

Dozens executed in Kabul

KABUL, May 24: Vigilante groups have executed dozens of looters and burned thousands of bottles of vodka, as Kabul's new regime sets out to erase the last traces of communism from Afghan society and replace it with Islam, reports AFP.

Bonfires of communist literature have been lit in the cities of Kabul, Herat and Jalalabad under the supervision of Islamic warriors who toppled the Soviet-installed regime last month after 14 years of war.

"They are happening everywhere," said Assem Akram, spokesman for interim President Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, when asked by reporters for directions to one such show.

Vigilante groups have executed 66 of 120 people caught plundering Kabul to instill fear among looters although Islamic laws do not provide death for theft, sources here said.

The government has not commented on the extra-judicial killings in Kabul, where several diplomatic missions and private complexes were looted in the confusion of factional fighting following the transfer of power.

Witnesses said Mujahideen soldiers had paraded men accused of trying to compromise women, flogged petty thieves and meted out instant justice on the streets of Kabul in the euphoria of ending communist rule.

Janata Tower case proceedings to resume after Eid

A bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court Sunday issued rule in the case popularly known as Janata Tower Case, involving allotment of a commercial plot at Kawan Bazar, to stay its proceedings till one week after the end of Eid-ul-Azha vacation, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice Abdul Mannan. The court will remain closed on account of Eid holidays from June 1 to June 16.

Khaleda: Convention

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Chairing by DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP, it was also addressed by more than 30 speakers, including Dhaka University VC Prof Maniruzzaman Mia, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin, Sircar, Waki, Barrister Motinul Hossain, BFUJ President Rezauddin Ahmed, DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokon, AGS Nazimuddin Alam, CUCSU VP and Chhatra League leader Azimuddin and JUCSU VP Maniruzzaman.

The Prime Minister said "violence is the greatest enemy, unless it is uprooted from society, we cannot expect the cherished development."

Referring to her meeting with major political parties on December 3 last year for discussing ways of stamping campus violence, the Prime Minister said a 7-point charter was agreed upon to combat the malaise.

The meeting also agreed to launch a drive against the terrorists in accordance with law and irrespective of party and group affiliations of the troublemakers.

But, she regretted, the resolutions adopted by the parties had failed to solve the problem.

"Who are those nurturing the terrorists for political purposes? The Prime Minister asked and asserted that her government was uncompromising on any compromise with violence.

"We have ordered the law

Saifur

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sion on overall economic situation.

Chairing by the Finance Minister the meeting was attended by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Haif, Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haque, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Commerce Minister MK Anwar, Food Minister Mohammad Shamsul Islam, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Energy and Mineral Resource Minister Dr Kh Mosharrar Hossain, Education Minister Barrister Zamir Uddin Sircar, Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah, Planning Minister AM Zahir Uddin Khan, State Minister for Textile Abdul Mannan.

School boy

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sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said, Shahabuddin was murdered in sequel to a previous quarrel with some other young boys of the area.

Dhanmondi police said they rushed to the spot and picked up six boys from the area for interrogation.

The nabbed boys were Mithu, Milton, Sentu, Tipu, Chunnun, Mansur and Jahangir. They were kept in the Dhanmondi police custody.

Mother of the victim, Monwara Begum lodged a murder case with Dhanmondi Police Station.

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Two Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Goshthi singers on stage at Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday in observance of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 93rd anniversary of birth. — Star photo

'Diplomatic goods' recovered from BCIC godown!

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption has unearthed a case of importing a huge quantity of expensive contraband luxury goods as 'diplomatic goods' through a forged bill of entry and under the name of an imaginary diplomat with a false address, reports BSS.

According to an official handout issued here Sunday, the illegal imported prestigious bohemian crystal chandeliers, from Czechoslovakia, wine glasses, flower vases and ashtrays, which were flown into Bangladesh in 14 wooden crates in 1987 when the former Industries Secretary AKM Mosharrar Hossain was the Chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

These goods were kept hidden in the BCIC godown along with other government materials on the instruction of Mosharrar Hossain.

Two Myanmar refugees killed in accident

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, May 24: At least two Myanmar refugees were killed and 12 others injured in an accident on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road on Sunday, police sources said.

The victims were going to Teknaf upazila headquarters from nearby Dumdunia Camp by a jeep which overturned near Baraitali at around 12 noon.

The dead were identified as Umar Abbas (60) and Nurunnahar (10).

India looks at visit of Begum Zia

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people have been affected and even the standing crop has wilted beyond redemption. There are only 13,000 cusecs of water available against 30,000 which flowed from 1977 to 1982 when India had guaranteed that much minimum to Bangladesh through an agreement.

