

Discussion on Ratan Sen

'Govt trying to divert attention'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting in memory of the slain Communist Party leader, Ratan Sen, accused the government Saturday of patronising the self-proclaimed killers of Sen and the assailants of Rashed Khan Menon.

Five-Party leader Nirmal Sen alleged that the Juba Command, at a rally on July 21, announced that they would start killing the 'Indian agents' from July 31 and Ratan Sen was the first victim on that day.

The meeting was held at the Communist Party office yesterday.

Presided by Saifuddin Ahmed Manik the meeting was addressed by Deputy Leader of Opposition in Parliament, Abdus Samad Azad, Begum Sufia Kamal, poet Shamsur Rahman, poet Mahadev Saha, NAP leader Pankaj Bhattacharya, Sammlita Sanakritik Jote President Faiz Ahmed, Ganotantri Party leader Mohammad Afzal and CPB General Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid.

Nirmal Sen said that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's husband was the founder of terrorism. 'How can she patronise terrorism by the fundamentalist and anti-liberation forces?' he questioned.

Abdus Samad Azad said, 'We apprehended an ill woman when this government joined hands with Jamaat, forgetting all about the three alliances during formation of the Government, and our apprehension has now come true.'

Sen said, an FIR (first information report) was lodged with Ramna police following the assassination attempt in which a group was indicated as the possible killers but no one from that group was so far questioned. Rather, the government was trying to divert attention elsewhere. Samad Azad pointed out that the government had dishonoured the recent agreement in parliament on four points, including the trial of Golam Azam.

Azad said the killers of '71 and '75 have become united and it was time for the pro-liberation forces to forge unity for their existence.

He also urged the pro-liberation forces within BNP to join the opposition.

Begum Sufia Kamal said that the people had to look after their own security as the government failed to ensure the same.

'No one involved in political killing in the country has been tried since August 15, 1975 due to which the situation has now turned worse,' she said adding 'the present democratically elected government has become an autocratic one.'

She also said that the women in the country were now the most insecure and there are fears of children being kidnapped.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik announced that a memorial monument would be constructed at the spot where Ratan Sen was killed and his writings would be published as a book.

Govt hiding 'real' culprits, says Jahanara Imam

By Staff Correspondent

Convenor of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee Jahanara Imam has accused the government of supporting the killers of CPB leader Ratan Sen and the assailants of Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon.

'The misleading campaign being carried out by the government as well as the anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir-Freedom Party-Juba Command clique is a bid to hide the real culprits in the two incidents,' she told a press conference in the city yesterday.

Member Secretary of the Committee Prof Abdul Mannan Choudhury read out the written statement of Jahanara Imam in her presence.

Jahanara Imam alleged that falsehood was also being spread to break the unity of the pro-liberation forces. 'But no evil design can break the solid unity of the pro-liberation people and they must win against the enemies of independence,' Imam emphatically said.

The attempt on Menon was taken as he had led a Five-Party delegation to lodge a protest against the Khatib of the Baitul Mokarram Mosque who advocated for Golam Azam and his party the Jamaat-e-Islami, she said and added that Ratan Sen was killed in accordance with a Juba Command announcement that it would murder the 'Ganoadalats' and the so-called Indian agents. Both the politicians had been listed by the Juba Command for murder, she pointed out.

Jahanara Imam called upon all concerned to make today's (Sunday) Samannaya Committee-announced district gherao programme a grand success. Earlier the Committee decided to stage sit-in in front of the Deputy Commissioners' (DCs) offices all over the country to press home a four-point demand that included execution of the Gano Adalat verdict on Golam Azam, ban on Jamaat for violating the Constitution and withdrawal of 'false' cases against Committee workers.

As part of the nationwide programme, a procession would start marching from Bangabandhu Avenue towards the DC's office in the capital at 10 am, Imam said reminding that memorandums would be handed over to the DCs throughout the country.

JSD (Aref-Inu) president Kazi Aref Ahmed, Awami League leader Mofazzal Hossain Choudhury Maya, and Syed Hassan Imam were among those who attended the press conference held at Col. Taher auditorium of the JSD (Aref-Inu) office.

Punish assailants of Menon: Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan Saturday demanded identifying the persons responsible for making attempt on the life of Rashed Khan Menon, MP, without further delay and giving them exemplary punishment, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, Khan also pleaded for taking steps against the trend of political killing in the country.

