

Focus on election- '91

CPB for govt of national resurgence

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Sunday announced for setting up a Government of national resurgence for a specific time on the basis of consensus of pro-liberation democratic forces on some important political, economic and social issues, reports BSS.

In its election manifesto released yesterday, the party said such a government was needed to clean the vices of indiscipline, irregularities and plundering of resources of the ousted President Ershad and his accomplices.

Outlining a 15-point programme encompassing all aspects of national life including political, social, economic, defence and foreign policy, the CPB pledged to restore parliamentary democracy, and spirit of the Liberation War with a view to stopping recurrence of military coup for changing power.

It promised to do away with all the constitutional amendments that changed fundamental elements of democracy, including secularism.

The CPB pledged to repeal Special Powers Act, Press and Publications Act, Drama Control Ordinance, besides all other draconian laws contrary to fundamental rights.

It said none would be detained without trial for an indefinite period nor ban could be imposed on any political party without specific allegation in accordance with constitutional provision.

The manifesto said the

party would ensure full freedom of the press and make the press council more active so that the press behave with responsibility while the radio and television would be converted into autonomous organisations.

On defence policy, the CPB said it is in favour of building a strong and effective defence force free from politics so that the army is not used in unconstitutional activities for political end.

On the economic front, the CPB would take immediate and necessary steps to remove poverty increasing the growth rate. The party emphasised on removing the past irregularities and indiscipline, particularly those of the Ershad regime.

With a view to building an infrastructure, the CPB proposed for giving democracy an institutional shape at all levels, through free and fair elections.

The manifesto outlined several steps, including reduction of expenses in the unproductive sector, attainment of optimum level of production, increasing savings and exports, mobilisation of internal resources, stopping wastage and removing the state of anarchy in the banking sector.

It said the foreign aid has to be continued consistent with national priority while public sector is to be made more efficient and a profitable concern.

The CPB said Government investment has to be increased in profitable sectors for expeditious industrialisation and

steps have to be taken to introduce a new industrial policy replacing the present one.

It pleaded for taking all possible steps to fulfil immediately demands of the workers and employees and encouraging healthy and responsible trade union.

The CPB said it is in favour of foreign investment in national interest.

The party outlined a policy of making more allocation in the agricultural sector, provision of subsidy on agricultural inputs consistent with the

price of the agri-products. Fixation of prices of agricultural commodities like jute, sugarcane and paddy considering the cost of their production and if necessary, purchasing those items by the government.

The CPB pledged to exempt agriculture loan upto Taka 5000 and the amount of interest on agriculture loan upto Taka 10,000.

The party programme to remove poverty include strengthening the food-for-work programme, vulnerable group feeding and creation of job opportunities reviving the rural economy and expansion of industrial sector.

On human resources development, the CPB would take steps to make enhanced allocation in the health and education sectors curtailing the expenses in non-development sectors.

It emphasised universal primary education and a crash

programme to remove illiteracy.

The CPB promised to initiate the establishment of rights of the women in all spheres of national life and check all kinds of repression on them.

On administration, the CPB said the persons appointed in the administration would be considered as employees of the republic. A neutral, efficient and corruption-free administration free from bureaucratic interference but accountable would be set up at all levels, the manifesto added.

Spilling out the party policy towards religious minority and national minority, the CPB said it would completely ban communal activities and publicity and take stern action against such acts.

The CPB said it would give recognition to the just demands of the minority community and repeal the vested property act.

On judiciary, the party would separate judiciary from the executive, establish rule of law and ensure power of the supreme court to give interpretation of all laws, and amend existing penal code for making justice easily available and expeditious.

The CPB would advocate Non-Aligned Foreign Policy to improve relations with all countries and said it would increase the role of Bangladesh in the Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Islamic Conference and SAARC.

The party said it would take initiatives to resolve outstand-

ing problems like sharing of the Ganges water, Talpatty and Tinbigha carefully upholding the national interest. The party would also take steps to resolve the issues of sharing assets and repatriation of stranded Pakistanis.

On the question of nationalism, the CPB strongly upheld the Bengalee nationalism and pledged to patronise at Government level the flourishing of national culture.

Argument on Moudud's detention ends

Supreme Court Correspondent

Aminul Haque, Attorney General concluded his arguments on Sunday in Moudud Ahmed's detention case.

A Division Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Ismail Uddin Sarker and Justice Md Badruz-Zaman heard the matter for five days and started delivering judgement in the former Vice-President's detention case. The court is likely to conclude the judgement today (Monday).

Earlier Aminul Haque submitted that the detention of former Vice-President was legal, justified and was necessary for greater interest of the country.

