

Govt employees call off strike

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Karmachari Parishad, Bangladesh Sachibalaya Karmachari Parishad, Dhaka City Corporation Karmachari Sangsad, Bangladesh Fourth Class Sarkari Karmachari Samity, Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association and adviser and executive president of Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Samannay Parishad signed the joint declaration.

Mosharruf Uddin Ahmed, President of Sangram Parishad, also spoke on the occasion.

Among others, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Hossain, State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Information Nurul Huda, State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuiya, State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain, State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam and Cabinet Secretary Siddiqui Rahman were also present.

State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mia also spoke on the occasion.

Begum Khaleda Zia said that the present democratic government was very much aware of the problems of the government employees and despite resource constraints and so many odds had announced the Pay Commission report. The objective of our government was the welfare of the people, she told them.

The Prime Minister said, "We have inherited an econ-

omy which was crippled due to corruption and misuse of power by the autocratic regime." She said the cyclone of April 29 was a severe blow.

She reminded the employees that the country did not belong to the government employees alone. "We have to consider the problems of the farmers, workers, general people and also for the huge number of unemployed youths."

She called upon them to discharge their duties sincerely and increase production in the mills and factories. She said the government could fulfil the demand of the employees if the country moved towards development and prosperity.

The Prime Minister urged them to attend their offices punctually. "As a government servant you have some obligation toward the people," she reminded them.

Earlier the government on Sunday in a press note had asked the employees to join their duties within the next three days.

Our staff correspondent adds: Seven government employees, who were arrested Sunday in connection with the strike were released Monday evening from Dhaka Central Jail. Employees organisation sources confirmed the release.

The seven employees are — Habibur Rahman, Kazimuddin, Abdul Bari Mollah, Abdul Mannan, Zahuruddin, Jahangir Alam and Nur-e-Alam.

See also page 4 Editorial "halt this drift — now"

Water transport owners remove barricade but continue strike

By Staff Correspondent

Operation of government-owned water transports may resume today (Tuesday) as the striking private motorised vessel owners agreed Monday night to remove the barricades on different river routes.

The barricades were put on with empty launches since the indefinite strike Friday night demanding reduction of fuel prices to pre-Gulf war level.

The agreement was reached during talks between the BIWTC Chairman and leaders of six private vessel owners associations at the association's Sadarghat office.

OP-1 visas

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visas to them was September 30, but the United States embassy on August 21 said that the programme was completed. Till that date, 6,324 visas were issued to the Bangladeshi winners and their family members, the USIS press release had said, he recalled. He said according to the terms and conditions under the OP-1 Programme, the winners, his or her wife or husband and children below 21 were supposed to get visas.

The convenor said that the winners were sent a form (Form-169) from the embassy and asked to return it after filled up with necessary papers. All formalities were done and many were also interviewed and given date of visa appointment, he said.

Arman Hossain Bakul, a diploma engineer said that most of the winners were getting ready to migrate the US. Some of them left their jobs, some sold out their belongings to collect money and some even returned from foreign countries to avail the chances.

He appealing to the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, American President, US Ambassador in Dhaka and Amnesty International to help the genuine winners get visas.

While the press conference was on, several hundred OP-1 winners including women were demonstrating outside the Press Club to register their demands.

Raushan

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later conceded to its request saying that in future it should not be allowed.

However after hearing both the sides learned Judge Mohammad Ali Khan adjourned the court till next Thursday.

Yesterday was the 22nd day of the hearing in the wealth amassing case which began on June 11.

Court proceedings which began at 10.50 am was interrupted for nearly 20 minutes due to a power failure. Ershad who wore a shirt sleeve safari suit was perspiring in the dock. He was looking tired having just recovered from a viral infection.

The prosecution was led by the Attorney General Aminul Haque while Deputy Attorney General Hasan Arif, Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, SPP Farid Ahmed, Public Prosecutor Abdul Razzak Khan and Bazlur Rahman assisted him.

The Defence Counsel included Yousof Hossain Humayun, Mosharruf Hossain Kazal, Mafizur Rahman Mazumdar, Sudhir Kumar Hazra and Rezaul Karim.

