

Police storm Rangpur Press Club Chhatra Oikya, Shibir clash : 200 injured

RANGPUR, Apr 19: More than 200 people, including journalists, were injured in violent clashes between two rival groups of students and police action here today, reports UNB.

Those seriously injured were admitted to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted when Chhatra Oikya began a rally at the Jahaj Company crossing and belligerent Chhatra Shibir activists headed towards the venue shouting slogans.

Chhatra Oikya, an all-party student alliance, was staging the rally protesting damage to freedom fighters' sculpture at Carmichael College and violence by the Shibirites as well as demanding "bringing" of controversial Jamaat Amcer Prof Golam Azam.

Police allegedly went into a wild action as activists of both the groups fought each other with stones.

Witnesses said police rushed in, lathi charged and fired several rounds of tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the mob.

The law enforcing agencies also allegedly roughed up some members of the public, who took shelter in a nearby mosque.

Later, they stormed into the press club here, beat up journalists and took away three cameras of photo journalists.

Press Club President Mozammel Haq and Secretary Sadru Alam Dulu in a joint statement protested the incident and demanded punishment of those involved.

Sec 144 in Feni

Authorities in Feni imposed Section 144 in Trunk-road area today to prevent possible confrontation between two groups planning rallies at the same venue and same time.

National Co-ordination Committee for Implementation of the Spirit of the Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971 called a rally at 5 pm at Trunk Road Maidan demanding trial of Golam Azam.

Jamaat workers also planned a rally at the same place same time to protest the arrest of Golam Azam and in observance of Farakka Day.

Police were deployed in the venue.

Later, Jamaat announced that they would hold their rally at Baropur, north of the town.

District Amcer of Jamaat, Prof Liakat Ali and General Secretary Mohammad Mostafa denounced the imposition of Section 144.



Chittagong Hill Tracts Students' Council brought out a mourning procession in the city yesterday protesting April 19 killings in Khagrachhari. — Star photo.

Demand for judicial probe into Logang incident

By Staff Correspondent

A group of political leaders, academicians, writers, lawyers, journalists and leaders of several students' and human rights organisations demanded immediate formation of a judicial commission to probe the past killings, rape and torture in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

They also demanded a separate commission to probe the April 10 killings at Logang village in Khagrachhari district, publication of the reports and punishment to those found guilty.

In a joint statement Sunday after a visit to the troubled hill district, they observed "in meetings with eyewitnesses, survivors and official personnel, it became starkly clear that nothing less than a massacre had occurred at Logang."

The statement says that in the CHT the entire civilian administration has been playing a subordinating role.

Members of the ethnic minorities are being treated by the authorities as subordinate to the ethnic majority Bengalis and are being systematically deprived of the protection of their constitutionally guaranteed rights, it said.

The statement says the Bengali people, who have a long history of struggle against ethnic and cultural domination, can not condone such repression upon ethnic minorities within the country.

The responsibility for the conflict in the CHT rests with the political authorities, the statement added.

Signatories to the statement are — Pankaj Bhattacharya, general secretary of National Awami Party, Dilip Barua, general secretary of Samyabadi Dal, Akhteruzzaman Ilyas, novelist, Nizamul Huq Nasim, Advocate, Anu Mohammad and Syed M Hashemi of Jahangirnagar University, Mostafa Faruk of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Nasiruddoza, president, Chhatra Union, Adilur Rahman Khan, Advocate, Sara Hossain, Barrister, Ahad Ahmed, President Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Biplob Rahman, Publication Secretary of Chhatra Federation, Priscilla Raj, Chhatra Oikya Forum leader, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan The Daily Star, Salimullah Salim of the New Nation, Syed Sarwar Alam Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Observer, Subir Das of the Bhorer Kagoj, Ahmed Zubair of the Daily Janata, Rosaline Costa of Hotline-Bangladesh, Shishir Morol of the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh and Masud Alam of Jatya Jubo Jote.

JS resolution

From Page 1 Col 5

came to the chamber of the Speaker at 3.30 in the afternoon.

Samad Azad, according to Rafiq, replied that he was going to the residence of Sheikh Hasina and if permission was available he would come to the afternoon meeting.

Rafiq said that he then tried to contact Samad Azad but could not get through as Hasina and Samad Azad were having closed door discussions.

