

Solidarity with Palestinians reiterated

Peace initiatives will lead to just settlement, hopes Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday welcomed the peace initiative now under way hoping that the process for settling the Middle-East problem, through negotiations would lead to a just, comprehensive and negotiable settlement to a just, comprehensive and durable settlement, reports BSS.

In a message on the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, she reiterated Bangladesh's firm support to and solidarity with the Palestinian brethren. Begum Zia said "The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people is being observed this year in the backdrop of momentous changes in world affairs. Prospects for a breakthrough in the long outstanding Middle-East problem of which the core issue is Palestine is brighter than before. The jointly sponsored United States, Soviet Union peace conference recently concluded in Madrid has demonstrated the positive attitude taken by the Arab and Palestinian representatives. It is our hope that the momentum will be maintained for continuation of the second phase of bilateral talks."

"Bangladesh's commitment to the Palestinian cause is unwavering. We resolutely stand by the resolutions of the United Security Council and

General Assembly calling inter-alia for the vacation of all the Arab territories occupied by Israel, for the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people including their rights to a state of their own and the restoration of holy Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty."

The Prime Minister said, "Together with the international community, Bangladesh has consistently rejected the establishment of settlements, the induction of Jewish immigrants and all measures to change the political, social, cultural and demographic status of the occupied territories."

Bangladesh has also repeatedly condemned the violation of basic human rights of the Palestinian people and the continuation by Israel of its brutal repression against the "Intifaha" which has now entered the fifth year. The Palestinian resistance has testified to the absolute rejection of any imposed status-quo by Israel.

Bangladesh has welcomed the peace initiative now under way and earnestly hopes that this process for settling the problem through dialogue and negotiation is not frustrated and would lead to a just, comprehensive and durable settlement. On this auspicious occasion, we reiterate our firm support to and solidarity with our Palestinian brethren.



Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad, who is also Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament addressing a special convention of the chairmen of the now-defunct upazila parishads at the DDSA auditorium on Thursday. — Star photo

Khmer Rouge will return when Hun Sen can guarantee safety

PHNOM PENH, Nov 28: Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk said today the Khmer Rouge would attend a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) in Thailand to discuss their secure return, reports AFP.

"They will be back on the day (Prime Minister) Hun Sen can give a solid, serious guarantee of safety for them," he said.

The peace process was called into question after Khmer Rouge leaders were driven out of the capital by a lynch mob Wednesday.

But in Bangkok the group said they would stand by the peace treaty.

"I understand quite well the feelings of people in Phnom Penh. They continue to suffer in their hearts and in their minds," the Prince said.

"When they saw the Khmer Rouge leaders, they could not refrain from insulting... from showing some form of vengeance or violence," the Prince said.

The meeting would be held in Pattaya on December 3, he added.

"There is no guarantee for the link being for the SNC as a whole, for the Khmer Rouge and their safety," he said, explaining why he was request-

ing the meeting to be held in Thailand.

Representatives of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council agreed here today that they should attend a Supreme National Council (SNC) meeting in Thailand.

The SNC ceasefire supervision body groups the four Cambodian factions who have fought a nearly 13-year-old civil war.

The meeting was switched to Pattaya, Thailand, after leaders of the Khmer Rouge were driven out of the Cambodian capital by an angry lynch mob yesterday.

SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk said the Khmer Rouge would attend the rescheduled meeting on December 3.

The ambassadors and envoys to the SNC, from the United States, France, Britain, China and the Soviet Union, held their meeting 24 hours after the events that drove Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sen from the capital.

They were joined by the head of the United Nations advance mission in Cambodia, Ataul Karim.

"The five members are keen that the peace process

should go through," said a source who attended the meeting but did not want to be identified.

However, another source at the meeting said the SNC must meet in Phnom Penh in order to function properly.

"It is a very necessary condition for the smooth implementation of the accord."

He also said, it was possible that the Security Council would try to speed up sending UN peace keeping troops to Cambodia.

The Security Council drafted the peace plan for Cambodia which provides for elections in 1993 after a period of UN supervision.