Another case likely to begin Sunday

Hearing in another case against the former President will begin on September 1, Sunday.

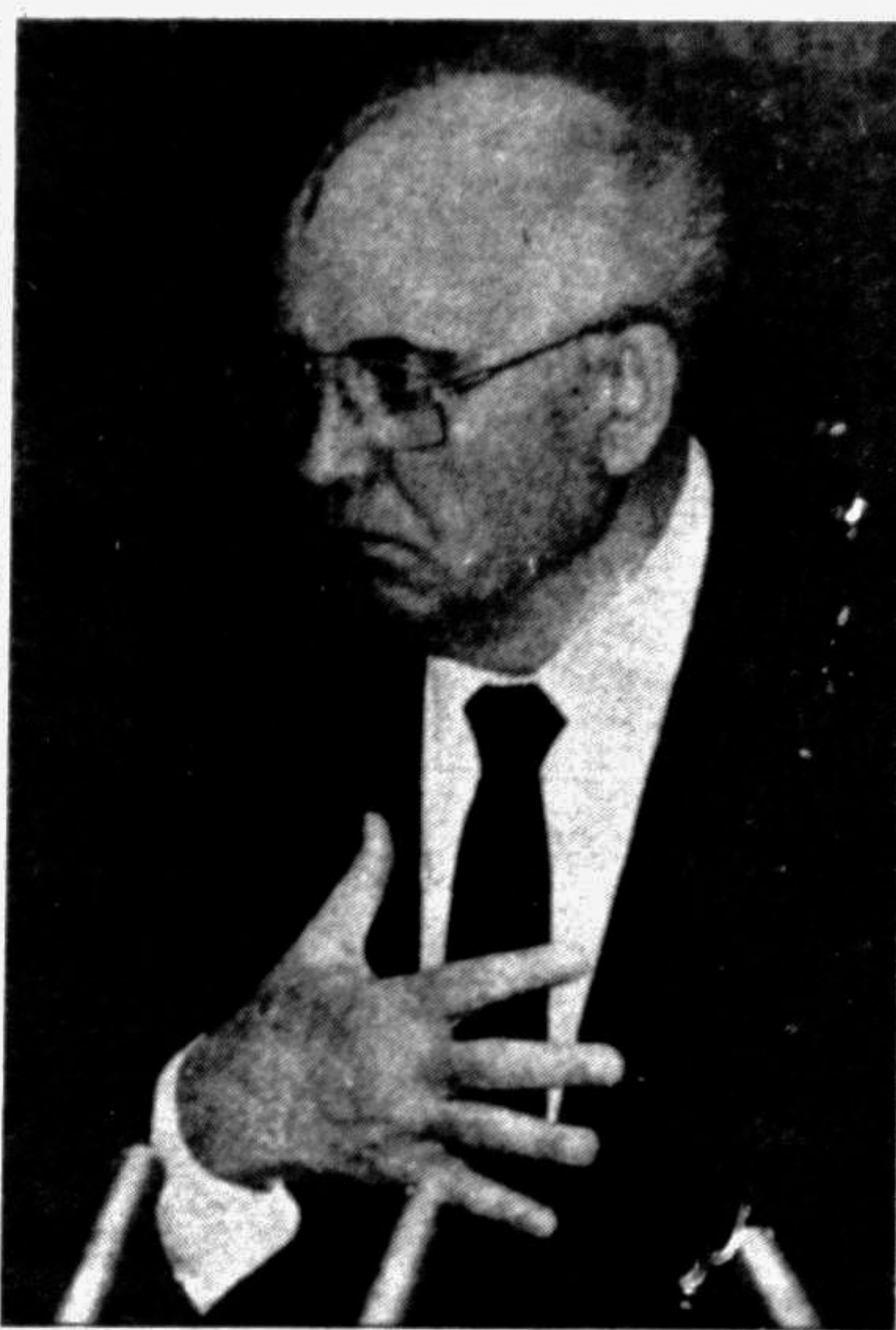
The chargesheet in the case related to the controversial purchase of ATP aircraft has already been submitted.

