UZ parishad dissolved to politicise admn, says AL

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Executive Committee of Awami League in an emergency meeting Monday resolved that dissolution of the upazila parishad was part of a government's plan to politicise all tiers of the administration.

The decision was taken also to influence the ensuing union parishad election by using the upazila administration in favour of the BNP candidates, it alleged and demanded repeal of the ordinance that dissolve the UZ parishad.

The meeting, presided over by party chief Sheikh Hasina, said that it was not understood why the government took the decision so hurriedly on a serious matter like dissolution of upazila parishad by-passing the parliament which is likely to be summoned by the end of December.

The meeting also demanded preparation of an upto-date voter list before the union parishad elections to make it fair.

The Awami League also criticised the government for postponing the appointments of sub-inspectors of police and demanded immediate appointment of those who have been finally selected after interviews and examinations. This is aimed at "politicising the police administration for using them to the benefit of the ruling party". All these actions are parts of the "blue print" to politicise the administration, it said.

The Awami League also criticised the statements of three chiefs of armed forces in November 21 interviews saying those distorted the history of the war of independence. This was really shameful for the na-

Under the parliamentary democracy, employees of the republic should perform their responsibilities within the jurisdictions defined by law and none should go beyond this, the meeting observed.

The Awami League asserted that 'Bangabandhu' had declared the war of independence and recalled that the then Pakistani President Yahyah Khan had blasted at Sheikh Mujib for this saying: "This time Mujib will not go unpunished." Why Yahyah did not mention the name of Zia instead of Mujib ?' it asked.

The Executive Committee of AL in another resolution also defended Hasina's letter to foreign missions here and refuted as baseless the criticisms against it. Exchange of opinion with different ambassadors on political issues was a traditional diplomatic norm in all countries of the world, it observe. The meeting said Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury during his visit to the United States as an opposition leader had campaigned there against the then Ershad regime.

The meeting in another resolution also expressed its concern over the price hike of essential commodities.

back for Gorbachev's efforts to

hold the splintering nation to-

He said the leaders of the

seven republics were under

political pressure from their

constituencies over the docu-

ment, known as the Union

The leaders of the republics

had been expected to initial

the pact on Monday to indicate

their approval. Instead, they

collectively decided to send

the treaty to their legislatures,

or Supreme Soviets, in the in-

dividual republics, Gorbachev

ULFA

came there with two crore

Indian rupees in cash. This

was ascertained from his per-

sonal diary seized during his

Raj was the self-styled for-

The statesman quoted a ha-

rassed Raj as saying: "I am a

simple businessman who has

been caught in a nexus. I was

acting for the ULFA under

duress and had to become an

accomplice in their activities.

The ULFA leadership told me

clearly "you have business in-

terests in Assam. If you want to

continue business in our state.

you will have to help us in our

Related story on Page 5

Raj's account was in his

Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 8

country. "I don't believe this

too. Give me the account num-

Expressing concern over

Replying to a question on

the delay of leasing out the

Tinbigha enclave to Bangladesh

she said, "The sooner it is

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

Zia's abolition of local govern-

ments by promulgating an or-

dinance yesterday, she said, "It

companied by her son and

daughter will leave for

BNP nominates

candidate for

Bakerganj-5

board unanimously nominated

Majibar Rahman Sarwar to

contest the by-election to the

vacant seat of Jatiya Sangsad.

Bakerganj-5, a party press re-

lease said Monday, reports

Lebanon accepts

US invitation

accepted today a US invitation

to resume Middle East peace

talks in Washington next

month, saying it would ensure

BEIRUT, Nov 25 : Lebanon

The BNP parliamentary

Sheikh Hasina, who was ac-

is an undemocratic act."

Bangalore tomorrow.

bers and I will look into it".

activities."

wife's name.

she replied.

done, the better".

arrest from a guest house.

eign minister of the ULFA.

From Page 1 Col. 7

Soviet republics fail to endorse union treaty

Treaty.

MOSCOW, Nov 25 President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday that officials of seven Soviet republics failed to endorse a document to create new political union, but agreed to send it to their individual legislatures for approval, reports AP.

