

Focus on election- '91

50 hurt as JP, students clash

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 26: At least 50 people were injured on Saturday in a clash between the local activists of All Party Students Unity (APSU) and the supporters of district Jatiya Party.

Police intervened, baton-charged and fired several rounds of tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. Police also fired 10 rounds of rubber bullets to disperse the mob, witnesses said.

Police arrested five people, three of whom were identified to be the activists of All Party Students Unity and two others of the Jatiya Party.

The clash ensued when an APSU procession came under attack allegedly by a group of Jatiya Party workers after sun set.

Earlier, the local unit of All Party Students Unity held a rally at the Public Library ground demanding the arrest of the ousted President

Ershad. The meeting over, the procession led by the central APSU leaders including DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokan, Nasruduzzah, Asim Kumar Ukil, was brought out.

It is learnt the local Jatiya Party called a half day hartal demanding the release of the deposed President Ershad.

The hartal call was given abruptly while All Party Students Unity took up its protest programme earlier and publicised it a week ago. The JP leaders claimed that hartal was complete.

During the clashes near Shapla cinema hall chase and counter chase continued for an hour, witnesses said. They also said the Jatiya Party office also came under attack of the angry students.

Later, the APSU central leaders held a protest rally condemning the JP action and demanded punishment to those responsible.

Section 144 in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Jan 26: District administration has imposed Section 144 at local Pura Park from 10 am to 6 pm tomorrow (Sunday) to avoid any untoward incident over holding of meetings called by two rival groups, reports UNB.

The Jatiya Party, as part of its election campaign, called for holding a public meeting at the local Pura Park at 3 pm tomorrow.

According to the organisers, former Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, who is the Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party, was scheduled to address the meeting, first after the fall of President Ershad.

APSU march to Gulshan today

By DU Correspondent

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) will lead a march today at 11 a.m. towards Gulshan, where deposed President Ershad is detained, to press for transferring him to the Central Jail and his trial by a special tribunal.

APSU urged the students and people to join the march. The march will start from the Dhaka University campus.

Our Chandpur Correspondent adds: A big procession was brought out by different student organisations including APSU on Saturday which paraded main streets by chanting different slogan

against Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Acting President of Jatiya Party. The students demanded trial of ex-President Ershad and other leaders of Jatiya Party.

A campaign meeting will be held today at Chandpur Paurapark by district unit of Jatiya Party, said a party source Mr.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, who is contesting from Chandpur-4 constituencies will address the meeting. All ex-MPs of Jatiya Party of the district who are contesting in the Sangsad polls will also address the meeting, it is learnt.

Proponents of one party

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President Mirza Muraduzzaman.

The BNP leader called upon the electorate to vote for honest, competent and nationalist elements in the February 27 election in order to restore democracy and people's lost rights.

Presided over by Ullapara BNP President Yusuf Kamal the rally was also addressed among others, by central leader Roushan Elahi, JCD leader Ilias Hossain and district BNP

audience. Painting a gloomy picture of the country during the reign of "proven conspirators", she said that situation would be re-played if they return to power once again.

We were in the street with peoples' struggle in the last nine years, and we'll remain beside them in future," the BNP chief pledged.

460 tolas of gold seized at airport

The airport customs intelligence on Saturday seized 460 tolas of gold worth about taka 36,80,000 from four Bangladesh nationals who came from Singapore via Thailand by a Thai airlines flight, a customs source said, reports BSS.

On suspicion, the customs intelligence took the four alleged gold smugglers after their arrival at Zia International Airport for special checking and recovered 46 gold bar from their retums.

The four persons identified as Habibur Rahman of Jessore, Mohammad Aslam and Shahadatullah of Faridpur and Shariful Islam of Narail were arrested and later handed over to Cantonment police.

Heroin seized

A special squad of the detective branch of Directorate of Narcotic Control (DNC) on Saturday seized 250 grams of heroin from two persons at a hotel near Gabaal bus stand in Dhaka, reports BSS.

According to a press release of DNC, the two persons, Md. Mafuddin and Nimehand Gosh, were taken into custody.

AL-FP clash in Netrokona: 3 hurt

NETRAGONA, Jan 26: Three persons including a police were injured in clash between Freedom Party and Awami League supporters when supporters of Freedom Party attacked local Awami League office and ransacked the office. Nine bombs were hurled by the Freedom Party eye-witness said.

ATP scandal

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by the purchase of three ATP aircraft at a higher price after selling three F-27 aircraft by violating expert opinion, says a PID handout.

