



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 Shamsur 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 development activities.

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

Plans are underway to utilise Fridays, the official weekly holiday, to cover the gap, he added.

The BCS examination under the university scheduled to be held in March was postponed till April, according to sources at the BOU. Besides, the examinations of the Certificate in English Language Proficiency (CELP) was also delayed.

According to official statistics, at least 20,000 students are enrolled in both BCS and the CELP programmes of BOU.

On the other hand, admission of the students at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level scheduled to be held in March was delayed till April. The BOU introduced the SSC programme from last year and has 15,000 students enrolled for the course.

The SSC examinations under the five education boards was scheduled to start on March 28, but it was later rescheduled for April 7.

Besides, BCS examinations under the Public Service Commission and admissions of new intake in various universities and colleges across the country were also postponed during the non-cooperation programme which stretched for over 35 days in the first quarter of 1996.

Strike paralyses Kashmir Muslim League leader killed in Lahore

LAHORE, Apr 4: An activist from Pakistan's main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) 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

the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto over alleged victimisation of PML leaders.

PML workers have been demanding the release of Sharif's brother, Shahbaz Sharif, who has been in jail after his arrest several months ago on charges of involvement in a bank loan fraud.

Shahbaz leads the PML in the Punjab Provincial Assembly.

Reuter adds: Business and shops stayed shut in Karachi today, second day of a strike by the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) protesting against alleged summary killings of its activists.

Witnesses said paramilitary rangers and police patrolled deserted streets in armoured vehicles. Fear of violence and the absence of public transport kept most people at home in Pakistan's biggest city.

State-run Pakistan International Airlines lodged air crews in hotels overnight to make sure they would be able to reach the international airport safely, witnesses said.

Janata Tower Case

Ershad's bail petition case referred to CJ

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division yesterday referred the Janata Tower case with the bail petition of H M Ershad to the Chief Justice for a necessary order as to whether the case would be disposed of by the division bench which heard it earlier in part or by any other bench afresh.

The bail petition of Ershad was fixed for hearing yesterday before the division bench of the HC comprising Justice Golam Rabbani and Justice Kazi A T Monwaruddin who sent the case to the Chief Justice.

Earlier on June 6, 1995, the division bench comprising Justice Golam Rabbani and Justice Md Tajazzul Islam, in part, heard the appeal filed challenging the judgement and order of conviction sentencing Ershad, Rawshan Ershad, the then Chairman of the Rajuk and 18 others for 7 years rigorous imprisonment.

But, therefore, all the benches were reconstituted in the course of regular procedure.

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Hasina

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University halls, for undisciplined reasons.

They urged the Awami League not to underestimate the 'defeated enemies' and keep constant watch on their present activities. The professionals also called upon the party to take lessons from past mistakes and resist the 'enemies of the people'.

The session was also addressed by engineer Ibrahim Miah, agriculturist Dr Abdur Raheque, BMA leader Dr Kazi Shahidul Alam, juvenile organizer Rukunuzzaman Khan (Dada Bhai), teachers representative Prof A T M Zahurul Huq, ADAB chairman Dr Kazi Farooq Ahmed, NGO leader Khushi Kabir, poet and Jatiya Kabita Parishad leader Syed Shamsul Huq, BFUJ president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Jatiya Sinanaya Committee leader and cultural personality Sved Hasan Imam.

According to an Awami League press release, Hasina earlier told the professionals that the Chief Adviser had appointed some advisers who did not take part in the 'people's movement', rather worked for the interest of the BNP.

Congratulating the newly appointed advisers, she said that the caretaker government, did not have sufficient experience required to handle the administration that underwent politicisation by the BNP government in the last five years.

She, however, expressed the hope that the caretaker government would keep alert in this regard and would be able to overcome the situation.

British Foreign Secy felicitates Chief Adviser

British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Malcolm Rifkind has felicitated Mohammad Habibur Rahman on his appointment as the Chief Adviser of the non-party caretaker government, reports UNB.

In a message to the Chief Adviser, the British Foreign Secretary hoped that the caretaker government would succeed in holding a free and fair election in the country with the participation of all political parties.

"It's a difficult time for Bangladesh and we have followed the events closely and with concern", Rifkind said and hoped the move would rapidly restore stability and economic progress.

The British Prime Minister also wished the Chief Adviser a success in his endeavour, Rifkind said.

Australia welcomes caretaker govt

By Staff Correspondent

The Australian government has welcomed the caretaker government in Bangladesh.

