

Britain, France battle over common defence

MAASTRICHT (Netherlands), Dec 10: The fate of a long-sought European Community treaty hung in the balance Tuesday as reluctant Britain and continental Europe wrestled over allowing for joint economic and social policies.

Leaders of the 12 EC nations were meeting here at a summit that was supposed to wind up the months of negotiations on monetary union and closer political ties between the states. The two-day summit was supposed to end Tuesday with leaders signing an approved document within several weeks.

But contentious issues continued to split Britain from joining with the other nations.

Britain, the most cautious about closer union, wanted watered-down proposals for community-wide regulations on workers' rights. It also insisted that joint EC foreign and defense policy must not undermine the US-led NATO alliance.

Major's Conservative Party government says EC dictates on issues such as maternity benefits and working hours will make the community uncompetitive.

France, which represented stands of many EC members, said that further concessions for the British were unacceptable. It said that EC regulations on worker conditions should be finalized by majority vote, not the unanimity Britain wants.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said, "Other

people have a greater tendency to sign first and worry later. We do tend to do our worrying before we agree to something — and we are having a good deal to worry about today."

French European Affairs Minister Elisabeth Guigou told reporters: "Industrial policy and social policy are two sides of the same coin...We do not want a Europe of just shopkeepers."

Her words recalled Napoleon Bonaparte's disdain for the British as a "nation of shopkeepers."

On Monday, the community finance ministers agreed to adopt a single European currency by Jan 1, 1999. They set strict economic criteria for membership and left Britain a way out by agreeing its Parliament must first endorse participation.

FFs

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Hossain, Shamsur Rahman and Sadeq Amjad Khan.

The meeting demanded preparation of list of the 'razakars' and trial of all killers including the assassins of Bangabandhu. Addressing the rally, Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, chairman of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council (Ahad-Asta) said the freedom fighters would not tolerate any distortion of history of the Liberation War.

He warned that any attempt to foil democracy would be resisted.

Chowdhury said the freedom fighters did not want power rather they wanted welfare of the masses.

He said attempts were being made to create a wedge between the freedom fighters.

The Eskaton rally of the freedom fighters declared that Muktiyoddha Sangsad would extend its cooperation in all efforts and initiatives to eliminate terrorism and corruption from the society.

Organised by the Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad (Mahfuz-Kabir) the rally called for preparing a full list of the shaheed freedom fighters to honour them at the national level and extending all kinds of assistance to their families.

Presided over by Mahfuzur Rahman the rally was addressed by Arshad Ali Mongal, Abu Saed Dulal, Amin Sarwar, Rezaul Karim Chunnun, Kabir Ahmed Khan, Alhaj Sharifuddin, Nurul Amin and Mazlul Huq.

The rally pledged to take programmes for the rehabilitation of the freedom fighters.

It condemned both those who had declared general amnesty to the anti-liberation forces as well as those who had rehabilitated them.

Addressing the rally, Mahfuzur Rahman, chairman of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad (Mahfuz-Kabir), called for creating a select graveyard in each upazila for the freedom fighters so that on their death they could be buried with due national honour.

He urged the government to create a separate ministry for the freedom fighter.

Mahfuz alleged that the freedom fighters had always been neglected in the past and they had to live in hiding between the period 1972-75.

Mahfuz called for unity among the freedom fighters to materialise the dreams of the shaheeds.

Five-party

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drawing enhanced salary.

On the contrary, the alliance said, the government is repeatedly talking about further denationalisation in violation of the commitment made in last year's November 19 Joint Declaration.

"Whenever we talk about the interest of workers and employees, the government puts plea of the World Bank. But the World Bank plea could not stop enhancing the salary of the government employees", the statement said.

The conditions of the World Bank must be clearly spelt out to the people, it said. "We have the right to know the World Bank pokes its nose in our internal affairs".

To a question, the alliance leaders said they want to talk to the Finance Minister, the Labour Minister and the Planning Minister to discuss the demand of the Jute, textile and garments workers. Representatives of the owners and trade unions will also be present at the open talks.