The failure to get representatives from the republics to initial the document was a set-

New communist party launched in Soviet Union

MOSCOW, Nov 25: The Soviet Union has a new communist party-The Russian Communist Workers Party, which ended its inaugural congress in the Russian city of Ekaterin-

burg Sunday, reports Xinhua. The new party convened a two-day founding congress which attracted 525 partici pants from 14 republics and the cities of Moscow, St. Petersbur, new Siberia and

Delegates issued a founding statement from this industrial city in Russian.

The statement said the new party would base itself on Marxist Leninist theory and aim to establish political power for the working class, with peasants and patriotic intellectuals as its natural allies.

All representatives said it was illegal to ban the activities of the Soviet and Russian communist parties.

The new party would continue the tradition of communist thought, they said.

The meeting also approved a party programme and elected a central committee.

Union Parishad

From Page 1 Col. 8 aforesaid ordinance, if among other things, he is a chairman of a upazila parishad — the upazila parishads have been abolished under the Local Government (Upazila Parishad and Upazila Administration Reorganisation) (Repcal) Ordinance, 1991 issued recently, or he is a party to a contract' for work to be done for, or goods to be supplied to, the union parishad concerned, or has otherwise any pecuniary interest in its affairs, or is a dealer in essential commodities appointed by the govern-

A person will be disqualified if he has defaulted in repaying any loan taken by him from any bank within the time allowed by the bank, or he is a Member

of Parliament. Taka one thousand for each chairman candidate and Taka five hundred for each candi-

date for election of members. No nomination paper shall be accepted by the Returning Officer, unless it is accompanied by the Treasury Challan, bank receipt or money receipt

showing security deposit. Only one deposit will be required for those candidates who would submit more than one nomination paper.

direct American supervision of the process, reports Reuter.

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Some of the workers injured in a clash with police being treated at the medical centre of Dhaka Cotton Mills.



An ambulance of a charitable organisation came under attack of agitated workers at Kanchpur during the rail-road barricade programme on Monday. - Star photo

Shah Moazzem tells court trying wealth amassing case

I supported Ershad to stop recurrence of Martial Law

Shah Moazzem Hossain, MP, Secretary General of the Jatiya Party Monday described General Ershad's Martial Law as "benevolent" in nature which was aimed at 'scrvice and welfare' to the people, reports BSS.

As a defence witness in the corruption case against the former ruler, Shah Moazzem, during cross examination, said he supported Ershad to "stop recurrence of military rule."

When asked by the Attorney General Aminul Haq earlier whether he regarded all military rulers in the same light, the former Deputy Prime Minister under Ershad said, "A military ruler is a military

To another question, Shah Moazzem who claimed to be a front ranking Awami Leaguer in the Sixties said he considered the tenures of Avub and Yahya as "oppressive". Since Khandakar Mustaque's Martial Law was shortlived it could not be evaluated, he added.

Shah Moazzem who was the ninth defence witness in the case against Ershad for amassing wealth beyond his known source of income said being impressed by his leadership quality, he joined hands with Ershad to improve the lot of the people. He admitted that the country was under Martial Law when he joined Janadal

with his Democratic League. He denied to have lied in the court but asserted that he became a defence witness to save accused Ershad 'from "false and conspiratorial case." He also rejected a suggestion that money suit was filed to save accused Ershad.

Shah Moazzem who claimed to have contributed Taka 18,000 towards party's special fund, during cross examination testified that he handed over the amount on November 5, 1990 "probably in the evening." When his attention was drawn that curfew was imposed from 6 pm of November 5 to 5 am of the following day, the defence witness first said, "I am not aware" and then added "Curfew could not stop me." He further said weather, political events or any other thing could not stop him from attending office.

The defence witness testified that the so-called resolution of the JP on July 10 last year on fund collection do not contain formation of "special fund" and lack any mention about party's intention to purchase a house. He denied to have lied about special fund. When showed the resolution, he admitted that it was not the resolution of the JP Central Committee.

Shah Moazzem strongly defended that he was present on one occasion when JP Office Secretary Tajul Islam Chowdhury handed over Taka 20 to 25 lakh to JP Chairman Ershad at his Senabhaban. He told the court that he came to know from Ershad and Tajul that about Taka 2 crore have been collected under different

Ershad gave Taka 10 lakh to former minister Naziur Rahman to get the party organised for presidential election.

