

Libya keen to set up joint venture projects

The visiting Secretary (Speaker) of the General People's Congress and special envoy of the Libyan leader, Abdur Razzaque Abu Bakr al-Sausa, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas Monday, reports BSS.

Razzaque, who is now on a visit to Bangladesh, exchanged views with the President on various issues including bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Libyan envoy said that more economic cooperation and joint venture programmes would take place between the two countries and a meeting of the Bangladesh-Libya joint commission would also be held soon.

The cooperation for promotion of trade relations would also be initiated, Razzaque said and hoped that the two countries would work unitedly to meet the challenges of the Muslim ummah.

The envoy assured the President that his country would always stand by the side of Bangladesh at the time of need and extend full cooperation with the newly installed government.

The Libyan envoy conveyed best wishes to the President from the Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi and hoped that the existing bonds of relations between Bangladesh and his country would be further strengthened.

Reciprocating the sentiment, President Biswas stressed the need for consolidating the unity among the Muslim nations. He said relations between the two countries were based on religious and cultural ties. The President also stressed the need for increasing trade by importing jute, jute goods and manpower from Bangladesh to Libya.

The President said a democratic government was established in the country and was striving hard to attain economic prosperity. He appreciated the progress achieved by Libya in the economic front. Biswas also conveyed his best wishes to the Libyan President.



A protocol on scientific and technological cooperation with Beijing was signed in the city Monday. — PID photo

Govt, Opposition role equally vital

See Page 12 Col. 5

MP, BPUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, DUJ President Zahurul Haq and General Secretary Ruhul Amin said.

Begum Zia said it was not possible for a single party to solve the country's enormous problems intensified by the fall-outs of nine years of autocratic rule. "But with united and sincere efforts, we can lead the nation towards progress and fulfil people's aspirations", she asserted.

Without naming, Begum Zia regretted that some parties who had unitedly fought for democracy were now planning anti-government movement along with the fallen autocratic forces even before completion of a year of the ouster of the autocratic regime. This would only rehabilitate the autocratic forces and benefit neither democracy nor the people, she said.

"There might be lapses and mistakes", she said bluntly, adding, "the opposition parties should make constructive criticisms so that the ultimate goals are achieved. Let us work for the people until our tenure ends. If we paid to bring any good for the people, they will reject us", she said.

The Prime Minister regretted that leaders of some political parties were now seen sitting on the platform with the chairmen of the now-defunct upazila parishads, the dissolution of which was one of the demands of all parties in the movement.

Begum Zia said the problems could not be solved overnight. "We will require discipline, peace and harmony to solve all our problems gradually with support from every quarter", she added.

The Prime Minister was critical of a section of people who were disrupting the civic life in the name of demands and said democracy had not given anybody license to uproot railway tracks to realise the demand.

This did not reflect one's patriotism, rather it amounted to treason, she observed.

Begum Zia emphatically said demands should be placed through democratic means without resorting to violence, and disruption of productivity.

In this context, she said if violence continued none would show interest to invest for setting up industries which was essential to generate employment and achieve national development. She said acts of violence and blockade of roads and railways did not mean trade unionism to realise any demand.

Posing a question, the Prime Minister wanted to know why suddenly a section of people had become so active in the name of realisation of their demands. "Who will benefit out of such movement" she asked adding "whether these movements were for the welfare of the people or to serve the interests of some other quarters elsewhere."

Begum Zia lauded the role of the journalists during the movement and said that the premises of the Jatiya Press Club not only turned into a mini parliament but also became headquarters of many political parties.

She said, newsmen refrained from working when emergency was announced and publication of newspapers resumed only when autocracy was ousted.

Begum Zia urged the journalists to make constructive criticisms of the government so that it could learn from its mistakes," newsmen had always helped us through their writing," she stated.

She said that the BNP government believed in press freedom and it would ensure it through giving more power to the press council. She men-

tioned that the black laws concerning the newspapers in the special powers act had been done away with.

Begum Zia said now the newspapers should play a more responsible role. She regretted that a section of newspapers often wrote some articles that did not reflect the objective conditions of the society. The government expects objective journalism from the press, she added.

Begum Zia said her government was taking special programmes to develop the rural areas. She said that a large number of roads and culverts were damaged during the last monsoon season and subsequent floods. She said even the northern parts of the country came under floods which was an unusual feature.

Abdus Samad Azad said "The three alliances are not formally abolished, the leaders are here so there is no problem to call them for dialogue," for solving national problems.

"We reached consensus during anti autocracy movement and later in establishing parliamentary democracy. It is possible to reach consensus on national problems."

"We need not to be formal about everything, we have to reach above all formalities to solve the national crisis," he said adding that "there is no other ways to survive without the politics of unity."

Acting President of the AL, Samad said he would extend his party's cooperation to this government for the sake of consolidating democracy.

