

Five-party plan campaign to expel Golam Azam

Star Report

The Five-party alliance has finalised a 'political' action programme to press for Golam Azam's ouster from the country.

The week-long programme, to be announced today at a press conference, is the first phase of a long-term campaign part of a plan to involve all the major political parties in the movement, the alliance leaders say.

After today's meeting with newsmen, the leaders of the alliance will meet the Prime Minister, the Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and the Home Minister to 'officially appraise' them of their programmes in a couple of days.

According to the schedule to be made public today, the alliance throws an open invitation to all the political parties, socio-cultural organisations and various professional groups for exchanging views on the issue on February 14 at the JSD office.

Various non-political bodies have taken up programmes... but the political parties are yet to come up with an effective plan of action, says a senior alliance leader.

"Our goal is to gear up the on-going campaign against the anti-Liberation forces by mobilising all the parties concerned," the leader told The Daily Star. "February is the month of struggle... we want to exploit that spirit."

"We'll ask for a ban on any sort of political activity in mosques, temples and other places that concern religion," Hasanul Haq Inu, the General Secretary of his faction of JSD

and a leader of the alliance, told The Daily Star.

"There should be a law that prohibits political bungling in the places of worship", the leader says.

"It's very disheartening that the major opposition party Awami League has not taken a comprehensive programme even after one month of Golam Azam's election as Jamaat chief," says Hasanul Haq Inu.

"Since there is no law in the country to try war criminals we are asking for his ouster," Inu told the Star when asked why his alliance will not demand for Azam's trial. "But we'll deal with this question later," Inu said.

The programmes that follow include a workers' gathering on February 15, rallies, processions and meetings throughout the country on February 16, 17 and 18. On February 20, the last day of the series of programmes, a Shanghai Michhill (procession for solidarity) has been planned.

"The BNP, for obvious reasons, has preferred to keep mum... but Sheikh Hasina hasn't said a word for a united action," says another leader.

The PDF that groups four left-leaning parties is learnt to have declined to move jointly. Five-party leaders are trying to persuade the Front leaders for at least a simultaneous action programme, according to sources.

The next phase of the action programme will be announced after February 20, the alliance sources said.



Princess Diana visiting Taj Mahal in Agra yesterday. —AFP photo

Diana pays lone visit to Taj

AGRA, Feb 11: Princess Diana of Britain on Tuesday toured this ancient city where more than 350 years ago a heartbroken emperor built mankind's most magnificent structure to love, the Taj Mahal, reports AP.

The Princess of Wales sat alone on the lawn, entranced before the white-marble monument built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal who died while giving birth to his 14th child. "Just fascinating. It was a very healing experience," she said after her 45-minute tour of the Taj.

"Work it out yourself," she said when a British reporter asked her what she meant by "healing experience." Diana, wife of Britain's crown prince, Charles, visited the tomb alone. Charles, who visited the Taj during his 1980 visit, stayed in New Delhi Tuesday.

Diana also visited the Red Fort where Shah Jahan was imprisoned until his death after being overthrown in a coup by his son Aurangzeb. The fort provides a clear view of the monument in which Mumtaz Mahal and later Shah Jahan were buried.

Diana and Charles arrived in New Delhi on Monday on a six-day visit that will take them through India, a former British colony that was once called the jewel in the crown.

Dr Milon murder: Prosecution fails to produce witness

By Staff Correspondent

The prosecution in the Dr Milon murder case Tuesday failed to produce any witness in the court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

The witnesses ordered to be produced in the court yesterday were Mohammad Yusuf, Al Kassar Tiklu and Abu Ilena Mostafa Kamal.

Dr Mostaq Hossain, plaintiff in the case, was absent for the fourth consecutive day yesterday at the trial.

When the 10 accused in the Dr Milon murder case were produced in the Court, the Second Additional Sessions Judge M Ismail Mia began the trial at about 11:10 am but as the witnesses were absent, APP Mahubul Ahmed of the prosecution pleaded for time.

Dr Milon was shot dead by miscreants during the mass upsurge against the autocratic Ershad regime on November 27, 1990.

Gallery

From Page 1 Col 5 duty-free car.

Enjoying the reaction of the members the Speaker commented "I see even the Deputy Leader of the House thumping the table. I have no alternative but to give clearance."

Nevertheless, he did not give instant clearance and added that the matter has been referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges. And the committee will soon give its decision.

At this stage the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad wanted to say something. The Speaker consoled him by saying "If I give clearance to anyone the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition will be the first person to get it. This made the House burst into laughter."