Shah Moazzem who affirmed that the Central Committee of the JP decided to purchase a house for the party by raising funds, however, rejected a suggestion that Tajul Islam was not assigned to collect such fund. Shah Moazzem denied that

the second manifesto of Jatiya Party submitted by the defence was concected and a counterfeit and said such allegations were not "true". He described the manifesto produced by the prosecution as a "draft" and said it was circulated to elicit opinion.

A member of parliament for five terms, the defence witness during deposition said he got elected in September 11 by-election defeating candidates of AL, BNP and Jamaat. He added candidates of BNP and Jamaat had their deposits forfeited in a constituency which was not his home area.

Shah Moazzem who claimed to have suffered 15/16 years imprisonment for political reasons, joined Mustaque's cabinet in August 1975 alongwith other Awami League leaders and then left it to become the founder General Secretary of Democratic League in 1976.

He said after division, he led one faction of Democratic League before joining Janadal which later became Jatiya Party. He was appointed in Secretary General in July

Shah Moazzem deposed that Jatiya Party leadership being advised by Chairman Ershad decided to purchase the building which was taken on rental basis. The witness who testified that it was his signature in the resolution for raising money, however answered in the negative when asked by Judge Mohammad Ali Khan whether any reason was given for fund raising.

The defence witness said JP Office Secretary Tajul Islam Chowdhury was entrusted with the task of collecting funds and deposit those to Ershad in cash. He reasoned that collections were kept in cash so that those could be easily deposited anytime asked for by the Works Ministry which earlier intimated the party of its willingness to sell the house in question.

The cross examination over, Attorney General asked the defence to produce the next witness, which they failed stating Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, the 10th witness remained busy in a case in High Court.

Yusuf Hossain Humayun who conducted the deposition of Shah Moazzem pleaded with the court that the new DWs whose list was submitted last Thursday be allowed to give their deposition and be exam-

Judge Mohammad Ali Khan who adjourned the hearing till today said the matter would be taken up after the first list was completed.

Press note

From Page 1 Col. 8 and amending of some labour

"The present government had inherited a devastating and bankrupt economy due to nine years of autocratic rule in the country. Moreover, the government had to allocate huge sums of moncy on account of increased wages and salaries of government employees, watving of agricultural loan besides facing cyclones and floods.

"On the other hand most of the public sector mills and factories were running at a loss. The Adamjee Jute Mills alone was incurring a loss of Taka nine crore monthly which was being borne by the poor people of the country.

"It was possible to take in hand a number of development projects with this huge amount of money. But the government had accepted this loss for the interest of the workers and assured to fulfill some of their demands. But the workers demanded of the government, written assurances to the effect that no nationalised mills would be further denationalised

The decision of nationalisation or denationalisation i usually taken from the consid eration of increasing production and keeping the pace of development unhindered. In this regard no government could make any commitment, submitting to such undue pressure.

"But the workers ignoring these realities remained adamant with their demands and announced the so-called blockage programme. Their conduct was politically motivated and aimed at destroying the counter's economy, as there was no provision of such blockage in trade union laws.

"It was not possible on the part of the government to accept such a situation.

Judges split

From Page 1 Col. 7 Constitution. Section 10 provides for open ballot in the presidential election by Members of the Parliament.

The writ petitions will now be placed before the Chief Justice. The matter may be heard by another Judge for disposal.

The BNP government passed the Act which laid down the procedure of open ballot for presidential election. The election was held on October 8.

The petitions were earlier moved before a single Vacation Bench of Justice Habibur Rahman Khan who rejected the stay portion of the writ petitions on October 7, summarily and directed to place them before the Regular Bench. The matter was ultimately heard by the Division Bench for more than 10 days when the judges delivered a split decision.

Moudud Ahmed by another writ petition challenged the holding of presidential election in the Parliament chamber by the Election Commission. The same Division Bench heard the matter and found no merit in it. By an unanimous decision the Court rejected this writ petition summarily.

Amirul Islam assisted by Zakir Ahmed, Nurul Huda and Shirin Chowdhury appeared for Abdus Samad Azad and others. Moudud Ahmed appeared in person. Aminul Huq, Aftorney General assisted by A F M Hasan Ariff, Deputy Attorney General, Fakhrul Islam, Obaidur Rahman

Mustafa, Assistant Attorneys General appeared for Bangladesh.

Barricade begins

From Page 1 Col. 4 trains were blocked by the

workers. Most of the 77 jute mills including 33 in public sector and 66 textile mills including 40 state-owned, were shut. A few private sector factories operated during the blockade.