'We also demand for taking stern measures to bring an end to the politics of violence, hatred and falsehood which are being done either to capture power or to retain the same,' he said.

He called upon the democratic-minded and peace-loving people of the country to resist those who were out to foil the current democratic process through resorting to politics of madness, killing and dividing the nation.

Khan said democracy would never get institutional shape when undemocratic and fascist mentality was nurtured.

The acting Ameer said law and order situation in the country has deteriorated tremendously and hijacking and killing in the capital city and elsewhere have become commonplace. And in the wake of such a situation as-sailants made an attempt on the life of Rashed Khan Menon, he said.

He regretted that in no time after the assassination attempt the blame was put on Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir and processions were brought out which ultimately turned violent and cars were damaged on the roads.

Khan said the incident did not end there and the following day rumours were spread that Menon had died and people were again provoked against Jamaat-e-Islami.

He regretted that a section was trying to make some political gains out of the incident of attempt on the life of Workers Party leader.

PDF rallies Aug 25, 27

By Staff Correspondent

Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) in observance of the protest week for the attempt on the life of Menon, will hold workers' rallies and processions on August 25 and 27 in the city.

This was decided at a steering committee meeting of PDF yesterday with front convener Saifuddin Ahmed Manik in the chair.

The meeting also denounced the killing of Khetmajur leader Kalpada Das in Hizla of Barisal district and demanded the trial of his killers.

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Banglar Baani employees held a rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday protesting non-allotment of government advertisements to the daily. — Star photo

Beheaded body of young girl recovered

By DMCH Correspondent

Police recovered the body of a teenage girl from a rice field in Savar Saturday.

Savar police said that they recovered the body of Rahima Begum (9), daughter of Rahmat Ali of Chitra village, from a nearby rice field at about 1 pm Saturday.

The head of the victim was found severed with by sharp weapon from the body, according to the police.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Police Saturday recovered the body of a young housewife hanging from a mango tree at Sabujbagh in the capital.

Sabujbagh police said that they recovered the body of Rasheda Begum (16), wife of Babul Mia, at about 12-30 Saturday afternoon from Dakshin Gaon area at Sabujbagh.

Police said she might have hanged herself because of a family feud.

A case has been lodged with Sabujbagh police.

OP-1 winners to demonstrate in front of US embassy today

By Staff Correspondent

Several hundred members of US OP-1 immigration lottery winners, who were not issued visas, will demonstrate in front of US embassy at Baridhara and hand over a memorandum to the ambassador today (Sunday).

The decision was taken at a meeting of the association at Dhaka District Sports Association Auditorium yesterday, which was attended by 400 members, said a press release.

The association will also hand over copies of the memorandum to the President, Prime Minister, and leader of the Opposition in the parliament and the Foreign Minister on the following day (Monday).

The lottery winners warned that they would go for a hunger strike in front of the US embassy in October if the authorities did not take any steps regarding visas.

About 730 winners were not issued visas as the US Embassy in Bangladesh announced completion of the programme in August last year, sources said.

Khan said the incident did not end there and the following day rumours were spread that Menon had died and people were again provoked against Jamaat-e-Islami.

He regretted that a section was trying to make some political gains out of the incident of attempt on the life of Workers Party leader.

Police motorbike hijacked at gunpoint

By Staff Correspondent

This time it is a policeman! Hijackers wielding firearms hijacked a motor cycle from a police havidler at Muhammadpur in the capital Saturday.

Havilder Nurul Islam, stationed at Keraniganj, was halted by three hijackers some 50 yards off Muhammadpur Police Station at about 1:45 pm Saturday. They pointed a revolver at the policeman and took away his motorbike (Dhaka Metro-A 1920).

Islam was going to the Muhammadpur PS from Ibrahimpur Police Station.

SAARC summit

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Begum Khaleda Zia. Five substantive committees are making preparations for the extravaganza, dealing with the various aspects of the summit. A retreat has been planned on the 13th for the summiters in Dhaka. According to the schedule, the Standing Committee composed of Foreign Secretaries would meet December 8 and 9, and the programme committee of senior officials would sit on the 6th and the 7th.

Taiwan to break ties with ROK

TAIPEI, Aug 22: Taiwan said today it would break diplomatic relations with South Korea, cancel all trade privileges extended to Seoul and suspend air and shipping links, reports Reuters.

