

6 killed, 38 injured in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

Six persons died and at least 38 others were injured 27 seriously, in three separate road accidents in Trishal in Mymensingh and Gazipur districts Friday.

Three persons were killed and 28 others were injured when a Mymensingh bound minibus from Dhaka Chittagong Metro 1136 hit a roadside tree at Raimondi in Trishal upazila about 6.30 pm.

One person died on the spot and two others at the Mymensingh medical college hospital later. Twenty-eight people were admitted to the hospital of whom condition of 17 was stated to be critical according to our correspondent.

According to our Gazipur correspondent two persons died on the spot and six others were seriously injured when a Dhaka bound passenger bus (Tangul Bha-154) fell into a roadside ditch near Koda under Gazipur sadar upazila.

One of the dead was identified as Biplob (17) while the other person, a male passenger, remained unidentified.

The six seriously injured persons were first taken to Gazipur hospital and later shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In another accident, the driver of a Dhaka-bound truck (Dhaka-Na-4086) coming from Mymensingh lost control and fell into a roadside ditch near Porabari under Gazipur sadar upazila, according to Fire Service sources in Dhaka.

An unidentified man died on the spot and four others were seriously injured. Three of the injured were admitted to the Fire Service hospital in Gazipur.

Mandela's home fired upon

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 11: Unidentified gunmen fired automatic weapons at the luxury, hilltop home of ANC President Nelson Mandela, but no one was injured, the African National Congress said Friday, reports AP.

Concern over attack on JP meeting

By Staff Correspondent

Various political parties on Friday expressed concern at the recent clashes between Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jatiya Party (JP) and condemned the attack on JP public meeting at Baitul Mukarram on Thursday.

The Acting General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League, Amir Hossain Amu in a statement expressing his concern at the clashes between the two parties said October 10 was memorable day in the history of the anti-autocratic movement.

He said the observance of "Ershad Release Day" on October 10 was an aspersions on the historic spirit of the movement people would not tolerate such activities, he added.

Amu said BNP was also waging terrorism in the line of the JP which was rejected by the people. He said people would not accept armed attacks to disrupt meetings in a democratic society. He termed such actions as undemocratic and said the people did not struggle for such incidents.

Amu said BNP is now waging terrorism the way JP terrorised the masses through the Chittagong genocide in 1988, killing of Moizuddin, and crushing Delwar and Selim to death under the wheels of truck. He said BNP also tried to gag the movement of AL when it used trucks to run over a campaign procession during the hartal in 1980 called by Awami League. He said such strategies would only instigate civil forces.

He said Awami League views that the autocrats and their evil deeds should be confronted politically and not through terrorism.

The Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami, Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami in a statement urged all to be respect democratic norms.

He said the nation can never support attacks on public meetings under government support. He also condemned the inactive role of law enforcing agencies.

Nizami said everyone should be vigilant to protect democracy so that it does not become endangered due to arrogance of any party.

Freedom Party on Friday condemned the attacks on Jatiya Party meetings in Dhaka, Chittagong, Mymensingh and other places.

The co-chairman of the central executive committee of the party, Col (Retd) Abdur Rashid in a statement deploring the attack on JP meetings by BNP activists. He urged the government to protect democratic rights by allowing all parties to hold rallies.

He said the politics of hurling crackers in public meetings was initiated during the regime of late President Ziaur Rahman. He said although crackers were blasted in the rallies of Freedom Party and Democratic League in the past, the Awami League and BNP rallies were never bombed.

In another statement, Jatiya Sramik Dal also condemned the attack on JP rally at Baitul Mukarram on Thursday and held BNP and its front organisations responsible for the incident. It said the fascist character of BNP has been revealed by the attack.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing labour leaders from Tongi industrial area, who joined the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal at Sugandha on Friday. — PID photo

Aerial spraying affected as four planes inoperative

Star Report

Four of the five aircraft of Plant Protection Wing are now out of operation. Three of these inoperative aircraft were procured only a year ago.

