

Rival AJM workers clash again: 20 hurt

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 9: At least 25 persons were injured, 11 seriously, when two rival groups of workers clashed at Adamjee Nagar early this morning.

According to witnesses, the clash between the Awami League-backed Rehan group and the BNP-backed Kashem group broke out at around 5.30 am near the Sona Mian Market outside the Adamjee Jute Mills premises.

The clash a sequel to May 30 fighting that left one local Jute leader dead.

The rival groups fought with axes, knives, iron rods, sticks and other weapons and the violence soon spread to the surrounding areas up to Kadamtali, witnesses added. A large number of cracker explosions and several rounds of gunfire were heard during the fighting which lasted for over two hours.

Traffic movement on the Narayanganj-Demra road was disrupted during the period.

Shiddhirganj police said 11 persons with serious injuries were admitted to the nearby clinics. However, no cases were filed with the police.

All shops and markets remained closed as a tense situation prevailed in the area throughout the day. Several cracker blasts were also heard during the afternoon hours.

Additional police force was deployed in the area and the situation, till the writing of this report, remained calm but tense.

Our DMCH correspondent adds: Three of the injured, including two with bullet wounds, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Their conditions are stated to be critical.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing public meeting at the Naldanga Bhusan High School ground of Kaliganj, Jhenidah yesterday. — PID photo.

Govt urged to stop import of papers

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Paper Merchants' Association (BPMA) at a press conference Tuesday urged the government to stop import of papers to save the local industries from ruination.

The press conference also criticized the government move to enhance the price of newsprint.

Held at the National Press Club Tuesday at 5 pm the press conference was addressed by its president Alhaj Md Sirajuddin Dewan, general secretary Abul Hossain, treasurer Alhaj Md Abdul Hafiz, executive member M A Musa, Nazirul Islam and Md Salahuddin.

The BPMA informed that the Forest Department recently recommended for enhancement of the price of one cubic feet wood to Taka 15, implementation of which will enhance the price of newsprint once again.

Plea for national platform to combat campus violence

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association (BFTA) Tuesday called upon the government to form a national platform for working out ways to eliminate campus violence.

They also called for setting up of separate legal framework to deal with terrorism at the educational institutions.

The BFTA leaders were speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club Tuesday afternoon.

BFTA Secretary General Principal AKM Shahidullah, Joint Secretary General ABM Jonab Ali, Shahidur Rahman and Azizul Huq Shah, Office Secretary Principal Asadul Huq, Principal Md Mansurur Rahman and Principal Zahurul Islam were present at the press conference.

Giving a picture of the prevailing campus situation, the BFTA secretary general informed that about 200 educational institutions across the country had remained closed because of continued violence.

Terrorist activities by less than one per cent of students have seriously hampered lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent students, Shahidullah said.

Unabated violence on the campuses have also posed a threat to the democratic process in the country, he pointed out.

The BFTA leaders said that unhealthy competition for political clout, was the root cause of the campus violence.

They discourage student politics and instead suggested increased cultural activities of the learners and their involvement in the nation-building efforts.

The also suggested formulation of a policy for running the students unions at the educational institutions.

The BFTA leaders announced their programme to hold a seminar on 'a violence-free campus' on July 4 and July 5.

They also decided to organize a rally and submit memorandum to the Prime Minister on June 23.

PM: Corruption

From Page 1 Col 7

School premises in Kaliganj upazila of the district.

She expressed her government's determination to reach fruits of independence to people's door-steps by fulfilling BNP's all election pledges.

She also urged all to work untidily for consolidating democracy and heal the ills left over by the autocracy.

The young were made narcotic addicts during the Ershad regime and the people were kept idle, she said, adding "We want to reawaken the people."

Assuring the local people of arranging communication and electricity facilities, she also promised nationalisation of Mahtab Degree College and Salmunessa Primary School and grant for Naldanga Vshusan Pilot High School in phases.

Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam in his speech said some 35,000 progressive activists were killed by the Rakkhi Bahini, adding the people would not pay heed to Awami League.

