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## Gunbattle with police in Fatikchhari during hartal

# 13 alleged killers held with rocket launchers

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 10: Police fought a fierce gunbattle with the alleged killers of three Awami League (AL) activists near Nazirhat College in Fatikchhari today while Chittagong was in the grip of a dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the AL to protest the killings.

Police arrested 13 of the accused killers and recovered five rocket launchers, a pair of binoculars and some luggage from their possession.

According to police, the accused were fleeing the city.

UNB quoting says: The arrests followed exchanges of fire between police and Shibir-NDP activists for one and a half hour near Nazirhat bazar and Nazirhat college between Hathazari and Fatikchhari upazilas. The gunbattle began at about 6 am.

The arrested were moving in a microbus during the dawn-to-dusk hartal, the po-

lice control room said without giving their identity. About 150 people engaged in the gunbattle managed to flee to Nandakini mountain.

Superintendent of Police SM Sabir Ali said that the situation in the district was under control and police were searching for the culprits in and around the Mandakini mountain.

Our Staff Correspondent picks up: During the hartal today the supporters of the AL reportedly attacked the residence of a Jamaat leader at Panchalaish and beat up two Shibir workers severely.

The also set a motorcycle afire at Chandgaon in the city. Several crackers were also blasted at various places in the city during the hartal.

Normal life came to a halt in the Port City and its surrounding areas during the hartal.

The hartal was called to protest the killing of three AL activists allegedly by armed members of the pro-Jamaat Chhatra Shibir and the NDP on Friday in Fatikchhari upazila 30 miles from the city.

Additional police forces were deployed in a bid to keep the situation under control.

During the hartal hundreds of vehicles were stranded on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Sitakunda as barricades were put up by the supporters of the AL and the BCL.

Private and public offices could not function in this business city and shops and markets stayed closed during the hartal.

Banks could not operate and the carrying of cargo to and from Chittagong Port remained suspended due to the non-plying of trucks. Mills and factories at Nasirabad and Sitakunda industrial belts suf-

fered production losses, sources said.

Besides, all vehicles including rickshaws stayed off the roads.

Supporters of the AL and the BCL brought out a procession that paraded the city roads calling to arrest the killers.

Meanwhile, UNB says, four Jamaat, Shibir leaders were stabbed allegedly by Awami League activists. Abu Taher Khan, also the leader of Bangladesh Railway Employees League (BREL), was stabbed in the Tigerpass area and three others—Ekram Hossain, Ekramul Huq and Mujibur Rahman—in Lalkhan bazar area, UNB adds.

Taher was admitted to Railway Hospital and Ekram and Ekramul Huq were rushed to Lalkhan bazar hospital.

Agitated youths set fire to

See Page 12 Col 8

## Rohingyas rally in Teknaf, decry repatriation bid

From Farid Hossain

TEKNAF, May 10: Several thousand Rohingya refugees demonstrated here today against their proposed repatriation to Myanmar as many inmates are fleeing their camp, witnesses and officials said.

The demonstration took place at Dum Dumia camp which houses about 74000 of about two lakh 50 thousand Rohingyas refugees who have poured into Bangladesh.

The refugees brought out the procession and marched to the Teknaf upazila headquarters to say that they would not return home for fear of persecution.

The protest came after words that refugees would be sent back within the next three days and the camps would be closed.

Government relief officials assured the demonstrators that they would not be sent back by force and there was no question of closing the camp.

The repatriation of the refugees is scheduled to begin

from May 15 under an agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

As the officials are preparing for the repatriation, non-government relief officials report that at least 300 inmates have already fled the camps to dodge their effort.

Some camp officials admitted that the refugees specially young girls were missing from the camps. They said they had stepped up security measures to prevent the refugees from

See Page 12 Col 7

## Dhaka deposes officials for repatriation

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh authorities have designated field-level officials to conduct the repatriation of the Rohingyas refugees and conveyed the list to the Myanmar Government through

See Page 12 Col 1

## Repatriation of stranded Pakistanis uncertain

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

The repatriation of more than 2,50,000 'stranded Pakistanis' is very unlikely to start next month as planned earlier due to non-availability of necessary funds.

According to a Bangladesh government official, the Rabita Trust, a joint endeavor of the Pakistan Government and the Makkah-based Rabitat al-Islam al-Islami, is yet to mobilise the money — 500 million US dollar — estimated to be required for the repatriation.

According to the Trust estimates, of the \$ 500 million, \$ 300 million would be needed for the air passage and the rest \$ 200 million for the rehabilitation of the returnees. It was planned that as soon as the 50 per cent of the required \$ 500 million was collected, the process would start.

The Pakistan Government promised \$50 million and the rest was to be arranged by the Rabitat al-Islam al-Islami or the Muslim World League.