Due to shortage of aircraft, aerial spray on the pest-infested areas of southern districts is being hampered. The Plant Protection Wing of the Agriculture Ministry is now working with only one ageing Beaver aircraft to fight the severe pest attack on over five lakh acres of land.

Two Beaver aircraft were procured before the liberation war while three other Cresco-600 were procured last year from New Zealand. One of the Beavers are out service as spareparts for the old model aircraft are not available.

Another Cresco aircraft was grounded soon after its commissioning when it developed engine trouble last year. Two other Crescos are still out of operation as these two are yet to be officially handed over to

Bangladesh authorities by its supplier.

The three Cresco-600 aircraft were purchased from a company based in New Zealand at a cost of 30.51 lakh US dollars. An agreement to buy the three aircrafts were signed in 1988.

According to a concerned source, the price of the three Crescos were fixed at a rate much higher than the existing rate in world market. "Moreover, the provisions of the agreement are also against the interest of Bangladesh," said the source. He mentioned that according to agreement, Bangladesh will have to go to the courts of New Zealand if there was any violation by the supplier.

Engineers were supposed to be sent by the supplier to repair the grounded Cresco and to fix two other aircraft for operation. But it is not certain when they will be coming.

JP, Jamaat

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first declared himself as an independent candidate in the presidential election was not promoted by the Awami League alone at the initial stage. Justice Chowdhury was first contacted by the Jatiya Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury who asked him to be an independent candidate. Later Jamaat leader Barrister Abdur Razzak contacted him to contest the presidential poll and assured him all possible support.

According to insiders, it was done by the Jamaat to create a bargaining ground so that the ruling party felt obliged to accept some of their demands.

Justice Chowdhury however, gave a condition that the Awami League should assure him of its support.

Awami League leaders who went to Justice Chowdhury's residence to obtain his signature on the nomination papers were first approached by Mizan Chowdhury.

The Awami League then tried to promote Justice Chowdhury as a consensus candidate and Sheikh Hasina contacted him to assure her party's support.

But later the Jamaat found it difficult to support Justice Chowdhury because he was already branded as the defacto

Awami League candidate in the presidential election.

The Jamaat, which has a good rapport with the BNP they decided to abstain from voting and abandoned Justice Chowdhury.

On the other hand, the Jatiya Party which was supposed to support Justice Chowdhury because of Mizan Chowdhury's involvement from the very beginning failed to pursue its stand due to opposition from within the party.

Later the Jatiya Party managed to know the opinion of party chairman deposed president Ershad, who said that unless the Awami League agreed to demand his release the Jatiya Party should not support Justice Chowdhury.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed, who attended the party parliamentary meeting in the morning of October 8 also expressed his negative attitude towards Justice Chowdhury.

Both the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat also felt ignored by Awami League and the BNP.

Thus, in the meeting on October 7 night, both the parties came to an understanding that they would work together in the parliament by continuing pressure on the ruling party and maintaining distance from the major opposition party.

KGB dissolved

MOSCOW Oct 11: The collective Soviet executive voted today to dissolve the KGB, the unofficial news agency Interfax reported, reports AFP.

Earlier Reuter said: President Mikhail Gorbachev, seeking to save a political union despite rising nationalism, told republican leaders today there was serious public concern about the way the country was being governed.

Gorbachev, opening a meeting of the State Council, said the session, scheduled to discuss winter food supplies and an inter-republic economic treaty, was of exceptional importance.

"I think we all understand this," he said in introductory remarks broadcast live on television.

"There is serious concern in society about the way the situation is developing and how we are acting. People are watching the State Council closely," Gorbachev said.

Euphoria following the collapse of the right-wing August coup has yielded to impatience as winter power cuts and food shortages loom. The State Council itself, a temporary body set up after the coup, wields only limited authority while attempts are made to for permanent government structures.

The leaders of 10 republics — Georgia and Moldova failed to attend — voted to end the live broadcast after Gorbachev's remarks.

The fate of the inter-republican economic agreement, initiated by 12 republics in the Kazakh capital Alma-Ata last week, may be crucial in deciding Gorbachev's future role.

