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Mourners from hilly Khagrachhari district demonstrating with six bodies in front of the National Press Club on Friday. — Star photo

CHT mourners in city, threaten retaliation

By Staff Correspondent

Mourners from hilly Khagrachhari district turned into agitated protesters in the city and demonstrated with bullet-ridden bodies of six non-locals shot dead by the Shantibahini on Thursday morning.

In the first-ever move to express their anger and show the insurgents' atrocities, about 200 people including relatives of the victims travelled 300 miles and carried the bodies to the capital Friday morning in two buses and one truck.

Chanting slogans against the atrocities committed by the Shantibahini men and threatening retaliation, the protesters held a rally in front of the National Press Club, but they failed in their attempt to march towards the Shugandha office of the Prime Minister, the Mintow Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition and the Indian High Commission at Dhanmondi when police blockaded them.

The mourners also shouted full-throated slogans calling upon the non-locals in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to be ready for self-defence.

Later the nama-j-e-janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram mosque premises after Juma prayers and the bodies were buried at the Azimpur graveyard.

The six victims, including two children and their father, were gunned down when they were working in a paddy field at the Dandambil village of Panchhari upazila at around 10:30 am, witnesses said. They were identified as Ishaque Mian (50), his daughter Jahanara (10) and son Abu Bakr (8), Rafiq (35), Momtaz Mian (25) and Shahabuddin (28).

Earlier, when the bodies were dismounted from the truck in front of the National Press Club, many in the crowd burst into tears and created a heart-rending scene.

The bodies were kept there

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Election to UP from Jan 14

Election to the Union Parishad, whose tenure has expired, will be held from January 14 to 25, 1992 to reorganise these parishads, the Election Commission announced in Dhaka on Friday, reports BSS.

According to the detailed schedule, nomination papers are to be filed with the returning officers on December 7, 1991. Scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on December 8. The last date for withdrawal of candidature has been fixed on December 14. The polling will take place from January 14 to 25.

The Election Commission has decided to associate the district and upazila administrations in coordinating all election arrangements, management and supervisory work in

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Teachers of 6 varsities hold rally today

A grand rally of university teachers will be held today (Saturday) at the Central Shaheed Minar at 11 am protesting campus terrorism, reports UNB.

Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Associations comprising teachers of the country's six universities has organised the rally demanding government measures to root out terrorism from the campuses.

Teachers of Dhaka University went on an indefinite strike on November 2 at the call of its Teachers' Association (DUTA), an affiliate of the federation, in protest of the government inaction to check violence on the campus.

The grand rally will be participated by teachers of the Universities of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Jahangirnagar, Bangladesh Agricultural University and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

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Irregularities won't be tolerated : Khaleda Certain quarters out to discredit government

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Friday alleged certain quarters want to discredit the present elected government by creating obstruction in its development endeavours. They are also trying to destroy the present democratic process, she added, reports BSS.

Begum Zia said those who did not believe in democratic practice and progress want to destabilise the society and create

and prove your devotion to your party's ideologies and activities.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, T and T Minister Keramat Ali, State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan, Abu Abbas, MP, Sramik Dal President Iskander Ali and Acting Secretary General Nazrul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said the allowances of the employees had been increased by 20 per cent.

She called upon all patriotic forces to help the present government to function effectively for consolidating the present democratic process.

The Prime Minister said, "We have fought together against the autocratic regime for a long time. Now the time

has come when we have to work unitedly to give momentum to the present government's movement of production.

Begum Zia said peace and stability were the prerequisites for successfully implementing the development activities and achieving progress for the nation.

Begum Zia said the present government would not tolerate any irregularities in any sector. She called upon the people to help the government maintain peace and stability in the society.

The Prime Minister confidently said the people of Bangladesh would always rally round the nationalist forces which could achieve the progress for the nation. She said the victory of Jatiyatabadi

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Y'slav PM, FM sacked

BELGRADE, Nov 15 : The Serbian-dominated federal Yugoslav Parliament sacked Prime Minister Ante Markovic and Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar, both Croats, today, Tanjug news agency said, reports AFP.

The Parliament, which now comprises mainly Serbs and their Montenegrin allies, has asked the Vice-President Branko Kostic to name a new Prime Minister, the official Yugoslav news agency said.

Croatian and Slovenian ministers resigned from the federal government several weeks ago.

