

Aman to continue as DUCSU Vice President

By Nazmul Ashraf

Amanullah Aman, MP, will continue his office of the Vice-President of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) till the next DUCSU poll is held, DU sources said.

The elections to the DUCSU and the hall student unions of the university for 1991 are likely to take place in June, they added.

There is no bar in the DUCSU constitution for Aman in ending his tenure as the DUCSU VP as he is still a student of the university, a highly placed DU source said.

Aman was the lone student leader elected from among who contested the February 27 parliamentary polls. Nominated by BNP, Aman defeated his nearest rival Mostafa Mohsin Montu of Awami League with a big margin from the Dhaka-3 constituency.

Aman will also hold the post of the convener of BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) until the central conference of the organisation stated to begin May 4. A recent meeting of the JCD convening committee fixed the conference date. It also made Aman the chief coordinator of the conference.

The DU authorities are yet to initiate preparations for DUCSU and hall union polls.

The DU Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Moniruzzaman Miah told the Daily Star he was considering the matter but no talks have yet been held with the student leaders, the DUCSU office-bearers or any other concerned body. Prof Miah, however, felt elections cannot be held before June.

The 1989 DUCSU polls were held in February while that of 1990 was held in June.

The office of the Secretary, Social Welfare of DUCSU has been lying vacant since Muntir Hossain left Bangladesh for US immediately after he was elected to the post. Besides, three DUCSU office-bearers, reported to be followers of Golem Faruk Obhi, were absconding since the fall of Ershad government. Obhi was expelled from JCD for his involvement with the Ershad government-backed armed miscreants who tried to create terror in the DU campus but were resisted by students unitedly.

JCD workers hurt in attack

By Staff Correspondent

Seven students including Jahangir Alam and Kamal Hossain of Jagannath College unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were seriously injured in an attack by a gang of miscreants backed by a particular party while they went to Sadarghat for buying Ifrit, a JCD press release said.

The JCD in a statement condemned the incident and demanded punishment to the persons responsible for the incident.

BNP women

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from Chittagong and Dhaka Divisions will be held on Monday. The interview will begin at 12 noon, he said.

Firoze Noon said a total of 259 applicants had been considered eligible for the interview. Over 300 women had submitted applications seeking nominations.

Those who are seeking nominations include 26 lawyers, 12 college and university teachers, six doctors and two engineers, he said. All members of the Standing Committee of BNP have been advised to be present at the Kalabagan office by 11-45 am.

AL programme

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party will start for National Memorial at Savar to lay wreaths as a mark of respect for the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War.

AL units at the district and upazila levels will observe the day through holding discussions and rallies.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina on Friday attended a milad mahfil held in observance of the anniversary of the death of Hafez Musa, a former president of the party's city unit, at his Nawabganj residence in the city.

AL city unit chief Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and central leaders including Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin accompanied Sheikh Hasina.

An emergency meeting of the AL city unit will be held today at 3 pm at the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Editor : S. M. Ali



Children at a painting contest organized by National Museum in observance of the independence day Friday. — Star photo

State of Siege in Baghdad

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ported that fierce battles were waged north of the Shi'ite's holiest city of Najaf, where Imam Ali, the founder of the sect, is buried.

In Washington, Defense Department officials said US warplanes shot down a second Iraqi fighter that was flying near Kirkuk, Iraq's northern oil centre and a centre of the rebellion, in violation of the interim cease-fire agreement.

The Kurds said they captured Kirkuk on Wednesday after fierce fighting with Iraqi troops. They said they were pushing south to link up with the Shi'ites, whose rebellion apparently has been less successful.

Kurdish sources said Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan rebel group, and aides were headed to northern Iraq by road from Syria after most of the mountain province was purged of government forces.

Bayan Jabr, spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, reiterated allegations that Brand Ayatollah Abul-Kasem al-Khoei had been arrested in Najaf, flown to Baghdad and forced to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Helicopter commandos "savagely attacked" the school

of theology in Najaf and battled rebels Tuesday, said Jabr, speaking in Damascus. He said they arrested Khoei, his son and a number of aides and took them to the capital.

Khoei's whereabouts after a March 19 meeting with Saddam are not known, rebels said.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz complained to the United Nations in a message released Friday by the official Iraqi News Agency that "armed gangs" had infiltrated Iraq from a neighboring state and "committed acts of murder, destruction, arson and looting".

Jabr and Kurdish sources at Talabani's office reported clashes in Baghdad involving both Shi'ite and Kurdish rebels.

