

Left parties

From Page 1 Col 5
parties have reached a consensus on holding public meetings today to press some identical demands.

The left groups and parties have realigned under three different banners of the Five-Party combine, Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) and Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (RDA).

The alliances will hold three public meetings today to press their identical demands including repeal of the provision to impose emergency, complete freedom on the judiciary, autonomy to the electronic media, implementation of the seven-point Joint Declaration of the political parties to curb campus violence and checking of the soaring prices of the essential commodities.

The rallies will be held at Parana Palta crossing, in front of the GPO and at the east gate of the National Stadium this afternoon.

The recent move to unite different left groups and parties came from their student wings after the rejection of socialism in the Soviet Union.

The Democratic Students Unity (DSU), the forum of the left-wing student organisations, urged the political leaders of left leaning parties on November 17 to be united on a single platform on the basis of a common socio-economic and political programme by December 30, 1991.

The leaders of the alliances, however, told this correspondent, "It is just the beginning — a sort of ice melting".

Some middle-aged people with backgrounds of working while talking on this issue with this correspondent yesterday, entertained the idea. One of them, Barrister Lutfar Rahman, enthusiastically said that with the unity of the left wing parties on the basis of a common socio-economic programme, the large number of leftists active in the sixties would come forward.

A leading Surgeon of the country, who preferred anonymity, maintained that in

the face of continued failure of the bourgeois political parties of the country to solve fundamental problems of the majority of the people, the left wing parties have a strong potential to emerge as the most significant political force. He, however, was skeptical about both the efficiency and sincerity of the present leaders of the left leaning parties.

The 'Five-Party combine' went for a joint panel with the fundamentalists in the last election of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), he said with remorse adding, it was shameful for the progressives.

Abdul Malek, a jute mills worker, replying to a question said, "We are happy to hear that the left-wing parties have decided to work together but these parties did not pay adequate attention to our movement in December". He also said that the workers could sacrifice their lives for the political forces taking care of their interests.

With sincere efforts to solve the problems of the poor people, the left-leaning parties could easily be able to build a much stronger political force, Abdul Malek concluded.

A young political activist, however, believed that mere unity of the 'left leaning' parties of the country was not enough to give birth to a progressive political stream against that of the bourgeois ones.

The leftists need to be more advanced than the bourgeois in all respects including their social, political, economic and cultural outlooks to overpower the latter, he added.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5

ture," she told a condolence meeting at the party office yesterday evening.

The meeting was organised by Dhaka City Awami League to condole the death of Chhatra League leader Maniruzzaman Badal.

Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, reiterated her demand to seek out the killers of Badal and give them exemplary punishment after proper investigation. "The killers whoever they are must be found out and tried," she said.

"Agents of the intelligence branch in a planned way murdered Badal, a brave soldier of the anti-autocracy movement, to weaken my hand," alleged Hasina. Those who were arrested in connection with this killing, she said, have no link with the Chhatra League.

Reiterating her avowed stand against terrorism, Hasina said "I told that I do not want to see any more dead body but the conspirators gave me their reply with a new body."

The Awami League chief said conspiracy was also on to undermine her and her party as they are fighting against the government's failure in containing terrorism, maintaining law and order, checking corruption and improving the condition of commonman.

She alleged that the present government had totally failed in running the country which moves towards uncertainty in view of corruption, nepotism and deterioration of law and order.

As the government is losing confidence of the people, Hasina said, it resorted to terrorism to cover up its failure.

Referring to ruling BNP's defeat to opposition in a division vote in parliament last Thursday, the opposition leader said "this defeat is unprecedented in parliamentary history."

"Had the ruling party had any respect to democratic norms, they would have resigned immediately," she said. "But they cling to power shamelessly."

Hasina criticised the BNP government for taking recourse to "a dilly-dally policy" on the question of rescinding the Indemnity Ordinance for holding trial of the killers of the father of the nation.

The hard-earned democracy will not be meaningful if the killers of Bangabandhu are not punished," she said adding that "conspiracy against repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance will not be tolerated... self-confessed killers must be tried in this soil."

