

Curfew imposed in Lhasa

BEIJING, Mar 30: Chinese police have arrested eight Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns who staged a pro-independence demonstration, and a curfew has been imposed on Lhasa's monasteries, a reliable local source said today, reports Reuters.

The protest on March 17 took place in front of the Jokhang Temple, in the centre of Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, the source said. The Jokhang is the holiest Buddhist temple in Tibet.

The protesters unfurled the Snow Leopard flag of Tibetan independence, but police immediately arrested them, the source said, adding the atmosphere in Lhasa was tense, with a large Chinese military presence on the streets.

A curfew has been imposed on all monasteries in Lhasa, and roadblocks at the frontier of the remote region are barring Tibetans from entering from neighbouring Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai provinces, the source said.

A similar Tibetan independence demonstration occurred in Gansu recently, the source added. Both protests were in memory of the March 1959 escape into exile by Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

China refuted today what it said was a claim by exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama that Tibet had once been a "fully-functioning state."

China says its sovereignty over Tibet dates back to the 13th century.

The official People's Daily newspaper and the New China News Agency ran rambling commentaries, dealing mainly with the selection process through which Lhamu Dondrub became the current Dalai Lama in 1959.

The (Chinese) Qing dynasty (1644-1911) developed a new reincarnation system, a kind of lottery, for choosing new Dalai Lamas, the news agency said.

The Dalai Lama's claim that Tibet was fully functioning state from 1911 to 1950 is ridiculous, since the 'Soul Boy' reincarnate of the Dalai Lama - Tibet's highest religious and temporal leader - had to be ratified by the Central Government of China, the news agency quoted the People's Daily as saying.

Tibet was under Chinese administration from 1911 to 1950, it said. The People's Liberation Army enforced Beijing's claim by taking control of the vast, sparsely populated Himalayan region in the early 1950s.

The Dalai Lama fled China after an abortive uprising against Beijing in 1959 and was awarded the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent efforts to save Tibetan culture.

The Dalai Lama has said he is considering the withdrawal of a proposed compromise not to seek Tibet's full independence from Beijing.

Several pro-independence demonstrations and riots have flared in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, over the last few years.



Leaders of Sammilita Sangkritik Jote met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Dhaka on Saturday and placed a charter of demands. Related story on Page 1. - Star photo

Hasina condemns attack on AL workers

Bangladesh Awami League chief and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliamentary, Sheikh Hasina on Saturday expressed her deep concern at the attack on the Awami League leaders and workers by the ruling party workers at Banaripara upazila, reports BSS.

In a statement issued Saturday night Sheikh Hasina said, her party workers and leaders including Advocate Subhash Shah - General Secretary of Banaripara upazila - subjects to attack after the elections of February 27.

Besides, she said, undesirable oppression and atrocities including looting and kidnap were let loose on the Awami League supporters in the area.

Sheikh Hasina called for immediate stoppage of such atrocities and arrest of those responsible for these acts of terrorism in the upazila.

DMC clashes on, 20 more injured

By DMCH Correspondent

Twenty more students of the Dhaka Medical College were injured, eight seriously, as rival groups continued their clashes for the third consecutive day Saturday.

The eight seriously wounded students were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and different city clinics.

A worker of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and a third year student Rahat are undergoing treatment at the DMCH with head injuries. Saadi, Moimul, Shaheen, Saiful of JCD and Imu, Debanan and Babul of BCL are also undergoing treatment.

Eye witnesses said, the workers of the BCL were staying at the DMCH compound since Saturday morning. They were reportedly armed with hockey sticks, rods and bamboo sticks to attack their rivals of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal. The clash ensued when the JCD workers entered the area in a procession at about 1 pm. Both the groups used lethal weapons in the clash to hurt at least 20 persons. However, the BCL workers had to leave the spot after half-an-hour armed clashes. Meanwhile, the JCD workers vacated the Fazole Rabbat hostel Saturday in the face of further threat following attack by their rivals on Friday.

Indian Secy

From Page 1 Col 6

After his arrival Dubey met political leaders and government officials at a reception at the residence of the Indian High Commissioner.

He will meet Bangladesh Foreign Ministry officials led by Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafaizur Rahman today (Sunday) at 9.30 am.

He will call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office at 11 am and 2 pm he will discuss the problems of the Ganges water sharing with Irrigation Minister Majedul Haque.

Muchkund Dubey will also call on the leader of the opposition Awami League president Sheikh Hasina at 3.30 pm. He will leave for New Delhi in the evening.

Foreign Minister Mustafaizur Rahman said that during their talks emphasis will be laid on water sharing of the common rivers.

