

Metropolitan



Gulshan thana unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party brought out a procession in the city yesterday, protesting Opposition's non-cooperation programme. — Star photo

BCL demands autonomy of Radio, TV

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of Bangladesh Awami League yesterday held a demonstration rally near the National Broadcasting Authority (NBA) bhaban and demanded autonomy of radio and television.

BCL activists while marching towards the NBA bhaban with a huge procession were intercepted by the police at the east end of the PG hospital. BCL then held a rally there. The rally was addressed by BCL president Enamul Haq Shamim, secretary Ishaq Ali Khan Panna, DU unit president Bahadur Bepari, secretary Abdul Wadud Khokon, Nazrul Islam Babu, Jahangir Ahmed, Ataul Mahmud and Golam Sarwar Mamun.

Enamul Haq Shamim said that Begum Khaleda Zia has been using radio and television for her party interest. He said that by broadcasting fabricated report on the state-run television she was trying to foil the ongoing democratic movement aimed at establishing people's right.

Shamim urged the officials and employees of mass media not to cooperate with the "illegal" government. He said those who would cooperate would be identified as the enemies of the nation.

Meanwhile, BCL held a rally in front of the Dhaka University Snacks (DUS) yesterday evening demanding immediate resignation of the Prime Minister and cancellation of the February 15 farical election.

Scrapping of Feb 15 polls demanded

Sammilita Chhatra Oikya, a newly-formed student alliance, yesterday demanded cancellation of the February 15 polls and the resignation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a rally yesterday, reports BSS.

BNP thana unit holds rally

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal, Sabujbag thana unit, yesterday held a rally and brought out a procession in protest against the opposition's non-cooperation programme, reports BSS.

Addressing the rally, Mirza Abbas, central president of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, said the "so called" non-cooperation programme is destroying the democratic character of the country.

Clarification

The following rejoinder was sent yesterday by Sayeful Islam, member, executive committee of BGMEA, to a news item published on page 12 of The Daily Star on March 15.

"My attention has been drawn to a news item published on 15/03/96 in your esteemed newspaper in which you have included my name in the list of eleven signatories who have given a statement on another statement given earlier by BGMEA President Mr Redwan Ahmed.

"I would like to state that I was not a signatory to the above mentioned statement and do not agree with its contents."

Discussion on Bangabandhu

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday said that Bangabandhu was one of the outstanding statesmen of the world who were instrumental for creating new nations and countries, reports BSS.

"Bangabandhu was not only the leader of Bangladesh but he was the undisputed leader of the oppressed people of the contemporary time," they added.

The discussion on "silver jubilee of country's independence and present context" was organised by Supreme Court chapter of Bangabandhu parishad on the occasion of the 76th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Held at the Supreme Court Bar premises, the discussion was presided over by chapter president Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan while eminent lawyer S R Paul was the chief guest. Among others, Barrister Amirul Islam, S S Halder, Gazul Haq, Abul Baset Majumder, Subrata Chowdhury, Mesbahuddin, Mahub-e-Alam, Ozair Faruque, Zakir Ahmed, Sultana F Nahar, Azizul Haq Selim, Amjed Hossain, Fazlur Rahman, K M Saifuddin, Alimuzzaman Chowdhury and Abdul Halim took part in the discussion.

Paying rich tributes to Bangabandhu, the speakers said that the achievement of country's independence was hardly possible without the correct leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Turning back to the country's present situation the speakers said that the only way to overcome the political crisis lies on cancellation of February 15 polls, resignation of the present government and holding fresh polls under a neutral caretaker government.

Food situation reviewed

A meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee was held yesterday at the conference room of the Food Ministry with Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair, reports BSS.

State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Haroon Al Rashid was present. The meeting discussed the issues relating to fixation of prices and quantity of wheat and Irri-Boro paddy to be procured during the 1995-96 fiscal year, an official handout said here.

The meeting also reviewed the food stock and supply position in the country. It expressed satisfaction at the adequate stock. It was informed at the meeting that there was 10 lakh tons of foodgrains in the government's food stock.

Narsingdi Chamber concerned

Md. Ramizuddin Fakir, president, Narsingdi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, yesterday made an appeal to all concerned to demonstrate sagacity in resolving the country's political crisis, reports BSS.