Under the new move, Serbia and its allies, which took over the federal presidency on October 4, would be able to control the government, although with reduced authority in the face of the drive for autonomy by several republics.

Markovic and Loncar had refused to attend meetings of the presidency for more than a month in response to the Serbian-led show of strength to take control of it.

Complexity of Rohingya issue to cloud FM's visit to Myanmar

By Naveed Chowdhury

Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman embarks on a difficult task as he pays an official visit to Myanmar (Burma) from November 21 to persuade the authorities to take back Burmese refugees who had crossed into Bangladesh.

The Foreign Minister is paying the visit at the invitation of his Myanmar counterpart U Ohn Gyaw, with whom he will hold discussions over two days on various issues including the repatriation of a large number of Muslim refugees to that country.

Mustafizur Rahman's itinerary includes a meeting with number one man of Myanmar, General Saw Maung, Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

The composition of the Bangladesh delegation headed by the Foreign Minister leaves no room for doubt that the visit is to the real business like. Dhaka hopes the visit will yield positive results when measured by past experiences.

The delegation includes Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmood Ali, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry, Abdul Hamid Chowdhury in addition to other senior officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Bangladesh Rifles. Evidently, the focus of entire discussions with the authorities in Myanmar will be on the refugee issue since two neighbours do not have any other irritant in bilateral ties.

Dhaka-Rangoon ties have been 'normal' all-through with neither very close links between the two neighbours nor any undesirable strains in their ties barring two occasions — both due to 'Rohingya Muslims' — a term that is itself

See Page 12 Col. 3

One shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

One person was gunned down in broad day-light allegedly by a group of assailants in Nawabpur Friday afternoon.

Police said, the rickshaw carrying Anwar Ali (30) was stopped by a group of three unidentified men when he was coming from Tharabazar towards Nawabpur. When he tried to run away the assailants opened gunfire injuring him seriously. He continued to run and finally succumbed to the injuries in front of the Dhaka New Hotel at Nawabpur Road at around 2.15 pm, police added.

NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda to visit Bhashani's mazar

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will visit the mazar of Maulana Bhashani at Santosh, Tangail, on November 17 on the occasion of his 15th death anniversary. Begum Zia will offer fataha and place wreaths at the mazar of the late leader. Central leaders of the party will accompany the Prime Minister, reports BSS.

Transport strike

Road communication of the capital with 16 northern districts remained cut off Friday as transport owners and workers enforced a 72-hour strike from 6 am protesting alleged extortion of tolls. The strike was called following an untoward incident in Rangpur district bus terminal on November 9 over alleged collection of tolls by "musclemen", reports UNB.

Two killed in plane crash

HILL AIR FORCE BASE (UTAH), Nov 15 : An F-16 Air Force jet fighter crashed in Utah's western desert, killing two people, the Air Force said. The plane, a training jet, went down Thursday northwest of Great Salt Lake on the Utah Test and Training Range, said Tech. Sgt. Neil Wrenskjold of Hill Air Force Base, reports AP.

Bazar looted

BAROUNA, Nov 15 : Armed dacoits raided Fuljhuri bazar in Sadar upazila and decamped with valuables worth about Taka 1,25,000 on Thursday. The dacoits armed with lethal weapons ransacked several grocery and jewellery shops and cloth stores at the bazar on the bank of the river Shishikhal, reports UNB.

Kader Siddiqui blames AL for inaction on Indemnity Bill

RAJSHAHI, Nov 15 : Awami League leader Kader Siddiqui blamed his party colleagues for failure to forge a national consensus on the Indemnity Ordinance Repeal Bill, reports UNB.

"There is no prospect of the passage of the Indemnity Bill as campaigners for it failed to build up a national consensus on the issue", he told a public meeting at Shaheb Bazar square here his afternoon.

"Those who are supposed to raise voice for the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu remain silent because of unknown reasons", he said adding that it is impossible to establish rule of law in the country without staging the trial of the killing of Sheikh Mujib.

Referring to the citizenship of Jamaat leader Prof Golam

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Democracy yet to be established : Hasina

GOPALGANJ, Nov 15 : Awami League President and Opposition Leader in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today said seven months' rule of the BNP government has totally failed to do any good to the people, reports UNB.

"Awami League and myself will not rest until genuine democracy is established and economic emancipation of the masses achieved", Hasina said.

