

10 injured, vehicles damaged Gunshots, blasts rock Purana Paltan area

By Staff Correspondent

Ten people including two policemen were injured and several vehicles damaged when a group of armed men fired gunshots, exploded crackers and pelted stones at Purana Paltan area Wednesday evening.

Gunshots and blasts rocked the area while a procession of Jatiya Jubo Command was passing through the area at the end of a meeting in support of the hartal on June 20.

The central office of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at Purana Paltan also came under attack. CPB leaders claimed that four crackers were hurled inside the office by the activists of the Jubo Command.

Police rushed to the spot, resorted to baton charge and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the attackers and brought the situation under control immediately.

Motijheel police, however, could not confirm any report of arrest in connection with the incident till 10 last night.

Of the injured, Suriya, 25, an employee of Venus Garments sustained injuries while going back home from her work place. She was hit and injured by cracker splin-

ters and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Two policemen, constable Rustam and Sub-inspector Asgor also reportedly sustained minor injuries during the incident.

Meanwhile, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Nurul Islam Naheed, president and general secretary of CPB respectively, in a press release last night condemned the attack on their central office and demanded immediate measures by the government against the attackers.

In another joint statement B M Nazmul Haq and Abu Naser Mohammad Rahamatullah, president and general secretary of Jatiya Jubo Command, and nine other politicians of different parties including Anwar Jahid of National Democratic Party and A S M Solayman of Krishak Sramik Party claimed that the attack was made on the procession of Jatiya Jubo Command from the direction of CPB office and Nirmul Committee office. They condemned the attack and demanded punishment to the attackers.



Five-party alliance brought out a procession in the city yesterday in support of June 21 hartal. — Star photo

Hearing of case against 'Gana Adalat' men June 23

The stay of the proceedings of session case No. 120 of 1992 pending in the court of Additional District Judge, 1st Court Dhaka, against 21 accused persons, the sponsors of "Gana Adalat" was Wednesday extended till June 23 by a High Court Division Bench, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman.

Dr. Kamal Hussain, counsel of the petitioners, Wednesday rose before the court for hearing the application for quashment and to obtain a rule.

Assistant Attorney General A K M Shamsul Karim appeared for the state and submitted that senior Advocate T I Khan specially appointed by the government to appear in this case and was now out of Dhaka. Khan will be back on June 22 and he may be available on June 23.

After hearing both the sides the court fixed the date for hearing on June 23 and consequently the stay order which earlier granted was also extended till June 23.

All the accused are now on bail, earlier granted by a High Court Division Bench till hearing of the case.

Deputy Attorney General A F M Shahid was also present in the court.

Withdraw troops from CHT: Five-Party

By Staff Correspondent

The Five-party alliance on Wednesday demanded withdrawal of troops from three hill districts and suggested opening a dialogue involving parties concerned to resolve the crisis.

A quasi-military rule remained in force since a long time and it is proved in last 20 years that military measures to curb the tribal insurgency is not helpful to resolve the crisis," Rashed Khan Menon MP, the new convener of the alliance told newsmen at a press conference at the alliance's Tophkana Road central office.

He said that the answer to the crisis lies with a political solution but the successive governments spend Taka 500 crore annually on troops deployment.

Menon said that he would raise the issue in the parliament for general discussion to work out ways and means for holding the dialogue.

Alliance leaders Nirmal Sen, Moinuddin Khan Badal, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Khalequzzaman, A F M Mahbubul Huq and Naim Jahangir were present at the press conference held following a visit to the region by a Five-party leader.

The Five-party alleged that the then Awami League government initiated the trouble

by asking the tribals to become Bangladeshis.

The situation deteriorated during the government of late president Ziaur Rahman as he took up a programme to rehabilitate non-tribal settlers in the region. Ershad government signed agreements with tribal leaders of its choice but the situation remained unchanged.

"Their existence must be recognised in the constitution although they are tribal minority," Menon said adding that "we also asked the tribal leaders to sever relation with India and join the dialogue."

The matter must be settled inside the country, not outside of the border."

Citing recent Lougang incident the alliance leader demanded inquiry into all alleged violations of human rights in the region.

Menon said that the relationship between tribals and non-tribals and Shantibahini activists reached such a stage that many more "Lougang incidents" may occur in the area if the peace initiative is delayed.

Five-party leader said that a large number of army officers and soldiers died in the anti-insurgency operation but the country men were kept ignorant of the death reports.

