

Clashes leave 2 killed, 120 hurt, 200 houses burnt

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 5: A fierce clash between villagers at Kalibazar near the town today left one dead and at least 100 injured, reports UNB.

Villagers alleged Yusuf (22) died when he and four others jumped from the roof of Vocational Training Institute at Ekdala into a nearby ditch. His body could not be traced and police also didn't confirm the death.

The clash was a sequel to an incident on Tuesday last in which some unruly youngmen fought pitched battles with organisers of sports at the local Court Urban High School.

Another report from Pabna says: A villager was killed and 10 others were injured when a gang of dacoits opened fire at Aminpur Chakoria in Bera upazila early today.

Akbar Ali Mandol (35) died on the spot as the gangmen shot at him while he tried to prevent the dacoity at his house at about 2 am.

Report from Jamalpur says: Ten people were injured one critically, and more than 200 houses burnt in attacks by 'lathials' on dwellers of a char in Madarganj upazila of the district Thursday.

Donors willing

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munity participation and institutional capacity in implementing the plan.

He commented that the donor partners were happy with the 'real effort being made to deal in depth with environmental and social issues. He further said that the funding agencies were happy to see the presence of critics at the FAP conference and added 'all countries attending the conference were glad to see a broadening of the debate on water development issues.'

Willoughby informed that in future no water development project under FAP would be okayed without Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

He said that the 12 supporting countries and agencies including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Development Agency (IDA) were glad at the firm support given by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in her opening speech at the conference.

He also stressed the need for public consultation on FAP projects, which figured prominently during the deliberations of the meeting.

The FAP comprises 11 main components and 15 supporting activities to be co-ordinated by the government and the World Bank.

Work on five components of the plan, Brahmaputra river training study, cyclone protection project, Dhaka integrated town protection project, secondary towns integrated flood protection project and Meghna left bank protection project, is in progress.

Jointly organised by the government of Bangladesh and the World Bank the briefing was also participated by Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, Chairman, Water Development Board, Coordinator of FAP William T Smith, Chief Engineer of FAP MII Siddique and water expert Prof. Alun Nishat.

Dr. Huda told newsmen that Dhaka integrated town protection project, funded by the ADB, was already underway and a two-year emergency cyclone protection project, supported by the European Community and Saudi fund, would be integrated into a long-term project to include the Khulna and

Chittagong regions.

In reply to question he said that all construction work of the project would be carried out by the Water Development Board.

Dr Huda further said that the problem of riverbank protection for Jamalpur, lying between Jamuna and Brahmaputra, was being handled under a FAP priority programme which should be completed by next year.

He said that bank protection test works being carried out by German, French and Dutch experts were directed towards developing new standards for the design as well as construction of protection structures.

In reply to a question the Water Board Chairman said that about 500 million US dollar would be required to implement project under FAP, which could vary with availability of results of studies.

To another questioner, he said that changes in the location of channels and sand banks in the Jamuna river were persistent hazards and river training works would try to make the river less fickle.

He informed that under the FAP the country would get a chance to establish the foundation for a 50-year national water resources programme.

Referring to the conference, Dr Huda said that the conference gave the government a chance to listen to the criticisms and explain the plan to funding countries and agencies.

On the question of discussing water sharing problems with neighbours Dr. Huda said, 'dialogue with neighbours would continue. The National plan could be looked into in an international context, he added.

US officials meet Eliadah in jail

By Staff Correspondent

Several officials of US embassy in Dhaka met Eliadah McCord at the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday, jail sources said.

Eliadah, an American girl, was arrested at Zia International Airport with 3,270 grams of heroin worth Taka 3 crore on February 25 and sent to the jail on February 29.

Historic March

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to exonerate himself of all blame for the crisis, which had resulted from his own decision to postpone convening of the National Assembly scheduled for March 3.

He claimed he postpones the assembly, in which the Awami League had an absolute majority with 167 out of 300 seats, in order to save it.

He then went on to blame Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the continuation of the crisis, by saying that Mujib's outright refusal to take part in a roundtable conference on March 10 came as a 'surprise and a disappointment'.