Presided over by City Awami League President Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, the meeting was also addressed by city leaders Mozaffar Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Advocate Shahara Khatun, Akhtarul Alam, Advocate Kamrul Islam, Monir Hossain Khan and Khandakar Habibur Rahman.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia along with Army Chief Lt Gen M Nooruddin Khan witnessing winter collective exercise of the Army of Comilla area yesterday. — PID photo

Badal's killing premeditated, claims BCL

By DU Correspondent

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) held a rally on Saturday calling for the trial of the killers of its Organising Secretary Maniruzzaman Badal.

Addressing the rally, in front of Madhu's Canteen BCL Vice President Ahmed Hossen alleged that the killers of Badal were those sheltered by the government and the killing was premeditated. He demanded immediate action against the alleged murderers.

The BCL also brought out a procession on the campus demanding the trial of killers.

The BCL resumed its organisational activities on the DU campus after about 75 days.

The Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina had suspended BCL activities on DU campus last October following a fierce gunbattle on the campus that left three students and a street urchin dead.

The BCL will hold a rally today at 3 pm at the Bangabandhu Avenue.

Don't try to hide truth, JCD warns Awami League

By DU Correspondent

The Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Saturday held a rally in front of the DUCSU Bhawan demanding the trial of the killers of Maniruzzaman Badal, Organising Secretary of Chhatra League (S-A).

Badal was shot dead last Thursday by some unidentified miscreants at the Jagannath Hall area.

JCD leaders said that Badal was killed allegedly by some of his fellow colleagues in a factional conflict.

Addressing the rally Habibun-Nabi Sohel, President of JCD of the Dhaka University unit, urged the Awami League to expel the armed hoodlums from the BCL.

"Don't try to hide the truth," the JCD leader Sohel warned.

He also warned Awami League against accusing the JCD activists in the Badal murder case.

The JCD would start a vigorous movement against the AL Chief Sheikh Hasina and the Chhatra League (S-A), if they fail to flush out terrorist elements from the party, he said.

The rally was also addressed by the prominent JCD leader and member of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anu.

Earlier, the JCD brought out a procession on the campus.

'Kalshi Bahini' demonstrates in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Jan 11: Thousands of poor women with pitchers in hands came out in the street and staged demonstration in front of the DC office today demanding work and food, reports UNB.

The distressed women belong to 'Kalshi Bahini', a VGD (Vulnerable Group Development) project initiated during the rule of late President Ziaur Rahman.

The demonstrators, estimated to be 10,000, earlier held a rally at the Shaheed Minar premises here this morning. It was presided over by Jhameela Begum.

In the afternoon, they went in a procession to the DC office premises shouting slogans in support of their demands. They handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

The women warned if their demands were not met by January 16, they would go for a token hunger strike and launch a greater movement for their livelihood.

They became jobless after the project had expired seven months ago. Under this project, distressed women would be recruited for cleaning garbages and roads.

This is the first time women in such a large number raised their voice in street in the district.

DU campus: Lively by day

From Page 1 Col 4

from rival groups or even attack from rival factions within the same party. They also used walkie-talkies to maintain communications.

Some resident students of Jagannath Hall and Zahurul Huq Hall left their rooms, some never entered them after the killing of Badal while others were forced out.

The first such act of violence took place on February 3, 1991 following the factional feud in the Chhatra League (S-A). The death toll that year was six including a street urchin.

Meanwhile, the Barisal and the Faridpur factions of the BCL (S-A) remained in control of the campus after Thursday's incident after forcing out the 'third world' group, according to campus sources.

General students were worried that their classes and examinations might again be postponed because of the unabated violence on campus.

The DU Vice Chancellor, teachers, DUCSU and the All Party Students Unity (APSU) leaders expressed their concern over the deteriorating campus situation since last year. They also demanded the recovering of unauthorised weapons from the campus.

Sunday's planned anti-vo-

lence rally was postponed by the DU authorities because of the recent incident.

Vice Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah met at least ten times with leaders of various student organisations, Prime Minister and others concerned in 1991.

The Jatiya Sangsad that began its session August 11 last year discussed the deteriorating campus situation and called for constituting a parliamentary standing committee to deal with this national problem.

A unanimous decision to form a body on campus violence was taken at the close of the second session of the House August 14.

Constitution of the committee was completed during the third session of parliament that was prorogued November 5.

The seventh and last meeting of the committee held December 12 failed to take any decision to defuse the campus violence.