On the campus situation, Inu told a questioner that it would be a violation of the 7-point resolution adopted at the all-party meeting on December 3, if the government fails to arrest armed terrorists of the ruling BNP.

The leaders demanded immediate punishment of the persons responsible for the incident.

The statement was signed by Reazuddin Ahmed and Amanullah Kabir, president and secretary-general of BFUJ, Zahirul Huq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, president and general secretary of DUJ.



STUDENT OUTRAGE: BCL workers damaged a few vehicles (one in picture, top) and set ablaze a few others (below) in the city yesterday.

Police, BCL

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Momtazuddin Mehdi, Golam Mostafa Suzan, Syed Quamrul Ahsan, Nurul Amin Ruhul and S M Solaiman Ali demanded arrest of the actual terrorists irrespective of party and opinion.

It said that if the present government continued the process of unilateral arrests of BCL activists, terrorism may not be eliminated from the campuses.

It compared the police action on its peaceful procession with that of 1983 during the Ershad regime and also with that of 1979 during the Zia regime and said the present government was no less autocratic than the previous two.

The BCL (S-A) also held a rally after the press conference in front of the National Press Club protesting the incidents. The rally was addressed by Mantazuddin Mehdi, Golam Mostafa Suzan and Syed Quamrul Ahsan.

Earlier in the morning the BCL (S-A) held a rally in front of the Press Club protesting the killing of its workers Kazi Shyamol, Zafar Ahmed and Didarul Alam by Shibir workers in Chittagong.

The rally presided over by S M Solaiman, central BCL Vice-President and addressed by Mehdi Hasan, Kamrul Ahsan, Golam Mustafa Suzan, Kamruzzaman Ansari and Nurul Amin Khokon demanded repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance and implementation of the Joint Declaration of the three alliances.

Meanwhile, large contingents of police were deployed on the campus and vehicular movement was restricted through its roads to check further clashes.

Classes were held in the university peacefully, but the presence of students was thin as they were still fearing other violent incidents on campus.

Teachers of the University wore black badges as per the call of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) demanding a violence-free campus.

Temperature may drop

Country's temperature may go down to 7 degrees Celsius during the current month, reports UNB.

A Met Office forecast for December says, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions may experience 7 to 10 degrees Celsius minimum night temperature while Dhaka and Chittagong divisions may have 9 to 13 degrees.

BFUJ

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torture on the photographer, but also broke three of his teeth by hitting them with rifle butts.

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Govt urged to sign Human Rights Charter

By Staff Correspondent

The International Human Rights Day was observed (Monday) in the country with a call to create a socio-economic and political condition that protects human rights.

Seminars, symposiums and processions marking the day deplored continued violation of human rights.

Different human rights forum in the country also urged the government to sign the UN charter of human rights soon.

A seminar styled as 'Legal Aids for the Poor' was held yesterday afternoon under the auspices of Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council at Jatya Press Club auditorium.

The speakers at the seminar unanimously observed that the entire poor population of the country had been the victim of gross violation of human rights.

The seminar was addressed, among others, by Awami League presidium member Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Lutfar Rahman, Barrister Amirul Islam, Promod Mankin MP, President of Tribal Welfare Association, Advocate Nirmalendu Dhar, General Secretary of Labour Court Bar Association and Khushi Kabir, Shaiful Hoque Choudhury of the Coordination Council presided over the seminar while the key note paper was presented by Advocate Aginul Huq, Attorney General of Bangladesh.

Aminul Huq in his key-note paper said, the main problem in implementing human rights as envisaged in the country's Constitution lies with the lack of awareness of both the parties — human rights violators and its victims.

Dr Kamal Hossain said, though the Constitution of the country was committed to protect the human rights of every individual in the society, it was yet to be achieved in the practical life of the citizens.

Dr Kamal Hossain revealed that the Bar Council would form a lawyers panel at the national level soon to provide legal assistance to poor people throughout the country. He also underlined the necessity of mobilising funds to ensure the smooth functioning of the proposed panel.

Promod Mankin MP said democracy and human rights of the people are complementary to each other.

