

Fresh programmes announced JP holds series of demonstrations

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party held a series of demonstrations in the capital yesterday as part of their protest programme demanding the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner, scrapping of the Magura by-election results and holding of polls under a neutral caretaker government.

Several top leaders and about 2000 workers and supporters of the party gathered at the Panthapath at 10 am. Later, they proceeded towards the Election Commission office and staged a sit-in there.

Police and BDR watched the demonstrators from a distance but did not prevent the Jatiya Party members from assembling on the Panthapath or from moving towards Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The leaders of the Jatiya Party made short speeches at the Panthapath in which they asked the workers to build a united resistance against the ruling party. The demonstrators chanted slogans demanding the release of detained former president and party chief H M Ershad.

Acting president of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury addressing the workers and supporters demanded the resignation of the government to pave the way for a caretaker government for holding fresh elections.

Chowdhury said his party thinks there could not be free and fair polls under the present government.

Alleging that the Magura by-election was rigged, Mizan said the Election Commission had worked "at the behest of the ruling party."

Moudud Ahmed criticised the ruling party for, what he said, its corruption, nepotism and favouritism. He termed the present government autocratic in action and democratic only in words.

Moudud said "the government has miserably failed" to uphold the democratic ideals and called for its immediate resignation.

The rally was addressed by Kazi Zafar Ahmed MP, Shah Moeazzem Hussain MP, Col

BCL blames BNP men for killings

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has protested yesterday's killings during the siege-hours and held the BNP, JCD and Jubo Dal 'musclemen' responsible.

BCL president Moinuddin Hasan Chowdhury and general secretary Iqbalur Rahim, in a joint statement yesterday, said "The musclemen of the BNP, the Chhatra Dal and the Jubo Dal led by BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, MP opened fire under police protection on a peaceful procession of the Awami League."

The BCL claimed that three persons died in the firing. They were identified as New Model Degree College Chhatra League leader Paran, AL activists Milon and Abu Taher.

The BCL leaders said yesterday's attack even surpassed the tyranny of the Ershad regime.

"After such terrorist activities, the government has no moral right to stay in power," they said and demanded punishment of the culprits.

Two shot by hoodlums

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The Press Note said (text): "Today seventh April members of the public started gathering since 9 in the morning in the Dhaka city's Golap Shah Mazar, Bijoynagar, High Court crossing, Star Gate and Bangabandhu Avenue areas to observe the 'Secretariat siege' programme called by the Bangladesh Awami League.

Though meetings, rallies, processions, carrying of weapons and explosives were prohibited in those areas, the participants in the siege programme continued to bring out processions. A section of unruly picketers broke through the police barricade and made attempt to proceed towards the Secretariat and started pelting stones, bricks and crackers continuously towards the police on duty.

"They set on fire the 'tong-ghars' (make-shift stalls) of poor vendors (chhatpati sellers) and temporary lottery ticket counters at Bangabandhu Avenue as a result of which a chaotic situation was created in the entire area. At one stage, throwing of stone towards the police the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Abdus Samad Azad was hit by the bricks thrown from the back by his party workers. Besides, 13 police men including one additional police super were in-

jured. Nine police men wounded seriously, were admitted to police hospital for treatment.

The police force engaged on duty to protect life and property of the innocent people showed great restraints in the face of extreme provocations and tried to check the widespread destruction of the public property."

"The police lobbed tear gas shells and resorted to mild lathicharge to disperse the unruly processionists. A section of armed picketers proceeded towards the Siddique Bazar area in the afternoon and were engaged in illegal activities including creation of reckless terrorism and looting. As a result people in the entire area became panicky and started running helter skelter.

At one stage Aminur Rashid Paran and Milon were shot at by the armed terrorists and were immediately shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared them dead.

The government expresses deep sorrow at the tragic incident. Meanwhile, the relevant authorities have been instructed to arrest the killers for trial. Thirty-six persons have been arrested for yesterday's terrorism and cases have been filed against them.



Awami League leaders squat on the road near the Bangladesh Secretariat as part of their planned siege yesterday.

2 killed during AL siege

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planned a siege of the Election Commission office at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and staged a sit-in there yesterday.

Earlier, the Awami League began its Secretariat siege programme from 10:00 am. The law enforcing agencies including the Armed Police Battalion, BDR and Ansars cordoned off a large perimeter around the Secretariat by setting up barricades near the Pir Yamani Market, Ramna Park Star Gate, the GPO, Dajnik Bangla crossing, Doyel Chatter and Purana Paltan crossing.

The situation continued to be peaceful till around noon when a clash between the police and demonstrators began near the Pir Yamani Market.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad was injured when he was hit by stones pelted by processionists from behind who were aiming at the police. Later, Samad Azad was admitted to PG Hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

The agitators, pelting stones at the police, were pushing forward to break the cordon after holding a rally in front of the nearby Awami League office on Bangabandhu Avenue. Following this a number of crackers were exploded and police immediately resorted to heavy teargassing.

