

Tiger base under indefinite curfew

COLOMBO, Dec 4: Sri Lankan security forces today imposed an indefinite curfew on northern Mannar district hours after capturing a rebel-held village and slapping a fishing ban on the area, officials here said, reports AFP.

Military officials said the ban on fishing in a lagoon separating the Sri Lankan mainland from the northern Jaffna Peninsula, the key stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), went into effect from the weekend.

A military spokesman said an indefinite curfew was clamped on coastal Mannar district ahead of fresh offensives against the LTTE whose cadres were routed from the village of Potkerry in the same area after a fierce battle.

"A curfew was imposed this morning after we captured Potkerry. There was heavy resistance when our men moved into the village. Six of our men were wounded and the Tigers suffered heavy casualties", the spokesman said.

Security forces have imposed short curfews from time to time in Mannar and other areas where the LTTE has been active. In large parts of the Tiger-controlled north, curfews can be only enforced from the air.

The spokesman said troops



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a rally in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Anti-terrorism committees

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country from autocracy and it is now their responsibility to remove terrorism to make the hard-earned democracy meaningful.

"The terrorists and the anarchists have no political or group identity. They are the only enemies of democracy and without eliminating them, peace, progress and development in national life can not be ensured," Begum Zia observed.

Chaired by JCD Convenor and DUCSU Vice-President Amanullah Aman, MR, the meeting was also addressed by the BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, State Minister Goyeshwar Roy, BNP central leader Mujibur Rahman and JCD leaders including DUCSU AGS Najimuddin Alam, ex-RUCSU VC Rizvi Ahmed, Muniruzzaman Munir, Ilias Ali, Quamruzzaman Ratan, Abul Khaer Bhuiyan and Rokeya Hall Students Union VP Shirin Sultana, Textile Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and State Minister for Civil Aviation Abdul Mannan were also present.

People had voted the Bangladesh Nationalist Party to power and its student wing is

also winning in the student union polls throughout the country. Begum Zia pointed out and felt: "this has made a particular quarter jealous and it is now involved in intrigues against people's victory."

People had never accepted the conspirators in the past and will not do so in the future," she warned. The present government wants to resolve all the national problems and to lead the country towards prosperity with the support of all concerned, the PM said adding her government's aim is to meet the hopes and aspirations of the common masses by involving them in nation-building activities.

Referring to her government's anti-smuggling drive, she sought cooperation of all concerned to identify and take action against the smugglers who, she added, are ruining the national economy.

The BNP chief also asked her party's student activists to motivate people to boycott foreign goods to help growth of the national economy.

Abdus Salam Talukder said the present government is determined to stop terrorism since it is a big threat to the newly-born democracy.

Terrorism must go also the save the educational institutions, run by the poor tax payers of the country, he opined.

In an oblique reference, Talukder said a political party like the fallen one is conspiring against the democratic government. He termed the party chief's letters to foreign missions in Bangladesh seeking interference in our internal affairs as anti-national. "We won't allow anybody to jeopardise the country's sovereignty", Salam warned.

Amanullah Aman accused the Awami League of hatching fresh intrigues along with the fallen autocratic forces of last year.

This party while in movement against Ershad opposed the Upazila Parishad System, but it is now protesting the dissolution of the system, he added.

The party was rejected by the people in the February 27 polls because of inconsistency between its words and its deeds, he commented.

Other speakers expressed their firm determination to root out terrorism and urged the government to take stern action against the terrorists.

US donates \$ 21m cyclone forecast equipment

The United States is providing Bangladesh with various kinds of equipment worth about 21 million dollars for gearing up the cyclone warning system and relief and rescue activities in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Following an order of the US President George Bush in the backdrop of the devastating cyclone of April 29 in Bangladesh, the US Defence Security Assistance Agency is supplying the equipment.

This was disclosed by Ms Anne Smoot and Captain Charles Dale, visiting officials of US Defence Security Agency, when they called on State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan at his office Wednesday.