"Our commandos are carrying out hit-and-run raids and have clashed with government troops. But the rioting in Baghdad is still at a small scale," said Jabr.

The regime has launched a fierce attack against Kufah, 10 kilometers (six miles) north of Najaf, Jabr said. Heavy casualties and losses have been inflicted on the city, but the protestors' brethren in Najaf have joined in the defense of the city against the regime's troops.

The Shi'ite rebels had seized Karbala, a Shi'ite holy city north of Najaf, but were later crushed by Saddam's Republican Guard.

US Defense Department spokesman Pete Williams said in Washington Thursday that Iraqi forces were using dozens of helicopter gunships to strafe insurgents.

The United States has warned Iraq not to use its aircraft against the rebels.

The Downing Friday of an Iraqi SU-22 jet fighter by a US Air Force F-15C marked the second Iraqi plane shot down since combat operations were halted February 27.

On Wednesday an American F-15C shot down one of the two Iraqi SU-22s spotted flying near Saddam's hometown of Tikrit about 110 miles (175 kilometers) north of Baghdad.

Meanwhile, a UN report said Iraqis may be faced with famine and epidemics.

The report by Undersecretary-General Martti Ahtisaari to the Security Council on Thursday said "most means of modern life support" were destroyed by the Allied military assault during the Gulf War.

Ahtisaari's team was in Iraq for a week ending last Sunday. The Security Council's sanctions committee was meeting Friday, and was expected to allow emergency food shipments into Iraq if it received assurances it would be delivered to all areas, including those held by rebels.

JP plans

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Moudud and Mahmudul Hasan were informed by the party leaders that they would be expelled if they violated the party decision. They, however, then decided not to take oath as their elections might be cancelled for crossing the floor as per Constitution.

On Friday, Jatiya Party held Quran, Khawani and milad mahfil for release of Ershad.

Jatiya Party is learnt to have decided to continue its movement till holding of bye-elections in 10 constituencies. They are determined to secure at least four seats, which will be vacated by Ershad.

15 killed in South China accident

HONG KONG, Mar 22: At least 15 people were killed and 16 injured when a bus fell from a bridge after a head-on collision in southern China, press reports said here today, says AFP.

Lankan troops kill 300 Tigers in 3 days

COLOMBO, Mar 22: The military said today it killed at least 300 Tamil Tiger Guerrillas and wounded many more in three days of fierce battles in Sri Lanka's curfew-bound northwest Mannar District, reports AFP.

"The latest report we have from the front is that we have killed at least 300 LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) men. This is a conservative estimate," a military spokesman here said.

There has been sporadic fire from both sides since dawn. He added that military operations continued today in Mannar and neighbouring Kilinochchi district which was also under curfew.

The tigers, who overran at least five key army camps in northern Sri Lanka after re-nouncing their separatist war in June, launched simultaneous attacks from late Tuesday on the two strategic camps in Mannar.

Tamil sources put the security forces losses at 18 dead and nearly 50 wounded. LTTE losses were high because the guerrillas used untrained teenagers in the attack on two army camps in Mannar, the sources said.

Sporadic fighting continued today around the two camps but government troops were in control, a military spokesman here said earlier.

LTTE guerrillas had made a

Delhi mum on Oakley letter

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Kashmir to accede with Pakistan. The BJP said, "Flush with victory in Iraq, where the US Ambassador is credited with having fooled Saddam Hussein into attacking Kuwait, another US Ambassador has started giving signals to Pakistan about the US role in Kashmir in the event of Pakistan attacking India."

"But India is not Iraq, and Kashmir is not Kuwait," it added. The BJP said Srinagar is as much a part of India as Ayodhya, "an Indian town where Hindus want to build a temple at a site disputed by Muslims."

The Communist Party of India (CPI) said United States, having won the war with Iraq, was trying to show gratitude to Islamabad for joining the allied campaign.

"We strongly condemn this," CPI's deputy leader Qumuddin Farooqi said. This ambassador is trying to complicate the situation. It is an attempt to aggravate the situa-

tion in the subcontinent." "This is hardly the way to solve the Kashmir problem," he added. "Anyway, I don't think Americans are serious about solving the problem."

Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party said the US stand that Kashmir was not a part of India could not be accepted at any cost.

"We reject the US approach and our stand is that Kashmir is an integral part of India," spokesman Vithal Gadgil said here.

No comment was immediately available from the centrist National Front of former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and the powerful Communist Party of India (Marxist), but they were expected to react strongly.