He said that the BNP government was pledge-bound to develop good relations with neighbouring countries.

According to competent sources the agenda of the official Indo-Bangladesh talks will include Ganges water sharing, transfer of Tin Bigha corridor, repatriation of tribal refugees from Tripura, demarcation of the border areas and delimitation of the maritime boundary, which includes the dispute over Talpatti Island.

Meanwhile the Indian government has agreed to initiate talks on the sharing of the Ganges waters.

In this connection a Secretary-level meeting has been scheduled for the third week of April in New Delhi.

Diplomatic circles believe that after the February 27 election there has been a change in the views of both India and Bangladesh with regard to modalities for settling their bilateral issues.

UNB adds: The Indian Foreign Secretary expressed happiness to fly into Bangladesh when an 'epic struggle has culminated into establishing of a democratic government.'

'India salutes this success of the people of Bangladesh,' which, Dubey hoped, would be consolidated and strengthened in years to come.

Attaching great importance to his country's relationship with Bangladesh, the Indian special envoy said 'the people of India have special feelings for the people of Bangladesh, which will weave up to develop a meaningful bilateral ties.'

Dubey also hoped that his visit would have a contribution in this regard.

BJP to help build Ayodhya Ram Mandir

JAUNPUR, Mar 30: Bharatiya Janata Party leader L. K. Advani today said his party would help in the construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya if it formed government at the centre, reports PTI.

Addressing an election meeting here, Advani said the BJP was not a communal party. He said neither he nor Hindus were communal but he was not in favour of a pseudo-secular government.

Advani said the experiment of a national government could be tried in the country which would prevent pseudo-secular governments from coming to power.

Advani said the BJP ruled states of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan were functioning well and never acted against secularism.

Addressing another meeting in Mau last evening, the BJP leader said 'history will never excuse Mulayam Singh Yadav for his actions against Kar Sevaks in Ayodhya.'

Advani also criticised the Congress (I) for withdrawing support to the Chandra Shekhar government.

Electoral alliance

An effort is underway to forge an electoral alliance between Janata Dal (S) and Congress-I to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in all 85 seats in UP.

One to die for murder in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Mar.30: Additional District and Sessions Judge H.A. Hannan here today sentenced one person to death by hanging and life-term to three others for murdering two brothers and committing dacoity at their house at Barapara of Abdullahpur in Patkikhari Upazila on April 20, 1985, reports BSS.

Six other accused were acquitted of their charges.

According to the prosecution story, the accused persons with their accomplices, raided the house of one Kiran Chandra Barua for dacoity. When opposed, dacoit Mohammed Musa shot dead two sons of Kiran Chandra. The victims Dilip Barua died on their spot while Pintu Barua succumbed to injuries on way to hospital.

Pintu Barua was an employee of the Sonali Bank while Dilip Barua was employed in the house for odd jobs.

The dacoits looted cash and other moveable properties worth Taka 4,750.

The accused were arrested within few days and they were identified by the wives of the victims. During the prosecution statements of 17 (seventeen) witnesses were recorded and the learned judge delivered the verdict today at a crowded court.

Boy falls from roof, dies

by Staff Correspondent

A minor boy fell from the roof of a five-storey building and died on Saturday.

Selim (8) was playing on the roof of 442 West Rampura. Suddenly he slipped and fell over the railing. He died on the spot.

BNP's strength 164

From Page 1 Col 8

served women seats, MPs elected under BNP ticket totalled at 162 while Jamaat's MPs rose to 20 of the 330 member Parliament.

BSS adds: The strength of BNP headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the 330-member Jatiya Sangsad rose to 164 with the unopposed election of 28 BNP nominees for the reserved women seats Saturday.

Two of the 30 women reserved seats were won uncontested by the Jamaat-e-Islami candidates bringing the party strength to 20, the fourth majority party.

Party-wise break up in the fifth Jatiya Sangsad is as follows: BNP-164, Awami League-87, Jatiya Party-31, Jamaat-20, CPB-5, BAKSAL-4, Independents-3 and one each by JSD(S), NAP(M), Workers Party, Ganatantri Party, Islami Otkiya Jote and National Democratic Party.

By elections to ten vacant general seats, out 300 will be held later.

Editor: S. M. All

Dhaka Central Jail tense

By Staff Correspondent

A tense situation is prevailing in the Dhaka Central Jail. Although no untoward incident took place on Saturday, the inmates of the jail continued to behave as they liked.

Reliable sources say, Friday's unruly incident was nothing new. Since December when the inmates of Dhaka Jail had first revolted, the jail authorities could never establish their authority completely.