The Awami League leader charged the ruling party for harassing her party leaders and workers at different places.

Presided over by Gopalganj District Awami League President Mohammad Ali Khan (Abu Mia), the meeting was also addressed by Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, Kazi Abdur Rashid MP and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

Sheikh Selim urged the people to build united resistance against what he said undemocratic acts of the present government.

He called for the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance and said the people would build up a movement if the ruling party opposed the scrapping of the black ordinance.

Repatriation before July : Nasim Khan

By Staff Correspondent

Repatriation of the 2.5 lakh stranded Pakistanis may start before next July, their leader Nasim Khan said here Friday.

Khan, Chief Patron of the Stranded Pakistanis' General Repatriation Committee (SPORC), said after talks with the visiting Secretary General of the Rabita Al-Islami Dr Abdullah Omar Bin Nasseef Thursday that he was confident about repatriation.

Dr Nasseef left Dhaka Friday evening winding up his three-day visit.

Talking to Daily Star over telephone, Nasim Khan said he was grateful to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her personal interest and initiative for an early solution to the humanitarian problem.

"She is the first leader of the country who took some practical steps to solve the

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20,000 slum-dwellers evicted in city

Thousands of slum-dwellers were evicted by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) from their makeshift houses on roads and pavements in the city Friday, reports UNB.

Police demolished the houses at Bakshbazar, Palasey and Nilkhet areas where more than 20,000 people had been living illegally for a long time.

DCC officials said they could not start repair works on the roads in front of the Engineering University and Zahurul Huq Hall of the Dhaka University as the slum-dwellers occupied the pavements and also parts of the roads.

Most of the slum-dwellers had migrated to the city from different villages after they were rendered homeless by floods, river erosion and other natural disasters. They had earlier defied repeated orders from the authorities to vacate these areas demanding alter-

native shelters.

A huge contingent of police started demolishing the slum-houses at about 8 am. The inmates of the slums were seen

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Sharia court declares Pak laws un-Islamic

ISLAMABAD, Nov 15 : The Pakistan government hurriedly announced today it was considering filing an appeal with the Supreme Court after the country's top Islamic court declared as un-Islamic the country's fiscal laws, reports AFP.

A set of 22 laws governing a wide range of interest-based activities including banking, insurance and savings were declared "repugnant" to Islam by the country's Federal Shariah Court (FSC).

The court, in its verdict here Thursday, gave the government less than eight months to Islamise the laws through suitable amendments. If the relevant provisions

are not changed by June 30 and brought in conformity with Islam the laws will become invalid, the court ruled.

In a statement, Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said the government "may seek the Supreme Court's ruling over practical options which fulfil the injunctions of the Holy Quran and Sunnah (Prophet's teachings) and at the same time meet the requirements of the modern economy."

"We respect the Federal Shariah Court's judgement," the minister had said before adding that the government, after studying details of the 300-page FSC verdict, might still exercise its constitutional right of appeal.

If necessary the government might ask for more time to evolve practical options, he said, saying the government had already taken a number of steps to bring the banking system in line with Islamic provisions.

The FSC, set up under the country's 1973 Constitution, gave the verdict after prolonged hearings on 119 petitions filed by citizens.

The court ruled that bank interest falls within the ambit of 'riba' (the Arabic term for interest), which is strictly prohibited in all its forms in Islam, irrespective of whether the loans are for productive or consumption purposes.

Reuter adds : Pakistan's Election Commission has rejected opposition claims there was massive rigging in last year's national elections.

A three-volume report says the polls, which dealt a humiliating defeat to opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, were fair "beyond any shadow of doubt."

Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) claims it was the victim of sophisticated rigging in the October 1990 polls and cites statistical evidence of fraud in 70 of the 217 seats in the National Assembly.


But Chief Election Commissioner Najmuddin said in his report the opposition has produced no proof of alleged incompetence, dishonesty or

bias, the official APP news agency reported.

Bhutto, whose ousting as Prime Minister in August last year led to the elections claims the results were manipulated by a special election cell, a claim rejected by Najmuddin.

The commissioner, who has previously threatened to take the opposition to court for allegedly using forged documents to back its allegations, said claims of rigging without evidence were mere political propaganda.

He made a number of recommendations for changing the electoral system to prevent abuse and curtail the amount candidates could spend.



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