



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia having the last look at the leader yesterday. — Star photo

Ataur Rahman dead

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up the gap created by the death of such a leader.

The body of the late leader will be preserved at the Diabetic Hospital at Shahbag till Tuesday to allow his eldest son to come from abroad. Namaz-e-Janaza of the late leader will be held at the Baitul Mukarram mosque Tuesday after Asr prayer.

According to his family sources, his body will also be taken to his village where another namaz-e-Janaza will be held. He will be laid to rest at the national graveyard at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar the same day.

Ataur Rahman born in 1905 in village Balia in Dhamrai in Dhaka district.

The late leader did his LLB from Calcutta University securing First Class First and MA in Economics from the Dhaka University with another First Class First. He started practising law and also served as Munsif for sometime.

In 1938, he joined Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque's Krishak Sramik Party. He was the founding Vice President of the Awami League in 1949.

Ataur Rahman Khan was the convener of the historic Language Movement in 1954, he was elected from Dhamrai as a United Front candidate. The same year he became the first elected member of the then East Bengal legislative committee.

In 1956, he became Chief Minister of the erstwhile East Pakistan.

During martial law in 1958 he was interned. Later when National Democratic Front was formed by late Hussain Shahid Suhrawardy he became its vice president in 1962. After Awami League was revived, Ataur Rahman declined to join it. In 1968, he formed National

30,253 candidates file nomination papers for UP election

Nomination papers for election to the offices of chairman and members of the Union Parishads were filed by the candidates with the 1,096 Returning Officers throughout the country Saturday peacefully, reports BSS.

The Election Commission has not received report of any untoward incident from anywhere of the country in this connection, an Election Commission press release.

According to the latest information received from the district election officers over telephone, a total of 4,247 candidates have filed their nomination papers for election to the office of 861 Union Parishads in 108 upazilas. 26,006 candidates have filed their nomination papers for 7,749 membership of 763 Union Parishads in 108 upazilas.

According to the detailed schedule, announced earlier by the Election Commission, scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held today (Sunday) by the Returning Officers. The last day for withdrawal of candidature is Saturday, (December 14).

Language

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disadvantaged because of their late arrival in the UK. In Bangladesh at primary and secondary levels they learn little English — the medium of instruction in the UK. More than a majority of Bangladeshi students are born and brought up in this country. But these children generally do not write well.

According to Catherine, the English education system does not take note of the different language and cultural backgrounds children of ethnic groups come from. The government does little to help them.

At present a national curriculum makes some papers including English compulsory, and ethnic Bangladeshi children face an even worse situation.

Most Bangladeshi students are found to drop out at the secondary level, and after attaining the age of 18 get themselves employed in restaurants or other shops. For those few who are doing better however, chance in institutions of higher education is not guaranteed. Most students from ethnic groups end up in polytechnics which, however, are like universities in Bangladesh.

Rezaul Karim, the Bangladesh High Commissioner in the UK, told The Daily Star that the local councils, the High Commission, and some benevolent Bangladeshis have opened over a hundred bilingual week-end schools to help the Bangladeshi students.

BNP leaders

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Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Mirza Abbas, State Minister for Communication Fazlur Rahman Patal, State Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Goyeshor Roy, Amanullah Aman MP, student leader Fazlul Huq Milon and Emran Hossain Prince.

Rafiqul Islam Mia said that those who attacked the BNP rally on Friday were in cahoots with the Jatiya Party and were enemies of democracy. They have no room in this country, he added.

Abdullah Al Noman said that the opposition parties including AL played an irresponsible role under the democratic system. Instead of constructive criticism, the opposition parties were following the path of terrorism.

He said that the AL did not believe in democratic politics. Mirza Abbas said that the AL had unleashed a reign of white terror throughout the country and wanted to dislodge the government.

The BNP government had come to power with peoples verdict, he said adding "terrorism would be resisted at any cost."

Fazlur Rahman Patal said that after its defeat in parliamentary election, the AL was now groping for political issues and was out to destabilise the situation by any means. Patal said if necessary BNP would take to the streets.

Mir Swakat Ali urged the AL leaders to establish relations with people if they want to come to power.

"Terrorism will not help you in coming to power or oust this government," he said and added "the attempt to come to power through back door will not succeed in this country again."

