

# Yslavia faces EC sanctions

THE HAGUE, Nov 5: Yugoslavia's leaders began a critical session of the European Community-sponsored peace conference on Yugoslavia here today faced by an ultimatum to accept a peace plan or face economic sanctions, reports AFP.

They were presented with a revised EC peace plan for a loose association of independent republics and special protection for ethnic minorities.

Diplomats said it had been modified in a last-ditch bid to win the acceptance of Serbia, which has alone in rejecting an earlier version of the plan.

EC ministers agreed on Monday in Brussels on a list of economic sanctions to be triggered on Friday if Serbia continued to block the plan.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who has led a campaign for the isolation of Serbia, said he also wanted the sanctions applied if fighting between Serbs and Croats in Croatia had not stopped by Friday.

The sanctions would be chosen from a list approved by the EC Foreign Ministers — suspension of EC aid, a cooperation accord and trade preferences, and controls on Yugoslav textile exports.

The ministers also agreed to seek a United Nations oil embargo against Yugoslavia, and a tightening of an existing UN arms embargo.

Report from Zagreb said: Croatian radio said on Tuesday that Croatian forces had discovered the bodies of 17 civilians massacred by Serbian autonomists near Grubisno Polje, 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of Zagreb.

It said the Serbs had killed the civilians while withdrawing from the region.

But in Belgrade, the Yugoslav presidency accused the Croatian forces of having massacred Serbian villagers in the Grubisno Polje area, and urged intervention by the European Community to "stop the genocide."

**100 injured as soccer fans clash with police in Ctg**

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: At least 100 persons were injured including seven police personnel Tuesday afternoon when soccer fans clashed with police in the Chittagong stadium area.

The clashes ensued when Abahani lost a league match against Steel Mills by a solitary goal. The supporters of the losing team became violent and started pelting stones at police and other spectators.

When police resorted to lathicharge the clashes spread to neighbouring areas.



Lewis T Preston, President of the World Bank shakes hands with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev after signing a technical cooperation agreement in Moscow on Tuesday. —AFP photo

## Economic stagnation total

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sident of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In the past few months, Mahmood said, several hundred industrial units had been closed down. "Small traders are quitting their profession and looking for jobs."

"There's virtually no trade, commerce and industry in the country, and the situation is worse in mufassil areas — there is no buyer of jute, which means there will be no jute production next year. This is a very bad signal for rural economy," said eminent businessman MA Kaahem.

Sincerity of the political leadership, both in the position and the opposition, was questioned by the business community.

"Why the cabinet has not so far had an exclusive session to discuss the sluggish economy?" Questioned prominent banker and industrialist Morshed Khan.

"I believe government doesn't mean BNP alone... the opposition in Parliament is also part of the government as it, too, makes law and has similar responsibility to think about the economy," he said.

The businessmen unequivocally called for reaching consensus decisions in the Parliament on sensitive economic issues for salvaging the national economy.

The meeting was particularly critical of procrastination on the part of the government in implementing policies.

"We have got an industrial policy, an export policy during the present regime which reflected good intentions... but there is no political commitment to implement those... this trend has been persisting for years," said Taher Sobhan, a leading frozen food exporter.

"Policy decisions are virtually taken at clerical level," said Nurul Haq, President of Gopalganj Chamber of Commerce, criticising bureaucratic tangles.

On the decision to sell sick industries, the private sector people viewed they were not willing to respond to the offer to shoulder enormous liabilities.

"None is going to invest for sick units like Machine Tools Factory... off-loading of sick industries is not privatisation," said Morshed Khan.

The businessmen observed that effective interaction between the government and the business community was worsening. They also expressed grave concern at the deteriorating law and order situation.

"Democracy now seems to connote indiscipline... lawlessness is a matter of greater concern than taxation or bank interest rate," said MA Kaahem, former FBCCI President.

## Currency crisis may hit USSR

MOSCOW, Nov 5: The Soviet Union may run out of convertible currency this month to meet its foreign debt commitments, the independent news agency Interfax said today, reports Reuter.