However, India is not alone to blame. One part of the agreement was that both Bangladesh and India would look for alternative sources to augment water. But the two sides turned down each other's proposals. New Delhi did not agree to Dhaka's suggestion to associate Kathmandu, a third party, to build reservoirs in Nepal to increase the quantum of water. Now, to the irritation of Dhaka, India has signed such an agreement with Nepal.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar which have depleted the Ganges further by drawing more water from it are governed by opposition parties. It is difficult with West Bengal

Nazrul's birthday

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Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate both the functions as chief guest while State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum is expected to preside over the functions.

Besides the national level programme, different social and cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programme in Dhaka to celebrate the birth anniversary with laying of wreaths at the mazar of the rebel poet on the Dhaka University campus.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message Sunday described the rebel poet as "bold symbol of our national unity" and said celebration of the birth anniversary of this great poet would provide a spontaneous inspiration to consolidate national unity.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a separate message Sunday said poet Nazrul's writings against oppression and discrimination would always inspire us in building an exploitation-free happy and a prosperous Bangladesh.

Terming the poet a "bright star" in the domain of Bengali literature, Begum Zia said Nazrul's allround creative works had enriched Bengali language and literature on the one hand, and on the other expanded "the horizon of our thinking by touching common man's mind."

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has said poet Nazrul's literary works had inspired the Bengalee nation into the fight for freedom from centuries old colonial rule and social system.

In a message yesterday she

major daring long-term policies.

It is against this background that the two sides can reach some kind of an understanding that paves the way for moving forward. However, Indian sources say that whatever agreement is visualised, it should be for four to five years and that during this period, Bangladesh must have its own projects completed to augment water. The Bangladesh Irrigation Minister agreed to this when he talked to some of us during his visit to New Delhi.

However, all said and done, India has an obligation towards Bangladesh, human and political. When millions in a neighbouring country face starvation because of niggardly supply of water, India cannot think of washing away the silt from the Hooghly or making Calcutta port more operational. True, there is no contractual commitment but the human family is one. We can argue that there is less water in the Ganges and that Bangladesh should share "our inadequacies." But India

Little chances of smooth repatriation

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The official, whose identity was not available from UNHCR offices in Cox's Bazar and Dhaka. Also urged the Rohingyas to steer clear of "any movement" that would lead to their breaking the laws of the country which has given them sanctuary.

"We cannot tell you when to go back, and we depend on you tell us when you want to go back," he said.

Sources said this was in line with Dhaka's request to the UNHCR to four camps to explain what voluntary return meant and assure Rohingyas that they would not be forcibly repatriated.

Omar Faruque, the Chittagong Division Commissioner,

Musclemen clash in old city again

By Staff Correspondent

Two groups of musclemen, after a break on Saturday, again clashed in the English Road area of the city Sunday leaving at least five people injured.

The musclemen of Lal Chand Mukim Lane and Golok Pal Lane had for a long time been at loggerheads over the control of the brothel at English Road. Finally both the groups entered into bloody clashes Thursday last.

The clashing groups fired shots and exploded crackers during a one-hour clash from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm yesterday.

Police rushed on the spot, resorted to baton-charge and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the clashing groups. However no arrest was made in this connection yesterday, according to Kotwali police.

At least 50 persons were injured and around 30 people were arrested during the clashes over the last few days in the area.

Population

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Works Department said in a joint paper that nearly 40 per cent of the urban population of the country lives in Dhaka followed by Chittagong with 31.14 per cent.

The paper titled "Bastuhara settlement: attitude and response of the dwellers in a low income urban housing scheme," said that since 1985 Dhaka has needed 300,000 new housing units annually to meet the increasing demands for housing. But the target has not been reached.

The paper was presented to the SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation architects regional seminar on shelter held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo last November.

It said that if the present increase continued, Dhaka would have a 11.2 million population by the year 2000.

It said that 85 per cent of the city population lived under the poverty level while 37 per cent lived in nearly 1,500 slums around the capital.

It is also pointed out that Sutrapur and Kotwali were two of the most densely populated areas of the world accommodating more than 200,000 and 348,000 people per sq mile respectively.

Meanwhile, a project has been undertaken to prepare new master plans for the development of Dhaka and Chittagong cities.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS) is providing logistic support to the Bangladesh government for the project financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The 15-crore Taka five-year project would cover Savar, Joydebpur and Narayanganj as the Dhaka city area in the new master plan.

The first master plan for Dhaka city was prepared in 1959 but became invalid as it was not modified or implemented timely.

The Midnight File

14 blacks killed in S African violence

JOHANNESBURG, May 24: Police said Sunday that 14 blacks were killed in townships outside Johannesburg, including two youths who died when a grenade exploded as they handled it.