He said the BNP workers of capital's 75 wards would launch a resistance movement against conspiracy and violence.

The meeting was followed by a procession which marched toward Nawab Yousuf Market.

BCS cadres

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Service Seniority Rules, 1983.

The government has announced formation of one-member commission with State Minister for Establishment Mohammad Nurul Huda to remove any anomaly and to create more promotion opportunities among the existing 29 cadres. The commission is in negotiation with representatives of different cadres to prepare a complete report on the basis of papers of the cadre controlling ministries, the announcement added.

JCD-BCL clash

RAJBARI, Dec 7: Three people were injured in a clash between supporters of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-H) at Pangsha College here today. The clash erupted following exchange of provocative remarks between the two organisations while they were holding rallies on the college campus to protest Friday's violence in Dhaka, reports UNB.

Road link still cut off

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 7: Road communication between Dhaka and 16 northern districts remained cut off for the 9th consecutive day today due to transport strike, reports UNB.

Dhaka Stock Exchange to be restructured

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Saturday said the government was planning structural reforms of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) for greater resource mobilisation.

Addressing as chief guest the inaugural session of a two-day regional seminar on "Dhaka Stock Exchange: today and tomorrow", jointly organised by the DSE and Asia Foundation in the city, he said the reforms would be aimed at making the DSE accountable. This would activate the DSE and check manipulation of people's funds invested in stocks by vested quarters, he said.

When asked, what are the reforms the government would make in the stock exchange, he replied, the decision making process would be democratised and transactions would be made transparent.

The Finance Minister also stressed the need for a democratic atmosphere for mobilising savings through share markets in order to reduce external dependence. A "good government", rule of law and transparency in government decisions are the prerequisites for creating an environment for resource mobilisation, he said.

He ruled out the possibility of floating another stock exchange and said confidence of

the investors in the present one would be restored if reforms were made. He said that the DSE could play a vital role in free market economy it was free from whims.

The minister asked all to help maintain peace for sustaining the process of development and democracy.

Earlier, Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan speaking as special guest, said the DSE should act as an effective platform for collective investment. He said anomalies in various instruments of the DSE must be rationalised. He said mere disinvestment of the loss-incurring sectors would not save the economy and stressed the need for some rules of conduct in the private sector.

Autopsy

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ordered to send Mukhter's body to PG hospital for fresh autopsy and to complete it by Sunday Dec 8.

Till Saturday the body of Mukhter was not exhumed from Aliganj graveyard.

Hafez Mukhter Hossain, chairman of now defunct Narayanagar Sadar Upazila, was found dead with a bullet wound in his head in a car parked near Holy Cross College at Tejkonipara on November 29 evening.

Samad Azad

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confrontation. People will again take to streets to undo the autocratic acts of the present regime and protect democracy, they shed blood for", the AL leader warned.

Blaming the government for widespread terrorism, unrest in the society and other problems being faced by the nation, he said that a vigorous movement under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina would be launched soon.

"Khaleda Zia ordered police to fire on the AL meeting to divert people's attention from the failure of her government", the AL leader said.

Reacting to Friday's remarks by the Prime Minister that both state power and streets were now under the possession of BNP, Abdus Samad Azad said, none had leaked out the streets to the ruling party. The struggling people will keep the streets under their control for realising their democratic rights, he said.

Samad Azad called upon all who had fought against autocracy to make today's hartal a success. He claimed that the Five-Party Alliance, the Patriotic Democratic Front and the Jamaat-e-Islami had supported today's eight-hour hartal.

He was also critical about promulgation of the ordinance abolishing the upazila parishads. "We did not remove autocracy for 'democracy of ordinance' that the past autocratic rulers practised", he remarked.

The Midnight File

Albanian premier resigns

TIRANA, Dec 7: Albanian Prime Minister Ylli Buji has formally resigned amid a growing political and economic crisis but will continue to hold together his depleted government until a new one can be formed, the state news agency ATA reported today. Buji offered his resignation on Friday morning, the third day of a deepening political crisis and reports of bread riots, but it was unclear at the time whether it had been accepted by President Ramiz Alia, reports Reuters.