Samad Azad then contacted Rafiq at 4.30 in the afternoon and informed that if the resolution moved by Prof Chowdhury was amended then Rafiq could contact him at 6.30 in the evening. Rafiq told the House that as there was no further contact despite honest intentions nothing could be achieved. After Rafiq finished his statement, the Speaker picked up the issue of ruling.

Narrating the background of the general discussion the Speaker said that in view of discussions in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee he allowed the ten-hour discussion applying the Residual Powers of the Speaker as contained in Article 316 of Rules of Procedure.

The Speaker said that he thought general discussion would yield some results but it failed.

The Speaker then announced that he was going to put to vote the proposals. The proposal moved by the Leader of the Opposition on Thursday said a tribunal under International War Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 should be formed to try Golam Azam and the case against the sponsors of people's court should be withdrawn and Jatya Sangsad should apologise for this action of the government.

After the Speaker finished reading the two proposals, Matur Rahman Nizami, Leader

ADB aid

From Page 1 Col 5

ment, along with the 'positive' results of recent reforms.

Noting that the economy is forecast to grow by 4.7 per cent during the current year and 5.2 per cent in 1993, it says "the momentum of growth will depend on speedy implementation, intensification and continuity of the reforms that have already been initiated."

The bank's loan programme for Bangladesh has a multi-sectoral approach covering agriculture, energy, social infrastructure, transportation, and industry.

The approach, the ADB Annual Report notes, has been "adopted to enhance productivity, support policy and institutional reforms, particularly those concerning domestic resource mobilization and institutional strengthening, and help accelerate economic growth."

The bank approved a total of 99 loans amounting to \$3.57 billion for 91 projects by the end of 1991. Of them, the report points out, 51 had been closed and the rest 48 were under administration.

Seven loans were waiting to become effective and four loans were closed in 1991. The agriculture sector received a \$73 million loan and a \$388,000 technical assistance grant under the north-east minor irrigation project.

A \$51 million loan and a \$240,000 technical assistance grant were approved for the second health and family planning services project while a \$49.2 million loan was given for the higher secondary education project and a \$91.5 million loan and a \$570,000 technical assistance grant was approved for the Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project.

Of the loans approved for investments in the private sector, two of investments amounting to \$6.5 million equivalent, remained active by the end of 1991, the report says.

Both the active loans were to textile industry projects which were given directly to the investors. The third loan given in 1990 was given for setting up of an insurance company.

The Midnight File

Afghan situation very uncertain: India

NEW DELHI, Apr 19: India today described the situation in Afghanistan as "very uncertain" but said the ousted President, Dr Najibullah, was safe in the United Nations office in Kabul, reports PTI.

600 die of starvation in Southern Ethiopia

NAIROBI, Apr 19: At least 600 people have died of starvation in the past two months in Southern Ethiopia and more than 56,000 others face severe famine, state Radio Addis Ababa said in a broadcast monitored here today, reports AFP.

PM at Chittagong

From Page 1 Col 4

duction in fields and factories.

In this regard, she referred to the various steps, taken to change the lot of the people and make them a productive force in society. She stressed the need for the setting up of small and cottage industries in rural areas to solve unemployment problem.

Begum Zia sought cooperation of the people to supplement government's programmes for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

Amidst thunderous applause, Begum Zia declared that a monument would be built near Kalurghat in the district from where Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had announced the War of Liberation.

She said the Chittagong Airport would be made an international airport and more civic amenities would be provided to the city dwellers.

She said an embankment of 10 feet high and eight feet wide would be constructed.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia Sunday emphasised the role of private sector in supplementing the government efforts for creating an atmosphere to promote scientific and technical research and stop brain drain, reports BSS.

She said the present government was following the policy of encouraging scientific research realising the advancement of science and technology for making the country self-reliant.

The Prime Minister was addressing the inaugural session of the week-long international symposium on Glashow-Salam-Weinberg Theory and workshops organised by Bangladesh Physical Society at Ziaur Rahman Auditorium of Shishu Academy. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain and BPS President A M Harun ar Rashid also spoke on the occasion.

'Non-govt move to promote science a must'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia Sunday emphasised the role of private sector in supplementing the government efforts for creating an atmosphere to promote scientific and technical research and stop brain drain, reports BSS.

Water level

From Page 1 Col 7

has a large number of hand tubewells extracting a great amount of water everyday.