Mr Rafiqul Haque, senior Counsel assisted by Azizul Haque and others appeared for the petitioner. Aminul Haque Attorney General assisted by Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Additional Attorney General and others appeared to oppose the rule.

Intruders

From Page 1 Col 5

They were tending a herd of cattle in the border village of Shilmaria under Chapainawabganj district. The miscreants were armed with sticks, dao, spears and firearms. On hearing the screams of the cowboys, two special mobile units of BDR from Sonamajid Border Outpost surrounded the miscreants.

Facing an awkward situation, the Indian miscreants hit back by throwing three to four hand bombs and firing four to five rounds of pistol shots. They also used sharp weapons indiscriminately injuring three Bangladeshis citizens. The BDR was compelled to open fire to protect their lives and property and to bring the situation under control. As a result, one Indian miscreant died on the spot and several others were injured. At one stage, the injured miscreants along with others managed to flee. The body was handed over to the Indian Border Security Force.

7-hour strike

From Page 1 Col 8

Protesting the promulgation of the Newspaper Employees (Condition of Services) Act (Amendment), 1991, the meeting called upon the interim government to withdraw the ordinance and announce the Wage Board award in order to ensure a peaceful and stable environment in the industry.

In a statement, Rezauddin Ahmed and Amanullah Kabir, president and secretary general of BFUE, Zahurul Haq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, president and general secretary of DUJ, Mosharraf Hossain and Bazur Rahman Mian of BNPWF and Jahangir Kabir and Mir Mozammel Hossain, president and general secretary of BNEF expressed concern at the promulgation of the ordinance instead of announcing the final Wage Board award, as a delaying tactic.

Terminating it as an undemocratic move, the leaders said the decision to announce the final Wage Board award in three months in place of one month will lead to unrest in the industry.

The leaders said the newspaper owners were engaged in a conspiracy to foil the Wage Board award and deprive the newspapermen of their due rights. By promulgating of the ordinance, the interim government had strengthened the hands of the conspirators, they added.

On the other hand, they said, the interim government had accepted the demands of various professional groups including extra dearness allowance to the government employees. The meeting felt that there had been no constraints in the way of announcing the final Wage Board award for provisioning against their loan portfolio. This amount will be in addition to what the NCBs themselves provided for out of their own funds. Capital restructuring will need over Taka 350 crore in bonds.

Official sources said both capital restructuring and adequate provisions for non-performing assets (credits) would improve the financial strength of the NCBs. This arrangement will also protect the interests of the depositors, they added.

Ershad's trial begins Feb 16?

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has assured the students that Ershad would be brought to trial on February 16, a top student leader said Sunday, reports UNI.

Shahe Alam, President of the pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League BCL (A-A) disclosed this at a students rally at the Gulistan area Sunday.

Trial of autocratic Ershad will take place ahead of the parliamentary elections and it will start on February 16, Alam told the rally of All Party Students Unity (APSU) organised to hasten the transfer of the former president, now interned in a swank Gulshan villa to the central jail and his trial.

The BCL President, however, did not elaborate. A 17-member delegation of teachers, syndicate members, Provosts and student leaders of Dhaka University led by its Vice Chancellor called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat on February 5.

One of the injured was admitted to Taltoli upazila hospital.

10 injured in launch dacoity

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 10: At least 10 launch passengers including two crew were injured when dacoits attacked them on way to Taltoli from Patnakhali on Saturday midnight.

One of the injured was admitted to Taltoli upazila hospital.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 7

Some 11 thousand new schools were established and 40,000 teachers recruited in these schools, she added.

She said the Bangabandhu government had exempted land tax upto 25 bighas. But she alleged 'Zia, after coming to power removing Bangabandhu illegally, cancelled the exemption'.

The Awami League leader was electioneering here on the third day of her five-day tour of the country's northern region.

Earlier, on way to Gaibandha from Bogra, Hasina also addressed a public meeting at Mokamola in Shibganj upazila and wayside gatherings at Gokul, Mahasthangarh, and Chondihara in Bogra sadar upazila.

Mizan

From Page 1 Col 5

said that the absconding former ministers had no direct connection with him. They collected their nomination papers through their representatives from the party, he added.

The 12-point programmes of the party announced Sunday included: appropriate balance between the president and parliament; expansion of industries to lessen the dependency on the foreign goods, full implementation of the land reforms policy for increasing agricultural output; a foreign policy on the basis of 'friendship to all and no enmity to any one'; development of armed forces with modern technology and equipment for safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the country; a labour policy for creating good relation between workers and employers; an education policy compatible with the aspiration of an independent nation; separation of judiciary from the executive; ensuring health for all by the end of the year 2000; development of women folk of the society; building up a production oriented youth force and implementation of the Jamuna multipurpose bridge projects.

