SKOP for 'rational solution' of its charter of demands

Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) called upon the government to come to a "rational solution" regarding its five-point charter of demands for which "the country's working community had been fighting since 1984," reports

Addressing a press conference at its office on Saturday afternoon, the SKOP leader and President of Trade Union Centre (TUC) Nurul Islam said. it was unfortunate that no steps had been taken be consider SKOP's five-point demand although the three alliances, during the anti-autocracy movement, assured that these demands would be fulfilled when there was a demoeratic government in the country.

The SKOP five-point demand includes fixation of minimum wages for all government and private industrial workers at Taka 1,400 per month, implementation of wage and pay commission reports on priority basis ensuring minimum wages, announcement of a national minimum wage commission for all categories of employees and workers, re-commissioning of all closed mills and factories, halting indiscriminate denationalisation and reinstatement of all terminated employees.

Messrs Abdullah Sarker of Samajtantrik Sramik Federation, Fazlul Haq Mantu of Jatiya Sramik League, Shafigur Rahman of Jatiya Sramik Federation, Nasim Ali of Ganotantric Sramik Federation, Shahjahan Meah of Samajtantrik Sramik Federation, Yakub Ali Bhuiyan of Bangladesh Federation of Labour, Protapuddin Ahmed of Trade Union Sangha (independent). Mokhlesur Rahman of Sangjukta Sramik Federation, Shireen Akhter of Jatiya Sramik Jote, Nurul Anwar of Jatiya Sramik port by today.

Federation, Shah Ataul Islam of Bangladesh Trade Union Federation, S M Rumi of Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League and Nasir Ahmed of Jatiya Sramik League. Bangladesh were present at

the press conference. Referring to the heroic role played and the intimidation and harassment suffered by the country's working forces particularly SKOP members during the movement against the autocratic regime, Nurul Islam said serious misgiving were creeping in to the minds of the country's working people over government decisions and measures which they find inconsistent with their hopes and aspirations.

Islam said, if the government fails to solve the problems of the working masses. the SKOP would have no alternative but launch country-wide

Select Committee From Page 1 Col. 5

the amendment bills. The discussion was progressing in a cordial atmosphere, they said.

The committee may seek another two to three day's time to complete its work, according to sources.

Members of the committee remained tight -lipped on the outcome of the meetings held so far. They are pledge-bound not to disclose anything before the committee submits its reports to parliament, said one

A source said the commit tee had yet to discuss the mapoints of difference between the government bills and the opposition bills. These relate to floor crossing by MPs and appointment of non-MPs as ministers among others.

The 15-member Select Committee was appointed on July 9 with a mandate to scrutinise the bills and submit re-



Traffic came to a halt for a few hours Saturday as two rival student groups of Tejgaon College fought pitched battles over students' union election. - Star photo

Saifur to meet industrialists July 22

Wilful defaulters divert money to other purposes

Finance and Planning Minister will meet July 22/23 leaders of the industrial community to examine reasons for loances going default and industries turning sick.

"We do not want to create any problem for them, we are trying to develop a cooperative relationship. We shall look into their problems," Saifur Rahman said in an obvious reference to recent statements of different Chambers.

A joint statement of the major Chambers had regretted publication of the list of defaulters which they said intended to malign them and urged the government to look into genuine problems that rendered their units sick and make them unable to repay

From Page 1 Col. 3

the witness.

AA : Yes.

rested?

Strajul Haque cross-examined

Athar Ali (AA) : I received

DL: The order of arrest

came from the President but

the grounds of arrest came

from a senior officer of the

DL: Why did you not show

AA: I just carried out the

DL: (Giving a suggestion)

All haste was made to remove

Ershad from his house and

make an inventory of the arti-

cles in his residence in his ab-

of Atahar Ali the Prosecution

produced Talim Hossain

Executive Engineer of Dhaka

Garrison a member of the

before the Court said that

Ershad was taken to the

Gulshan sub-jail under heavy

security provided by military

of the articles found in the

Sena Bhavan was made be-

tween December 19 and

December 26 while the inven-

tory of the articles in

Bangabhaban was made on

covered from 21 trunks was

found under the clothes in the

trunks, most of which were sa-

also cross-examined Talim

the amount of money recov-

ered from each of the trunks?

There was no mention.

He said that the money re-

Later the Defence Lawyer

DL: Is there any mention of

Talim Hossain (TH) : No.