Interfax said an official of the Foreign Economic Relations Bank, Vneshekonombank, told a meeting of the interim Soviet government that the shortfall could occur in the middle of this month.

"In the next few days, most likely in mid-November, the USSR could fall short of convertible currency to repay its foreign debt," Anatoly Nosko, deputy head of the bank's board told the meeting.

Interfax said Nosko predicted a shortfall of up to one billion hard currency rubles (1.7 billion dollars at the official rate of exchange) during the month.

The agency also said Ivan Stlayev, acting Soviet Prime Minister, had announced the postponement of a meeting in Kiev this week of government ministers from all 12 Soviet republics on sharing out repayment of debt.

That meeting had been convened after the republics reached an agreement on shouldering repayment during talks in Moscow with top officials from the group of seven leading industrialised countries.

Soviet media also reported a further plunge in the value of the rouble.

At today's currency auction, it was quoted at 110 to the dollar, up from 70.3 at the last auction a week ago.

The rouble's tourist rate, used by Soviet citizens going abroad and foreigners in Moscow, sank on Monday to 47 to the dollar from 32.

## Effectiveness of JS

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Badruddoza Chowdhury said government wants to make parliament effective in cooperation with the opposition and is committed to resolve all problems in Parliament.

He said all important issues including campus violence and situation in northern districts were discussed in the House. The Opposition with a strength of 160 members against the government's 170 should be equally responsible.

Referring to the opposition charge, he said ministers were most of the time busy with the Standing Committee meetings.

About himself Dr. Chowdhury said one can be Deputy Leader of the House without being a minister and perform the government responsibility in Parliament.

Dr. Chowdhury expressed his doubt about the intention of Maulana Nizami's raising the point. "Is it motivated and someone else raised the issue through Maulana Nizami," wondered the Deputy Leader of the House. He, however, withdrew the remark later on complaint from the Jamaat leader.

Initiating the debate Maulana Nizami said the Prime Minister under whose leadership the country switched over to parliamentary system remained mostly absent from the House. So are most of the Ministers. The Deputy Leader of the House is often available in the House, but he is not in the cabinet.

Quoting from Kaul's parliamentary practices, the Jamaat leader said: Prime Minister should be present in the House most of the time... respond to the opposition and control unruly behaviour of the members.

He noted with regret that importance of parliament seemed to have declined after introducing parliamentary system. "We want to make the parliament really effective," Maulana Nizami emphasised.

Maudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party who supported Maulana Nizami contended the business of the House is something different from the business of the standing committees.

Pointing to the absence of government leaders, he said "there is no leadership in the House... someone has to guide the House and business of the House must be conducted in an efficient manner."

## JCD-BCL clash

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police said today. The critically injured are under treatment in the local upazila health complex.

They are Hamidur Rahman, President of the Isauri unit of Chhatra League, Md Faruk of BCL, Rahim, a local Awami League leader, and Mahfuzur Rahman of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

The clash sparked off when armed BCL activists allegedly attacked a JCD gathering near Isauri bus stand on November 3.

Police said the situation was now under control.

Three cases have been filed, one each by Awami League, BCL and JCD, with Isauri police in connection with the violence.

Maudud said members of the House genuinely felt that the government is concerned to make Parliament effective. Rule by the majority will be meaningless if Parliament does not function, he added.

Tofael Ahmed of Awami League who rushed in and took the floor expressed the doubt if the ruling party entered in unholy alliance with an "evil force" to ignore parliament.

He regretted that the government is unnecessarily finding out ill motives of the opposition members despite their extending all cooperation in smooth functioning of parliament.

Tofael said the House expected a briefing from the Prime Minister on her return from the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference in Harare and a statement before leaving for the SAARC summit in Colombo.

"We want BNP to complete its term but none probably can save it from an early fall for its own follies," said the Awami League leader.

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of NDP said the standing committees will make different branches of the administration responsible to Parliament. But government must reflect its political commitment to Parliament.

Shahjahan Siraj of JSD referred to the absence in the House of the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition and said the House seemed to be an orphan by their continuous absence. He also regretted the absence of most of the ministers during the entire session.