Agitating workers at the Dhaka Cotton Mills in Postagola clashed with police leaving at least 30 persons injured, including 5 policemen and a number of children.

When this correspondent visited the factory at around 1 pm, at least 20 injured persons including a number of children with bandages were seen at the premises. The factory and the adjoining tin-shed staff quarters were littered with stones and used tear-gas cannisters.

highway thousands of jute mills workers armed with sticks and iron rods laid siege at the Kanchpur intersection. The workers from nearby Adamjee Jute Mills in

At the Dhaka-Chittagong

Narayanganj and Latif Bawani, Ahmed Bawani, Karim and Taj Jute Mills from Demra held rallies throughout the day starting at 6 am. All vehicles coming from Dhaka were stopped by the

workers at the Shenarpar

point about eight kilometres

from the capital. The vehicles coming towards Dhaka were blocked at the eastern side of the Kanchpur bridge about 15 kilometres from the city. The section of the highway between the two points was controlled by the agitating workers. Only emergency vehicles were allowed to pass through. Thousands of people, including women and children, were seen walking the distance hoping to avail transports from the other side. The workers attacked a funeral service bus of Al-Markazul Islami — a social organisation providing funeral services - which was on a return trip from Feni after taking a dead body there earlier. The bus was heavily damaged and a number of people inside it were injured during the attack. A refrigerated truck of an Italian company (Sas-65-4164) was also attacked but was saved by some of the workers' leaders. However, the truck was detained at the spot.

Workers at Tongi laid siege on the highway cutting off all road links with Gazipur, Mymensingh, Tangail and other districts. Road links between Dhaka and Narayangani was blocked at Chashara.

All the day services of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation on Monday were suspended.

Railway track on the Tongi-Dhirasram line was uprooted by agitating workers. Railway tracks were also uprooted at Gachihata station near Kishoreganj. Some railway slippers were set on fire near Dhirasram. All the railway staff at the

Pubail station were driven out by the agitating workers. In Magura, four persons were arrested after clashes between police and protestors at the Magura Cotton Mills.

The agitating workers damaged at least 30 buses at Nayarhat and allegedly assaulted a number of passengers. They also set a motorcycle ablaze during the time. Police arrested two persons from the spot. Chittagong Our

Correspondent adds: Roads and railway communication in Chittagong was completely disrupted following the barricade. Barricades were put up at Pahartoli, Shitakunda,

without disruption.
Editorial on page 4

Nastrabad and Kalur Ghat. Railway office claimed that one driver and one assistant driver of a local train was picked up by the picketers.

Paksey section was disrupted, but in Lalmonirhat section trains move normally. Railway authorities said that trains from Sylhet to Narsingdi ran curity.

The Midnight File

Hardliner wins Tadzhikistan presidential poll

MOSCOW, Nov 25: Rahmon Nabieyev, an old-school communist hardliner, won a decisive victory in Tadzhikistan's first pluralist presidential election held on Sunday, Tass news agency reported today. Nabicyev, 61, the central Asian republic's communist party boss until 1985, won 58 per cent of the vote in the election which took place two months after he was restored to power in a palace coup by hardline communists, reports AFP.

Li Peng visits India next month

DELHI, Nov 25: The Chinese Premier, Li Peng, will pay a six-day visit to India from December 11 and is expected to focus on the unresolved boundary question, the nuclear issue and steps to strengthen economic ties in view of liberalisation of the Indian economy, reports PTI.

Chinese party plenum opens

BEIJING, Nov 25: The Communist Party Central Committee opened its plenary session today to discuss Politburo nominations and the agricultural situation in China, diplomatic sources said. The 175 committee members, under party chief Jiang Zemin, opened the meeting at a secret venue in the Chinese capital. No official information generally circulates about the talks save a lengthy summary at the end, reports AFP.

Death sentence for abduction

RANGPUR, Nov 25: District and session judge today awarded death sentence to a man and life term to a woman for abducting a child, court sources said. According to the prosecution, Abdul Matin and his sister Mariam kidnapped 14 months old Tarek, son of Faijul Islam, from Gomostapara of the town on March 27 last. The judgement was delivered by district and session judge Ali Asgar Khan, reports UNB.

