

Three killed in bus plunge

By Staff Correspondent

Two women and a baby girl were killed and 20 others were injured when an overloaded bus fell into a roadside ditch at second Golora village on Dhaka-Aricha high way Friday noon.

The women aged about 35 and 18 and the baby could not be identified, but police suspected them to be of the same family.

The injured were rushed to Mantiganj Hospital where six of them were stated to be in critical condition. They were Ashraf (5), Rokeya (28), Jahan (30), Zohora (30), Farida Parveen (20) and Halim (20).

The incident occurred when the driver of the Aricha bound bus (Dhaka Ja 1918) lost control after a brake failed, hit a tree and plunged into a 20-feet ditch.

Local people and firemen sent the injured to the hospital. Some passengers complained that some local people had looted some valuables from them before the firemen arrived.

The driver fled away. A case was registered with Sauria thana.

In another accident, 3 persons were killed and 20 others were injured when a minibus and a truck collided head on at Dewanbag on Dhaka-Daudkandi highway Thursday.

One of the dead was identified as Latu Choudhury (33). The injured were sent to different hospitals in Narayanganj and Dhaka.



Israeli Prime Minister (R) shakes hand with US Secretary of State James Baker prior to their meeting in Jerusalem on Thursday. Shamir agreed to attend a Middle East conference in October. —AFP photo

India worried at alleged Pak hand in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 : India has expressed concern at Pakistan's alleged backing for insurgents in the states of Kashmir and Punjab, and repeated charges that Islamabad is pursuing a clandestine nuclear weapons programme, reports AFP.

In the Defence Ministry's annual report released here Thursday, New Delhi said Pakistan was also acquiring military hardware and technology far in excess of its requirements.

The report said India's relations with most neighbouring countries had improved in the last year, citing warming ties with China and removal of bitter differences over trade and transit rights with landlocked Nepal.

But relations with Pakistan were still shadowed by security concerns, it said, adding that this affected generation of trust and hinders sustained improvement in relations between the two countries.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the subcontinent's independence from British rule in 1947, two of them over the ownership of Kashmir, which both countries claim.

New Delhi has accused Islamabad of fanning a violent Muslim insurgency in the frontier state and of supporting a Sikh separatist campaign in Punjab.

It has voiced suspicion that Pakistan was trying to acquire nuclear weapons capability in a clandestine programme with

Croatian forces retake strategic town of Kostajnica

ZAGREB, Aug 2 : Croatian officials said Friday they fear their forces lost dozens of men in fighting along the Serbian border, but said they had recaptured a strategic town, reports AP.

Croatian officials said the federal army now fully controlled the towns of Erdut, Dalj and Almjas on the Danube.

But an official at Oostek police headquarters said 300 Croatian troops were left in Dalj, Erdut and Almjas when the army took over, and their fate was unknown.

The mayor of nearby Osijek, Zlito Kramaric, said he feared as many as 80 of them might have died in the fighting for Dalj and Erdut.

Croatian security forces re-occupied the strategic town of Kostajnica on Thursday night, said Djuro Brodarac, police commander in nearby Sisak.

The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said that an exchange of gunfire in Kostajnica could be heard overnight from across the Una River in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Kostajnica, about 110 kilometers (70 miles) southeast of Zagreb, the Croatian capital, is one of the last Croat strongholds in the region.

It guards an important crossroads leading to Sisak, a Croatian city of about 40,000

about 30 kilometers (18 miles) farther north.

The decision by Croatia's police and national guard to abandon the town on Thursday was a major setback in the Croat's struggle with their ethnic Serb foes. Serbs make up about 12 per cent of Croatia's population of 5 million.

Belgrade radio reported Serb refugees streaming out of the area.

It attributed the Croatian success to "their numerical advantage and the badly positioned defenses of the (Serbian) volunteers."

The military maneuvering went on as Croatian hard-liners called for the republic to declare itself in a state of war, and three European Community ministers were to arrive on a peace mission.

The leader of the EC mission, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, told Dutch radio he had "no great objections in principle" to deploying an EC peacekeeping force in the strife-torn republic.

Meanwhile, the collective Yugoslav presidency planned to meet later Friday to order a ceasefire. Many previous declarations have gone unheeded.

Fighting between Croatian security forces and armed mil-

Sit-in in front of DU VC's office today

By Staff Correspondent

About 197 students of Dhaka University, who have been staying in the residential halls defying the authorities' order will stage a sit-in demonstration in front of the Vice-Chancellor's residence today.

The students have demanded of the authorities to reopen the university and the residential halls immediately. They blamed the government and the police for continued terrorism on the campus.

The "authorities Friday asked the defiant students to leave their halls by 8 am. Otherwise, their allotment of seats will be cancelled, the authorities warned.

