

Focus on election- '91

CPB for govt of national resurgence

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Sunday pleaded 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.

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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 Badruzzaman 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 Bhuyan, Additional Attorney General and others appeared to oppose the rule.

Intruders

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were tending a herd of cattle in the border village of Shialmara 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 Sonamasjid Border Outpost surrounded the miscreants.

The timing is critically important because ground fighting would produce much heavier allied casualties and politicians fear that this could undermine domestic support for the war.

That's a decision the President will take in consultation with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia," Cheney said.

Cheney said allied planes, flying more than 57,000 sorties against Iraq over 24 days had made good progress against the elite Republican Guard, widely seen as the yardstick for Iraq's ability to withstand a ground attack.

Some allied officers have

suggested the allies may have to make limited ground attacks on Iraqi lines simply to draw them out of their defences.

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 Bangladeshi 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

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Cheney was speaking at a press conference at the end of a 48-hour visit to Saudi Arabia with the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, to assess the progress of the Gulf war now in its 25th day.

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, Reazuddin Ahmed and Amanullah Kabir, president and secretary general of BFUJ, Zahurul Haq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, president and general secretary of DUJ, Mosharrif Hossain and Bazlur 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 delay tactic.

Terming 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 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 the newspaper employees.

In protest against the decision, newspapermen will observe token strike and hold meetings and rallies from 10 am to 5 pm today. A joint rally to be organised centrally will be held at the National Press Club at 11 a. m. today and a procession will be brought out after the rally which will march to the President's Secretariat. On Tuesday, all the newspapermen will have four-page issues, the meeting decided.

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

relying to a question 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.

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 chairman

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

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 UNIB.

Shah Alam, President of the pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League BCL (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 12-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.

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 mid-night.

One of the injured was admitted to Taltoli upazila hospital.

Hasina

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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 Mokamtol in Shibganj upazila and wayside gatherings at Gokul, Malasthangar, and Chondhara in Bogra sadar upazila.

Mizan

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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 Sabali Hena, Shamim Al Mamun, Shafiqul Islam Babu and Amena Bar.

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stage that it would be very difficult for the future government to run the affairs of the state.

Ershad must be sent to jail

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 Reuter.

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 security man 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.

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