DL: How many boxes had

DL: You had given some of

DL: But you mentioned it to

the police in your statement

after the recovery of the arti-

TH: I can't remember.

the articles to the mother-in-

law of Ershad. What were the

TH: I can't remember.

you given to the mother-in-law

He said that the inventory

Talim Hossain, deposing

After the cross-examination

sence to lodge a case.

Inventory Committee.

and civil police.

January 1, 1991.

rees and safaries.

Hossain.

of Ershad?

articles?

TH: What?

AA: It is not true.

Home Ministry. Is it not true?

the grounds when he was ar-

the order on December 11.

Later Defence Lawyer

Talking to UNB Saturday at his office Saifur Rahman said the government will identify real causes of industries get ting sick and closed down and find out solution to bring those back to productive process even if they need fresh loans.

But, he said, the wilful defaulters who have taken thousands of crore in loans and redirected the money to other purposes had created a big problem. Referring to much talked

about VAT, the Finance Minister regretted that a deliberate campaign has been launched by a vested quarter to misguide the people about this progressive system of tax. By introducing VAT, we

shall bring down the level of taxation in due course of time

Money to buy house for JP

to the real benefit of the commonman, the Minister reaf

He estimated withdrawal of taxes on certain items as proposed in the budget will create a gap of about Tk 100 crore This, in addition to the exemption of agricultural loans and huge subsidy required in the public sector will leave a big gap in the resource.

The Finance Minister appealed to the critics of the VAT and conscious citizens to come up with specific suggestions how to fill the resource gap.

While criticising, nobody seems serious or concerned how the government will carry out its responsibilities, he further regretted.

identified as Ashraful Alam Ront. (21). a BCom student of the College. Roni, a JCD ac tivist, received stab injuries. Our DMCH correspondent

said that at least 20 gunshots were fired and over 50 erackers exploded during the twohour long clash. The clash occurred be

20 injured in

BCL, JCD clash

at Tejgaon College

By Staff Correspondent

jured in a clash between rival

student groups at Tejgaon

College in the city Saturday

admitted to the Dhaka Medical

College Hospital. One was

Of the injured two were

Several students were in-

tween rival student groups of the Awami League-backed BCL and the BNP-backed JCD, when the JCD unit of the College was holding its panel projection meeting for the ensuing elections to the College students union.

Salam condemns attack

The Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder Saturday condemned the attack made by a rival student organisation on the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal projection meeting held on the occasion of the students' union election of the Tejgaon College.

Two more held in Sheela murder case

By Staff Correspondent

The mother-in-law and the father-in-law of Monwara Parveen Sheela, an 18 year-old house-wife whose body was recovered by police from a house in Gopibagh on Friday last, were arrested for interrogation by Sutrapur Police Saturday.

With these arrests, four persons have so far been taken into custody for questioning in connection with the case.

On Friday, Sutrapur police recovered the body of Sheela hanging from a ceiling fan tied with a sari around the neck at her husband's house at 64/F/ RK Mission Road in Gopibagh.

After autopsy at the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital her body was handed over to her family for burial.

The two persons arrested earlier were also taken into police remand in connection with the case on the day.

Moscow visit

From Page 1 Col. 8

further strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Foreign Minister returned home Saturday afternoon ending a four-day goodwill visit to the USSR at the invitation of Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmer-

This was the first visit to the Soviet Union by a Bangladesh Foreign Minister in 16 years.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his return, the Foreign Minister said that his discussion with Soviet leaders mainly covered bilateral relations and matters related to trade and economic cooperation.

About his discussions on bilateral trade and economic cooperation, Mustafizur Rahman said that vast scope existed for

development in this sector. He mentioned the possibility of exporting garments, toiletries and ceramic products from Bangladesh to the Soviet

Replying a question, the Minister informed that 900 Bangladeshi students are now studying in the Soviet Union. He indicated that more Soviet scholarships might be offered for Bangladeshi students in fu-

ture. He said that the Soviet

The Midnight File

Kucan rejects deadline as Belgrade accepts EC plan

ORMOZ, July 13: Slovenian President Milan Kucan rejected Saturday a series of deadlines set by the Yugoslav federal presidency, including an ultimatum for the breakaway republic's local defense forces to demobilise by Thursday. The Yugoslav presidency accepted a European-brokered peace plan for the restive country Saturday but added a demand that most paramilitary forces be demobilised, report agencies.

Govt involved in violence: ANC

JOHANNESBURG, July 13: The African National Congress said Saturday the government was deeply involved in chronic township violence and complained that the US stance on political prisoners implied recognition of the black homelands, reports AP.

