

PROTEST RALLIES IN DACCA

Resentment against postponement

From Our Staff Correspondent

DACCA, March 1: The postponement of the National Assembly session scheduled for March 3 has evoked angry protests in the provincial metropolis.

Immediately after the announcement, scores of processions big and small, came out in the streets protesting against the decision. As the news spread in the city, shopkeepers pulled down their shutters and buses went off the roads.

The second representative cricket match between B.C.C.P. team and International Eleven was abandoned when the crowd raided the pitch raising anti-Bhutto slogans.

The members of the Dacca High Court Bar were among the first few to bring out the procession.

The leading lawyers in the city marched in a procession to Baitul Mukarram where they held a meeting under the chairmanship of Shah Asifur Rahman, a former Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Ayub regime's National Assembly.

Groups of labourers, students and other brought out processions in different areas to protest against the postponement of the Assembly session and raised anti-Bhutto slogans. They also called upon Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to announce immediately the future course of action to face the situation.

The processionists, almost everyone of whom was armed with lathis and sticks, paraded the roads in different localities and went to Shahid Minar before coming to a city hotel, where Awami League Central Parliamentary Party had been meeting for the last three days to consider their party draft constitution.

The restive crowd kept on raising slogans against the postponement of the Assembly session, outside the hotel where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was attending his party's Parliamentary Party meeting. Many of them made their way into the hotel. The crowd left the place to join the public meeting at Paltan Maidan.

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MLR 110 issued

DACCA, March 1: Lt-Gen. Sahabzada Mohammad Yagub Khan, Martial Law Administrator, Zone B, in Martial Law Order No 110 issued here tonight has prohibited the Press from publishing news, views or pictures against the integrity or sovereignty of Pakistan.

Dacca protest rallies

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after Sheikh Mujib left the venue.

Minor damage was caused to a city cinema hall when some boys tried to set fire to the ticket selling counter.

MEETING

Later in the evening an unscheduled public meeting held at Paltan Maidan protested against the postponement of the National Assembly session, and expressed support to the programme announced by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, President of the Awami League.

The crowd, mostly armed with lathis, heard the leaders of Students League and Sramik League, who spoke on the issue. Amidst angry slogans and noise, they said that the country had reached a critical stage and reiterated their determination to realize the rights of the people of Bangla Desh.

A sizeable crowd gathered at the Paltan Maidan before Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressed the Press conference at a nearby hotel and it swelled after the people, who had collected outside the hotel, joined the meeting. They were also called upon by Awami League workers to join the meeting.

The speakers who were not clearly audible, told the meeting that people had given mandate to frame the constitution on the basis of Six-Point programme and appealed to the people to remain united for the realization of their rights.

They expressed their confidence in the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The speakers included Messrs Nure Alam Siddiqui, President of the Students

public meeting and his observation that he does not mind if the constitution-making takes seven years", he said.

The leaders of students in a joint statement here tonight supported the strike called by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, President of Awami League.

They also appealed to people to observe "Hartal" tomorrow in the city and called a students rally at the University in the morning. The meeting, they added, would be followed by a protest march.

The student leaders, who issued the joint statement, are President

League, Mr. Abdul Mannan, MNA-elect and a leader of Jatiya Sramik League, Mr. Tofail Ahmed, MNA-elect, Mr. S. M. Abdus Rab and Mr. Sirajul Alam Khan.

The student leaders announced that they would hold a student's mass rally at the university premises tomorrow and the Sramik League leaders decided to hold a public meeting at Paltan Maidan on March 3.

HIGH COURT BAR

Dacca High Court Bar Association at an emergency meeting today expressed "deep sense of resentment and indignation" over the announcement postponing the inaugural session of the National Assembly scheduled for March 3.

The meeting in a resolution described the postponement of the Assembly session as a "calculated move" to thwart the framing of a constitution on the popular will and restoration of sovereign rights of the people.

The High Court Bar Association reiterated to resist any move to kill the transfer of power to the representatives of the people and called upon the people to unitedly rise for the vindication of rights of the people of Bengal.

The meeting over, the lawyers took out a procession raising slogans against postponement of the National Assembly session, and calling upon the people not to attend offices and courts. The procession terminated at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque premises where a lawyer-cum public meeting under the presidentship of Shah Azizur Rahman, a former Deputy Leader of Opposition in the last National Assembly, was held.

Shah Azizur Rahman, some MNAs-elect and leader of the Bar Association addressed the gathering.—APP.

KHULNA: A number of processions were brought out today to protest against the postponement of the National Assembly session to an indefinite period.

The processionist after the procession paraded the city streets and assembled at the central Shahid Minar. Students leaders while addressing the gathering severely criticised the postponement decision.—APP.