Other accused in the case are former state minister for civil aviation Mr. Ziauddin Ahmed, former Civil Aviation Minister Col (retd) H M A Gaffar, former MD of Bitan Group Captain (retd) M Shawkat-ur-Islam, and former Industries Secretary Mr. A.K.M. Mosharraf Hossain.

BSS adds: According to the case filed, former President Ershad, the two former ministers and the two high officials, in mutual understanding with one another, misused power with the ill-motive of attaining financial gains themselves or helped others gain financially.

Any member of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Bitan or any officials, if involved, would be examined during the enquiry.

Dhaka

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destrable persons from entering Bangladesh. At the same time, security agencies have reportedly placed names of 10 international terrorists on their regular watch list. They are believed to be the members of Abu Nidal or Abul Abbas organisations which in the past had masterminded several terrorist acts in different parts of the world.

One Western mission source suggested that any possible terrorist act here would be guided by Iraq intelligence and that it would form part of an overall plan for the Middle East, Europe and the United States. The source also expressed the fear that some countries in both south Asia and the South-East Asia might also face the same threat.

According to a report published in the International Herald Tribune on Friday, the Western intelligence agencies strongly believe that Iraqi missions in South-East and South Asia regions are engaged in smuggling arms and explosives for terrorist purpose.

In another development, Thailand quietly expelled four Iraqis last Wednesday while the Philippines has expelled one of the two Iraqis in Manila of suspected involvement in terrorist activities. It was said he had been meeting some persons of the Philippines who are opposed to US bases in Manila. Additional armed guards have been deployed outside foreign missions in Manila.

The Herald Tribune quoted a Western intelligence "We probably made a mistake early by saying that South-East Asia and South Asia would not be targeted by Iraq".

Meanwhile, several western missions in Bangladesh have worked out plans for evacuating their nationals, particularly wives and children, out of this country.

By now about 500 Americans and European nationals are said to have booked tickets for their homeward journey through the West Coast.

The Midnight File

Iraqi envoy's son stays in US

WASHINGTON, Jan 26: The U.S. State Department said on Friday it had allowed the 16-year-old son of Iraq's ambassador to Washington to remain in the United States as a humanitarian gesture. The ambassador, Mohammed Al-Mashat, left the country last week when the Bush administration ordered a reduction of the Iraqi embassy staff ahead of the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

'Gorbachev losing sense'

WASHINGTON, Jan 26: Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Friday accused his rival, Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, of "losing his common sense" and said he feared the Soviet Union was on the verge of civil war. Yeltsin, interviewed on American television, predicted the army would not back a broad-scale military crackdown if Gorbachev ordered one, reports Reuter.

Drug lords kill journalist

MEDELLIN (Colombia), Jan 26: Colombian drug-traffickers killed the kidnapped daughter of a former President when police tried to rescue her on Friday and declared war on the state in retaliation for police action. Diana Turbay, a prominent journalist, kidnapped five months ago, was shot three times when the crack police raided the farmhouse where she was held, base of Colombia's biggest cocaine cartel, police said, reports Reuter.

Qian to visit Europe

BEIJING, Jan 26: Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen plans an extensive tour of Europe next month to heal relations with the west and establish ties with new governments in eastern Europe, diplomats said today. Qian would visit Portugal and Spain from about February 20 and was in discussions on the possible inclusion of Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg on his tour. He also plans to visit Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and possibly Czechoslovakia, the diplomats said, reports Reuter.

Blast at newspaper office in Paris

PARIS, Jan 26: A bomb exploded early Saturday outside the headquarters of the liberal French newspaper Liberation, causing considerable damage to the building's entrance but no injuries, police said. An unsigned leaflet left at the scene denounced Liberation's swing from leftism to the consensus, suggesting the attack was related to the Gulf war. But police would not say if the note contained specific references to the Gulf, reports AP.

Woman killed in disco blast

ROME, Jan 26: A 27-year-old woman was killed and up to 50 people were injured in an explosion at a discotheque in the central Italian town of Arezzo shortly before midnight on Friday, police said. They said the cause of the blast at prince discotheque was not immediately known, reports Reuter.

Beijing students sentenced

BEIJING, Jan 26: Wang Dan, the Beijing University student who helped spark China's 1989 democracy movement, was sentenced Saturday to four years in prison and veteran dissident Ren Wanding got a seven-year sentence. The government declared it was combining punishment with leniency as it sentenced five democracy activists to prison; convicted but released three others; and released 18 without trial, reports AP.