Other AL leaders also said that the police deployed at the Ramna Park Star Gate, Segunbagicha, Bijoynagar and adjacent areas invariably stopped them from going to the Secretariat area. Yet they had ultimately managed to go through.

After roving around the Secretariat area, Tofael Ahmed told the journalists, "This siege is a success. The Awami League had nothing much to do since the government itself had laid a siege."

"Right now, we are just trying to lay siege to an area which the police has already seized," the AL leader said jokingly.

Bangabandhu Avenue
Our staff correspondent at the scene near Bangabandhu Avenue says: The situation was comparatively calm until 12:15 pm when a series of cocktails exploded near the double-lined barbed-wire barricade put up by police in front of the Pir Yamani Market.

Police resorted to baton-charge after at least a dozen cocktails exploded in a row and the several hundred police and BDR men came under a rain of brickbats from several thousand Awami League supporters who gathered in front of the party office since early morning.

Police also lobbed dozens of tear-gas shells to disperse the pickets upto the Golap Shah Mazar and the Gulistan cinema hall.

Abdus Samad Azad, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, was injured when a stone thrown at the police by some AL supporters missed the target and hit the elderly leader on his back. Samad Azad was taken to a safer place inside the Rupali

Bank at Bangabandhu Avenue by Mohammad Nasim MP and Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin. The AL leaders, however, claimed Samad was hit by the police during the fracas.

In the face of indiscriminate tear-gassing and baton-charge the AL supporters ran off towards the Baitul Mukarram mosque, the Stadium Market, Motijheel, Nawabpur Road, Kaptan Bazar, Suritola and North South Road.

The dispersed demonstrations then set ablaze several roadside lottery ticket sales boxes, and damaged some road railings. They also tried to retaliate against the police with stones and even lobbed back some of the tear-gas shells.

The whole area soon turned into a veritable battlefield. Scores of people injured on the spot as well as many others were arrested.

Police deployed a hot water cannon in front of AL office and gas-shell shooter van near the T & T office to clear the areas of demonstrations.

The siege supporters then clashed with a group of unidentified anti-siege activists near Suritola. At one stage someone opened fire at the AL supporters.

AL sources alleged the ruling party's Jubo Dal supporters had shot and killed the siege supporters. However, it could not be confirmed by any independent source how the victims were injured on killed.

During the one-and-a-half-hour long sporadic clashes, Fire Service ambulances ferried the injured to hospitals and a fire-fighting van reached the scene to extinguish the burning ticket boxes on the street along the Stadium.

Inside the Sect yesterday

By Special Correspondent

While the situation was tense outside, a relaxed mood prevailed inside the Bangladesh Secretariat since morning yesterday. The seat of the country's administration was the target of a siege declared by the opposition Awami League.

Tight security arrangements were made in and around the Secretariat where the attendance of officials and employees was rather less than normal. Very little official activities were noticed. Almost everybody, including a good number of ministers, who were inside the secretariat, were found engaged in small talk and discussions regarding the opposition's programme and its possible consequences.

It was a bad day for the lobbyist touts — the lobbyists who serve special interests. They could not enter the secretariat due to the strict restrictions imposed by the law enforcing agencies both at the gates and on the adjacent streets.

The main gates of the secretariat were kept open since 5 am because the officials and employees were asked to report to their offices by 6, two hours ahead of the normal time. Ministers and high officials came in their cars by 6:30 am while others managed to arrive by seven.

But the absence of visitors and thinner attendance of the employees gave the premises almost a deserted look.

The ministers, who are harassed daily by innumerable visitors, took the opportunity afforded yesterday to call on each other. Besides exchanging pleasantries over endless cups of tea, their gossip and discussions centred round the country's political situation. BNP affairs and also the imminence of a long-expected cabinet reshuffle.

Officials and employees, and even some ministers, witnessed the pitched battles between the police and the demonstrators at the nearby Bangabandhu Avenue from the top floors of the secretariat buildings.

The employees left at the end of office hours while a number of ministers and high officials had to wait inside until late afternoon for the situation to ease before they went home.

BDR and police contingents were deployed inside the secretariat as precautionary measures.

43 schoolchildren killed as Chinese boats capsize

BEIJING, Apr 7: Two cement-hulled boats crammed beyond capacity with school children capsized in east China during a spring outing, killing 43 passengers, official reports said today, reports Reuter.

More than 80 pupils were pitched into a reservoir in the Lishui district of coastal Zhejiang province on Tuesday morning, according to newspaper reports reaching Beijing.

US envoy

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country attain near self-sufficiency in food production and success in the family planning programme.

