

Jatiya Party demands mid-term polls

Jatiya Party leaders yesterday demanded early elections to parliament to form a new government, saying that the BNP has failed to run the country.

The demand was made at a discussion meeting of the party at DDSA auditorium yesterday afternoon marking the party's sixth founding anniversary.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury MP, Acting Chairman of the party, presided over the meeting which was addressed by Barrister Maudud Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Abdul Salam, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Saifur Rahman, Shah Mohsin Billah and Marium Hashimuddin.

Calling for fresh parliamentary polls, Barrister Maudud Ahmed said an immediate election is needed for fresh mandate of the people to run the government.

"People's hopes were dashed to the ground in last one year... Election should be held as soon as possible in the interest of the people and the nation".

Nearly 2,500 mills and factories have become sick, 22 out of 39 textile mills in the public sector have been closed down, half of the industrial units at Tongi were not working and volume of export also came down to Tk 500 crore due to "inefficiency" of the government, he alleged.

Maudud criticised the BNP for abolishing the upazila parishads and pourashavas through "undemocratic" ordinances. He alleged that the government cancelled all municipal corporations by a backdated ordinance. He asked why the ordinance was kept secret.

He was critical about the foreign policy of the present government and alleged that the government failed to lodge a strong protest against the recent Burmese attack on BDR outpost. "No country could dare to attack us during the nine-year rule of Ershad", he said.

He demanded immediate release of ousted President Ershad and other party leaders.

Army kills top ULFA leader, nabs 5 others

QUWAHATI, Jan 1: The army dealt a severe blow to the ULFA today killing its deputy commander in chief, Hiraakjoti Mahanta alias Naren Deka, while five top leaders including the central publicity secretary, Siddhartha Phukan, were nabbed in separate raids, reports PTI.

Mahanta, along with two others arrested from a hideout in the Gitanagar area of the city agreed to lead the army to a place near Chandrapur where the ULFA had cached arms.

When they reached the area, Mahanta tried to flee and shouted to nearby militants in hiding to open fire. But in the shoot-out that followed, Mahanta was killed, an official spokesman told reporters here.

Other militants apprehended in separate operations were, top leaders Sallen Dutta Konwar, Kamrup district president Moon Ali Alias Inran Ali Khan Baishya and Dhruva Tahukdar.

Siddhartha Phukan and Dutta Konwar were nabbed as they were speeding away on a motorcycle in the Beltola area of the city, the spokesman said.

Dutta Konwar opened fire on army men when chased. They fired back wounding him in the leg, he said.

Later Ali was picked up from the Fancy Bazar area of the city from a hotel.

Both Ali and Konwar revealed to the army that Mahanta and two others were

in a hideout in Gitanagar, he said.

The dreaded Mahanta was involved in several cases of murder, dacoity and extortion and looting of banks.

All, a trained militant, the spokesman said, was involved in various cases of murder, including those of the former general secretary of APCC (I) Manabendra Sarma, and the self-styled convener of the 'Assam Branch of Amnesty International', Bipul Mahanta, who was shot dead in the city recently.

Servant killed Selina

From Our Correspondent
GAZIPUR, Jan 1: Manjur, a servant of a major Khaleq today confessed to the Upazila Magistrate's Court here that he himself killed Selina Akhter Bakul with a sharp weapon.

Selina Akhter Bakul, wife of Major Khaleq, was killed at her residence at Rajendrapur Cantonment on December 7 last year.

Manjur told the Magistrate at the court that the Major's wife often forced him to physical relationship which he (Manjur) disliked.

According to the Magistrate, on the day of murder Manjur and she were alone at home. Selina was insisting on but Manjur declined and at a stage of altercation he killed Selina with the sharp kitchen knife.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over the review meeting of Annual Development Programme at the International Conference Centre Wednesday. —PID photo

Tk 50 cr for mass education

The government has undertaken a Taka 49.78 crore project for reintroduction of Non-formal Education (mass education) Programme throughout the country from this year, according to Education Ministry sources Wednesday, reports BSS.

In 1993, a total of 2760 more centres will be established in 69 other upazilas. The centres covering 1,10,400 students will have 2,760 teachers and 184 inspectors.

The literacy centres will be housed in schools, madrasahs, clubs and out house of any residence subject to the convenience of the students, officials said adding that the teachers will be chosen from the trained imams (religious leaders), school teachers, retired teachers or educated unemployed youths.

The non-government organisations will act as associates in the NEP, they said.

The pre-primary level education system will be "an attractive, inspiring and well-organised one" for the children of the age group four to five years. Officials said adding that the aim of this system is to ensure social and mental development of the children.