According to a Bangladesh official source, the Rabita

See Page 12 Col 1

## Majid-ul-Huq meets Rao today

Major General (Retd) Majid-ul-Huq, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, left Dhaka Sunday for New Delhi as a special emissary of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, official sources said, reports BSS.

He will finalise the dates of Begum Zia's visit to India scheduled to take place towards the end of the current month.

Majid-ul-Huq will meet Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao today.

It is also expected that Eduardo Fakiro, Indian State Minister for External Affairs, will call on Huq.

The minister is accompanied during the visit by Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmood Ali.

The Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, K Raghunath was present at the airport to see Huq off.

## Police recover 779 taka from 3 BCI strongrooms

By Staff Correspondent

Police on Sunday raided a number of Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) branches and seized some money and documents from their strongrooms.

The action came following a court order Saturday for such actions.

Motihel police raided the Dilkusha branch and found Taka 159.33 in its strongroom. Some papers were also seized to be inspected by the Bangladesh Bank.

Dhanmondi police went to the BCI's Jigatola branch and found Taka 551.22 in its strongroom.

Motihel police also went to the BCI head office at Rajuk Road. But the team had not re-

turned till writing of this report late last night.

Sutrapur police also went to

the BCI's Babupura branch but had also not returned till late last night.

Kotwali police also raided the Bangladesh branch and seized Taka 69.27 and some papers.

Meanwhile, in a resolution Sunday, BCI depositors demanded the release of the company's directors on bail so that it could continue functioning.

They maintained that BCI could realise its outstanding loans if it could resume operations which, in turn, would enable them (the depositors) to get their deposits back.



Police led by a DMC magistrate preparing seizure list after searching a strongroom of BCI branch at North-South Road in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Pirates loot

#### passenger boat

SIRAJGANJ, May 10: Pirates looted Tk 3 lakh and injured ten passengers after attacking them in a mechanised boat in the river Jamuna today.

The passengers said a group of dacoits attacked a group of dacoits carrying about 28 passengers from Jagannathganj Ghat at 12 noon at Chundind of Sadar upazila of the district, reports UNB.

### 6.2 tonnes hashish

#### seized in Karachi

KARACHI, May 10: Pakistani police seized 6.2 tonnes of hashish with a local street value of 30 million rupees (dollar 1.2 million), a government official said today. The drugs were found in a warehouse in western Karachi yesterday. One man was arrested, reports Reuters.

### Cases filed against

#### 33 traders

A Mobile Court led by a Metropolitan Magistrate Sunday filed 33 cases against various industrial and commercial organisations for using illegal weights cheating people in weighing and uses of illegal foreign weights and scales.

The Court initiated by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution conducted inspection at different wholesale market, sales centre of textile, fan and electrical wire factories, petrol pumps and weighing scales sellers in the city, reports BSS.

### Strike observed at Sunamganj

SUNAMGANJ, May 10: A student strike was observed in all the educational institutions in the district town demanding immediate arrest of the accused of two murder cases. The strike, called by Sarbadalhya (all-party) Chhatra Oikya Parishad, was also to protest a controversial role of police, the strikers said.UNB.

## Privatisation cornerstone of democracy: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said Sunday that the government was building up necessary infrastructure to link country's economy with the global trend of free market economy, reports BSS.

"Our avowed policy is to establish discipline and accountability in all sectors. We are nurturing a development-oriented economic culture", Begum Zia said while inaugurating a two-day national seminar on "Policy Options for Economic Breakthrough" at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

She said the cornerstone of democracy was the flourishing of private entrepreneurship. The state is now playing a complementary role, she said adding 'side by side, we are striving to enforce stringent discipline in financial sector'.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman attended the seminar as the special guest.

Jointly organised by Jatiya Press Club and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), the inaugural function was also addressed by chamber President M Morshed Khan, Press Club President Mozammel Haq and General Secretary Shaikat Mahmood.

The Prime Minister noted with satisfaction that her government had been able to mobilize 24 per cent domestic resources in the Annual Development Programme within a period of less than a year which was commended both at home and abroad.

She referred to the increased aid flow by different donor countries and agencies and said this was a clear indication of support of the international community to the ongoing democratic process and the programmes of the present government.

She said her government had identified three immediate objectives which were accelerated growth of national income, poverty alleviation and creation of employment opportunities through human resources development and self-reliance. She said "our struggle now is directed against poverty".

Begum Khaleda Zia said that the government had taken a programme for rapid industrialisation and had formulated a liberal industrial and investment policy. "We want to give particular emphasis on export-oriented industries. In this

highly competitive world there is no alternative to export for our survival," she said.