Gorbachev sacks army chief

MOSCOW, Dec 7: President Mikhail Gorbachev sacked Soviet army chief Vladimir Lobov today for health reasons, the unofficial news agency Interfax reported. General Lobov, 56, was replaced by General Samsonov, formerly in charge of the Leningrad (now known as Saint Petersburg) military region. Interfax said, adding that the true reason for his dismissal was 'difficulties reforming the Soviet armed forces', reports AFP.

Rangoon won't free Suu Kyi

BANGKOK, Dec 7: Burma's military junta said today it would continue to ignore calls from abroad for the release of opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi. The junta, which has detained Aung San Suu Kyi for almost two and a half years, said in a broadcast on radio Rangoon that it would not pay any attention to such calls, reports AFP.

25 die as Indian train derailed

NEW DELHI, Dec 7: At least 25 people were killed and more than 60 injured when a train went off the rails Saturday in a remote mountain village, 500 kilometers north of New Delhi, the Press Trust of India reported. Eighteen persons died on the spot when three compartments of a six-coach passenger train derailed a few meters (yards) before a deep gorge at Jawah village, PTI said. The others died on the way to hospitals, reports AP.

Ershad's detention extended again

By Staff Correspondent

The detention of deposed President H M Ershad was extended again yesterday.

Ershad was produced before the Review Committee in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday by the government to extend his detention.

As per rule the detention order against the accused person detained under the Special Powers Act must be put in the High Court before the expiry of the stipulated time of his detention.

Ershad was detained under the Special Power Act and put under detention for 120 days on December 12, 1990. Since then he had been brought to the High Court for the third time yesterday to be examined by the Review Committee in the High Court Division whether it was still necessary to keep him under detention or release him.

The Review Committee however found yesterday that Ershad's detention had some valid reasons and that he should still be kept in custody for the ends of justice and extended his detention.

According to experts, Ershad's conviction in the arms case has not yet been confirmed by the High Court. So the High Court may grant his release if the government were to withdraw the detention order, and in the same way, if the conviction was not confirmed by the High Court, Ershad may remain at large.

The Jatiya Party meanwhile has filed a Writ petition challenging the grounds of Ershad's detention.

The two-Judge Division Bench of the High Court earlier gave a one-one verdict on

the Writ petition and later the case was referred to one-Judge High Court Division bench.

The one-Judge bench chaired by Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury will deliver the verdict on the Writ petition today.

If the grounds of detention were found invalid, Ershad may be released on bail by the High Court and he may remain at large till the confirmation by the High Court of the 10-year sentence given to him by the Special Tribunal for illegally possession arms.

Meanwhile the judgement in the case against Ershad for amassing wealth beyond his known sources income may be delivered by first week of January. The arguments between the Prosecution and the Defence lawyers in this case will be held on January 4.

Maudud arrested, sent to jail

Jatiya Party leader Barrister Maudud Ahmed MP, was sent to Dhaka Central Jail after his bail was refused by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Saturday, reports UNB.

A co-accused in corruption case in which he was charged of sustaining a loss of about Tk 18 crore to Rajdhan Unnayan Katipakha by giving away a plot to construct a five-star hotel in the city.

Maudud earlier took anticipatory bail till December 3 from the High Court.

The other accused in the case are deposed President Ershad, former minister Shaiful Gani Swapan, late RAJUK chairman Rahmatullah and business magnate Abul Khair Litu.



BNP (above) yesterday brought out a procession in the city decrying Friday's incident and AL (below) brought a torch procession in the capital in favour of its hartal call. — Star photo

Jute mills closure

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rationalise the cost structure by downsizing and deregulating the industry and establishing a market mechanism through which financial discipline and accountability in the sector are attained and sustained.

The critical question is how to eliminate the difference between the export price and the unit cost which amounted to 42 per cent in FY 91 for the industry as a whole.

The WB reform programme recommends a combination of sector-specific measures along with countrywide financial adjustments.

The sector-specific measures to be implemented during the adjustment period suggests a reduction in loom capacity of at least 37 per cent by closing the 'worst performing mills' and downsizing the unmanageable inefficient large mills. This would eliminate 30 per cent of the capacity immediately, the report notes.