Seven hundred and fifty pre-primary education centres will be set up in the current year with 750 teachers and 50 inspectors covering 22,500 children. A total of 45,000 children will be covered by 1500 centres to be set up in 1993 with 1500 teachers and 100 inspectors.

The duration of this programme will be one year.

The NEP for the children of the age group six to 10 years is

Progress of ADP projects reviewed

Progress of various projects under the current Annual Development Programme (ADP) was reviewed Wednesday at a high-level meeting at the International Conference Centre with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting was attended, among others, by cabinet ministers, state ministers, cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries of the concerned ministries.

Firearms

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censed arms. It is felt that to end such a situation an immediate enquiry should be conducted to verify the use of all kinds of firearms in the country and for maintaining proper records of the same.

With a view to establishing overall public security and law and order it has been decided that under the Clause 26 of the Arms Act, 1878 (Act XI of 1878) the Deputy Commissioners under their respective jurisdictions will receive the firearms along with the licences for the time being and if necessary after proper verification will take steps for to seize any firearm and keep it under official custody.

After proper verification if a Deputy Commissioner was convinced that the owners of the deposited firearms have not properly obeyed the terms and conditions of licence or there are sufficient reasons to doubt the abuse of any firearm in such a situation steps would be taken to cancel the licences of those arms after making proper records. Such firearms will remain under the official custody of the Deputy Commissioners till further order is given.

This order will not be applicable in cases of the arms used by the security guards of banks and various Government, non-Government and semi-Government offices and establishments.

After the receipt of licensed firearms the government will also take immediate steps to intensify the drive for recovery of unauthorised arms to ensure the security of the public life and so that miscreants having unauthorised arms can not unleash attack on the life and property of innocent and peace-loving citizens and thereby disturb the public safety.

Khaleda: Terrorists

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present democratic government in realising the objectives. She said the JCD had a greater role to play in this regard.

Earlier, on her arrival at the venue, thousands of JCD members welcomed the Prime Minister with full throated slogans and playing the 'party song' "Pratham Bangladesh amar shesh Bangladesh" on bands.

One minute silence was observed at the function in memory of those who had sacrificed their lives in the democratic movement. An obituary reference on the shaheds of autocratic movement was read out at the function.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Salam Talukdar, Joint Secretary Khandoker Mosharrif Hossain and Student Affairs Secretary Advocate Majibur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

The function was also addressed, among others, by student leaders Amanullah Aman MP, Khairul Kabir Khokan, Rizvi Ahmed, Nazimuddin Alam, Fazlul Huq Milan, Mahbub Alamgir Ato, Ali Akkas Nadeem, Shrin Sultana, Abdul Malek, Kamruzzaman Ratan, Elias Ali, Abul Khair Dhuyyan and Jagla.

CU reopens

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Jan 1: Chittagong University reopened today after 17-day winter vacation with newly appointed Vice Chancellor and Pro-Vice Chancellor joining their duties.

Prof Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury and Prof Badul Alam have been appointed as the Vice Chancellor and the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university respectively.

The activists of All Party Students Unity (APSU) of the university picketed and barricaded the roads adjacent to the university as they called strike on the campus today in protest against the removal of former vice chancellor, Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin.

The APSU leaders also called for a continuous strike from January 3 on the campus on the same issue.

The APSU activists stopped the train carrying students to the campus and turned back the teachers' buses coming from the city today.

A few classes were held today with poor attendance, campus sources said.

Ghali

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of states should monopolize the decision-making processes affecting the organization of all international affairs."

Ghali, grandson of an Egyptian premier assassinated because of pro-British leanings, is considered pro-Western in outlook and temperament. But his comments appeared directed at the United States, which, when he wrote the article, already was in the ascendancy as the only superpower.

It was shortly after August's failed coup in Moscow, the Soviet Union still existed but was staggering.

And Ghali's references to dangers inherent in the "new world order" picked up — in a different context — on a phrase often used by President Bush.

He noted that the International Monetary Fund and other aid agencies are making loans and grants dependent on increased democracy and freer economies, "a basic condition for participating in the new world order."

Ghali said the Soviet coup illustrated that new democracies must be shielded from such crises, but wrote.

"That should not serve as a pretext for the intervention by major powers in the internal affairs of the state under the guise of protecting democracy."

Mosquito menace

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used in the extensive ground spray.

Some 300 sprayers of the DCC and 340 field staff of the MCD would be involved in the programme. Several thousand conservancy staffs of DCC would assist them.

The source said that the corporation is now well equipped to eradicate mosquitoes and emphasis would be given on larva elimination.

