



Awami League held a discussion meeting in observance of June 7 at its central office yesterday.

Repeal Indemnity Ordinance

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was killed on June 7, 1986, in police firing in Dhaka. They criticised the post-75 regimes for "planned distortion" of the history of the liberation struggle.

In his presidential address, Abdus Samad Azad alleged that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has been hatching conspiracy against Awami League to cover up her own failure in running the state affairs.

He also accused the government of complicity in filing the Siraj Sikdar murder case against the Awami League MPs Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim. "Such a false case was lodged only to subvert people's movement for the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance and the anti-Golam Azam campaign."

The BNP government must answer for the army officers who were killed in jail, Azad said, alleging that in the days of the Zia government 10 to 12 army officers were killed every night.

The Awami League leader also raised questions about the killing of Col Taher, Maj Gen Manjur and Maj Gen Khaled Mosharraf.

He regretted that the government had filed case of sedition against Jahanara Imam, the mother of a martyred freedom fighter, "but remains silent about self-con-

38 killed

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ing rows over family matters. But it was found that police were hardly investigating the cases.

Of the daring robberies and hijackings during last month, a currency trader, Yunus Mia, was robbed of around Taka one and a half lakh at Mughda on May 21 after he had been stabbed. Another businessman, Gomez, was robbed of Taka one and a half lakh at gunpoint at Indira road, a housewife, Shamimara, was hijacked of gold ornaments worth about Taka 30,000 at Kalabagan on May 28. The house of Makid Haider, a Deputy Secretary of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), at Uttara was also robbed of cash and goods worth about Taka about one and a half lakh. Cases were lodged with respective police stations but the criminals are yet to be nabbed, according to police.

Of the clashes, two groups of musclemen clashed in English road area on May 21, 22 and 24 to take control of a brothel situated nearby in which at least 50 persons were injured and another 30 were arrested by police. In another incident armed men left 15 people wounded when they clashed on May 24 over taking lease of a ferry ghat at Sadarghat.

Besides, two groups of students of Mirpur Bangla College clashed in and around the college several times after three teachers including the college principal were manhandled. The students of Nabakumar Institute and Madrasa-e-Alia also clashed with each other at Bakshibazar area on May 10.

Musclemen also clashed at Hazaribag, Jigatola, Mirpur, Azampur in the city last month. In several road accidents in the city, at least 16 people were killed and around 35 were injured, according to the reports published in the different dailies. Another 10 people including three students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) were drowned in the river, Buriganga last month.

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Aleya's husband taken on remand

By Staff Correspondent

Reazuddin Ahmed, husband of Tauhida Begum Aleya was brought on two-day remand by Lalbagh Police Saturday.

Police produced Reazuddin Ahmed before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court yesterday and prayed for a seven-day remand for questioning. But the Magistrate granted remand for only two days.

Tauhida Begum Aleya, wife of Reazuddin, was found dead at her husband's residence at Noor Fattah Lane at Lalbagh Friday morning.

Reazuddin's family members claimed that Tauhida was electrocuted. But when Lalbagh Police rushed to the spot they found bruises around her throat.

On suspicion that Tauhida was murdered, police immediately arrested Reazuddin on Friday.

Meanwhile, the autopsy of Tauhida's body was done at the Forensic Department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital Saturday. But they are yet to release the report, a medical source said.

Sharif murder

Our correspondent adds: Ramna police are yet to nab the killers of Sharif Ahmed Chowdhury till Saturday, according to police source.

Police recovered the bullet-ridden body of Sharif from Mymensingh Road near Sakura Restaurant Friday morning. He bore bullet holes on the chest. He was a student of Habibullah Bahar College.

Police said, they are hunting for the killers but have not yet been able to trace out anyone connected with this murder.

Next round of Dhaka-Yangon talks June 15

Bangladesh and Myanmar will hold another official level meeting at the Myanmar frontier town of Maungdaw on June 15 to expedite the process of repatriation of Rohingya Muslim refugees.

A senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told UNB yesterday that the meeting will take place in accordance with a proposal placed by Bangladesh at the last meeting in Teknaf on Thursday.

