

Fatikchhari killings condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties of the country condemned Friday's attack on the biennial council of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Fatikchhari unit that left three people dead, and demanded of the government to give exemplary punishment to those involved with the killing.

The political parties also called upon the people to unitedly resist the political forces which actively opposed the country's war of independence and are now engaged in killing the pro-liberation forces.

Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina, in a statement issued to the press yesterday, said that the identified anti-liberation forces unleashed an armed attack on the BCL council at Fatikchhari on Friday when the AL and BCL workers had just begun to offer garbana janaza prayer for a local AL leader, Obaidul Haque, who died in a recent road mishap.

Expressing strong resentment over the incident, the AL chief said that the brutal attack jointly led by the armed cadres of Jamaat and NDP, left Harun Bashar of the Bhojpur unit of AL and Jamiruddin and Abu Ahmed of the Fatikchhari unit of BCL dead and a number of BCL activists injured.

The AL chief also slated the local police for remaining silent even after the incident despite repeated appeals by the AL leaders for their (police) intervention.

Sheikh Hasina said that the police indifference towards such a brutal attack on the democratic forces, especially when the whole nation was united in demand of trying Jamaat chief Gholam Azam as a war criminal, virtually proved

the government's involvement in the attack.

The Hasanul Haque Inu-led faction of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), in a separate statement, expressed its resentment over the Jamaat attack on the BCL council and demanded of the government to try the killers.

Hasanul Haque Inu said in his statement that if the government failed to take legal action against the anti-liberation forces resorting to attacking pro-liberation forces, the people would not let these attacks go unchallenged.

The Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) also condemned the Jamaat attack on the BCL council at Fatikchhari.

The CPB presidium, in a statement issued to the press yesterday, expressed deep concern over the incident and strongly demanded of the government to take 'necessary steps' against the attackers.

Our Khulna correspondent adds: The Awami League backed Chhatra League brought out a procession in the city yesterday, protesting the killing of its members at Fatikchhari on Friday.

Parading the city thoroughfares, the BCL activists chanted slogans demanding the arrest of those responsible for the killing.

The Khulna unit of Awami League, in a statement issued yesterday, strongly condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to the killers.

The statement demanded probe into the incident and the immediate arrest of those involved with the incident.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at BIWTA terminal at Narayanganj yesterday. Story on Page 1 —PID photo

Proper upkeep of Shahajadpur, Shilaidah demanded

SHAHAJADPUR (Strajganj), May 9: Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi today called upon the government to declare Shahajadpur and Shilaidah as national shrines of culture, reports UNB.

Prof Siddiqi was presiding over a discussion meeting on "Rabindranath in Shahajadpur," the 2nd day of the three-day national programme organised to celebrate the 131st birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

The key note paper was presented by Prof Ansaruzaman while Prof Khandaker Sirajul Huq and Dr Siddiqi Rahman took part in the discussion.

In his presidential speech Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi also urged the authorities to preserve "Kuthbari" in Shilaidah, Kushtia and Shahajadpur "Kacharibari", Strajganj as permanent memorial of the great Bengali poet.

Today's programme in Shahajadpur included a discussion meeting on "Rural reconstruction thought of Rabindranath," which was chaired by Rashid Karim.

Shyama, a famous dance drama of Tagore was staged by Bulbul Lalitakala Academy at night.

The three-day programme will conclude tomorrow.

BCI MD

From Page 1 Col 5

the case against the directors.

Meanwhile, the application of the NCL authorities was being examined by the Bangladesh Bank.

The audit report on the NCL was yet to be finalised, a source at the Bangladesh Bank said, adding that it could not be finalised as the Sylhet and Chittagong branches of the company had not sent necessary papers to the audit team.

The audit team has in the meantime informed the Banking Control Department of the BB about the matter in a letter.

The audit team, in its letter alleged that it was facing some pressure from 'certain quarters' in performing its duty.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance has received reports from various ministries on involvements of various departments in the irregularities of the BCI, a source at the ministry said.

According to the source, the ministry has received reports from the Ministry of Religious Affairs on illegal deposits in the BCI by the Waqf estate.

It also received reports on the involvement of Sena Kalyan Sangstha, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), and the official liquidator of the High Court.

No cases were filed nor any action taken against the government organisations.

Meanwhile, the NCL authorities Saturday instructed all branch offices to pay Taka 3000 to each depositor who maintained deposits above the sum.

The operation to this effect will start from Sunday. NCL branches carried out limited transactions on Saturday.

Every citizen has right to set up public court, says Dr Kamal

DINAJPUR, May 9: Awami League Presidium member Dr Kamal Hossain today said every citizen of the country has the right to set up a public trial court, but not to punish anyone, reports UNB.

"If any public trial court awards sentence to a person... it will be clear violation of country's existing laws," he said addressing a gathering of lawyers in the auditorium of Dinajpur Bar Association as part of electioneering for the Coordination Council of Bangladesh Bar Associations election.