Amnesty International Bangladesh brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday morning in observance of the 43rd anniversary of the declaration of international human rights charter.

Another procession was brought out on the occasion by the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights.

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) held a seminar Tuesday afternoon at the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) where speakers gave an account of continued violations of human rights in different countries and called for international actions to mitigate the situation.

Rohingya

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worldwide on Tuesday, the same day Nobel Peace Prize was presented in absentia to Myanmar's dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi in Oslo.

The report said a total of 130 Rohingya men and six women were arrested in June and July from Arakan, the Muslim-dominated Province on Myanmar's west coast. By August, the authorities released 26 detainees, but they had decided to take legal action against 106 men and five women.

Though the authorities are citing 'unscrupulous economic activities' for the arrests, the opposition parties said 'the move was motivated by suspicions that at least some of these people were involved in anti-government political activities.'

According to the report the military junta are accusing the Rohingyas of providing financial support to opposition groups, including Arakan Rohingya Independence Front (ARIF). The ARIF claims to represent the interests of Muslim Arakanese and its armed wing operates in the Arakan state and along its border with Bangladesh, the report mentioned.

The report has no mention of the thousands of Rohingyas Muslims who fled Arakan and poured into Bangladesh to escape the military's crackdown against them. Between 35,000 and 50,000 Rohingyas are said to have taken refuge in Bangladesh since last March.

JCD condemns 'terrorist' acts of BCL

By DU Correspondent

The Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at a rally Tuesday at Dhaka University condemned the 'terrorist' acts of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) following the arrest of an accused in Mahbub murder case.

Held in front of the DUCSU Bhaban, the rally, addressed by DU unit President Habib-un-Nabi Sohel, accused the BCL activists of resorting to undemocratic means of protests following the arrest of Masum, an accused in Mahbub murder case. Mahbub, a BCL (N-S) leader was killed in an armed encounter between two rival groups months ago on the DU campus.

Ctg BCL

From Page 1 Col. 8
Chowdhury Montu also came under attack, sources said.

The students of MES College also brought out a procession and damaged vehicles near Lalkhan bazar and GEC crossing.

Police resorted to lathicharge and dispersed the agitated BCL workers.

The BCL has called a half-day hartal Wednesday protesting the killing of three of its workers — Kazi Shyamol, Zafar Ahmed and Didarul Alam — who were killed in a bloody clash with Chhatra Shibir and NDP workers at Farhadabad of Hathazari upazila on Sunday.

UNB adds: Police today arrested two people in connection with Sunday's clash between activists of Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Farhadabad in Hathazari upazila that left three people dead.

AL

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in a statement to the press called on all AL activists to make the programme a success. The city programme on the day includes a protest rally at Bangabandhu Avenue at 3 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Awami League has chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the Shaheed Intellectuals Day and the Victory Day.

On December 14, the national flag and the party flag will be hoisted half-mast while a black flag will be hoisted at the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the morning. Party members will also gather at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in the morning.

Wreaths will be laid at the Shaheed Intellectuals' Monument at Mirpur at 9 am on the day and discussion meeting will be held at the party central office at 3 p.m.

On December 16, national and party flags will be hoisted in the morning at the central office, Bangabandhu Bhaban and all district offices. Wreaths will be laid before the portrait of Bangabandhu at the Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8 am.

Floral wreaths will also be laid at the Savar National Monument at 9 a.m. A victory meeting will be held at Bangabandhu Avenue at 2 pm and a victory procession will be taken out at 3 p.m. on the day.

Indemnity Bill

From Page 1 Col. 3
the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party should first take a political decision for repeal of the law. Then legal aspects of the question can be settled within half an hour.

The government side appears to believe that a constitutional amendment is needed to repeal the Indemnity Ordinance, because AL actions taken under Martial Law between August, 1975 and April 1979 were validated through the Constitution Fifth Amendment Act. Awami League leaders on the other hand believe that an ordinary law passed by a simple majority is enough to knock down the Ordinance.

The government side is learnt to have suggested that the AL should first challenge the law in Court. It has not even lodged a first information report (FIR) on the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other members of his family on the night of August 15, 1975, they add.