Taking part in the debate Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah said all steps will be made to make Parliament effective and the government accountable to Parliament. He expressed the hope the opposition will extend cooperation.

## Khaleda

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Minister's Secretariat Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui.

The Foreign Minister and some other officials are already in the Lankan capital to attend the meetings of Council of Ministers and Standing Committee to finalise the agenda of the three-day summit.

The annual assembly of the heads of state and government will add a new dimension to the seven-nation forum formally launched in Dhaka in 1985 to promote the socio-economic conditions of the people of the region.

SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh will put forward suggestions for poverty alleviation, environmental protection, gearing up role of women and institutional approach to the forum.

During her visit, Begum Zia is likely to discuss bilateral issues with other South Asian leaders in Colombo.

## The Midnight File

### UN to renew humanitarian aid accord with Baghdad

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 5: Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday that he hopes to send a top envoy to Iraq soon to renew humanitarian agreements between Baghdad and the world body before they expire, reports AP.

### Missing British publisher's body recovered

MADRID, Nov 5: A rescue helicopter recovered the body of British publisher Robert Maxwell who was lost overboard from his yacht off the Canary Islands today, Spanish state radio reported, quoting air-sea rescue officials, reports Reuter.

### Blast kills 120 in North Korea

SEOUL, Nov 5: About 120 people were killed when 900 tons of TNT stored in concrete bunkers exploded in a North Korean border town last week, a newspaper reported Wednesday. "The accident was the largest single (non-war) explosion ever on the Korean peninsula," the newspaper Hankook Ilbo quoted a government intelligence source as saying, reports AP.

## Code of conduct

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strict observance of rules in the residential halls, steps to attract the meritorious persons in teaching profession, boycotting of political programmes by the teachers, taking approval of the Syndicate for formation of organisations and association by the teachers and members of staff and action against any of the aforesaid persons for violation of the Syndicate decision, accountability of all staff for their failures in carrying out respective responsibility, strengthening the extra academic activities of the students and increase students' stipend.

The committee also stressed the need for creating employment opportunity and viewed that the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) could extend cooperation to resolve the crisis, which was also a reason behind the campus violence.

Other members of the committee were Dr Abdul Aziz Khan, Ex-VC of the Chittagong University, Engineer LK Siddiqi, a member of the Parliament, Amanullah Aman, MP and Vice-President of the DUCSU, Rezauddin Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Nuruddin M Kamal, Joint Secretary of the Education Ministry and a Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry.

It said the student's attendance and the teacher's taking of classes must be ensured as per routine. No student should be allowed to appear in the examination without 75 per cent attendance.

False statement by students about attendance should be punished by the authorities concerned.

The committee also emphasised on checking corruption at different levels of the university administration, keeping the university teachers away from politics, specific rules in allotment of hall seats and

### Another bill passed

Parliament Tuesday passed a bill enhancing the salary of the Comptroller and Auditor General to Tk 10,250 from Tk 6,000 despite strong protest from the opposition which said it was "illogical," reports UNB.

The bill "Comptroller and Auditor General Remuneration and Privileges (Amendment) Bill 1991" was piloted by State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman.

It also provided for 40 per cent of the basic pay as house allowance.

Opposition members said the bill was not acceptable as the salary had been increased in an inconsistent manner.

The rate of enhancement of salary of high government officials is not in conformity with that of low paid employees, they said.

It appears that the government has surrendered unconditionally to the pressure group, Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru of Awami League said during the general debate on the bill.

Some opposition members said, mere enhancement of salary will not solve the present problem as the government is yet to control price of essential commodities.

Dhirendra Devnath Shambu of Awami League said the enhancement of salary of a government official was a "farce" when the government could not take any step for improving the economic condition of the broad masses.

### 70 days

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August 6 by the Opposition Chief Whip Mohammed Nasim seeking removal of legal obstruction to the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Special Committee, consisting 15 members, was formed by the House to prepare a report on the bill.

The Law Minister informed the House Tuesday night that the work of the Special Committee on campus violence was progressing well and it would meet again on 8 November.

### BSC

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Ershad managed to shift the directorate to Chittagong.

