

Heavy fighting rages south of Danube

BELGRADE, Oct 26: A ceasefire between the Yugoslav army and Croatian rebels held in the historic Adriatic port of Dubrovnik today but heavy fighting raged in the Slavonija region south of the Danube river, reports Reuter.

The coastal areas around Dubrovnik's medieval city, battered by a week of fighting, were calm following a local truce worked out by European Community observers on Friday.

Preparations were under way to evacuate Croatian women and children who wanted to leave the city after being trapped for more than three weeks by an army and navy siege.

But men between 18 and 60, who have been mobilised into the Croatian militias, must stay in the city, where some 50,000 people, including some foreigners, are cut off by the siege.

The Yugoslav army and its Serbian militia allies are trying to stamp out a rebellion by the largely Roman Catholic Croats and Christian Orthodox Serbs live in a tangle of rival towns and villages.

That move triggered an uprising by the 600,000-strong Serb minority in Croatia. The Serbian led army has taken sides with the ethnic Serbs in Croatia.

In an ominous sign for Dubrovnik, the army has been in a jubilant mood and claiming the ceasefire as a victory.

Vice-Admiral Miodrag Jokic told reporters in Dubac, three km (two miles) southwest of Dubrovnik, that the Croatian militiamen inside Dubrovnik must turn in their weapons.

"We're not going until the Croatian paramilitary formations surrender," he said. "The blockade is tighter. We are letting pass only boats bringing

BUET situation

From Page 1 Col. 8

against those elements involved in violence.

The delegation comprised Prof Ali Afzal, Prof Imamuddin, Prof Taher Ali, Prof Siddique Hossain.

A 10 member delegation of 'Dakhin Bangla Unnayan Parishad' also met President Biswas at his residence.

The delegation led by Parishad's President Amanullah felicitated President Biswas.

The members also discussed with the President matters including road communication agriculture and infrastructural development for the southern districts of the country.

Earlier, leaders of the Janadal led by its chairman Khondakar Mahtabuddin called on President Biswas. While talking to them, President Biswas asked them to dedicate themselves to work for meeting the basic needs of the people.

A team of Bangladesh Income Tax Lawyers Association led by Advocate Majid Mollah also called on President Biswas and discussed various problems with him.

KAFCO talks

From Page 1 Col. 7

mounting pressure on the government for early issuance of letter of guarantee and implementation of the project in accordance with the agreement.

The agreement signed at the end of Ershad Government stipulated that gas, the main raw material of the factory, will be supplied from Bakhrabad at 75 per cent 1000 cft and the payment will be deferred by three and a half years.

These provisions were described by officials as "inequitable and against the interest of the nation," leading to the formation of a 4-member cabinet subcommittee.

The committee in its report last month said "at every stage (of KAFCO deal) from 1982 onward the interest of Bangladesh has been systematically compromised," and recommended "inequitable features of the KAFCO proposals, particularly in regard to bank guarantee, gas pricing and deferred payment for gas, should be known to the concerned governments."

A cabinet meeting which considered the report expanded the committee with two more ministers and entrusted it with the responsibility of negotiating with KAFCO authorities.

Saturday's meeting with KAFCO authorities was presided over by Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan.

Cabinet sub-committee members Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharrif Hossain, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan and Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Abdul Mannan and senior officials of the relevant ministries attended.

relief supplies or evacuating women, children and sick people."

Croatian militias have also claimed victory and vowed to fight on rather than turn in their guns. In the meantime plans are being made to evacuate those who wish to leave.

"The army said it would secure transport from the city for anyone who wanted to leave," Djuro Kolic, one of the Dubrovnik authorities negotiating with the army, told reporters.

But he stressed that Dubrovnik was no longer in danger and called upon its citizens to stay. "There is no need for anyone to leave," he said in a radio broadcast.

A relief ship brought supplies from Italy on Friday, after being inspected by the navy, and an EC convoy left for the city from Zagreb, Croatia's capital about 400 km (240 miles) away.

But renewed fighting raged throughout the Slavonija region near the Danube, where the Roman Catholic Croats and Christian Orthodox Serbs live in a tangle of rival towns and villages.

Penalty for herbs treatment for AIDS

LONDON, Oct 26: Britain's medical watchdog body on Friday struck two doctors off the medical register for promoting a herbs and meditation treatment for AIDS, reports Reuter.

The assurance was given by the leaders of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity, a forum of road transport owners, during their meeting with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his Secretariat office.

No strike before talks, assure transport owners

Transport owners Saturday assured the government that henceforth they would not go for strike prior to any discussion with the authorities, reports UNB.

