

Supporters of UP candidates clash

NARSINGDI, Jan 19: At least 30 people were injured and 15 shops looted during a clash between two rival groups of union parishad election candidates at Bakhanagar Bazar in Alkhalit today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when supporters of Abdur Razzak, a candidate in the forthcoming election, allegedly attacked and looted the shops of some supporters of other candidates Abdul Gani and Mizan Mia at the bazar this morning.

Supporters of Gani and Razzak at a press conference in the evening demanded immediate arrest of Abdur Razzak.

They cautioned that if Razzak was not arrested soon, the ensuing election can not be held in a fair and free manner.

Goods worth about Tk 40 thousand were looted from the shops during the clash, they informed.

Of the injured, eight were admitted to different local clinics with serious injuries.

A Pabna report adds: 17 people, including a UP chairman candidate, were injured in a clash between two rival groups of electioneers at Paksey in Iwardi upazila today.

The clash ensued when two processions in support of two chairman candidates — Akram Hossain and Monsur Hossain — confronted at Paksey Bazar, police said.

Akram Hossain and 9 of his supporters were admitted into Iwardi Upazila Health Complex with stab wounds.

A Kishoreganj report says: Ten people were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash today (Sunday) between the supporters of two rival chairman candidates in Rauti union of Tarail upazila.

Witnesses said, supporters

of UP chairman candidate Noorjahan Begum and her rival Afroze Mia clashed while they confronted each other during election campaign this evening.

The two seriously injured were admitted to Tarail upazila health complex.

Police have been deployed in the area but tension was still prevailing.

Another report says, election in 10 unions of Kumbhari upazila of the Kushtia district will be held on January 25. Forty-seven candidates are contesting 10 posts of chairmen while 330 including 6 women are contesting 90 posts of members.

Total number of voters is 1,06,032 out of which 81,662 are male and 24,370 female.

About 254 booths in 68 centres are to be opened for holding election in peaceful manner.

Election of 13 unions of Sadar upazila will be held on January 27. A total of 54 candidates are contesting 13 posts of chairmen while 325 including 3 women are contesting 177 posts of members.

Total voters in Sadar upazila are 1,64,921 of which 86,133 are male and 78,788 female. There will be 311 polling booths in 85 centres.

Meanwhile, elections will be held in three union parishads of Khoksa upazila of the district on January 22.

A total of 13 candidates including one woman are contesting three posts of chairmen and 116 including one woman are contesting 27 posts of members.

Total number of voters in the upazila are 53,460, of which 2,622 are male and 25,858 female.

There will be 98 booths in 26 centres for smooth holding of election.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia placing wreaths at the mazar of the late president Ziaur Rahman at Crescent Lake in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Zia's birthday observed

The 56th anniversary of birth of late President Ziaur Rahman was observed yesterday in the capital and other parts of the country with a pledge to uphold Bangladeshi Nationalism and foster democracy, reports BSS.

Speakers at a discussion organised by the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangkritik Sangstha (JASAS) here expressed their firm determination to implement the 19-point programme initiated by President Zia to make Bangladesh a self-reliant country and safeguard the national independence.

BNP and its front organisations and a number of other socio-cultural organisations observed the day with elaborate programmes including discussions, placing of wreaths, colourful rallies, milad mahfil, Quran khwani and photographic exhibition.

The organisations which observed the day included Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal, Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangkritik Sangstha (JASAS), Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal, Sechchabak Sangsthan, Jatiyatabadi Muktyoddah Dal, Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal, DUCSU, Zia Parishad, and Shaheed Zia Ideals Implementation Council.

In the morning, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, accompanied by her cabinet colleagues, party leaders and workers placed wreaths and offered fatcha at the mazar of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman. They also prayed for peace and progress of the country.

Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali, cabinet ministers including Mirza Golam Hafiz, Abdus Salam Talukder, ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Jamir Uddin Sircar, Tariqul Islam, Oli Ahmed, MK Anwar, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Hannan Shah, state minister Abdul Mannan and Mujibur Rahman, whip Mahbulul Alam Tara, and MPs, among others, were present on the occasion.