The US Charge d' Affaires Lee Carp Coldren and Defence Adviser Lt Col James A Dunn, Jr, accompanied them.

The US officials informed the state minister that the equipment donated by them government are: 40 jeeps, 60 trucks, 2 scoop loaders, 13 jeep ambulance, 25 trailers, 25 water blivett, 60 ambulance kits, 1900 tents, 250 cargo parachutes, 15000 blankets, 9 landing crafts and 53 special type of radio sets.

The officials also said that some of the equipment had already reached Bangladesh and the rest would come within a few months.

They said, two US mobile training teams would train Bangladesh operators and repair personnel on the use of the equipment for a period of two to three weeks.

Participation of Bangladeshis in UK police corps proposed

Britain has proposed participation of the Bangladeshi youths in the Kingdom in special voluntary police corps, reports UNB.

The proposal was given when Bangladesh High Commissioner to UK Rezaul Karim met with British Home Secretary Kenneth Baker recently to discuss various affairs of expatriate Bangladeshis.

According to a message received in Dhaka, they particularly discussed immigration problems and law and order situation besides various other Bangladeshi community affairs.

There have been press reports on various socio-economic problems facing the expatriate Bangladeshis in Britain.

At the parley, Baker expressed satisfaction with the law abiding nature of the Bangladeshi community and requested Karim to encourage participation of the youths in special voluntary police corps.

Immigration Minister Peter Lloyd was also present at the meeting.

Varsity teachers continue anti-terrorism programme

JU Correspondent

University teachers continued wearing black badges for the second consecutive day Wednesday to protest campus violence.

The programme of wearing black badges is part of their 21-day action programme called by the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (BFUTA).

Talking to the Daily Star at Jahangirnagar University Wednesday, BFUTA president Dr Enamul Huq Khan lauded the role of the government in containing terrorist activities in the country's universities and other educational institutions.

Giving his reaction to the government effort to bring back peace on the campuses, Dr Khan said "the government has proved its sincerity to end campus violence but it should further clarify the role of the law enforcing agencies to bring the campus culprits to book."

"Campus violence is a political problem... so the solution must be sought politically to ensure congenial academic atmosphere in the universities," he said.

The BFUTA president emphasised the need for providing moral incentives to the students and for joint effort of the teachers and students to end campus terrorism.

Clarifying the objective of the on-going BFUTA programme, he said that it meant to express the concern of the university teachers over the situation.

"Our programme is not against the government... it is a means to create awareness and the gravity of the situation," he added.

Transport strike

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tion," the source added. Dhaka-Comilla bus service also remain suspended due to wage dispute.

From Gabtali terminal the long-route buses plied in all the northern and southern districts except Jessore and Rangpur. But those were few in number, a terminal source said.

The strike which began on Sunday did not affect the districts linked by the Mahakhali terminal.

In the capital the services became normal following a meeting between the Workers Federation leaders and Owners Association leaders on Tuesday.

An Owners Association source said that the crisis remained unresolved in some districts because of some unusual demands by the workers. The workers have been demanding more wages and facilities than the rules allow.

Some of them demanded appointment letters even with back date, the source added.

A transport workers leader told The Daily Star that the situation would become normal within a couple of days as increased number of owners started issuing letters to the workers.

He said that the Communication Minister along with other high official will visit North Bengal on Friday to resolve the outstanding problems between the owners and the workers.

Negotiations were also on in other districts about the issue, he added.

Conduct UP elections fairly, urges CEC

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf has called upon the officials to conduct the coming union parishad election in a free, fair and peaceful atmosphere, reports UNB.

He was addressing in two separate meetings at Bhaluka and Trishal upazilas under Mymensingh district on Wednesday.

He said any violent or illegal activity in the coming election will be dealt with severely.