The source said without elaborating that the subsidence of ground water level has a wide-ranging effect on the environment.

Another source said that the installation of more water treatment plants is the only way out to avoid such huge extraction of water by deep tubewells.

Dhaka WASA has a century-old water at Chandni Ghat with a production capacity of 40 lakh gallons of water daily. The authorities are working on the second water works with a production capacity of 20 crore gallons of water per day at Syedabad. Survey work on this is almost complete, a WASA source said.

Hekmatyar's 'no'

From Page 1 Col 7

based in Iran — had agreed to each nominate two representatives to the council. They would be a political personality and a field commander.

But Hekmatyar rejected the idea, said Nawab Salim, a spokesman for Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami, or party of Islam.

"We don't see any prospect for a peaceful solution," Salim said. "It is not a joke. Either the government in Kabul surrenders or we will attack."

Hekmatyar has reportedly joined his fighters near Kabul.

Diplomatic and Afghan sources fear a violent showdown is brewing around Kabul, where Hekmatyar's radical guerrillas are preparing to face off against the more moderate Jamiat-e-Islami led by Mujahideen commander Ahmed Shah Masood.

Masood has ordered his Mujahideen to form a security ring around Kabul to thwart any attack by Hekmatyar's troops.

In an attempt to prevent a bloody confrontation in Kabul that many fear could spill over into Pakistan, Sharif flew to Peshawar on Saturday to urge the leaders to cobble together a council to replace Najibullah's successors.

All but Hekmatyar agreed, the ministry spokesman said.

Meanwhile, a non-commu-

nist vice-president took ousted President Najibullah's place Sunday.

Najibullah, who surrendered Thursday, remains in hiding.

Abdul Rahim Hatif, one of four vice presidents, became acting president, state-run, Kabul Radio announced. He was never a member of Najibullah's ruling Watan (Homeland) Party and was not associated with its brutal past.

Among the five provinces to fall on Sunday was Paktia and its capital, Gardez, Najibullah's hometown, the rebel and government leaders said. The others included northwestern Badakhshan and Samangan, both bordering the former Soviet Union southern Kandahar, the former seat of the Afghan monarchy; and Wardak province west of Kabul.

AFP adds: The key eastern Afghanistan garrison city of Jalalabad was taken over by Mujahideen fighters late today after widespread defections by government forces, the pro-resistance Midia news service said.

Jalalabad is the first major Afghan garrison across Pakistan's northwestern border and had remained a prime resistance target since Soviet forces pulled out in 1989 after a 10-year occupation of Afghanistan.

Salam : Legal avenues

From Page 1 Col 5

the Information Minister's Sangsad Bhavan chamber after the summer session of Parliament was prorogued last night, BNP Secretary General said that they could not adopt any measure contradictory to the country's Constitution.

Referring to the arrest of Golam Azam by the government on charge of violation of Constitution the BNP Secretary General said that there was no scope for any quarter to think that the government would spare anybody committing offence against the country.

The Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda Chowdhury who was also present on the occasion said, the resolution passed in Parliament today also clearly provides the government a guideline to handle the Golam Azam issue through constitutional means only.

Replying to a question the Information Minister said that the government would also examine whether Golam Azam could be tried as a war criminal under International Crimes Act, 1973.

He, however, observed that it would be difficult to try him under this act specially after '20 years of inordinate delay'. "Such delay usually affects the merit of the case," the minister added.

The Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah who joint the BNP leaders talking to the news-men later said, 'the Delhi agreement signed between the

then governments of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan could also virtually act as an obstacle to trying Golam Azam as a war criminal. "Furthermore," he said, "one has to prove Golam Azam as one of the auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army to try him under the International Crimes Act, 1973". "All these things required to be carefully examined from the legal points of view before the government formulates charges against Golam Azam," Rafique observed.

Referring to the Opposition party's boycotting the JS session on Golam Azam issue the BNP Secretary General said that difference of opinions between the Treasury bench and Opposition members on different issues was natural. But we have left no stone unturned during the last three days to reach a consensus on the Golam Azam issue by means of several rounds of official and non-official talks with them," the BNP Secretary General said.

The Opposition should not expect us to uphold and implement their party programmes he said adding BNP will never compromise over its nationalist politics even at the cost of losing state power. The Secretary General, however, said that for the sake of giving hard earned democracy an institutional shape his party was ready to continue discussion with the Opposition in both inside and outside the House.

