

Withdraw forces & transfer power, demands Mujib

Peaceful satyagraha urged to realise people's rights

DACCA, March 3: Awami League Chief Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today urged the authorities to withdraw the forces from the city and hand over the power to the elected representatives of the people.

The authorities must realise that the people wanted self-rule and if they were resisted by force they would not hesitate to sacrifice their life. The Awami League Chief said while addressing a massive public meeting at Paltan Maidan here this afternoon.

He also issued directives to the people of Bangladesh not to pay any taxes until and unless power was transferred to the people's representatives.

The massive public meeting was organised by the Students

League as a part of the province-wide hartal call given by the Chief of the Awami League.

"By obstructing the constitutional method the authorities have virtually compelled the people to shed their innocent blood for realising their legal rights. This is absolutely intolerable. I appeal to the authorities concerned to immediately stop this wrong course by withdrawing Martial Law and transferring power to the elected representatives."

The massive public meeting was presided over by the Students League Chief, Mr Nure Alam Siddiqi. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by the General Secretary of Jatiya Samik League Mr Abdul Mannan, the General Secretary of the Students League, Mr Shahjahan Siraj, and the General Secretary of the Dacca University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Mr. Abdul Quddus Makhani.

In an emotion choked voice, the Sheikh in his 30-minute speech, called upon the people to continue their struggle in a peaceful and organised manner.

He urged the people to be alert against agent-provocateurs and to maintain complete peace and discipline, otherwise the purpose of the movement would be spoiled.

He called upon the people from all walks of life to rise to the occasion and protect the life and property of everyone living in this part of the country, whether Hindu or Muslim, Bengali or non-Bengali.

Reminding the authorities that he as well as the people of Bangladesh were ready to die for the realisation of people's legitimate rights, he declared in clear-cut terms that the people were ready to face all the eventualities.

He said that he would never betray the cause of the people of Bangladesh, even facing death.

The Awami League Chief said that the authorities had taken action against those who had been asking for peaceful transfer of power.

Announcing his programme of action upto March 7 next, he said that he would seek help and co-operation from all shades of opinion for the success of the movement.

He said that the hartal would be observed throughout Bangladesh everyday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. After the hartal the vehicles should be allowed to move. He suggested and urged the people to pay a bit more to the rickshaw pullers to cover their day's earnings.

He will address a mass rally at the Race Course Maidan at 2 p.m. on Sunday. He said that hartal was to be observed in all



gangs, police ligarh City off in some areas

of Nagaland, where the election is spread over six days.

Authorities in Tamil Nadu state banned meetings and processions in the town of Ticumpattur after

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Bhashani urges President to visit East Wing

DACCA, March 3: Maulana Abdu Hamid Khan Bhashani in a telegram tonight to President Yahya Khan has protested the postponement of the session of the National Assembly and appealed to the President to immediately come to East Pakistan to make "personal assessment" of the present situation.

The Maulana said that he did not understand the reason as to why the President had to postpone the date of the sitting of the National Assembly when the representatives of the majority of our population were willing and ready to attend the first session of the National Assembly.—APP.

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Plea for pullout of forces

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organisations, including Government offices, secretariat, High Court and other courts, semi-Government and autonomous corporations, PIA, Railway and other communication services, his transports, all mills, factories, industrial and commercial establishments and markets.

He said that the forces were being maintained for protecting the country and they could not be used against the common masses. Sheikh Sahib urged the authorities to pull back the forces to their barracks without further delay.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said that he had no language to condemn the incidents that took place in the city last night.

Sheikh Sahib made it clear that the present situation in the country was not the creation of his or any other people of Bangla Desh, but of the conspirators who had been trying to sabotage the peaceful transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people. The majority party had been even ignored while taking important national decisions, he said.

He, however, said that exemptions were to be extended—only to ambulances, Press cars, hospitals, medicine shops, water and electricity supply.

Sheikh Sahib advised each and every person of Bangla Desh to observe the hartal according to schedule in a peaceful and disciplined manner.

Sheikh Sahib said that the speech at Paltan Maidan today might be his "last speech" and advised the people to continue their struggle in full swing even if he was absent. He said that there were a chain of leaders, among his companions who would be able to continue the struggle without any trouble.

The Sheikh, who was earlier scheduled to lead a huge procession after the meeting, announced that the procession would not be led. Instead he led a prayer for the salvation of the departed souls of the martyrs who had, he maintained, died in the struggle for democracy.

Other speakers at the meeting called upon the people to main-

tain peace and harmony among the people, and desist from looting and other anti-social activities.

They declared in unequivocal terms that the people of Bangla Desh could not be suppressed any more and they must achieve their goal at any cost.

The meeting in a resolution condemned the firings in different parts of the city during the last two days and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls. It expressed its deep sympathy with the members of the bereaved families.

In another resolution, the meeting called upon the people from all walks of life to take active part in the movement for the realisation of the people's rights under the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The meeting took a fresh vow for the establishment of a society in Bangla Desh, where there would be no exploitation and people would live in peace.

