

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 sub-committee 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 Biman Bangladesh Airlines this (Sunday) morning. From there she will go to Kustia by road and address two election campaign meetings at Kustia-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, Dhanmouri 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 Maniruzzaman Miah today Sunday at the DUCSU building.

The programme also include holding of a drama by the 'Aranyak' titled 'Iblis' 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 Zahurul Haque Hall for a long time though they were not the university students.

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, Toynbee 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 case 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, she said.

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 press release said Saturday, reports BSS.

All concerned have been requested to attend the meeting.

trally, she said.

Turning to national problems she said the main responsibility of the new government would be to rebuild the country. The past autocratic regime had not only shattered the national economy but also destroyed all institutions through bribery and corruption, she said.

The Prime Minister further pointed out that people of the country were bluffed during the nine years of autocratic rule in the name of development. The foreign countries were also made to believe the false claim of development. This, she said, tarnished the image of the country.

Begum Zia said her party had already identified the problems confronting the country. The Party's 19-point development programme was now the national programme. It was the responsibility of all including the officials to implement the national programmes for the development of the country and delivering the goods to the people, she said.

She said the progress of the country lay in augmenting production in mills, factories and fields. All our problems, however big, could be solved only by stepping up production, she stressed.

Referring to terrorism in campus the Prime Minister sought cooperation of all quarters irrespective of political affiliation to eliminate this scourge once for all. On this score all should keep the interest of the country uppermost, she stressed.

She placed particular emphasis on creating job opportunities for the students removing session jam and checking the entry of the outsiders into the campus as a means to resist terrorism and other evil practices. "If we cannot provide employment to the students coming out of the universities en masse, she said adding all efforts should be directed towards creating employment opportunities for the students at the end of their studies.

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 does 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.

Consequently students have been suffering from lack of security in the campus, she added.

"We must try eradicating terrorism from the campus so that our boys and girls can prosecute their studies fearlessly and freely," she said.

She narrated how smuggling was eating into the vitals of the nation. One of the ways to stop it was to increase production in our mills and factories, she said adding goods are smuggled into the country when local production falls short of demands.

With the supply of electricity in rural areas a large number of small and cottage industries would spring up thereby facilitating employment opportunities for rural women.

China to finance

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The proposed hospital is expected to cater to the needs of those who normally prefer to go abroad for sophisticated treatment.

Equipped with most amenities and facilities, the hospital will be manned by highly skilled local professional physicians and experts.

Treatment to patients suffering from acute hepatitis, cancer and heart ailments will also be offered, the sources say.

The government expects, with the establishment of the proposed hospital, serious patients will not be required to go abroad.

The treatment facilities at the hospital will be as good as those in Bangkok, the sources say.

The Chinese government has sought some points to be clarified by Bangladesh government before finalising the fund releasing deal.

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

Jail revolt

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assaulted a jail guard and rang the bell inside the jail.

When contacted, the jail authorities admitted the revolt by prisoners. Details of the incident could not be known immediately.

A late night BSS report said, the situation was brought under control when metropolitan police and district administration officials intervened and got release of the guards from a section of the jail inmates.

Meanwhile a tripartite meeting of jail guards, jail authority and the inmates was convened for tomorrow. District administration officials will also attend the meeting as jail guardians.

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 prefer 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 Kustia.

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 Panagari in Kaptipar upazila of the district, police said, reports UNB.

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

AL activists Idris, Shaiful, Kawsar, Sahajan and Rawshan Ali and BNP's Zel Hossain and Faruq, seriously injured in the fighting, were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

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

The attackers looted valuables 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 Idrisul Islam, Ahar Mandal, Yunus, Zel Hossain, Mantu, Manju member, Mannan, Zahurul and Chandullah 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 Kaptipar constituency.

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

JP, BNP workers clash: 7 hurt at Ghorashal

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven persons were injured in a clash between the activists of the Jatiya Party and the BNP at Bangladesh Jute Mill, Ghorashal Saturday.