Referring to the campus violence he said that "we need no student body election which jeopardises our educational system." Eradication of terrorism from the campuses was urgent, he added.

He thanked the Prime Minister for arranging Tuesday's all-party meeting on campus violence in which he was personally invited by the Prime Minister. The meeting will be held at 7-00 pm at the International Conference Room.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament identified flood, population boom and campus violence as the three major problems and said without controlling those, the crises would be deepened further. He said that the politics of coup, conspiracy and killing would only be stopped then when the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill would be passed in the Parliament.

Terming the media as the fourth state, he lauded the role of journalists in December '90

concerned to the police said that the bullet entered from left side and went upward to the back of the head.

The doctor in charge said in the autopsy report, "in my assessment, the cause of death is head injury by a bullet by hemorrhage which caused nerve-shock."

It was a suicidal case, the report added.

Police said that they were waiting for the CID report of finger print on the recovered revolver. The report is expected today.

During the interrogation under police remand on Monday Shyamoli remained firm on her earlier statement police said.

If it is a suicidal case, the UD case against the death will be dismissed and Shyamoli will be released soon, they said.

Meanwhile Shyamoli was shifted to another police station from Tejgaon Monday for convenience of interrogation.

Mary Janet Shyamoli is an employee of a city restaurant located at Motijheel. She is a divorcee and had affairs with Mukhter Hossain for last two years. She is living with her parents at Tejgunipara.

mass upsurge. Abdus Salam Talukder said that it was not possible to institutionalise democracy within a month or even a couple of years.

The BNP government would work to ensure basic needs of the people, he added.

He said that publication of such huge number of newspapers might have been misuse of national wealth if those are not properly run.

The BNP Secretary General said that the Press Council should be provided with more authority to maintain journalistic ethics.

Rashed Khan Menon said that after achieving victory in a mass upsurge many things were still left to be achieved.

The role of the journalist community hastened anti-autocracy movement, he said adding that the press should not be called free since the black laws were in force.

He said that following the ouster of Ershad, a revolutionary change has taken place in the media. But it must run in right ways, he added.

About the law and order situation Menon said "we have become hostages to terrorism and lawlessness."

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Matkur Rahman Nizami said that national problems and the demands of the working class and professional groups should be discussed in the Parliament.

"We have achieved democracy — a means to achieve economic freedom, and we should discuss the problems in parliament instead of agitating on the street."

In this context, he said democracy would fail if hunger, poverty, terrorism, unemployment and corruption are not removed.

Nizami called for united efforts to plug all the loopholes in order to frustrate revival of autocracy.

Amanullah Kabir said that the journalists have a social responsibility and so they went on movement against autocratic ruler. "Today's free press is the outcome of that movement," he added.

In the third world, journalists have a significant role to play in political and socio-economic development, he observed.

Rezauddin Ahmed in his presidential speech said freedom of press in the country could be ensured through building up a system, not imposing any law. Absence of press freedom could never help democracy get institutionalised, he viewed.

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Grocer shot dead by miscreants

By Staff Correspondent

A grocer, Nasir, 18, was killed by miscreants in his shop at Segunbagicha in the city Monday night.

The miscreants numbering four or five, claimed money from Nasir at his shop, Jasim Store, stabbed and then shot him.

Jahanara

From Page 1 Col. 8

Minister for Cultural Affairs, of abuse of power and patronising a section of party's leaders and workers.

The memorandum was handed over at the circuit house by the party's district unit General Secretary Advocate M A Khaleq to Youth and Sports Minister Sadeq Hossain Khoka, who arrived here earlier in the day accompanied by Jahanara Begum to inaugurate a district freedom fighter's conference in the evening.

The scheduled meeting which was to be addressed by both Sadeq Hossain and Jahanara Begum was postponed.

Meanwhile, a press release signed by the Convenor of BNP's district unit said that Advocate M A Khaleq, was expelled from the party as per order of the party chief for his alleged anti-party activities.

The press release also accused Khaleq of provoking violence in the district town.

Sharif offers talks with opposition

ISLAMABAD, Dec 2 : Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held out the olive branch to the opposition today but declined to stop the trial of former premier Benazir Bhutto on corruption charges, reports AP.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted him as saying that the cases in which Bhutto is being tried by special courts "should reach their logical conclusion."

Talking to reporters at the airport after seeing Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa off to China after an official visit here, Sharif said he was prepared to talk with the opposition to end tensions.

"It was now up to the opposition to select the time for this purpose," he said.

"If they want to wait for the failure of more strike calls, it is up to them," he remarked in a reference to the response in Singh on Saturday to a strike call by Bhutto to protest the alleged arrests of over 2,000 supporters.

Bhutto, dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August 1990 is facing trial in half a dozen cases involving charges of abuse of power during her 20-month rule.

In Lahore, capital of Punjab, eleven opposition members of the provincial assembly staged a token hunger strike today outside the assembly building.

