

RIFT IN INDIA'S RULING ALLIANCE

Trinamool holds rally against Congress

PTI, Kolkata



Mamata Banerjee

Taking the spat with ally Congress into the open for the first time by holding a public rally, the Trinamool Congress on Monday bluntly asked it to choose its manner of exit from the alliance in West Bengal.

“Some of them (Congress leaders) are saying that the party does not exit from the back door, but the main entrance.

We are telling them all doors are open for them to go,” Trinamool Congress secretary-general Partha Chatterjee told the rally in a dig at the statement by Congress MP Deepa Dasmushi who seems to have criticised Mamata Banerjee.

Claiming that the Congress was utilising the image of Chief Minister for its political survival, Chatterjee, who is the Minister for Industries and Commerce, said “If they have the guts let

them face elections without Mamata's photo and prove that they can win on their own.”

Alleging that Congress and CPI (M) had ganged up against the Chief Minister to stall development in agriculture and industry in the state initiated by her, Chatterjee said.

“Congress must declare clearly whether it will side with the CPI (M) or remain with the Trinamool. We will not tolerate duplicity.”

Mamata, the chief minister, who had on Saturday dared the Congress to quit the alliance in the state did not attend the rally, though the Trinamool top brass including several MPs were present.

Union minister Sudip Bandyopadhyay reminded the Congress that the Trinamool Congress with 19 MPs was the second largest ally of the UPA government.

Pawar causes new headache for Congress

IANS, New Delhi

After Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee's angry outbursts, more headaches for allies seem to be in store for the Congress with Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar's ultimatum to finalise by Tuesday seat-sharing for the upcoming Mumbai civic polls.

Following Pawar's ultimatum, given Sunday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan is in Delhi to discuss the issue with senior Congress party leaders.

Terming Pawar's statement as mere 'political posture, he expected the matter to resolve soon.

The matter would be discussed with party chairman Sonia Gandhi later, party officials said.

AFTER POWER SHORTAGE PROTESTS Kashmir CM orders power cut for VIPs

AFP, Srinagar



Omar Abdullah

The chief minister of Indian Kashmir has ordered power to be cut to VIPs in the region after blackouts left locals shivering amid snow storms and sub-zero temperatures, officials said.

Omar Abdullah ordered officials from the power department to snap electricity supplies to his high-security residence in the main city of Srinagar and other homes in the exclusive Gupkar Road area.

The power will remain off "until the supply to the entire (Kashmir) valley is restored," a statement from the state government said in Srinagar after heavy weekend snow falls toppled power transmission poles and lines.

Abdullah's administration has faced frequent protests over the last 15 days against the power cuts, which were initially the result of disruption caused by temperatures as low as minus 14 degrees Celsius (seven degrees Fahrenheit) at local hydroelectric plants.

Last Monday, security forces antagonised angry locals further by opening fire at a demonstration near a hydroelectric plant in northern Boniyar village. A student was killed.

Ghulam Azam

FROM PAGE 1 hearing on charge framing against Nizami.

The two Jamaat leaders have been charged with involvement in genocide, rape and arson during the Liberation War, the prosecutors said.

The prosecution on January 5 submitted to the tribunal 62 charges of crimes against humanity against Ghulam Azam. On December 11 last year, the prosecution submitted at least 15 charges of crimes against humanity against Nizami.

The tribunal said it had examined the formal charges, probe reports and documents submitted by the prosecution, and primarily found proof that Ghulam and Nizami committed crimes against humanity in 1971.

It asked the prosecution to submit copies of formal charges against Ghulam to the registrar's office tomorrow for making the papers available to his lawyers.

The tribunal, headed by Justice Nizamul Huq, rejected a petition from Ghulam Azam who sought dismissal of the charges against him. It asked Abdur Razzaq whether he could produce Ghulam Azam before the court.

Razzaq told the court that he could produce Ghulam before the court after a day or two, as his elderly client needs time for preparation to appear before the tribunal.

On December 26 last year, the tribunal sent back to the prosecution formal charges against Ghulam Azam, since the charges brought against him were not classified and organised properly.

The court yesterday asked

the prosecution to turn in copies of formal charges against Nizami to the registrar's office by January 12 so that the defence lawyers could collect those by January 15.

The orders came after the tribunal took into cognisance formal charges against Nizami, who is now in jail custody.

Following the court orders, prosecutor Zead Al-Malum told reporters that Ghulam, the then ameer of East Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami, along with Kamaruzzaman, Mir Kashem Ali and others had formed Shanti Committee, and Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams Bahinis that collaborated with the Pakistan occupation forces.

He had instigated killings of intellectuals, rape, torture, looting and other offences during the Liberation War. Nizami was also involved in similar offences, said the prosecutor.

The prosecutor said they had found that Ghulam and Nizami were involved in a number of crimes that were classified in five categories.

