

DU hall rooms

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Jasimuddin Hall, Zia Hall and Mujib Hall remained in the hand of JCD workers while Zahurul Haq Hall and Salmullah Hall were being held by BCL activists.

Of the injured students, three were identified as JCD workers of S M Hall and one BCL worker of Suryasen Hall. They all were beaten up. No

Women rush for BNP tickets

By Staff Correspondent
Hectic lobbying by some 300 women seeking the BNP ticket for 30 seats reserved for women in parliament is putting BNP leaders in trouble.

Senior leaders of the BNP said that these women were visiting their residences regularly with the hope of being nominated by the party. The leaders said that they have become tired of these regular visitors.

The lobbying is intensive because anyone getting a BNP ticket is almost sure to be elected. The BNP now commands an absolute majority of the Members who will form the electoral college for election of the women members on April 4.

The BNP will interview women seeking nomination from the party on March 23 and 24.

Interview timing for BNP women candidates

The interview of the BNP's women candidates for their nominations in the parliamentary seats reserved for them will be held in the party's Dhanmondi Election office on March 23 and 24, a party press release said here Monday, reports BSS.

The interview of the candidates of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions will take place from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 4 pm respectively on March 23 while that of Chittagong and Dhaka divisions will take place from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm respectively on March 24.

The address of the venue for interview is House No-5, Road-10, Dhanmondi Residential Area.

Soviet citizens

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where sentiment is strong for radical reform and for reducing the power of the central government.

The day after the referendum, the first ever in Soviet or even Russian history, it remained unclear what political capital Gorbachev might try to make of his apparent victory. The Soviet President had lobbied heavily for approval and predicted victory on the question of whether citizens wanted to stay together in a revamped federation.

With all 15 republics having endorsed some sort of independence, Gorbachev wanted to appeal directly to the people to restore a national unity shattered by sometimes violent ethnic, legal and political disputes.

Sunday's election was marred by scattered violence and charges of irregularities. In some districts of the Ukraine and Russia, officials lured voters to the polls by selling such scarce goods as beer, citrus fruit and sweets.

Democratic reformers tried to turn the referendum into a vote of no-confidence for Gorbachev and his fellow Communists, saying they feared a vote backing the union would be used to suppress separatists with violence.

The Soviet leader has said republics voting "No" in the referendum may pursue secession under Soviet law. However, the law requires a lengthy waiting period and says any secession must be approved by the national parliament. Independence seekers say it would be near impossible to achieve their goals by that route.

Unofficial tallies showed the Ukraine, the nation's agricultural and industrial heartland with 52 million people, approved the referendum by a small margin.

But a spokesman for the election commission in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev said 52.8 per cent of Kiev voters cast ballots against the union.

The spokesman, Valentin Danilyuk, said 78.2 per cent of Kiev voters approved a second ballot question, added by the republics legislature, favouring Ukrainian sovereignty.

bullet injuries were reported. Of the damaged rooms, 30 belong to JCD workers while 20 to BCL activists. Five rooms of JCD and two of BCL were set on fire.

Contingents of police were posted at different places of the campus since the small hours of Monday. Residents of the halls, where gunshots were fired on Sunday night said, the BCL workers suddenly attacked the Mohsin Hall, a stronghold of JCD, after a BCL worker quarrelled with his JCD counterpart at TSC. Armed BCL activists started firing at Mohsin Hall from its main gate opposite Zahurul Haq Hall, the BCL stronghold. Later the BCL activists took position at the IER building beside Mohsin Hall and continued firing till police arrived. During the five-hour gun battle, both the groups (JCD from Mohsin Hall and, BCL from IER) fired about 500 rounds. Using automatic weapons clashes in and around Mohsin Hall later spread adjoining halls. Electric bulbs were broken during the incidents.

Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Moniruzzaman Miah held two meetings one with the hall provosts and the other with the leaders of the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) to discuss the campus situation.

The meetings termed the acts of violence as 'mysterious' in present circumstances.

The Vice-Chancellor asked the provosts as well as the APSU leaders to find out ways to free the campus from arms. He also asked provosts to take steps to ensure return of students who left their halls.

The Vice Presidents and General Secretaries of ten halls of the Dhaka University accused the activists Awami League-Backed Chhatra League for creating terrorism in the campus on Sunday night. They said when the students of different halls were preparing to bring out processions in support of the programme of All Party Student Unity (APSU) demanding trial of Ershad, such incident of gunshots indicated a sign of fresh conspiracy.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Monday urged the authority to arrest armed hoodlums and compensate the students who had been injured yesterday.