The measures will go into effect when South Korea establishes official ties with China, Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien said.

He said South Korea's Foreign Minister had informed Taiwan's ambassador to Seoul that this would occur on Monday.

Chien announced the break with Taiwan's last formal diplomatic ally in Asia at a news conference.

'We are expressing the strongest dissatisfaction and anger towards South Korea,' Rice traders robbed in city

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers robbed about Taka 67,500 from two rice traders at Ghaznavi Road in Muhammadpur Saturday.

Police said that a group of three to four muggers halted the rickshaw of Abu Dawd and Nazimuddin, two rice traders of Savar, at about 7 am Saturday and robbed Taka 67,500 from them.

The traders were returning home from Muhammadpur Krishi Market, police said.

Dhaka-Delhi JEC

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Narasimha Rao's assertion that India would not like to see a single refugee on its soil.

Rahman admitted that there was disagreement over the number of tribals sheltered in India. New Delhi officials say that the figure is, between 55,000 and 60,000. Dhaka insists that the number is lower.

He referred to the formation of political committee by Bangladesh that he said would soon be visiting the Chittagong Hill Tracts 'on a fact-finding mission'.

The Foreign Secretary disclosed that the Home Secretaries would soon meet to discuss the 'illegal immigration' from Bangladesh and relevant matters.

'There is no conscious policy on our part to support the illegal immigration,' Rahman said refuting the oft-repeated Indian allegation.

Summing up the briefing on the bilateral discussions, the Foreign Secretary said that 'We are not here to resolve all the issues overnight' but suggested that the two countries had begun moving towards solving the problems.

The strength of the whole

Talks again fail

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the use of loudspeakers for Azaan in mosques would be lifted.

'We are in search of a process that will ensure voluntary repatriation of the refugees,' Faruq said adding 'our success so far may not have been a big one, but the ice has started melting.'

Held amidst tight security the latest round of talks were part of regular consultations to ensure the repatriation.

The two sides will meet again next month in Myanmar, the Bangladesh delegation leader said without specifying the date or the venue.

Faruq said Myanmar has so far given green signal for the return of 11,418 refugees from a list of 32,406 Rohingyas whose names Bangladesh submitted since the April 28 repatriation pact.

Faruq did not give details on whether Bangladesh had pressed for involvement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to monitor the repatriation, the main demand of the Ro-

Iraqi PM

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sequences might be,' said the agency, monitored in Nicosta.

AFP from London adds: The Royal Air Force has been given the go-ahead to deploy six Tornado aircraft to the Gulf next week, military sources said today.

The sources did not say whether the Tornados will be based in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia or another Gulf state.

Another report says: The United States, Britain, France and Russia informed the UN Secretary General they intend to bar Iraqi aircraft from southern Iraq at the 32nd parallel in the next few days.

The allies UN representatives have sent Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali a document in which they explain the modalities of their plan for protecting the Shites of southern Iraq.

Bahrain assures total support to uplift efforts

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister of Bahrain Shaikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al-Khalifa has assured of his government's total support to the development efforts of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The assurance came when Bangladesh Ambassador to Bahrain Akhter-ul-Alam called on him at his office Saturday.

According to a message received from Bahrain said the Prime Minister expressed his government's satisfaction over Bangladesh Prime Minister's recent visit to his country.

factor is that it is overt,' he defined Bangladesh-India relations.

On international issues, the Foreign Secretary said that both the sides had agreed on matters like 'relevance' of the Non-Aligned Movement and redefining its role in the changed global scenario.

They discussed the setting up of a general secretariat for the NAM, the situation in trouble-torn former Yugoslavia, a founding member of the Movement that hosted the previous summit.

The disintegration of the Yugoslav federation has given rise to complications on some formalities at the 10th NAM summit when Jakarta as host assume chairmanship next month.

In the backdrop of Yugoslavia's suspension as a member, the two Foreign Secretaries discussed how the hand-over and take-over takes place.

Meanwhile, the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary yesterday met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and Home Secretary Manjurul Karim.

During their overnight stay at Cox's Bazar the Myanmar officials witnessed a cultural function, visited a Buddhist temple and shops run by the Buddhist Rakhaine community in the town.