Chittagong divisional commissioner Omar Faruq is scheduled to lead Bangladesh side while the Myanmar team is expected to be headed by Director General of Immigration Department Aung Maung.

This will be the sixth round of talks between the officials of the two countries to work out modalities of the repatriation of tens of thousands of Myanmar Muslim refugees sheltered in Bangladesh.

All bodies under Debt Settlement Board suspended

All committees, constituted under the Debt Settlement Board and its activities, have been suspended until further order, reports BSS.

State Minister for Land M Kabir Hossain disclosed this in the 4th Standing Committee meeting on the Ministry of Land at the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Saturday.

Members of the Standing Committee and members of the parliament Amiruddin Ahmad, Mozbar Rahman Talukdar, Begum Rowshan Elahi, Shahiduzzaman, Enamul Haq, Shahjahan and Abu Bakar were present.

Whip Mahbub Alam MP, Ansar Ali Siddiqui MP and AKM Jahangir Hussain MP were present as special guest.

Dacoit killed in police firing

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, June 6: One alleged dacoit was killed in police firing on the river Padma near Karalgandi area of Sadarpur upazila here this morning.

Acting on a secret information a contingent of police followed the dacoits travelling on a boat in the mainstream of Padma and challenged them.

Kalam Haldar was killed in police firing during exchange of fire between the two sides.

Haldar was an inhabitant of Bandarkhola village of Shibpur upazila under Madaripur district.

Police also arrested five of the alleged dacoits Abdul Halim Shaikh, Anwar Bepari, Khaleq Siraj, Dabir Munshi and Kazi Mushfiqur. All of them hail from Shibpur upazila.



Goats on sale in Motijheel Commercial Area in city yesterday.



A woman holding a child in a cellar on Saturday during shelling on the Bosnian capital Sarajevo. The shelling took place despite the UN brokered agreement on reopening the Serb-controlled airport and the evacuation of Serbian troops from the Marshal Tito barracks in the centre of Sarajevo. Story on page 5

Retrenchment no remedy

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retrenching the workers to cover its weakness and failure.

The CPB chief strongly demanded of the government to stop giving subsidy to the process of denationalisation and fair competition between the industries in the public and the private sector.

Chaired by Manik, the rally was also addressed by the party's General Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid, its parliamentary party leader Shamsuddoha and central leaders Mujahidul Islam Selim, Nuh Ul Alam Lenin and Monturuzaman.

The CPB President bitterly criticised the government for not implementing the government-SKOP agreement and said the Sramik Karmochari Otkya Parishad (SKOP) had been compelled to go for strike following 'breach of commitment' by the government.

Manik called upon the opposition parties to launch a united movement to force the government try Jamaat Chief Golam Azam for war crimes and to protest the undemocratic activities of the government.

He also demanded repeal of the Indemnity act with a view

to establishing rule of law in the country.

Regarding the Indo-Bangladesh issues, Manik demanded cordial initiative by the government for share of Ganges water as per international river act.

He alleged that the bilateral problems of Bangladesh and India were yet to be resolved due to unwillingness of the BNP government.

Nurul Islam Nahid demanded a development-oriented budget in the coming budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad session.

He asked the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to prove the conspiracies against her government as she claimed.

Mannan denies 'dissident' group's meet at his residence

Awami League Presidium member Abdul Mannan Saturday categorically denied that a "dissident group" of the party met at his residence and decided to break away from the Awami League.

Mobile goat-sellers in Motijheel CA

By Nazmul Ashraf

Goats are now being sold in the busy Motijheel Commercial Area of the capital.

As the Eid-ul-Azha festival nears, goats have been added to items like rice, fish, vegetables, spices, fruits, poultry, clothes and books that are being illegally sold since long on the Motijheel footpaths.

Goats brought in from rural areas are now available on the footpaths along the Motijheel main street and the by-lanes creating a public nuisance especially for hundreds of officegoers.

"But it's also an opportunity for people to buy their sacrificial animals on way back from office without taking much trouble," said Billal Miah, a goat-seller.

Billal brings goats from Bhairabbar by train and sells them on the city streets.