It is alleged that the cronies of Ershad are still attempting to halt the shifting of the directorate back to Dhaka.

SAARC FMs meet

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from outgoing SAARC Chairman President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives about the validity of the summit following the decision last week of Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuk to stay at home for domestic reasons.

Sources close to the Prime Minister said an official announcement on whether Kotrala would make the trip would be made later today after he had another talk with Gayoom to clarify the situation.

All previous summits of SAARC, which groups Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have been attended by heads of state or government.

Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna said Saturday after the King's decision was made public that the summit could still proceed with an "accredited representative" of the absent head of state.

Senior officials in Colombo said Thursday that Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao would attend the opening of the three-day summit on November 7 but would leave within 24 hours because of domestic pressures.

BSS adds: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman today called for making determined efforts to address the fundamental problems of poverty alleviation and under-development in a concerted fashion.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the tenth SAARC council of ministers meeting in Colombo, the Foreign Minister urged the participants to use the present series of meetings to renew the resolution to better the lot of the people of the region.

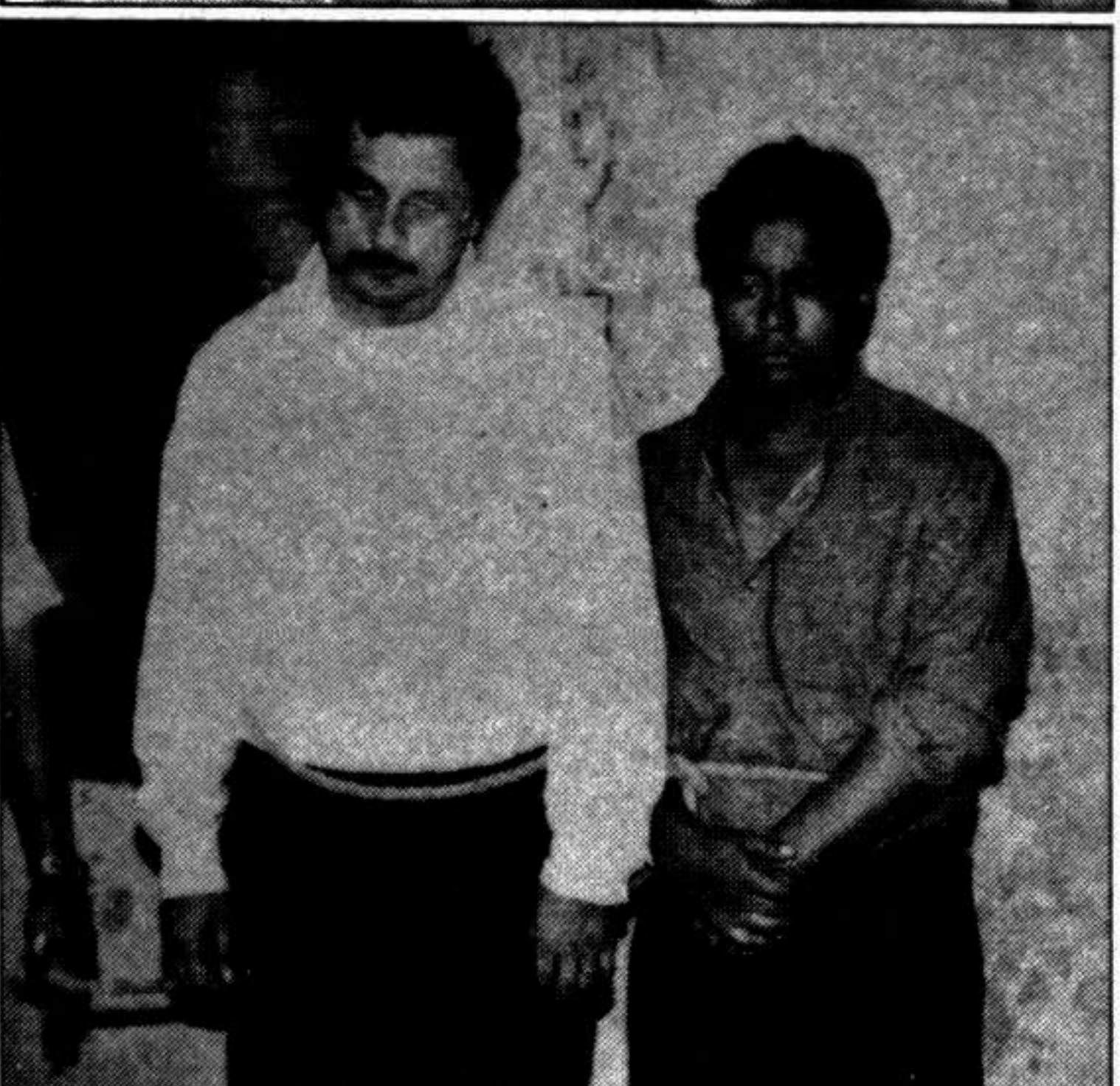
### BCL (S-A) demands elimination of terrorism

