate human rights abuses by Indian authorities in the Kashmir valley, reports AP.

Hillary's altitude sickness

KATHMANDU, Apr 13: Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of the Everest, says heights bother him more as he gets older. At 71, he had to be flown off a mountain last week after suffering high altitude sickness. Now retired as mountain climber, adventurer, diplomat and his first profession as a beekeeper, Hillary runs the Himalayan Trust, an organisation he founded in 1961 to help the Sherpas, reports AP.

Baby dies in school van

BANGKOK, Apr 13: A two-year-old boy suffocated after he was left locked in a school van for more than five hours, police officials said Saturday. The boy, Sorayuth Jenkorakiatkul, was picked up from his home by the van's arrival at a kindergarten. Police said school teachers did not notice his disappearance until late afternoon when the children had to take their afternoon nap. The van driver was arrested and charged with negligence causing death but was released on 50,000-bath (2,000 dollar) bail, reports AFP.

A mysterious jump into river!

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: An eyewitness account that three girls had jumped into a river here Friday led to a police chase which ended when the three surfaced in a nearby town a few hours later, officers said Saturday. Police and Fire Brigade resources rushed to dredge Yamuna river when an unnamed witness said he saw three young girls jumped off a fly-over into the swirling waters below, officers said. The witness claimed he saved a fourth from trying to commit suicide, but failed to stop the other three girls from jumping into Yamuna, reports AFP.

DUJ resents statements of Editors' Council Desh authorities

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) has protested the statement of the Council of Editors published in different newspapers Friday.

The DUJ in a press release said that the statement of the State Minister for Information made in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament), which the Editors' Council termed as one-sided, was not a complete reflection of the real situation prevailing in the newspaper industry.

The DUJ said it was the practice of the owners becoming Editors of newspapers without having professional experience and background. And, when the owners become editors the editorial institution suffers. The statement of the Editors' Council itself is a proof of the fact, the DUJ said.

The DUJ also protested the statement issued by the Dainik Desh authorities on the attack on journalists' leaders in front of Kashem Group Limited, used as the head office of the daily. The Dainik Desh authorities were trying to suppress the fact, it alleged. The DUJ urged the Dainik Desh authorities to refrain from making such statements.

Desh Editor contradicts BTV news

By Staff Correspondent

Anwarul Islam, Editor of the Dainik Desh, in a statement on Saturday night contradicted a news telecast by Bangladesh Television regarding misbehaviour of the Dainik Desh management with the journalists leaders on Thursday.

He said, "the news telecast on Saturday by Bangladesh Television quoting the State Minister for Information that the Dainik Desh management's behaviour in future is misleading."

"Such a discussion has neither taken place nor will it be discussed in future," he added.

Kidnappers demand release of associates

KARACHI, Apr 13: Kidnappers holding two Japanese students in a tribal hideout have demanded the release from jail of fellow gang members before they will free their captives, police sources said Saturday. Authorities in southern Sindh province retaliated by arresting several relatives of the kidnappers, AP.

Human rights violated: Rajiv

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said today Indian security forces had "gone Berserk" in Kashmir, where they are fighting a major revolt, reports Reuter.

"The police have gone Berserk in Kashmir Human rights have been violated in Kashmir," he told foreign correspondents as a headline set by Kashmir separatists for a deal to free two Kidnapped

Swedish engineers slipped by. A militant group, which says it has held Johan Jansson, 35, and Jan-ole Loman, 37, since March 31, threatened "extreme measures" against them unless its demands were met by 2 pm today.

Then, in a call to an international news agency in Srinagar, summer capital of the Himalayan region, the Muslim Janbaz (crusader) Force (MJF),

said it had extended the deadline until the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

That would be on Tuesday or Wednesday depending when the new moon marking the end of Ramadan was sighted in Kashmir, the caller said.

Jansson and Loman were the first foreigners kidnapped during the anti-Indian rebellion which has widespread support in the Kashmir valley.



Two unidentified persons aged 30 and 35 died in a stampede at Nawabpur road on Saturday. The persons went to Teer Marka Soap Factory to collect the Zakat clothes on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.