Another suggestion is the retrenchment of at least 45 per cent of the total labour force in all the 64 public and private sector jute mills. The report points out that about 30 per cent of the labour force could be retrenched immediately with the closure of the low performing mills. Phasing out of the remaining excess employment would require reconditioning of equipment, improved management and labour discipline.

The WB draft also recommends a 10 per cent reduction in raw jute cost by reducing

'fund diversions' during purchases by imposing financial discipline and stricter legal measures.

A reduction of interest payments to the banking sector to 3 per cent of the sales from the current 10 per cent through substantial debt restructuring and better stock management is also recommended.

The report further suggests the phased withdrawal of export subsidies which currently amount to 12 per cent of export revenue.

The WB financial simulations also indicate that these sector-specific measures alone would not be sufficient to turn the industry's loss of 30 per cent of sales in FY91 to a profit of 3 per cent by FY95.

"The programme needs to be supplemented with macroeconomic policies such as exchange rate adjustment and prudent wage policies," says the report.

The WB report also suggests additional steps in conjunction with the above measures to sustain the viability of the sector.

The additional recommendations include the replacement of the mandatory credit system with a market-based system; eliminating the rationing of exports among the mills to foster competition; replacement of the centralised wage determination system with a decentralised one linking wage increases directly to productivity and privatisation of all public sector mills to ensure their operation ac-

ording to the market signals rather than political directives.

Finally, the WB document points out that the reform programme be implemented as a package and not on a piecemeal basis.

Tax exemption for farms

The government has exempted payable tax under Income Tax Ordinance, 1984 on income generated from fishery, poultry, dairy, cattle, horticulture, mushroom, floriculture, frog cultivation, mulberry cultivation and cocoon farms till June 30 of the year 2000, reports BSS.

The exemption came into effect from July 1 this year, according to a Bangladesh Gazette Saturday.

This exemption, however, will be applicable with condition that a minimum of ten per cent of tax free income exceeding over Taka one lakh from such farms are invested in bonds and securities issued by the government.

The tax payer exempted under the provision will be required to submit income tax return on the period of enjoying such exemption to the relevant Deputy Commissioner of Taxes who is empowered to cancel the exemption facility if conditions laid down for such privilege are not followed.

BCL students

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against him and some BCL activists in connection with Dr Milon murder.

Witnesses said the rally broke up into group processions. One of the groups damaged 3 private cars, 2 microbuses and a minibus near the Biman office.

Another rally partially damaged 4 to 5 vehicles while passing through the streets and yet another group damaged 2 private cars near the Century Archive at Maghbar and 3 at Mouchak and Malibagh crossing.

During the agitation, the activists also hurled stones here and there and chanted slogans against BNP and Jatiya Party.

Our DU Correspondent adds: Various student organisations held rallies and processions on the campus accusing each other of unleashing terrorist activities and demanded arrest of all armed hoodlums.

After a fierce gunbattle on the campus on October 27 between the student wings of the BNP and the Awami League that left three students and a street urchin dead, the Dhaka University authorities suspended classes for four days and later the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) went on an indefinite strike demanding, a violence-free campus.

The classes were held peacefully and a large number of students came to attend.

There was a foreboding of violent incidents as quite a good number of armed intrud-

ers were seen moving around the campus.

The teachers of the Dhaka University wore black badges, as scheduled, as a symbol of protest against a violence-marred campus.

Meanwhile, the Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at a rally Saturday in front of DUCSU Cafeteria said that conspiracy was still being hatched by vested quarters to destroy democracy.

The rally, addressed by Fazlul Huq Milon and Habibur-Nabi Sohel, accused the pro-AL Bangladesh Chhatra League of planning a conspiracy to spoil the peaceful atmosphere on the campus. The JCD was ready to resist such conspiracies, the speakers cautioned.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Students Unity (DSU) at another rally held at Modhu's Canteen premises accused the JCD and BCL of resorting to terrorist activities. The DSU leaders held both the major student bodies responsible for disrupting academic environment on the campus.

Rokonuzzaman Rokon, a DSU leader, stated that the University authorities and the government had not done their duties to bring the identified terrorists to book. "The responsibility of the police is not only to ensure security of the ruling party but also of all opposition parties", the DSU leader added.

The rally addressed by Naimuddin and Rokonuzzaman Rokan noted that the political instability was prevailing everywhere in the country.

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