The workers and leaders of BNP and its front organisation, well-wishers and the people from all walks of life visited the mazar and placed wreaths there.

Carrying colourful banners and festoons, the workers chanted slogans at paying tributes to the memory of late Ziaur Rahman and supporting the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia.

Shaheed Zia Ideals Implementation Council organised a blood donation programme at the mazar premises on the occasion.

Several thousand JCD workers joined a colourful procession brought out in the capital by Chhatra Dal.

DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokan led the procession from the mazar premises which after parading different city thoroughfares terminated at the National Press Club.

The marchers carrying portraits of the late President, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, national and party flags, banners and festoons raised slogans calling for consolidating democracy.

Dancing with jubilation to the rhythm of drums, the processions also sang the party song 'Pratham Bangladesh Amar Shesh Bangladesh'.

Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangkritik Sangstha, cultural wing of the ruling BNP, organised a photographic exhibition at the national museum. A total of 114 photographs on the works and life of President Zia have been put on display at the exhibition, inaugurated by BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder.

JASAS also organised a discussion at the National Museum to mark the day. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, among others, was present at the meeting.

Golam Azam

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and those believing in the spirit of the war to join the movement aimed at uprooting the anti-liberation forces.

"The gang of 71 enemies could only be resisted through a united movement on the streets", the declaration said.

The declaration narrated heinous acts including genocide, rape, killing of intellectuals in the name of Islam by the Jamaat-e-Islami under the leadership of Golam Azam and other religion-based parties during the war and also their rising up in the last 20 years.

It blamed all the post-independence governments of showing a more or less liberal attitude towards the killers and collaborators of 1971.

The detained killers and collaborators were freed through an amnesty in 1973. Jamaat's politics was legalised in 1976, Golam Azam was not expelled even after the expiry of his visa in 1979, no action was taken against the Jamaat workers for committing political murders in the following years thus bringing the Jamaat to its present position, the statement explained.

The time has arrived to eliminate the enemies of liberation to save the nation, the declaration said.

Signatories to the declaration included: Begum Sufia Kamal, Lt Col (Retd) Nuruzzaman, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Maj Gen (Retd), C.R. Dutta, Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Sadruddin, Jahanara Imam, Sardar Fazul

Karim, Shamsur Rahman Quayyum Choudhury, Maulana Abdul Awal, Dr Sirajul Islam Choudhury, Hashem Khan, Dr Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Dr. Ahmed Sharif, Dr Anisuzzaman, Panna Kaiser, Mamataz-uddin Ahmed, Mamunur Rahid, Syed Hassan Imam, Laila Hassan, Dr Purabi Dutta, Rafiqun Nabi, Dr Humayun Ahmed, Akhteruzzaman Ilias, Aziz Meher, Binod Das Gupta, Dr Jahirul Haq, Hayat Mahmud, Shaif Ahmed, Mansur Musa, Dr Meghna Guha Thakurata, Col (Retd) Nurul Huda, Maj (Retd) Bazle Rashid, Flight Lt (Retd) Iqbal Rashid, Maj (Retd) Syed Mizanur Rahman, Maj (Retd) Syed Mujibur Rahman, Col (Retd) Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan, Jartna Rahman Khan, Fateh Ali Choudhury, Nasiruddin Yousuf, shahrier Kabir, Habibul Alam, Begum Mushtari Shaif, Anu Mohammad, Noim Jahangir, Moinul Ahsan Saber, Imdadul Haq Milton, Maj (Retd) Muhammad Atiqur Rahman, Harun Habib, Mafidul Haq Ahmed Musa, Ali Zaker, Asaduzzaman Noor and Masshuk Helal.

ADB loan

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on behalf of their respective sides.

Under the agreement, the loan will be provided from the Asian Development Fund (ADF), the concessional lending wing of the bank.

This assistance to be utilized for an integrated urban development programme for Dhaka city.

BCL announces month-long programme

By DU Correspondent

The Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League has announced a month-long programme of action to press home various demands.