On the labour-management relations, the Prime Minister said government wanted to establish a proper linkage between wages and labour productivity. She said since 1969 our labour productivity had diminished by a staggering 30 percent whereas during the period two of the neighbouring countries had registered increases of 54 per cent and 163 per cent labour productivity respectively.

The Prime Minister said the government was relentlessly working for the development of the power and energy sector to meet the demands of industrialisation and modernization of agriculture.

"We are contemplating to formulate an appropriate and realistic energy policy keeping in mind the interest of the private sector," she said.

"We are evolving effective measures for reducing system loss and for combating load shedding," she added.

The Prime Minister said her government had accorded priority to the development of

See Page 12 Col 3

## New AL policy encourages private initiatives, says Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Sunday said that the economic policy announced by her party aimed at opening a new path for unhindered economic growth and encouraging private entrepreneurship in the country.

"Our experience and analysis have made us come to this conclusion that economic drive at present is not consistent with the monopoly of the state," she said.

Hasina was addressing a function organised by Dhan-

See Page 12 Col 7

## BCL (S-A) conference today

By Staff Correspondent

The conference of Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will be held today (Monday)

Awami League chief and the Leader of the Opposition in

See Page 12 Col 5

## Non-banking institutions law BB directed to prepare draft

By Inam Ahmed and Sohel Manzur

The government has decided to enact a new law to regulate the activities of the non-banking financial institutions, according to a Finance Ministry sources.

The Ministry of Finance, according to the source, has already directed the Bangladesh Bank (BB) to prepare the draft of the law.

The new law would provide more power to the Bangladesh Bank to monitor the activities of the institutions and take action in case of irregularities.

The draft after a review by the Ministry of Finance will be sent to the Ministry of Law. Informal sources indicated that the draft after its approval is likely to be placed in the coming budget session of Parliament.

The decision to enact a new law was taken at a meeting at the Finance Ministry in the context of the recent crisis in the financial sector that led activities of the Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI), an investment com-

pany's being suspended. Another non-banking financial company, the National Credit Limited (NCL) is also facing liquidity crisis following the recent incidents caused by various irregularities.

Incidentally, the Article 52 of the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972 gives authority to the Bangladesh Bank "to issue directions to such a financing company to furnish statements, information or particulars relating to any deposits

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## BCI challenges BB order

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) filed a case with the High Court Sunday, challenging the suspension order of the company by the Bangladesh Bank.

Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud filed the case on be-

See Page 12 Col 3

## World Bank to link future loans to military spending

WASHINGTON, May 10: The World Bank said Sunday it would assess military spending by 85 Third World countries when deciding how much to lend them in their battle against poverty, reports AP.

The nations "non-productive" spending "such as military expenditures" will help determine the bank's level of support, said a 16-page "Operational Directive" released by the bank.

Poverty reduction is the institution's overarching ob-

jective, bank President Lewis T Preston — formerly of the J P Morgan and Company bank — wrote in an introduction.

The bank made clear that the amount of loans a country can expect is linked to the strength of its own effort to reduce poverty. Greater commitment will get greater support, weaker commitment will get less support.

Japan and Germany have already made it clear that they will look into military spending when they make up their

own aid programme.

US Congressman Henry J Gonzalez of Texas, chairman of the House Banking Committee, has said he will push to take the United States out of international organizations if they keep on lending money that makes it easier for the borrowers to spend other money on arms.

The World Bank is the biggest of intergovernmental lending agencies, approving loans worth about \$124 billion a year. Its original pur-

pose was to help poor countries out of poverty. The United States owns the biggest block of shares among the 159 member countries.

Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union are now becoming members of the bank and eligible for its loans.

The World Bank must determine which of the republics are poor enough to warrant a poverty programme. If any qualify, they would have to go through a lengthy process that

would determine the need of each. While Russia itself might be considered too well developed to warrant an anti-poverty programme, some central Asian republics might qualify and welcome it.

In the past, the bank was occasionally criticized for forgetting its original anti-poverty goal. But Sven Sandstrom, one of the bank's three managing directors, said World Bank projects of the 1970s were over ambitious and there were some failures.

"In the 1980s... we focused heavily on macro-economic policies and other economic reforms to try to help countries make their economies more efficient and restore economic growth.

"In the 1990s, we see poverty reduction as the pre-eminent focus of our work." John Mitchell, a bank spokesman, said that by 1994 the bank staff expects to complete the 85 country reviews now planned.

## Body to probe Lougong incident

The government has constituted a one-man enquiry commission with former Chief Election Commissioner Justice Sultan Hussain Khan to probe into the incident that took place at Lougong under Pansori thana of Khagrachhari district on April 10, reports BSS.

The commission has been entrusted with the responsibility of determining the cause of the incident, identifying the persons responsible for it and submitting recommendations to check such incident in future.