

Bangladesh : On the U.C.L.B.

United Communist League of Bangladesh was formed in 1987 as the result of a unity process throughout the 1980s that brought together five marxist-leninist organisations. It goes some way towards restoring the original unity of the Bengali ML movement that first emerged in 1967 with the East Pakistan Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist).

From early on the MLs were afflicted by the tendency to split and form small groupings because of the immaturity of internal political life and secretarism of mainly an ultra-left nature.

The 1990 Congress of the UCLB upheld the task of trying to reunite the ML movement in Bangladesh. There are separate talks towards that end between the UCLB and the Workers Party of Bangladesh led by Mend, and the *Syammabadi Dal* group led by Najem.

There is a working relationship on issues with the *Communist Party of Bangladesh (ML)* and the *Revolutionary Communist Party of Bangladesh (ML)* led by Haq.

Once a unified force is established the main political task after the rebuilding of an authentic communist party is to challenge and destroy the political leadership of the pro-Moscow organisation, the CPB. The strategic line that the UCLB adheres to is one that seeks a communist-led NEW DEMOCRACY. The immediate political objective is work towards a LEFT DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE that will include all left and democratic forces. It would pursue the line of land reform, confiscation of imperialist capital and non-alignment in the country's foreign policy.

The UCLB works with a five party (petiti-bourgeois) alliance. The CPB is part of a eight party alliance led by the Awami League who are regarded as part of the National bourgeois by the CPB in their National Democratic Programme. UCLB regard the Awami League as representing comprador interests. There is also a 7-party alliance led by Bangladesh National Party comprising a more uniform bourgeois bloc.

UCLB has a national political presence - organised in 51 of the country's 64 districts - and is engaged in open political activity through a number of mass front organisations. The NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION FEDERATION organises 28 trade unions. The UCLB is active amongst women workers in the textile factories and while leading many local women unions a national women's organisation has not yet been established. This is the next task.

The UCLB is active through two peasant organisations - JATTIYO KRISHAK SHAMITY (National Peasants Association) and KHETMAJUR SHAMITY - Landless Peasant Union. UCLB has the third largest student organisation in the country - SHHATRA MAITRY (Student Friendship) which is regarded highly among college/school students. The National Youth organisation is YUBA MAITRI (Youth Friendship).

simplified developments: bengal mls

EAST PAKISTAN COMMUNIST PARTY

[SPLIT 1967]

EAST PAKISTAN
COMMUNIST PARTY
[PRO-MOSCOW: Line of
National Democracy]

Renamed:
COMMUNIST PARTY
OF BANGLADESH

EAST PAKISTAN COMMUNIST PARTY (ML)

[PRO-CHINESE. LINE OF NEW DEMOCRACY.
SPLIT 1968/9 on differences on National Q.]

COMMUNIST PARTY OF EAST PAKISTAN
[Split 1972 on question of Bangladesh
and evaluation of Civil War]

COMMUNIST PARTY
OF EAST BENGAL (ML)
[SPLIT 1970]

CP(ML)
renamed:
SYAMMABADI DAL (ML)

[Split 1978 on how to
evaluate (military) ruling
class]

S.B. Dal (ML)
[led Najam]

S.B. Dal (ML)

S.B. Dal (ML)
[led Najam]
BANGLADESE
SAMMABADI DAL (ML)
[RIM GROUP]

SYAMMABADI
DAL (ML)
[led Bashir]

CPB
+ PURBA BANGLA
SHARBOHARA PARTY
[RIM GROUP]

COMMUNIST PARTY
OF EAST PAKISTAN (ML)
[1974/5 Split]

CPEP (ML)
[Split 1978]

MLCPB

RCPB (ML)
[led. HAQ
Pro-Albanian
Underground
Existence]

REVOLUTIONARY
COMMUNIST PARTY
OF BENGAL (ML)
[led. PRO-CHINESE]

unite 1982

RCLB

unite 1983?

COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BANGLADESH

unite 1987

UNITED COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BANGLADESH [U.G.LB]

COMMUNIST PARTY
OF EAST BENGAL (ML)

COMMUNIST PARTY
OF BENGAL (ML)

CPEB (ML)

unite 1978

COMMUNIST LEAGUE
OF BENGAL (ML)

WORKERS PARTY
OF BANGLADESH
[Formed from student
activism]

WPB
led Amal

WPB
[led. HEND]

WPB

CPB (ML)

Bangladesh is divided administratively into 64 districts. These are sub-divided into 464 sub-districts rather like UK's borough councils each returning a candidate. These have a semi urban H.Q. of local government and seats of judiciary, militia, police.

In the local government elections in March 1990, UCLB put up 17 candidates to "test the water" of electoral procedure. They stood on a policy for free and honest polling - elections tend to be "directed" or rigged by government/military intervention. They won 3 seats, came second in 4 others and third in 5 other seats. CPB who stood 76 candidates also won 3 seats. The UCLB has a perspective of utilising electoral support for mass propoganda and creating a base to support insurrectory political activity.

In the city council elections last year they contested 3 seats and had two elected. At the lowest tier of government administration, union councils, they had 5 candidates in 1987.

Briefly, on the questions of the day the UCLB support the line of 1917 and the need for the dictatorship of the Proletariat. They don't accept the Soviet view of the world with its talk of a "common home", and whilst supporting the reforms in Soviet party and society are doubtful about their success. They regard the Soviet leadership as rightist deviationists.

UCLB supports the Chinese Party's right to reforms (although no conclusions have yet be drawn on use of the market economy) and its right to suppress counter-revolutionaries - while having tactical differences on how that is achieved (June 4th).

They regard events in Eastern Europe as a setback for socialism internationally but also as vindication for past criticisms of revisionist deviation in policies of those parties. The Romanian situation is seen as an army coup influenced by (unspecified) outside pressures.

Albania is supported as building socialism but not seen as an organising centre of the international communist movement. The UCLB recognises no leading party and has relations only on a bi-lateral basis.

On Mao Zedong Thought: UCLB has a negative assessment of the Cultural Revolution. They believe that given similar conditions to its development, Mao Zedong Thought has international application. It is upheld as the highest development of revolutionary marxist thought.

For another perspective: an article by Nurul Amin [of the Department of Political Science at Dhaka University, Bangladesh] entitled "The Pro-Chinese Communist Movement in Bangladesh" can be found in The Journal of Contemporary Asia Vol.15 No.3 1985 pp349-360.