

APSU, JP rallies in city today

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The capital is tense with speculation about possible confrontation between the Government and the Opposition during this week.

The mainstream Opposition parties and Alliances, All-Party Students Unity (APSU) and Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) have declared action programmes aimed at paralysing the administration and forcing the present regime to resign for holding a free and fair election under a neutral government. The Opposition gave a call for a 48-hour hartal on November 20 and 21. Jute workers have taken programmes for 96-hour blockade of roads and railway beginning from November 18. All-party Student Unity's declared programme's include a 'gherao' of the residences of Ministers today (Saturday).

While the Opposition, students and labour fronts were preparing to give a decisive blow to the Government, the ruling Jatiya Party also resolved to face the renewed challenge of the Opposition to meet the student's programme of 'gerao' of Minister's houses Jatiya Party will hold a rally this (Saturday) morning at Kakrail, the entry point to Mintoo Road where most of the Ministers have their residences. The ruling party erected a dais in front of Kakrail Tablig Mosque near the residence of the Chief justice. A good number of buses were seen parked in front of Allahwala Building at Motijheel, the office of the City Jatiya Party to carry people to the rally at Kakrail.

The Cabinet members and the Jatiya Party stalwarts have preferred

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extra security measures to avoid any incidence of mob attack on their cars and residences. The law-enforcing agencies have been instructed to give necessary security protection to the Ministers and Jatiya Party leaders.

In Dhaka City bombs exploded on Friday evening in different areas creating panic among the city dwellers. Many shop owners and bosses of commercial establishments are planning emergency steps including closure of their units apprehending more trouble in the city during this week. Many people, cancelled their programmes outside the city being afraid of disruption of communication due to 96-hour blockade by the workers and the 48-hour hartal programme of the Opposition.

Meanwhile, the educational institutions in Dhaka city and elsewhere in the country have announced schedule for the Annual Examinations from the last week of the current month and to complete it by the first week of December. The Opposition parties and Alliances have assured of not taking any programme during this examinations.

Political observers apprehend that the situation in the country during the next one month might go beyond control in view of the reinvigorated united movement by the Opposition that leads to confrontation with the ruling party. They observe that the opposition wants to carry the mass movement to its peak by next month before the Government could hold the local body elections early next year.

The All-Party student unity, the catalyst of the united opposition movement indicated to score the final point against the present Government by mid-December. The mainstream Opposition parties and alliances including Awami League backed eight-party alliance, BNP-led Seven-Party Alliance, the left leaning Five-party Alliance and Jamaat-e-Islami and the intellectuals opposing the Government are now trying to give a final shape of a neutral caretaker Government power to hold a free and fair parliament elections. A leading member of the Liaison Committee of the mainstream Opposition alliances told this correspondent that they were now heading for a consensus on the modalities of the neutral caretaker government which they like to announced soon at the "appropriate moment".