Meanwhile, a DU press release contradicted the reports published in different dailies that some students had been staying in the halls. It said the provosts of different halls said none had been staying in the halls.

Campus violence

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cause and nature is wholly political. It could be stopped only through national consensus and intervention of law enforcing agency, he said.

He hoped that the steps taken by the Prime Minister in this regard would be fruitful. The discussion to be held in the Jatiya Sangsad on campus violence would talk about the source of terrorism, why it could not be stopped and how this could be eliminated, he hoped.

The VC assured that DU authority was "ready to carry out any duty" to stop campus violence and wanted cooperation from all quarters in reopening the university and restore peace on the campus.

Meanwhile, an emergency general meeting of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has been convened tomorrow (Sunday) at 11 am at the DU Club Bhaban to discuss the campus situation.

The decision was taken Friday at a DUTA Executive Committee meeting with its President Prof. Anwarullah Choudhury in the chair.

Held at the DU Club building, Friday's meeting in a resolution strongly condemned the terrorist activities on the campus on Tuesday when rival groups of Jatayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-A) fought hours-long gun-battle leading to closure of the institution indefinitely.

In another resolution the DUTA expressed grave concern over the indefinite closure of the university following the armed clashes.

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The Midnight File

China's flood death toll reaches 2,078

BEIJING, Aug 2: The death toll in China's flood disaster has reached 2,078 and more international aid was needed to control the spread of disease, the Chinese Red Cross Society said today. Most who died in flood fell victim to collapsing buildings, electrocution and drowning, but a number succumbed to food poisoning, diphtheria and encephalitis, Red Cross Vice President Sun Baiqi told a news conference, reports AFP.

Bulgaria won't renew treaty with USSR

SOFIA, Aug 2: Bulgarian legislators decided Thursday night not to renew a 24-year-old treaty with the Soviet Union that set the framework for military and economic cooperation. The 1967 pact which was concluded by the two country's former hardline communist leaders would have been extended automatically for five years when it expires Sunday, reports AFP.

Fire at N-plant in England

BRIDGWATER, Aug 2: A fire at a nuclear power plant in southwest England today sent a column of black smoke into the air and 1,400 staff were put on alert. Officials at the Hinkley Point plant at Bridgwater in Somerset said the fire broke out on the roof of a main turbine hall but there was no danger of it reaching the plant's two twin-reactor nuclear stations, reports Reuter.

Hasina : BNP bill

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criticising proposal for referendum in BNP's bill, Sheikh Hasina said that it was Ziaur Rahman who added the provision in the Constitution by a martial law ordinance for keeping presidential system. "The provision of referendum is nothing but denial of parliament's sovereignty".

Awami League chief said that her party was determined to institutionalise democracy and expressed the hope that BNP would be sincere to establish parliamentary democracy according to the framework of the three alliances. "The bill for establishing parliamentary democracy should be passed unanimously reflecting the framework of three alliances", she added.

Sheikh Hasina in her speech dwelt on deteriorating law and order situation in the country and blamed the ruling party for the campus violence. She held the government responsible for the closure of about one hundred educational institutions. She said that price hike of essential commodities during the rule of present government has set a new record.

In the meeting the district leaders of AL participated in discussions and expressed their opinion on amendment bills and the Indemnity (repeal) Bill. The meeting was

adjourned till 9-30 am today.

BSS adds : Sheikh Hasina said at the reception that her party was always in favour of a clear democratic atmosphere in the country.

This nation established Bangla as mother tongue by giving blood on the streets, achieved independence through a bloody war against the Pakistani junta, fought against military rule over the last 15 years and finally uprooted autocracy last year", she said.

Criticising television, Sheikh Hasina said this popular media has now gone under the occupation of the power quarters. "If we switch on TV, we see the government men only on the mini screen," she said.

Speaking about the cultural heritage of this part of the world, Sheikh Hasina said unscrupulous people had always tried to trample the history of this nation but failed. "They also wanted to erase Bengali nationalism from this soil but their design has failed because the people of the land are holding this spirit close to their hearts," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said the word "Bangladesh" had come long after the independence and this could be accepted as "citizenship". But, she said, we are Bangladeshi as a nation.

DCCI team

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Fund on behalf of Nishio Chamber of Japan which had raised the contributions for the cyclone-affected people of Bangladesh.

The chamber members discussed with Begum Zia various issues and problems faced by them.

Begum Khaleda Zia told them that her government would take all possible measures for the well being of the people.

She sought their cooperation in the implementation of government policy of market economy.

The DCCI delegation lent their total support and cooperation in the implementation of the policy.

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan and State Minister for Post and Telecommunication Shamsul Islam were present on the occasion.

The delegation members included Masudur Rahman, senior vice president, Ismail Hossain, vice president, Aym Kamal, Shamsuddin Ahmed, A.S Mahmood, former president of DCCI, and S Zakir Hossain, secretary.