In a statement issued by the Australian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday, Australia expressed the hope that 'all political parties would now work constructively and cooperate to ensure that elections held under the caretaker administration take place peacefully and impartially'.

"Australia has been a strong partner in the development of Bangladesh since 1971 and the government attaches importance to the political and economic development of Bangladesh in an atmosphere of peace and stability," the statement said.

Directive

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tance from donor countries and agencies for the development of the country.

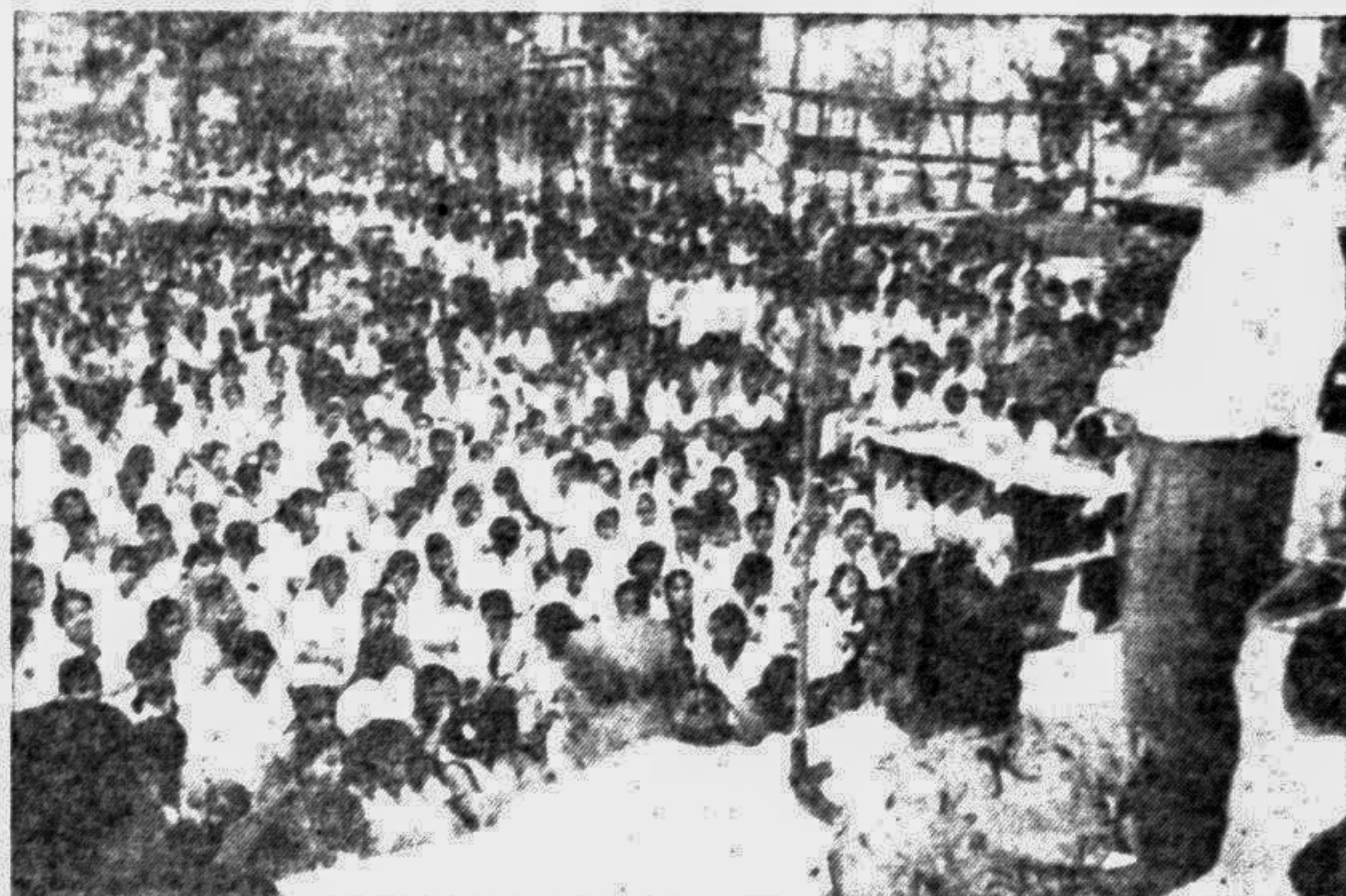
Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Secretary to the Chief Adviser Abdullah Harun Pasha and other senior officials were present during the meeting.

