

Ensuring fair polls only way to resolve crisis: CPB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring a free and fair election with the participation of all political parties to establish an elected government is the only way to resolve the existing crisis, said Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim yesterday.

At a meeting at the party office in the city, Selim criticised foreign interference in country's internal political issues and said people will accept no formulas like unilateral election, declaration of emergency, third party, national government or prolonged caretaker government.

"We have to establish our rights through our mass movement," he added.

Presided over by Dhaka City Committee President Abdul Kader, the meeting was also addressed by Ruhin Hossain Prince, Mahbub Alam, Ahsan Habib Lalbu and Dilip Bepari.

Condemning the mass arrest, baton charge and obstructing the movement of people, the speakers said no undemocratic force could ever stay in power by choosing the path of repression.

They called for immediate stopping of mass arrest and release of those arrested.

The speakers also urged all to make success the party programmes including tomorrow's demonstration, demonstration with black flag on Saturday and protest march to 'reject the farcical election' from January 14 to 20 across the country.

Buet viva postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) has postponed the viva voce of the admission seekers due to unavoidable circumstances, a Buet press release said yesterday.

The vivas of the candidates seeking admission under 2006-07 session were scheduled to be held from January 9 to February 10. Fresh schedule of the viva will be announced later only through Buet website - www.buet.ac.bd.

For details, students can contact the offices of the chairman of admission committees and the dean of civil engineering faculty. (Phone: 8616250)



Finding it difficult to get transport, a family travels in a rickshaw van yesterday to reach their destination during the blockade programme enforced by the Awami League-led grand alliance.

'Stand by distressed humanity'

Bss, Dhaka

Adviser for Social Welfare, Primary and Mass Education, Women and Children Affairs Yasmine Mursheed yesterday urged the rich as well as the social workers and voluntary organisations to stand by the distressed humanity.

"You can earn both material and divine blessings by serving the distressed humanity," she said while inaugurating an orientation course for the newly appointed social welfare officers at the National Social Welfare Academy at Agargaon in the city.

Yasmine said social welfare is different from other activities and called upon the newly appointed officials to work with utmost sincerity and devotion for the betterment of the underprivileged section of the society.

CA's statement protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday expressed resentment over the statement of President/Chief Adviser (CA) Iajuddin Ahmed regarding the election, saying that it proves the gross irresponsibility of his part.

They said he made a joke of the people's right to vote by calling on them to vote for the candidates of their choice amid festivity.

The Saturday's statement of the president/ chief adviser has proved that his only goal is to bring back the BNP-Jamaat alliance to power through one-sided elections, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon said.

In his statement, the president/ chief adviser has not only misinterpreted the constitution, but also violated his oath, Menon said.

Five-left party, a platform of Jatiya Gono Front, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Biplobi Oikya

Front, Gono Shanghati Andolon, in a meeting yesterday condemned the statement of the president/chief adviser.

The statement proves that the caretaker government is a mere extension of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, they said.

Musrefa Mishu chaired the meeting while Tipu Biswas, Abdus Salam and other leaders were present.

Workers' Party (Abbas) also protested and rejected the statement, saying that the president/chief adviser's 'blind allegiance' to BNP-Jamaat alliance has pushed the nation to the brink of confrontation and grave crisis.

At a meeting held at its office yesterday, the party's general secretary Saiful Haque also called for cancellation of the election schedule and steps to create a democratic atmosphere conducive to free and fair polls.

Admission tests of 8 govt high schools now on Jan 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Admission tests of eight government high schools in Dhaka city under 'B' group will now be held on January 12 instead of January 9, an official handout said yesterday.

The date has been changed due to unavoidable circumstances. However, the timetable of the test will remain unchanged.

The schools are Motijheel Govt Boys' High School, Narinda Govt High School, Govt Muslim High School, Banglabazar Govt Girls' High School, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Govt Boys' High School, Govt Science College High School, Dhamondi Govt Girls' High School and Dhamondi Quamrunnesa Govt Girls' High School.

Stop using children in political programmes

Demand rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Human rights activists at a meeting yesterday called on all not to use children in any political programmes or violence.

Children are being lured into political programmes and violent activities, which is contrary to the spirit of the constitution and UN Charter for Children, they said at a meeting organised by Chittagong city unit of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR).

The rights activists called for an end to such practices. Otherwise, they warned, the names of the persons and organisations involving children in such activities would be made public and steps would be taken to bring them to justice.

They also demanded an end to the arrest and torture of innocent children who are being used in political programmes.

The children are being punished but the persons responsible for involving them in violent activities remain untouched, they said.

They called on probation officers, human rights organisations, journalists, lawyers, justices and members of the civil society to come forward to stop such practices.

The rights activists also criticised some organisations involved in monitoring polls for their unacceptable behaviour during the observation

process and for not submitting any reports on their findings to the Election Commission.

At the meeting, The BSEHR decided that each unit of the organisation would form a cell for proper observation of the upcoming polls and prepare two reports on the pre- and post-election situation.

Chittagong city BSEHR President Advocate Zia Habib Ahsan presided over the meeting held at the court building office of the organisation. Adv Md Sharif Uddin, Adv Syed Anwar Hossain, Mohammad Yusuf, Adv Anwar Ali, Hasmat Ara, Safina Amin, Md Nasir Uddin, Adv AHM Jasim Uddin, Syed Junayedus Salam and Syed Md Harun attended the meeting.

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Cancellation of polls schedule demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi unit of Awami League-led grand alliance has demanded cancellation of polls schedule, correction of updated voter list, reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) and resignation of the chief adviser (CA).

The demands were placed by alliance leaders at a protest rally at Saheb Bazar zero point while observing the countrywide blockade programme yesterday.

They said CA Iajuddin Ahmed is conspiring to hold an election as per a blue-print of BNP-Jamaat-led four-party coalition.

The alliance leaders asked Iajuddin to quit the post of CA immediately, and appoint a non-party person as CA.

They said people will not allow anybody to hold farcical election in the country.

"We will resist such election at the cost of our blood," said AL leader Liton.

The speakers said it is not possible to hold a free and fair election with a partisan chief adviser and a flawed voter list.

The rally was addressed by NAP leader Mustafizur Rahman Khan, JSD leaders Jaffiquar Mannan Jamil and Abdullah Al Masud Shibly, AL leader Naosher Ali, LDP leader Atta Al Iqbal, JP leader Durul Huda and Workers' Party Politburo Member Fazle Hossain Badsha.

City unit AL General Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton was in the chair.

Earlier, a procession was brought out that paraded main streets in the city.