The success of the family planning programme in Bangladesh, he said, has set an example for other densely populated countries.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia welcomed the new Ambassador in Bangladesh and assured him of all cooperation.

Presidents killed

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killings and that the city's streets were empty except for small, quick-moving groups of youth armed with machetes and clubs.

No demands have been received for the release of the ministers of Labour and Social Affairs, of Information and Agriculture or the three unnamed military observers, said Gueye. He also said it was not clear who was involved in the fighting.

"So far as we can see, it

KIGALI, Apr 7: A UN spokesman said Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana had been killed today near the presidential palace in the capital Kigali. "I have confirmation the Prime Minister is dead," he said reports Reuter.

seems that there are a lot of guns in a lot of hands and we don't really know who is giving orders to shoot at who and for what reason," said Gueye.

"There is shooting, people are being terrorised," Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana told Radio France Internationale. "People are inside their homes, lying on the floor."

The Prime Minister indicated that much of the shooting was being done by the army, which had been called out to put down the unrest.

The Midnight File

Bosnian govt, Serbs agree on 24-hr ceasefire

SARAJEVO, Apr 7: Bosnia's government and Serb forces agreed on a 24-hour global ceasefire today, a news agency reported. The agreement called for a truce to begin today at 6:00 pm and cover all remaining battle fronts in Bosnia, the BH news agency, close to the Sarajevo government, said, reports AFP.

Greenpeace activists to visit ROK next week

SEOUL, Apr 7: Greenpeace activists plan their first visit to South Korea next week to join local environmentalists in anti-nuclear rallies in a nation that is turning increasingly to atomic energy. South Korean officials are worried about the effect on their long-term plan to produce nearly 50 per cent of the nation's electricity with nuclear power, up from 11 per cent now. South Korea also hopes to export its expertise in building and operating nuclear reactors to some Southeast Asian countries, reports AP.

World Health Day observed

World Health Day was observed yesterday in the country as elsewhere round the globe with elaborate programmes to create public awareness about health hazards, reports UNB.

"Oral Health for a Healthy Day" was this year's theme of the day.

Truck kills 3

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Banu under went an emergency surgery after admission to the hospital and was shifted to the post operative unit last night.

The dead were identified as Layli Begum, 28, her seven-year-old son Majharul and Banu's two-year-old daughter Fatema.

Witnesses said, the truck while swerving to avoid a pushcart on the road-side, plunged across the pavement and smashed the shacks killing and wounding people inside.

AL programme

From Page 1 Col 3

dressed the press conference however, claimed that six persons were killed by the armed terrorists of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The AL has decided to observe a three-day mourning, beginning today.

It includes *gayebana faraja* at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque premises after Juma prayers today, countrywide demonstrations against the government tomorrow and a dawn-to-dusk general strike day after tomorrow (Sunday).

According to the anti-government agitation plans announced yesterday, the AL is scheduled to take up a nine-day mass contact programme beginning April 11 and then lay sieges before the district administration offices on April 20.

The party will then observe a nationwide dawn-to-dusk general strike on April 26.

The AL chief told newsmen that the party's next course of action would be announced from a rally on April 26.

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে তিতাস গ্যাস আগতভুক্ত সকল এলাকায় সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানসহ সকল খেলাপী গ্রাহকের গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান ৫ এপ্রিল '৯৪ থেকে পুনরায় শুরু হয়েছে।

সকল সম্মিলিত গ্রাহকে অবিলম্বে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকারী দলকে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের স্থানে বকেয়া পরিশোধের রসিদ প্রদর্শন করার অনুরোধ জানানো হল। সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত গ্রাহক বিকাল ৫-০০টার মধ্যে কোম্পানীর সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ জেন/অফিসে পরিশোধিত বিলের রসিদ দেখাতে পারলে তৎক্ষণিকভাবে পুনঃসংযোগ প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত ও (তিন) মাসের মধ্যে পুনঃসংযোগ না নিলে গ্যাস সংযোগ স্থায়ীভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণসহ গ্যাস সরবরাহ চুক্তি বাতিল করা হবে।

প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের ব্যবহার মূল্যবান বন সম্পদ রক্ষা করে পরিবেশের ভারসাম্য রক্ষায় সহায়তা করে। গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করে পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণে এগিয়ে আসুন।

গ্যাসের সঠিক ব্যবহার মূল্যবান বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা সাশ্রয় করে অর্থনীতিতে সমৃদ্ধি আনে।

বকেয়া আদায় এবং গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ ও সংরক্ষণকল্পে সকলের সহযোগিতা আমাদের একান্ত কাম্য।

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(পেট্রোলিং এর একটি সার্বস্বত্বকারী কোম্পানী)
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"গ্যাস লাগান, বাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

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