The assurance was given by the leaders of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity, a forum of road transport owners, during their meeting with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his Secretariat office.

While discussing various issues relating to transport problems in the country, the Home Minister warned that the present government would put down terrorism, illegal toll collection and hooliganism with "iron hand."

The government would not hesitate to take stern measures against any criminal whatever his identity, Chowdhury told the meeting.

He sought cooperation of all concerned, including transport owners and workers, for maintenance and restoration of discipline in the transport sector to ensure rapid national development and welfare of the people.

Samity leaders, including Executive President Alhaj A K Jaimul Abodin, Vice-President Prof Md Abdur Rashid, General Secretary Hiasan Imam, Treasurer Alhaj Abdul Kalam and Executive Committee member Md Ali Khan, took part in the discussion.

1 killed, 10 injured as bus falls into roadside ditch

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 26: One person was killed and 10 others sustained wounds when a Comilla-bound bus from the Sayedabad bus terminal fell into a roadside ditch at Mijmiti on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway this morning.

Witnesses said, the bus skidded off the road as the driver lost his control. Najma Akhter (25) died on the spot while the injured passengers were admitted to different hospitals here.

The driver managed to escape after the accident. However, the bus was detained by police.

JS session

From Page 1 Col. 5

government.

After the passage of the 12th Amendment Act that led to the introduction of a parliamentary system in the country, AL's main political weapon against the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party is the Indemnity Repeal Bill.

A ranking AL leader said that a policy decision at the highest level of BNP was needed if any positive outcome was to be expected from the Special Committee. Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz has, however, repeatedly emphasised that a large number of knots would have to be removed to take a clear decision on the Indemnity Repeal Bill.

The progress made so far indicates that the committee would be unable to come to any decision during the current session.



Fateha being offered at the mazar of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque in observance of the anniversary of his birth yesterday. (Story on Page 2)

Riots spread outside Kinshasa, Opposition boycotts new PM

KINSHASA, Oct 26: Opposition parties expelled new Prime Minister Bernard Mungul-Diaka from their coalition, state radio reported Saturday and riots were reported in the interior, reports AP and Reuter.

Kinshasa, the capital, was tense but calm. However, riots and looting raged Friday in at least four southern towns, diplomats said.

Voice of Zaire radio broadcast messages from opposition parties saying they would boycott any government formed by Mungul-Diaka, whom they have branded a traitor for accepting the appointment from President Mobutu Sese-Seko.

Troops loyal to Mobutu patrolled Kinshasa, where protesters on Thursday pillaged and set fire to the presidential residence, then ransacked Mungul-Diaka's house.

Meanwhile, people hunted in vain for food and other provisions. Shops and markets stayed closed after a week in which troops fired into the air to disperse protesters who stoned them. Many people were reported injured.

In southern Shaba province, diplomats said soldiers led a looting spree in the towns of Mbanza-Ngundu, Lukula, Boma and Muanda. Rioting was triggered in the region's mining centre, Lubumbashi.

Zaire's military high

earlier in the week when unpaid troops mutinied.

Kinshasa presidents then took to the streets on Wednesday after Mobutu appointed Mungul-Diaka to replace Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi, a popular opposition leader.

Mobutu had been forced to make Tshisekedi Prime minister after September 23-24 riots led by unpaid soldiers led France and Belgium to send 2,000 paratroopers to Zaire.

On Friday, however, the opposition Sacred Union — a coalition of more than 150 parties — met in emergency session and expelled Mungul-Diaka from its ranks, state radio said. The Saturday report quoted an opposition statement following the meeting.

The opposition accused Mobutu of deliberating creating and fomenting confusion, the radio said. Opposition leaders have said they believe Mobutu searching for a way to impose a military government, as he did when he seized power as army commander in 1965.

"It is apparent that there is much unrest within the army as the nation is sliding into a situation which is apparently uncontrollable," Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said Friday.

Zaire's military high

Anti-brothel campaigners refused bail

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 26: The Narayanganj Sadar upazila Magistrate today rejected the bail prayer moved for 18 persons including an ex-commissioner of the local pourasava arrested for their involvement in Friday's move to forcibly evict inmates of two brothels in the town.

The arrested persons were later sent to the Court from Narayanganj thana. Narayanganj police have also prayed to the court for the detention of Rafiqul Islam an ex-commissioner and Iqbal Ahmed alias Shymol, a freelance journalist.

Police arrested two more persons — Masud and Kamal — from inside the Tanpitara brothel this evening in connection with yesterday's attempt to attack the brothels.

Meanwhile, the Unislamic Activities Resistance Committee (UARC) continued its campaign for the eviction of the brothels-one at Tanbazar and the other at nearby Tanpitara.

