

JCD to expel allies of Avee, Niru

By Manzurul Haque Sohel
The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the BNP, is going to take stern actions against some of its dissidents driven out of the campus in December 1990 during mass movement against Ershad regime for their alleged association with the Avee-Niru groups.

The JCD sources said a subcommittee was formed to prepare a list of those who were actively involved with 'Avee-Niru group' in collaborating with the autocratic Ershad regime.

The JCD is likely to expel those who will be found guilty. Those who will be proved innocent or victims of the circumstances will be ensured their re-entry on the campus as well as in the organisation.

It may be pointed out that over one hundred students of the University of Dhaka including three DUCSU members, three vice presidents and one general secretary of the hall student unions remained off of the campus since the expulsion of 12 JCD members including Avee and Niru from the organisation.

During this period of long four months they could not attend the classes or appear in the examinations.

Khaleda leaves for Jessore today

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will leave Dhaka for Jessore by the first flight of Birman Bangladesh Airlines this (Sunday) morning. From there she will go to Kushtia by road and address two election campaign meetings at Kushtia-2 constituency.

BNP emergency meet today

An emergency meeting of the Secretariat of Bangladesh Nationalist Party will be held at 9 am today (Sunday) at the party's Election Office at House-5, Road-10, Dhanmondi Residential Area, party sources said Saturday night, reports BSS.

The Joint Secretary General, secretaries and joint secretaries of BNP now available in Dhaka have been requested to attend the meeting in time, the sources said.

Independence Festival '91' by DUCSU

BY DU Correspondent
Dhaka University Central Students Union DUCSU has taken up a three day programme titled "Independence Festival '91" to observe the National and Independence Day.

The festival will begin with the inauguration of an environment arts exhibition by Vice-Chancellor Prof Mantruzzaman Miah today Sunday at the DUCSU building.

The programme also includes holding of a drama by the 'Aranyak' titled 'Iblish' at the TSC on March 25 and a concert at the ground in front of the Registrar's building on March 26.

2 activists of Juba League, BCL held

By DU Correspondent

Mohammad Ali, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) was arrested along with another person reported as worker of Juba League by police from the Kakrail area of the city at about 2 pm on Saturday.

Police said the BCL and Juba League activists were arrested while they were extorting tolls forcibly from the intended participants of the schedule of tender in T & T Office at Kakrail. The other arrested was Faruk-uz-Zaman.

Meanwhile, the Awami League backed BCL supporters brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus protesting the arrest.

The recent armed clash that took place on the Dhaka University campus originated from a brawl between the BCL activist Mohammad Ali and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Sayedur Rahman, who is also the General Secretary of Mohsin Hall Students Union.

Mohammad Ali and Faruk-uz-Zaman has been residing in room nos 170 and 167 of the Zahirul Haque Hall for a long time though they were not the university students.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel 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, Toynebee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.



Devotees of the Hindu community taking 'sacred dip' in the river Brahmaputra at Langalbandh on Saturday.

—Star photo

Friends, not masters

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office room at the Cabinet Division. After holding a brief discussion with the State Ministers for Information and Establishment and the Secretaries of these ministries, she went to the conference room of the Cabinet Division to address the high officials.

Speaking in a posture of calmness and determination the Prime Minister asked the government officials to serve the country and the people with sincerity placing national interest above everything. "While serving the nation you should always remember that you are the friends of the people not their masters," she said.

She said the democratic government had been established in the country after nine years of relentless struggle against autocracy. She asked the officials to lend their all-out cooperation and put in concerted efforts for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the officials would keep the administration clean and corruption-free. "You must go close to the people if you want to serve them better," she said.

Begum Zia laid emphasis on bringing about stability in all spheres for the uninterrupted and unhindered development of the country. "No one can retain power forever. We are holding it now, it may not be easy tomorrow. But the country will stay forever. We should all work sincerely for its betterment eliminating corruption and terror and favouritism," she added.

Begum Zia thanked the caretaker government of the Acting President and government officials for successfully holding the parliamentary elections peacefully and freely. This is for the first time after the fall of the nine-year-old autocratic government that polls took place peacefully and neutrally.

AL emergency meet today

An emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Secretariat will be held today (Sunday) at 12 noon at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue, a party source release said Saturday.

All concerned have been requested to attend the meeting.

In this connection she pointed out that the past autocratic regime tried to destroy the character of the students and used them to cling to power.

Now that a democratic government has been established the evil doers must be punished no matter to which party they may belong. All should exercise vigil so that outsiders can not intrude into the campus and disturb the academic life of the students, she added.