19 extortionists

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Bachchu, 23. The other was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Earlier on Wednesday night, police arrested four persons during a raid in Shahidnagar under Lalbagh thana. Hossain, 22, Babul, 20, Asgar, 27, and Rashid were arrested on charges of mugging, extortion and terrorism.

Besides, Pallabi and Tejjan police, arrested another seven persons during raids in the area Wednesday night, police said.



BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar addressing a rally of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra 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 into an embankment after hitting the railings of a bridge on the Bhola-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 Hukihola under Chandianna thana in Comilla yesterday.

Three of the dead identified as Jamal, 4, Shirin Akhter, 14, and Mozammel Huq, 17. All bodies were sent to Comilla Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The injured persons were admitted to local hospitals and clinics.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 1 pm when a bus going to Nalabapur from Comilla collided with a Chittagong-bound truck. Being hit by the truck, the bus fell into a roadside ditch.

A case has been filed with Chandianna Thana Police seized the bus but the truck driver escaped.

Congress expels four former ministers

NEW DELHI, Apr 4: India's ruling Congress Party said today it had expelled four former ministers who had defected to dissident groups and admitted that the loss of two of them would hurt the party's prospects, reports Reuter.

Congress spokesman Vihai Gadgil confirmed the action against P Chidambaram, M Arunachalam, Madhav Rao Scindia and Kamal Nath.

"They stand expelled," he told Reuters.

Chidambaram quit as commerce minister and Arunachalam as junior industry minister on Wednesday in protest at a controversial electoral alliance that Congress struck last week with the governing party in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Both former ministers have joined a rebel Congress faction which has allied with an opposition party in Tamil Nadu. Scindia and Kamal Nath left Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's government earlier this year after being linked to an 18 million dollar political corruption scandal.

On Wednesday Scindia, former human resource minister, and Kamal Nath, former textiles minister, set up a rival regional party in the sprawling state of Madhya Pradesh.

The victim Ershad of Sutoria village in Maheshkhali island, who was three and a half years old then, was washed away by a 20-25 feet tidal surge during the cyclone on the night of April 29, 1991.

Five members of the eight-member family of Badrudan, father of Ershad, were also washed away by the tidal surge. On the dreadful night, ill-fated Ershad was lost in the tidal way from the lap of his mother Sakina. She, however, returned to the shore next day from the coastal area of Chakaria thana.

Sakina on Tuesday went to the house of Jafar Alam of neighbouring union for some business and with her utter surprise she found her son Ershad playing at the courtyard of the house. On enquiry, she came to learn that he was rescued by the house inmates from Papagan area after two days of the cyclone.

Since then, he was brought up by the Jafar's family who is now a student of class two of Rajghat Primary School.

College student stabbed in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A college student was stabbed by some youths at Khilgaon in the city yesterday. Jewel, 18, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with critical injuries in his belly, hospital sources said.

A first year HSC student of Siddheswari College, Jewel was attacked by a gang of about five youngsters when he was returning to his house at around 6:30 pm, said locals who took him to the DMCH.

The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately.

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, says AP.

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

A spokesman 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 anonymity.

On Wednesday Britain agreed to destroy millions of cattle after the European Union pledged Wednesday to reimburse farmers for most of their losses.

The EU refused, however, to lift a ban on British beef exports 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.

Child missing in '91 cyclone found

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 4: A child lost in the tidal wave caused by the 1991 devastating cyclone was found after long five years by his mother on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The victim Ershad of Sutoria village in Maheshkhali island, who was three and a half years old then, was washed away by a 20-25 feet tidal surge during the cyclone on the night of April 29, 1991.

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For its part the European Economic Commission, the executive arm of the 15-member European Union, reversed itself 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.

BNP vows

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The BNP Secretary General alleged that his party's leaders and workers were being tortured and harassed by members of the law enforcing agencies throughout the country.

He demanded withdrawal of 'false cases' instituted against former deputy leader of parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP's publicity secretary Fazlur Rahman Patal, 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 Anfin alleged that enemies of the country's independence and sovereignty erected the so-called 'Janata Manch' in front of the Jatiya Press Club taking huge money from the Indian intelligence service RAW.

Referring to the demand of Chhatra 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.

BCL demands dissolution of DUCSU

By DU Correspondent

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) (BCL), the student wing of Awami League yesterday demanded dissolution of the DUCSU immediately.

The BCL brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus and later held a rally at the Aparajay Bangla.