The press conference was also attended by party acting secretary ABM Shahjahan, Shamsuzzaman Minto, Abdus Salam, Umme Kulsum Salsabil Hena, Shamim Al Mamun Shafiqul Islam Babu and Amina Bari.

Programme

The Jatiya Party is preparing for a massive demonstration on February 16 - the date set for placing Ershad before a special tribunal.

Mizan Chowdhury replying to a questions in the press conference on Sunday demanded the immediate release of Ershad so that he could visit his constituencies before the elections.

Mizan Chowdhury said that the Special Powers Act of 1974 was abrogated by former president Ershad just before his resignation, but the present government was still exercising the act to arrest the JP ministers.

Illegal arms possessors active: Abbas

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan has demanded immediate recovery of illegal arms.

The Midnight File

Iraqi missile attacks praised

JERUSALEM, Feb 10: Muslim leaders in the occupied territories have praised Iraqi missile attacks against Israel saying they made Jews suffer as Palestinians do under Israeli occupation, reports Reuters.

WB team attacked in Kerala

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: Maoist guerrillas allegedly attacked a World Bank delegation and raided a British bank in the southern Indian state of Kerala in protest at the Gulf war, PTI said Sunday. Kerala police said the two attacks were reportedly staged by Maoist guerrillas demanding the closure of all British and US establishments in India, reports AFP.

Shekhar defends decision

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar today defended his controversial decision to let US military planes refuel in India citing "humanitarian grounds." "US planes were being refuelled on humanitarian grounds and the (Indian) government has ensured that they do not carry lethal military hardware," the PTI quoted the prime minister as saying, reports AFP.

Hunger strike to delay trial

BEIJING, Feb 10: A leading democracy activist charged with sedition has gone on a hunger strike to delay the start of his trial, a Chinese source said Sunday. Chen Ziming, 38, started his hunger strike Thursday. The source, a relative who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not give any details about his health. Chen's trial is scheduled to begin Monday, reports AP.

Four killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 10: Four persons including two militants and a securityman were killed and four others, injured in the last 24 hours in unabated violence which continued to rock parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The security was put on maximum alert on the eve of militant-sponsored bandh, reports PTI.

Lithuanians vote for independence

VILNIUS(Soviet Union), Feb 10: An overwhelming majority of Lithuanians defied the Kremlin and voted for independence in a national poll on Saturday, according to preliminary results, reports Reuters.

A parliamentary spokeswoman said early this morning that just over 91 per cent of those taking part had voted in favour of Lithuania becoming an independent, democratic republic.

That is a huge, huge majority, she said, adding that 87 per cent of the votes had been counted so far.

It was not immediately clear how many of the 2.75 million eligible voters had taken part.

The poll organised by the republic's nationalist government took place despite being declared illegal by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The final results are expected tomorrow.

The vote for independence had been widely predicted - 80 per cent of the republic's population are ethnic Lithuanians.

Anti-Moscow feeling has heightened following the Soviet army's seizure of Lithuania's television centre on January 13 in an operation in which 13 unarmed civilians were killed.

Ex-VP of JU hall arrested

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Feb 10: Ex-VP of Barkat-Salam Hall Chhatra Sangsad of Jahangirnagar University Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman was arrested at Barhatta upazila town yesterday, officer in-charge of Barhatta police station said.

Slum gutted

By Staff Correspondent

A slum area at Mirpur Sector One near Sony Cinema, was gutted by a fire on Sunday.

A woman was slightly burnt in the fire.

JP snatched rights

From Page 1 Col 5

under the deposed President to show respect to democracy. But, she said, some parties had participated in election under autocratic Ershad through secret entente to prolong his stay in power and enjoyed state facilities making up opposition groups in the controversial parliament.

The BNP leader traced back the failure of Awami League regime saying this period was marked by famine, one-party rule, press curb, largescale looting and repression on innocent people by private bakhshs.

She said this party which preach secularism had resorted to looting of the property of minority community and damaged Hindu temples during its rule.

This party had also closed down all newspapers excepting four, which clearly demonstrated what sort of democracy and people's rights they wanted, Begum Zia said.

Referring to Ershad regime, she said it had crippled the economy during its nine-years of misrule. The BNP chairperson said the country's economy had reached such a critical stage that it would be very difficult for the future government to run the affairs of the state.

"Ershad must be sent to jail

Mid-term review

From Page 1 Col 7

economy in the context of the agreed "criteria". The review will be completed by the Fund by March. It will cover progress in implementation of tax and financial sector reforms public sector investment programme, and exchange rate policy.

New performance criteria for the second year of the ESAF programme will be set after more elaborate discussions.