Abdur Razzaq said he was happy with the tribunal's order that gave him time to produce Ghulam before the court.

Nizami was present at the tribunal during the legal proceedings against him.

Meanwhile, Ghulam Azam told private TV Channel NTV, “If there is a case [against you], you have to be present at the court. I am happy that I got the opportunity to appear before the court without the hassle of arrest... I will go to the court.”

Another witness testifies

FROM PAGE 20

(he referred to Sayeede as Delawar Hossain Sikder Delu), Sekander Sikder and Danesh Molla poured kerosene and set those houses on fire,” said Abdul Jalil Sheikh, the 11th prosecution witness.

Before torching the houses of Manik Poshari, the businessman, the collaborators including Sayeede had captured Ibrahim Kutti and Mofizuddin Poshari from there, he said.

Kutti was killed by Pakistani soldiers following “Sayeede's signal” while Mofizuddin was taken to the collaborators' camp, added Jalil.

Fourth prosecution witness Sultan Ahmed Hawlader, sixth witness Manik Poshari, seventh witness Mofizuddin Poshari and tenth witness Bashudeb Mistri gave similar testimonies to the tribunal.

The three-member tribu-

nal headed by Justice Md Nizamul Huq yesterday finished recording the deposition and cross-examination of Abdul Jalil.

Delawar Hossain Sayeede, nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat, was present in the dock during the proceedings. He is among five Jamaat and two BNP leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity committed during the war.

Jamaat opposed the liberation of Bangladesh and its leaders sided with the Pakistani occupation forces during the nine-month war of independence.

Jalil began his 14-minute deposition at 11:46am. He said he was around 19 to 20 years old in 1971 and he sold fish with his father at the time.

Delawar Hossain Sikder Delu (Sayeede), Danesh Molla and Sekander Sikder

among other collaborators and 10 to 15 Pakistani soldiers came to his village Chithalia at the noon of May 8, 1971, and entered Manik Poshari's house, he said.

Sensing their presence, the inhabitants of the house fled. “I also fled with them,” Jalil told the court.

Sayeede, Danesh Molla and Sekander Sikder captured Ibrahim Kutti and Mofizuddin, and tied them up with a piece of rope. After that the collaborators entered the house of Manik Poshari and looted grains, money and other valuables.

Then they took kerosene stored in the houses and used it to douse those, he continued.

Leaving the burning houses behind, they took Ibrahim Kutti and Mofizuddin and started towards the bazaar.

“We followed them,” he

said, adding that they crossed the Parerhaat Bridge and on reaching the other end, they untied Ibrahim Kutti.

“The army shot Kutti after being signalled by Sayeede,” he said. “After that, we returned to our homes.”

Sayeede's counsel Mizanul Islam began cross-examining Jalil at 12:04pm.

Answering to defence questions, Jalil said he was not on the list of freedom fighters and that he had applied twice to be registered -- once before the present government came to power and once after it took office.

Replying to another query, he said in-laws of his second wife Golenoor had filed a case against him, which was later settled outside the court.

Defence counsel Kafil Uddin Chowdhury then took up the cross-examination. Manjur Ahmed Ansari,

another defence counsel, concluded the examination by suggesting that Abdul Jalil gave false statements against Sayeede under instructions of the ruling party's Pirojpur lawmaker and in exchange for government benefits.

Jalil said it was not true. Meanwhile, the prosecution yesterday requested the court for a change in the sequence of its witnesses.

It requested to record the testimony of witness AKMA Awal, the Pirojpur lawmaker, today instead of Aiyub Ali Hawlader.

The tribunal accepted the appeal. Sayeede's counsels, however, objected to the move, saying they were not prepared to cross-examine Awal.

Tajul Islam, a counsel for Jamaat, said the defence considered Awal as a “star witness who masterminded

the case against Sayeede”. And preparation for cross-examining Awal would be different from that for other witnesses.

The defence lawyers requested the court to postpone Awal's deposition by another day, which would be enough for their preparation.

Defence lawyer Mizanul Islam requested the court to consider the appeal, saying the accused might not get justice because of their lack of preparation.

In response, the tribunal said there was no “star witness” to the court and that every witness was equally important.

It asked the defence to cross-examine Awal today but added that the court would consider the request if it felt that the defence was feeling shaky to cross-examine Awal.

Smiling Sun Franchise Program

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE 2012

January 10, 2012

Venue: Spectra Conference Center



Promoting PPP in Health & Sharing Experience

Dr. Zafarullah Gill, CoP, SSFP

SSFP is a USAID funded program supported by the GoB and private partners and is committed to improving the quality of life of all Bangladeshis by providing friendly, affordable and the finest health services in a sustainable manner. Under the SSFP network, currently 26 NGOs are providing healthcare services to women children and youth with a focus on serving the poor through 323 static and 8,819 satellite clinics in all 64 districts of Bangladesh.