The Committee organised rallies and processions in various parts of the town including Dewbhogh, Paikpara, Kashipur, Golachipa and Bandar demanding the immediate eviction of the inmates of the brothels and the unconditional release of UARC members.

Police continued guarding the brothel areas round the clock to resist any possible attack on the prostitutes.

Tension was still prevailing in the brothel area of Tanbazar where business establishments also remained closed.

The leading yarn merchants of the country in Tanbazar could not operate their businesses till today.

The prostitutes of the brothels are still fearing attacks and passing their days amid immense suffering as the turn up of clients is yet to resume following the trouble over the past few days.

The prostitutes are now more organised and determined not to be used by any interested quarter.

Rita Khanam, leader of the prostitutes said "We will continue our movement against the illegal eviction attempts and will no more bow down to the toll collectors."

From Our Correspondent

Meanwhile, UARC leaders with three Members of Parliament — Abul Kalam, Sirajul Islam and Reazul Karim called on the Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his residence today and discussed the eviction issue.

The Committee members in a statement said that the Minister assured them of co-operation for a peaceful solution to the problem.

Meanwhile, Hafej Mokhtar Hossain, Chairman of Narayanganj Sadar upazila Parishad in a statement today condemned the move to forcibly evict the prostitutes without ensuring their rehabilitation.

The profession of prostitution is condemnatory but forcible eviction of the brothel inmates would create an adverse impact on the entire Narayanganj town causing moral degeneration of the youngsters, he viewed.

In his statement Mokhtar

Jute workers

From Page 1 Col. 5

the workers of the jute mills would obstruct all the inter-district road and railway transportation on October 28 because the government did not pay attention to the demands of the workers and solve the problems existing in the jute mills sector.

Bashar contradicted the government claim that the jute mills sustained a loss of (laka 1000 crore since the independence of Bangladesh.

He said that the government stopped paying bonus voucher to the mills against their export earnings. He added that the bonus voucher amounted to about 55 per cent of the export earnings. He said that the withdrawal of the bonus voucher was a major reason for the losses in the jute mills.

The leaders of the federation claimed that about 11 of the divested jute mills had also become sick and the authorities had suspended their operations since years. They said that the production perfor-

command warned looting soldiers today they would be summarily punished in future.

A seven-point statement read on radio by an army colonel also ordered civilians to turn in weapons and said illegal detention of arms or ammunition would henceforth be punishable under military law.

The statement, signed by general Mahele Lyeko, the Army Chief of Staff, came after a month of army-led looting in a score of cities across the vast central African country.

The statement did not specify that soldier-looters would be shot, but that appeared to be the case. "Any soldier caught in the act will in future be judged by emergency procedure," it said.

Mobutu, who rarely visits Kinshasa and recently has been staying on a boat moored 30 kilometers (18 miles) down river from the capital, has made no statement about the new riots or Western nations' decision to abandon the country.

European Community ambassadors sent a note to Mobutu on Friday rejecting Mungul-Diaka. "Setting up a government that does not meet the criteria of consensus and democratisation we have already outlined will result in grave consequences on the diplomatic, political and economic fronts," it said.

Relief coordinator of greater Rangpur district Wing Commander (Retd) Hamidullah Khan, MP was present during the visit.

Meanwhile, relief and rehabilitation activities including test relief programmes are going on in full swing in the districts of greater Rangpur. Relief goods worth Tk 41 crore in cash and kind are being provided to the affected people of greater Rangpur district of which government provided 25 crore and NGOs the rest.

JCD activists shot

From Page 1 Col. 5

Hall cafeteria while taking supper by a group of armed youths and were stabbed and beaten up in front of Suryasen Hall at about 11.15 pm. The armed youths also fired shots at them which injured Shahjada.

Immediately after the incident, at least thirty rounds of gunshots were fired from the Suryasen Hall, Mohsin Hall, Jasimuddin Hall and Arts Building areas.

The incident was believed to be sequel to a long time rivalry between two groups within the JCD.

Meanwhile, a case has been filed with Ramna thana accusing Shamim, Mirza, Gulzar and Patu of attacking and injuring Shahjada and Bony. It may be mentioned that Gulzar was one of the accused in the Reza Mahmud murder case in Khulna.

Tension spread among the JCD activists following the incident and some of them left the Ziaur Rahman Hall, Sheikh Mujib Hall and Jasimuddin Hall.

JCD held a rally Saturday at the DUCSU building premises protesting the Friday night incident. The rally addressed by Rafiqul Islam Jagu and Ali Akkas Nadim demanded punishment to the persons involved.