Low formed over Bay

By Staff Correspondent

A well-marked low has formed over northwest Bay on Wednesday, which may intensify into a monsoon depression and move in a northwesterly direction. Meteorological office said.

The weak depression whose centre has not yet been located, would cross the north Orissa region and south-southerly squally wind with a speed of upto 40 to 52 kmph may affect the Mongla Port.

The Port of Mongla has been advised to hoist cautionary signal No 3.

There is nothing to worry about the depression as it is very weak but under its influence Bangladesh will receive heavy rains within a couple of days," a Met official said over telephone.

Meanwhile, after two days of sultry weather, parts of the country receive rain on Wednesday.

In Dhaka 33 mm of rain was recorded in 24 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday, which was 64 mm in Teknaf, 30 mm in Khulna, 25 mm in Sathkhira, 15 mm in Srimangal, 14 mm in Jessore, 8 mm in Cox's Bazar, 6 mm in Pataakhali, 5 mm each in Bogra and Tangail, 3 mm in Comilla and 2 mm in Matjdee Court.

7 traders held for smuggling

SIRAJGANJ, June 17: Police arrested today seven businessmen of the town who were wanted on charge of smuggling, reports UNB.

They are Shahjahan alias Jinal, the owner of Sirajganj Cloth Society, Shyamal Pal, a local sugar and spice trader, Gopal Chandra, the proprietor of Pragati Store, Hasan Ali, the owner of Hasan Store, Dilip Kumar, gold trader, Gair Sankar, the owner of the biggest stationery shop in the town.

Dolphin caught in Sitalakhya

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 17: An attempt to save the life of a dolphin caught by a fisherman in the river Sitalakhya failed today as the mammal died.

A fisherman, Oli, caught the dolphin, about three and a half feet long and weighing about 10 kg from the river in front of the BIWTC bungalow.

When he hauled the dolphin ashore, the local people recognized it. They put the animal in a puddle dug by them. The people also brought medicine from the local veterinary hospital and applied it over the wounds in the body of the dolphin. But the mammal died despite their best efforts.

The dead dolphin was later brought to the local press club for exhibition.

Growth

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down to Taka 4050 crore. The government, to expedite the development process, has decided that physical planning of all activities during the coming year will have to be completed by 31 July.

During the current financial year 876 projects were included in the ADP. Out of which, government estimates, 142 projects would be completed before the year is out.

Meanwhile, failure to combat poverty came up for critical evaluation during the meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) held on Monday to finalise the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the coming financial year.

Three of the senior ministers questioned the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation programme implemented so far and asked for number of people benefited so far, according to authoritative sources. One of the ministers observed that despite the continuity of the programme the situation had become more depressing and felt that dependence on foreign aid had kept the problem alive.

Another minister commented that the block money earmarked for poverty alleviation was not enough. Supporting this contention another minister observed that only 10 per cent of the money meant for poverty alleviation reached the poor. The rest went to middlemen or was spent for other purposes, he added.

The ADP for 1992-93 was approved in a meeting of the NEC presided over by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The summary prepared for the meeting says that to alleviate poverty an investment of Taka 178 crore will be made in 36 projects during the coming year.

Replying to charges, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said that employment generation was more important than allocation of money to fight poverty. He further added that by the year 1995 the country would be in a position to fund 35 per cent of the ADP from own resources which would lead the country to the road of self-sufficiency.

The Midnight File

OIC meeting on Muslim Slavs in Bosnia begins

ISTANBUL, June 17: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) began an extraordinary three-day meeting here today to discuss the plight of Muslim Slavs in the war-torn former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The meeting, attended by government officials from 37 Islamic countries, is to consider backing for peace efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and support for possible international military intervention, reports AFP.

48 killed as military bus, oil tanker collide

CAIRO (Egypt), June 17: A military bus and a fuel oil tanker collided and caught fire Wednesday near a Mediterranean port, killing 48 and injuring 15, police said. The accident occurred about 20 miles (30 kilometres) west of Mersa Matruh, officials said. Several military installations are in the area, about 110 miles (180 kilometres) from the Libyan border. Six civilians and 42 soldiers died in the crash, officials said. Most of the bodies were reported badly burned, reports AP.

SPORTS: LATEST

Dutchmen face Germans today

GOTEBORG, Sweden, June 17: With their title at stake, the Netherlands find a familiar rival in their last European Championship Group Two match Thursday — World Cup champions Germany, reports AP.