The government has so far accused four persons for buying the ATPs illegally.

Labour leader Mosharruf Hossain urged the employees to go back to their respective offices considering the present economic condition of the country which was ravaged by the autocratic regime.

"If you do not understand the present situation, the people will resist you," he said. Advocate Syed Matul Islam, in his presidential address, said the people of the country would continue to support the democratic government led by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, installed through a free and fair election.

The rally was followed by a procession which paraded the main streets of the city.



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in an address at an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow admitted ignoring warning regards of the coup.

— AFP photo

Union cannot be saved

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The Congress is also due to debate a new election law and will decide whether the elections should be direct or indirect.

Gorbachev was elected by the Congress in March 1990.

The Congress itself was elected in 1989 by a mixture of direct voting and indirect elections from organisations such as the now-shattered Communist Party.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, hero of last week's coup, was elected executive head of his giant republic in direct elections in June.

The Union Treaty is the document Gorbachev drew up to redefine the relationship between the Soviet central government and the republics.

Before the hard-liners began their putsch, nine republics have agreed to the document and the two biggest — Russia and Kazakhstan — were scheduled to sign it last Tuesday.

Yeltsin said no action can be

taken on the treaty until after the Ukrainian parliament meets next month.

Gorbachev said he should have foreseen the attempted overthrow, and accepted some of the blame.

"The coup was not unexpected. It did not come out of the blue," he said.

"There were portents in the hysterical and provocative articles by rightists in our press, in the Central Committee, provocative statements by some generals, from the floor of the Congress of People's Deputies, and open sabotage of many decision and government in a word, the plot was ripening. There were more than enough grounds to adopt extraordinary measures, to defend constitutional order."

Gorbachev conceded he failed to act to prevent the coup.

"At the same time, instead of decisive actions and measures, liberalism and leniency were shown. I blame myself first of all for this," he said.

49 candidates

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JSD (Inu) has nominated a candidate for the Madaripur-2 constituency. 13 other candidates are independents.

The highest number of seven candidates each will contest the bye-elections for Dhaka-5 and Dhaka-9 seats and there are only two candidates for the Chittagong-8 constituency.

Following is the final list of the candidates: Rangpur-1: Shah Ruhul Islam (Jamaat), Alhaj Rahimuddin Bharasa (BNP), Alhaj Karimuddin Bharasa (JP) and Mohammad Majbur Rahman Pramanik (AL).

Rangpur-2: Shah Mohammad Nur Hossain (Jamaat), Advocate Ilias Ali (BNP), Mohammad Anisul Haq Chowdhury (AL), Sree Partosh Chakraborty (JP).

Rangpur-5: Maulana Abu Bakar Wahidi (Jamaat), Nurul Huda (Sultan) (BNP), Ashiqur Rahman (AL), Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury (JP).

Rangpur-6: Shah Mohammad Khaleque (BNP), Mohammad Matulur Rahman (AL), Advocate Abdus Salam (Jamaat) and Shah Moazzem Hossain (JP).

Bogra-7: Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lulu (BNP), A H Azam Khan (AL), Abdur Razzak

Millat Mandal (JP) and Aminul Islam (Ind).

Bhola-2: Mosharruf Hossain Shajahan (BNP), Anwar Hossain Bhuiyan (AL) and Mohammad Siddique Miah (JP).

Dhaka-5: Major (Retd) Qamrul Islam (BNP), Advocate Shahara Khatun (AL), ADM Fazlul Haq, and Bahauddin Ahmed, Advocate Ruhul Amin Khan, Mohammad Enamul Karim Suja, Abdullah Al Nasir.

Dhaka-9: Mohammad Shaftiqul Islam (JP), Zamiruddin Sircar (BNP), Alhaj Mokbul Hossain (AL), and Mohammad Jahangir, Mir Anwar Hossain Ratan, Arif Howlader and Mohammad Shahidul Islam Milan.

Madaripur-1: Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury (AL), Motahar Hossain Siddique (BNP), Mohammad Mokbul Hossain (JP) and Abdul Latif Bhawanji (Ind).