Prompted by the feeling that there can be a double-beneficiary of the privilege a BNP member said, "Please don't give permission to those Jatiya Party members who once got it."

At a later stage, Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party, while trying to raise the issue again said "You have said that the JP members should not be benefited twice. As per law, those benefited once will not get it again. This is a privilege once for all. But, Moudud added, the way the members acclaimed the benefit it could be termed 'gift of the Parliament to the JP. We introduced the system in 1988. Moudud's comment was given a sarcastic boost when JP member Manirul Haq Chowdhury commented "Sir it's a despotism."

The usage of the word gift by Moudud was not understood by all in its proper perspective. The Speaker then quipped "They (meaning JP) have given many gifts to the country and I use the word gift in an inverted comma."

Rashed Khan Menon, when contacted, told The Daily Star that the MPs do really need material benefits to lead an honest life.

Tofael Ahmed of Awami League, expressing disgust, said it was now a matter of the ruling party and they had nothing to do with it.

BNP sources further say a meeting of the parliamentary party will be held in a day or two to iron out the differences and the members will be disciplined before the bill comes up for consideration on Sunday next.

Corruption by 12 BSC officials alleged

By Staff Correspondent

Complaints of corruption and misuse of power have been raised against 12 former and present officials of the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) for causing a loss of Tk 30.05 crores to the government.

This was disclosed by the Minister for shipping Harun-ur-Rashid in reply to a question in Parliament Tuesday.

The BSC officials against whom complaints have been raised are Tarik Anis Ahmed, former Managing Director, N W Khandker, present Managing Director, F T Rahman, Executive Director (Technical), Maitul Alam Chowdhury, former Executive Director (Business) and Abul Kashem, regional representative in London.

Separate complaints of corruption and misuse of power against nine officials, including the former and present Managing Directors, have been raised in connection with the sale of the BSC ship M V 'Banglar Doot'.

The officials against whom complaints have been raised include Ahmed Shahriar Chowdhury, former Executive Director (Business), K A Chowdhury, Secretary, M Zohurul Alam, General Manager (Accounts), Mohsin Bhuiyan, General Manager (Cost Control), M Sakawat Hossain, Assistant General Manager (Insurance and Claims), M Shahidul Alam, Assistant General Manager (Cost Control) and M A Majid, former acting General Manager (Ship repair).

Law Minister

From Page 1 Col 4

busy enhancing their remuneration." Addressing the speaker Hafiz said "What we expect you to do is to protect our status, rights and privileges."

Major Hafiz, however, asserted that the remuneration of an MP must be higher than that of a Secretary, even if it was by Taka one.

The MPs of both the Treasury bench and the Opposition supported Hafiz by thumping the tables.

Tofael Ahmed, a member of the standing committee on the bill who put a note of dissent on the amount of pension money earlier, accused the government of 'playing with the prestige and status of the MPs.'

He said, even the autocratic regime of General Ershad did not dare degrade the status of the MPs the way the present government has attempted to.

"Indian MPs enjoy full-furnished flats to live with their family members in the capital and an office with a stenographer in their respective constituencies and a monthly pension of Taka 500 after the expiry of their tenure but all we wanted, along with other things proposed by the government, is a pension of taka one thousand," Tofael said referring to Law Minister's comparisons with the neighbouring countries.

He regretted that the reference to India had not been made while the House passed the bills relating to the privilege and remuneration of the President, the Prime Minister, Ministers of State the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The MPs are not here in parliament to increase their remuneration, said Tofael, but they want to see their rights

Prices rise further

By Staff Correspondent

Prices of essentials in the city have risen further with the countrywide transport strike continuing.

Fish and vegetable prices soared most owing to the strike. All kinds of vegetables showed a rise of between Taka two and four in the city markets. On the other hand, fish prices jumped up by at least 10 per cent on an average.

In the vegetable market, korolla jumped from the previous price of Taka 24 a kg to Taka 28. Brinjal was selling at Taka 12 a kg, the pre-strike price was Taka eight. Beans costs Taka 12 a kg instead of the previous price of Taka eight. Papaya price also rose by Taka two and stood at Taka eight a kg. Cucumber was selling at Taka 12 a kg instead of the previous price of Taka ten. Peas cost Taka 10 a kg, Taka two higher than early price.

The cheapest vegetable in the market was radish costing Taka six a kg. Even the prices of meat was high on Monday, a kg of beef or mutton up by Taka ten. Poor category mutton sold at Taka 100 a kg. The supply was also very poor.

