

Armed men control DU halls

By Masud Arif

The presence of a large number of outsiders in the residential halls of Dhaka University has been the root cause of trouble, according to students and teachers.

This issue has once again come in the fore front in view of the recent maneuvering of armed outsiders on the campus.

Last week, the Vice Chancellor had a meeting with the leaders of different student bodies where it was agreed that the organisations would get rid of the armed activists soon.

It is alleged that students are not getting seats in the halls as outsiders under the patronage of some leaders and workers of the student organisations are forcibly occupying seats.

Nobody ever dares to protest such illegal acts, hall residents and campus officials add.

They say these armed men hardly bother to pay for what ever they take from the hall canteens and small shops adjacent to the halls.

Two major student organisations, campus inhabitants say, reign the residential halls as well as the rest of the campus.

The Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League lords over the Jagannath, Zahurul and Salimullah halls while the ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dai (JCD) control the rest.

The armed outsiders move mainly around the 'Kalabhaban' (arts building) areas, often displaying fire arms during the class hours in the day.

These outsiders are mainly non-student or expelled students and leaders of some city colleges.

While talking to this correspondent, some Provosts and House Tutors said that they were often insulted by the leaders and these 'muscle-men' when they failed to entertain their (armed men) unlawful pleas.

The dormitory officials who are also teachers were visibly frightened while narrating some of the incidents to this correspondent.

The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Assistant General Secretary and JCD leader Nazimuddin Alam said that they had directed their party workers and DU unit leaders not to shelter any outsider or armed hoodlums in the halls and also on the campus.

"We are blamed for all the incidents as we the student wing of the ruling party, the DUCSU leader told this correspondent.

Referring to the killing of Badal, Alam said that the BCL tried to blame the JCD for the murder.

He claimed that the presence of the outsiders on the campus was quite less than that was few days before.

Alam alleged that during the police raids the BCL (S-A) activists 'close the front door and let the hooligans escape with their arms through the backdoor'.

BCL (S-A) leader Kamruzzaman Ansari says that most of the halls are occupied by the JCD and they were sheltering 'the armed non-student outsiders in the halls'.

The police never take action against the JCD workers.

Blasting the JCD for 'sheltering their (BCL's) expelled activists, BCL leaders and activists hold the ruling party student activists responsible for the trouble on the campus.

BCL workers also alleged that police have never raided the halls known as JCD strongholds.

Leaders of some other student organisations, however, hold both BCL (S-A) and JCD responsible for disruption of academic atmosphere on DU campus.



Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina addressing a discussion at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city in observance of the March 7 yesterday. —Star photo

US allowed \$100m 'illegal' arms for Pakistan

WASHINGTON, Mar 7: President George Bush's administration issued licences for more than 100 million dollars in commercial military sales to Pakistan in 1990 and 1991 in possible violation of US law, the Washington Post reported Saturday, says AFP.

The paper quoted a senior administration official as saying that the State Department granted licences for the commercial sales of military equipment, such as spare parts, in fiscal 1991, which began on October 1990.

The Post said the administration had so far refused to reveal exactly what items it authorised for sale to Islamabad.

The Bush administration cut off more than half a billion dollars in military and economic aid to Pakistan in October 1990 in compliance with a law barring such aid as long as Islamabad pursues efforts to acquire a nuclear bomb-making capability.

The cut-off has deprived Pakistan's powerful military of dozens of F-16 fighter jets it had ordered and sent it on a desperate search for spare parts for its warplanes, helicopters, tanks and other US-supplied equipment, the Post said.

It added that the State Department authorised the commercial sales because its lawyers interpreted the ban as applying only to government-financed aid.

But Clairborne Pell, the Democratic Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was quoted as saying that "many in the State Department are aware that commercial sales to Pakistan do violate the law."

Hasina

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early as in 1961 that declaration of independence will be given one day from Kalurghat in Chittagong.

Sajeda Chowdhury said that the government was soft on Golan Azam but pro-independence forces must throw him out from the country.

She said that to achieve economic emancipation of the country, the people should be united and fight again under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina like Sheikh Mujib.

Meanwhile, the Awami League hoisted the national and party flag at its central office and Bangabandhu Bhavan in observance of the day.

The Midnight File

US concern over DPRK bid to ship Scuds

PENSACOLA (Florida), Mar 7: President George Bush voiced concern Saturday about an alleged North Korean bid to ship Scud missiles to Iran amid reports that US forces could, as early as this weekend, board a North Korean freighter suspected of ferrying the missiles. Bush told reporters that he was 'always contemplating options.' He did not elaborate, reports AFP.

Bush asks Kohl to join Star Wars

HAMBURG (Germany), Mar 7: The United States has formally asked Germany to take part in a worldwide version of its 'Star Wars' space defence system, Der Spiegel reported on Saturday. According to the news magazine's latest edition, Chancellor Helmut Kohl is agonising over a response to the written request from President George Bush, reports Reuter.

World Cup

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to 189 for nine from 50 overs at the Adelaide Oval, Australia posted 190 for three to win by seven wickets with six overs to spare.