Shahabuddin (26) an employee of a tea stall was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious injuries. Six other injured persons were given first aid.

About 20 to 25 people led by Bakul and Harun, President and Vice President respectively of the Jatiya Party backed former Fourth Class Employees Union allegedly attacked the workers of the present BNP supported Employees Union at the mill gate on Saturday afternoon.

The Jatiya Party activists exploded about 25 cockbats. When the BNP workers chased them they fled away.

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 serious current account deficit resulting in failure to give projected local currency support.

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.

The WB country economic mission led by the Bank's senior economist James Sackey,

'Black Day' today

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emerged as the single largest party in parliament. Begum Khaleda Zia took over as Prime Minister on March 20.

Deposed President Ershad is now detained in a sub-jail at Gulshan. He is facing trial for possessing illegal arms and funds. Besides, some more allegations against him including abuse of power are under investigation.

Meanwhile, BNP and APSU have decided to observe the day as a 'Black Day'.

A discussion meeting and a rally will be held at BNP's Banani office premises today at 3 pm in observance of the

met Saturday Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, opening its series of review meetings with government officials.

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 next year (1991-92).

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.

'Black Day' today

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BNP Saturday urged all nationalist and democratic forces of the country to take a vow to foil all conspiracies of the re-emergence of autocrat Ershad.

In a statement issued in Dhaka Saturday night on the eve of the 'March 24 Black Day' it also called upon all to remain alert against such a design and sought cooperation of all to set transition to democracy on a easy-going motion.

"The way to democracy is still imperilled as some political quarters are out to rehabilitate autocrat Ershad in the country's politics, the statement said

The Midnight File

Colombo detains ship with mortars

COLOMBO, Mar 23: The Sri Lankan customs has detained a foreign ship that entered Colombo harbour with hundreds of crates of mortars, police sources said today. Acting on a tip-off, a joint customs and police team raided the ship, which was travelling from Belgium to Taiwan when it called here for fuel, on Friday and found 2,050 crates containing 11,700 mortars, they said, reports AFP.

Whites minority in New York

NEW YORK, Mar 23: The Whites have finally become minority in the biggest US city of New York. According to the census of April last year, 43.2 per cent of its inhabitants were White in the five New York city municipalities — Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Staten Island. The preceding census gave 52.4 per cent of the Whites in 1980, reports Tanjug.

Seven killed in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 23: Seven people were killed overnight in two black townships wracked by chronic violence in recent weeks, police said Saturday. A policeman was wounded by gunfire late Friday in Alexandra, the only black township within Johannesburg a city limits, and police found four bodies Saturday in Alexandra and three others in the nearby Tembisa township, reports AP.

Ethiopia expels Libya's envoy

NAIROBI, Mar 23: Ethiopia has expelled Libya's ambassador and three other diplomats from Libya and Sudan for activities it says were incompatible with their diplomatic missions. Ethiopian radio Friday quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the four had been "instructed to leave Ethiopian territory within four days as persona non grata," reports AP.

Jackson to contest US polls

WASHINGTON, Mar 23: US civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said on Friday he might seek the democratic party presidential nomination for the third time. Jackson, who lost to Michael Dukakis in his 1988 attempt to win the democratic nomination was speaking to reporters at a meeting of party leaders planning strategy on how to beat Republican President George Bush in 1992, reports Reuter.

Six killed in Delhi blast

NEW DELHI, Mar 23: At least six people including a woman were killed and 48 wounded in a twin bomb blast at a bus stop near a slum area in west Delhi tonight, police said. Two bombs exploded simultaneously at about 7.45 pm at a bus stop in Khyala village near Tilak Nagar, police said, reports PTI.