On Saturday the prisoners except 11 leaders, went to lock-ups at 8.55 pm even though they were supposed to be there before sun-set. They carry rods, swords, spears and bricks and often misbehave with guards.

On Friday one Mintu a jailec had held Subedar Azmal Hossain by the neck and tried to strangle him. He, however, was saved by fellow guards.

Reliable sources say, the leniency showed by authorities concerned in realising demands of jailecs by freeing about 5000 of them so far and extending some other facilities could not help improve the situation. The jailecs are making newer demands.

The Dhaka Central Jail which is now housing about four thousand inmates in place of the capacity for 2100 also does not have the required number of guards. About 450 guards with 100 for duty inside the jail is enough for only 2000 inmates, sources say.

According to the sources, most central jails are now operating with limited manpower since, a good number of senior jail staff have transferred to the sub-jails turned district jails in new districts.

Most of the jails are now in complete disorder. In Dhaka Central Jail small industries earlier run by inmates cannot be operated now. The inmates often try to create difficulties. Often they refuse to accept food supplied by contractors.

It is gathered that the authorities concerned are being kept abreast of the situation from time to time.

Reconsideration of MSS results demanded

By DU Correspondent

The students of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University brought out a procession on the campus Saturday demanding reconsideration of the MSS results of 1986-87 sessions.

They also demanded resignation of the Chairperson of the examination committee Nazmin Noor Hakim for allegedly manipulating the results.

Later they handed over a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor.

Last Thursday the students ransacked the offices

Chambers reject WB terms

From Page 1 Col 5

Without strong protection and liberal incentives, it is difficult to conceive a thriving private sector in Bangladesh, they said.

Meanwhile, the visiting four-member World Bank appraisal team will leave Dhaka on April 4 after completing a two-week discussion with the government, leaders and senior officials of Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, and other ministries.

The team will prepare the country's economic memorandum for the Aid Club meeting in Paris in late May.

Most on-going credit programmes of the Bank particularly those based on policy reforms in financial and energy sectors have run into trouble with the Bank withholding tranche (instalment) disburse-

ments of credits after the fall of the Ershad government. The Bank has held back disbursements on grounds of 'non-compliance' with the conditions under the related programmes.

The discussions in Dhaka between the appraisal team from the Bank's headquarters in Washington and the government officials covered the issues having political bearing. Official sources told The Daily Star that the government was ready to consider all realistic proposals for policy reforms provided they were consistent with its political imperatives.

This will call for some flexibilities for necessary adjustments to resolve accumulated problems of the Ershad regime.

Kuwait returnees

From Page 1 Col 4

This decision of the Kuwaiti government has become a major concern of all manpower exporting countries. Before the war expatriates made up 60 per cent of the total population of Kuwait. Most of them came from Palestine and Jordan.

Diplomatic sources said the decision by the Kuwaiti government was taken in a bid to get rid of the Palestinians and Jordanians because of their support to Iraq during war.

The Foreign Ministry source, however said that the Kuwaiti government had already given a hint to Bangladesh that Kuwait's decision would not affect the interests of Bangladeshi workers.

Presently Bangladesh's first priority is to find out the whereabouts of the Bangladeshis who had stayed back in Iraq and Kuwait during the war, sources said.

There is no direct communication with either Kuwait or Iraq as yet, because the communications systems in those countries had been fully devastated by the war.

About 2,000 Bangladeshis had stayed back in Kuwait and another 400 in Iraq at their own risk during the war. Of



TIRANA (Albania): Police read election lists put up by the Albanian opposition Republican Party for this weekend's elections. Albanians go to the polls in the first free elections in their country's history with a choice between the ruling Communists and a dozen opposition parties. -AFP photo

The Midnight

One killed in nor'wester

MANIKGARJ, Mar 30: One person was killed, 5 people were reported missing and 15 others injured Friday evening when a nor'wester lashed Daulatpur and Hartirampur upazila of the district, official sources said Saturday. The dead was identified as Abu Bakar of Lakshminagar area in Hartirampur upazila. BIWTC officials said 5 people were reported missing from Daulatdighat and Bororia when several fishing boats capsized in the rivers Padma and Jamuna. According to the local administration, the nor'wester damaged more than 500 houses and uprooted about 15 per cent of trees in the area, reports UNB.

Iran, S. Arabia exchange teams

RIYADH, Mar 30: A 19-member Iranian delegation flew into the Saudi capital on Saturday to reopen the Iranian Embassy following the formal restoration of ties with Saudi Arabia, diplomatic sources reported. A similar number of Saudi Arabians flew to Tehran at the same time to reopen the kingdom's embassy, said the sources who could not be named under their embassy rules, reports AP.