Mizan

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The Jatiya Party leader immediately after his release was talking to UNB at his Gulshan residence on the present political situation in the country.

Mizan, who was granted bail on medical ground, was looking sick and declined to make a long statement.

The senior politician in a guarded language said, "It will take sometime for myself to concentrate before opening my lips".

About his leadership in the JP, the Senior Vice-Chairman of the party said, "In absence of the Chairman and other central leaders, I guarded the fort of the party and took it to the election and other usual activities."

BNP considers

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vote in favour of the bills.

But another group in BNP is strongly opposed to conceding to the Jatiya Party demand. They argued, whether the amendment bills were passed or not they would be put to voting in Parliament, and in case of any crisis, BNP would straight go for presidential election under the existing constitutional provisions.

They also suggested for holding a mass rally in Dhaka next Tuesday to inform the people of the latest political developments.

When contacted, Parliament Secretary Abul Hashem told The Daily Star that the voting on the amendment bills would be held latest by August 5 (Monday next) while the discussions on the bills would be complete on August 4.

He however could not confirm whether Ershad and other JP MPs would be allowed to participate in the voting on the bills but said that the Home Ministry would decide about the matter.

Prime Minister's secretariat sources said, Begum Khaleda Zia had given the responsibility to Salam Talukder, Majedul Haque, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Khondaker Delwar Hossain and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to negotiate the issue with the Awami League leaders and persuade them.

They have already told the Awami League leaders that any precondition to voting for the bills is unacceptable to BNP.

Rajiv murder case : Sivarasan, Subha asked to surrender

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: An Indian court set up to try the Rajiv Gandhi Assassination case Thursday formally declared two wanted prime suspects as absconders and ordered them to surrender, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.

Islamic FMs

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egation to the four-day conference.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman was to lead the delegation to the conference but chose to remain at home evidently for the current session of Parliament dealing with several important issues.

The Bangladesh delegation to the conference includes the directors general in the Foreign Ministry Fazlur Rahman and Ruhul Amin, Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey Major General Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury and Consul General in Jeddah K M Sharif Hasan.

Rains trigger flood in Ctg region

CHITTAGONG, Aug 2 : At least ten upazilas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar are in the grip of flash flood following incessant rains in the past two days, reports BSS.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad who visited flood affected Keochia and Bazalia unions of Satkania today said that the two unions had gone under three to four feet of water affecting several thousand families and transplanted aman crop on vast tract of land.

The road communications between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar were snapped this morning after over one km road from Moulvir Dokan to Keranihat was submerged by flood waters.

The minister, who addressed a public meeting at Bazalia of Satkania upazila, had to travel by engine boat while returning to city as the road was under waist deep water from Keranihat to Moulvir Dokan. Hundreds of passengers were also stranded as buses could not ply on the road.

He said that low-lying areas of Boalkhali, Rangunia, Rauzan, Anowara, Lohagara, Chakaria, Hathazari, Fatteekhahri, Chandanai and Mirsarai had been inundated by rain waters rushing from the hills, the river Sangu at Dohazari crossed its banks and several thousand families on both sides of the river were almost marooned.

The minister immediately instructed the district administration to supply relief materials among the flood affected people of Keochia, Bazalia and other places. He also asked the concerned officials to repair Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road and the city roads.

The Chittagong district administration sanctioned two thousand maunds of wheat for flood affected people of Chandanai.

Rangpur BNP leaders stabbed by JP activists

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 2: Shamsul Azam Manu, president Rangpur town BNP and Hasam Ali, secretary, Kotwali thana BNP were hospitalised with stab injuries Thursday night.

The BNP leaders while returning home from Mahiganj, three miles off the town, were attacked repeatedly by a group of Jatiya Party activists and stabbed severely. Later they were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. The condition of Shamsul Azam Manu was stated to be critical.

State Minister for Information Nurul Huda visited the BNP leaders in the hospital.

Kaloroa college closed sine die after clash

SATKHIRA, Aug 2 : Kaloroa Government College was declared closed sine die following a clash between two rival student groups that left at least eight students injured on Friday, reports UNB.

College sources said the Academic Council took the decision because of volatile situation on the campus.

Of the injured, two were rushed to the Kaloroa Health Complex with serious wounds. They are Tuhin (18) and Sajal (20). JCD claimed both as their supporters.

The clash occurred when some activists of Chhatra League (A-A) allegedly teased a female student Jesmin Nahar,

Hasina reopens debate

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clear in undue haste.

She said the nation wanted repeal of the Indemnity Act of 1975 which was against principles of justice and humanism. The November 18, 1990 Joint Declaration of the three alliances stood for putting an end to the politics of killings, coups and conspiracies, she said.

Central leaders of AL termed the special extended meeting as a routine meeting which was to be held in the first week of May to take stock of the post-election political scenario. It had to be delayed due to the April 29 cyclone.