A high powered committee was also formed by the government April 10 last year to suggest measures for the restoration of a congenial atmosphere on campus.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia assured a terror-

ism free campus several times.

Yet, the campus remains a hot bed of violence and despite the lapsing of over three days after the latest killing on the DU campus, the government has not yet taken any step to flush out the gunmen from the residential halls.

Editorial on page 4

Badal murder: 3 taken on police remand

By DU Correspondent

Three of the four accused in the Badal murder case, arrested on Friday night, were taken on police remand.

The accused were produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate's court Saturday.

The three who were taken on remand are: Emdadul Haq alias Emdad of Jahurul Haq Hall, Nasimul Huq Omani alias Kamal alias Pual of Salmullah Hall Subrata Kumar Das of Jagannath Hall.

The other accused in the case Kazi Jastimuddin alias Jessi was sent to jail.

Judgement on Ershad's money case on Jan 27

The judgement in the trial of former President H M Ershad on corruption charges will be delivered on January 27, session and district Judge Mohammad Ali Khan pronounced Saturday.

The former ruler has been charged on two counts-misappropriation of gifts valued over Taka 11 lakh and amassing of wealth over Taka 2.21 crore beyond his known source of income.

Ershad's assets included Taka 1,90,81,565 in cash found in Senabhaban, about which Jatiya Party has filed a money suit in the court.

Mukim Gazi sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

Mukim Gazi and two of his accomplices, who were arrested from Demra on January 3, were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after a seven-day police remand Saturday.

After the end of a three-day remand, Sabujbag police yesterday produced Mukim Gazi, Arju and Mohon before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and the magistrate sent them to the jail as there was no prayer for further police remand.

Kotowal police and Demra police earlier took the three arrested persons on a four-day police remand on January 4.

Mukim Gazi and three of his accomplices, Babul, Arju and Manik, who were under-trial prisoners, escaped from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on December 30 amidst gun shots and cracker explosions.

Later police arrested Manik from Kamalapur area on December 31 and Mukim Gazi, Arju and Mohon from Demra area on January 3. But another escapee, Babul, is still at large.

Myanmar troops

From Page 1 Col 8

and patrolled the bordering rivers forcing suspension of fishing.

People from the bordering villages alleged that the Myanmar army has strengthened its position atop the Arakan hills and begun patrolling using mechanised boats in Kaladan, Lembru and Maini frontier rivers Saturday.

Myanmar Friday ordered its troops withdrawn a kilometre inside its territory January 6, to return to their frontline strongholds.

The troops retook control of the positions from the "Lunthin" border guards and the Myanmar police stationed there after the withdrawal.

Meanwhile, reports from across the border said that the Myanmar has drafted nearly 20,000 Muslim Rohingya youths and forced them to manual labour at different military sites.

The Midnight File

French compensation for Pak nuclear plant

ISLAMABAD, Jan 11: France and Pakistan have reached a settlement on compensation claims for France's cancellation of a contract to build a nuclear reprocessing plant, a local daily reported today. Quoting Foreign Ministry sources, the news said the French government was believed to have offered 118 million dollars to Pakistan following its unilateral cancellation of the agreement in 1978, reports AFP.

Palestinians to continue jihad, says Arafat

TUNIS, Jan 11: PLO chief Yasser Arafat vowed here today that Palestinians would continue the Jihad, or holy war, until the creation of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. The Palestine Liberation Organisation leader made the pledge on the eve of the start of a new round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, reports AFP.

Major haul of IRA explosives

BELFAST, Jan 11: Police announced Saturday they uncovered a major haul of IRA explosives and guns from a house in west Belfast that was apparently used as a storage warehouse for bombers. The weapons cache — one of the largest found in Belfast — included more than 80 bombs and 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of commercial explosives, guns, ammunition and other military equipment, police said. Two men were arrested and were being questioned, police said.

Khaleda: Health project

From Page 1 Col 7

She said the democratic government wanted to remove all obstacles in the way of achieving economic prosperity.

The Prime Minister called upon physicians to be more careful in treating hapless and destitute patients. She said the success of the expansion of medicare facilities depends on your sacrifice and services.