Madaripur-2: Nazrul Islam Shahid (Ind), Shahjahan Khan (AL), Alhaj Feroz Jamadar (Ind), AFM Fudud (JSD-Inu), Mohammad Zakaria Mia Apu (JP), and Engineer Atiqur Rahman Babul (BNP).

Chittagong-8: Mohammad Abdul Mannan (AL) and Amir Khasru (BNP).

Govt has failed to contain price hike : Moudud

KHULNA, Aug 26 : Jatiya

Party leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed today said that the present government had miserably failed to contain the price hike of essentials causing hardship to the people, reports UNB.

He said the price hike of essential commodities were 61 per cent in last five months since March and it shot up 30 per cent in last two months period.

Addressing a workers' rally at the Crescent Jute Mills premises in Khaliapur today, the former Vice-President of Ershad regime alleged that the government also failed to contain the violence in the campuses.

Pointing to the law and order situation, Moudud said it was worsening everyday as anti-social activities and crimes became rampant.

The JP leader said democracy would be meaningless if the government fails to solve the basic problems faced by the nation.

The workers' rally was presided over by SM Abdur Rab and addressed among others by former ministers Razia Fatz and HMA Gaffar and other local leaders.

Moudud also addressed another workers' meeting at Jessore today which was presided over by JP leader Khaledur Rahman Titu.

The Midnight File

India plans special security law for Rajiv's family

NEW DELHI, Aug 26 : India said today it planned a special law to enforce elite security protection for the family of assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi because the lives of his widow and children were in danger. India's parliament agreed to discuss the legislation to fund specially trained guards for Gandhi's Italian-born widow, Sonia, and their two children, though some members accused the government of trying "to create a new class of privileged citizens," reports Reuter.

Germany to seek Honecker's extradition

BONN, Aug 26 : Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Monday that Germany will ask the Soviet Union to return former East German leader Erich Honecker, and he expects that Moscow will comply. The Red Army spirited Honecker out of eastern Germany six months ago, preventing his prosecution for crimes committed under the Communist regime he headed, reports AP.

Arafat sticks to his demands

AMMAN, Aug 26 : PLO leader Yasser Arafat, sidelined in US-brokered peace efforts, left Jordan quietly today sticking to his demands for guarantees from Washington ahead of a proposed Middle East conference between Israel and the Arabs. A well-placed Jordanian source told Reuter that Arafat was maintaining his tough line on the conference and wanted pledges from the US which Washington would be unlikely to provide.

Cambodians open peace talks

PATTAYA (Thailand), Aug 26 : Cambodians opened peace talks today with an end to their long war within reach but voicing fears that the United States might play a spoiler's role. The Supreme National Council which brings together the Phnom Penh Government and three allied guerrilla armies stood to hear the country's new national anthem before sitting down to discuss how they could lay down their arms and monitor a ceasefire, reports Reuter.

Mustafiz

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He said there would be discussions on all issues and added that the issue like the transfer of the "Tin Bigha" should not await for solution.

The Foreign Minister is leading a five-member delegation that includes Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmood Ali.

Report from Calcutta said Rahman who made a stopover in Calcutta on his way to Delhi, met the West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, at the Writers Buildings here this afternoon.

During the meeting lasting over half an hour, they discussed modalities for speedy transfer of Tin Bigha corridor, Bangladesh Deputy High Commission sources said.

Jyoti Basu responded "positively" in this regard, sources said.

The Foreign Minister evinced keen interest in the development of brackish water pisciculture specially shrimp culture in the West Bengal sector of Sunderbans.

Basu offered all help for sharing the experience in this field.

It was agreed in the meeting that Bangladesh would send a delegation soon to visit the project areas in West Bengal state, sources added.

The meeting was attended among others by Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmood Ali and Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Calcutta Sayeed Nur Hossain.

A late night report adds: The Bangladesh Foreign Minister, ASM Mostafizur Rahman, arrived here tonight on a four-day visit, expressing the hope that there would be a further boost to cooperation between the two countries, says PTI.

Rahman reached here by a scheduled Indian Airlines flight from Calcutta where he had a brief stopover and met the West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu.