3 public sector units likely to be disinvested

Three public sector industrial units are likely to be disinvested soon, reports UNB.

Ministry of Industries recently asked for last three years' balance sheets of Dhaka Vegetable Oil Mills, Metalex Corporation and Eagle Box Carton Manufacturing Company — the units which the authorities plan to put on sale.

Lohani

From Page 1 Col 8

Sources said the minister used to insist on sending invitations to all his Cabinet colleagues, secretaries and other senior bureaucrats for all programmes arranged in the academy premises but the Director General did not comply with the suggestions.

Lohani's argument was that sending invitations to these persons, more than 500 in number, who seldom attend the programmes, resulted in an empty auditorium which has 700 seats, during the shows.

The transfer order stated that he would be appointed at the PIB in a 'suitable post' but the organisation has only one equivalent post, Director General, now held by Ahmed Humayun.

Humayun, who took over several months ago, is unlikely to be replaced, leading to speculations that Lohani would be asked to join as Associate Editor, a position that carries 'the same salary' but not the same rank and status.

Asked, a former editor of Rajshahi-based Dainik Barta, Lohani said he was not unhappy and he was ready to join as Associate Editor, "my old profession."

"I won't lose... salary is the same."

Appointment, transfer

Brigadier Mohammad Anwar Hossain has been appointed Director General of Bangladesh Rifles on deputation, according to an official handout here yesterday, reports BSS.

The service of Brigadier Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, who was appointed Chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board on deputation, has been placed under Armed Forces Division for his suitable appointment in the army.

The Service of Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Kamal Lohani has been placed under Information Ministry for his suitable appointment in the Press Institute of Bangladesh.

Director of Radio Bangladesh Mobarak Hossain Khan has been appointed Director General of (current charge) Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on deputation.

Officer on special duty (Joint Secretary) of Establishment Ministry Golam Mortza has been appointed Director of Shrimp Culture Project under Fisheries and Livestock Ministry on deputation.

JCD-BCL clash: 15 injured

FARIDPUR, June 9: At least 15 people were injured, one seriously, in a clash near Thana Road today between the activists of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra League, reports UNB.

All Ashraf, Vice President of Rajendra University College Students' Union, received serious head injury in the clash and was admitted in a private clinic.

The Midnight File

Floods claim 63 in Iran

NICOSIA, June 9: Floods have killed 63 people and destroyed 12,000 houses in Iran recently, a senior official told Iran's news agency IRNA in the northeast city of Mashhad. At least 17 people died in Mashhad last weekend, Iranian radio reported earlier, reports Reuter.

Rains kill seven in India

NEW DELHI, June 9: Monsoon rains have killed seven people, flooded low-lying areas and forced about 1,000 families to flee their homes in southern India, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today. The deaths have been reported since Sunday, when torrential rains began lashing the coastal state, heralding the arrival of long-awaited monsoons in the country, the news agency said, reports AFP.

What has Saifur

From Page 1 Col 7

development partners, complain that the government is not efficient enough to utilize the aid. Government sources claim, the aid conditionalities in most cases impede the aid utilisation.

The donors are also insisting on introducing market economy and privatising most of the public sector corporations.

A study by the Autonomous Bodies Monitoring Cell of the Ministry of Finance says that of the 24 corporations, 12 are incurring loss every year. Among the loss making enterprises, the most prominent are the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (Tk 3.6 billion), Bangladesh Power Development Board (Tk 2.3 billion), The Bangladesh Jute Corporation (Tk 1.4 billion), and Bangladesh Iron Corporation (Tk 0.8 billion). If the loss of Tk 1.5 billion of the Bangladesh Railway is included, the total losses would reach Tk 11.1 billion, 31 per cent of the annual foreign project aid disbursement. The World Bank feels "Public Enterprise reform thus offers perhaps one of the best opportunities for breaking out of the stagnant resource position which Bangladesh finds itself in."