China, which has supported the Khmer Rouge throughout the civil war, had no objections to the SNC meeting being held in Thailand.

A third source at the meeting said the five members who still needed the official approval of their governments would press upon Prime Minister Hun Sen the gravity of not ensuring security for the Khmer Rouge.

The representatives of the permanent five, who meet regularly in the Cambodian capital had called a special session to discuss the changing situation.

DU students cancel bank gherao programme

The Council of Dhaka University General Students Thursday withdrew their bank gherao programme on December 1 upon assurances from the teachers that they would resume taking classes immediately, reports UNB.

The general students, who opposed the strike by the teachers, recently announced that they would gherao the Sonali Bank branch on the campus from where the teachers draw their salaries.

Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) started an indefinite strike from November 2 protesting government failure in eliminating campus terrorism.

In a memorandum submitted to DUTA President Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury Thursday morning, the students urged the teachers to avoid the morbid policy like class boycott and demanded announcement of specific date for resuming the classes.

"We think that scission jam is a greater enemy than terrorism. So, we can not accept the logic of your protest," the memorandum said.

Prof Chowdhury assured the students that the teachers will soon take a positive decision in this regard.

Meanwhile, the DUTA has called for a press conference today (Friday) at 4 pm at the University Club, says a press release.

Sub-judge Court asked to dispose of BFUJ poll case

A High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice ARM Amirul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Abdul Karim in a judgement Thursday directed the concerned court to dispose of the suit relating to the biennial election of Bangladesh Federation of Journalists (BFUJ) '90 on or before January 25 and to report the compliance to the bench before January 31, reports BSS.

The judgement was given after hearing an appeal petition filed by the President of BFUJ and others against an interim injunction order passed by first Sub-Judge Court, Dhaka, on holding the said election of BFUJ following a suit lodged with the Sub-Judge Court by a councillor of DUJ GM Yakub and others.

The Sub-Judge Court in an interim injunction directed the BFUJ to refrain from holding any work relating to BFUJ election '90 including the election of the members of the Executive Committee and Rajshahi Union of Journalists and Dinajpur Union of Journalists.

The learned Judges of the Division Bench have kept their judgement in abeyance and as such the interim injunction holding the election by BFUJ has remained effective.

Senior advocate Shamsul Haq Chowdhury and advocate Golam Ahsan Rupak appeared on behalf of the President of BFUJ and others while senior advocate Sudhangshu Sekhar Haldar, advocate Montazuddin Ahmed and advocate Saifuddin Ahmed Chowdhury appeared on behalf of GM Yakub and others.

Clash at Suhrawardy college

By Staff Correspondent

An armed clash erupted at the Suhrawardy College campus Thursday morning when outsiders attempted to disrupt the student union's oath taking ceremony.

Police said a group of outsiders forcibly entered into the college auditorium at around 10 am where the newly-elected JCD student union members were holding their oath taking and installation ceremony.

Several rounds of gunshots were fired and a number of crackers were exploded during the chase and counter-chase between the outsiders and college students.

Later, police used several rounds of teargas shells to disperse the fighting groups.

A case was lodged with Sutrapur Thana. No arrests were made.

SAARC

From Page 1 Col. 8

likely to affect the regional balance in South Asia," he said.

Asked about Sri Lanka holding India responsible for the postponement of the summit, Palero said he had seen the statement made on November 12 by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herat.

"It is not our intention to comment in any detail on the statement since we would not wish to add to the element of acrimony which has been needlessly injected into SAARC affairs. We would prefer to let the facts speak for themselves," the minister said.

The Midnight File

Gaddafi holds talks with Mubarak

CAIRO, Nov 28: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi held three hours of intensive talks with President Hosni Mubarak Thursday as the pressure mounted on Libya to surrender two agents indicted in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103. Gaddafi left immediately after his meeting with Mubarak. Gaddafi's visit came one day after Britain and the United States demanded that Libya give up the two intelligence agents, pay compensation and disclose the names of accomplices, reports AP.