Instead of dealing with the central demands of the people of Bangla Desh - withdrawal of martial law and transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people - Yahya set a new date for the re-convening of the assembly - March 25.

During the speech, Yahya said that 'an application of adequate force could bring the situation under control', which raised fears among people that the dictator was thinking more in terms of how to repress the civil disobedience movement being carried out in Bangla Desh, than when to transfer power to the majority party.

Yahya's decision to convene the assembly without even referring to the demands of the Bengalee people, and issuing a thinly veiled threat of force, were designed to work as a carrot and stick.

Political observers were left in little doubt why the speech came on March 6. The next day, Mujib was scheduled to speak at a major rally at the Ramna Racecourse Ground where he was expected to announce his future plan of action. The question exercising everyone's mind was whether

Mujib would declare independence or continue his non-violent, non-cooperation movement which had already proved so devastatingly effective.

With the province wide hartal ending at 2 pm on March 6, after being in force more or less constantly since March 1, activities began to pick up, as did rallies, demonstrations and processions in support of Mujib's non-cooperation movement.

The East Pakistan Journalists Union brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the Baitul Mukarram. Addressing the rally, the President of the All-Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, K. G. Mustafa asked journalists all over the world to correctly project the struggle of the people so that public opinion could be moulded in favour of the people of Bangla Desh.

According to the Karachi-based English-language daily Morning News, Mustafa appealed to the journalists of West Pakistan to support the people of East Bengal.

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, Mohiuddin Ahmed and Matiya Chowdhury of the National Awami Party warned against the conspiracy of vested interests and urged the people to continue their movement, at a meeting at New Market.

Artists and cultural activists organised a protest meeting at the Bangla Academy where the actor Mustafa and Syed Hassan Inam announced they would restrict their participation in radio and television.

In the evening, students of Dhaka University brought out a torch procession from the Baitul Mukarram to prepare for the historic Racecourse meeting scheduled for the next day - March 7.



Hotel and restaurant workers rallied in city yesterday in demand for keeping their work-places open during the month of Ramadan.

Repeal Indemnity Ordn : Hasina

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 5: Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina today said the Indemnity Ordinance must be rescinded to ensure rule of law and democratic order in the country, reports UNB.

'BNP had pledged to scrap the hated ordinance but, they are now dillydallying on the question... killers must be punished to establish rule of law', she said.

Hasina, the President of the Awami League, was addressing a public meeting at Char Gaoldee in Sonargaon upazila this afternoon.

The meeting was organised commemorating the death of Chhatra League leader Mizanu Rahman Mizan who was killed in an armed clash in Dhaka University on October 30, 1991.

President Zia gave legal protection to the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, through fifth amendment which 'blackened the country's Constitution', she said.

The Awami League had already moved a bill in Parliament for Repealing the Ordinance, Hasina said, adding the Ordinance must be cancelled for granting security to the citizens.

Paying tributes to Mizan, Hasina lamented that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia did not come forward to supplement her honest efforts to put an end to violence on campuses so that the students could build themselves as worthy citizens through higher education.

At least 10 leaders and workers of Chhatra League were killed in last one year but the government did not arrest the killers nor punish them, she complained.

The opposition leader criticised the BNP government for taking steps to fulfil its election commitment to the people. There has been no policy to salvage the fledgling economy, provide job to unemployed and increase industrial and agricultural production.

The prices of essential commodities has been soaring but the income of the commonman has not increased in proportion. Democracy will be meaningless without economic emancipation, she said.

Retracting Awami League's programme, she said her party had been struggling to establish an exploitation free society and a self-reliant economy.

Presided over by local party leader Abdus Sattar, the meeting was addressed among others by Mizan's father Nurul Islam and Chhatra League leaders Habibur Rahman Habib, Shah Alam, Ashim Kunnar Ukil, Golam Mostafa Sujon and Kamruzzaman Ansari.

Earlier, Hasina visited the mazar of Mizan at Char Gaoldee village and offered فاتحہ. She also went to Mizan's house to console his parents. A heart-rending scene was created when Mizan's mother and young wife burst into tears by embracing Hasina. Hasina consoled them saying killers of Mizan must be tried.