Black areas outside the city have accounted for much of the political violence that has claimed more than 1,000 lives nationwide this year, reports AP.

Klestil to succeed Waldheim

VIENNA, May 24: Conservative Thomas Klestil, a former ambassador to Washington, won a convincing victory Sunday in the runoff election to succeed President Kurt Waldheim and end Austria's six years of awkward isolation. Klestil, candidate of the Conservative People's Party, won easily what had been expected to be a neck-and-neck race with Social Democrat Rudolf Streicher, reports AP.

Six policemen injured in Madrid bomb blast

MADRID, May 24: A car bomb believed to have been planted by the Basque separatist group ETA exploded Sunday in central Madrid, injuring at least six policemen, authorities said. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attack, reports AP.

Hasina: Neo-autocracy

From Page 1 Col 3

on the pro-liberation camp with a design to foil the anti-Golam Azam movement as well as jeopardise national independence.

"As this government doesn't believe in democratic practice, it is instigating terrorists and anti-liberation elements to destabilise the situation and run the country in an autocratic style."

Demanding execution of the "people's court" verdict on Golam Azam, she asserted that the Bangabandhu government did never pardon those war criminals and raskars involved in killings, arson, rape and loot during the nine months of war in 1971.

In a scathing attack on Jamaat-Shibir for resorting to "unislamic" activities, she said "these evil elements who supplied women to the Pakistani occupation soldiers in 1971 have again raised their ugly heads misinterpreting Islam."

The Awami League chief asked her party workers and supporters to say prayers in mosques so that the Jamaatis could not spoil the sanctity of places of worship by using those as party offices.

Referring to economic situation, she said the government party had failed to come out with specific economic programmes to salvage the national economy from the pit of recession.

Unbridled galloping of prices of essentials has already battered the commonman, she said, adding fresh taxation on

CUCSU VP expelled from BCL (M-I)

CHITTAGONG, May 24: Chittagong University chapter of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) (M-I) today expelled Nazimuddin, a leader of BCL and Vice-President of Chittagong University Central Students Union (CUCSU) on charge of tarnishing the image of the organisation, a BCL press release said here tonight, reports BSS.

The decision to expel Nazimuddin has taken at an emergency meeting of BCL, Chittagong University Branch with Branch president Manzur Alam Shaheen in the chair.

BCL leaders Manzur Rahman, Liaquat Ali Khan, Rashidul Hyder Javed, Anup Khasiagiri, Suhrah Hussain Sohaq, SM Rashedul Alam, Kazi Sohel Haider, Shibashish Dutta Oshim and others addressed the meeting alleging that Nazimuddin was maintaining secret contact with Jamaat-Shibir and collecting illegal tolls.

Clash over lease of ferry-ghat : 15 injured

By Staff Correspondent

At least 15 people were injured as armed rivals clashed at Sadarghat area in the city Sunday over taking lease of a ferry-ghat.

Clashes started at about 11 am and continued till 5 pm. The two rival groups exploded around 100 crackers and fired gunshots during the clash.

Kotwali police rushed to the spot, resorted to baton charge and lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Police also arrested seven persons from the spot. Police however declined to disclose their names.

Of the injured, Abul Kalam, Chan Mia, Salek, Mizan, Shahabuddin, and Harun Mia were identified. Among them Harun Mia was admitted to Pongu Hospital.

Two killed in accidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons were killed in two separate road accidents at Bangla Motor and Sayedabad in the city Sunday.

Masud, 30, an employee of Pal Mal Garments died as a garbage carrying truck of Dhaka City Corporation ran him over at Bangla Motor at around 8 am.

Fatally injured Masud was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) but he succumbed to his injuries immediately after admission there.

The victim was on the way to his office at New Eskaton road from his residence at Hatirpool.

A rickshaw puller died on the spot as a speeding truck ran him over at Sayedabad at around 6 pm.

The victim was not immediately identified. He was around 30. The body was sent the DMCH morgue.

Gautam Dewan still unmoved

RANGAMATI, May 24: The Local Government Council of the district at a meeting today condemned the May 20 incident and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for it.

Twentythree out of 30 members of the council attended the meeting held for the first time since chairman Gautam Dewan resigned on May 20 following clashes between rival groups of students which left 12 injured and more than 60 houses and shops burnt.

Meeting sources told UNB that the members made fresh attempt in persuading Gautam Dewan to withdraw his resignation but he remained adamant.

The meeting demanded that victims of May 20 incident should be adequately compensated and rehabilitated.

Section 144 imposed in the town continued for the fifth day today. No untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the town.