Asked why he sold goats on the footpaths, Billal explained, "You know that the city 'haats' for sacrificial animals are yet to start operations. So we are taking the advantage."

Billal earned a profit of Taka 600 from the sale of two medium-sized goats on Tuesday.

Miah Chan came from Madhabdi of Narasingdi district. He carried goats on a truck on his first day of business Thursday.

Talking to this correspondent in front of the Agrani Bank head office, Chan informed that he also travels the city roads to sell the goats he brings.

Passers-by were seen curiously observing the unusual scene — goats tied up with ropes held by the traders on the city roads. Many stopped and asked about the prices of the animals while others just walked away looking.

Vendors regularly found at the Shapla Crossing said that they drove away the goat-sellers, who they say were encroaching on their business sites.

While observing the goat-sellers on the footpaths, this staffer of The Daily Star also questioned a policeman on duty as to how the footpaths were occupied illegally. But he ignored the query and walked away.

A buyer, an employee of Sonali Bank, seemed to be happy finding all the goods including sacrificial animals at the door of his office. "I just come out of the office, purchase my commodities without experiencing the trouble in a busy city market and start for home."

While visiting the Motijheel Commercial Area during office hours, this correspondent found goat-sellers beside the Sonali Bank head office, at different points on the footpaths and the lanes and by-lanes of Dilkusha C/A and the Toynbee Circular Road.

Unauthorised sales of daily essentials on the said spots have also tremendously increased ahead of Eid to be celebrated on June 12.

Moreover, Eid items like semai, lachchi and fine rice are also available there.

The blocked footpaths compel the passers-by to walk on the main street increasing the risk of road accidents.

Digging of roads by the WASA has contributed to the worsening of the traffic situation in the busy commercial areas.

Parking of cars has become almost-impossible along the sides of the wide streets.

Despite all these problems caused by the unauthorised vendors, the concerned authorities are silent due to reasons unknown.

On the other hand, ignoring their sufferings, members of the general public seem happy with the advantage of buying all the things they need in areas near their places of work and thus saving themselves from the hazards of city markets.

The Midnight File

Turkish troops kill 23 Kurds

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey), June 6: Turkish troops killed 23 rebel Kurds in four separate clashes in east and southeast Turkey, officials said today. They said 20 rebels of the banned Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) were killed near Uludere Town bordering Iraq after a group crossed into Turkey from bases in northern Iraq late on Friday, reports Reuter.

Romania imposes economic sanctions on Yslavia

BUCHAREST, June 6: Romania imposed economic sanctions on neighbouring Yugoslavia today in accordance with a UN trade embargo, but left-wing and nationalist critics said they were likely to damage the Romanian economy, reports Reuter.

Israeli raids on Lebanon may trigger new ME war: Syria

AMMAN, June 6: Israeli raids on south Lebanon could trigger a new Middle East war, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shara said here today ahead of an Arab Ministerial Meeting on the peace process, reports AFP.

Three cheers for Saifur

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tration which he criticised soon after he had become a Minister, the reply from Rahman was categorical. As he put it, "now, I feel more strongly and worse (about the situation) than I had pointed out last time."

Now, in matching the frankness of the Finance Minister, let us be candid in looking at some of the implications of what Rahman suggests as the declining level of efficiency in the administration.

There is little doubt that it is the inefficiency of the administration, with all its bureaucratic bottlenecks, which causes part of the frustration to the private sector which the Minister has sharply — some would say, unjustly — criticised for its lack of initiative. How it affects foreign investors and multinational companies which deal with more streamlined administrations in say, Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka is anybody's guess. And, let's face it, wherever there is an inefficient administration with too many so-called control points, there is corruption in one form or another.

So, when people in the private sector, say, "Things are not moving", they are not talking only about movement of files and those precious little notes from ministers but also about dismal delays in the formulation of policies, in the announcement of their details and, finally, about their implementation.

Hence, there has been much frustration among traders and industrialists over issues involving the Ministry of Finance and the Bangladesh Bank, such as the recovery of loans from 'defaulters', the reopening of BCCI and the mess created by a couple of investment companies. So, the fact there is a lull and a sense of uncertainty in the market place, only partially relieved by the recent reduction of bank rates, should not be denied.