India benefited when rain hit their match against Zimbabwe at Trustbank Park in Hamilton and scored a 55-run victory.

India now have five points from their five matches and joined Sri Lanka in third place in the standings behind New Zealand and England.

Australia have four points from their five matches to date and probably need to win their three remaining first round contests to advance.

Captain Aravinda de Silva led Sri Lanka with 62 runs, but only opener Athula Samarasekera, who made 34, gave him any support.

Australian captain Allan Border was relieved by his team's performance.

"We are still not totally happy, but hopefully we are back on the right track," Border said.

New Zealand, who have a perfect 4-0 record, can make virtually certain of a semifinal spot if they defeat the West Indies in Auckland on Sunday, while South Africa and Pakistan face each other in Brisbane. (Details on Sports pages.)

Indians tighten stranglehold on Dahagram, Angorpota

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Mar 7: Indian nationals have again let loose a reign of terror in the besieged Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves.

Reports from across the border said that Indian extremists sided by the Border Security Force (BSF) carried out numerous acts of terrorism on the enclave people.

Citing an incident of terror the reports said that Indians raped a house wife Jarina (18) of Dahagram.

They also arrested four persons including Taushidul Islam, younger brother of Dahagram Union Chairman, beat them up mercilessly and sent them to Mekliganj jail.

Lootings and snatching of goods from the enclave people was also continuing unabated.

A flag meeting between the BDR and the BSF was held last week but the arrested persons were not released.

The reports further said that the Indians have tightened the barricade of the enclaves forcing the enclave people to stay away from the mainland with an intention to deprive them of necessities and therefore make them starve.

School student murdered

By Staff Correspondent

Two young men were killed in two separate incidents at Noyatola and Uttara in the city Saturday.

Munir Hossain, 20, a student of class ten, was killed as a group of people severely beat and stabbed him while he was returning to his 489, Chairman Lanc home at Noyatola at about 12.30 pm.

Following the incident, seriously injured Munir was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries immediately after admission.

Munir's brother-in-law, Manzur Hossain, filed a case with the Ramna police station accusing five persons, Rafiqul Islam, Alamgir, Ayub, Awlad and Nura of the murder.

Police said, Munir was killed as a sequel to a previous quarrel between two groups in the area. One of the accused persons was arrested, but police picked up eight persons from the area for questioning, police added.

Uttara police recovered a body from village Kawlar, Saturday evening, police said.

The victim was identified as Babul Hossain, 20, a garments employee. There were some bruises on his body, Uttara police said.

Uttara police also said that the body was sent to the DMCH morgue and no one was arrested in connection with the incident.



Wayside iftar shops at Chawk Bazar in the city on the first day of Ramzan yesterday. —Star photo

Iftar items dear

By Staff Correspondent

Devoted Muslims across the country broke their dawn-to-dusk fast 6-11 in the sultry evening as the first day of the holy month of Ramzan passed Saturday.

People, fasting more than 14 hours Saturday, sought divine mercy and forgiveness of the Almighty and learnt to practise self-control, abstinence and tolerance.

Ramzan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, began Friday with the sighting of the new moon in different parts of the country.

Almost all restaurants in the city and other eating places remained shut except those in the plush hotels during the fasting hours.

However, as the day neared the sunset, the hotels, restaurants and the pavement stalls became alive while traders prepared traditional 'Iftar' foods. Prices of some of these foods showed an upward trend on the first day of Ramzan. But the prices of fruits and citrus went up by an average Taka 10 because of off season.

HSC exam

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The government considers that the shifting of the date of the HSC examination will create financial pressure on the poor guardians and will also create session jam. For this the government has no idea to shift the date of HSC examination. The government further considers that the examinees have enough time to prepare themselves for the examination since it is scheduled to be held from June 25 next.

The government hopes that all concerned will provide necessary cooperation to the government for holding the examination in scheduled time.

AL factions clash in Pabna: 3 shot

PABNA, Mar 7: Armed clash between two factions of Awami League at the BISIC compound at Kashipur in the town Friday night left 17 people injured, three sustaining bullet wounds, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

Rohingya issue

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Burmese authorities for early repatriation of the refugees.

UNHCR official Jamshid Anvar, now visiting Bangladesh, has described the problem as one of the gravest crisis in history needing international assistance and cooperation for early solution.

After visiting the refugee camps Anvar told the Bangladesh officials that the Rohingyas Muslims are being subjected to brutality of the Myanmar authorities.

The UNHCR official is scheduled to brief heads of diplomatic missions and international agencies today (Sunday) morning before he leaves for Geneva winding up his week-long visit.

On his return to the UNHCR headquarters he will report to the High Commissioner Sadako Ogata on the refugee situation in Bangladesh.

The UNHCR is expected to make a formal appeal to the international community today (Sunday) to come forward in aid of the Rohingyas refugees.

TV channel

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cluded.

In this regard, our co-operation with a foreign 'partner' should be strictly defined in terms of the use of technology, assistance in the field of training and exchange of news and feature materials.