England, S Africa

From Page 1 Col 8

South Africa kept alive their chances of making the semis by improving their record to 2-2 with an impressive 64-run win over the West Indies in Christchurch.

Seamer Meyrick Pringle skittled the West Indies' top-order to set up South Africa's victory over the West Indies in the historic first meeting between the teams.

South Africa made only 200 for eight wickets in 50 overs but then dismissed the two-time champions West Indies team for 136 in just 38.4 overs.

(Details on Page 8)

DU: Shootout

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attackers opened fire in the presence of police.

The panicky students ran helter-skelter for their safety.

Later the Chhatra League workers brought out a procession at the TSC and held a rally which was addressed by the BCL leaders Pankaj Nath and Khizr Hayat Liza.

Addressing the rally the BCL leaders held the Jaiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the BNP, responsible for the incident.

The JCD gives shelter to the ousted Chhatra League workers and tries to show-off their muscle power. BCL leaders added.

Earlier, some expelled activists of the BCL came at the Modhu's canteen and tried to make trouble on the campus, sources said.

Meanwhile the JCD denied the BCL (S-A)'s blame.

Four hurt

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other was stabbed.

In another incident, a youngman, Mansur was stabbed by a group of alleged extortionists at his pharmaceutical shop at Malibagh last night.

Prices

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Beef was selling at Taka 60 and mutton at Taka 95 a kg. However, Dhaka City Corporation in a circular on Thursday fixed the price of beef at Taka 55 and mutton at Taka 85 a kg.

Although price of meat was normal, chickens were dearer. A pair of medium sized chickens sold at Taka 150.

Prices at the fish markets were also very high. All kinds of fish showed price increases of about 30 per cent on an average.

This Ramzan, the people fasting will find it difficult to include fruits in their menu as prices have soared. Dates, the fruit regarded as essential in iftar was selling at an abnormally high price of Taka 70 a kg. Last year the price was Taka 30. Vendors said low import of dates led to the increase.

Apples were selling at Taka 60 a kg and oranges at Taka 50 a dozen. Water melons, a hot favourite for the thirsty fasting people during iftar was in the market with a high price. A small melon was sold at Taka 70.

Meanwhile, reports from other parts of the country also said that prices of essentials soared with the advent of Ramzan. Our correspondent from Rajbari adds that rice market a steep rise in prices in the past two days.

Pajam rice was selling at Taka 16 a kg from its previous price of Taka 13. Irri rice was Taka 14 instead of Taka 10.50 a kg.

Edible oil also showed a sudden price hike. Soybean oil was selling at Taka 50 a kg from its previous price of Taka 40. Mashur pulses shot up from Taka 30 a kg to Taka 40. Beef and mutton showed a rise of Taka 20 a kg and was selling at Taka 70 and Taka 100.

AL suspends Montu

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leaders at the three-day extended meeting, held on March 1, 2 and 3, almost unanimously urged the central leadership to take punitive measures against those allegedly involved - directly or indirectly - in the killing of the fellow party man.

On the economic policy of the party, the Working Committee will meet soon to deliberate on the draft report moved by AL Finance Secretary Ataur Rahman Kaiser.

Kaiser, proposed an eight-page draft resolution on the party's economic policy Wednesday which argued that a massive private initiative in the industrial sector was imperative for the development of the country's economy.

AL has always spoken for a strong public sector, at least officially.

The AL Central Working Committee among has decided other things to hold the central council of the party on May 30 and asked all the district units to complete their respective council sessions by April 30.

The meeting has also adopted a number of resolutions on various national issues that include price hike of essential commodities, law and order, trial of Jamaat chief Golam Azam in the 'peoples' court', neutrality of the administration and independence of the judiciary, implementation of the three political alliances, autonomy of the electronic media and Indemnity Repeal Bill.

UNB adds: Awami League Central Working Committee (ALWC) urged the people to voice support for repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance to clear the way of trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

ALWC at its meeting Wednesday expressed deep concern at the ruling party's 'dilly dally' tactics over the question of rescinding the ordinance.

It (the ordinance) gave protection to the confessed killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which contravenes the sacred Constitution and human rights, the meeting noted.