Syndicate

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Little probability of any positive decision from Tuesday's meeting, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) and the Academic Council were still adamant on their stand not to reopen the university before getting assurances from the government and the political parties of a violence free campus.

Meanwhile, a meeting of Dhaka University Academic Atmospheric Council (DUAAC) is likely to be held tomorrow (Wednesday).

Hasina

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cratic system of rule could not be eradicated.

She said that the "inertness and inefficiency" of the government had trampled the hopes and aspiration of the people.

Giving a picture of the crisis that gripped the nation the Awami League President said that the government was pushing the people on a path to uncertainty as the prices of essentials including rice, pulses, edible oil and salt were increasing day by day. The poor have become poorer, she added.

She said that more than 100 educational institutions had been closed down due to vandalism by some known terrorists sheltered by the government.

Law and order situation had deteriorated she added and said that due to the launch strike the people were suffering a lot.

Moreover the road transport workers have also threatened to go on strike.

She said that all these developments had plunged the nation into a deep crisis.

She urged the government to take pragmatic steps in resolving the prevailing unrest and tension in the country.

Unfair means

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Under the proposed amendment provisions will be there to award minimum three years and maximum 10 years of imprisonment for the offences like any change in the answer paper or illegal addition to it (answer paper).

Provisions will be there to award minimum two years and maximum five years of imprisonment to those who would supply copy in the examinations while provision will be made to award one year imprisonment to those who will create disturbances in the examination centres.

There will be provisions for imposing fine on the offenders on all the cases.

An examinee, if found guilty of copying, will be debarred from participating in the examination for three years.

The Council of Ministers also decided to import one lakh metric tons of uncrushed salt immediately. This quantity of salt will be imported by the real and established owners of salt mills to be selected by the BSCIC in consultation with the Salt Mills Owners' Association.

As per the commitment of the Salt Mills Owners' Association the importers will open letter of credit within seven days of the announcement of the government decision and market the refined salt within forty days of the

opening of the letter of credit.

The Salt Mills Association in consultation with the BSCIC will decide at what price the mill owners will sell the imported uncrushed salt in unadulterated form after refinement to the wholesalers. They will inform the TCB to the price fixation with full explanation.

The Ministry of Industry, TCB and the concerned Deputy Commissioners will have to be informed where the mill owners will keep the imported salt and what will be the march-up of the wholesalers.

The mill owners will give a statement to the concerned Deputy Commissioners and TCB of the price and quantity of salt sold to the whole sellers. This information will have to be furnished within seven days of the sale.

The TCB has invited tenders for the import of fifty thousand tons of crushed salt and equal quantity of uncrushed salt as per the previous directive of the Commerce Ministry. The process of importing fifty thousand tons of uncrushed salt will be cancelled in view of the decision to allow the Salt Mills Owners' Association to import uncrushed salt. The process of importing fifty thousand tons of crushed salt will continue as an effective step against unreasonable price-hike of this sensitive commodity.

Jobless youths

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introduction of 'unemployment allowance' with that money.

Presided over by Advocate Syed Matul Islam Mantu the rally was addressed by Ali Ahmed, Mosharruf Hossain, Abdul Wahab Zamil, Sirajul Islam, DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Kohkan, AGS Nazimuddin Alam, RUCSU VP Rezi Ahmed and student leaders Fazlul Haq Milon and Kamruzzaman Ratan.

They said that the economic condition of the country did not permit the providing of any pay-scale as the autocratic ruler and his cronies had emptied the country's coffers and hoarded money in foreign banks. But the democratically elected government announced it for the low-paid employees on human grounds. The donor countries are also against this pay scale.

The speakers criticised employee leaders, for creating disturbances inside the Secretariat for the past few weeks in the name of movement.

They said that those people

who had demanded the Prime Minister's resignation should remember that the Prime Minister and her government were elected by 12 crore people of the country.

BSS adds : Speakers at the rally called upon the government employees abstaining from work to return to their duties immediately in response to the government ultimatum.

They said, "the people of the country will no more tolerate any kind of conspiracy against the elected democratic government in the name of movement for pay commission."