The Bangladesh Television (BTV) badly needs an improvement in its news coverage, both local and foreign, with overdue emphasis on objectivity, balance and topicality. Again, when it comes to foreign items, we should see more of what is happening in South and Southeast Asia than in the West. There should be more news documentaries, better feature programmes and non-partisan commentaries, in Bangla and English, on national and regional affairs.

Until we make these qualitative improvements in our existing BTV channel, the setting up of a second one, whether it is just a channel or a full-fledged network, may well be premature. We may just be repeating the mistakes of the existing system.

However, if we do have a second channel, it should be essentially educational in content, like the 'Allama Iqbal Open University' of Pakistan

Television. It should help with our literacy campaign, supplement classroom university lectures and even hold "examinations" to follow the example set by other open universities. Minister Huda should be thinking of this kind of second channel for BTV.

Another choice is to set up a commercial second network, as in Malaysia and a few other developing countries, based on totally local investment and management structure.

Indeed, it will be hard to find a developing country in this region, with the possible exception of Thailand, which has allowed equity participation and a voice in the management of a foreign entrepreneur in media.

The Minister for Information will be well advised to present his plan, if there is one, for the proposed second channel to the public, preferably through the Jatiya Sangsad, before his officials finalise the contract he talked about during the press interview. Foreign participation in media, in any form, is too serious a matter to be left to one ministry alone. Besides, we can do without another KAFCO agreement.

Anvar: A quarter of refugees

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'has been selected in Noyapara, north of Cox's Bazar town, he hoped that construction of a new camp could be started at the site within the next week or so.

"We have very little time, we have to finish construction of the camp before the rains start," he said. He warned of potential health problems from water borne diseases and measles if the camps were not ready soon.

He said that the supply of shelter materials, blankets, tarpaulins, and tents, ordered internationally, was scheduled to be airlifted by the middle of next week.

The supply of food in the camps was "quite satisfactory" he said, adding that the World Food Programme has already allocated two million US dollars and that the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society was doing a "good" distribution job in, at times, chaotic situations.

He said that voluntary organisations like Ganoshushtha Kendra and the EC funded-MSF along with UNICEF were also involved in the relief efforts and that the UNHCR was hoping to get more cooperation from other international agencies.

UNHCR has already allocated three million US dollars for the Rohingyas refugees and a maximum of six million dollars can be used from the High Commissioner's emergency relief fund, he noted.

Anvar said that an international appeal on behalf of the refugees would be made by UNHCR by the middle of next week and that many international donors have indicated their willingness to help.

Replying to a question on his impression on the visit

Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, may visit Bangladesh in near future, but she would have to rearrange her schedule.

In reply to a question, he said his agency has also allocated substantial fund to look after the environmental aspects of the refugee problem.

Anvar, however, ruled out the possibility of convening any emergency international conference on the issue.

Replying to another question on early repatriation of the refugees, the UNHCR official said, "I can not say when they will be returned with honour and dignity."

He made it clear that UNHCR, a purely humanitarian organisation, does not have any political motive. "We are here to reduce sufferings of the distressed people."

KPM production

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was set up about 40 years ago. The mills, now under Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BICIC), was dependent on bamboo and similar raw materials extracted from the lease areas.

The extraction of bamboo in two, out of three zones in the KPM's lease area, has remained totally suspended for about five years due to the law and order situation. Those two zones are — Kassalong East and Kassalong West where availability of bamboo is abundant. A mills source said that the extraction of raw materials now continues only in Reingkeong zone, but with much difficulty.

When disturbances by armed Shantibahinim in the lease area increased during the early '80s, KPM went for procuring bamboo from other forests, particularly in Cox's Bazar district.

But the recent tension and disturbances along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border have also severely affected bamboo procurement from the areas.

According to authoritative sources, bamboo procurement from the forests of Alikadam, Naikhangchari, Ukhia and Cox's Bazar may not be possible this year. The sources mentioned that though the KPM is facing acute problem in procuring raw materials, production in the mills is still at the normal level.

Out of a target of 30,000 tons, the KPM produced 16,700 tons of paper in the first seven months of the current fiscal year 1991-92. However, the KPM is looking for alternate sources to procure raw materials for maintaining a smooth production in the mills, the sources added.

Rao to quit

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after the centre-left opposition combine declared Friday that it would use the motion to oust the government even if it means joining hands with the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party).

The opposition has proposed many amendments to the president's February 24 speech, seeking to rebuke the government on issues such as inflation and unemployment, which it accuses Rao's free-market economic policies of fueling.

If such amendments are carried, parliamentary convention rather than constitutional necessity would require the government to step down.

The Congress (I) again voiced confidence today that would ride out the storm.

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Women's Day

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women's rights and international peace. In most countries, this day, March 8, is observed as International Women's Day.

Sammilito Aat-e March Uddjan Committee (committee for celebration of March 8) has taken up a four-day programme to observe the day, which began on March 6 through a photographic exhibition at the Bangladesh Photographic Society in the city.

Today's programme of the committee includes a colourful procession at 9:30 am from the Public Library, street theatre by Proshikha members in front of the National Press Club at 12 noon and the staging Rabindranath Tagore's theatre "Sireer Patra" at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium at 3 pm.

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