The ALWC meeting urged the ruling BNP not to resort to any play and to take positive initiatives for scrapping the ordinance.

'Otherwise,' it warned, 'the people would have reasons to believe the killers' statement that Zia was also involved in the killing of Bangabandhu.'

Another resolution adopted at the end of the ALWC meeting Wednesday said the anti-terrorism bill contravenes human and fundamental rights. The sections and sub-sections proposed in the bill could be

compared to martial law regulations, it said.

'The bill exposes autocratic character of the ruling party,' the resolution said, adding it proves that the ruling BNP wants to nurture the autocratic rule in the country.

The resolution urged the people from all walks of life to rise in protest to force the government to withdraw the bill.

In a separate resolution the ALWC demanded of the government to take legal action against terrorists irrespective of their political affiliations and arrest the killers of Chhatra League leader Manruzzaman Badal after proper investigation.

The ALWC expressed grave concern at 'lawlessness' which, it said, surpassed all past records. 'A terrible insecurity to public life has plunged the whole nation into a state of anarchy.'

It alleged that educational institutions, cities, towns and mahallas had become free zones of illegal arms holders due to 'paritisation of the ruling party.'

The meeting called for building mass resistance agitations unauthorised arms holders. Awami League Working Committee called for greater unity of democratic forces to pressure the ruling party to shed its 'capricious and undemocratic attitude' and establish people's sovereignty in all spheres of national life.

The meeting adopted a set of resolutions in light of the deliberations at the party's three-day extended meeting on socio-economic and political situation existing in the country.

Private varsity from Sept likely

By DU Correspondent

North South University (NSU), the first private university of the country is expected to start functioning from September this year pending government approval.

This was stated by Muslehuddin Ahmed, ex-teacher of the Dhaka University and former Secretary and Ambassador, President of the NSU, at a press briefing at the capital Thursday.

The Foundation for Promotion of Education & Research (PPER), a charitable non-profit and non-governmental organisation has decided to launch the private university for last two and a half years.

Addressing the conference NSU President Muslehuddin Ahmed said that this was the first concerted effort to channel private finances into higher education.

In a resolution, the meeting observed inefficiency, imprudence and undemocratic behaviour pushed the nation fast towards a state of anarchy.

The government has miserably failed to offer concrete guidelines to the nation, and anti-democratic forces are gaining strength from the failure of the government to muddle the water in politics.

Being patronised by the government, a communal force has thrown challenge to the country's independence and sovereignty by making a foreign national as its chief, the meeting said.

The nation is frustrated at the silence of the ruling party on the question, which also lays bare the parts real face to the people.

The meeting called for effective steps to bring down the prices of commodities - rice, pulses, oil, salt, sugar. It also wanted a cut in the prices of diesel and kerosene and halt to a move to increase the rate of gas and electricity in people's interest.

It described as 'anti-people' reported steps to increase the fare of railway and price of fertilizer by sidetracking Parliament.

The ALWC criticised the government for ignoring the commitment made in the joint declaration of the three alliances. It called for taking steps to ensure independence of the judiciary and autonomy of radio and television.

The resolution also strongly criticised the ruling party for trying to politicise the administration and police force to use them as tools against its political opponents.

HSC examinees demand exams be shifted

By Staff Correspondent

A group of higher secondary students Thursday staged a noisy demonstration on the streets of the capital demanding shifting of their examinations.

Witnesses said that several hundred students, led by a self-styled organisation - the movement committee of the HSC examinees also blocked several streets of Dhaka. About six vehicles were damaged by the students, they said.

The students of Dhaka College, City College, New Model Degree College and Ideal College took to the city streets and blocked vehicular movement on the new Market-Mirpur Road, the New Market-Green Road and the crossing near Farmgate and the Mymensingh Road, the witnesses said.

The Midnight File

Proposal to hold mid-term SAARC summits welcomed

COLOMBO, Mar 5: Leaders of SAARC nations have welcomed Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene's proposal to hold mid-term summits of the seven-nation. The SAARC Secretary General, I.H. Zaki said that the SAARC leaders he met had hailed the idea of mid-term summits. It is on a short visit to Sri Lanka, reports PTL.