Khairul Kabir Kohkan said a certain quarter had been conspiring to destabilise the government, which came to power with people's mandate, by engaging the employees in the movement for pay commission.

"The government has limitations, how can it provide the employees with huge amount of money?" he asked.

The DUCSU GS said a number of employees had been chanting slogans in favour of a particular female leader and passing indecent comments against the Prime Minister.

"If the employees do not return to their normal duties, the people will build resistance against them", he cautioned.

DUCSU leader Nazimuddin Alam called upon the government to make fresh appointments against those employees who would fail to attend their duties within the stipulated time as announced by the government.

He said a handful of employee leaders had been forcing the employees to abstain from work. "everybody knows who are behind the movement", he said.

RUCSU VP Rezi Ahmed said the people of the country were ready to face any undemocratic forces who want to destabilise the new democratic government.

He said, "We will continue our endeavours to give democracy an institutional shape."

All Ahmed, speaking on behalf of the unemployed youths, demanded cancellation of the Pay Commission report and appointment of unemployed youths.

Labour leader Mosharruf Hossain urged the employees to go back to their respective offices considering the present economic condition of the country which was ravaged by the autocratic regime.

"If you do not understand the present situation, the people will resist you," he said. Advocate Syed Matul Islam, in his presidential address, said the people of the country would continue to support the democratic government led by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, installed through a free and fair election.

The rally was followed by a procession which paraded the main streets of the city.

The dead included one assistant sub-inspector, police said adding a total of fourteen personnel were on the van.

Editor : S. M. Ali

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'Yeltsin imposing personal dictatorship'

Basu believes Stalinism will triumph

NEW DELHI, Aug 26: India's communists are aghast at the collapse of Soviet communism, but say their confidence that Stalinism will eventually triumph is not shaken, report Reuter.

"We are communists, great survivors", Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal and leader of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), told a rally in Calcutta on Sunday.

"Whatever happens in the outside world, we are now more determined to implement Marxism-Stalinism in West Bengal," said the 77-year-old Basu, who has ruled the state since 1977.

"Even now that communism seems to be collapsing in its very homeland, we renew our vow to establish our faith in this state," said Basu, the longest-serving leader of any Indian state.

The Politburo of the CPI-M charged Russian President Boris Yeltsin with imposing "his own personal dictatorship on the Russian and Soviet people."

"Symbolic of this reactionary offensive is the desecration and removal of the statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, the respected Bolshevik leader and colleague of Lenin," the Politburo said in a statement at the weekend.

Demonstrators in Moscow pulled down a huge statue of Dzerzhinsky, founder of the first Soviet secret police, and have attacked statues of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin and his allies in other cities.

The CPI-M, an unabashed admirer of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, and which supported China's crackdown on pro-democracy dissent in Beijing in 1989, accused Yeltsin of "working in concert

with imperialist forces" to break up the Soviet Union.

"Any serious setbacks in the Soviet Union would have direct repercussions, not only for the socialist cause, but also Third World countries and national liberation movements,"

India and other Third World nations benefited from the superpower "stalemate" in the cold war, said K.N. Pannikar, professor of modern history at New Delhi's leading university.

Now they "are apprehensive about their ability to chart an independent course as a result of the collapse Soviet system", he said.

However, A.P Venkateshwar, a former top Foreign Ministry official, said the collapse of the Soviet party would have little impact on the communist movement in India. "Communist government came into existence in India

because of a mass following in the states that they ruled. That support won't change because Gorbachev has banned the Soviet party, he said.

No one mistakes communism as practised in India as true Marxism, not even its leaders.

The red hammer and sickle flutters atop many buildings in Calcutta, but capitalism flourishes in the former capital of the British raj.

In a dialectic that would confound Karl Marx himself, the pragmatic Basu woo foreign investors while his party ideologists rant against multinational firms as "imperialist agents of neo-colonialism."

"What we are saying to the people is yes, we call ourselves communists but that is for the future," Basu, a suave London-trained lawyer, said in a recent interview, "maybe in another 70 years it will happen."