Non-violent posture

From Page 1 Col. 7 on June 20. All these terrorist activities ruled out the possibility of peaceful-holding of the

DUCSU polls.

The DU authorities, with a view to create a congenial academic atmosphere ordered vacation of the residential halls on June 20. The halls reopened on July 5 under tight security measure with police at the hall gates and some strategic points and house tutors allowing entry often checking identity cards. The steps were continuing till

With only 19 days left for the DUCSU and hall unions' polls, the JCD, BCL (A-A), BCL (N-S), CPB-backed Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), BKSALsupported Jatiya Chhatra League (JCL) and some other smaller student organisations were now engaged in consolidating their strength through rallies and processions on the campus.

None excepting the JCD. could decide about the polls till Saturday. Like previous years, JCD will contest the polls individually. A central committee of the organisation on Friday also formed a 13member election conducting committee led by the present Vice-President DUCSU Amanullah Aman MP. Those willing to run on JCD ticket were asked to collect forms from the committee from today (Sunday) and submit those

by 8 pm July 16. JCD Joint Convenor Fazlul Huq Milon, aspirant to be DUCSU VP told The Daily Star that list his organisation's candidates were under preparation and it will be announced soon after announcement of the election schedule by the authorities. The DU authorities are likely to announce the polls schedule within a couple of days, sources said.

Milon told that JCD would seek students' support in the polls with pledges that if elected it would try to establish a terrorism-free campus and to realise the 10-point demand of students drafted earlier by the now defunct All-Party Students Unity (APSU). Meantime, he added, some of the demands in the chart were fulfilled and we will demand of the government to meet the

Commenting on the DU situation. Milon said the polls could be held peacefully if the DU authorities, the law enforcing agencies and all the student bodies were cordial in this regard. In any trouble, we, along with the general student would resist it unitedly for the

BCL (A-A) and other student organisations affiliated to the Eight-Party Alliance were working for a united panel in the polls to fight the JCD. Final decision on the electoral alliance would be made within a

greater interest of all universi-

day or two, sources said. Leaders of the Eight-Party Alliances were also working for such an alliance, they added. But by no way, the Five-Party backed student organisations would be absorbed in the alliance because the pro-eight party organisations have lost

Pry education

From Page 1 Col. 6

The Minister said, the Government would go for massive training of primary school teachers for the success of the programme. There are over four lakh teachers manning about 42,000 primary schools in the country, he added.

The supervision arrangements for primary education, he said, would be strengthened through the local committees to be set up for the purpose. This will ensure community participation, he added.

Vehicle set ablaze

From Page 1 Col. 5 Press Club demanding ban on the publication of the weekly 'Bichinta' which termed Sree

Krishna a 'Lecher".

drawn.

Meanwhile, Minar Mahmud, editor of the weekly 'Bichinta' apologised for publishing the article on Sri Krishna in the 12 July issue of the periodical In a statement issued Saturday night, Minar Mahmud also said that the article had been withtheir confidence on those organisations, a competent source said.

Taking Correspondent, BCL (A-A) General Secretary Asim Kumar Ukil termed the prevailing campus situation not favourable for holding the DUCSU polls peacefully. He alleged that the armed hoodlums under the direct patronisation of the government were still active on that the people in power were sheltering the "identified terrorists" including the 'Niruing to terrorism in the country's educational arena including the DU.

But Asim did not want the DUSCU polls date to be shifted although he apprehended deterioration of the campus situation by what he said, the government-backed terrorists. The BCL (S-A) was at present in favour of contesting the elections individually. But greater unity with other 8party alliance-blessed student bodies would be welcome, he

(N-S) General Secretary Shaft Ahmed was not all hopeful of peaceful holding of the DUCSU polls because, he said, the armed miscreants have again found their safe shelter on the campus. It will be really tough for the student organisations to participate in the polls within such a short span of time, he maintained. But, he viewed, if security measure undergoing on the

campus could be tightened. the situation might be improved. He observed that the DU authorities' steps to check violence achieved its success by 50 per cent. BCL (N-S) did not decide as

ganisation, he said.

Bichinta

under law.

The Press Note said the

It is for the information of the public that the government is equally respectful to the religious feelings of all sections of people, the Press Note said.

The government was fully informed of the publication of the objectionable article and all copies of the July 12 issue of Bichinta have been confis-

while, has directed the concerned authorities to take necessary legal action against the publisher, editor, and writer of the article and others concerned

It is hoped that all quarters and tolerance to keep the law and order situation under control, the Press Note main-

ECOSOC meet

From Page 1 Col. 5

about 794 million dollars. Saifur Rahman said, the Geneva meeting will be chaired by French Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner. The UNDRO chief

Hameed Esafi will be representing the UN system at the meeting with its exclusive agenda on the cyclone damages and losses in Bangladesh. The meeting, he said, will be attended by the representatives of the UN members.