The vendors reported that supply of vegetables, fish and cattle were very meagre in the wholesale markets. Only a limited quantity of commodities were brought in by launches and boat.

Transport strike

From Page 1 Col 7

A city fuel station owner said that he received 1000 gallons of fuel that was exhausted by noon Tuesday because of panic buying.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the striking transport owners said that a 17-member committee has been formed to negotiate a 'honourable solution' with the government.

They resented police action on the owners and workers in different parts of the country including Narayanganj, Faridpur and Kallakour.

"Such actions would hinder the possibility of a negotiation," said a senior leader of the Association, the owners' platform.

A press release of the Bangladesh Road Transport Association Tuesday termed the government statement in Parliament "An attempt to mislead people bypassing the main problem."

Communications Minister Colonel (Retd) Oil Ahmed told the Jatiya Sangsad Monday that all but one of the 19 demands of the transport owners had been settled much before the strike began.

The press release said that the government neither made any public announcement nor published a gazette notification on the demands being met.

The government did not stop collection of bridge tolls from the road transports, no reduction in duty on spare parts was made and the ha-

Corruption case

Fresh date for framing charge against Ershad

Former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad who faces three more corruption cases appeared before the special court Tuesday but framing of charges was deferred, reports UNB.

Special Judge ATM Fazle Kabir set February 25 for framing charge against Ershad who was accused of illegally giving 49 residential plots in the city's posh areas of Gulshan, Baridhara and Banani to his favourites.

The other accused in the case, former chairman of RAJUK Rahmatullah, failed to appear in the court Tuesday.

The court adjourned the proceedings on request of the prosecution counsel Abdur Razzak Khan.

Charges could not be framed in another corruption case as co-accused Maudud Ahmed abstained from the court by a petition. An MP, Maudud enjoys this privilege when Parliament is in session. They were accused of ille-

gally allotting at throw-away price a commercial plot adjacent to PG Hospital for construction of an international hotel, thus sustaining a substantial loss to the government.

Senior Special Judge Nasruddin Ahmed after hearing the prosecution counsel adjourned the court till February 26.

Before the court rose for the day, a defence counsel pleaded that Abul Khair Litu, co-accused in the case, be relieved from the case for charges brought against him were not tenable.

Hearing in the other corruption case (bungling in the purchase of ATP planes) against Ershad is set for March 8.

The deposed president has already been convicted in two cases and sentenced to ten plus three years in jail for keeping illegal arms and amassing wealth beyond known sources of his income.

ক্রিকেট অনুরাগীদের জন্য সুখবর

পশ্চিম বঙ্গ ক্রিকেট দল ঢাকার মাঠে আন্তর্জাতিক মানের ক্রিকেট ম্যাচ খেলবে বাংলাদেশের শ্রেষ্ঠ দলগুলোর সাথে। খেলা হবে ঢাকা জাতীয় স্টেডিয়াম-১

১০ই ফেব্রুয়ারী: পশ্চিমবঙ্গ বনাম আবাহনী (এক দিনের খেলা)
 ১১ই ফেব্রুয়ারী: পশ্চিমবঙ্গ বনাম মোহাম্মেদান (এক দিনের খেলা)
 ১৩ই ও ১৪ই ফেব্রুয়ারী: পশ্চিমবঙ্গ বনাম বিলিসিবি একাদশ (দুই দিনের খেলা)
 ১৫ই ফেব্রুয়ারী: পশ্চিমবঙ্গ বনাম বিলিসিবি একাদশ (এক দিনের খেলা)

টিকেট প্রাপ্তিস্থান

জনতা ব্যাংক বিল কালেকশন বুথ, (দিলকুশা)
 বিসিআইডিবি কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকা (সকাল ৯টা থেকে ১টা)
 স্টেডিয়াম কাউন্টার (সকাল ৮টা থেকে ৪টা)

টিকেটের মূল্য

পূর্ব গ্যালারী-১০০ টাকা পশ্চিম গ্যালারী -৩০ টাকা।
 ভিআইপি: ১০০ টাকা, ১৫০ টাকা, ২০০ টাকা ও ৩০০ টাকা

টিকেট বিক্রির সার্বিক ব্যবস্থাপনায় জনতা ব্যাংক

সেবাসহ সেবাসহ নিয়োগিত

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The Midnight File

Cresson faces fourth

censure motion

PARIS, Feb 11: Parliament opened debate Tuesday on a no-confidence motion censuring the government for granting entry to a Palestinian terrorist, but the measure was not expected to pass. The measure, if approved, would force Premier Edith Cresson and her government to resign. It is the fourth censure motion the government has faced in less than a year, reports AP.