Thousands of Kurds fleeing cities

DOHUK (Iraq), Mar 30: Tens of thousands of Kurds fled this city on Saturday, fearing attack by government forces trying to crush a rebellion against Saddam Hussein's rule. Spokesmen for Kurdish rebels gave conflicting reports about whether their forces or Saddam's controlled the major northern oil center of Kirkuk, the focus of bitter fighting, reports AP.

Iraq lashes out at Arabs

CAIRO, Mar 30: Iraq's envoy to the first Arab League session in Cairo in 12 years today, lashed out at fellow Arab countries afterwards accusing them of not helping Baghdad repel foreign occupiers. Saad Kassem al-Hammoudi also accused an unnamed neighbour and Israel of involvement in a Shi'ite and Kurdish rebellion in Iraq, reports Reuter.

Mother sacrifices baby

DIPOLOG (Philippines), Mar 30: Police are searching for a cult member who allegedly sacrificed her baby in the southern Philippine town of Indangon, officials said today. The follower of a black magic cult is thought to have stabbed her seven-month-old son to death Tuesday in an apparent sacrificial killing, Deputy Provincial Prosecutor Valeriano Concha said, reports AFP.

AL body to meet

From Page 1 Col 8

Hussain Muhammad Ershad vacated another four seats.

Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed and BAKSAL General Secretary Abdur Razzak vacated one seat each.

The Election Commission is yet to declare the schedule for the by-elections.

According to rules, by-election to a parliament seat should be held within 90 days after the seat is vacated.

An official of the Commission said on Saturday night that all the by-elections would be held in time specified in rules and the schedules would be announced accordingly.

Four seats vacated by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia are - Dhaka-5, Dhaka-9, Bogra-7 and Chittagong-8. She has retained her seat in parliament from Feni-1 constituency.

Former President Ershad retained his seat in Rangpur-3 while he vacated Rangpur-1, Rangpur-2, Rangpur-5 and Rangpur-6.

Tofael Ahmed vacated Bhola-2 and retained Bhola-1. Abdur Razzak vacated Madaripur-2 and retained Madaripur-3.

The Awami League, which now has 87 seats in parliament, will try its best to increase the number by putting up a good fight in the by-elections. In the ten seats, which have been vacated, Awami League had its own party candidates in eight seats, while in two other seats allies of the AL fielded their candidates.

These two seats were Madaripur-2 and Rangpur-3, where Abdur Razzak of BAKSAL and Md Afzal of Ganatantri Party contested.

According to AL sources,

the party leadership is keen to put up formidable candidates for all the ten seats. The Awami League leadership is eager to nominate its president member Dr. Kamal Hussain for one of the ten seats.

A section of the Awami League leadership wants Dr Kamal to contest from Dhaka-9 (Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur) vacated by Khaleda Zia. But, some leaders believe that Dr Kamal's chance of winning the election is better from Bhola-2 where AL leader Tofael Ahmed won with a big margin, however, the final decision in this regard will depend on Dr Kamal's own choice.

He is now abroad and is expected to return on April 3.

Awami League may also spare Rangpur-3 for Ganatantri Party's Md Afzal who lost the election to Ershad from the same seat. But as regards Madaripur-2, which was won by BAKSAL's Abdur Razzak and vacated subsequently, Awami League is likely to nominate Shahjahan Khan who has recently joined Awami League.

Shahjahan Khan contested the last election from the same seat with a party ticket of JSL (Imu).

In other seats, Awami League is likely to keep the candidates who contested the election on February 27.

No new military pact with US: Bahrain

BAHRAIN, Mar 30: Bahrain, tipped as a likely post-Gulf war location for a US forward command headquarters, say no new military pact has so far been agreed with Washington, reports Reuter.

A large decorative box containing text in Bengali. At the top it says 'আত্মাৱিকুণ্ডে' and 'শাকাত প্রদান কর' (Charity Distribution). Below it lists names and amounts: 'পবিত্র রমজান মাসে আপনি যাকাত দেয়ার কথা অবশ্যই ভাবছেন। যাকাত প্রদান একটি ধর্মীয় অনুশাসন। যাকাত তহবিলে আপনার দেয় যাকাত জমা দিয়ে গরিব, দুঃস্থ, অসহায় হিন্দুল মানুষের সেবা ও পুনর্বাসনের কাজে সহায়তা করুন। জনতা ব্যাংকের সকল শাখায় যাকাতের টাকা জমা দেওয়ার সুব্যবস্থা আছে। যাকাত তহবিলে প্রদত্ত অর্থ আয়কর মুক্ত।' At the bottom it says 'জনতা ব্যাংক' (Janata Bank) and 'সেবার সেবার নিবেদিত' (Service for service).