The economy of the country, economists feel, has failed to grow either in terms of export requirement or internal demand. The country is always having an unfavourable balance of payment. The export value was 710.7 million US\$ in 1980-81 against import value of 2533 million US\$. The export and import value for the financial year 1990-91 stood at 1692 and 3470 million US\$ respectively.

Efficiency is another area where economy is faltering. Low factor productivity in both labour and capital is one of the most damaging characteristics of the economy. Against these and many others backgrounds, the government is giving the final touch to the budget proposals for the next financial year. There is no Aladins lamp to improve the economy of the country though the government of Prime Minister Begum Zia is committed to streamline the economy and improve the lot of the majority.

Privatisation is a major issue being debated aggressively by the government and the opposition. But the experiences with privatisation are also not pleasing. Nevertheless, over the past one year, the revenue collection has improved substantially contributing to the ADP. The foreign exchange reserve of the country is up but it is lying idle indicating warning.

In a pre-budget public relation, the government has reduced the interest rates of banks but the lending rates have not been reduced much.

It is expected there would be more offers to the investors and the tax base would be broadened further affecting the middle class consumers.

It has become evident that budget proposals would invite criticisms from the opposition but the government has no option but to face that situation for the time being.

From Page 1 Col 7

not say what happens to the briefcase after the presentation is over.

Besides, in a parliamentary system, the Leader of the Opposition is taken into confidence before the budget is announced. The government is yet to decide on that course of action, sources said.

The size of the first revenue budget of the country was Tk 223.55 crore with a surplus of Taka 10.44 crore. During the period of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the size of the revenue budget increased on an average by 66.84 per cent, during Ziaur Rahman's time by 21.42 per cent and during Ershad's time by 13.76 per cent. But the revenue budget for 1976-77 had a negative increase of 4.77 per cent over that of 1975-76.

The revenue budget is always shown surplus with the development programme (ADP) increasingly becoming dependent on foreign aid. The size of the ADP increased from Taka 2369 crore in 1980-81 to Taka 7150 crore during the current year. A small percentage of this is financed from the surplus of the revenue budget.

Whatever is the size of the revenue budget or the flow of foreign aid, over the past two decades the economic growth of the country averaged about 4 to 5 per cent per annum. Economists are of the opinion that to reduce the overwhelming poverty, gross domestic product (GDP) needs to grow in excess of 5 per cent per annum over the next decade.

Since the '80s, the budgets have chronic deficits. The deficit, however, was reduced from 9 per cent of the GDP in 1981-82 to 7.1 per cent in 1991-92. This was achieved principally through restraints in development (annual development programme) spending, but not in current expenditures and to a lesser extent through a marginal improvement in revenue. Current expenditures as a percentage of GDP rose from 5.6 per cent in 1981-82 to a peak of 8.6 per cent in 1990-91, while development expenditures as a percentage of GDP declined from 10.1 per cent to 6.3 per cent over the same period.

The aid-flow and utilization scenario had never been satisfactory. The percentage of disbursement of foreign aid available did not cross 50 per cent since 1971-72 but the percentage change of debt service liabilities (including medium, long and short-term) to GDP went on increasing over the years. It was 5.6 per cent of GDP in 1973-74 and reached 50.6 per cent in 1989-90.

During the current financial year the total debt service payment is expected to be 22.8 per cent and 38.7 per cent of the total foreign exchange receipts and total export earnings respectively. During the 1990-91 financial year the total debt service payments were 20.4 per cent and 37.2 per cent respectively of total foreign exchange receipts and total export earnings.

Donors, these days called

From Page 1 Col 4

until the repatriation was over.

Alli also ruled out rumours that Myanmar authorities had taken away lands of the fleeing Rohingyas.

He informed that Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman would meet his Myanmar counterpart Ohn Gyaw in Rio, both attending the Earth Summit.

Rahman is also to meet Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ali said.

A BTV crew will be in Arakan next Sunday and Monday to obtain documentary evidence of the efforts made by Myanmar.

Dhaka, Yangon

agreement was implemented.

The Congress (I), he said, could also go there separately or jointly to explain the entire thing to the people.

