



Awami League leaders exchanged views with representatives of different professional groups at the Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday.

Star photo

Political unrest upsets exam schedules

Star Report

The public examinations under various education boards, the BCS examinations under the PSC and degree level exams at various universities were severely affected due to the recent political unrest.

According to officials of the National University (NU), the answer scripts for the degree examinations, held earlier, could not be sent to the examiners because of the unrest.

The students appearing for the degree pass course examinations for the 1995 session under the NU could only complete the written examinations held in December last, while the practical examinations remained incomplete.

The practical examination is scheduled to be held in the second week of May, the NU sources said.

Meanwhile, examinations and admission to the Bangladesh Open University (BOU) was also adversely affected.

Dr Shamsher Ali, vice chancellor of the BOU while talking to The Daily Star, said that the work stoppage not only affected the education system of the institution but also its developmental activities.

He noted that text books and other support materials for the students could not be sent in time.

Strike paralyses Kashmir Muslim League leader killed in Lahore

LAHORE, Apr 4: An activist from Pakistan's main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) Party was killed in a clash with police here today, party officials and police said, reports AFP.

Javed Ashraf, General Secretary of the PML branch in Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, died in hospital from bullet wounds, police said.

A bank manager was also injured by stray bullets during the clash between the PML and police, bank officials said.

The clash occurred when a group of PML workers attacked and set fire to a small police post in the centre of the city, police said.

But, PML Information Secretary in Punjab, Bin Yameen, said Ashraf was critically injured when the police opened fire on PML workers holding a peaceful demonstration.

"This is an act of state terrorism," he said.

Police sources said scores of opposition workers were arrested in a crackdown following the shootout.

Political sources linked the incident to growing tension between the opposition and

Liquidity

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alised commercial bank, on condition of anonymity. "The government is already withdrawing from the banking sector and this will increase to finance its deficit, which will further intensify the liquidity crisis," he added.

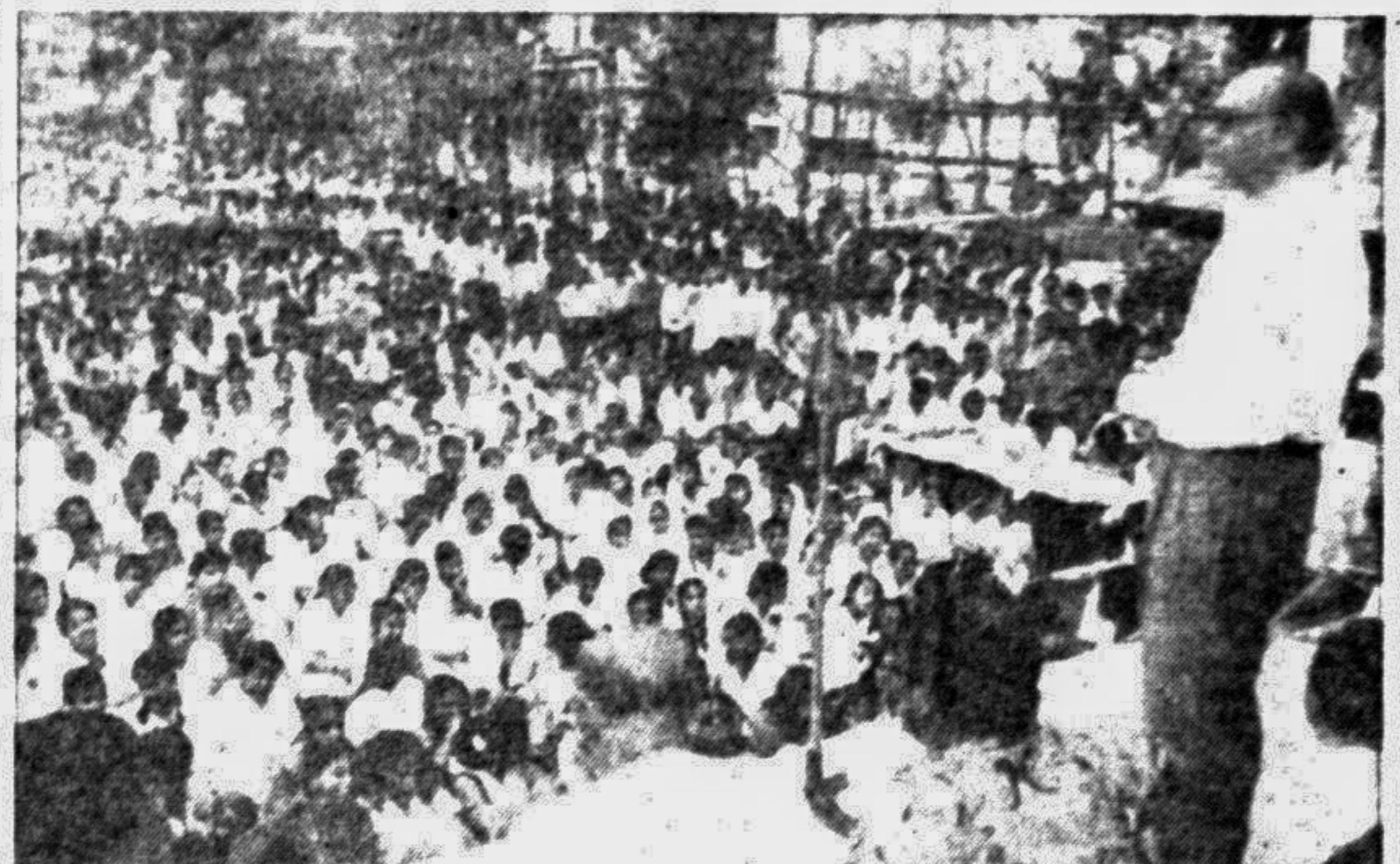
According to available central bank statistics till January 25, the excess liquidity of the scheduled banks showed a continuous decline over the months. On January 25, the excess liquidity fell to Tk 540.92 crore, which was Tk 1031.5 crore less than that of June 29, 1995.