Turning to the local issue, Begum Zia said measures would be taken to improve the present condition of the Halima Textile Mills. She said Comilla Victoria College would be upgraded to a university college.

She sanctioned taka two crore for Comilla Diabetic Centre.

The function was also addressed by Commerce Minister MK Anwar, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Hossain, Energy and Mineral Resource Minister Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain and Deputy Minister for Health and Family

Welfare M Sirajul Haq.

The 250-bed Comilla New Modern Hospital is housed in two storied building constructed in five years time. The setting up of the hospital was originally planned by President Ziaur Rahman. Fifty physicians including six consultants are working in the hospital, which has medicine, surgery, gynaecological, ENT, Pediatric, isolation and casual departments. The project had cost taka 8.50 crore.

Earlier the Prime Minister formally inaugurated the hospital and visited it.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also visited Moharganj in Laksham Saturday and inaugurated the reexcavation work of Latshar Darachow canal amid enthusiasm of local people.

Addressing a huge public rally on the occasion, Begum Zia reiterated her government's decision to utilise every inch of land to achieve self-reliance in all sectors especially in the agricultural sector.

Water sharing

From Page 1 Col 5

Incidentally, India and Nepal have signed a water sharing agreement last December. Under the agreement four dams will be built in India further reducing the flow of water for Bangladesh.

Sources in the government said that it was in violation of good neighbourly understanding as Bangladesh had always insisted on a tripartite agreement involving itself, India and Nepal.

Negotiations to settle water sharing disputes with India began in the Sixties when Bangladesh was part of Pakistan and the first meeting was held in Delhi June 28 to July 3, 1960. After Independence, Bangladesh and India first sat in Delhi July 16 to July 17, 1973. Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed represented Bangladesh while Sardar Swaran Singh the Indian side in the meeting.

Secretary level meetings between the two countries were held on five occasions between 1968 and 1970. The dialogue at this level was again revived in 1988 by the former government pending a water sharing agreement.

During Ershad's regime no agreement with India was signed to share water. Two memorandums of understanding

ing of a three-year duration each, were signed whereby the Guarantee Clause of 1977 agreement was dropped.

Government sources said, apart from an agreement to share the waters of the Ganges, two more agreements have become necessary to share the waters of the Teesta and the Brahmaputra.

There is an understanding between Bangladesh and India on sharing the waters of Teesta which is fragile. Water experts said, if an agreement is not reached immediately the fate of Taka 300 cr Teesta barrage will be at stake.

Radiation

From Page 1 Col 5

ceived go ahead from the government.

Highlighting the major aspects of the draft law, the Energy Ministry sources say that it seeks to empower the government to monitor the use of country's several thousand X-ray machines. The X-ray machines, according to experts, might turn into major sources of radiation related diseases if their use goes unmonitored by the authorities.

The law seeks to enforce minimum shielding requirements like lead or concrete walls for X-ray use at the clinics and hospitals and prescribe proper radiation dose for treatment of disease.

Besides, it seeks to enable the authorities to identify radiation leakage in the X-ray installations and recommend operational safety measures including radiation-proof clothing, dietary habits for the users and daily exposures by the machines. The government will provide basic technological know-how to the X-ray machine operators the draft law stipulates.

The BAEAC officials Saturday said they were bringing in portable X-ray monitoring machines from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) within this week.

An official said that the BAEAC would prepare a checklist of radiation level for the imported food items to ensure a healthy public life and to check flow of radiation in the country's ecology.

The draft also seeks to empower the government to control the use of sealed and unsealed radiation sources like non-destructive testing (NDT) gadgets, isotopes and other machines being used for research purposes in the country.

Import, transport and storage of such machines will be strictly regulated by the government under the proposed law, say the officials.

\$ 1.4 b debt relief

From Page 1 Col 7

dence stood at about 26.58 billion US dollars as of June '90, according to an Economic Relations Division Publication of 1991.

Of the total committed amount, a total of 20.73 billion dollars was disbursed — 10.1 billion dollars in grants and 10.63 billion dollars in loans. Thus, as of July '91 a total of 5.91 billion dollars remains in the pipeline.

Of the debt relief, 392 million dollars have been totally written off by the US and France. The United States signed an agreement last August waiving an outstanding loan of 292 million dollars of project aid disbursed up to 1988.