Huge oil slick

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cosia: Iraqi warplanes made emergency landings in Iran Saturday and Tehran bluntly warned all sides in the Gulf war not to cross its borders.

The incident brought the 10 day old conflict a step closer to Iran. Tehran radio said Iran scrambled its own fighters as the Iraqi jets streaked across the border in three groups and sought permission to land one of the Iraqis crashed in flames, the radio said, but gave no location.

Iran's National Security Council said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran will strongly prevent any action which breaches its neutrality". According to a late report: Iran said Saturday aircraft from either side in the Gulf war landing on its territory would be seized and held until the conflict ended.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council, quoted by IRNA, made the statement. Iraq has asked for the aircraft to be returned. Late on Friday, the American NBC news quoting US intelligence officials, said the planes had been landing apparently with Iran's consent. The Pentagon said it had no information on the report.

Missile-hits

According to AP reports: Iraq launched more missiles into Saudi Arabia and Israel Friday night and early Saturday and urged Arab soldiers in the Alliance to switch sides. In the latest missile attacks, an Iraqi Scud careened into a six-storey office building in the Saudi capital of Riyadh killing one person and injuring 30 more.

The fatality was the first reported in Scud attacks against Saudi Arabia. A second Scud fired on Riyadh was intercepted and destroyed over the city. Five hours later, at least two missiles were intercepted as the approached the Dammam-Dhahran area on the Gulf coast before dawn Saturday. A fragment of one fell to the ground but on injuries were reported. The attacks followed the busiest 24 hours of the air campaign against Iraq and occupied Kuwait, in which 2,707 missions were flown, the US military said.

Iraq said it suffered 87 air strikes on Friday against civilian and residential areas. It claimed it shot down two Allied warplanes. In Israel, several Iraqi missiles struck the Tel Aviv and Haifa areas Friday evening, getting through the screen of US supplied Patriot defence missiles. One man was killed and 61 other people were injured, hospital authorities reported. An earlier Iraqi communique had said missiles were fired at Israel.

Allied planes have been pounding Iraqi positions in Iraq and Kuwait within earshot of Iranian territory. France said its Jaguar fighter-bombers covered by Mirage 2000 interceptors raided Iraq's elite Republican Guard and mechanised units in southern Iraq and Kuwait Saturday.

Explosion from Allied attacks were clearly heard last night from the southern Iraqi port of Basra, Iran's IRNA news agency reported. Allied infantry and armoured units have moved close to the Kuwaiti border, but there was no indication of ground assault was imminent.

AFP reports: US F-15's shot down three Iraqi Mig jet fighters over Iraq Saturday, a US military spokesman said in Riyadh. Iraq has fired 23 missiles into Israel killing two people and wounding 204 in five separate attacks.

The US state department said there had been several recent attempts to attack American interests world wide. An overnight curfew has been placed on US forces in South Korea to protect them from potential guerrilla attacks. Arms supply: About Iraq's arms supply: Sarkis Soghanalian, former top supplier for Iraq, told Los Angeles Time that Iraq has a deal with Iran where it has also moved some aircraft and supply lines are from there now.

Mahfuz Bhuiyan detained

By Staff Correspondent

Janamukti Party President Mahfuz Bhuiyan was arrested and put under detention for one month and the Special Powers Act.

666 from Dhaka Central Jail released so far

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 666 prisoners from Dhaka Central Jail were released till Saturday under special remission and amnesty granted by the government after revolts in country's four jails.

Official sources said all the released prisoners were convicts "Convicts are enjoying the maximum benefits of the amnesty," the official said adding that this was one of the causes of Friday's clash between the convicts and the undertrial prisoners in the jail.

At least 60 prisoners were injured, in the clash, out of which three were sent to

Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

After the December 29 jail revolt, the authorities and the prisoners reached an agreement that seven categories of prisoners would be released from country's 76 jails.

The main point of the agreement was that the prisoners who suffered half of their sentence will be released forthwith. The jail authorities started releasing the prisoners from January 15.

Meanwhile the situation in Dhaka Central Jail was under control on Saturday, a official said.

Firoz, Hawlader

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with the Cantonment police station on January 5 under clause 19(A) and of the Arms Act and the Special Powers Act of 1974.

A senior official of the CID investigated the case and submitted charge sheet against Mr. Ershad as preliminary evidence against the accused has been established, the Press Note said.

An eight-member committee was set up on December 15 with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate as convener to make a seizure list of the arti-

Code

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lated after discussions with the political parties would be helpful in holding an acceptable election, if all the parties "follow them sincerely" in such a way the "legality of an elected representative government would be above all questions and controversy," the Commission asserted.

