

NEWS

Renegade BNP men

FROM PAGE 1 residence of Redwan at Uttara at around 4:30pm Thursday and set fire to the ground floor of the five-storey building. They also torched four vehicles, leaving five people injured. Witnesses said the attackers left the spot before police appeared. Two fire tenders rushed to the scene and controlled the fire. Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have been deployed there to avert further violence.

A group of armed youths also set fire to the residence of state minister Alamgir Kabir at Masterpara in Naogaon at about 3:00pm Thursday. Witnesses said the attackers vandalised the house and looted valuables before setting the residence ablaze. The criminals obstructed the firemen from dousing the blaze. A vehicle was badly burned in the arson.

Alamgir's family members alleged that police did not turn up although they contacted the law enforcers several times. The houses of Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan and Mohammad Ali Zinnah came under attacks at Dhamrai in Dhaka and Mirersara in Chittagong.

Protests were hurred from a BNP procession on Zinnah's house Thursday, leaving two of his domestic helps injured. The attackers later vandalised the house and set it on fire. The lawmaker's younger sister Bulbul was injured in the attack.

Witnesses alleged that local BNP men led by ZA Khan, defence adviser to BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, led the procession that attacked Zinnah's house.

The residence of Prof Jahanara Begum, adviser to prime minister, also came under attack Thursday night. Some unknown men threw crackers on her Malibagh residence in the capital but none was injured.

Local BNP activists damaged business establishments of BNP MP Ali Kadar who also joined the LDP and burned his effigy at Bangoan in Jessore Friday noon.

Sharsha thana BNP also held a protest rally vowing to resist Ali Kadar. They termed him a "national betrayer" and declared him "unwanted" in Sharsha.

Local BNP men ransacked and looted the residence of MA Karim Abbasi, a BNP lawmaker, at Netrokona and burnt his effigy Thursday.

The ruling party men also looted and vandalised the residence of a trader, Anis Rahman, in Bogra at zero hours yesterday after he joined the LDP.

Resignation letters

FROM PAGE 16 despair and anguish of the people caused by it.

Terming it anti-democratic, they vehemently condemned Tarique Rahman's control over the ministers and MPs and abuse of government authority by him.

The party has slipped away from its own ideology just after the 2001 election, it said, adding, the government has miserably failed to run the country for its indecision, corruption and some of its leaders' involvement in terrorism.

Citing an example of Shibir conference where Tarique Rahman termed them members of the same family, they said "War collaborators, autocrats and crooked persons are now in command of the party established by late president Ziaur Rahman".

Govt okays

FROM PAGE 16 from two lakh tons and the rest will be imported by other importers.

Sources said a number of these importers, with the help of a section of unscrupulous BCIC officials, had previously delayed delivery of fertiliser to make extra profit. The BCIC tender for fertiliser procurement typically gives the supplier 45 days' time. Earlier this year, the BCIC favoured an importer and gave it six months to supply the fertiliser. The long time allowed the importer to buy fertiliser at a much lower price than its quoted price and make windfall profits. The delay in supply had created a fertiliser crisis earlier this year as well.

"The BCIC will have to make sure it does not give extra time to the suppliers. Extra time will create an artificial crisis and a scope for the suppliers to make more profits," said a source.