Indian Prime Minister in Paris

PARIS, Nov 25: Indian Premier P V Narasimha Rao arrived Monday in Paris where he was scheduled to meet with President Francois Mitterrand on Tuesday. Rao was to meet Monday night with a group of French business leaders to discuss recent measures adopted by the Indian government to encourage foreign investment. He is on his way to Caracas, Venezuela, for a meeting of the G-15, a group of developing countries from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America who are attempting to organize trade cooperation,

Deep-rooted conspiracy

From Page 1 Col. 4

ment and progress, she said. She said, This cannot be allowed to continue further. We want to uproot the cvil ring of terrorism.

The function was ad dressed, among others, by Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali, Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Vice Chancellor of Khulna

University Dr Golam Rahman. Terming terrorism as cancer, the Prime Minister held it responsible for brain drain, session jam and unemployment. 'We are feeling to the bones the evil effects of terrorism in the educational arena,' she said.

She called upon all on the auspicious occasion of the beginning of the academic activities of Khulna University to pledge to resist terrorism so that it could not touch any educational institution any more.

The Prime Minister said democracy, cherished by the deprived and oppressed people of the country for a long time, had been established now. She said, 'We are working ceaselessly to fulfil the expectations of the people from the democratic government.' She hoped to achieve success in this regard as the people were with the present government.

Reminding the students of their responsibilities under the changed circumstances, the Prime Minister said, 'You are future. You must prepare yourself for mitigating the poverty and sufferings of the people. Your motto should be the flourishing of talent and intellect, not terrorism.'

The Prime Minister said the present government wanted to start a productionoriented and democratic educational system as per the demand of the nation.

She was happy to note that the students of Khulna University had pledged to dis-

PM

special arrangements.

in 1986.

From Page 1 Col. 5 Minister has been given adequate security facilities under

Earlier, the President of the country who used to simultaneously perform multiple duties as head of state, head of government and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces was provided tough security under an Ordinance named 'Presidential Security Force Ordinance', promulgated

Under this Ordinance, later ratified through the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution, a special contingent of the armed forces was provided for the security of the president.

The members of the 'President security force' were given power to even open fire on any person if he came under suspicion regarding the security of the President.

But after the change over to a parliamentary form of government the Prime Minister's office has become more important than that of the President. Thus the Prime Minister as head of government descrees enhanced facilities for her se-

card the politics of terrorism and maintain an atmosphere congenial to education in the university.

She hoped that the new university would contribute immensely in achieving the target in the education sector by the present government.

While dwelling on the steps taken by the present government to solve the existing problems of Khulna city, the Prime Minister said Rupsha bridge would be constructed to improve communication in the

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Khan Jahan Ali Hall in the university premises. The hall will be built at a cost of Taka seven

On her arrival in Khulna," Begum Zia went straight to Barabazar which was burnt one month back in a devastated

Addressing a spontaneous gathering at Barabazar area. the Prime Minister underscored the need for maintaining peace and stability in socicty for achieving progress in all sectors.

Chamber leaders From Page 1 Col. 4

Association, Mahbubur Rahman, President, The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, M Anis Ud Dowla, President, Employers Association, Sharif M Afzal Hossain, President, Chamber of Industries, Saleh Ahmed, Chairman, Textile Mills Association and Syed Mohsen Ali, Chairman, Jute Mills Association.

BSS adds: Prof M Shartful Islam, Secretary General, National Federation of Teacher Associations, expressed his grave concern over the blockade programme of highways and railways for the realisation of certain demands.

In a statement, he said review of the performances of the nationalised mills and factories during the last 20 years clearly showed that the economy could not make any headway. The concerned quarters must ponder whether a poor country like ours could afford to sustain continued losses in the nationalised sector, he

He further said that at a time when the government had taken different initiatives to inject dynamism in the economy none should indulge in any activities detrimental to the country's overall interests.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President engineer Ali Ahmed expressed deep concern over terrorism, road blockade and strike resorted to by a section of workers and people in order to block denationalisation pro-

gramme. He said, such activities of the vested groups would seriously hamper economic development.

In a statement, the Chamber President pointed out that the present government had adopted a liberal policy for industrialisation by providing incentives to private investors, but a section of workers and their leaders were unscrupulously opposing government initiative with an ulterior motive.

Editor : S. M. All

No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA. heads and affirmed that