Togo coup leaders clamp curfew

ABIDJAN, Nov 28: Leaders of the military coup launched today in Togo threatened to reduce the capital, Lome, to "ashes" unless President Gnassingbe Eyadema quickly named "a suitable person" to form a new government. The army also decreed a curfew throughout Togo from 6.00 P.M. (1800 GMT) to 5.00 A.M. (0500 GMT) Friday, according to a statement broadcast on Togolcsc radio and monitored here. The coup, in which at least 17 civilians have been killed, is aimed at over throwing the civilian transitional administration of Prime Minister Kokou Koffigoh, reports AFP.

Long march against Shantibahini

CHITTAGONG, Nov 28: Save the Mother and Child, a local NGO campaigning against atrocities of the outlawed Shantibahini, will march towards Rahgamati Friday. The Chittagong-based NGO floated last March will start the "long march" from in front of the Press Club at 6 am, officials of the organisation told a press conference Monday. It also held a two-day photo exhibition on the killings of and torture on innocent people perpetrated by the tribal insurgents at the local Public Library auditorium. The exhibition was extended for another day on public demand, reports UNB.

Polls in Haiti Jan 5

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Nov 28: The interim Prime Minister said Thursday a presidential election will be held January 5, despite a punishing trade embargo imposed by foreign governments who insist ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide must be returned to power. "We have already begun to set in motion the process which will lead to an election," Jean-Jacques Honorat said on state run radio, reports AP.

Repression madness

From Page 1 Col. 4

This is the first visit to independent Bangladesh by Khan, a former chief of Pakistan's Air Force, who later joined politics and launched his political organisation in the late Sixties.

He had openly given vent to his feelings regardless of the fact that he hailed from the then West Pakistan, he said.

The Pakistani leader is a member of the five-party Pakistan Democratic Movement that encompasses four other parties including Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

Khan, who is accompanied by his wife and son, said he was thrilled to be in Bangladesh. "It is not a political visit I am essentially here to meet old friends and well wishers," he said. At 70, he looks stout and energetic.

Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan, a family friend of Khan, was present at the airport in his private capacity to receive the guests. B D Habibullah, who was the then chief of erstwhile East Pakistan unit of Tahrik-e-Istiqal party and Mukhles Uzzaman Khan, former MNA and General Secretary of the same party were present at the airport.

Abbas Zaidi, Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan, was also present.

Asghar Khan is expected to stay in Bangladesh for about a week and will visit Chittagong. "My mission is primarily aimed at promoting greater friendship between the peoples of Bangladesh and Pakistan," Asghar Khan said.

"It's a sentimental journey, not a political mission," he added. "I love this country and its people."

Replying to a question the senior Pakistani politician said mutual cooperation between the two countries on the basis of equality and understanding could overcome some common problems including poverty, over-population and under-development.

He expressed his satisfaction at the establishment of a democratic government in Bangladesh through a free and fair election and said it was worth emulating by other developing countries.

When his attention was drawn to the issue of repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis, Asghar Khan said, "We are greatly sympathetic to the cause but there is some difference of opinion in the Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA)". He, however, hoped that the issue would be resolved soon.

English

From Page 1 Col. 8

Chowdhury with Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman agreeing to it.

A Rule was issued on July 7, 1987 by a single Bench comprising Justice Mustafa Kamal as to why the impugned order passed by Fatema Najib, Munsif, Additional Court, Dhaka in a lawsuit rejecting the written objection in English should not be set aside.

A notice also issued to the Attorney General of Bangladesh. Subsequently the matter was placed before the Chief Justice for constituting a larger Bench as it involved interpretation of the Constitution of the Republic.

The Rule was obtained by Md Hashmat Ullah on the plea that his written objection in English was not accepted by the Munsif's Court on the ground of the debarment clause in Act 2 of 1987.

T H Khan, senior counsel appeared with M I Farooqui and M Saleem Ullah for Hashmat Ullah. He contended, inter alia, that the legislature had not debarred English from the subordinate Judiciary. The Court made this Rule absolute.

Dr M Zahur with Piroz Shah appeared for the opposite parties in three other Civil Revision Cases supporting the view of T H Khan.