The Indian government spokesman told reporters that Washington has previously accepted the Simla agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan as a basis for resolving the Kashmir dispute. The Simla agreement calls for ne-

gotiations to resolve any dispute between the two countries.

PTI adds from Rajkot: The Congress-I would continue its efforts to have better relations with the United States which had deteriorated over issues like Khalistan.

Talking to newspapers at the Circuit House here sometime after midnight last night, the Congress President Rajiv Gandhi claimed that as a whole India's relations with the US were good during Congress-I regime.

The former Prime Minister said that during the 11 months of Janata Dal rule India's prestige internationally had been lowered as the country's stated foreign policy was not followed. Consequently there was decline in foreign investment in the country, particularly from America, he added.

Gandhi said the nuclear proliferation treaty was a global issue and India was looking at it from this angle. But some countries were taking it as a regional one, he pointed out.

Hasina condemns killing of four Bangladeshis by BSF

KUSHITIA, Mar 22: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today condemned the killing of four Bangladeshis by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Feni, reports UNB.

Four Bangladesh nationals were shot dead by BSF at a frontier village in Chhagalnaya Upazila of Feni district on Thursday.

Addressing a party workers meeting here, Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, urged the government to take up the matter with Indian authorities.

She also criticised the government for its "utter failure" in protecting life and property of the people.

"If the government fails to take necessary measures in this regard, it will have no moral right to stay in power," the Awami League President said.

"It will also be understood that the government is following bent-knee policy and can't ensure security of life and property of the people," she said in her renewed criticism of BNP in power.

Gunfire from Iraqi Embassy in Delhi: Two hurt

NEW DELHI, Mar 22: Gunfire from the Iraqi Embassy wounded at least two Muslim demonstrators Friday during a noisy, stone-throwing protest by Indian Shi'ites, police and witnesses said, reports AP.

At least 50 rounds were fired from inside the embassy, according to residents of nearby houses in the normally quiet, upper-class neighborhood. Demonstrators, said between 80 and 90 rounds were fired.

About 500 demonstrators had gathered outside the two-story villa housing the embassy to denounce Iraqi army operations against Shi'ite rebels in southern Iraq. They threw stones at the gate in the fence surrounding the embassy and smashed the windshields and slashed the upholstery of two cars bearing Iraqi Embassy license plates, neighbours said.

Then the shots came from inside the embassy, according to demonstrators, neighbors and Deputy Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar.

Zulfiqar Ali, a 20-year old Shi'ite, was struck on the back of his neck, just below the hairline, by what the police officer said appeared to be a shotgun pellet.

All was conscious and did not appear to be seriously hurt. There was a hole on the nape of his neck; the pellet appeared to be lodged beneath the skin.

Maulvi Sayed Naseer, 40, was shot in the arm, demonstrators said. But Kumar, the police official, said Naseer was wounded in the abdomen.

Several people, including at least one senior Iraqi diplomat, emerged from the embassy after the shooting but refused to speak to journalists.

The crowd dispersed and marched under heavy police escorts to a nearby United Nations office to continue their protests.

"We had come only to protest but they kept on firing at us," said Ghulam Haidar, who said he was a physician.

Behind him, demonstrators shouted slogans against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. They carried placards and banners that read "demonstration against tyranny of Saddam."

The demonstration was organized by the Majlis-e-Ulama wa Khutaba (the Supreme Council of Scholars), a Shi'ite group that has rarely been heard from.

The Midnight File

Soviet, British FM meet

MOSCOW, Mar 22: Soviet and British Foreign Ministers agreed yesterday that efforts should be concentrated on constructing a reliable security system to guarantee the peace and stability of the Middle East. Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Gromyko met with his British counterpart, Douglas Hurd, who reports his current working visit in Kiev on March 19, reports Xinhua.

Bush rated top favourite leader

PARIS, Mar 22: In a popularity contest with Eastern European leaders, George Bush rates far above Helmut Kohl, Francois Mitterrand and especially Mikhail S. Gorbachev, a poll showed Friday. The US President topped a scorecard that appeared in the Paris newspaper Liberation as part of a poll of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and the Soviet republics of Russia and Lithuania, reports AP.

Khmers damage govt copters

BANGKOK, Mar 22: Khmer Rouge guerrillas damaged two Phnom Penh government helicopter gunships during fighting in northwestern Cambodia, according to a resistance radio station monitored here today. The radio said the incident occurred March 17 when the two helicopters were hit by Khmer Rouge fire, reports AFP.

