

Resist those using religion to incite violence'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad in the city yesterday urged the people to resist those who, in the name of religion, were inciting public hatred and violence against newspapers and 'progressive' intellectuals.

They maintained that the recent attacks on newspapers was only the 'tip of the iceberg', part of a 'master plan to destroy pro-independence journalism.'

Programmes to resist June 30 hartal

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties, socio-cultural organisations and student bodies have taken up programmes against what they called 'ominous' activities by 'fundamentalist and anti-eradication forces.'

They have also called for resisting the June 30 hartal, called by some 'religion-based' organisations and supported by similar political parties demanding a ban on some leading dailies, including the Janakantha, and trial of writer Taslim Nasreen.

The eight-party Left Democratic Front has called a public meeting in the city on June 27. The Sammilito Sangskritik Jote has arranged citizens' gathering at the Central Shaheed Minar on June 26 and the left-leaning Ganatantrik Chhatra Olkya has decided to hold agitations on the Dhaka University campus on June 23 and throughout the country on June 25 to protest the activities of fundamentalist forces.

The Mukti Joddha Chhatra Command has called a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club today to protest the hartal call of June 30.

The Ghataks, Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee leaders will meet this afternoon at the JSD (Inu) office in the city and take up action programmes.

Meanwhile, 81 noted personalities in the cultural arena in a joint statement yesterday called for resisting the June 30 hartal.

Those who signed the statement include: Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, Ramendu Majumder, Aly Zaker, Mamunur Rashid, Ferdousi Majumder, Asaduzzaman Noor, Dr Inamul Haq, Lucky Inam, Humayun Faridi, Afzal Hossain, Raisul Islam Asad, Jamaluddin Hossain, Tarek Anam Khan*, Khairul Alam Sabuj, Sarah Zaker, Subarna Mustafa, Abul Hayat, Bipasha Hayat, Khaled Khan, Towkhir Ahmed, Azizul Hakim, Shomil Kaiser, Tarana Halim, Proga Laboni, Fakir Alamgir and Shilpee Sarkar Apu.

The Adhikar Sangrakky Committee '94, a human rights organisation, in a statement, also supported the call for resisting the June 30 hartal.

Strike paralyses Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, June 19: A strike today paralysed the Indian state of Kashmir, a day after some 50 people were injured when border guards fired on a crowd protesting the deaths of two militant, police said here, reports AFP.

Shops, government offices and schools were closed and traffic went off the roads across the Kashmir Valley in response to calls by a Muslim separatist group to denounce 'recent killing by Indian security forces.'

Indian authorities claim to have killed about 50 Muslim guerrillas in gunbattles in the past four days.

High import duty to affect CI sheet units'

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh G P & C I Sheet Manufacturers' Association in its reaction to the proposed budget said, high import duty on CR coil will affect CI sheet industries.