Third World to focus

From Page 1 Col 4

against Malaysia's logging in the rainforest of its biggest state Sarawak which made Mahathir annoyed.

Malaysian premier's annoyance was clearly exposed in his inaugural speech at the KL Conference. In the speech Mahathir blamed the rich North for polluting the environment and said that eighty percent of the pollution was due to the activities in the industrially developed countries.

Mahathir urged the rich North to clean up their own backyards first and close down their inefficient farm and polluting industries. He asked them to join developing countries to plant more trees for "Greening of the World."

The Malaysian Prime Minister called upon the global community to target at least 30 per cent of the earth's terrestrial area to be greened by the year 2000. The world now has 27.6 per cent of its land under forest cover.

Mahathir urged the world community to urgently establish a global fund to support the greening target.

The speech was highly commended by the delegates at the KL conference who described it as reflecting the aspirations of the South.

Diplomatic observers in KL believe that Mahathir's changed decision to attend the Earth Summit was due to Malaysia's success in mobilising developing countries for taking a common stand on environmental issues.

Explaining the reasons for his decision to attend the Earth Summit, Mahathir said, "because of our commitment to the KL Declaration, we have to present and defend it in Rio although we are still not satisfied with certain NOOs which are out to criticise developing countries over environmental issues."

The KL Declaration which was adopted unanimously one day ahead of schedule, urged the developed nations to change their production, consumption and distribution patterns if sustainable development is to be achieved. The declaration stressed that development was the fundamental right of all countries and that it was urgent to eradicate poverty. It said that a supportive international economic environment must be created to achieve environmentally-sound development. This would include the transfer of environmentally-sound technology as well as new and additional financial resources to developing countries through specific mechanism.

The funding mechanism must be transparent, accountable and the decision making must have equal representation," the declaration said adding, "developed countries should not impose restrictions on international trade based on environmental grounds."

The declaration hints of a cooperative stance as it does not discount the possibility of



BCI depositors brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding return of their money. —Star photo

Lawyers alerted

From Page 1 Col 3

the concerned authorities.

While conceding that the "irregularities committed by this company" seemed to be less serious than those of BCI, the lawyer argued firmly that "the company and the Directors have definitely violated the provisions of the Companies Act, 1913 as well as their own Articles of Association."

Elaborating on this point, the lawyer, one of the best in this country, took the line that Section 86 D of the Companies Act, 1913 prohibits any loan or guarantee in favour of any director of the company. This rule clearly applied to NCL since "it is neither a private company nor a banking company."

As on the BCI situation, the lawyer spoke to The Daily Star on condition that he would not be identified. In his note to BB, dated August 6, 1990, he referred to some 'remedial measures' taken by the central bank in removing the irregularities committed by NCL.

However, judging by the note from the lawyer, it was far from clear how and when BB had responded to the advice that NCL directors should vacate their positions immediately for taking loans from their company.

Trade circles here believe that none of the directors vacated their positions and that some of them continued to take loans from the finance company in outright violation of the Companies Act or disregarding the warning, if any, from the central bank.

As one source puts it, "What is necessary, almost imperative, is to set up an enquiry covering all aspects of the company's operation before even considering the proposal for upgrading it to the status of a scheduled bank."

Experts here believe that the way the authorities concerned, the Ministry of Finance and the Bangladesh Bank, handle the situation which one source describes as a tip of an iceberg, will have a direct bearing not only on the pace of privatisation in the country.

What causes a lot of concern to the private sector here is that neither the Ministry of Finance nor the central bank is looking at the situation with maximum sense of urgency — yet.

The Midnight File

Minister escapes murder attempt in Amritsar

AMRITSAR, May 9: Sikh separatists detonated a remote-controlled car bomb Saturday, killing seven people in Punjab. But their obvious target, a state Cabinet minister escaped with injuries, police said. The explosion occurred as a convoy carrying Public Health Minister Maninderjit Singh Bitta passed down a crowded street, said Arpit Shukla, a senior police officer. Bitta, 34, also heads the state youth wing of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's Congress party, reports AP.

17 workers trapped in Canadian coal mine blast

PLYMOUTH, Nova Scotia, May 9: An explosion at a Canadian coal mine early today trapped at least 17 people underground, police reported. Rescue teams rushed to the scene in Nova Scotia province and were trying to dig the workers out. No injuries or deaths were reported at the surface but the underground workers' condition was not known, reports AP.

Fatikchhari killing Jamaat denies involvement

Jamaat-e-Islam yesterday termed "false and fabricated" the report of Jamaat-Shibir involvement in Friday's killing at Fatikchhari and appealed for restraining from dishonouring such "provocative falsehood," reports UNB.

In a statement, Jamaat Organising Secretary Abdul Kader Mollah said Jamaat-Shibir activities remained suspended in Fatikchhari following a party decision to avoid clashes with Awami League-Chhatra League in which 14 of their workers lost lives.