15 killed in HK bus accident

HONG KONG, Mar 22: At least 15 people were killed and 16 injured when a bus fell from a bridge after a head-on collision in southern China, press reports said today. Only one person came out unscathed from the mishap which occurred in Dongguan, about 70 kilometers (43 miles) north of here, Thursday when a container truck reportedly tried to overtake a van on a bridge, the Wen Wei Po daily said, reports AFP.

30 killed in Punjab

NEW DELHI, Mar 22: Gunmen ambushed a bus in India's troubled state of Punjab today and shot 30 passengers dead, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. The gunmen stopped the bus on a road outside Kharar town in Ropar district, ordered the passengers to get out and shot them, said PTI quoting police sources. They then set the bus on fire, reports Reuter.

Bush names top Kremlin watcher

WASHINGTON, Mar 22: President George Bush has named a Soviet expert who has taught at several leading US universities to be chief Kremlin watcher for the national security council, the White House said today. Ed Hewett, an economist who speaks Russian and Hungarian, was a founder and editor of the journal "Soviet Economy." He has taught at Harvard, Columbia, and the universities of Texas and Virginia, reports Reuter.

Brother killer gets highest medal

MANILA, Mar 22: President Corason Aquino on Friday awarded the nation's highest medal for bravery to an army sergeant who killed his brother during a coup attempt in 1989. Sgt. Roberto Salvador, was among the defenders of Camp Aguinaldo, the armed forces headquarters, when it came under attack by mutinous troops on December 3, 1989, two days after rebel soldiers launched the most serious bid to topple Mrs. Aquino, reports AP.

Y'slav republics

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capacities as Presidents of their respective republics. Croatia and Serbia, with a history of bloody rivalry, have been at the centre of the latest round in a crisis pushing Yugoslavia towards disintegration after the federal communist party, all-powerful for almost 45 years, broke up last year.

Milosevic, who favours a strong central government, wants to use the army to stamp out any forces trying to break up the state put together by the late communist strongman Josip Broz Tito after World War Two.

His largely Christian orthodox republic was one of two which returned its communist rulers to power last year in the first free elections since 1938.

Tudjman, a tough non-communist nationalist from largely Roman Catholic Croatia which voted the communists out of power last year, wants more autonomy for the republics and rejects a dominating central government backed by a powerful army.

This series of meetings could be crucial for the future of Yugoslavia, he said. Tudjman said the main disagreement was over the role of the army. The discussion, better to say row, was very open and not at all diplomatic, he said.

Serbia, Croatia's rival, tried to avoid the issue but was outvoted by the other members of the presidency, all of whom were present except tiny Montenegro and the Serbian province of Kosovo.

The presidency was trying to pick up the pieces after the string of resignations, led by President Borisav Jovic, stripped it of its quorum and leaving power to make decisions.

Jovic, who quit in disgust last Friday, agreed on Wednesday to return to office, re-establishing the presidency's quorum.

The presidency comprises representatives from Yugoslavia's six republics and two provinces. Tudjman and Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic were asked to attend in the

Blast in Jammu mosque: 4 die

JAMMU, Mar 22: A time bomb exploded in a mosque courtyard crowded with worshippers Friday, killing at least four people and injuring 40 others, police officials and witnesses said, reports AP.

Police officials confirmed only one death, but witnesses and hospital sources said four people were killed in the blast in Jammu, winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, where Muslims have been fighting for independence.

No group claimed responsibility for the explosion. According to police officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, it was too early to say who might be behind the attack.

Doctors said four of the injured were in serious condition and their chances of survival were slim. Those killed were a middle-aged woman, two young boys and a police constable named Bashir Ahmed, witnesses and doctors said on condition of anonymity.

More than 1,000 people had gathered for the weekly Friday prayers.

19 killed in Mali riots

BAMAKO, Mar 22: At least 19 people were killed and more than 200 injured when the worst anti-government riots in Mali's history shook the capital Bamako today, hospital sources said, reports Reuter.



Masud Khan dead

Mohammad Masud Khan, renowned educationist, died of cardiac arrest at his Bardiara residence in Dhaka at 10-45 Friday night. He was 74.

His namaj-e-janaza will be held today (Saturday) after Zohr prayer at Gulshan Mosque and buried at the Banani graveyard.

He left behind three sons and three daughters besides a host of relations to mourn his death.

His youngest son is the Chief Editor and Managing Director of UNB and Editor of the Dhaka Courier.