Gorbachev sees the Alma-Ata agreement as the basis for a loose political confederation to replace the old centralised Soviet Union. Without that confederation and the inter-republican structures that would govern it there would appear to be no place for a Soviet President. But the prospects even the economic agreement seem for the moment dim.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who returned to Moscow late on Thursday night from a two week holiday on the Black Sea, has not yet made clear whether or in what form he will sign the Alma-Ata agreement.

Members of his rebellious government argue that it smacks too much of the old central union power structures and compromises Russian sovereignty. Pressure is strong to sign the agreement quickly or look for another route, possibly an independent Russian approach.

The direction of the State Council meeting will be decided by Yeltsin, who was sitting on Gorbachev's right.

If Yeltsin bows to nationalist feeling in his administration, the economic treaty could be wrecked or seriously compromised.

Biswas : democratic values

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President Biswas urged the people to remain vigilant so that no individual or party could deviate from the path of democracy. "Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom" he said in this context.

He expressed his optimism about the stability of the government and progress in various fields of national life with the practice of democracy.

President Biswas said he had always participated in the elections with sportsman spirit as he added, it was the principle of democracy. Referring to the activities of the Lions and Lioness clubs in Bangladesh he said it had done praiseworthy works for the wellbeing of the less fortunate people.

In this context, the president mentioned the opening of eye camps in various parts of the country by Lions clubs and their initiative to remove the curse of illiteracy from the society.

Industries

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Begum Zia said a wage commission for the industrial sector would be announced in an appropriate time.

She said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman always worked sincerely for the emancipation of the working class of the society. Shaheed Zia considered himself as a worker and it was his coveted dream to bring prosperity to the labourers.

Begum Zia said, "we will put in our sincere efforts to realise the dreams of Shaheed Zia."

The Prime Minister said more industries would be set up particularly the small industries in the rural areas to generate employments for the rural people. She welcomed the workers who joined Sramik Dal.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Jute Minister Hannan Shah, State Minister for Religious Affairs MA Mannan, Sramik Dal President Iskander Ali, Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint-Secretary General AKM Nazrul Islam and local labour leaders also spoke on the occasion.

Mottar Rahman B Com, a CBA leader led the joining of the workers.

The workers who joined the Sramik Dal expressed their firm pledge to build happy, prosperous and self-reliant Bangladesh by working sincerely to implement the 19-point programme of BNP government under the leadership of Begum Zia.

Clash

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lice and looted valuables worth Taka two lakh including a tape recorder.

The clash ensued when the BNP workers and supporters were disembarking from country boats walking over an anchored police patrol boat.

Police said they told the boatmen that the boats were being anchored at wrong places and advised them to do it at the site selected for boat passengers. Police also asked the passengers not to walk through the patrol boat.

The BNP workers were coming to attend a meeting organised at the DIT market by the Narayanganj City BNP to accord reception to Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and five other MPs. They did not pay heed to the police request and police caned some of them. The incident turned into a clash and a series of chase and counter-chase took place. The BNP workers pelted stones at the police and went on rampage.

They set fire to a Pajero Jeep (Dhaka Metro Ja-4897) and a private car (Dhaka Ka-7513) in front of the IWTA ferry terminal.

The injured persons were taken to the Narayanganj General Hospital and released after first aid.

The Midnight File

Bush vetoes bill for the unemployed

WASHINGTON, Oct 11: President George Bush vetoed today a 6.4 billion dollar bill that would have provided the unemployed with up to 20 additional weeks of benefits. Bush vetoed the bill, which was passed by both houses of congress by a wide margin, in the presence of Senate Republican leader Bob Dole and House of Representatives Republican leader Bob Michel. Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush invited the lawmakers to the White House to discuss prospects for passing a less-expensive measure, reports AFP.

Major against single EC currency

BLACKPOOL, England Oct 11: Prime Minister John Major vowed today that he would not allow the European Community (EC) to impose a single currency on Britain. Making a keynote speech to windup the annual Conservative Party conference here Major said, "A single currency cannot be imposed on us. And I would not accept, on behalf of Britain, any treaty which sought to impose a single currency, at however distant a date", reports AFP.