The renegades

FROM PAGE 1 Nazimuddin Al Azad, former MP Syed Didar Bakht, former deputy minister Tarique Mainuddin, ABM Zahedul Huq, former whip Abu Syed Khan, former MP Gazi Abdul Huq, Salahuddin Kamran, Nurul Alam, Prof Abdullah, Major General (ret'd) MA Salam, Major General (ret'd) Ainuddin, Air Commodore (ret'd) Moinal Islam, Commodore (ret'd) Shafiqur Rahman, Major (ret'd) Parvez Kabir, Col (ret'd) Kazi Haider Ali, former secretary Nazmul Alam Siddique, Mahab Ud Din Ahmed, Abu Mohammad Ishlaq Aziz Ulfat, Dr Jamirul Akhter, Selim Ullah, Barrister MI Choudhury, Ekramul Karim, Nyem Jahangir, Delwar Hossain, Shahadat Hossain Selim, Dr Aminul Haq, Sanaul Huq Niru, Sirajul Huq, Mir Mahmudul Huq, Prof Aminul Haq, Prof M Shariful Islam, Abu Taher Choudhury, Idris Bhuiyan, Sabir Uddin, Rezaul Karim, Mohammad Ali, BJP's joint secretary MA Shaheed, MA Kashem, Abul Kashem, Nuruzzaman, Kafiluddin Choudhury, Yusuf Ali, Imran Faruk Milki, Md Arman, Engineer Rafiqul Islam, Saima Jalil, Sadek Ahmed Khan, Syed Hafiz Mahmud Milu, Khaled Ahmed, Jenabul Islam Babu, Syed Abul Bashar, Badsha Miah, Sheikh Ashraf Uddin Anarul, Nazimuddin Ahmed, Jalaluddin Master, Waresul Siddique, Dilip Kumar Sikder, Dr Fazal-e-Akbar Choudhury, Abidur Rahman, Shamsul Jalal Choudhury, Anisur Rahman, Md Musa, Ismat Zerir Khan, AM Md Azizul Huq, East-West University lecturer Omar Faruk, Major (ret'd) AKM Hamidur Rahman Choudhury, Omar Sharif, former MP Amir Uddin Ahmed, former joint secretary Md Kamal Uddin, Mohiruzzaman Sarker, Shahabuddin, Mozzaffar Hossain, Md Abdul Gafur Mandol, Iqbal Hossain Khan, M Yakub Ali, Akhteruzzaman Bakul, Hossain Ali Bepari, Harun-or-Rashid, Mokhlesur Rahman, Abdul Matin Akhand, Abdus Sabur Choudhury, Mir Mokshed Ali, Zahir Ali, Mobarak Hossain, Aminul Islam and Mahfuzur Rahman.

Before the formal declaration came, the defecting ministers and MPs had submitted resignation letters to their hitherto chairperson Khaleda Zia. In the resignation letters, the contents of which were the same, the defecting leaders said, "Corruption of some ministers, MPs and leaders, led by your son Tarique Rahman, has broken all previous records. This has tarnished the image of the party. It is not possible for any person having a sense of personal dignity to continue in the party anymore. The BNP established by late president Ziaur Rahman is now controlled by Razakars (anti-liberation force), autocrats and corruptionists. Against the principle of democracy, Tarique, without having any protocol, has been abusing state power."

The former army officer also an ex-minister mentioned that the government failed to curb price hike, inflation, crises of power supply, diesel and fertiliser. It also failed to deal with deteriorating law and order situation, terrorist bombings and to disclose the sources of illegal arms and the names of terror financiers, he added.

Oil, who was a close aide to late president Ziaur Rahman when they revolted against the Pakistani army to fight the liberation war in 1971, also fomented against the 'induction of anti-liberation elements into the government'.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, another founder-leader of BNP said a new journey has begun in the fight against corruption, terrorism and poverty through the formation of LDP.

He alleged that 14 members of the prime minister's family garnered hundreds of crores of taka through corrupt means.

B Chowdhury - who had been made to make an unceremonious exit from the presidency during this government's tenure - observed that the PM's family is 'corrupt' and 'misappropriated' national wealth affecting 'most of the cabinet ministers'.

State Minister Alamgir Kabir, a veteran freedom fighter who was accused of patronising militant leaders led by Bangla Bhai, alleged that corruption these days 'surpassed all previous records since the country's independence'.

"Thousands of crores of taka was siphoned off the country. This is poor people's money and the people must realise that money back," he said.

"Who are the masterminds of Islamist militancy in the country?" the dissident minister asked adding that the 'secret' must be disclosed.

Former speaker in parliament Shaikh Razzak Ali said, "The nation expected this from us as it wants to resist those who want to destroy democracy."

