

SKOP for 'rational solution' of its charter of demands

Sramik-Karmachari Otkya 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 BSS.

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 misgivings 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 movement.

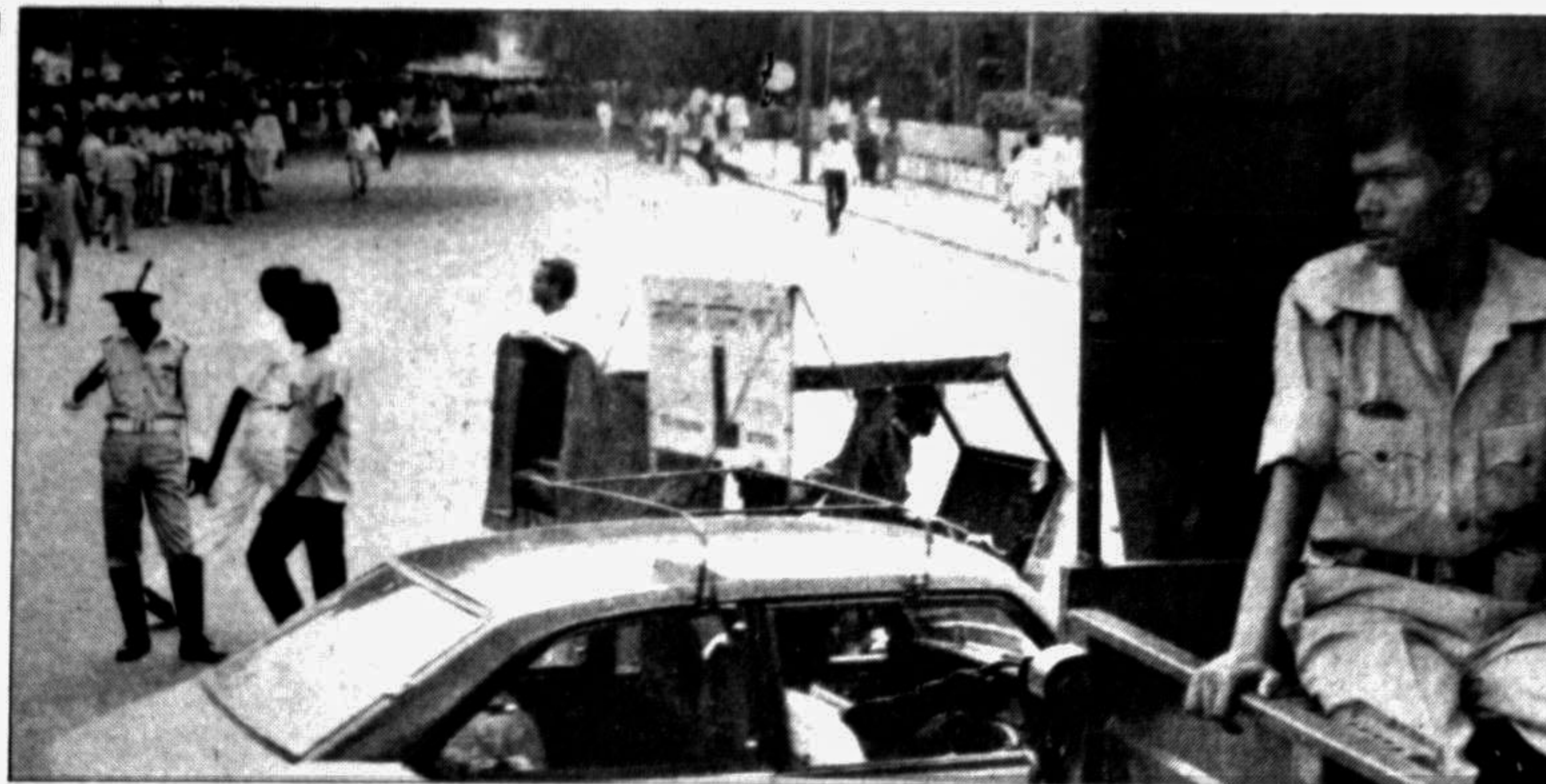
Select Committee

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The amendment bills. The discussion was progressing in a cordial atmosphere, they said. The committee may seek another two to three days 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 source.