The source said that the vehicle sprayer would be used in easily accessible poah areas of the city for fogger spray, the latest scientific system.

The source admitted that the involvement of several departments in this programme sometimes caused delay.

Moreover, coordination between a corporation and a government office sometimes seems difficult, he observed.

Citing an example he said some 355 employees of the MCD drew salary from the Ministry of the Local Government and Rural Development, but 340 of their fieldmen worked under the direct supervision of the DCC, which, sometimes, creates operational problems, a source said.

He emphasised the need for a unified system to keep the capital mosquito-free.

The Midnight File

Gorbachev's statue stolen from Madam Tussaud

ELSLOO (Netherlands), Jan 1: A statue of Mikhail Gorbachev which was pilfered from Amsterdam's Madam Tussaud wax museum the day after the Soviet leader's Christmas Day resignation turned up overnight in an Elsloo cafe. Residents said the life-size statue was stolen by a group calling itself the Vesuvius Club, which evcryyear 'borrows' a statue to decorate its new year's celebration, reports AFP.

Arafat urges US to resume talks with PLO

TUNIS, Jan 1: Yasser Arafat on Wednesday urged the United States to resume its severed dialogue with the PLO and take a tougher stance toward Israel in the Middle East peace talks. Arafat also asked Washington to "recognize explicitly the Palestinians' right to self-determination", reports AP.

Taiwan's air force jet explodes at airbase

TAIPEI, Jan 1: An air force F-5E fighter jet exploded today at an airbase in Eastern Taiwan, state radio reported. The fighter jet, one of the most advanced military aircraft in Taiwan, exploded and caught fire at the Hualien military airbase, about three hours drive from here, the state radio said, reports AFP.

Jewish settler shot dead

JERUSALEM, Jan 1: Unknown assailants shot to death a Jewish settler in the occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday, military sources said. The settler was the fourth Jew killed in the occupied territories since Arab-Israeli peace talks began in late October, reports AP.

First day raid

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Meanwhile, 19 categories of items have excluded from the previously announced 29-category list of contraband goods.

Yesterday's search was conducted on the basis of the modified list.

Cotton sarrees, silk fabrics and grey clothes, foreign cigarettes and churru, foreign fabrics spilled over from the garment industries, smuggled liquor and liquor products, heroin, opium, charas and ganja, smuggled crockeries and cutlery and kitchen wares except baby feeder, smuggled silk, wash, basin, flashing system comode, current net, illegal books and magazine except scientific, medical technical ones and economic journals. Foreign ceiling fan, radio, two-in-one and rickshaw and cycle fittings.

"We started with the cooperation of the businessmen who promised that the market would be free from contraband items," the Task Force chief said adding that "if the businessmen violated the agreement we would certainly change our strategy of searching."

The patrolling in the highways will be increased and if needed surprise raids will be conducted, he added.

He said that the anti-smuggling drive also aimed at increasing awareness among the people.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong said that the anti-smuggling drive had been conducted at about 100 shops in Mimi Super Market in the city but nothing was recovered.

Student shot dead

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shots and about 100 tear gas shells causing panic in the entire area.

The injured were two journalists, six cops and a unidentified pedestrian. They were all admitted in local hospitals.

Monturuddin Ahmed, correspondent of Daily Star and Hanif Dakua, Photographer of Dainik Janabarta received head injuries from police lathi charge.

The clash lasted more the 30 minutes in which both sides used fire arms, explosives and stones, witnesses said.

The students alleged that police later turned violent and raided the residential halls, ransacked the rooms burnt books and other materials and threw a number of cycles of the students to a nearby river.

Police also attacked the residence of the Principal and injured his daughter, the Principal said.

Police, however, denied all the allegations.

In the evening, political parties brought out separate processions in the city to protest police action.

Tension was prevailing in some parts of the city.

Assault

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A protest meeting against the assault on the journalists was held in the evening at Khulna Press Club. Presided over by Prof Ali Ahmed, president of the club, the meeting strongly condemned police atrocities and assault on the newsmen and demanded punishment of those responsible for the incident. Among others, Humayun Kabir, A T M Rafique, Shahabuddin Ahmed and A K A Sharof also spoke at the protest meeting.

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28-02-92	05-03-92		
01-02-92	06-02-92	Zone-3	Dhanmondi, Azimpur, Mohammadpur, Rayerbazar, Lalmita and adjacent areas.
07-03-92	12-03-92		
08-02-92	13-02-92	Zone-4	Dhaka Cantonment, Gulshan, Banani, Uttara, Baridhara and adjacent areas.
14-03-92	19-03-92		
15-02-92	20-02-92	Zone-5	Mirpur and adjacent areas.
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