"We urge the people to join the movement against corruption and the failure of the government," Redwan Ahmed said.

Former state minister Anwarul Kabir Talukader said, "We will fight against corruption and the dynastic politics in Bangladesh."

Prof Jahanara Begum, Abdul Karim Abbasi, MA Jinnah, Ziaur Rahman Khan, Ali Qadar, Syed Manjur Hossain, Mahi B Chowdhury and Shahadat Hossain Selim also addressed the rally.

Prime minister shall be ineffective although the chief adviser to the caretaker government will have and will be entitled to the remuneration and privileges of a prime minister.

The president is constitutionally empowered to issue proclamation of emergency on his own for 120 days if he is satisfied that a grave emergency situation exists in which either security or economy of the country or any part thereof is threatened by war or external aggression or internal disturbance.

In case of proclamation of emergency, counter signature of the prime minister is necessary when a political government is in office, but this is not applicable when the caretaker government is operating.

If the president issues the proclamation of emergency and wants to extend its time, the next parliament—which will be formed after the upcoming elections—will have to adopt a resolution in this regard, otherwise the emergency shall cease to operate upon expiry of 120 days.

While a proclamation of emergency is in operation, articles 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 42 of the constitution shall remain ineffective. These articles deal with the freedom of movement, freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of thought and conscience and speech, freedom of profession or occupation and rights of property.

The president, who cannot promulgate any ordinance without being advised by the prime minister, may, however, promulgate such ordinance with his own jurisdiction during the caretaker government if situation arises where promulgation of such an ordinance becomes a necessity for the preservation of the constitution or the continuity of the constitutional process.

In the existing parliamentary government system, the president is normally vested with the executive power of the state which is exercised by the cabinet led by the prime minister, and the president is to act on the advice of the ministers.

Legal experts said this provision will remain ineffective during the caretaker government. They observed that the president is now constitutionally empowered to take every necessary step to preserve, protect and defend the constitutional process.

BNP served a blow

FROM PAGE 1 brought out a procession at Gulshan and Banani areas following the rally chanting slogans against Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman.

Never before did BNP face such a high profile defection from the party in the last 15 years. During the last general election a few dissident leaders revolted against the party but finally the party high command managed to quell the revolt successfully.

BNP sources said Party Chairperson also Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in a party standing committee meeting held on Thursday night expressed her dissatisfaction over the defection of the party lawmakers and asked loyal party leaders to 'manage' the defectors and the remaining dissident leaders quickly.

LDP leaders told reporters that Oli Ahmad had been trying to organise dissident BNP leaders over the last six months. A large number of ministers, lawmakers, senior BNP leaders, and former lawmakers agreed to form a new political party under the leadership of Badruddoza Chowdhury and Oli Ahmad.

Among the defectors are former speaker in parliament Shaikh Razzak Ali, State Minister Alamgir Kabir MP (member of parliament), Deputy Minister Moni Swapan Dewan MP, MP's Adviser on Primary and Mass Education Ministry Prof Jahanara Begum, former state minister Maj Gen (ret'd) Anwarul Kabir Talukder MP, Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan MP, Redwan Ahmed MP, Mohammad Kabir Hossain MP, Syed Monjur Hossain MP, Abdul Karim Abbasi MP, Mohammad Abu Hena MP, Ali Qadar MP, and Mohammad Ali Jinnah MP.

Earlier on May 8, 2004 former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury formed Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and soon afterwards erstwhile BNP lawmakers Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury joined him.

On Wednesday night the defecting ministers, lawmakers and leaders gathered secretly in a private hotel at Barichara and on Thursday morning, Syed Manjur Hossain MP, Ziaur Rahman Khan MP and Prof Jahanara Bagum joined them. Manjur Hossain came out from his constituency on a helicopter and Zia went to the hotel directly from the airport after his arrival from London.

Mahi B Chowdhury MP and former BNP leader Shahadat Hossain Selim received the lawmakers at the hotel. Later they joined the first rally of the nascent political party led by AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Oli Ahmad.