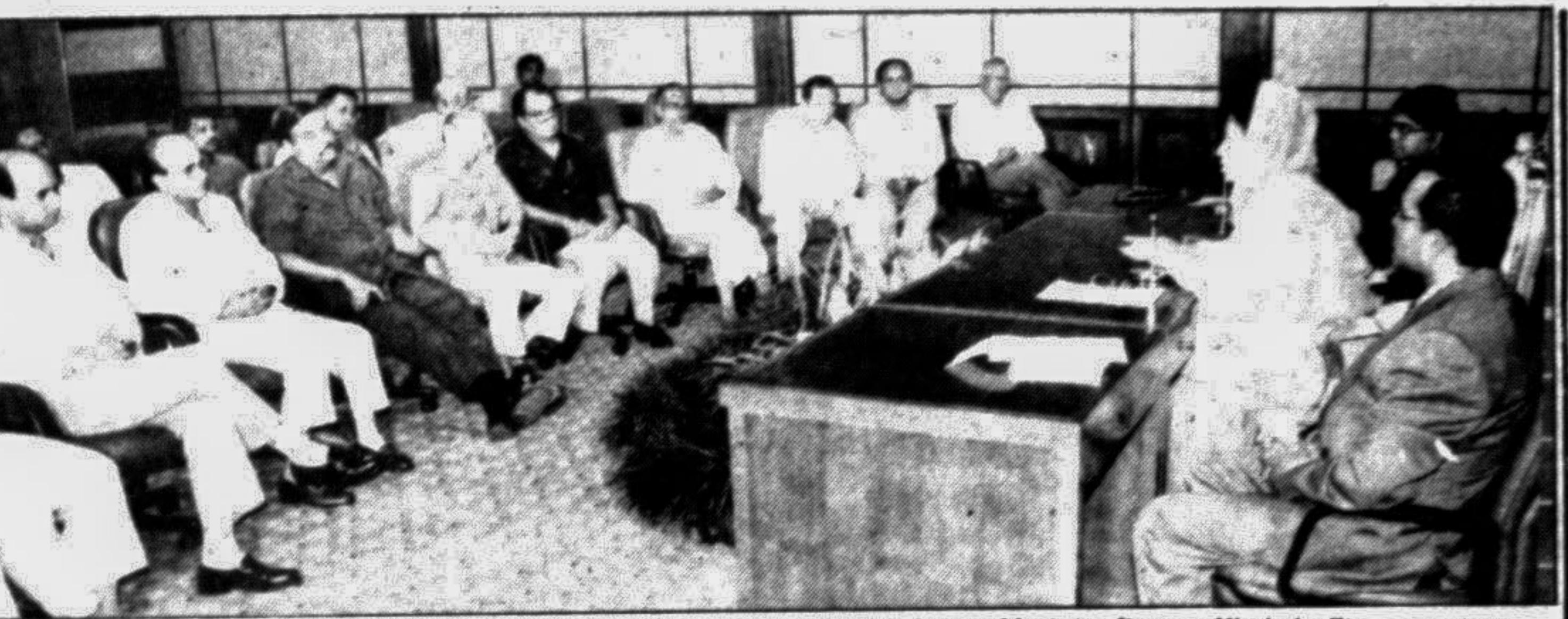
The association regretted that no action has been taken on its appeal to the NBR to bring the duty of CR coil to 15 per cent from its enhanced rate of 30 per cent last year (below 40 mm thickness).

It said, CI sheets are used by a large number of our rural population and will go beyond the buying capacity of the people because high import duty on CR coil will increase the price of the CI sheets.

This will affect the rural housing that goes against the avowed government policy," the statement signed by the Association's acting President Deen Mohammad, stated.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrak, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1206. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-363035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.



Members of the Bangladesh Council of Editors exchanging views with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on various matters including newspaper industries at her office yesterday.

— PID photo

Vigilance indeed!

By Staff Correspondent

The discussion meeting, held at the Jatiya Press Club and chaired by President of BSP and Editor of Ajker Kagoj Kazi Shahed Ahmed, was participated by, among others, Sangbad Editor Ahmedul Kabir, Janata Editor Dr Muhammad Asadur Rahman, Awami League leaders Abdur Razak, Amir Hossain Amu and Mozaffar Hossain Poltu. Kazi Aref of JSD, Saiful Haq of Workers' Party, Morshed Ali of CPB and AFM Mahabubul Haq of left democratic alliance.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, Justice KM Sobhan, Dr Nilima Ibrahim, Abu Kalam Azad and Md Shahjahan of Dhaka Union of Journalists, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury of BFUJ and Rahat Khan of Ittefaq, among others, spoke on the occasion.

They said that a fundamentalist party was growing stronger in the country and the government was backing it.

When they attack a newspaper office, the government is silent. But when the newspapers publish reports about the heinous activities of the fundamentalists, the government reacts," said the discussants.

They said that although different circles were aware of the anti-national activities of the fundamentalists, none could not take any move against them because they were using religion as their shield.

The speakers also urged the people to actively resist the hartal called by the fundamentalists' on June 30.

Meanwhile, UNB adds: Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) at a meeting with cross section of people yesterday formed a national committee with a vowed objective of 'resisting the communal forces opposed to independence and democracy.'

The national committee with Poet Shamsur Rahman as convenor and Kazi Shahed Ahmed as member-secretary included newspaper editors, politicians, professionals and leaders of cultural and non-government organisations.

Local team

From Page 1 Col 5

International, Smith and New Court, John, Day, Revis and Pogue will take special interest on the investment opportunities in the region.

The team members of the delegations from these four countries of the region are joining the seminar on personal invitations, but observers say that this seminar will focus on the investment of European surplus funds in the region.

The invitation letters mentioned that the European investors feel "some exciting developments have taken place in Bangladesh and the country is on the fringe of emerging as a potential market."