Leading multilateral and bilateral 'development partners' of Bangladesh will be joining the meeting, he stated while adding. "we are expecting a

The Finance Minister observed that the meeting would also provide excellent opportunities to explain the development goals and objectives of the government.

Lists of depositors drawal. "No instruction has From Page 1 Col. 8

complete, said a BCCI source. BCCI has an estimated 40,000 depositors with its four branches in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile most of the local banks who have substantial foreign exchange reserves stuck up with overseas BCCI branches have also submitted their reports to the central bank stating their claims Earlier, Bangladesh Bank instructed those banks to submit the reports as soon as possible. The total amount of stuck up hard currencies could not be known.

The central bank has already announced a number of steps to facilitate the clients of BCCI in Bangladesh to carry out their foreign trade operations under new arrangements. Agrant Bank has been assigned to operate the foreign trade

business of BCCI. On Saturday morning, many clients were seen in front of the locked up gate of BCCI's city branch making anxious queries about a date of with-

Ctg hartal

From Page 1 Col. 5

demanding cancellation of the recently published Enquiry Commission report while Sangrami Oikya has given the call for immediate implementation of the report and removal of the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, Prof Alamgir Md Sirajuddin.

APSU at a press conference on Saturday at the press club termed the commission report as biased

In a press release today, the pro-Shibir Jote expressed its resentment that the implementation of the CU enquiry commission report was not discussed in Friday's grand conference of political parties in Dhaka.

They also blamed a section of teachers who, the press release said, in a press conference in Dhaka on Friday tried to shelter the VC through provocative statement.

City and CU units of Shibir. in a joint statement, supported the hartal call and said the situation in the Varsity took a serious turn as the enquiry committee report was not implemented yet.

Shibir leaders alleged that the VC was trying to capture the halls with the help of ter-

Pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Shikkhak Parishad at a rally in the port city blamed a section of teachers of the university for propaganda against the enquiry committee report, saying it was a plea to hide their own faults and showed their disregard to law.

They also threatened to wage a greater movement if the enquiry committee report is not implemented.

been received from the central bank as yet," was the curt reply by the guards and officials guarding the entrance. Many clients were visibly depressed.

A Bangladesh Bank source said that suspension of operation of a foreign bank had in no way influenced the country's financial system. There was no adverse effect on the economy as well, the source said. The country has adequate foreign exchange reserve to meet emergency situation arising out of any complications, it said and added the situation

was well under control. with the Bank of England. The talks are heading towards a positive direction, a BCCI

Hasına

From Page 1 Col. 8 down and the poverty of the people increasing during the last 15 years than that of the period of Awami League government. The number of unemployed educated youths was on the rise because of the stoppage of new recruitment

building "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Bangabandhu.

dent and General Secretary respectively of BCL's Dhaka University unit, termed the present campus situation as "not suitable" for holding a

shelter by those organisations.

were still staying at the halls. at the DUCSU building premises demanding arrest and trial of the killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon and BCL(N-S) leader Mahbubur

Rahman. JCD Joint Convener Fazlul Huq Milon, JCD DU unit president Habibunnabi Sohel and Ilias Ali.

Speakers at the rally said vested quarters were active in creating anarchy on the campus to foil the DUCSU election as they were sure about their defeat.

Editor : S. M. Ali

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Future activities of BCCI in Bangladesh largely depend on the compromise between the UAE Emir and the Bank of England. A two- member team sent by Sheikh Zayed is currently holding negotiations

source in Dhaka said. Related stories on Pages 5 & 6

in the vacant posts, she said. The Awami League chief called upon the students to devote themselves to studies so that they could be worthy citizens of the country for

Gherao

From Page 1 Col. 5

peaceful DUCSU election. The speakers accused JSD(Inu)-backed BCL(N-S) and BNP-backed Jattyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of terrorism on the campus and said that armed hoodlums, provided

Meanwhile, JCD held a rally

The rally was addressed by

DL: You can't remember what the articles were. Could you see that some articles were being taken by the mother-in-law of Ershad? TH: I can't remember. DL: How many rooms are

there in the Sena Bhavan? TH: In total, 35. DL: Were the articles found in all the rooms of the Sena Bhavan?

TH: I don't know, DL: My client kept all the TH: The articles were recovered from most of the from the government. TH : I don't know.