He condemned and protested the report involving Jamaat-Shibir activists in Fatikchhari killing published in a section of the press. This, he said, provoked anarchy in Dhaka University campus and certain places of Chittagong resulting in injuries to 20 Jamaat-Shibir workers.

The question of attack on Awami Chhatra League by Jamaat-Shibir does not arise at all, the Jamaat leader said adding this was intended to tarnish the image of his party engaged in constitutional politics.

Kader Mollah said Fatikchhari incident was the outcome of intra-party rivalry of a student organisation.

He demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident and punishment of the real offenders.

Robbery bid foiled: 5 held

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 9: Police arrested five alleged bandits from a house at Dhino Haji Road under Siddhirganj Police Station here and recovered various weapons from them in the early hours of Saturday.

Police said they raided the house at about 4.30 am and arrested Ali Akbar (28), Karim (24), Mojibur (22), Kabir (23) and Ashrafal Islam (24) from the house. They were taking preparation to commit a robbery, police added but did not give any detail.

11 Pak traders kidnapped

KARACHI, May 9: Bandits kidnapped 11 traders during a picnic at a farm outside Karachi on Friday, Pakistan police said today. They said the armed bandits, numbering at least six, took the traders to nearby forests which police cordoned off and were searching.

Teams to scrutinise city voters' list

The Election Commission has framed seven teams to scrutinise at the first phase, the voters' list of Ward No 69 comprising Sher-e-Bangla Nagar (north) and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar(south) of Dhaka City Corporation, according to an Election Commission press release here Saturday, reports BSS.

The teams will be working in the area from May 12 to May 14.

The decision was taken to ascertain the actual position and voters have been requested to cooperate with the teams and its members.

The seven teams consist of 42 officers and employees of the EC and will be led by Secretary A Z M Shamsul Alam, Joint Secretary and Deputy Secretaries of the Election Commission. The team members will go from door to door to scrutinise the voters' list.

Mujib's clemency

From Page 1 Col 3

in granting clemency orders because "the government has statutory powers to issue such order."

Those released under the clemency included Dr M A Malik, Khan A Sabur, Dr Deen Mohammad, Dr Syed Sajjad Hussain, Dr Hasan Zaman, Dr Fatima Sadique, Razia Fatz, Khawaza Khairuddin, Dr Mohar Ali and all members of Dr Malik's cabinet.

Dr Malik was the Governor of former East Pakistan when the Pakistani army surrendered. Shah Azizur Rahman and the Pir of Sharshtina were also granted clemency.

AL calls hartal

From Page 1 Col 7

numbering about 50, attacked the biennial council of the Fatikchhari unit Chhatra League held in the afternoon at the local upazila auditorium, killing two BCL activists, Jasim Uddin (23) and Jamiruddin (25), on the spot and injuring over 30 people, police said adding that a barrage of gunshots was fired by the armed men, creating a reign of terror for four hours in the whole locality.

Normal life came to a halt throughout Fatikchhari area as the plying of vehicles and operation of local bazars and offices remained suspended till the filing of this report.

A large number of police has been deployed there to resist further violence.

The namazeh-janaza of the dead was held in the city at Laldighi Maidan this afternoon after a protest rally.

Later, over five thousand mourners marched through the main thoroughfares of the city, protesting the killing of AL and BCL activists and chanting slogans to bring the culprits to book. They also demanded trial of the accused.

However, police so far arrested none in this connection.



Michelle McLean from Namibia waves after she was crowned Miss Universe yesterday in Bangkok. McLean was one of 70 contestants from all over the world. AFP photo

Miss Namibia Crowned Miss Universe

BANGKOK, May 9: Miss Namibia, 19-year-old Michelle McLean, was crowned Miss Universe in the pageant in Thailand today, reports Reuters.

Runner-up was Miss Colombia, 21-year-old student Paola Turbay, and in third place was Miss India, 20-year-old model Madhusri Sapre.

McLean, a brunette, takes home cash and prizes worth over 250,000 dollar.

BCL call to fight Jamaat, Shibir men

Leaders of the Awami League-supported Chhatra League Saturday asked their activists to take on Jamaat-Shibir supporters wherever found, reports UNB.

The Chhatra League (S-A) order came from a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club Saturday afternoon in protest against the killing of four AL activists at Fatikchhari upazila in Chittagong district on Friday.

The gathering was addressed by Chhatra League President Shahe Alam and General Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil, who demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers.

They alleged the BNP government had failed to maintain law and order in the country and the Jamaat-Shibir clique was attacking them one by one in collaboration with the government.

Earlier, leaders and activists of BCL came in a procession from the Dhaka University campus chanting slogans against the killers.

5 beaten up on DU campus

By Staff Correspondent

A group of students went on sporadic attacks leaving five students injured on the Dhaka University campus Saturday afternoon.

The injured persons were reported to be activists of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir. The victims alleged that the attacks were made by the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A).

Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Mottijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynebe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.