The programmes announced Sunday include country-wide demonstration and protest day on January 26 protesting the killing of Badal who was shot dead by some unidentified miscreants on DU campus on January 9, students rally across the country demanding passage of the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill on January 29, laying a siege to the Ministry of Home Affairs on February 1 demanding arrest of the killers of Badal, countrywide demand day for implementation of the students' 10-point demand on February 8, demonstration across the country on February 12 to press the demand for Golam Azam's ouster, demonstration on February 15 in protest against the terrorist acts of 'Jamaat-Shibir' at the Chittagong University country wide demonstration on February 18 demanding ban on the 'Jamaat Shibir' politics in the country.

5 killed, 10 hurt as truck skids into ditch

JAMALPUR, Jan 19: Five people were killed and 10 others injured when a truck fell into a road side ditch at Shaikat Gouchhagram in Sherpur on Dhaka-Sherpur highway today, police said, reports UNB.

Among the injured three were rushed to the Sherpur Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

February Book Fair to have wider premises this year

By Staff Correspondent

A month-long programme marking the historic Language Movement has been chalked out, reports BSS.

The programmes were approved at the inter-ministerial meeting held yesterday with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahjan Ara Begum in the chair.

The meeting decided to hold cultural and discussion meeting during the month of February and book fair from 7th to 29th February in the Bangla Academy premises.

The road adjacent to the Bangla Academy will also be used this year in view of the growing number of visitors to the programmes held every year in the Academy premises.

Rohingya

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thorities. "Even all the mosques and other religious places were turned into temporary military stations," Islam said.

But life here was no better. Fatema Khatun was cooking rice. In her 50s, Fatema crossed the Naaf Channel in dark in return for Taka 100, leaving behind all the members of her family.

"Son, it is very cold in the night. You just can't burn anything for heat," said the lady clad in a cotton thami -- a lungi and blouse commonly worn by the Myanmar ladies.

An 18-year-old Rafiq, son of Abul Kalam, said he lived on batter for days and starved the previous night. "The neighbours could not help much," he said.

Dr Siddique Ahmed of Ganashasthya Kendro, who arrived here with a little supply of rice, flattened rice (chira) and medicine, said about 60 people, mainly children, were affected with stomach ailments, mainly dysentery. Besides, there were cases of fever and cold, he said. "You can well imagine the health condition here from its sanitation," Dr Ahmed added.

According to an unofficial count, over 60,000 Rohingya refugees have crossed over to Bangladesh since December 21. The official tally was a moderate 30,000 while fresh influx continued.

Officials of Cox's Bazar district also confirmed fresh arrival of the refugees. However, they could not specify any figure.

The local administration had already begun a headcount in the first week of the month to enlist them for repatriation.

On Friday, some tents were erected at Dachua Palang while the government sanctioned taka four lakh and 400 tons of rice and wheat as relief to the refugees.

Officials said a medical team was also working among the refugees in addition to medical help provided by some voluntary organisations. However, they said that help was totally inadequate.



Police recovered 'bagsful' of foreign sarees from the Fulbaria Municipal Market in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Tk 25 lakh banned sarees recovered

The customs Anti-Smuggling Task Force recovered about four thousand pieces of contraband foreign sarees worth Taka 25 lakh from Fulbaria Poura Supermarket Sunday, according to the President and the General Secretary of the Merchants' Association of the market were present during the drive.

Some of the shops had many hidden chambers in the walls and basement.

The goods recovered Sunday were highest in terms of price and quantity since the drive was launched on January 1. Cases have been filed against the concerned shop owners.

release said adding the owners of the remaining 15 shops fled when they sensed the arrival of the Task Force. The Task Force broke open these shops to conduct the search. The President and the General Secretary of the Merchants' Association of the market were present during the drive.

While conducting search during a five-and-half-hour drive in the basement of the market, the Task Force recovered banned kattan, synthetic and high quality cotton sarees.