DL . How many persons were in the Sena Bhavan for maintaining it? TH: I don't know.

Strajul Haque, Defence DL: Did you open any box Lawyer (DL): You served the for making a list? detention order on December TH: I did not open any box 12 but signed it on December separately for making a list. 11. What is the reason for it? DL: Did Mustafizur Rahman

> open any box? TH : Yes. DL: How many Taka was in

> > TH: I don't know.

that box?

DL: The Committee handed over Taka 727 to Mustafizur Rahman. What was the reason for giving him that amount?

TH: As that amount had not been deposited in Treasury it was returned to him?

DL: Why was it not deposited in Treasury?

TH: (pause) DL: Did you give anything to Ershad's mother-in-law after the transfer of Ershad and his

family to the Gulshan sub-jail? TH: No. We did not give her anything. DL: Did you tell anything to the police about the recovery

of any papers? TH: Yes. DL: When did you go to the

Bangabhavan? TH: On January 1, 1991. DL: You made the inventory in the Sena Bhavan from December 22 to 26 and in the Bangabhavan on January 1?

TH: Yes. DL: (giving a suggestion) Till then, you did not fix the prices of the articles.

DL: Were you present during the fixation of price? TH: Yes. DL: Did you discuss any-

thing on asking about the prices to Ershad?

TH: I can't remember. DL: Did you find any file or paper in this house? TH: I can't remember. DL: Did you find any note-

book? TH: I can't remember. DL: You don't remember. But can you say whether there is any list of notebook in the inventory? We say there was no list of

Do you remember whether Ershad took any notebook along with him? TH: I can't remember. DL: My client had files and notebooks in his residence but

any notebook in the inventory.

you people have kept them in Judge : Is it true? TH: We did not hide any-

DL (giving a suggestion):

say as Chairman of the Jatiya

Party my client wrote to the

government for permission to buy a house for the party. It was approved by the government and the documents of that approval were kept in different files in the Sena Bhavan, but all the documents have been removed from there.

money there to buy the house

DL : He is Nital. He is not a servant but has come along with others and he does not know anything. The Court was adjourned

till 10 am today. Security passes of Ershad's two

lawyers seized By Staff Correspondent The Special Branch of Police has seized the security

by the Jatiya Party to assist the Ershad's Defence Counsel. According to a police source the two lawyers are reportedly engaged in exchang-

passes of two lawyers deputed

ing letters with Ershad when ever he is brought to court. The names of the two lawyers are Advocate Jinnat Ali and Advocate Helaluddin

Ahmed. Meanwhile Barrister Kazi Shahdat Hossain first engaged as counsel to Ershad has reportedly stopped coming to the Court due to some unknown reasons. During last

three days he did not attend the court. According to a source close to Kazi Shahdat Hossain it was learnt that he had not been

paid his dues for conducting the cases. However his junior, Advocate Rezaul Karim, when asked, said that he was busy

conducting the other cases.

Death threats From Page 1 Col. 4

threatening has life. The Attorney General again clarified his position and said that the allegation made in a particular daily on July 4 1991 was absolutely false and

the news with shock and distress. He added, "Inspite of my corrigendum published the following day in the same newspaper I find some people believe the false news to be "I appeal to those people

He said that he had read

tender my unqualified apology," he added. "This matter was practically solved," he added and said "The allegation as it appeared in the 'litefaq' had neither been questioned by the lawyers, nor by Court. Why then are some people agitating

on this, he questioned.

and if any body has been hurt

by this false news to them

Moazzem's call to resist dissolution of UZ councils

By Staff Correspondent Secretary General of Jatiya Party Shah Moazzem Hossain on Saturday called for resisting

the government move to dis-

solve the upazila council.

Foreign Minister accepted his invitation to visit Bangladesh and that the visit is expected by next winter.

the campus. He also accused Obhi circle' who were resort-

Yet we are preparing for the DUCSU polls following the DU authorities' assurance of a peaceful polls, he said.

yet whether it would contest the polls individually or unitedly but he hinted for a leftunity. A decision on this may be taken at the July 18 central committee meeting of the or-

From Page 1 Col. 5 sidered an offence punishable

publication of the article in the July 12 issue of the weekly has hurt the religious sentiments of a section of people of the country which resulted in some untoward incidents in the Dhaka city on Saturday.

cated, the Press Note added. The Press Note further said that the government, mean-

will extend their help to and cooperate with the government demonstrating patience

beyond fiscal 1992-93, will be

good turnout".