Seventeen other Civil Revisions were filed by others being aggrieved against the acceptance of pleadings in English in Chittagong District Courts. The Rules in those cases were discharged.

Shah Abu Nayeem, Kazi Shahabuddin Ahmed, Shamim Husnain, Mostafa Niaz Mohammad, Kamal-ul-Alam, AKM - Abdul Hakim, Mamtazuddin Ahmed and Shahidul Alam appeared for the other 17 petitioners opposing the acceptance of the pleadings in English.

Syed A T Moddassar Dy Attorney General appeared for the Republic.

EC will link aid to human rights

BRUSSELS, Nov 28: The European Community declared Thursday it would tie development to progress toward democracy and human rights in Third World countries, reports AP.

The declaration, approved at a meeting of senior development officials of the 12 EC nations, promised increased aid for nations that improve their records, and threatened "when necessary, the suspension of cooperation with the states concerned."

Punitive measures could also include private or public rebukes, delays in signing new aid accords, curtailment of aid projects or changes in funding channels, the document said.

"It is recognised that governments have to build the political, economic and social structures to support democracy and that this is a gradual process which will sometimes take a relatively long period," the declaration said.

It pledged to avoid aid cut-offs or slow-downs that would punish innocent populations for the policies of authoritarian governments.

"While in general, a positive and constructive approach should receive priority, in the event of grave and persistent human rights violations or the serious interruption of democratic processes, the Community and its member-states will consider appropriate responses in the light of

the circumstances," it said.

British Development Minister Lynda Chalker told reporters the declaration was a "real step forward" in EC efforts to promote democracy and human rights around the world.

Diplomats said it was designed to standardise existing guidelines of EC nations and deliver a forceful message to Third World autocrats.

The declaration will serve as guidance for aid given by EC nations individually as well as by the EC executive Commission, which distributes billions of dollars in aid to the developing world each year.

Although the EC has lacked a single policy, it has taken human rights and democracy into account many times in decisions on development aid. In September, for example, it suspended funds for Haiti following a military coup that toppled the island's democratic government.

Under the new declaration, the EC will take a favourable view of nations that create or strengthen democratic institutions, clean up corruption and bolster legal protection of human rights.

It also pledged to scrutinise a country's military spending. EC nations "may consider increasing support for countries which achieve substantial reductions in their military expenditure or reducing support for countries which fail to do so," it said.

800 arrested in city

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) through its "special drive" to check rising crimes in the capital arrested about 800 people from different parts of the city since Saturday night, reports UNB.

The alarming rise in snatching, toll collection and violence in last few months compelled the police to go for the crack down.

The decision to conduct a special drive followed the killing of one Siraj, a carpenter, by a group of toll collectors in broad day light in busy Motijheel Commercial Area Saturday.

Police on November 25 arrested 500 people from different city areas for their alleged involvement in various types of crimes. Of them, 89 people were arrested for collecting tolls from different commercial areas and shopping complexes, police sources said.

About 100 of the arrested persons are known as "mastans" while 71 are snatchers.

Police rounded up another 195 people on Tuesday of whom 22 are toll collectors, 30 mastans and 8 snatchers.

During the last 24 hours ending 6 pm Thursday they also arrested 129 people on similar charges. Of them 9 were known to be toll collectors, 12 snatchers, 21 hoodlums and 83 on different other charges, the sources added.

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UZ chairmen

From Page 1 Col. 3

Secretary of the Jamaat-e-Islami Parliamentary Party Sheikh Ansar Ali, MP, leader of the Sramik Karmachari Oiykkyk Parishad Nurul Islam, Awami League leader Amir Hossain Ali, Rahmat Ali, MP, Shah Md Abu Zafar, Chairman of Bangladesh Janata Dal, K M Obaidur Rahman and JSD (Rab) leader Rabul Alam also addressed the conference.

Termining the new Ordinance "undemocratic, unconstitutional and opposed to the hopes and aspirations of the people," speakers at the conference demanded its immediate withdrawal.

In his welcome address the Joint Convener of the Samity Ahsanullah Master of Gazipur sadar upazila strongly protested the removal of the elected upazila chairmen and demanded withdrawal of the "black ordinance".