LDP President Badruddoza Chowdhury and its Executive President Col (ret'd) Oli formally announced at the rally the formation of the new party and its avowed mission of fighting against corruption, terrorism and poverty.

Before the formal declaration came, the defecting ministers and MPs had submitted resignation letters to their hitherto chairperson Khaleda Zia. In the resignation letters, the contents of which were the same, the defecting leaders said, "Corruption of some ministers, MPs and leaders, led by your son Tarique Rahman, has broken all previous records. This has tarnished the image of the party. It is not possible for any person having a sense of personal dignity to continue in the party anymore. The BNP established by late president Ziaur Rahman is now controlled by Razakars (anti-liberation force), autocrats and corruptionists. Against the principle of democracy, Tarique, without having any protocol, has been abusing state power."

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Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16 of Awami League's threat, Mannan Bhuiyan said.

"It is the people who bring a party to power through elections. No party can, by its own force, come to power," he said, adding that Awami League is detached both from the people and its workers.

He expressed hope that BNP will come to power again with public support. The BNP leader said the government was successful during the last five years but the main opposition Awami League did not cooperate with it.

About the formation of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the BNP secretary general said it will not cause any loss to BNP.

Those who left the mainstream political party will fail to sustain for long, he said, adding that the former BNP lawmakers who left BNP did it apprehending that they would not get nomination from the party.

Hasina's security

FROM PAGE 16 of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) thoroughly checked the inside of Sudha Sadan. Female personnel of SSF also checked the security arrangement there.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance government withdrew the SSF from Hasina's residence shortly after taking charge in 2001.

Someone is likely to take the charge as the chief adviser to the caretaker government today or tomorrow when the SSF personnel will take charge of his security.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's SSF security will remain as usual.

Meanwhile, security measures have been beefed up around both the city and village residences of former chief justice KM Hasan, who is likely to take charge as the chief of caretaker government amid strong opposition from Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine.

Alliance leaders

FROM PAGE 16 The source, however, said the allocation of 200 metric tons of food against each lawmaker under TR was released much earlier.

The allocation was given around two months ago and most of the MPs received and distributed the food in their respective areas.

The government kept 66,000 metric tons of food under GR this year as special allocations for the victims of river erosion, fire and other sudden disasters.

The government gave the allocations in favour of mosques, madrasas, orphanages and other social organisations which are primarily run by people belonging to the alliance.

LDP vows

FROM PAGE 16 are the main party and the people are with us," he said.

LDP Secretary General Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, and leaders Anwar Kabir Talukder, Alamgir Kabir, Redwan Ahmed, MA Jinnah, Ziaur Rahman Khan were present at the briefing.

Later, the LDP leaders visited Redwan Ahmed's Uttara residence that went under attack following his joining the LDP.

Meanwhile, the Sirajdikhan unit of LDP said it will blockade the Dhaka-Maoa Highway today if Justice Hasan agrees to become the chief of the next caretaker government.

Eid-ul-Fitr

FROM PAGE 16 Chief Justice Syed JR Mostassir Husain, City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, ministers and judges of the Supreme Court, among others, offered Eid prayer at the National Eidgah.

Female devotees also joined the main congregation under special arrangements on the southern part of the Eidgah.

President Iajuddin Ahmed hosted a reception at the Bangabhaban in the morning for the ministers, MPs, political leaders, diplomats and elite of the city.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia exchanged Eid greetings with a cross section of people and the diplomats at Prodhannontri Bhaban at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina exchanged greetings and pleasantries with diplomats, eminent personalities, leaders of various political parties and professional groups and party members at her Dhanmondi office.

US, UK urge

FROM PAGE 1 views by different groups in a peaceful manner," he said, adding, "We call upon all parties to resolve their disputes through political process, and peacefully."

"We expect political parties will exercise restraint, we don't support any violence," said a spokeswoman for the British High Commission in Dhaka.

The British government still hopes that the political parties would reach a consensus and resolve their disputes to ensure free and fair elections, she added.