The Task Force launched the drive against 25 shops of which 10 were open, the press

The Midnight File

Bombs explode in police HQ in Algiers

ALGIERS, Jan 19: Muslim fundamentalists on Sunday said Algeria's new military-backed government had arrested more of their followers, and bombs exploded at the national police headquarters and a highway border post, killing one man. The acting leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, Abdelkader Hachani, told The Associated Press he feared an explosion of violence, reports AP.

Students demand resignation of Uzbek president

MOSCOW, Jan 19: Three thousand students called for the resignation of Uzbekistan president Islam Karimov today in Tashkent in a new demonstration against soaring prices and police repression. Interfax news agency said. The protesters from the local agriculture institute, accused Karimov of human rights violations and said six of their number were killed Thursday in clashes with police, reports AP.

Fresh clashes in Croatia

ZAGREB, Jan 19: Fresh clashes erupted in Croatia today on the 16th day of a UN-brokered ceasefire as UN peacekeeping observers were awaited in the Adriatic port city of Dubrovnik. Meanwhile, the leading Belgrade daily Politika called for "an easing of passions" after three federal soldiers were killed yesterday after they drove into an ambush in the southern village of Rupa, reports AP.

Ershad to stand in the dock again

Deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad is to stand in the dock Tuesday in two more corruption cases, reports UNB.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption has accused five people, including Ershad, of abuse of power in allotting a plot adjacent to PG Hospital for an international hotel Holiday Inn at nominal price and thus causing a huge loss to the government.

Four other accused are: former vice-president Moudud Ahmed, former works minister Shaiful Gani Swapan, ex chairman of DIT late SHM Abul Bashar and managing director of International Hotel Holding Company Abul Khair Lta.

In another case, Ershad and former chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK) Rahmatullah have been accused by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption of illegal allotment of land in Uttara, Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara to 49 people during 1988-90.

Ershad was sentenced last May to 10 years in jail for keeping illegal arms.

He is awaiting judgement on January 27 in a corruption case for amassing wealth beyond known sources of income.

More than a dozen other corruption cases are underway against the former ruler who was overthrown by a mass upsurge on December 6, 1990.

BSS Adds: The hearing of application of criminal revision of former president H M Ershad praying for staying the further proceedings in Special Case No 7, now pending in the court of Divisional Special Judge, will be held today before the High Court Division bench of the Supreme Court.

The court comprised Justice Anwarul Huq Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Abdul Karim.

Moudud Ahmed Sunday

Six killed in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent

Six persons were killed in separate incidents in the city in the last two days.

Dhanmondi police recovered a body of an unidentified man from the Gajmahal lake at Hazaribag early hours of Sunday. The victim was about 40.

Abdul Quader, 32, was found dead in his bed at his residence, 52 Gajmahal Road, Hazaribag Sunday morning.

Dhanmondi police went to the spot and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

A pedestrian, identified as Hazil Mia, died as a minibus (Dhaka Ch-3822) ran him over near Residential Model

School at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Sunday morning. He succumbed to his injury immediately after he was taken to DMCH.

Rahima Khatun, 22, wife of one Ismail was found dead at her residence at Gulshan Saturday night. She has reportedly committed suicide by hanging, police said.

A deranged woman of 40, who used to live at Kamalapur Railway Station, was electrocuted at the station Sunday, Railway Police said.

Raushan

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question of party leadership. "There is no chance of division in our party. We are united under the leadership of Ershad."

Replying to a question, Chowdhury said the Jatiya Party is now concentrating on the coming union parishad elections. The JP leader said his party is not contesting the polls on party basis but the JP workers and supporters are contesting in almost all the union parishads of the country.

He said the JP has issued directives to all its units to support the party candidates wherever a lone party worker or supporter is contesting.

Chowdhury urged the Election Commission to ensure fair and peaceful voting in the coming union parishad election.

Central working committee of the Jatiya Party did not take any such decision. The question cannot arise at all since our Chairman Ershad is still alive and we are alive. We are not facing any crisis in leadership."

He dismissed reported intra-party conflict over the

School curriculum

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vised to cope with the changing requirement of the society and international situation."