Stalinists observe leader's anniversary of death

MOSCOW, Mar 5: Police blocked pro-Stalinist demonstrators from burning President Boris Yeltsin in effigy Thursday and arrested at least two protesters as onlookers shouted 'Fascists, Judas!' at the officers. The incident took place on Pushkin Square where about 40 followers of Josef Stalin and Russian nationalists commemorated the 39th anniversary of the dictator's death. Waving white flags with a blue cross - an historic Russian navy banner sometimes used by traditionalists - the protesters lifted an effigy of Yeltsin and torches with shouts of: 'Burn him!', reports UNB.

Party of Love presents list for election in Italy

ROME, Mar 5: Italy's new party of 'Love' presented its list Thursday for April's general election, presenting four porn stars it calls 'heroines of love' as candidates for Parliament. Its best-known candidate in the party pushing love is getting a divorce. She is Ilona Staller, better known as Cicciolina, who proved five years ago that an X-rating is no impediment to an Italian political career, reports AP.

PM: Massive aid

From Page 1 Col 5

Bangladesh and see the condition of the Myanmar refugees.

Jamshid Anwar appreciated arrangements made by Bangladesh for looking after the Myanmar Muslim refugees and the cooperation it extended to the UNHCR mission.

The UNHCR official requested the government to provide a large piece of land for a big camp to accommodate all the refugees.

The dramatic influx of Myanmar refugees is rapidly turning the situation in Bangladesh into one of the world's major refugee crises, the UNHCR said in a press release here Thursday.

Between 5,000 and 7,000 new refugees are streaming across the border from Myanmar daily, most with little more than the clothes on their backs. More than 5,400 poured into Bangladesh on March 1 at one crossing point alone, it said.

Official estimates put the number of refugees at more than one lakh.

The Prime Minister pointed out the violation of human rights which forced the Myanmar Muslims to cross the border. She also expressed concern over degradation of environment particularly in the forest areas affected by the huge influx.

She mentioned Bangladesh's approach to the UN General Secretary to use his good office for preventing further exodus and pursue the Myanmar authorities to create conditions for early return of the refugees and hoped that the international community would come forward in this regard.

The UNHCR will soon issue an international appeal for assistance to Bangladesh in tackling the refugee situation. It

will also flying in international staff from all over the region.

Some 50,000 blankets and 10,000 units of plastic sheeting are being airlifted into the region and other shelter items are being sought on international markets.

The Relief Ministry will look after arrangements for shelter, transport of refugees, drilling of tubewells and sanitation.

The UNHCR said special allocation had been made in the emergency budget for purchase of fuel in order to prevent refugees damaging the environment and the surrounding forests.

WFP has made an emergency grant of two million dollars for food. Besides the government, Gano Susihsya Kendra and MSP are carrying out medical relief operations in the camps and UNICEF is working on sanitation.

Stop exodus

From Page 1 Col 4

refugees. Talking to BSS at the national headquarters in the city the Chairman said 'we are happy with international response to our appeal'.

Iran donated a large quantity of relief materials for the refugees in the district of Cox's Bazar and its adjacent areas.

The relief materials were handed over to Syed Shahidul Huq Jamal MP, Chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society by II Ali Madadi, Cultural Attache of Iran here.

Another report says: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman Thursday visited the two refugee camps named Dondamia-1 and Dondamia-2 in Teknaf upazila under Cox's Bazar district.

About 20 thousand refugees have taken shelter in these camps.

DFFP

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fused to compete in the tender because of non-payment of huge outstanding bills.

The DFFP sources said there was acute shortage of funds for procuring films and all other auxiliary sources refused to lend films to DFFP due to earlier unsettled accounts.

The Directorate after requesting Film Development Corporation (FDC) to meet emergency requirements were asked to provide guarantee.

Sugar

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The corporation has to borrow Taka 150 crore to 200 crore during season from different banks which is repaid after the crushing season.

'If the smuggling of Indian sugar is not checked, the prospect of our sugar industry is bleak,' the source said adding 'We expect a favourable market this year if the anti-smuggling drive becomes effective.'

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