Responding to a query about the grim political situation following the failed dialogue between the government and the opposition on election issues, US State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told daily press briefing in Washington on Thursday that Bangladesh people will decide their domestic political issues.

On a question about terrorism, he said, "We certainly stand with any government that is in a fight against terrorism.it is a serious issue for the Bangladesh government."

"But again, how they do - how they engage in that fight within the context of their democratic laws and the context of their constitution is one for them to decide," he added.

Admin put through

FROM PAGE 1 The country's administration saw unprecedented politicisation in the last five years, while the BNP's political office Hawa Bhaban has got the reputation of running a parallel government.

The alliance government at its early stage gave forced retirement to 90 senior officials on political consideration. In addition, services of 223 officers of armed forces were terminated and 46 police senior officers were given forced retirement. Disregarding the rules, 2,238 officials were promoted to the posts of deputy secretary, joint secretary, additional secretary and secretary. But promotion of around 2,000 qualified officials remained stopped. Besides, 370 officers have been made OSD on political consideration.

PREPARATION FOR WRAPPING UP

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) directed the establishment ministry to remain on duty on Monday. Establishment Secretary Dr Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman rushed to the PMO at 8:00pm that day where he worked late night. From then on, the orders of transfers, promotions and forced retirements, many issued under back dates, started rolling out one after another.

FORCED RETIREMENT

The PMO considered 11 names for forced retirement, sources said. However The Daily Star could confirm only three names who were given this retirement: Liaqat Ali, IG (Prison), OSD (joint secretary) Shoiheb Odhikari and OSD (joint secretary) ASMA Ali Kabir.

PROMOTION

Nine officials were promoted on the same day. They are acting Chairman - Land Reforms Board Muhammad Murtaja Hossain Munshi, Transport Commissioner - Government Vehicles Directorate Mohamud Osman Goni Chairman - Tariff Commission Mohammad Abdul Wahab, acting Secretary - Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Kamrul Hasan, Director General - Manpower, Employment and Training Bureau Sheikh Muhammad Wahiduzzaman, acting Secretary - Cultural Affairs Ministry ABM Abdul Haque Chowdhury, Secretary - Food and Disaster Management Ehsanul Haque Fatah, Telegraph and Telephone Board Chairman - Mohammad Akram Hossain and acting Secretary - Rural Development and Cooperatives Sheikh Enayetullah.

TRANSFER

Secretary at the president's office Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury was transferred to IMED department, Rafiqul Islam secretary, IMED department, to president's office, Additional Secretary of the Health Ministry COK Mustaque Ahmed to agriculture ministry, Personal Secretary-1 to the Prime Minister Monirul Islam to the health ministry as additional secretary, Joint Secretary of Home Ministry Akhtar Ahammed to Election Commission Secretariat, Ataul Haque Mollah, secretary, land ministry, to establishment ministry, OSD (joint secretary) Plus Costa to land ministry, Abul Hussain Miah, establishment ministry joint secretary, to finance ministry, BRTA Chairman Abu Bakar Muhammad Shahjahan as Rajshahi divisional commissioner, land ministry Joint Secretary Abdur Rouf Chowdhury as Barisal divisional commissioner, home ministry Joint Secretary Anwarul Karim to commerce ministry, OSD (joint secretary) SM Harunur Rashid to social welfare

department, Nilphamari DC

Rabindranath Roy Chowdhury to environment and forest ministry as joint secretary, OSD (deputy secretary) Dr Muhammad Aminul Islam as DC to Jyoypurhat, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ministry Abul Hasanat Muhammad Ziaul Haque as DC to Sherpur, ADC Bhola Ansan Habib as DC of the same district, Sherpur UNO Muhammad Ali Amin as DC of Jyoypurhat, Shariatpur sadar UNO Hamidur Rahman as ADC to Narsingdi, director on deputation at Myensingh Medical College Brigadier General Mohammad Golan Mostafa to Bogra Medical College, Managing Director on deputation at Khulna Shipyard Commodore MK Azad as deputy director of the Coastguard and commodore SHM Koinmullah to Khulna Shipyard as managing director.