It said an identified quarter was now active to mar the transition to democracy. This quarter was the accomplice of ousted President Ershad and assisted him in 1986 elections. The violence on Sunday night was an attempt to re-stage the "Mujib-Yahya-Bhutto" drama of '70 by the armed hoodlums of some leaders, it said.

Ershad's trial

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amine Ershad. The Board found the ex-President medically fit to appear before the Tribunal which had set the next date to start the trial on February 18.

In the meantime Ershad's Defence Counsels filed a Writ petition in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the judgement of a High Court Division Bench, in which the stay order on Ershad's trial before the Tribunal had been vacated.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court again deferred the case for 15 days. Later this order was also vacated and now there is no bar on Ershad's trial by the Special Tribunal.

Another case against the deposed President related to the recovery of a huge amount of money (TK. 1.92 crore) will begin tomorrow (Wednesday) at the Special Judge Court and will be chaired by the same Judge.

Attorney General Aminul Haque, Deputy Attorney Generals Amirul Islam Chowdhury and Hasan Arif will appear before the Tribunal on behalf of state while Barrister Shahadat Hossain and Mofizur Rahman Majumdar will appear on behalf of the defendant.

One run over by truck

By Staff Correspondent
One Humayun Kabir (22) died while a speeding truck ran over him on Monday evening at Sonargaon crossing in the city, police said.

Police seized the truck (Dhaka-ja-ta-1411) but the driver managed to escape.

The dead body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been registered with Tejgaon Thana.

All-party govt

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ing an all-party government", he told a questioner adding "such a situation does not exist".

He said, with the oath-taking ceremony over and BNP having the support of an absolute majority in Parliament, the formation of a council of ministers with BNP nominees is the only logical option.

He said leaders of his party did not attend Monday's Ifar party hosted by Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, because they did not have prior information about it. BNP chief Begum Zia had her own programmes in the evening, he said.

Asked whether Ifar party would be helpful in ironing out differences between his party and Awami League on the form of government the BNP Secretary General said: "Should the decision be taken in parliament or elsewhere?"

Shahabuddin

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Awami League. The same drama is being enacted now by some political leaders, said BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar.

He said the Acting President shall have to transfer power to BNP and Awami League's opposition will only undermine the image of that party.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina along with the Eight-party leaders at a meeting with Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed Monday —PID photo

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BNP MPs

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the legitimacy of the Ershad regime and had been in movement since then. Its leaders had pledged to take part in a free and fair election under a neutral caretaker government following the overthrow of Ershad.

The party, therefore, had no representation in the Third Parliament elected on May 7, 1986, and the Fourth Parliament elected on March 3, 1988.

Mirza Golam Hafiz, Speaker of the Second Parliament who claimed that he legally continues to be the Speaker because 'the Second and the Third Parliaments were not legitimate', looked weary with a long grey beard.

He is a contender for the post of Speaker of the fifth parliament, reliable sources said.

The oath-taking began with a recitation of verses from the holy Quran.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice M.A. Rofiq, who was designated by Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury to conduct the oath and the 134 BNP MPs-elect were on their feet during the swearing in.

Cameras of press photographers kept on flashing.

M. A. Mannan, the 135th MP-elect of BNP reached there late. He may be sworn in today (Tuesday).

Parliamentary Secretary Abdul Awal then requested the Members to sign the oath and sign the book containing the list of MPs.

The book is kept in the room of the Parliament Secretary as a tradition of parliament.

Begum Zia and other BNP MPs then went to the Secretary's room in a queue to have photographs for their identity cards taken.

Begum Zia told waiting journalists she had nothing much to say. She however told a questioner she was hopeful about the formation of a council of ministers.

Earlier, Jamaat MPs-elect took oath under the leadership of Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami. Another Jamaat MP-elect Shahjahan Chowdhury of Chittagong failed to attend the function. He will be sworn in later.

Rashed Khan Menon, MP-elect of Bangladesh Workers Party took oath from the Chief Election Commissioner alone. He is the lone MP not only from his party but also from the 5-party alliance.

Rashed Khan Menon was an MP in the Second Parliament, but had boycotted elections to the Third and the Fourth parliaments.

APSU

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Fazlul Haque Milton said vested quarters were active in spreading terrorism in educational institutions using black money. They wanted to step up terrorism in campus as they could not tolerate the fall of Ershad.