The members of this organization, he said, were trained abroad, including an "enemy" country, an apparent reference to neighbouring India, and added that he did not think action against such people could be "wrong in any way".

Jam Sadiq has said 6,000 Al-Zulfikar agents "trained in India" have been operating in Sindh.



Syrian voters, citizens at Beirut, give 'V' signs and hold portraits of Syrian President Hafez Assad Monday during a demonstration supporting a fourth term of office for Assad in the forthcoming elections. — AFP photo

DU faces acute fund shortage

From Page 1 Col. 7

The funds allocated for implementing the development projects were inadequate to launch those smoothly.

According to the source, the University Grants Commission (UGC) only considers inflation while allocating funds for the university. But it never considers the increased number of students, modernisation of equipment, building construction, and the price hikes in the other related service sectors in this regard, the source says.

The source further said that the total expenditure of the Dhaka University would have to be increased by 30 per cent to raise the quality of services for the students and the teachers to the level it was five-years ago.

It said that the land development tax of the University increased to Taka six lakhs from one lakh fifty thousand over the last five years while the electricity charges increased to Taka 125 lakh from 98.57 lakh and gas charges to Taka 30 lakh from 8.25 lakh.

The source pointed out that some of the projects in the Third-Five-Year Plan have been cancelled due to unavailability of funds. Meanwhile, Taka 18.5 crore was committed to be provided by the government to the cancelled and the new projects, while only 8.5 crore was allocated for the projects under the Fourth Five Year Plan (FFYP). But the university authorities received not

The Midnight File

RSP against perpetual leasing out of Tinbigha

CALCUTTA, Dec 2 : For the first time, the RSP, a partner of the ruling left Front in West Bengal, today came out strongly against the proposal of perpetual leasing out of Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh and described it as a "strange proposition" stating that such thing never happened anywhere in the world, the veteran RSP leader, Sourin Bhattacharya, MP, said India's sovereignty would become "notional" if the corridor was given on perpetual lease, reports PTI.

Poland recognizes Ukraine

WARSAW, Dec 2 : Poland recognized the Ukraine as an independent state Monday and agreed to establish full diplomatic relations, Andrzej Zarebski, the government spokesman said, reports AP.

Unofficial figures Monday showed Ukrainians overwhelmingly approved a referendum on independence that was on the ballot Sunday. The vote followed a declaration of independence by the Soviet republic's parliament on Aug. 24 following the defeat of the hard-line coup in Moscow.

Female soldiers in UAE

ABU DHABI, Dec 2 : Female soldiers marched in a military parade on Monday marking the 20th anniversary of the United Arab Emirates—a first for the conservative Muslim states of the Arabian peninsula, reports AP.

Dressed in desert fatigues, and veils tightly covering their hair under military caps, 80 cadets saluted the president, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Seated among the VIP guests were Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah and Britain's Princess Anne, who came to offer congratulations on behalf of queen Elizabeth.

4 killed in French plane crash

VERSAILLES (France), Dec 2 : A French air force plane crashed in a field west of Paris Monday, killing four people, the armed forces said, reports AP.

The Mystere 20 light transport was heading for the nearby base at Vélizy-Villacoublay when it crashed for unknown reasons in a field at Elancourt in the Yvelines region, according to officials.

An Air Force statement said the victims were all military personnel and were the plane's crew.

60 pc buses operate

From Page 1 Col. 2

Meanwhile, another round of talks between the Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity (owners) and the Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Union failed to reach an agreement. Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation (BRTWF) called the nation-wide strike demanding the issuance of appointment letters to some 500,000 workers of buses, minibuses, coasters, trucks and tank-lorries.

Monday's talks on pay dispute failed. The owners offered to pay the drivers Taka 120 per day in place of Taka 220 they were paid and Taka 50 per day for conductors in place of Taka 95 for a 24 hour period, according to Abdur Rouf, who attended the meeting.

The executive president of the Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity (owners), Ilaiz Jaynal Abedin, who also attended the meeting, said the proforma provided by the government for issuing appointment letters stipulates that the workers be paid either on monthly basis or on daily basis. He said that the earlier pay of

Taka 220 for the drivers was for a 24-hour period covering 3 days of eight-hour shifts. Thus, to pay the workers on daily basis now would need readjustments, he added. Another round of talks is scheduled for Tuesday between the representatives of the owners and the workers.

"Although we do not have any strike programme or any demands, buses will stay off the roads on Tuesday because of lack of safety and security," Joyanal Abedin said.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Bus services in all the 10 routes of the southern districts remained suspended for the second day.

But, in some routes including Khulna, Satkhira, Morciganj, Bagerhat and Paikghacha normal traffic was not affected.

Our Rajshahi correspondent adds: The strike has severely disrupted road communication in most of the northern districts affecting Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Pabna and other areas. Only a limited number of buses plied in some routes.

According to North Bengal unit of the Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Union, about 30 per cent of the transport workers have already received their appointment letters.

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