The local authorities stepped up security for the Myanmar team's visit to Cox's Bazar, deploying special police guards both in the town and in the refugee camps.

The Myanmar guests were flown by helicopters from Bangladesh's frontier town of Teknaf.

They are scheduled to leave for home Sunday morning.

The Midnight File

UN sends relief to Sudan despite rebel threats

NAIROBI, Aug 22: The United Nations said Saturday it sent five mercy flights to the besieged southern Sudan town of Juba despite rebel threats to shoot down the aircraft. Some 200 tons of corn, medicine and building material have been delivered to Juba's 300,000 residents, said Paul Mitchell, a spokesman for the Rome-based World Food Programme, reports AP.

US marshal shot dead

BONNERES FERRY, Idaho, Aug 22: A US marshal was shot dead as he and five deputies kept watch on a fugitive said to have links with a neo-Nazi group who has been holed up in his fortress-like home for 18 months. William Degam, 42, died after the group came under fire, apparently without warning, on Friday, reports Reuter.

Transport workers disrupt traffic movement at Mirpur

By Staff Correspondent

Traffic movement at Mirpur in the capital remained suspended for more than one-and-a-half hours Saturday as transport workers enforced a blockade to demand the release of one of their leaders allegedly arrested for extortion.

Mirpur police arrested Sohrab, General Secretary of Bhasantek Transport Workers' Union on Saturday morning.

When the news of his arrest reached the union office, several hundred workers came out on the streets and blockaded the road near Section-10 of Mirpur.

Several vehicles, including six minibuses, a number of private cars and a BRTC bus were damaged by the agitating workers, according to witnesses.

The union leaders warned that they would stop traffic movement at Mirpur today (Sunday) if their leader was not released.

Menon better

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provement of his condition. Doctors said his Jaundice has subsided and has also recorded remission of fever.

A health bulletin issued by the CMH said Menon's pulmonary functions also appeared to be improving. It further said all important parameters of his health condition remain under constant vigilance.

The bulletin was issued after Menon's condition was reviewed by the consultant physician and surgeon, Major General Anis Waiz and Major General M A Mohaimen along with other members of the team treating the leader.

Menon, General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party and leader of five party alliance was admitted to CMH after he was shot at by unknown assailants in front of his Topkhana Road party office.

Tk 1 cr damage suit against BTV producer

A one-crore-taka damage suit was filed against BTV producer and presenter of 'Drishtikon' programme on a contractor of Mirpur, reports UNB.

Mizamar Rahman, 1st class contractor and Managing Director of Madina Properties Ltd, filed the suit against presenter Mohammad Shajahan, producer Mohammad Hamid and photographer of weekly Baratan Dinkal Wahid Murad.

The plaintiff said BTV's 'Drishtikon' programme on May 15, 1992 described and depicted him notoriously engaged in various anti-social activities. The telecast said he became rich overnight and acquired wealth estimated at Tk 20-30 crore by indulging in criminal activities including forcibly taking over other's property with the help of musclemen known as 'Mizan Bahini' which he raised for the purpose.

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Indian citizen

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scheduled to go to Jessore to bring the arrested person to Dhaka, they said.

The special team of DB that went to Jessore Friday did not return yet, the officials said.

The team's activities in Jessore could not be known as police officials declined to give details.

Unidentified gunmen shot and critically wounded Rashed Khan Menon, the Workers Party leader near his party office at Topkhana Road in the capital Monday.

Meanwhile, the Detective Branch of police continued interrogation of the two arrested in connection with the assassination bid.

Officials said that they were still interrogating the former MP of Jatiya Party, Monirul Islam Monir, and his younger brother Zahurul Islam Rumi at the Detective Branch office at Minto Road.

However, the police remand would end today (Sunday), they said.

Advertisement for 'হিতৈষণী' (Hitaisani) featuring a woman and a child. Text includes: 'নব বিবাহিতা লাভলীর স্বামী বিদেশে চাকরীরত। হিতৈষণী রাবেয়া তাকে পরামর্শ দিচ্ছেন কি করে তার স্বামীর কষ্টজিত টাকা খাটিয়ে ভবিষ্যতে স্থায়ী সুখ ও সমৃদ্ধি আনা যায়। তাই তাকে উৎসাহিত করছেন ওয়েজ আর্গার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বণ্ড'.