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A), the student wing of the Awami League submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Education Tuesday demanding elimination of terrorism from the educational institutions.

The BCL (S-A) in its memorandum also demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers of its activists Chhunu, Sharif, Swapna, Parag, Shahin, Choin and Manik.

It alleged that the identified killers were moving around freely using official cars of the ministers under the banner of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).



Fazlur Rahman and Ali Kabir alias Chand Mia were arrested in connection with the killing of Zahurul Haq (top). —Star photo

## One shot dead in Dhanmondi

By Staff Correspondent

One person was shot to death allegedly by a group of assailants in Dhanmondi late Monday night. Police arrested two persons in this connection.

Zahurul Haq alias Babul (30), a contractor residing at Paikpara, Mirpur, was shot at close range in House No. 44, Road No. 3/A, Dhanmondi at around 1 a.m. by the house owner.

Shahidul Islam Chowdhury during a drinking session, the two arrested persons told police. After a murder case against

four persons was filed by the brother-in-law, Zafrillah, of the victim, Dhanmondi police arrested Fazlur Rahman and Ali Kabir alias Chand Mia in this connection.

Sahidul Islam Chowdhury and commissioner of ward 17 Amjad Hossain Mian, remained absconding, police said. Shahidul Islam along with his family members left his house soon after the incident. Dhanmondi police is continuing further investigations into the case.

## DUTA ready to conduct exams if security ensured

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) at a general meeting Tuesday agreed to exempt examinations from its work-stopping programme that began on November 2 if the university authorities can ensure security for all examinees and teachers and hold the examinations within the campus.

The meeting presided over by Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, President of the Association, was, however, firm on its decision to continue the strike unless effective measures were taken by the government to root out terrorism and to arrest the armed hoodlums responsible for campus violence.

The DUTA meeting said that the teachers of the university were always prepared to continue their activities in education, research, and holding of the examinations. But the severe insecure atmosphere on campus that was caused by terrorist acts on October 27 had compelled them to go on strike, it added.

A large number of students belonging to the two rival student organisations, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra League (S-A) had been forced to leave their respective halls by the rivals. They are now not in a position to appear the examinations.

## Road barricade

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Sangram Parishad (PSKSP). The BEA President claimed that such violence and unlawful activities did not bear out the support to the Sangram Parishad's demands. The so-called trade union leaders were compelled to resort to such acts to attract government's attention when the demands did not command support of the workers, he claimed.

The BEA hoped that those, who resorted to such unlawful activities, would be severely dealt with by the government at the earliest.

The PSKSP was not a registered trade union, the BEA pointed out, adding, its demands also did not have the support of most of the jute mills. Besides, the financial plights of the jute mills was well-known and the problems were so acute that the jute mills might be forced to close down any time threatening employment of thousands of workers, he observed.

The BEA stressed the need for responsible dialogues between the employees and the workers to avoid closure of the mills and save the workers from uncertainty.

It may be mentioned here that the Patkal Sramik Karmachari Parishad along with textile workers have threatened 48-hour road and rail blockade from November 25 to realise their demands which include mainly stoppage of government's off loading of industrial units and enhancement of workers wages.

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