They also ask why the AL leaders are now in a hurry even though they did nothing in the last 16 years.

Mohammad Nasim, who moved the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill in the House says, filing a case in the court is their second option. First the ruling party has to say whether they can pass the bill or not. "It was my bill at the beginning, but now after the formation of the Committee the bill belongs to all MPs." AL did not initiate such a bill in the past because time was not suitable. Now in a changed context, with a sovereign Parliament ruling the country, the bill can be passed to end the politics of killings. The ruling party would gain rather than lose anything by hoping pass the bill, he added.

The Pakistan Premier said, "We consider the people of Bangladesh as our own brethren, and pray for their welfare."

Begum Zia said the expectation of the people from the democratically elected government is very high but due to financial constraints one can not fulfil their expectations.

The Midnight File

Indonesian troops to leave East Timor

DILI (Indonesia), Dec 10: The Indonesian army battalion involved in the killings of pro-independence demonstrators here last month will leave East Timor, Brig Gen Rudolf Warouw said Tuesday. Warouw said battalion 303 from the Sidwangi army division in West Java will leave Dili, the capital of East Timor, Wednesday. He called the battalion "one of the best in the country", reports AP.

CIA chief predicts worst civil disorder in USSR

WASHINGTON, Dec 10: CIA Director Robert Gates said Tuesday the Soviet Union is "dangerously unstable" and predicted the worst civil disorder since the communist revolution in 1917. Gates, testifying before the House Armed Services Committee, said he is concerned that democratic forces could be overwhelmed by chaos. The new chief of the US spy agency also detailed deteriorating discipline and morale in the formerly powerful Red Army, saying "readiness is at its lowest level in decades." And he voiced worry over control of the Soviet arsenal of 30,000 nuclear weapons as Moscow's central command is thrown into question, reports AP.

Israel delays expulsion of Palestinians

JERUSALEM, Dec 10: Israel has delayed deporting several Palestinian activists so as not to anger the United States, the Hebrew daily Haaretz reported Tuesday. The newspaper, quoting an unidentified Israeli source, said the delay was "for a short period of time...in order not to raise disagreement with the Americans," reports AP.

Khaleda: OIC summit

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damental quest is to contribute to building a new world order through determined pursuit of the set objectives of our charter — to close Muslim ranks, to pursue peace based on justice, to promote the just cause of our Palestinian brothers, to safeguard the dignity, independence and national rights of Muslims everywhere and to consolidate all-round cooperation among ourselves.

While touching on different issues of the Islamic community, the Prime Minister mentioned the disruption of the OIC following the cruel invasion and occupation of Kuwait. She said, "It challenged principles fundamental to our charter and split our ranks."

The Prime Minister said the invasion of Kuwait sent shock waves through the world economy that were still being felt. She hoped that Iraq would return to the path of reason and legality in full compliance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Begum Zia said the door of reconciliation remained open. It was for Iraq to seize the opportunity and respond in conformity with the OIC's objectives and principles.

Mentioning the potential of significant breakthrough on long outstanding problems in the Islamic world, the Prime Minister said the recently concluded Middle East peace talks in Madrid, under joint auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union, held a bright prospect for peace that had long eluded this troubled region.

She said with the Arab delegation clearly demonstrating in the meeting their option for stability, it was up to Israel not to miss this vital opportunity and to engage in meaningful negotiations.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh had always held that peace in the Middle East must be based on justice. She said the Gulf crisis exposed the folly of adopting different standards in dealing with aggressor states.

Begum Zia said the Intifadha testified to the Palestinian determination to reject any imposed status quo. Israel must cease its illegal policies to encourage Jewish immigrants to these territories, to expand illegal settlement therein and pursue its brutal policy of repression against Palestinian people. She said "If Israel wants peace it must withdraw from the occupied lands it seized by force in June 1967."

The Prime Minister noted with happiness that the agony in Lebanon after 16 years of violence and instability was now coming to an end by paving the way to national reconciliation and the emergence of a new, peaceful and united Lebanon following the Taif Conference of Lebanese leaders. She paid warm tributes to Lebanese President Hias

repeatedly urged for restrained by both the parties and impressed upon the need to seek a peaceful solution of the basic problem that underlined the present situation.