Chhatra League (S-A) held a rally at the Madhu's canteen premises blaming the JCD for campus violence. The rally addressed by Golam Mostafa Suzan and Quamruzzaman Ansari.

Democratic Students Unity (DSU) at a rally at the main gate of the Arts Building strongly condemned Friday night incident and demanded arrest and trial of all armed hoodlums to restore peace on the campus.

Japan attacks proposed revival of US trade bill

TOYKO, Oct 26: Japan attacked as protectionist a bill making its way through the US Congress that would allow the US government to act unilaterally against what it considered unfair trade practices, reports Reuter.

Flood affected people brought under relief activities: Tariqul

RANPUR, Oct 26: Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam has said each and every flood affected people had been brought under relief and rehabilitation activities so that none die of starvation, reports DSS.

The minister said this while visiting on-going test relief programmes at Zafarganj of Rangpur district, Shimultala of Nilphamari district and relief distribution centres at Kamarpukur of Nilphamari and at Nilphamari pourasava.

Tariqul Islam said sufficient relief goods had already been distributed to the distressed people and more relief goods would be supplied to mitigate their sufferings.

He said massive agricultural rehabilitation programme had been under taken by the government to boost agricultural production. A section of national dailies had published exaggerated report of the situation of greater Rangpur district to diminish the image of democratically elected government of BNP, he added.

Islam said the government was contemplating to undertake permanent solution of unemployment problem in flood affected areas.

He sought suggestion of all irrespective of a party affiliation for the solution of the problem.

Relief coordinator of greater Rangpur district Wing Commander (Retd) Hamidullah Khan, MP was present during the visit.

Meanwhile, relief and rehabilitation activities including test relief programmes are going on in full swing in the districts of greater Rangpur. Relief goods worth Tk 41 crore in cash and kind are being provided to the affected people of greater Rangpur district of which government provided 25 crore and NGOs the rest.

Relief coordinator of greater Rangpur district Wing Commander (Retd) Hamidullah Khan, MP was present during the visit.

Meanwhile, relief and rehabilitation activities including test relief programmes are going on in full swing in the districts of greater Rangpur. Relief goods worth Tk 41 crore in cash and kind are being provided to the affected people of greater Rangpur district of which government provided 25 crore and NGOs the rest.

JCD activists shot

From Page 1 Col. 5

Hall cafeteria while taking supper by a group of armed youths and were stabbed and beaten up in front of Suryasen Hall at about 11.15 pm. The armed youths also fired shots at them which injured Shahjada.

Immediately after the incident, at least thirty rounds of gunshots were fired from the Suryasen Hall, Mohsin Hall, Jasimuddin Hall and Arts Building areas.

The incident was believed to be sequel to a long time rivalry between two groups within the JCD.

Meanwhile, a case has been filed with Ramna thana accusing Shamim, Mirza, Gulzar and Patu of attacking and injuring Shahjada and Bony. It may be mentioned that Gulzar was one of the accused in the Reza Mahmud murder case in Khulna.

Tension spread among the JCD activists following the incident and some of them left the Ziaur Rahman Hall, Sheikh Mujib Hall and Jasimuddin Hall.

JCD held a rally Saturday at the DUCSU building premises protesting the Friday night incident. The rally addressed by Rafiqul Islam Jagu and Ali Akkas Nadim demanded punishment to the persons involved.

Chhatra League (S-A) held a rally at the Madhu's canteen premises blaming the JCD for campus violence. The rally addressed by Golam Mostafa Suzan and Quamruzzaman Ansari.

Democratic Students Unity (DSU) at a rally at the main gate of the Arts Building strongly condemned Friday night incident and demanded arrest and trial of all armed hoodlums to restore peace on the campus.

The Midnight File

EPI may have to be rescheduled

Health researchers on Saturday disclosed an erratic trend in child diseases like measles and hinted the expanded programme for immunisation (EPI) may have to be rescheduled. Dr L A de Francisco Serpa of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) told the Centre's annual scientific conference in Dhaka that it was found during research that measles attack children before the vaccination age of nine months. Such erratic incidences are found not only in Bangladesh but also in other Asian countries, reports UNB.

35 drug traffickers executed in China

BEIJING, Oct 26: Authorities sentenced more than 35 drug traffickers to death and burned more than five tons of opium and heroin at public rallies Saturday in southwestern China. The state-run Xinhua News Agency said the traffickers were executed immediately. Xinhua and China Youth News (Zhongguo Qingnian Bao) said death sentences were announced for 35 people at a mass rally in Kunming and for an undisclosed number of others at rallies in 14 towns near Kunming in Yunnan province. Prisoners generally are led from sentencing rallies to the execution ground, where they are killed with a bullet to the back of the head, reports AP.