Another report says, the Congress (I) today refused to join the all-party delegation to visit Tinbigha in view of what it said "unprovoked police firing and massive rigging by the CPI (M) in yesterday's by-poll in Ballygunge Assembly constituency.

CLP (I) sources said that the Congress (I) did not like to accompany the CPI (M) which sponsored violence and rigging in Ballygunge seat. The people would misunderstand us if we go to Tinbigha with the CPI (M) at this stage.

Meanwhile, the state's Information and Cultural Affairs Minister, Buddhadeve Bhattacharya, alleged that the CLP (I) leader, SS Ray, had 'failed' the initiative of the all-party delegation's visit by 'declining' to join it. Consequently, such a visit stood cancelled, he said. The date for such visit was supposed to be fixed at today's all-party meeting.

Biman Calcutta flights cancelled

Bangladesh Biman Flight No. BG 091/092 and BG 093/94 of June 10 have been cancelled due to general strike in Calcutta, reports BSS.

Passengers booked to travel on those two flights have been requested to contact Biman reservation for alternate booking, a Biman press release said.

Rajesh Khanna elected Cong-I suffers major blows in byelections

NEW DELHI, June 9: India's ruling party today won the prestigious New Delhi parliamentary constituency, but suffered major blows elsewhere in the country in byelections to state legislatures, news reports said, reports BSS.

The Congress (I)'s Rajesh Khanna, a former movie superstar, was declared elected here, defeating Shatrughan Sinha of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) by 28,256 votes.

"This is a victory for the politics of stability," a beaming Khanna, 48, told reporters after the results were announced, before setting out with scores of cheering party supporters in a victory convoy.

Sinha is also a former movie actor, and the fiercely-contested Khanna-Sinha battle was widely seen as the highlight of the by-elections held Monday to pick 19 provincial lawmakers and two federal parliament MPs.

Added Vidya Charan Shukla, a federal minister: "This is the beginning of the downfall of BJP in northern India."

The BJP, India's main opposition party whose senior leader LK Advani narrowly defeated Khanna last year in New Delhi, conceded defeat. Advani later vacated the seat.

But the Congress (I) lost five out of eight state assembly seats while counting of votes had been completed, winning only two while another was bagged by a Muslim ally, PTI reported.

Its candidates lost narrowly to an independent and to the BJP in two states, while it was trounced in three other constituencies.

But the Congress (I)'s D R Patil drubbed a centrist opposition nominee by more than 26,000 votes in the southern state of Karnataka, while the all retained another seat in neighbouring Kerala Province, defeating a communist.

The Congress also scored an easy win against the BJP in one of three seats which went to the polls in southern Andhra Pradesh, home to Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao.

The autonomous election commission ordered a temporary halt to vote-counting in six assembly seats, where election violence left three people dead and several injured. Details from other constituencies, including the parliamentary seat of Girdih in eastern India, were not available.

Police raid DU halls

From Page 1 Col 5

ble for Sunday's firing on the campus.

A heavy contingent of police rounded the Saltmullah Hall, Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall and the Jagannath Hall of the university at about 7-30 am and began the search for unauthorised weapons and men involved in Sunday's incident.

However, the three-hour search failed to recover weapons or haul any of the campus terrorists.

Meanwhile, teachers, officials and employees of the university will hold a grand rally and organise a procession against campus violence after resuming classes following the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

An emergency general meeting of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) Tuesday decided to hold the grand rally to register the concern of the teachers and officials of the university because of continued violence on the campus.

The DUTA meeting demanded the government to compensate the injured school children and bear their medical expenses.

At least three children of Udayan School and Nilkhet Primary School were injured in bomb blasts on the Dhaka University campus Sunday.

The acting president of Awami League and Deputy Leader of the House Abdus Samad Azad Tuesday visited the injured Johnney Paul and Tapash Roy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The acting General Secretary of Awami League Amir Hossain Amu, Obaidul Kader and Mukul Bose accompanied Azad to the hospital.

The leaders spent some time with the injured kids, and wished them early recovery.