Begum Zia blamed the past regime for vitiating the academic atmosphere in schools, colleges and universities to meet their selfish ends.

Meanwhile a tripartite meeting of jail guards, jail authority and the inmates was convened for tomorrow. District administration officials intervened and got release of the guards from a section of the jail inmates.

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Backstage parleys

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have been taken to create a congenial atmosphere.

The administration is now busy with preparing the President's speech which will outline the programmes of the new government.

Besides Justice Shahabuddin's speech may contain certain remarks about the constitutional provisions for smooth transfer of power and on ending the debate on a form of government.

He will also justify the formation of the Council of Ministers with the BNP members to dismiss the allegation that he has lost his neutrality.

As per the Constitution the Acting President will have to address the first session of Parliament on April 5. In his speech, the source said, the Acting President will give an outline about the state of affairs and the theme to be discussed by the Members of Parliament.

The caretaker government which came to power on the basis of the Declaration of the three alliances keeping conformity with the constitutional provision is obliged to hand over power to the parliament. But the constitutional snag has created a bar in the way of smooth transfer of power to the parliament because there is no provision for tendering of resignation to the Speaker by the Acting President.

On the other hand, the Joint Declaration has limited the tenure of the caretaker government by stating that power should be transferred to parliament. But the constitutional provisions make it clear that there should be a presidential election to hand over full power to the elected government.

Meanwhile the Awami League has taken a stand to go back to a parliamentary form of government.

The stand of Awami League is supported by its allies and

the Five-Party combine.

The Jamaat-e-Islami has shifted its stand and now prefers to create a balance of power between the presidency and the parliament retaining the presidential form of government.

The BNP has not yet clearly spelled out its position about the form of government. However it has alerted its workers and leaders to work keeping in mind a future presidential election.

Only the Jatiya Party has clearly stated its intention to oppose a parliamentary form of government.

In this circumstances, political circles believe that a dialogue formally or informally must be held between the BNP and the AL to decide the next course of action at least to give an easy exit to the incumbent Acting President.

Meanwhile the Five-Party Alliance contacted the Awami League about the possible dialogue.

Awami League sources said that they have given their consent about the dialogue.

The Five-Party source said that the dialogue might be held by the end of the week with the consent of the BNP.

A BNP source said that a meeting of the standing committee of the BNP on this issue will be held soon after the return of BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia from Kushtia.

Political circles believe that in the meantime the BNP and the Awami League are trying to narrow down their differences.

In the process Sheikh Hasina as Leader of the Opposition has greeted the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia who in turn also greeted Sheikh Hasina.

Political circles have expressed their optimism that a consensus on vital national issues would be possible in the near future.

AL activists attack houses of BNP workers: 25 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 23: At least 25 people including two women were injured in a clash today between Awami League and BNP supporters at village Panagar in Kajipur upazila of the district, police said, reports UNB.

BNP leaders said some 500 Awami League supporters led by Natuarpur union AL leaders Ishraq and Ramjan Chakladar attacked with lethal weapons the houses of BNP supporters this morning when the clash ensued.

AL activists Idris, Shafiqul, Kawsar, Sahjan and Rawson Ali and BNP's Zel Hossain and Faruk seriously injured in the fighting, were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

The injured women, Jukela and Bilkis Begum, were released after first aid.

The attackers looted valuable and beat up the inmates of the houses, stated Bosa Chakladar in a case lodged with the Sadar police station.

The houses of BNP activists Haidul Islam, Ajhar Mandal, Yunus, Zel Hossain, Mantu, Manju member, Mannan, Zahurul and Chandulah were allegedly attacked.

Police and villagers said today's clash was a backlash of a post-election clash on February 27 between the activists of the two parties.

AL candidate won the parliamentary polls in Kazipur constituency.

When contacted, local AL leaders said their activists might be involved in the incident, but it was not a political matter.

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ADP to be revised upward

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US Dollar was disbursed, compared to 490 million in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

In the last fiscal (1989-90), ADP was revised downward for current account deficit resulting in failure to give protection to local currency support.

Officials said during its fortnight-long stay in Bangladesh, the mission would review the country's economic performance, discuss next year's budget preparations and assess its need of external assistance.

ERD confirmed the Aid Club meeting would be held May 29-30 in the French capital.

Officials expect a generous response from the donors at this year's consortium meeting in view of the country's transition to democracy through fair elections.

Spadework

Another report adds: A 4-member World Bank team arrived Dhaka on Friday to begin spadework for the coming Aid Consortium meeting and discuss the national budget preparations.

Meanwhile the Health Minister under the new government has decided to streamline the health sector.

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