The General Secretary of the Students League announced the programme of the students during the next few days. Accordingly, a Ghaibana Namaz-Janaza will be held at Paltan Maidan tomorrow noon on March 5. Special prayers will be held at mosques and other religious places for the salvation of the departed souls of the martyrs and for the success of the people's movement at 3 p.m. on that day. A stick procession will be taken out from the Baitul Mukarram.

On March 6, he said, the torch light procession would be brought out from Baitul Mukarram—PPI.

Sheikh Mujib gave call for "peaceful satyagraha" movement for the realisation of the rights of the people of Bangla Desh and appealed to the people to maintain peace for the success of the struggle.

Sheikh Mujib also appealed to the people to guard against looting and arson and to maintain peace at all costs. Any attempt to disrupt peaceful life must be resisted, because without strict discipline no mass movement could attain any success.

Sheikh Mujib appealed for communal peace and added the Biharis and non-Muslims "are our

"sacred trust."

He referred to the sacrifice of lives by Bengalis during the last 23 years and during yesterday's observance of hartal in the City.

He said "I do not know how many people died yesterday," adding that he himself heard the firing of machine-gun. He also led the prayer at the meeting for those who died. The dead bodies of a few persons, who died yesterday, were also brought to the public meeting.

Sheikh Mujib said he wanted to spell out the future course of action, and added if the attitude of the Government remained unchanged till March 7 he would give out his mind at the race course, where he is scheduled to address a public meeting. He said if he failed to turn up for any unforeseen reasons, there would be others to announce the future course of action.

He said the maintenance of discipline was the prerequisite for the success of any mass movement. Without discipline no movement could achieve any tangible results "no matter how many lives we sacrifice. He particularly reminded the volunteers of their responsibilities in this connection.

Sheikh Mujib said "we are not responsible for the present state of affairs." He said they as the majority party in the country were in favour of the National Assembly session on Feb 15, but Mr Z.A. Bhutto wanted it to be deferred to the first week of March, and when it was summoned to meet today he (Bhutto) opposed it again.

The Awami League chief regretted the stand taken by the People's Party chief on the session of the National Assembly which was to begin today, and added although they "were ready to attend the session the use of arms was" directed at the Bengalis. He also referred to threats of PPP chief to set afire West Pakistan if the session was not postponed.

Sheikh Mujib, in an apparent reference to West Pakistan leaders, said "If you do not want to frame one constitution let us frame our own constitution and you frame your own. Then let us see if we can live together as brothers."

The Awami League chief said the people of Bangla Desh freed him from jail at the cost of their lives and shed their blood in the last. "We are ready to make further sacrifices and give more blood." He added: "You cannot suppress the Bengalis by killing 70,000,000 Bengalis."

Sheikh Mujib said if he died his soul would be there to be happy to find the Bengalis free and that they have two square meals a day to survive.

Sheikh Mujib said he did not have any grudge against the poor people of West Pakistan. They had been trying to live together for the last 23 years but West Pakistan now wanted to secede because they knew it well by now that they could not perpetuate their exploitation on them.

The Awami League leader also called upon the Press not to obey any restriction on them, if any, and if they failed to resist it they should refuse to attend their offices. He told the Press that "it is a national struggle", and everyone's participation was essential. APP.

PPP to attend RTC

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be any basic differences between the Pakistan People's Party and other parties in West Pakistan on the general attitude towards the six points, we would, in line with our position held consistently, avail of the opportunity to attend the conference proposed by the President on March 10 at Dacca to have further discussions with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in this conference."

Mr Pirzada was asked if his Party's decision to attend the proposed conference, which would also be attended by other leaders of Parliamentary groups, would be contrary to the Party's earlier stand not to accept a third party intervention or mediation in the FPAL talks to resolve the constitutional crisis.

Mr Pirzada said he would not like to say on the subject anything beyond the statement issued on behalf of the Central Committee. He, however, said that his party had no objection to the presence of other political leaders at the proposed conference.

Mr Pirzada said that the Central Committee reviewed the political situation obtaining in the country. The Committee, Mr Pirzada said, fully endorsed the statement made by the Party's Chairman, Mr Z. A. Bhutto, at his Press conference held in Ka-

announced simultaneously with the March 1 announcement postponing the sessions of the National Assembly.

He, however, stressed that constitutional problems could only be solved on the floor of the House and not outside the Assembly.—PPI

Jamaat also to participate

Prof Ghafoor Ahmed, Parliamentary leader of Jamaat-i-Islami and an invitee to the proposed round table meeting called by the President at Dacca, said that his party would attend the said conference and would try its best to resolve the deadlock and iron out differences between the people of different regions of Pakistan.

In a Press statement in Karachi last night he hoped that all the participants would sink their differences and forget unhappy incidents, and do work afresh to fulfil the hopes of the nation who had voted for them.—PPI.

Qayyum also to attend

PESHAWAR, March 3: Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan, President of the Pakistan Muslim League,