The lessons of the new textbooks have been prepared keeping in view the reality that primary schools function for 200 days a year and the students of Class One get two periods a day in schools. The books have been written in a way so that teachers can complete their teaching within this time frame. Besides, as the students of Classes One and Two will not sit for any final examinations for promotions, the teachers need time for a continuous evaluation of pupils' achievement before recommending promotion.

The NCTB has published 3.5 million sets of textbooks for the students of Class One. Funds were provided by UNICEF, UNDP and UNESCO. Of the three donors, UNICEF is the biggest partner which gave the money as grant. When contacted, Cole P Dodge Country Representative of UNICEF said with the introduction of new curriculum more children would be passing primary schools and the teachers would be able to teach better.

Seventy per cent of school-going children enroll at primary schools of which 65 per cent drop out before completing the five-year primary education.

Asad Day

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Narsingdi district, discussion at Shaheed Asad College at 10 am and a seminar on Shaheed Asad: Mass Upsurge and the Aftermath" at TSC of Dhaka University at 3 pm Monday.

Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq will present the key-note papers.

Prof Wadudur Rahman, Prof Sardar Fazlul Karim, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Rashed Khan Manon, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof SA Fayed, Reazuddin Ahmed, Selina Hossain, FF Rashiduzzaman, Haider Akbar Khan Rano and Prof Sakhawat Ali Khan will take part in the discussion.

Vajiralongkorn visits BAF

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spected the aircraft used for the training.

Earlier, on arrival at BAF 'Base Matruh Rahman' the Prince was received by chief of air staff, Air Vice-Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury.

A contingent of Bangladesh Air Force presented him a guard of honour. He was presented with a crest.

The Prince was accompanied by Thai Deputy Prime Minister Meechai Ruchupan and minister in Attendance

Observer

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The nominal Capital of the company was Taka 25 lakh divided into 2,498 ordinary shares of Taka 100 each and 400 deferred shares of Taka 5 each.

There are at present seven members on the board of directors, including the late chairman, Khaled Hamidul Huq, daughters Nargis Rahman, Nafisa Huq and Novera Huq, son-in-law Manzur Ahmed Chowdhury and Mozibul Huq representing an outside minority shareholder.

The board of directors will have to elect a chairman from among the company directors. Observers pointed out that Khaled Huq and Manzur Chowdhury are likely to be the major contenders for the post of chairman of the company.

Manzur Chowdhury, a former Ambassador, had been appointed as the Managing Director of the company by late Chowdhury in 1988. But his appointment was bitterly opposed at the time by Chowdhury's only son Khaled Huq.

Consequently Manzur Chowdhury could not take over his function as the managing director of the company at that time.

Press circles believe that Khaled Huq may once again thwart the appointment of Manzur Chowdhury as chairman of Bangladesh Observer and its allied publications. Some resistance may also crop up from the side of Manzur Chowdhury too. But the Islamic Law of Inheritance goes to an extent in favour of Khaled Huq, they added.

However, sources said that there was also a possibility of a family compromise of a sort that one person may become the chairman while the other, the chief executive of the company.

Bangladesh Observer is generally regarded by press circles as one of the most profitable newspapers in the country with an estimated daily turnover of about Taka One lakh.

Stricter rules

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The committee has suggested change in the Article 68 of the Rules of Procedure in this context.

According to the amended rules no member will be allowed to put more than one question for answer while a maximum of 25 questions will be taken up for reply everyday during the question-answer session.

Incidentally, the House allows only one hour everyday for the same and in most cases the questions remain unanswered though replies are available in printed documents.

Meanwhile, on many occasions the members have complained of shortage of time during the session.

Sources said the number of question has been limited to improve the functioning of the House.

Under the new rules, no more than 10 amendments will be allowed on any resolution.

Commenting on the changes proposed by the committee a senior parliamentarian said a change in the behavioural pattern of the members will come slowly. "We will have to develop the habit of parliamentary behaviour", he added.

Carrying sarees

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