To date, the private sector has been an increasingly important source of key resources for SSFP. Thus far, SSFP has established 8 effective partnerships with private companies that have resulted in the opportunity to serve a vast number of clients or to improve its operational capacity. Private sector partners have been grouped in three categories depending on their scope and involvement in the project:

- 1. Fees for service; for example, Akiz Cement and H&M
2. Infrastructure, equipment and operations; for example, Chevron, KAFCO, etc
3. Information and communication technology for example, DBBL, City Cell, Nokia
Collaborations have also been formed with other USAID

partner organizations such as EngenderHealth, FHI, Social Marketing Company, Save the Children and MAMA who are working hand in hand with us to provide training and equipment support. Pharmaceutical companies have also joined in our efforts and are providing medicines at reduced prices while ACI is sponsoring hand washing events.

The objective of SSFP's approach is to form long term partnerships based on mutual interests. Today's event provides a unique opportunity for these organizations and the sponsors to take a leadership role in convening prominent members of the private and public sector to support the common goals of appreciating existing partnerships, inspiring others to engage in similar PPP relationships and share successes and lessons learned.

We would like to thank all our strategic partners for their continued support during the last four years. In today's program, I will share the work of SSFP to date, highlight best practices, and illustrate ways in which organizations and companies have come forth to support sustainable access to quality and affordable healthcare to less fortunate members of the community.

Message



Hon'ble Minister Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

“For the last three years the government has been implementing various types of programs to ensure health services for the people. Infrastructural development of hospitals and health centers has been made. People are now getting medicine for free of cost in the government hospitals. Steps have been taken to ensure the presence of doctors, nurses and medical assistants in the hospitals.

Bangladesh has a very rich experience on PPP, especially in respect of the scope and diversity of Non-Government Organization (NGO) activities in social services. Health is a critical area of activity for national development. The scale of effort required to meet society's needs in the area call for close cooperation of all stakeholders in both public and private sectors.

I hope the conference will provide the opportunity not only to share and update their knowledge and experiences, but also create an opportunity for the private sector to explore a better way to help poor people of the country.”

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu Long live Bangladesh

Dr.A.F.M. Ruhul Haque

Message



Hon'ble State Minister Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

“Over the last few years, the Government of Bangladesh has been very keen on PPP particularly for infrastructure investment and energy sector. Same priority has also been given to the health sector. Given the limited resources and inefficiencies of both the public and private sectors, partnership can be a straightforward solution to address the growing public health problems in Bangladesh. Partnership is required to exploit the strengths of all the sectors towards fulfilling the health needs of the people, which is always challenging.

I hope the public private partnership Conference would put forward some lessons from the successful models and there would be something innovative outcome from the Conference which will help extend the health outreach for the poor people of Bangladesh.”

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu Long live Sheikh Hasina

Dr. Captain (Retd) Mozibur Rahman Fakir, MP

Message



Secretary Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

“The private sector service providers in health account for three-quarters of all health sector expenditures. It is evident that non-governmental organizations active in health and family planning have been running their own complementary programs.

National programs for health and family planning are taking shape in partnership with NGOs and private sectors. Importantly, facilities for safe delivery are being improved, and the family planning programs have been successful in lowering fertility rates. Thus the partnership of national institutions, NGOs, private sector and the Ministry are also helping Bangladesh to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

I hope the PPP conference will be able to show effective partnership strategies in health care that are important to Bangladesh.”

Md. Humayun Kabir

Message



Mission Director USAID/Bangladesh

“The U.S. Government, through USAID remains committed to working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and partners from all arenas to improve health services in Bangladesh. There are challenges ahead – as always - but also opportunities. One of the success stories of our efforts is the Smiling Sun health clinics all around Bangladesh, where every year, USAID provides quality health service to more than 26 million men, women, and children, who otherwise would have limited access to health care.”

Richard Greene

Message



President Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry

“FBCCI as the apex trade body of the country is working to promote trade and investment in different sectors of the country. Over the last few years, investment in health sector is positive. However, this is not enough for a country with 160 million populations. It is encouraging to note that apart from Government and international organizations, many corporate organizations, including Banks, have come forward to contribute in healthcare through their activities on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).”

A. K. Azad

Courtesy



Message



Secretary Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

“Despite successes in the delivery of antenatal and postnatal care to women in Bangladesh, studies show that a large part of women in the CHT do not receive pre-delivery care and post-delivery services by any medical service providers. The USAID-funded Smiling Sun clinics launched their journey in three hill districts last year for providing health-care facilities to around 300,000 hill people, including women and children. It was indeed a noble initiative for the geographically inaccessible areas of the country.

Public Private Partnership has significant potentialities for achieving effective and efficient high quality health services. It helps establish a functional integration and a sustained operation of a pluralistic health care delivery system by optimizing the equitable use of the available resources and investing in comparative advantages of the partners. I wish this conference all success.”

Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, ndc