Mandela a clear choice

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 11: Nelson Mandela, who was released from prison two years ago Tuesday, is the clear choice for the nation's next leader, according to a newly released poll. But the poll also showed that blacks, who greeted Mandela's release with euphoria, are growing pessimistic about their future, reports UNB.

Shaheed Day

From page 1 Col 8
30, 1952, in protest against Pakistan Prime Minister Khwaja Nazimuddin's statement four days earlier that Urdu would be the only state language of Pakistan.

Organisational activities started taking place all over East Bengal and the participation of members of the general public — as distinct from students or the intelligentsia — was highly noticeable.

State Language Action Committees sprang up in districts up and down the country, giving the movement a truly national and popular dimension as it progressed inexorably towards the climax of February 21.

Along the way, the East Pakistan Jubo League, which was playing an increasingly prominent role as the movement moved out of the debating phase and into the action phase, organised province-wide 'Flag Days' on Feb 11 and 13, 1952 to collect money and recruit volunteers and supporters for the scheduled hartal of Feb 21.

Although the Flag Day drive in Dhaka and Narayanganj, according to Umar, did not succeed in raising a great deal of money, it nevertheless managed to attract a number of new workers to the ranks of the Jubo League and the Language Movement.

Many of the JL leaders and workers were in fact also members of the Communist Party which worked from underground or behind-the-scenes at the time. The role the Jubo League took up, according to Umar, was in many ways determined by the party, and in particular by a circular issued by it on Feb 11, 1952.

The circular outlined the party's position, in which it stressed on the importance of conducting the movement on a peaceful basis. For the Communist Party, the language movement was not about the democratic rights of the Bengalis only, but it also involved the rights of other peoples of Pakistan such as the Pathans, Sindhis, Beluchis, and

Health and Family Planning Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf termed the sanitation issue as a "silent emergency" and laid importance on preventive strategies to check diarrhoeal diseases.

The UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Cole P Dodge informed that less than 10 per cent of the population in the country used hygienic latrines and everyday 28,000 tons of human faeces are deposited in the environment contaminating the water of ponds and rivers.

The inaugural session was followed by a seminar where experts presented papers on sanitation in controlling diarrhoeal deaths and morbidity, especially among children.

PM : Sanitation

From Page 1 Col 7 agencies to forge a movement to combat the menace of diarrhoea.

LORD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Tahukder, speaking on the occasion, said the efforts of the government to provide "safe water and sanitation by the year 2000" will continue.

এই প্রতিরক্ষা সঞ্চয়পত্রই আমার সুখ, সমৃদ্ধি ও নিরাপত্তা

প্রতিরক্ষা সঞ্চয়পত্র
 টাকা বাটয়ে আমি পেয়েছি সুখ, সমৃদ্ধি ও নিরাপত্তা। আরো পেয়েছি আমার স্বকল্যাণে সাফল্য। আপনিও প্রতিরক্ষা সঞ্চয়পত্র কিনুন এবং সুখ, সমৃদ্ধি ও নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করুন।

প্রতিরক্ষা সঞ্চয়পত্র:

- লাভ : মেয়াদান্তে গড়ে ২১%। (১০০ টাকা ৮ বছরে বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে ২৬৮ টাকা) হয়।
- অর্জিত লাভ সম্পূর্ণ আয়করমুক্ত।
- আয়কর রেয়াত পাওয়া যায়।
- নগদ জামানত হিসাবেও গৃহীত হয়ে থাকে।
- ব্যক্তির ক্ষেত্রে কোন বিনিয়োগ সীমা নেই।
- ক্রেতা নোমিনী নিয়োগ করতে পারেন।

প্রতিরক্ষা সঞ্চয়পত্র ৮ বছরে মেয়াদী। মেয়াদ পূর্তির আগেও আনুপাতিক হারে লাভসহ ভাঙ্গানো যায়। বিভিন্ন স্ফায়ানের প্রতিরক্ষা সঞ্চয়পত্র জাতীয় সঞ্চয় খুরো, ব্যাংক ও ডাকঘর থেকে কেনা ও ভাঙ্গানো যায়।

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর
 অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

টি ৩২ ডি(স) ১২৪০-৮/২/৭২