UNB adds: IMF has indicated that it would expedite release of funds under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) arrangement to Bangladesh to help the country's balance of payment situation battered by the Gulf war.

Official sources said the visiting high level IMF delegation indicated during meetings with local officials that the Fund would consider early disbursement of the second instalment of 43.12 million SDR, equivalent to about 56 million US Dollar, due in April.

It also hinted of frontloading disbursement of the third

semi annual instalment amounting 56 million US Dollar which is scheduled to be released after August.

Sources also said that compensation from the World Bank will also be sought when Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury meets the bank officials end this week.

Chowdhury leaves on Tuesday for the US capital leading a six-member high level delegation to negotiate three credits with the IDA (International Development Association).

Sources said that during the review of ESAF programme, IMF side appreciated the government's performance of handling economy in the midst of the Gulf crisis, they added.

Maintaining current expenditure within the budgetary limit and keeping the foreign exchange reserve at a stable level were appreciated in particular.

IMF and World Bank pledged to provide compensatory financing to Bangladesh to face the adverse impact of the Gulf crisis and recommended other donors to do so during the mid-term review of donors here in last November.

US Embassy

From Page 1 Col 8

It said the US Government wanted the elections to "be free and fair and that nomination procedures be strictly guided by law and the Constitution so as to permit the fullest expression of the will of the people of Bangladesh".

Reiterating the longstanding commitment to human rights, the statement said the US had never been motivated by favouritism or by political preference in raising human rights concerns.

Court moved

From Page 1 Col 8

Division Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Abdul Bari Sarker and Justice Habibur Rahman Khan on Sunday.

It appears from the grounds of quashing that under Rule 3 of Arms Rule 1924, President, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister are exempted for life from the operation of Sections 13 to 15 (Prohibition of going armed without licence) of the Arms Act 1878.

Further grounds are that the arms were not recovered from the possession of Ershad but were handed over to the committee headed by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate by Mastafizur Rahman, a brother-in-law of Ershad on December 24, two days prior to the expiry of the deadline set by the government for the surrender of illegal arms.

The court will resume hearing today (Monday). Hearing of the criminal case against Ershad is fixed for February 16 before the Special Tribunal No. 1, Dhaka.

Editor: S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motiheel 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, Toybee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 246023-4(PABX), 863035, 863036. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

Iraq's no

From Page 1 Col 2

closed."

Rafsanjani received Saddam Hussein's reply to his proposal on Saturday of the plan during a visit to Tehran by Iraqi Deputy Premier Saadoun Hammadi. No details have been publicly disclosed.

In Riyadh US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said today that the United States and its allies could launch ground attacks on Iraqi forces in Kuwait if allied planes and missiles started running out of targets. He ruled out a pause or cease-fire in the war.

After a day and half of consultations with US commanders in Saudi Arabia, Cheney told a news conference that at least for the moment allied air power was still effective in wearing down Iraq's military machine.

"The capability of US air power to do damage to (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's forces is still considerable and I think it (the air campaign) will continue," he said.

"(But) there's a point of diminishing returns, when you've struck all the targets you can strike from the air, when you've done everything you can to limit his resupply... when you might then have to use other forces to achieve your objectives."

India using CHT problem

By Staff Correspondent

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury on Sunday said India was using the Hill Tract problem as a leverage to interfere in Bangladesh affairs.

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion meeting on "Chittagong Hill Tracts: Problems and Solution", he said army was necessary to keep that region intact. But, he said, "he does not support that the tribals live in army protected enclaves."

Selim Samad, a journalist, said democracy was yet to

Shahabuddin

From Page 1 Col 8

peace and order during the polls.

He said in the event of any electoral malpractice in any centre repolling would be held.

Justice Shahabuddin said the Union Parishad or Pourashava would be dissolved in case of its failure to assist the authorities in maintaining peace and discipline.

Cabinet Secretary Siddiqueur Rahman, Home Secretary MA Sayeed, Inspector-General of Police AM Chowdhury and Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong MA Bari were, among others, present.

Later, the Acting President visited the district judges court of Comilla where he was the district judge 26 years ago. The local aijibhi samity accorded him a spontaneous reception. Speaking on the occasion he urged the lawyers to help create a strong public opinion for peaceful, free and fair polls.

NCBs

From Page 1 Col 4

1990. Banking sources said the government would need to give at least Taka 1300 crore in bonds to support the NCBs for provisioning against their loan portfolio. This amount will be in addition to what the NCBs themselves provided for out of their own funds. Capital restructuring will need over Taka 350 crore in bonds.

Official sources said both capital restructuring and adequate provisions for non-performing assets (credits) would improve the financial strength of the NCBs. This arrangement will also protect the interests of the depositors, they added.