Due to less demand and poor transaction by the commercial banks during the non-cooperation movement from March 9, inter-bank rates fell to 5.5-7 per cent.

But when the non-cooperation programme was relaxed on March 27, the inter-bank rate suddenly took an upturn. The heavy cash withdrawals by the depositors and commercial banks, compounded by government's withdrawal from nationalised commercial banks, lifted the rate to a wider range between six and 11 per cent during the last week of March.

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BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar addressing a rally of Jatiyatabadi Chhetra Dal in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Star photo

6 killed, 50 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Six persons were killed and 50 others injured in separate road accidents in Barisal and Comilla yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal reports. One person was killed and at least 35 others were injured when a bus, with about 60 passengers on board, plunged onto an embankment after hitting the railings of a bridge on the Bholo-Char Fashion road yesterday afternoon.

The accident occurred when the driver of the bus, owned by Ruma Paribahan, reportedly lost control of the vehicle. The driver immediately fled the scene of the incident.

The deceased was identified as Abu Taher, aged 32. The injured, five of them in serious condition have been admitted to the Char Fashion Hospital.

BSS adds: Five persons, including a child, were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Huriholla under Chaudhury thana in Comilla yesterday.

He demanded withdrawal of "false cases" instituted against former deputy leader of parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury. BNP's publicity secretary Fazlul Rahman Patial, JCD city unit president Nasiruddin Pintu and other party leaders and workers.

Rafiqul Islam Miah demanded immediate action against Planning Commission member Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and his five colleagues for taking part in the politics of the Awami League. Their removal from government services is essential to ensure free and fair elections, he said.

DUCSU VP Amanullah Arfan alleged that enemies of the country's independence and sovereignty erected the so-called "Janatbar Manch" in front of the Jatiya Press Club taking huge money from the Indian intelligence service RAW.

Referring to the demand of Chittagong League for dissolving the DUCSU committee, he said JCD is ready to face the elections to hand over power to the elected students' representatives.

JCD president Fazlul Haq Milon and general secretary Nazimuddin Alam accused the Awami League of working to implement an "Indian blueprint" to swallow the map of Bangladesh.

Criticising the state referring the bail petition to higher court, Chowdhury said unless government's law office which includes the Attorney General, public prosecutor and others are restructured, neutrality of the caretaker government would not be maintained. He

The Midnight File

Raphael to visit Pakistan, Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Apr 4: US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Robin Raphael plans to visit Pakistan and Afghanistan this month, a US embassy spokesman said, reports Reuter.

JP for immediate release of Ershad

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chairman of the Jatiya Party, yesterday made a strong plea for immediate release of party chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad, reports BSE.

Addressing a rally at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque on the occasion of party's "Free Ershad Day" in the afternoon Chowdhury said the former president could be freed on parole. Ershad has to be a free man to file nominations and also to meet people, Chowdhury added.

Chowdhury and top JP leaders including Begum Raushan Ershad, Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzam Hossain, Serajul Hossain Khan, Abul Hasan and Yusuf Hussain Humayun delivered brief speeches from on board an open truck.