Publication of Dawn resumes

KARACHI, Mar 23: Pakistan's leading English-language daily the Dawn reappeared in Karachi today after nearly a week of anti-media violence. The decision to resume publication following a one-day break came after the militant Mohajir National Movement (MQM) called off a boycott of the newspaper and its sister publications, reports Reuter.

Water supply

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tribute to aggravating the crisis.

Dhaka WASA, the organisation responsible for water supply in the city, has the capacity to produce 11.50 crore gallons of water a day. This can meet only 50 per cent of the need of this city. The water requirement has been estimated at about 24 crore gallons for the city's 60 lakh residents.

For producing 11.50 crore gallons of water, Dhaka WASA depends on 137 deep tubewells and the Chandnight Water Works, which provide 35 lakh gallons everyday.

WASA authorities say that the output from the deep tubewells has reduced by 15 per cent recently since the underground water level has gone down, which they consider as normal in this season.

They admitted that an average of three to four deep tubewells remain out of use every day due to mechanical trouble or for maintenance purpose.

The WASA authorities said that 20 per cent of the water produced is totally wasted in different ways, while another 25 per cent remains beyond WASA's account. So, according to them, Dhaka WASA's total systems loss of water stands at 45 per cent, which is undoubtedly too high.

It is gathered from concerned sources that the main reasons behind the wastage are — open hydrants, leakage in the supply lines, overflow of water from the overhead tanks in households and uncontrolled use of water through non-metered supply system.

An official of Dhaka WASA told the Daily Star that over 1200 hydrants for supplying free water now exist in different roads and lanes of the city. But most of the hydrants have no tap to check the flow of water. Taps were duly fitted with all hydrants, but these were either removed or stolen, causing the wastage of a huge quantity of water everyday.

Ward Commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation were officially empowered to look after the hydrants in their areas to ensure proper utilisation of water and to arrange replacement of taps if required," said the official and alleged that the Commissioners failed to do the job.

On the misuse of water by non-metered consumers and the overflow of water from overhead tanks, the officials said that it was only the awareness of the people that could save water for the consumption of others.

He mentioned that 35 per cent of the one lakh 10 thousand water consumers are still without meters and pay water bills at a fixed rate.

Dhaka WASA has now engaged a German firm to look into the problems behind the

huge systems loss and recommend ways to improve the water supply system in the city.

The German firm has been working since 1989 for the project financed by the World Bank. About six crore Taka will be spent for the project which is likely to be completed by the end of the year.

Dhaka WASA has a Tk. 71 crore crash programme to increase supply of water in the city. The programme, initiated in March 1989, includes installation of 60 new deep tubewells in different parts of the city. Work on the installing of 56 deep tubewells started last year and 24 of them have already been commissioned.

The implementation of the crash programme is reportedly hampered due to delay in fund release by the government.

With the implementation of the crash programme, Dhaka WASA will have a total of 170 deep tubewells which will be able to supply a little over 14 crore gallons of water daily. And yet this quantity of water will remain far behind the growing need of the capital city.

Experts believe that installation of water treatment plants either at Demra or Saidabad can help solve the city's water problems. The proposed plants can depend on surface water which would not affect the underground water level.

Experts also suggest expansion of Chandnight Water Works for increasing its production substantially.

Mirpur plunges into darkness

By Staff Correspondent

A vast area of Mirpur plunged into darkness Saturday evening following a breakdown in 33 kv grid line between Kakrail and Thigon sub-station at Mirpur.

Executive Engineer of Mirpur Zone told the Daily Star that "Second fault was noticed near Thigon sub-station line after the previous one was repaired near Kakrail which delayed the restoration of supply."

The over-loaded line of the area was one of the causes of the break-down, he said.

He said repair work on the line was going on and the supply would be restored overnight. Supply was restored partially in the area from Mirpur old sub-station, he added.

Hasina

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government for its failure in protecting lives and property as well as checking price-hike of essentials. Price of rice has increased by Tk 2 to 3 per seer after the taking over by BNP, she added.