Thomas denies having sexually harassed former aide

WASHINGTON, Oct 11: Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas today denied under oath that he ever sexually harassed former aide Anita Hill and said in sombre tones her charges had left him "shocked, hurt and enormously saddened," reports reuter.

Jamuna bridge

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handed over a memorandum to Divisional Chief Martin Staab showing the economic viability and social necessity of the bridge.

The Bangladesh memorandum showed that the Internal Economic Rate of Return (IERR), earlier studied by World Bank consultants, was 15.04 while the international standard of measuring viability of any such big project was only 12.

But now the World Bank team is not convinced about the calculated IERR and said that the economic viability had been exaggerated.

But the Bangladesh side clearly stated that although the project was taken for implementation for political reason, letter it was clear that the project was economically viable too.

The bridge authority sources said that the first World Bank team which arrived on September 25 included two experts on ferry service projects and they collected data from different ferry projects. The World Bank team also visited Nagarbari-Aricha ferry and Mawa-Shibchar ferry ghats on Jamuna and the Padma rivers respectively. They are collecting data on ferry projects just to compare the viability of the bridge project with a ferry project, authority sources told The Daily Star.

The World Bank team also collected fresh data at the Jamuna Bridge site to see for themselves the viability of a ferry project compared to the bridge project.

The World Bank team also discussed with the Bangladesh side the introduction of ferry service as an interim measure. But the Bangladesh side strongly said that the government's objective was to set up close link between eastern and western parts of the country

DU Syndicate

From Page 1 Col. 4

Meanwhile, the campus situation after Thursday night's gunbattle was peaceful on Friday but armed hoodlums were found moving freely at almost all the residential halls. General students apprehend that renewed clash may occur anytime.

Police, who normally remain mute spectators during violence remained deployed at all the strategic points on the campus. Entry of other than campus vehicles were restricted.

A large number of resident students in the meantime left halls for the "durga puja" vacation from October 12 to 20.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) held a rally and brought out a procession Friday morning protesting the Thursday night gunbattle.

The rally addressed by DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokan and Assistant General Secretary Nazimuddin Alam called upon the students to resist the terrorists unitedly.

It demanded arrest and trial of all armed hoodlums sheltered by BCL (S-A) and alleged that the alleged killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon were creating terrorism on the campus since long under the banner of BCL (S-A).

DUCSU Vice President Amanullah Aman and General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokan in a statement Friday strongly condemned the Thursday's incident and demanded arrest and expulsion of the armed hoodlums from the university.

The DUCSU leaders accused the BCL (S-A) for the armed attack on Mohsin Hall and Suryasen Hall and ransacking the DUCSU office.

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Hasina

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hike of essential commodities and deterioration of law and order in the country had put people's lives in jeopardy and called upon the ruling party to maintain a congenial democratic atmosphere to improve the overall political, and socio-economic condition of the people.

Hasina congratulated the BNP workers on their joining the Awami League and praised their devotion to the cause of building up the nation.

The AL chief reminded them of the party's glorious past and Bangladesh's struggle to establish an exploitation-free society and urged them to carry forward the struggle.

Emdad Hossain, Abul Fazal Murad, Akbar Hossain, Based Sarkar, Abdul Hye, Masumuddin, Ibrahim, Mohammad Murad and Misir Ali spoke on behalf of these joined the AL.

The new AL members said they had joined the party being inspired by the ideals of Bangladesh and leadership of Hasina.

City AL President Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, and other AL leaders including Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Habibur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Joint Secretary of the Awami League Amir Hossain Amu will carry out the responsibilities of the party General Secretary until Begum Sajeda Chowdhury returns from the United States. Sajeda left Dhaka for US on Friday. Over the next two weeks she will meet the AL units there and discuss there organisational activities.

The annual conference of the Uttara thana unit of AL's student wing Chhatra League was held Friday.