In this context, to suggest as the Minister did during the interview, that private sector had become too used to ways introduced by the past authoritarian regime to change its approach seems unfair. There is more to the dilemma of the business community than what meets the eye. However, the welcome initiative taken by Rahman in promoting a dialogue with various trade bodies and even MPs should eventually produce better understanding among all concerned.

The damage done to a country by inefficiency in an administration seldom remains confined to the economy alone. In time, as in Bangladesh, it touches other aspects of national life, especially the law and order situation, education, the labour front and utility services, to name the most important areas of popular concern.

AJM colony

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Meanwhile, in a statement today, CBA President and Jatiya Sramik League Vice-President Rehanuddin Rehan and General Secretary Ismail Hossain demanded high official-level probe to unearth "the mystery" behind the fire.

The Adamjee Patkal Sramik-Karmachari Union (CBA) leaders expressed sympathy with the shelterless families of workers and employees.

They also called for the government to immediately provide compensation for the losses and urged aid agencies to extend assistance.

Meanwhile Awami League suspected that Friday night's fire at the Dhaka-Baju workers' colony of Adamjee Jute Mills was an act of arson and blamed the government for it.

"It's part of a conspiracy against the mills," the party said in a statement yesterday demanding a judicial enquiry into the incident.

AL also demanded punishment of those involved in the dastardly act and compensation to the affected people.

The statement was issued after a spot visit by a delegation of Awami League comprising Abdur Razzak, Abdul Jalil, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Fazul Haq Mantu.

Then, someone is bound to ask, "How is the country being governed?"

Minister Saifur Rahman has rendered a service by speaking out about the declining efficiency in the administration, even about the failure of various ministries in meeting their development targets. Now, it is for the Prime Minister and her colleagues in the cabinet to face the challenge posed by Rahman and start taking firm measures to change the situation.

Several ideas are being aired by well-meaning experts who may be counted among friends of the present government and admirers of Begum Khaleda Zia.

One strong impression in the country is that the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues are still playing a political role in sustaining the mass support in the countryside rather than in running the ministries. When Begum Zia is out of Dhaka almost every other day, often accompanied by two or more senior ministers, major decisions are either postponed or delayed. In some cases, some ad hoc measures are taken by civil servants, in the name of their absentee ministers.

Again, while they are in the capital, they attend several functions, some of little relevance to the responsibilities of the ministries concerned. For political reasons, they may be pleased with the media exposure, but work in their ministries remains unfinished and appointments put off.

In this context, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia seems to be the most over-burdened person, but over-burdened with avoidable political chores rather than with administrative responsibilities.

How the Prime Minister should cut down on her political activities and shift her attention to administration is for her to decide.

Should she have a Deputy Prime Minister to share her administrative burden? Should she give up the chairmanship of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to a person of her choice, who can manage the affairs of the organisation and ensure its victory at the next election? And should the office of the Prime Minister and that of the Leader of the House be separated to free Begum Zia from day-to-day parliamentary duties?

Prime Minister Begum Zia enjoys a powerful political mandate. She should stop worrying about it. Instead, she should start governing the country by setting up a strong, efficient administration. This is the need of the hour.

Security Press

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sions on how the company will run, what will be its new set up and other matters.

The members of the Board also include, the Deputy Governor of the Bangladesh Bank Mahbubur Rahman Khan, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Finance Abdul Mabin Khan, Joint Secretary of the Internal Resource Division (IRD) Nasir Uddin and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Shafiqur Rahman.

In addition a joint secretary of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications was included in the Board of Directors. His name, however, could not be confirmed.

The Managing Director of the BSSP AKM Sekander Hossain, who resigned on May 31 from the project was also included in the BSSP new set up as the managing director.

An official of the Ministry of Finance while commenting on the conversion of the BSSP into a company told The Daily Star that it was necessary as the old BSSP set up had no legal status. It was simply a project under the Bangladesh Bank, he said, adding that now (after the conversion) it would be able to take orders of any sort of security printing at home or from abroad.

The BSSP was declared laid off on May 27 by its management due to some anomalies in the project.