Expressing his concern over the gradual ruination of the national economy due to strike and blockade programmes, Fakir in a press statement, said trade and commerce was now on the verge of total collapse. He urged the opposition political parties to come to an understanding for solving the present crisis through dialogue without setting any precondition. All should place national interests above everything. If politics meant welfare of the people, it should not be the cause for their sufferings, he added.

He further said it was as much responsibility of the opposition as of the government to uphold the national interests.

'Supply fertiliser at fair price'

Some 20 intellectuals of the country yesterday urged the authorities concerned to ensure the supply of fertiliser to the farmers at fair price, reports BSS.

In a joint statement, they said like last year, fertiliser crisis was assuming a grave dimension this season too. A 50 kg fertiliser bag was now selling at Taka 400 to Taka 600 as against its factory gate price of Taka 186.25, they added.

They attributed the price-hike to faulty distribution system, smuggling and lack of control of the district administration on the dealers. Production of Boro-Irri paddy would suffer terribly if fertiliser was not supplied to the farmers at fair price immediately. This, in turn, would create a food crisis in the country, they said.

The intellectuals include Begum Sufia Kamal, Justice KM Sobhan, Dr Pinak Bhattacharya, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Rupa Chakrabarty, Syed Hasaan Imam, Kamal Lohany, Syed Abdul Mokadd, Faiz Ahmed and Santosh Gupta.

Meanwhile another report adds: Six urea fertiliser factories of Bangladesh have now ready stock of 45,500 mt, 23,500 mt at all factory godowns and 22,000 mt at the buffer godowns located at Bogra, Shantahar, Rangpur, Parbatipur, Gaibandha, Baghbari, Khulna, Thakurgaon, Joypurhat, Mahendranagar, Rajshahi, Kaliganj, Brahmanbaria and Faridpur.

The factories are continuing usual production. These fertiliser factories have produced 15,43,618 mt from July 1, '95 to March 15, '96 as against 14,75,773 mt during the corresponding period of last year indicating higher production of 67,845 mt during the current year.

Capitalism blamed for present crisis

General secretary, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) comrade Mujahidul Islam Selim yesterday alleged that the capitalist policy of the government was responsible for the present socio-political situation in the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a rally at Purana Paltan square in the city yesterday afternoon as part of CPB's week-long programme, "save the country." Presided over by Arshad Khan, the rally was also addressed, among others, by Abdul Malek, Ruhin Hossain Prince and Kaffi Ratan.

Comrade Selim demanded fresh elections under a neutral caretaker government and urged the government to step aside instead of what he described attempt to cling to power.

The meeting over, a procession was brought out which paraded different city streets.

WVA executives

By Staff Correspondent

Elections for a new executive committee 1996-97 of the Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) were held on Mar 8 at the WVA office, according to a press release issued yesterday. The new office bearers are: Reyhana Ashraf — president 1996-97; Farida Moni — senior vice-president; Raushan Jabbar — vice-president; Nilufer Mahmood-vice-president; Saleha Mansoor — secretary; Khaleda Sabet — treasurer; Anisa Haq — Joint secretary; Hasina Afzal — joint treasurer; and Raushan Ara Ahmed — immediate past president.

Presence of US war vessels in Taiwan Strait slated

General Secretary of Bangladesh Sammabadi Dal (ML) Dilip Barua yesterday condemned the presence of American war ships and the sending of more American war vessels to Taiwan Strait taking plea of China's just right to undertake military exercise there, reports BSS.

In a statement to the press, Barua said Taiwan was an inseparable part of China and it was recognised in the joint communique issued by Chou En Lie and Nixon in Shanghai in 1973. As such, Chinese military exercise in Taiwan Strait was its internal affair. He said, the sending of war ships to Taiwan Strait tantamounts to interference in the internal affairs of China.

In this context, Barua criticised the two China policy of the United States, and said being envious of the economic success of China, Washington was trying to create uneasy condition for the Chinese government and the people and thus attempting to misguide the public opinion.

Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

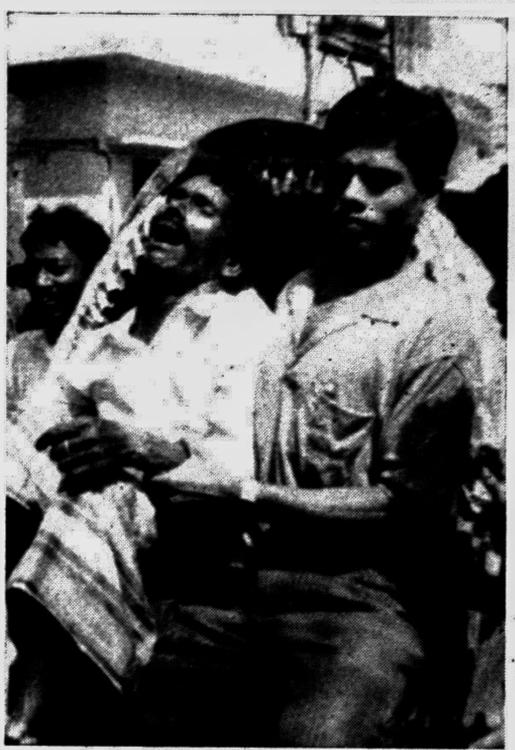
Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office forecast mainly dry weather elsewhere across the country.

No appreciable change in day temperature is likely throughout the country.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Ishardi and the lowest 19.2 degrees at Dinajpur. The sun sets today at 6:07 and rises tomorrow at 6:07.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	36.0	24.5	77	68
Chittagong	30.0	23.5	77	78
Rajshahi	36.8	21.8	77	39
Khulna	36.2	23.8	85	76
Barisal	33.6	24.0	78	77
Sylhet	32.0	22.8	78	56
Cox's Bazar	30.5	24.0	71	80



This man was injured in a bomb explosion near the venue of the BGMEA-sponsored meeting in city's Purana Paltan area yesterday. — Star photo

Eating Out

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The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Last Convertible on Star Plus, Today at 6:00 pm

Sunday 17th March
(All programmes are in local time. We recommend programmes printed in bold. There may be changes in the programmes.)

BTV
3:00 Opening Announcement Al Quran 3:10 Recitation from the Bible 3:15 Cartoon: Woody Woodpecker 3:45 Re-telecast of weekly drama 4:00 News in Bangla 4:45 Anu Paramanu: Science Programme for teen-agers 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Sports programme 6:00 News in Bangla 6:30 Apar Daktar: Health Programme 7:00 News in English 7:05 Open University 7:25 Tagore Song 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Jannabumi: Documentary

CHANNEL V
7:30am Taiwanese Hour 8:30 Music Update Tokyo 9:00 Very China (R) 9:30 Best of Youth Corner 11:00 Wu Man Show 12:00 Billboard US Count-Down 2:00 Best of the Vibe II 3:00 Asian Top 20 5:00 Best of Segaw Manila 6:00 Ticket 6:30 Artists vs Artists 7:00 Chinese Top 20 8:00 U-Rock 10:00 Big Gig Japan 10:30 Club X 11:30 Speak Easy 12:30 Pure Music Video.

BBC
6:00am BBC World News 6:30 India Business Report 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 World Business Review 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 India Business Report 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 World Business Review 10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05 Horizon 11:00 BBC World News 11:25 India Business Report 12:00noon BBC World News 12:20 Britain in View 1:00 BBC World News 1:20 programme based on development

STAR Sports
8:00 World Junior Speed Skating Champs 9:30 Same Day Delay Yonex All-England Open Final (M) 2:30 Wills World Cup Cricket Final Preview 3:30 Live Wills World Cup Cricket Final 1st Session From Lahore, Pakistan 7:45 Final 2nd Session, 10:00 Continued Wills World Cup Cricket Final 11:30 Same Day Delay The European Tour Dubai Desert Classic 1996 Day 4 From UAE 2:30 NBA Philadelphia @ New York (M)

STAR MOVIES
7:30am Comedy Fatsa 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 Classic Pick Up

Dark Justice on BTV, Tonight at 9:00

Highlights
The corrupt Judge Spiro (DAVID TRESS) has a history of presiding over court cases where the evidence disappears soon after the trial ends. Judge Nicholas "Nick" Marshall (BRUCE ABBOTT) and his friend, Jencho "Gibs" Gibson (CLAYTON PRINCE), assume phony identities and make themselves available to work for the judge. They are promptly hired by Judge Spiro to join a group of criminals stealing a large amount of money held in police evidence warehouse.

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