Organised by City JP, the rally was also addressed by Col (Retd) Abdul Malek and Abdus Salam, president and general secretary respectively of the City unit. Later a procession was held to the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

Referring to a bail petition seeking Ershad's release which was not heard by the High Court yesterday, Chowdhury said it was not expected from the caretaker government since cases against the former ruler were instituted by the former regime purely on "vengeance." Most cases against Ershad are "fabricated and politically motivated," he said.

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Jamaat urges advisers to maintain neutrality

Jamaat-e-Islami Amee Prof Golam Azam yesterday called upon the newly-appointed advisers of the caretaker government to discharge their duties with utmost neutrality being immune from any party affiliation and opinion, reports UNB.

The responsibility is a big test for them and the nation hopes they will come out successful, Prof Azam said while addressing the inaugural session of party's central committee meeting at the Al Falah auditorium at Maghbazar in the morning.

The Jamaat leader said a quarter was hatching conspiracy to make the caretaker administration unsuccessful and said people would not tolerate any move to foil the election under the caretaker government.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami, led by Golam Azam called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The meeting congratulated the Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman and his advisers, according to a BDU press release.

The meeting expressed surprise at the delay in announcing the "dearness allowance" for the newspaper employees as recommended by the Wage Board meeting held on February 18. It demanded immediate announcement of dearness allowance and starting the activities of the fifth Wage Board.

US Commerce Secy, From Page 1

explosions caused by hostile fire.

"It happened at a little bit less than 700 metres and visibility at that height at that time yesterday was practically a round zero because of the very stormy weather and the rain and the fog," he said.

US Ambassador Peter Galbraith, dressed in US army fatigues to protect him against the torrential rain storms lashing the Adriatic coast, said US servicemen had arrived at the crash site during the night.

"There are around 20 of them who have begun to assist in the search and rescue operation," he said.

But he said the investigation of the crash would not begin until search and rescue operations were finished.

Zouzil said one woman was brought from the crash site alive but died en route to hospital. The US government had said earlier it presumed Brown and his party — 13 prominent US businessmen and 12 government officials — had been killed.

Neutrality

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caretaker government must ensure neutrality at all levels of the administration, he added.

On the drive for recovery of illegal arms, the BNP secretary general said, the meeting welcomed it but hoped that no body would be unnecessarily harassed in the name of arms recovery. It also stressed the need for impartial action in this regard, he added.

The BNP leader also hoped that neutrality of the caretaker government would not be damaged by harassing or belittling an individual socially while recovering unauthorised arms.

Replies to a question, Salam Tahirkhan hoped that the state-run Radio and Television

would maintain neutrality.

France likely to kill 80,000 calves

PARIS, Apr 4: France is considering killing between 70,000 and 80,000 calves of British origin after the European Commission agreed to compensate such a move, a French newspaper reported today.

Negotiations are under way between government officials and representatives of the farm organisations concerned by such move, the respected daily Le Monde said.

A spokeswoman at the Agriculture Ministry told The Associated Press the government had yet to make a decision but that calves were singled out and separated. She declined to say how many were involved.

"We're studying the situation," she said on customary authority.

On Wednesday Britain agreed to destroy millions of cattle after the European Union on grounds that there is no scientific basis for doing so. But it apparently changed its mind to seek fresh recompensation of the ordinance.

The commission had originally refused to indemnify countries that decided to kill livestock of British origin on grounds that there is no scientific basis for doing so. But it apparently changed its mind in an effort to restore consumer confidence.

"We faced stiff opposition from different political leaders in December when we sought promulgation of the ordinance and now the same thing has started again," the EC official said.

It could not be ascertained when the EC would make the formal request for the fresh promulgation.

ports imposed last week amid rising public panic about reports a deadly human brain disorder could be contracted from eating meat contaminated with "mad cow" disease.

For its part the European Economic Commission, the executive arm of the 15-member European Union, reversed its decision and decided Wednesday to indemnify Holland for its decision to kill 64,000 British calves. The country will receive 12.6 million dollars in compensation.

France originally decided on March 28 to consign the calves of British origin on French territory, but the EU commission's decision to compensate the Dutch is leading Paris to change its mind, Le Monde said.

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"We faced stiff opposition from different political leaders in December when we sought promulgation of the ordinance and now the same thing has started again," the EC official said.

It could not be ascertained when the EC would make the formal request for the fresh promulgation.

After hearing the petition, First Assistant Judge Mohammad Mahbubul Hoque passed the order till disposal of the injunction petition.