Nazimuddin Alam wanted to know from the Acting President why the trial of Ershad was being delayed even after a mass upsurge.

Alam demanded immediate arrest of the persons involved in Sunday night's incident inside Dhaka University campus.

Shah Alam called upon the Acting President to take effective measures for recovery of arms and arrest terrorists from educational institutions.

Nasir-ud-Doza accused the Saudi Arabian and US government for their alleged interference in the internal affair of Bangladesh and said the students must put Ershad and his henchmen on trial. He demanded abrogation of all black laws from the Constitution for ushering true democracy.

Shafi Ahmed alleged that certain quarters were trying to influence the verdict of the court regarding trial of Ershad. He called upon the people to resist such attempts.

Earlier APSU brought out a procession in the Dhaka University campus to protest the terrorist activities which took place in the campus on Sunday night.



All-Party Students Unity (APSU) brought out a procession in the city on Monday demanding the trial of deposed President Ershad and his associates —Star photo

Smuggling hampers private sector

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growth of a healthy and dynamic private sector.

The report notes that the economy remains under diverse controls even after the 'liberalisation' of the industrial policy. Fiscal incentives do not encourage the growth of industrial capital. These rather facilitate wider operations by traders and smugglers. Hidden costs are high for any entrepreneurs, causing lingering stagnating situation in the private sector.

The task force has observed that private sector development efforts can not be sustained with mere declaration of political intent. It calls for more open support and active efforts by the government for a well-considered change in social attitude towards private sector. Incentives and facilities are needed for earning profits on invested capital and such profits are not the same as those which are grabbed through permits and quotas under political patronage. Unless this distinction is made, "black money" will always drive "good money" out of circulation.

About high production costs, the task force has pointed out that rates of interest on bank credits and loans rose by 150 per cent between 1972-73 and 1989-90. Harder terms for institutional credits have also adversely affected mobilisation of surpluses for funding industrial operations. Capital costs have meanwhile gone 19 times higher in 1989-

90 than that of 1972-73. Rampant corruption, high system loss and other management inefficiencies of utility bodies have forced upward revision of tariff in successive phases in an arbitrary manner, causing an adverse impact on industrial operations particularly the export-oriented sectors like tea, frozen food and jute, export competitiveness has been lost. Inept management of industrial credit operations by Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and huge unrecovered amount of credits have led to high rates of interest, it has pointed out.

It has reported that successive hikes in rates of taxes and duties in existing areas over the past twenty years by the successive governments have encouraged tax evasion while productive activities have borne the major brunt of fiscal measures.

The members of the task force include: Prof. Taherul Islam of Dhaka University, Latifur Rahman, President, Bangladesh Employers Association, Hamid Shaful Islam, Secretary General of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Khorshed Alam, executive committee member of Dhaka Stock Exchange, ABM Mahbulul Amin Khan of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management, Dr Nazmul Bari, Deputy General Manager, Bangladesh Shilpa Bank, Dilwar Hossain, former chairman

of producing quality goods at competitive prices.

It has recommended moves to amend the Companies Act, strengthen the activities of stock exchange, utilise private savings for investments in corporate sector, and raise the investment ceiling in the private sector. The industrial units under different public sector corporations should be converted into public limited companies for diffusion of ownership through public subscription of shares. Privatisation of distribution arrangements in the electric power sector and also of national airlines should also be considered, it suggested.

The task force has recommended that anti-smuggling drive must be launched effectively. Research and development projects must be strengthened for raising productivity and harnessing the full potentials of available indigenous resources. There should be proper competition between public and private sectors with no discriminatory facilities against either. It has suggested there should be adequate arrangements to compensate the industrial sector for any losses relating to production costs, arising out of currency depreciation and other policy intervention by the government. Import substituting industries should be given active consideration for widening the country's industrial base but such industries must prove themselves capable

The Midnight File

Opposition sweeps Finland elections

HELSINKI, Mar 18: Finland's opposition Centre Party and the Greens were the main winners in Finland's general elections on Sunday, with the formerly dominant social democrats and conservatives expected to be ousted from power after losing heavily. After all votes had been counted, unofficial results showed that the Centre Party, formerly known as the Agrarian Party, had won 25 per cent, an increase of 7.3 per cent over their result in the last legislative poll in 1987, reports AFP.