The Election Commission held a meeting on January 24 with the representatives of different political parties and candidates participating in the February 27 parliamentary polls. The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, presided over the meeting, where the participants had expressed themselves in favour of the draft code. The political leaders also placed some constructive and important suggestion in formulating the code to conduct.

The representatives of 67 political parties, including Bangladesh Awami League, BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, CPB, Bak-sil, Freedom Party, JSD (Inu), participated.

Gas supply

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creased its production using more diesel and other fuel different power plants. "However we are running short of supply, so we have to go for loadshedding," said the PDB sources. The metropolitan city and major industries would not be affected by this measure, they said.

Petrobangla sources said that the necessary steps were taken to resume normal supply from both the gas fields.

cies in the previous cantonment house of Mr Ershad. The committee, in course of preparing the list, recovered four pistols, two double-barrel guns and ammunition of different calibres. No valid documents for the recovered weapons and explosives could be found nor anyone produced any papers in defence of these articles.

'Ershad a successful statesman'

Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Saturday said there was nothing called ignominious chapter in politics and his party had a proud past and promising future, according to press release, reports BSS.

Addressing the labour leaders from Tongi, Demra, Adamjee, Savar and Gazipur at Gulshan, he said power was not permanent for anyone and there was nothing to lament over loss of power.

He said a distinction existed between political leadership and statesman and that the Chairman of the Jatiya Party former President Ershad was a successful statesman.

2,500 writs pending
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The High Court stand at 5,000. These appeals include, even the death sentences.

According to informed sources, some of the cases are awaiting hearing for years to gether. There are 4,000 civil revision cases pending for hearing.

Out of 30,000 pending cases there are 16,000 in Dhaka and 14,000 in six benches outside Dhaka.

The legal experts expressed their dissatisfaction as the number of judges are not yet increased to dispense justice quickly. They note that there are 45 judges in West Bengal High Court and 54 judges in Pakistan where the population is less than that of Bangladesh.

"Justice delayed justice denied" is a popular saying now all over the country. The shortage of judges is delaying the cases in the highest court of the country. The legal experts feel that delayed dispensation of justice will affect people's confidence in rule of law.

Civilians gather in front of a six-storey government building which was destroyed by an Iraqi missiles in Riyadh on Friday. —AFP photo.

Uplift programme

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terim Government are working now on alternative policy options in various sectors under the Fourth Plan. The political government that comes to power after February 27 parliamentary polls will finally decide about the plan, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the World Bank which chairs Bangladesh aid group meetings and coordinates most aid flows to the country was informed last week about the new rolling investment programme.

The donor community at

their mid-term review meeting in Dhaka in November suggested for such an investment programme. The failures to define a "realistic resource envelope" to underpin development activities till the recent past caused serious anxiety among the donors.

The donors pleaded for avoiding overprogramming of public investments that often in the past led to stretching of domestic taka resources very thinly over a growing pipeline of projects. This caused slowing of project implementation and reduced the ability of the Government to use external assistance effectively, according to leading multilateral and bilateral donors.

Planning Commission sources noted that the scope for any sound investment programmes under the Ershad regime in the public sector was getting progressively lim-

ited because of a large number of projects of 'presidential commitments.' Such commitments were used to be announced by the former President spontaneously in public meetings and were not part of the medium term plan or Annual Development Programme. Besides, the planning discipline was eroded by a large number of on-going projects that spilled over from one plan to the next, the sources said.

Under the new three-year rolling investment programme, Planning Commission has, on a tentative basis, indicated the size of development expenditures at Taka 5668 crore, Taka 6248 crore and Taka 7007 crore for 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 respectively. All the figures under the programme are in constant 1990-91 prices.

Words of Ershad

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of 'Joy Bangla Sanskritik Jote' at Muslim Institute Hall here. Dr. Shoren Biswas, Convener of the Jote, presided over the inaugural function.

Criticising the proponents of Bangladeshi nationalism, she said, it could well be the identity of our nationality, but could never be the identity of our nation, heritage, history, literature and culture. She said, the vested quarters misinterpreted Bangladeshi Nationalism to

mislead the nation and undermine its rich heritage. In fact, they tried to introduce a culture alien to the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Making an oblique reference to Begum Khaleda Zia's recent remarks regarding

Awami League, Sheikh Hasina said the words and language used by Ershad, Kazi Zafar and Moazzem against her party were exactly being echoed by the BNP chief.

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