The net impact of the waiver would mean that Bangladesh will save 14 million dollars in interest and principal amount payments per year, a Finance Ministry official points out. Bangladesh owed to the US more than 782 million dollars as of June '90.

France, which loaned to Bangladesh an amount of 141.63 million dollars up to June '90, announced waiving of 100 million dollars (French franc 400 million) last year. This would translate into a saving of about 10 million dol-

lars in interest and principal amount payments per year, the official says.

Japan, the largest bilateral donor, has provided a debt relief grant of 444.33 million dollars since 1974. As of June '90 the total outstanding loans to Japan amounted to over 2.6 billion dollars.

Japan normally does not provide any outright grant. But it returns the actual amount of repaid principal along with the interest as debt relief grant in two separate instalments per year.

One such half-yearly instalment of 47 million dollars was returned in December 1991, sources said.

Another 585-million-dollar debt of Bangladesh was converted into outright grants by various European donor nations and Canada between 1974 and 1987, according to the ERD publication.

Of the total amount of loans converted into grants, Canada provided relief of about 29.8 million dollars in 1974, Germany (formerly FRG) of 290.5 million dollars in 1979, Denmark of about 43 million dollars in 1979 and 1986, the Netherlands of 44.2 million dollars in 1977 and the United Kingdom of 93.8 million dollars in 1979.

BNP MPs asked to attend House

From Page 1 Col 8

On Thursday, the BNP lost to the combined opposition 57-62 votes when Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali put for a resolution to set up a marine police force to guard the country's coast against piracy.

The resolution, tabled by Independent member Nurul Islam Moni, was passed by the House.

The defeat was stunning for the BNP which controls 170 seats in the 330-member parliament.

A highly-placed source told The Daily Star Saturday that the Prime Minister, also Leader of the House, had taken the absence of BNP MPs seriously and asked them to attend the session by all means unless occupied with more urgent official business.

The absence of most of the Treasury Bench members, including a number of ministers, also annoyed the Speaker. On Wednesday he expressed his dissatisfaction over the ministers not being present in the House even when business relating to their ministries were conducted.

The House will today revive the adjournment motion on Golan Azam, hotly discussed for an hour Wednesday.

Golan Azam, infamous for his active opposition to Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War, has become a hot subject in parliament after being elected

Amr of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh. The opposition members, taking part in Wednesday's debate, demanded his trial for committing war crimes.

The BNP source said that the party high command was yet to spell out its stand and course of action on Golan Azam, who had lost his Bangladesh citizenship in 1972.

But a statement from the Home Ministry is expected in today's sitting. The Speaker has allocated another hour to discuss the Golan Azam issue today. It is expected to be a heated one.

Sreepur college closed

MAGURA, Jan 11: The Degree College in Sreepur upazila of the district was closed since die from today as tense situation was prevailing on the campus, official sources said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said armed activists of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj were seen roaming with lethal weapons on the campus at about 10 this morning.

At about 11-45 am, police reached the college campus, dispersed the armed students and brought the situation under control, they added.

Sick industries

From Page 1 Col 5

Ten sub-cells have been formed to examine the proposals of ten separate sectors.

The body had received around 1800 applications from the entrepreneurs of the sick projects, of which 379 from the steel and engineering sector, 139 from the chemical sector, 412 from the food sector, 410 from the textile sector, 23 from the pharmaceutical sector, 21 from the jute sector, 17 from the rubber sector, 55 from the service sector, 62 from the weaving sector and 150 from various sector of the industries.

The applicants were distributed questionnaires asking them to provide full details of their projects, point out the causes of sickness, say what measures they had taken to get rid of the sickness and put forward proposals.

The ten sub-cells are now examining the filled-in questionnaires to finalise the recommendations for their respective sectors. The recommendations will have to submit by March 31 this year.

The Sick Industry Rehabilitation Cell has already identified as many as 17 causes for the sickness of the projects.

The causes identified include delay in providing working capital for the projects, absence of a consistent industrial policy, defective import policy, delay in taking decision while allocating funds for the projects, wrong assessment, changing conditions in market from the time of project appraisal to the time of its start of production, high interest-rate on working capital, smuggling of industrial goods, poor management, lack of coordination between the concerned government departments, imposition of illogical conditions for the collateral security,