WITHDRAWAL

Bhola DC Munshi Shafiq Haque, Sherpur DC MAN Siddique, and Chuadanga DC DM Golan Faruq were withdrawn from their positions and recalled to Dhaka.

POLICE FORCES

On Monday last, the government promoted 93 officers at one go. They are 10 additional DIGs, 38 additional police superintendents, 45 assistant police superintendents. Earlier on 15 October, seven additional DIGs were promoted to the rank of DIG. These officials have been deputed in different posts across the country.

BESIDES, the government in the last six months promoted and transferred a total of 300 police officials.

RAB

Promotions made among police officials also affected the services of two directors of the RAB who were on deputation from the police as additional DIG. They are director (administration) and director (investigation). Both these vital posts are now awaiting to be filled.

Besides, two out of 12 Rab Commanding Officers (COs), serving on deputation from the army, will soon return to their original posts in the barracks as the authorities have issued their posting orders. They are the COs of Sylhet and Rab-11. Sources said that the Sylhet CO's performance was excellent.

Rab sources pointed out there is a possibility that Director of Intelligence Col Gulzar, who has led many daring missions, including those against JMB kingpins, might also return to the army due to his promotions. Gulzar has been recently promoted to the rank of colonel from that of lieutenant colonel.

BUSY CABINET DIVISION

A few sections of the Cabinet Division regarding the oath ceremony of the caretaker government spent a working holiday on Thursday, just one day after the Eid-ul-Fitr, to finalise the formalities of the caretaker government's assuming office.

MORE CHANGES TO COME

A massive reshuffle of the secretaries will be done under the caretaker government, sources said, adding that a list 16 secretaries for change from their current offices has been sent to the would be chief adviser KM Hasan.

Hasan stays out

FROM PAGE 1 professional organisations called upon KM Hasan not to take over the office of the chief adviser to the caretaker government to avoid chaos across the country. Leaders of some organisations also urged the president to initiate a proactive move to find a constitutional solution to the deadlock over appointment of the chief adviser to the caretaker government. Leaders of Peshajibi Samannay Parishad and Sammlito Nagorik Andolon yesterday went to the house of former chief justice KM Hasan to submit a memorandum urging him not assume the post of the chief adviser to the caretaker government. The leaders sent in requests to KM Hasan to receive the memorandum but he did not come out and the police did not allow them to enter the house. The leaders of the organisations sat on the street in front of the gate of the house prompting one of the relatives of KM Hasan to come out and receive the memorandum. The memorandum stated that for the sake of greater interest of the nation and to keep the country chaos and violence free KM Hasan should not to assume the office of the chief adviser. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday called upon the president to initiate a proactive move to find a constitutional solution to the deadlock. The leaders of Peshajibi Samannay Parishad and Sammlito Nagorik Andolon yesterday submitted a memorandum to the president that urged him to appoint an honest, neutral person as the chief adviser instead of KM Hasan.

DR Qazi Faruque Ahmed of Proshika, Principal

Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Nasruddin Yusuf, Shahriar Kabir, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Professor Ajay Roy, Abu Osman Chowdhury, Ramendu Majumder, Professor Muntasir Mamun and some others were present at Banga Bhaban while submitting the memorandum. Nari Sangram Committee also submitted a memorandum to President Iajuddin urging him not to appoint KM Hasan as the chief adviser to the caretaker government.

Prof Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Justice KM Sobhan, Advocate Gazul Haq, Kalim Sharafi, Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutt, Professor BK Jahangir, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Journalist Kamal Lohani, writer Hasan Azizul Haq and many others signed the statement.

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Unrest flares up

FROM PAGE 1 areas of the capital were the control of AL activists.

CAPITAL Thousands of activists of AL and BNP and of their different front organisations came out on the streets in the capital during the prime minister's address to the nation and demonstrated violently leaving its residents in panic and anxiety.

Activ