Enamul Haq Shanum, Ishaque Ali Khan, Panna Bahadur Bepari, Nazrul Islam Babu, Mazhar Alam and Abdul Wadud Khokon spoke at the rally.

They said, the DUCSU had lost all legitimacy. The DUCSU members are no more students of Dhaka University, they said.

The BCL threatened to go for a greater agitation if the DUCSU was not dissolved immediately.

BCL leaders urged the law enforcing agencies to conduct further raids in DU halls.

DU hall

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the halls after raids, have returned to their halls, campus sources said. Armed outsiders were seen guarding the entry points of different halls and in some cases they also imposed restrictions on the free movement of the resident students by locking the collapsible gates of the halls.

A tense situation was prevailing in the Zahurul Haq Hall. Three rival groups, the Chhatra League (M-L), a faction of the Chhatra League (S-P) and the Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, were staying in the hall after the arrest of Masum Ahmed, the GS of the hall, sources in the hall said.

They have locked two gates out of three of the main building of the hall creating a lot of sufferings for the general students, the residents of the hall alleged.

Police have taken positions around the hall to avert any possible violence.

EC urged

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gated in December last, debaring bank loan defaulters from contesting national elections. But the ordinance, along with 18 others, became ineffective since it was not approved by the sixth parliament, as required under constitutional provisions. The EC has decided to seek fresh promulgation of the ordinance.

"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.

The Midnight Frie

Raphel to visit Pakistan, Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Apr 4: US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Robin Raphel 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 BSS.

Addressing a rally at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque on the occasion of party's 'Frit 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 Rashid Ershad, Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Serajul Hossain Khan, Abdul Hasnat and Yusuf Josselin Hossain 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 brought out.

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.

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

Jamaat urges advisers to maintain neutrality

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Prof Golam Azam yesterday called upon the newly-appointed advisers of the caretaker government to discharge their duties with utmost neutrality being immunised 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 Maghbarah 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.

Court restrains Rana Laila's Swiss husband

A court here yesterday issued an ad-interim injunction restraining the Swiss husband of singer Rana Laila from entering her house in Dhaka, reports UNB.

The court also ordered Ron Daniel Pilnik, the second husband of the internationally reputed artiste, not to damage her property and not to do any act which may cause nuisance and injury to her.

Runa filed the suit for permanent injunction with the First Assistant Judge Court against Ron Daniel Pilnik who she married on December 20, 1990 after he had converted into Muslim.

According to her plaint, Daniel refused to solemnise the marriage as per Islamic provisions and started abusing her after a short while of their marriage.

She also complained that her husband would not permit her to talk with her daughter of the first marriage.

"I will make sure that you won't be able to show your face again, you will lose your reputation," Rana Laila quoted Daniel as telling her.

Earlier, Rana Laila filed a divorce petition with the registry of Family Division of the High Court of Justice in the UK.

She mentioned in her plaint that after receiving the notice of divorce from London, Daniel came to Dhaka and threatened repeatedly to do everything possible to teach her a good lesson.

Runa Laila filed the suit praying for preventing Daniel from entering her residence in Dhaka. Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan appeared on behalf of Rana Laila.

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

demanding that all such posts which were made on political consideration should be terminated immediately in the interest of maintaining neutrality of the present government.

Reiterating the party's demand for reconstitution of the Election Commission, Chowdhury said that a neutral justice or any fair person has to be appointed soon as the chief election commissioner. He also stressed on completing this task before the announcement of the election schedule.

Referring to reports that Begum Khaleda Zia was still using national flag in her car and has been provided with security service, Chowdhury demanded an immediate end to such practice. He opined that there cannot be two governments in a country.

In a brief speech, Begum Rashid Ershad, while demanding her husband's release, said election would not be neutral without the former ruler being granted the status of a free man. The government will continue till Ershad is freed, she said.

BCI demands compensation

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), has called upon the caretaker government to compensate the losses incurred by the trade and industry sectors during the recent political unrest.

In a press statement yesterday, the president of BCI, AM Subid Ali, urged the caretaker administration to consider the huge losses incurred by industrial units during the non-cooperation movement and compensate 'in the interest of industrialisation and economic development as well as in order to face foreign competition'.

The BCI president felicitated the members of the advisory body of the caretaker government and assured them of the Chamber's cooperation for the protection of local industries and industrialisation of the country.

Announcement of DA for newspaper men demanded

A meeting of the central coordination committee of three newspaper federations and the Dhaka Union of Journalists was held at the National Press Club yesterday, reports BSS.

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

They 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.