'Super' Typhoon Ruth heads for Philippines

MANILA, Oct 26: Typhoon Ruth with twice the strength of an ordinary typhoon, churned closer to the northern Philippines Saturday, prompting authorities to issue maximum storm warnings in at least three provinces. Ruth, has been dubbed a "super" typhoon because its power is more than twice the minimum wind speed for a typhoon, 118 kilometers (74 miles) per hour, reports AP.

Dietrich denies she is ill

HAMBURG, Oct 26: Actress Marlene Dietrich, the alluring star of the "Blue Angel", telephoned the German news magazine Spiegel to deny a report she was seriously ill. Spiegel said Saturday. The mass-circulation daily Bild had a front-page story Friday saying the 89-year-old Berlin-born actress was so ill with heart and circulatory ailments that her heart had stopped for a short time, and relatives had flown to see her in Paris for one last visit, reports AP.

Water management

From Page 1 Col. 4

lized or underutilized were mostly installed by Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADCO), and some by the Bangladesh Water Development Board. Some of those were rented out to farmers' cooperatives, or 'sold out' to such cooperatives against bank loans never repaid.

The DTWs were thus mostly considered as free gifts, and there was never a real urge from the bottom to ensure their full utilization to recover the capital invested.

Studies conducted under the grameen agricultural project showed that influential farmers used to control the distribution of water, and since there was no urge to recover the capital invested nobody cared to increase the command area to reduce the per acre cost of irrigation water.

Again in some instances the silt criteria of DTWs was not strictly adhered to and water could not be flowed to plots of land away from the site of the DTW because there remained no scope for gravitational flow of water. Water was also wasted by supplying excessive water on plots of land near the DTW site. As farmers did not have a share in the capital invested they also did not care to maintain the DTWs properly.

Organizational problems coupled with lack of financial discipline, and lack of incentives to keep DTWs in running order have been identified as the reasons why DTWs are operating well below the level of

efficiency anticipated at the planning stage.

This inefficient utilization of DTWs has prompted a number of NGOs like the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Proshika and the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) to acquire around 500 DTWs and promote their operation by landless groups who sell their services and the water to the irrigators on the basis of crop share.

Grameen agricultural project's experience in 1989-90 showed in the Rangpur-Dinajpur area the command area under each DTW stood at 45 acres. In Tangail, however, the command area remained restricted to 37.5 acres per DTW.

The project showed a promise to increase the command area of DTWs, but in the process of trail over the last three years Grameen Bank has had to advance an amount of Taka 9.8 crore as debt, because operation of DTWs was not yet cost effective. Another five crore Taka loss is anticipated for the year 1990-91. But it is believed that with further improvement of organization and management DTW efficiency could be increased further.

UNCDF and the Netherlands government have committed over Taka 40 crore for the Grameen Agricultural Foundation to continue the trial to make the DTWs profitable.

SAARC summit

From Page 1 Col. 8

This will be a very significant meeting for Begum Zia as this is the first SAARC Summit after the BNP government assumed power. SAARC was initiated by her husband the late President Ziaur Rahman.

Begum Zia, will be accompanied by the Foreign Minister, Foreign Secretary and a number of other important officials. Bangladesh will certainly seek cooperation from the Association's other members to help the region's newest democratic nation meet its needs.

The 1989-90 period has been somewhat difficult for SAARC. The all round interest and enthusiasm which it had been able to generate in its early years, was marred by the uncertainty over the Fifth SAARC Summit not taking place during 1989. The Council of Ministers which normally meets twice a year, could hold only one session in 1989.

The SAARC Charter aims at promoting active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields. As we survey the scene, we find that SAARC has made commendable progress in forging co-operation on some important social issues. Technical co-operation in agriculture, health, meteorology, te-

lecommunication, science and non-hardware aspects of technology has been a success story. Efforts are underway to identify measures for economic and cultural co-operation.

The SAARC Charter clearly stipulates strengthening of co-operation with other developing countries, among themselves in international forums on matters of common interest, and with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes. All these, of course, are to be viewed in the context of the objective of the Association to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries in South Asia. The Charter also enjoins the Standing Committee to undertake the function of mobilization of regional and external resources.

Public perceptions of the essentiality and functions of SAARC have evolved during the last six years. Regional cooperation now advocates in all walks of life, including South Asia study centres and other academic institutions, professional bodies in member states and the regional media. Many non-governmental organizations share the SAARC goals, and are ready to join hands in carrying out its activities and lending it their support.

Editor: S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toyneboe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.