11 burnt to death in India

NEW DELHI, Mar 18: Eleven people were burnt to death in a central Indian village in an arson attack that police linked to old enmity between two tribal families. Ten members of a single family and a guest were killed in the fire, which destroyed their home Sunday at Bakht village in Madhya Pradesh state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.

Two planes crashland in Manila

MANILA, Mar 18: Two aircraft planes crashlanded within an hour of each other at the domestic airport, causing only minor injuries to passengers and crew, the government-run news agency reported today. A six-seater beecheaf owned by Airlink, a local airline, flew in with a defective landing system and a DC-3 cargo plane which had right engine failure flew from Isabela province, reports AFP.

Over one lakh arrested in Seoul

SEOUL, Mar 18: National police rounded up 122,665 people for petty crimes ranging from urinating in public to jumping queues in the first six days of a month-long crackdown, a police report said Monday. Officials said that over 69,000 were released after receiving reprimands. Nearly 50,000 paid fines of under 7 dollars each and 3,804 were referred to summary trial for possible jailing up to 29 days. The arrests began last Monday nationwide.

19 killed in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 18: At least 19 people were killed and more than 60 others injured as rival black factions battled with machetes and guns in bloody township battles, police said Monday. The violence erupted Sunday when the Inkatha Freedom Party called a peace rally in Alexandra, a northern Johannesburg township, to try and halt violence that has killed scores of people there and in two other townships in the past two weeks, reports AP.

Roh's resignation demanded

SEOUL, Mar 18: Candidates in South Korea's first local elections for three decades are fighting widespread voter apathy after corruption scandals eroded public confidence in politicians. Thousands of dissidents demanding the resignation of President Roh Tae-Woo, who they say was personally implicated in one scandal, have clashed with riot police in the capital and other cities, reports Reuters.

Bomb blast in Soviet plane

MOSCOW, Mar 18: A passenger threw a firebomb on a Soviet jetliner Monday and the device exploded, filling the aircraft with dense smoke. But the crew donned oxygen masks and safely landed the plane, the Soviet news agency Tass said. The flyushin-86 jetliner with 343 passengers and 17 crew members on board was flying from Moscow to the Siberian city of Novosibirsk when the firebomb exploded at 12.15 am (2115 GMT), reports AP.

Administrative void

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reports to its members about the economic situation before aid pledges are made by the donors.

This year the Aid Club meeting was deferred until late May by the interim government in consultation with the World Bank to facilitate the political government after the parliamentary elections to name its own assessment about aid requirements in the light of its development priorities.

The preparatory work at the government level for the forthcoming Aid Club meeting has not really got off this year.

The prevailing administrative vacuum is likely to further delay the work.

Meanwhile, some donor circles in Dhaka have given clear indications that they would like to discuss the economic issues with a new political government.

The priorities must be split out clearly so that the aid requirements can be assessed in concrete terms, one source said.

The forthcoming Aid Club meeting assumes a greater significance because the World Bank has already withheld tranche (instalment) funds under some on-going credit programmes in sectors like energy and finance because of non-fulfilment of some policy conditions.

The controversy over the

policy conditions has been further heightened by the demands of trade and industry sectors to renegotiate the conditions of lending operations by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The proposed industrial sector credit programme of the World Bank has also run into trouble because of the latter's insistence on implementing policy decisions which have political implications.

The interim government has so far not taken any decision on the issue on the ground that only the elected government is competent to deal with the same.

DUJ concern over Dinkal situation

By Staff Correspondent
Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) in a statement to the press on Monday expressed its concern over the recent incidents in Daily Dinkal.

Zahirul Haq, President of DUJ and Ruhul Amin Gazi, General Secretary of DUJ in a statement said the authority has shown autocratic mentality by unjustifiably issuing show cause notice in the Acting News Editor of the daily.

It also said the authority is making delay in the payment wage and allowances to the journalists.

The statement pointed out it was not possible to bring out an eight-page daily with a handful of journalists, but the Dinkal authority is bringing out the paper employing only a few journalists with very low salary.

The leaders of the DUJ also condemned the attack on the journalists of the daily.

JP PP meet today

A meeting of the parliamentary party of Jatiya Party will be held at Gulshan at 10 a.m. today (Tuesday), a party press release said, reports BSS.

Bomb blast in Delhi hotel

NEW DELHI, Mar 18: A powerful explosion in a fast food restaurant in New Delhi killed one person and wounded three others on Monday, witnesses and police said, reports AP.