The meeting has assumed significance in view of the fact that AL has mounted a pressure on the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party for assuring passage of an Indemnity (Amendment) Bill, initiated by AL leader Mohammad Nasim, before the passage of the 11th and 12th Constitution Amendment Bills.

Repeal of the Indemnity Act which prohibits trial of killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is an emotional issue for all leaders and workers of Awami League. All of them are one on the question that AL should intensify movement to achieve this goal. But AL leaders appeared to differ on the strategy to be taken on the issue at this hour.

Moderates feel that the party should not push the matter to the extent of risking the passage of the 11th and 12th Amendment Bills which aim at introduction of a parliamentary system besides validating the government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and all its actions.

Hardliners, however, argue that the chance to amend constitution does not come every now and then. Now that a chance has come, Awami League should go to any extent to achieve its goal (get the Indemnity (Amendment) Bill).

Against this, moderates say, in case the present consensus for a switchover to a parliamentary system fails due to Awami League's bargain to get the proposed Indemnity (Amendment) Bill passed, the major share of the blame will be put on AL by the people. This would be a political blun-

der for the party because an opportunity to revert to parliamentary democracy cherished by AL will be lost.

Ranking AL leaders said on condition of unanimity that the extended meeting was not the forum to take a decision in this regard. Central leaders will record opinions expressed by district level leaders, before taking a decision. There is a fair chance to empower party chief Sheikh Hasina to ultimately decide on the question by examining the pros and cons.

Most of the district level leaders of Chittagong and Khulna divisions who addressed the meeting on Friday were strongly critical of the four AL leaders who had signed the unanimous report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on constitution amendment bills. The report was presented before the

Kuwaitis remember

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wells dynamited or torched by the retreating Iraqis, sharply reducing the level of choking pollution.

Conspicuous by their absence from the streets were members of Kuwait's tiny police force and the army which was overrun by the Iraqi invasion force in the early hours of August 2, 1990.

Kuwaiti residents awoke a year ago to find Iraqi tanks and troops in full control of the capital after a lightning attack that stunned the world and sent world oil prices soaring.

Members of the ruling Al-Sabah family and other government officials fled into exile. The invasion triggered a mass exodus that cut the Emirates' population to less than one million — half its pre-invasion level.

August 2 is the day of treachery and occupation and defeat. It is a day of treachery because our Arab history has not recorded in its pages before the slaughtering of a brothers by stabbing him in the back and the rape of his country by force, said an editorial in the daily Sawt Al-Kuwait.

Kuwait radio lamented the invasion by the "Despot of Baghdad". (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein) and urged Kuwait is not to forget their martyrs.

Kuwait City emerged from the invasion with mainly superficial damage and is returning to normal.

Shopping centres are packed with customers after sunset when temperatures become more bearable. Fleets of expensive cars take to the highways. Men in flowing white robes and girls in Western clothes crowd the streets in search of consumer goods.

Supermarkets are filled to the brim with all types of foreign products imported tax free.

Apart from the blazing oilwells, the chief reminders of the six-week Gulf war are the wreckage of Iraqi tanks and other equipment littering the highway to the Kuwait-Iraq border.

A year after the Iraqi invasion, Kuwait is still a super-rich country lavishing cash on citizens and moving rapidly towards economic recovery.

Kuwait, whose oil exports were choked off by the invasion, exported its first cargo of crude last week

35 injured as JCD, BCL (S-A) clash at Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 2 : At least 35 persons were injured, three critically, when armed activists of Jatayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League BCL (S-A) clashed twice in the town Friday, with about an hour interval.

Eleven of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

The incidents ensued when BCL (S-A) activists, to retaliate an overnight attack on its procession by JCD, stoned a JCD procession in front of the Sirajganj Government College at about 11 am. This locked the two groups in a brawl and chase and counter-chase.

The two groups disengaged themselves, reinforced and assembled at separate places for fresh offensive.

The JCD took position in front of the district BNP office along Kalbari Road while the BCL (S-A) at Dattabari Road. The JCD activists, in a fit of rage, stormed into the house of KM Hossain, city AL General Secretary along the Dattabari Road and allegedly ransacked it.

This drew the nearby BCL (S-A) activists into action. The two groups used lethal weapons like ram dao, rod and hockey sticks in this second round of clash which panicked people of the whole Dattabari Road area and some to flee away. The clash continued for about one hour and a half.

Soon, police came and brought the situation under control with tear gas shells. Police said they hurled 40 rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the fighting activists.

Police arrested Nazimuddin, a BCL (S-A) activist from the spot.

Soviets discuss sale of planes to Burma

RANGOON, Aug 2: Soviet officials discussed the possible sale of helicopters and aircraft to Burma's military junta, the state-run newspaper Working People's Daily said Friday, reports AP.