According to sources the Telecommunication Secretary, Dr Shawkat Ali, Energy Secretary M Faizur Razzak, Chairman of the Board of Investment, Mokammel Haque and Chairman of the Privatisation Board, Kamaluddin Ahmed will attend the seminar.

He also said that the Leader of the Opposition had been staying outside the House because she could not accept the BNP government's achievements in different sectors. That leader is now trying to make Parliament ineffective," he said.

Earlier, the JS had a question-answer session.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni was in the Chair yesterday.

The session was adjourned at 8:50 pm and resumes at 5:15 this afternoon.

According to sources, at least one top businessman from Bangladesh will also join the seminar.

Responding to a question, Ahmed said there has not been any positive proposal from the ruling BNP to enhance power of the Election Commission for ensuring fair voting. Ahmed said mere changes in the electoral system and additional powers to the EC would not ensure fairness of polls.

The constitutional provision for neutral non-party interim caretaker administration is the only panacea to the present political stalemate ... otherwise, the government will be responsible for any consequences," he cautioned.

He said Begum Khaleda Zia is the Chairperson of the BNP and if she remained Prime Minister, it would mean a political party is in power and the situation would never change.

Reacting to another move of the ruling BNP to enhance power of the Election Commission for ensuring fair voting, Ahmed said mere changes in the electoral system and additional powers to the EC would not ensure fairness of polls.

The report said production of potato had increased over the years and per head availability of potato increased slightly. But, it added, people have not yet responded largely for using potato as staple food instead of rice.

The developments marked a dramatic breakthrough in the 15-month deadlock over suspicion that the hard-line communist North has been developing nuclear weapons.

North Korea claims that its nuclear programme is peaceful but has failed to prove it.

AFP adds from Seoul, South Korea started preparations today for a historic summit meeting with North Korea by forming a task force to make contacts with Pyongyang, officials said.

Vice Unification Minister Song Young-dae chaired the first meeting of officials in

Japanese-aided irrigation project opens

RUPGANJ, June 19: Agriculture, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Development Minister M Majid-ul-Haq today inaugurated the Japanese-assisted Narayanganj-Narsingdi Irrigation Project (Block A) at the Banidai Pump House complex here, reports BSS.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan and Japanese ambassador Shigeo Takenaka also attended the function while Secretary of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Ministry Mohammad Nazrul Islam was in the chair.

Speaking on the occasion Haq stressed the participation

of the local people in maintenance of the project through which 2,120 hectares of land would come under irrigation.

He expressed his gratitude to the Japanese government for granting Taka 82.01 crore out of the total project cost of Taka 114 crore.

The rest of the money was provided from the local resources.

Matin Chowdhury said before the commissioning of the project, the farmers had to spent about Taka 500 for irrigating one acre of land through diesel or power pumps. With the completion of the project now they will get the irrigation facilities at a least cost," he said.

Mannan Bhuiyan stressed optimum use of water resources in the country for the development of the whole agriculture sector.

Dr Moyeen Khan said the investment cost of the project would be recovered after about 12 years if effective operation of the project could be ensured.

Takenaka said the project would provide a quite impressive socio-economic benefit to the people. "Since the completion of the project last year, when it's experimental operation started, many farmers have changed their cultivation pattern from the traditional single cropping to diversified cropping," he said.

It has been estimated that the project which covers 3000 hectares of land, would help produce additional 16,000 tonnes of paddy and 217 tonnes of wheat every year. Besides, it will create employment opportunity of nine lakh workdays in agri-sector and promotes small and cottage industries in the area.

Govt should realise reality: Tofael

Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed MP yesterday said the Opposition would go to any extent in democratic means to force the BNP to concede to their demand for a caretaker government to hold next general elections, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen in the parliament office of Deputy Opposition Leader in the evening, he said the government should realise the present political reality and bring a caretaker government bill to maintain political stability in the country.

The constitutional provision for neutral non-party interim caretaker administration is the only panacea to the present political stalemate ... otherwise, the government will be responsible for any consequences," he cautioned.

He said Begum Khaleda Zia is the Chairperson of the BNP and if she remained Prime Minister, it would mean a political party is in power and the situation would never change.

Reacting to another move of the ruling BNP to enhance power of the Election Commission for ensuring fair voting, Ahmed said mere changes in the electoral system and additional powers to the EC would not ensure fairness of polls.