Begum Zia said Bangladesh was committed to develop close and friendly relations with all her neighbours on the basis of justice, mutual benefit and respect for the principles of international law. This is the fundamental motive that spurs SAARC which aims at improving living standards of the South Asian people in an environment of peace and stability.

The Prime Minister expressed her happiness that in Africa where 50 per cent of the OIC member states were located many positive political developments had taken place. She said the edifice of the apartheid was crumbling.

She said the release of Nelson Mandela, the lifting of the emergency, the abolition of racist laws and forward movement towards a negotiated settlement for a non-racial and democratic South Africa held possibilities of immense significance.

Sharif

From Page 1 Col. 5
country's delegation to the OIC summit here, told Begum Zia that his government had chalked out a plan to take back the stranded Pakistanis. "We sincerely hope that they will go back to Pakistan", he added.

Sharif lauded the role of Begum Zia in leading Bangladesh to the road of prosperity after her government took over following the general election.

The Pakistan Premier said, "We consider the people of Bangladesh as our own brethren, and pray for their welfare."

Begum Zia said the expectation of the people from the democratically elected government is very high but due to financial constraints one can not fulfil their expectations.

Suu Kyi

From Page 1 Col. 8
der the leadership of Suu Kyi. Presided over by Begum Sufia Kamal, the rally was addressed, among others, by general secretary Ayesha Khanam and vice-president Munira Khanam. Kazi Sufia Akter read out a resolution at the rally.

Begum Sufia Kamal said that the whole world raised a loud protest against the Burmese military rulers who had kept peoples' leader Suu Kyi under house arrest for years.

Bangladesh women today expresses their solidarity with the demand, she said adding that "Suu Kyi must be freed soon."

The octogenarian women campaigner in her swerving voice said that what the military rulers were doing in Burma was anti-human, anti-democratic and anti-people.

Stabbed to death

DMCH Correspondent

one person was stabbed to death by an unidentified assailant in Mirpur Tuesday afternoon.

Mujibur Rahman (20), an employee of the Sun Video Store of Mirpur Section-10, was stabbed on his way to work at around 3 pm.

Ataur Rahman

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Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Khan Panni, former Minister K M Obaidur Rahman and the Pir Shahab of Matzbandari, Alhaj Maulana Syed Habibul Bashir.

The Namaz-e-Janaza at Baitul Mukarram Mosque was attended by Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Shahjahan Siraj MP, Oli Ahad, Shaful Alam Pradhan, former Education Minister A Majid Khan and a cross-section of people, while that in the Supreme Court compound was attended by the Judges, members of the Supreme Court Bar Association and officials and employees of the Supreme Court.

Earlier, when the body of the late leader was brought to the Supreme Court complex, Judges, members of the Bar Association and officials and employees of the Court came out to have a last glimpse of the leader and pay their tributes. After the Janaza his body was taken to the National Graveyard at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar for burial.

Ataur Rahman Khan died of a heart attack on December 7. Since then his body was preserved at the Diabetic Hospital at Shahbag.

All the three sons of the late leader — Obaidur Rahman Khan, Ziaur Rahman Khan MP, and Samir Rahman Khan — and relations and admirers were present at the burial. His eldest son Obaidur Rahman Khan returned home Tuesday from abroad to attend the funeral.

After the burial, munajat was offered seeking blessings of the almighty, Allah for the peace of the departed soul.

Earlier in the morning, the body of the leader was taken to his village home Balia in Dhamrai from the BIRDEM mortuary.

A touchy scene was witnessed when his body reached Balia. Thousands of people rushed there from far and near to have a final glimpse and pay their last respects to their leader. People from all walks of life put up a human barricade demanding that he be buried in Dhamrai.

According to family sources, the quikhwani of Ataur Rahman Khan will be held today at his Dhamraondi residence. Quikhwani will also be held at Dhamrai.

Friends, relations and admirers of the late leader have been requested to attend the quikhwani.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynebee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.