Explaining the significance and importance of the ensuing

FF groups call confce on same date, venue

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Mukhtjoddha Sangshad on Wednesday said that a vested quarter was out to foil the planned grand conference of freedom fighters on December 10 and cautioned that all such attempts would be resisted at any cost.

Chairman of the Central Command Council Principal Abdul Akad Chowdhury and secretary general M A Aziz, Bir Pratik said at a press conference at the National Press Club that the group led by Mafuz and Kabir was blessed by the present government as well as by the anti-independence forces.

"We are campaigning for the grand conference for the last three months but that group announced another conference on the same venue on same date and time," Ahad Chowdhury said adding that "their announcement just five days ahead of our programme is nothing but a bid to foil the conference."

He said that Mahfuzur Rahman and Kabir Ahmed Khan who claimed themselves as chairman and secretary general of the sangshad, appealed to the court on Monday seeking injunction on the conference but the court rejected the appeal.

Liaquat

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seven student activists including Niru, Obhi, Sajal and Liaquat to appear before the court in 10 days since publication of the notice.

The trial in absentia will start after passing of the stipulated 10 days, the court notice added.

An Awami League-backed Chhatra League activist, Liaquat was freed from the jail three months before the fall of Ershad government last year. He was sentenced to 45-year imprisonment under two separate arms cases in 1982, police said.

Our DU Correspondent adds, at least one vehicle was set ablaze and several others were damaged by a group of Dhaka University students Wednesday evening in protest against arrest of Liaquat.

Police lobbed several teargas shells to disperse the unruly students at Palassey crossing and in the TSC compound. Several rounds of gunshot were fired from the university campus during the protest.

Campus sources said the agitating Chhatra League activists from Zahurul Huq Hall, Jagannath Hall and S M Hall brought out several processions in the evening.

Processionists from the Zahurul Huq Hall attacked a truck loaded with rice and set it on fire. The nearby patrol police intervened and lathicharged the mob.

As the students pelted stones to the police it turned into a series of chase and counter-chase. Police again lobbed teargas shells to disperse the students.

The procession from Jagannath Hall was obstructed by the police at its gate which followed another round of battle.

Police laid siege to the entire hall and fired teargas shells to control the situation.

A tense situation was prevailing as a large contingent of police was deployed to seal all the entry points of the campus.

SAARC summit

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The Bhutanese government has been in conflict with citizens of Nepalese origin who are demanding greater cultural freedom in the isolated and tightly-controlled Himalayan kingdom.

The postponement of the summit was a setback for the association that was created in 1985 to build cooperation in an area more accustomed to tension, rivalry and warfare.

It also was an embarrassment for Sri Lanka, which budgeted 1.2 million dollars for sprucing up its capital and paying for a massive security net against terrorism by Tamil guerrillas fighting for independence in the northeast.

Gayoom's announcement came as Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Harold Herat told parliament that dates had not yet been finalised for the meet although Colombo had confirmation from India, Bhutan and Nepal about their participation.

SAARC represents nearly one billion people living in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAARC leaders were due to discuss free trade in the region and poverty alleviation in their countries.

police

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categorically said this was not correct. The news published in one newspaper saying that the police were surrounded by the BDR with heavy weapons in Chittagong was also not correct.

The Home Minister said it was not a reality that there was some sort of unrest among the members of the police force in Chittagong and elsewhere in the country.

The Information Minister appealed to the newsmen to look into the issues of sensitive dimension with utmost care and responsibility. He, however, made it clear that the government could not solve all the problems overnight.

The legacies left behind by the autocratic government including the anomalies in respect of salaries and emoluments of the government employees are enormous, he said.

The Inspector General of Police, M Enamul Huq said that it was not a fact that in Chittagong or Rajshahi and at other police installations his forces were making noise.

Steps taken to separate judiciary from executive

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said Wednesday that the government had already taken initiative to separate the judiciary from the executive for the establishment of an independent and neutral judiciary in the country, reports BSS.