Chief Convener of the Samity Major (ret'd) Jasimuddin of Gozaria upazila of Munshiganj, Serajul Islam Pearu of Fatikchhari upazila of Chittagong, Saiful Islam Pina of Chudanga sadar upazila of Khulna and Golam Zakaria Khan of Bogra sadar upazila also spoke at the conference.

Mizan Chowdhury in his speech pointed out that the upazila system was evolved to establish the proper representation of the people at the local level.

Termining the repeal Ordinance as "undemocratic" he said that the removal of the representatives of the people was "against all democratic

PPP calls for strike in Sindh

KARACHI, Nov 28: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) called today for a general strike in southern Sindh province and rallies elsewhere in the country on Saturday to protest the alleged arrest of more than 2,000 of its activists, reports AFP.

Briefing reporters after the first day of a meeting of the PPP's central executive committee, party leader and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said the strike and rallies had been called for Saturday.

She also said the PPP leadership had resolved to press for the removal of Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali for his alleged acts of "political victimisation of opponents."

India, Pakistan exchange fire 535 times in three months

NEW DELHI, Nov 28: The Indian and Pakistani armies exchanged fire 535 times on the Kashmir border in the past three months, but the gunbattles have almost ended now, Defence Minister Sharad Pawar said today, reports AFP.

The Minister told parliament that the number of exchanges in September and October were 237 and 200 respectively, and that there were 98 gunbattles on the frontier until November 20.

Exchanges of fire across the Kashmir border, called the Line of Actual Control (LAC), are "virtually endemic in nature," Pawar told the Rajya Sabha (Upper House).

He added that if the government had a better or improved system to replace the upazila system than it should have announced the plan and implemented the plan before abolishing the upazila parishad system.

He announced the total support of his party to the movement of the upazila chairman.

Jamaat leader Ansar Ali also termed the Ordinance "undemocratic and against the Constitution" and added, "We have to be ever vigilant today so that in the name of parliamentary democracy autocracy is not established again in the country."

Lending total support to the upazila chairmen, he also called for election to the Zila Parishads.

In his speech as the chief guest Abdus Samad Azad pointed out that there was no mandate for the government either in parliamentary elections or under the Joint Declaration of the three alliances to abolish the upazila parishad.

While announcing total support to the upazila chairmen in their movement, on behalf of the Awami League and its leader Sheikh Hasina, Samad Azad urged the upazila chairmen to fight for the system and not for their personal gain.

Obaidur Rahman also urged the government to withdraw the Ordinance in the greater interest of democracy.

Khaleda listens to people's problems

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday spent five hours listening to problems of about 100 men and women who came from far and near, reports BSS.

Last Thursday was the third session of the Prime Minister's Meet-the-people programme. Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mian, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Food Minister Shamsul Islam, State Minister for Social Welfare Sarwari Rahman, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain and State Minister for Law Barrister Aminul Haq were present.

The people, who came to tell their problems to the Prime Minister, ranged from a young entrepreneur of 20 to 90-year-old retired British Army personnel.

The Prime Minister gave patient hearings to the people and gave on-the-spot directives in some cases.

Political killings

From Page 1 Col. 3

autocratic government.

Regarding abolition of the upazila parishads, he said it was part of the government conspiracy to make partisan the administration.

Fayez Ahmed called upon the relevant quarters to recognise the day of Dr Milon's killing as "mass upsurge day."

Selina Akhter in an emotion-choked voice asked why the killers of her son were not being punished despite a sovereign parliament being established through Milon's sacrifice. She appealed to all concerned to be vocal on the issue.

Complaining that Milon's family was not being looked after properly, she said that it was the responsibility of all concerned to take care of all the shahed families.

Mahmuda Alam Kabita said it was the moral duty of all the anti-autocracy forces to preserve the memory of all the martyrs and recognise their contributions in freeing the country from the grip of the autocrat.

Father, son hanged in India

NEW DELHI, Nov 28: Prison authorities Thursday hanged a father and son who were convicted of killing seven family members in a land dispute, Press Trust of India reported, says AP.