A source said the committee had yet to discuss the major points 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 report by today.



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 loans 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 loans.

Talking to UNB Saturday at his office Saifur Rahman said the government will identify real causes of industries getting 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

to the real benefit of the commonman, the Minister reaffirmed.

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.

Money to buy house for JP

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Later Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque cross-examined the witness.

Sirajul Haque, Defence Lawyer (DL): You served the detention order on December 12 but signed it on December 11. What is the reason for it?

Athar Ali (AA): I received the order on December 11.

DL: The order of arrest came from the President but the grounds of arrest came from a senior officer of the Home Ministry. Is it not true?

AA: Yes.

DL: Why did you not show the grounds when he was arrested?

AA: I just carried out the order.

DL: (Giving a suggestion) All haste was made to remove Ershad from his house and make an inventory of the articles in his residence in his absence to lodge a case.

AA: It is not true.

After the cross-examination of Athar Ali the Prosecution produced Talim Hossain Executive Engineer of Dhaka Garrison a member of the Inventory Committee.

Talim Hossain, deposing before the Court said that Ershad was taken to the Gulshan sub-jail under heavy security provided by military and civil police.

He said that the inventory of the articles found in the Sena Bhavan was made between December 19 and December 26 while the inventory of the articles in Bangabhaban was made on January 1, 1991.

He said that the money recovered from 21 trunks was found under the clothes in the trunks, most of which were sarees and safaris.

Later the Defence Lawyer also cross-examined Talim Hossain.

DL: Is there any mention of the amount of money recovered from each of the trunks?

Talim Hossain (TH): No. There was no mention.

DL: How many boxes had you given to the mother-in-law of Ershad?

TH: What?

DL: You had given some of the articles to the mother-in-law of Ershad. What were the articles?

TH: I can't remember.

DL: But you mentioned it to the police in your statement after the recovery of the articles.

TH: I can't remember.

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 money there to buy the house from the government.

DL: How many persons were in the Sena Bhavan for maintaining it?

TH: I don't know.

DL: Did you open any box for making a list?

TH: I did not open any box separately for making a list.

DL: Did Mustafizur Rahman open any box?

TH: Yes.

DL: How many Taka was in that box?

TH: I don't know.

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 Bangabhaban?

TH: On January 1, 1991.

DL: You made the inventory in the Sena Bhavan from December 22 to 26 and in the Bangabhaban 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 anything 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 notebook?

TH: I can't remember.

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 passes of two lawyers deputed by the Jatiya Party to assist the Ershad's Defence Counsel.

According to a police source the two lawyers are reportedly engaged in exchanging 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 Shahadat 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 Shahadat 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

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 Bessmertnykh.

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 Union.

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 future.

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

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 dissolve the upazila council.

20 injured in BCL, JCD clash at Tejgaon College

By Staff Correspondent

Several students were injured in a clash between rival student groups at Tejgaon College in the city Saturday noon.

Of the injured two were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. One was identified as Ashrafal Alam Roni. (21), a BCom student of the College. Roni, a JCD activist, received stab injuries.

Our DMCH correspondent said that at least 20 gunshots were fired and over 50 crackers exploded during the two-hour long clash.

The clash occurred between 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 Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal projection meeting held on the occasion of the students' union election of the Tejgaon College.

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/1 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

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Commenting on the DU situation, Milton 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 greater interest of all universities.

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 day or two, sources said.

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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

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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 Saturday.

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), BKSAL supported 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 13-member election conducting committee led by the present DUCSU Vice-President 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 Convener 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 rest.

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