"We will uphold the dignity of the judges and the judiciary as a time honoured institution," she stressed.

The Prime Minister was addressing the 41st annual conference of Bangladesh Civil Service (Judiciary) Association in the city.

Begum Zia said a mockery was staged by the autocrat in the name of decentralisation of the judiciary. The present government has, therefore, started the work of abolishing upazila courts gradually and shifting those to the district headquarters in the interest of establishing justice and rule of law, she said.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the laws of the colonial period were also working as an impediment in establishing rule of law in the country. The laws enacted only to punish instead of ensuring justice could not be retained in an independent and democratic social system, she said.

Begum Zia said the government would consider the judicious advice of the judges while reforming and changing the laws which were not in consistency with the need of the time.

The judges have the rare opportunity to establish social justice because they belong to a great profession, she said and hoped that the judiciary would play its due role in upholding and consolidating democracy reestablished through great sacrifices.

She said the commitment of the judiciary to ensure the rule of law would not only enhance its image, but also help fulfil our pledges to the people.

Begum Zia said she was aware of the problems of the judges and her government had already taken various steps to solve those.

The function was also addressed by Law Minister Mirza Golam Haif, State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Huq, Additional Secretary of Law and Justice Ministry Sirajul Islam, the Association President Nasiruddin Ahmed and Secretary General Abdullah Sahid.

The Law and Justice Minister said the responsibility of the judiciary had increased with the establishment of parliamentary system of government.

Mirza Hafiz gave a clarion call to the judiciary to expedite cases pending in the courts.

He said the independence of the judiciary would be meaningless if justice was delayed.

The Law Minister said the government would enact substantive laws to expedite justice under the present democratic system of government.

Dhaka - Tangail

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procession protesting the arrest. A protest meeting was later held at the Tongi Mill Gate blocking the Dhaka-Tangail Highway at around 1pm.

Presided by Ali Akbar, president of the Nishat Jute Mills Workers Union, speakers at the meeting slated the arrest of Abdul Mannan and demanded his immediate release.

The workers also damaged three minibuses during the rally and the highway was blocked for about three hours till 3 pm disrupting bus services on 17 routes.

The Jute Mills Workers and Employees Action Committee and Bangladesh Nationalised Spinning and Textile Mills Workers Federation in separate statements slated the arrest of Abdul Mannan and demanded his immediate and unconditional release.

The Midnight File

Judge refuses to hear Benazir's husband's case

KARACHI, Dec 4: A court hearing for former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband was postponed Wednesday after a judge refused to preside. It's not known why Judge Mahmood Kazi declined but several lawyers said last June's assassination of Justice Nabil Sher Junejo has frightened many judges in Karachi, reports AP.

Sikh commando leader killed

AMRITSAR, Dec 4: A top Sikh militant wanted for planning and executing scores of separatist attacks in Punjab was killed in a pre-dawn shootout with security forces in the northern Indian state today. Balwinder Singh, Deputy Chief of the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), was driving a truck packed with weapons when it was intercepted by a security patrol on a highway near this Sikh holy city, police said, reports AFP.

Duke to run for presidency

WASHINGTON, Dec 4: Former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard David Duke announced here today that he will run for president in next year's elections. In announcing his candidacy, Duke said he believed that President George Bush had "sold out the republican party." The 41-year-old Duke said he was in favour of welfare reform, tough trade policies, particularly against Japan, and laws restricting foreign ownership of American companies and property, reports AFP.

Rohingyas want involving UN for repatriation

Star Report

The Rohingyas Muslims, who have poured into Bangladesh to escape a crackdown by Myanmar's (Burma's) military government, are reluctant to go back home until democracy returns to their country.

The Rohingyas want Bangladesh government to defer their planned repatriation and involve the United Nations into the task for international guarantee about their security.

This latest position of the Rohingyas was available in a statement by Dr Mohammad Yunus, President of Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO). The statement, mailed on last Sunday, reached The Daily Star on Wednesday.