The report said production of potato had increased over the years and per head availability of potato increased slightly. But, it added, people have not yet responded largely for using potato as staple food instead of rice.

South Korea had agreed to meet in a bid to resolve doubts about the North's nuclear programme.

Carter also said communist leader Kim agreed to freeze his nuclear programme during 'good-faith talks' with the United States.

The developments marked a dramatic breakthrough in the 15-month deadlock over suspicion that the hard-line communist North has been developing nuclear weapons.

North Korea claims that its nuclear programme is peaceful but has failed to prove it.

AFP adds from Seoul, South Korea started preparations today for a historic summit meeting with North Korea by forming a task force to make contacts with Pyongyang, officials said.

Vice Unification Minister Song Young-dae chaired the first meeting of officials in

volved in preparations for the summit, which was brokered by former US President Jimmy Carter, Song's office said.

Foreign Ministry officials also held an unscheduled meeting to analyze the motives of North Korea President Kim Il-Sung, who conveyed his invitation to President Kim Young-Sam through Carter on Saturday.

Kim Young-Sam immediately accepted and asked his cabinet to contact North Korea for working-level talks.

The south's national news agency Yonhap quoted a senior official as saying however that preparations to arrange a summit should not disrupt efforts to seek access to North Korea's nuclear programme.

The south's national news agency Yonhap quoted a senior official as saying however that preparations to arrange a summit should not disrupt efforts to seek access to North Korea's nuclear programme.

The sanctions push should not be stopped yet, and we have to see what it really means," the official said.

The Midnight File

French Socialist Party chief resigns

PARIS, June 19: Michel Rocard resigned as head of the French Socialist Party today after the movement's national council voted a no-confidence vote against him, delegates said. Rocard was the party's likely candidate for next year's French presidential elections, reports Reuter.

Tutsi rebels to attack peacekeepers

KIGALI, Rwanda, June 19: Tutsi-led rebels say they will attack peacekeeping troops that France is planning to send to Rwanda, the UN commander said Sunday. "The responses we've received from the RPF (rebels) are very emphatic," said Maj. Gen. Romeo Dallaire of Canada. "They would consider the French forces the enemy and target them accordingly," reports AP.

Minister fails to place data in parliament

The Industries Minister apparently took Parliament leisurely in the absence of the Opposition and came unprepared, reports UNB.

During the question hour yesterday AM Zahiruddin Khan sought notice when Akbar Ali wanted to know the production cost and selling price of newsprint.

"It's a matter of statistics, I need time," Khan said replying to a supplementary.

Sharp came Deputy Leader of the House. "You should require no notice to provide such information," said Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, "you should have the relevant figures ready."

Dr Chowdhury requested the minister to provide the member with the information by today.

Zahiruddin Khan, an industrialist with reputation, was apparently embarrassed. He calmly digested the bitter pill.

The increase in gas price was 26.98%, in case of single burner, 16.27% for double burner, 10.45% for power sector, 10.56% for fertiliser factories and 9.95% for industrial sector.

Belgians

From Page 1 Col 4

Weber.

Belgium, who were without suspended defender Philippe Albert, welcomed back midfielder Lorenzo Staelens who had been a doubtful starter because of problems adjusting to the extreme heat and humidity.

Weber was booked for his foul on goalkeeper Azmi barely a minute before the final whistle.

Azzouzi became the third Moroccan cautioned for a foul minutes from the end.

Belgian captain Grun's booking came in the 82nd minute, two minutes after he had fired a rasping long-range drive just wide.

The chance was a rare one for Belgium as they hung on to their slender advantage. Their emphasis was on defence and defender Marc Emmer replaced striker Nils 10 minutes after the interval.

TEAMS

BELGIUM — Michel Preud'homme, Rudi Smids, Michael de Wolf, Georges Grun, Lorenzo Staelens, Franky van der Elst, Danny Boffin (Vital Borkelmans 84), Enzo Scifo, Marc Degryse, Luc Nills (5-Marc Emmer 53), Josip Wever.

MOROCCO — Khalil Azmi (Zakaria Alaoui 88), Abdellah Nacer, Ismail Triki, Nourredine Naybet, Abdelkrim El Hadrioui, Rachid Azzouzi, Larbi Hababi, Mustapha Hadji, Mustapha El Hadaoui (Ahmed Bahia 68), Mohamed Chaouch (Az