Muktagachha

From Page 1 Col 7

Among the injured, six were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital with serious injuries while the rest were released after first aid.

The condition of motor cycle rider Johurul was stated to be critical.

Another report says, an unidentified pedestrian was run over by a speedy truck near Kulia bridge in Debhata upazila in Kushtia on Satkhira-Kaligong highway Friday.

The truck, however, escaped unnoticed. A case has been filed with the police in this connection.

Agri Minister

From Page 1 Col 5

expired in 1988. For the last four years, there has not an agreement on water-sharing.

Sources say Bangladesh will plead for an agreement aimed at a lasting solution and suggest that the 'guarantee clause' in the 1977 agreement be included in the proposed one.

Hasina : PM ignores JS

From Page 1 Col 4

audacity and utter negligence" to people's opinion by rejecting the opposition motion for trial of Golam Azam by a special tribunal under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act of 1973.

The opposition leader said that their demand for trial was moved in accordance with the Constitution and the existing laws of the land. The proposal also called for withdrawal of the case against the sponsors of the "Gano Adalat" (people's court).

"Our proposal was not contrary to Constitution, nor the existing laws... We pointed to the government the specific law to try Golam Azam but the government ignored it to protect this hated war criminal," she said.

Referring to Saturday's parleys between the government and the opposition leaders, Hasina said the BNP negotiators at one stage proposed for "trial" of Golam Azam under the existing laws but later withdrew the proposal saying the Prime Minister had no consent to it.

She said the BNP proposal which was adopted yesterday only by 136 members of the 330-member House is nothing but "a jugglery" and failed to reflect the people's aspiration.

"Even the Prime Minister was not present during the voting," Hasina said adding that possibly, she and the other MPs of her party also boycotted the House.

Pointing out the inconsistency in the statements of the Speaker and the ruling party, Hasina said the Speaker had allowed long 10 hours of debate on Golam Azam but now say that the matter is subjudice. If so, she asked, why did he (Speaker) put the proposals to vote?

"It clearly indicates government's indecision," she said. "They do not know what to do as they have no guidelines... They are playing with this Sangsad and the people."

Hasina said Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury in his speech in the House admitted that Golam Azam is a Pakistani citizen, a war criminal and collaborator of Pakistani occupation army. "But he does not demand Golam Azam's trial," she said sarcastically.

The government has failed to initiate legal action against "Pakistani national" Golam Azam for violating the constitution, the Opposition leader said, but Jamaat filed case against the government.

She rebuked the government for not filing case against "war criminal" Golam Azam and for issuing warrants of arrest against those who sought trial of the Jamaat leader for his war crimes.

Hasina demanded withdrawal of the case against the sponsors of the people's court, lawyers and for equal democratic rights to all opposition parties in organising meetings and processions.

Hasina criticised the prorogation of the session without discussing the important issues like price-hike of essentials, drought, law and order, and Myanmar refugees. The Business Advisory Committee, she said, had earlier agreed to discuss these issues during the session.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Hasina alleged that the armed members of the ruling party's student wing yesterday turned up in the Sangsad premises and created panic there. The armed youths damaged the metal-detector gate, beat up employees and by doing so they had marred the sanctity of Parliament, she alleged.

Lists of Rohingyas handed over

The 13th instalment of the list of Myanmar Muslim refugees numbering 14,952 was handed over Sunday, to the embassy of the Union of Myanmar in Dhaka reports BSS.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় ব্যুরো

সফলতার প্রতীক

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় ব্যুরো

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় ব্যুরোতে আসুন। সাফল্য আপনার জন্য অপেক্ষা করছে। এখানে পাবেন বিনম্র ব্যবহার ও উত্তম সেবাসহ শাস্ত পরিবেশে অধিক লাভজনক প্রকল্পে আপনার অর্জিত সম্পদ বিনিয়োগের সুবর্ণ সুযোগ।

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় ব্যুরোতে—

- ৩ বছর মেয়াদী সঞ্চয়পত্র
- প্রতিরক্ষা সঞ্চয়পত্র
- বোনাস সঞ্চয়পত্র
- ৫ বছর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র
- প্রাইজ বণ্ড কেনা ও ভাগানো যায়।

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