Dr Yunus presented two options for the repatriation of the refugees: tripartite agreement between Bangladesh, Myanmar and the UN or wait until a democratic government replaces military rule in Myanmar.

"If Bangladesh finds it difficult to involve third parties in solving this problem (refugees), then she should wait and defer repatriation in view of the worst human rights records (in Myanmar) and until a democratic government is established which can ensure human rights to the refugees," Dr Yunus said.

He said the persecution of the Rohingya Muslims by the Myanmar authorities should not be seen as an isolated and temporary incident. "The root cause of the problem is that no Burmese government tolerated their (Rohingyas) presence in Arakan... they are an unwanted community," he said.

The Rohingyas, trickling across the border from Myanmar's western province of Arakan, have taken refuge in a 90-kilometre patch of hilly land in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

They are called Rohingyas

for Rohang, the ancient name of Arakan, once an independent Muslim homeland on Burma's west coast.

Though Bangladesh government does not have any official estimate of the number of refugees, unofficial count puts it between 35,000 and 50,000.

Bangladesh and Burma discussed their repatriation during foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman's last month's visit to Myanmar.

Myanmar has agreed in principle to take their "genuine citizens" back home. Dhaka will have to give a list of the refugees to Yangon, the current name of Rangoon.

Dr Yunus said if the refugees are now sent back home they will again be subjected what he said state terrorism, intimidation and forced labour.

He referred to the 1979 repatriation of 2 lakh Rohingya Muslim from Bangladesh to Myanmar and said it did not help improve their condition.

In 1978 at least 3 lakh Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh, to escape a crackdown on them. At least one lakh of them dodged the repatriation and stayed back.

Mukhter

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Shyamoli a girlfriend of Hafez Mukhter was arrested on Sunday under Section 54 of Criminal Penal Code and taken on five day police remand.

Mukhter chairman of now defunct Narayanganj Sadar upazila, was found dead with a bullet injury in the head in a car near Holy Cross College at Tejgaon Friday night.

Shyamoli, who informed the police about the death, said that she and her six year old daughter Pinky were with Mukhter in the car when he shot himself to death.

Shyamoli, a divorcee, also told the police that they were in love for about two years.

Police said that she stuck to her earlier statement during Wednesday's interrogation that Mukhter committed suicide.

The autopsy report of Mukhter suggested that his death was suicidal.

Police said that they were waiting for the CID reports for a conclusion on the cause of the death.

Meanwhile, police sent the revolver to CID for examining the finger print on it. The bullet which killed Mukhter and its pellet were also sent.

Police said, "until the CID reports are available, we cannot say anything about the death of Mukhter."

Suhrawardy

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remain immortal in history.

To mark the day Shaheed Suhrawardy Smriti Sangsad has organised a discussion meeting to be held in the afternoon at a local hotel in the city.

It will be participated by veteran educationist Dewan Md. Azraf, Barrister Syed Istiaq Ahmed and Gias Kamal Chowdhury.

Deputy Leader of Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, Bangladesh Press Council Chairman Justice Ruhul Islam, Barrister Amirul Islam and Prof Kabir Chowdhury will take part in another discussion meeting to be held in the morning at the mazar premises.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Jatiya Bektitto Gabeshana Kendra has taken up a scheme for publishing biography of the national leaders. They are Sher-e-Bangla Ak Fazlul Huq, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Collection of writings on their life, information, picture, and published materials have been requested to send to the Kendra.

Supreme Soviet

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run system with a loose confederation of sovereign states.

On November 25, the leaders of Russia, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Turkmenistan and Kirgizia agreed to send the document to their local legislatures as well as the national Supreme Soviet.

Not participating in the meeting were Ukraine, Moldavia, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. That has raised questions as to the nature of the new union without these republics, especially Ukraine, whose agricultural and industrial strength would be sorely missed.