The Awami League leader demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in injuring the children and called for building up social resistance against the terrorists.

The school students' guardians, school teachers and fourth class employees of Dhaka University Tuesday took to the campus streets protesting continued violence.

The also held a rally, Presided over by Fourth Class Employees Association President M Nurul Islam, the rally was addressed among others by Syed Ismail Hossain, M Bazlur Rahman, A Malek, M Abu Zamal Khan, M A Rahman and Babu Fekul Ghosh.

They called upon the government to ensure safety to the lives and properties of the dwellers of Dhaka University.

They also submitted separate memoranda to the Prime Minister and the DU Vice Chancellor.

Meanwhile, various political organisations and student bodies have condemned the Sunday's incident of bomb blasts and shootout and unabated acts of terrorism on the campus.

Bangladesh Chhatra League Tuesday morning held a protest rally in front of the Madhur Canteen of the university.

BCL(M-I) General Secretary Iqbalur Rahim, DU Unit President Khzair Hayat Mahmud and General Secretary Panikaj Devnath spoke at the rally condemning the attack on the innocent children by a section of "identified terrorists" Sunday.

Leaders at the rally requested the government for not taking any action against the armed hoodlums of the Dhaka University.

Rahim also demanded resignation of the Home Minister for failing in his responsibilities and accused him of supplying weapons to the terrorists to foster violence on the campus.

Meanwhile, various political organisations and student bodies Tuesday expressed their grave concern and resented Sunday's incident.



The Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury receiving the Malaysian Air Chief Lt General Dato Seri Haii Mohammad Yunus Mohammad Bin Tasi (left) who arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning with relief goods for the Rohingya Refugees in two aircraft of the Royal Malaysian Air Force. — Star photo.

Four killed in city in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least four people including a minor boy were killed in separate incidents in the city during last two days.

A businessman, Abu Zafar, 40, was killed as a speeding truck ran over him at Sayadabad area Tuesday afternoon.

Fatally injured Zafar was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries last night.

Shah Alam Mridha, a 60 year old shopowner, who was severely beaten at his shop at Manikdi Bazar, Dhaka cantonment, last Saturday, succumbed to his injuries on way to DMCH yesterday.

A minor boy Yaseen 10 was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck near Amin Bazar bridge Monday afternoon.

An employee of Barisal Jute Mills, Mizanur Rahman, 30 was killed as a minibus and a jeep collided, head on at Khilkhet on the Bishaw Road Monday evening, Mizanur Rahman was on the jeep.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports: Aaur Rahman, 20, died on the spot when a Demra bound bus knocked him down at Kilarpur at around 2 pm Tuesday.

Two killed in Gournadi bus mishap

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, June 9: A senior bank official and a police officer were killed and another five passengers injured when a minibus slammed into a roadside tree at Gournadi upazila on the Faridpur-Barisal Highway today.

According to witnesses, the driver of the newspaper carrying minibus from Dhaka lost control and struck a roadside tree when one of the front-wheel tyres burst open near Kasherabad at around 8 am.

Gournadi Thana identified the dead as the senior Principal Officer of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Raisuddin Molah(40), and the Second Officer of Goolondo Thana, Najmul Huq (35). Police said they died on way to the Barisal Medical College Hospital.

Malaysian relief goods for Rohingyas

Two transport planes of the Royal Malaysian Air Force arrived here yesterday with 22,000 kilograms of relief goods for the Rohingya Muslim refugees, reports BSS.

The Assistant Secretary General of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society Clin Rozells handed over the relief goods to the chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal MP at a simple ceremony at the Zia International Airport in the morning. He also presented a cheque of US dollar 85,000 to the chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Earlier, the chief of air staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury received the chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force, Lt General Dato Seri Hajt Mohammad bin Tasi who personally flew one of the C-130 transport planes carrying the relief goods.

The relief materials collected by the family welfare association of the Malaysian Armed Forces included: apparel for men, women and children.

The RMAF aircraft is scheduled to leave Bangladesh today.