Unless Holland win, the quadrennial championship may have to do without Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit. The Commonwealth of Independent States is favoured against Scotland and could squeeze past the Dutch into the semifinals.

Four years ago, the Netherlands spotted Germany's plans to conquer the European Championship title at home with a 2-1 semifinal victory and the Dutch went on to win their first major soccer title.

On Thursday, the two rivals clash again, but this time the classic matchup comes earlier than last time, and will decide which two teams advance to the semifinals from Group Two.

"We will go for a win, that's clear," Dutch coach Rinus Michels said.

The Germans lead the group with three points, and a draw will be enough to earn them a semifinal berth.

PM: Opposition

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by the members. Khandaker Delwar Hossain reminded the members of a past incidence when the party was defeated on a division vote on, formation of naval police for the coastal areas.

Begum Zia briefed her party MPs about the coming budget and said that for the first time the budget would increase allocation to meet development expenditures.

When asked by a member about the timing of the municipal elections, the Prime Minister said that the elections would be held around October this year.

Begum Zia looked very confident and was in a jovial mood during the meeting, sources added.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting Salam Talukder said that the meeting held general discussions including today's order of the day of the budget session. All the Treasury Bench members have been asked to attend the session in time, he added.

He said that BNP Parliamentary Party would hold further meetings during the period of the session to discuss provisions of the new budget after it was placed.

Answering questions about the possibility of the oppositions-boycotting the session the Secretary General said: "We believe they should come. The parliament does not belong to the ruling party alone. They (referring to the opposition) also have a responsibility."

On the issue of Golam Azam, he said that the matter was subjudice as rules have been issued on his detention and restraining his deportation by the government, hence the government cannot do anything in this regard.

On the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill, Salam Talukder said: "We will take a decision on the basis of the parliamentary committee-level decision."

A fuller report from Washington by M Syeduzzaman, a former finance minister of Bangladesh, and a Guest Columnist of this paper will appear on Saturday.

Power projects

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The government is also trying to mobilise the funds against some of the projects on a bilateral agreement basis with some countries, the sources add.

The government will have to, however, collect the funds in local currency from its own resource, the sources mention.

Meanwhile, the Power Development Board (PDB) in a recent report on the power sector stressed the need for strong measures by the government to implement the planned new projects.

The report says that the PDB is not well equipped to deal with the enhanced demand for energy and that is why it should be made more powerful.

The report also says that at this moment it will not be possible for the PDB to provide funds and the government itself will have to take the responsibility to collect funds in local currency to implement the planned projects.

The report also mentions that the PDB is now burdened with loans and it has become difficult for it to pay the gas and fuel costs it needs to run the existing projects.

According to the estimate of the PDB, the country will have to face a 200-megawatt enhanced demand for electricity each year and it needs Taka 1690 crore each year to meet the demand.

The PDB, however, excluded the Value Added Tax (VAT), being imposed on the imports for the projects.

The projects under the Fourth Five Year Plan (FFYP)

include, Ghorashal Thermal Power Station Extension (210 mw), Chittagong Thermal Power Station (210 mw), Fenchuganj Combined Cycle (two units of 60 and 30 mw), Ashuganj Combined Cycle (30 mw), Ghorashal Thermal Power Station Extension-6 (210 mw), Mymensingh Gas Turbine (100 mw), Meghnaghat Thermal Power Station-1 (300 mw), Meghnaghat Thermal Power Station-2 (300 mw) and Barapukuria Thermal Power Station-1 (300 mw).

Of the projects, Ghorashal Thermal Power Station Extension-5, Chittagong Thermal Power Station and Fenchuganj Combined Cycle (two units) are under construction and the expected dates of their commissioning are December 1993, July 1993 and March and December 1995.

The former USSR and OECF financed the Ghorashal and Fenchuganj projects respectively.

Meanwhile, the International Development Agency (IDA) has committed funding the rehabilitation of the existing power plants in the country.

Weinberger indicted

WASHINGTON, June 17: Former US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger was indicted on Tuesday on five criminal charges stemming from the Iran-Contra scandal that rocked Ronald Reagan's presidency, reports Reuter.

Surprise arms cut

From Page 1 Col 4

in destruction of its ballistic missile systems, Bush said. These are the weapons that for decades represented the threat of a world consumed by nuclear holocaust.

Each side now has more than 10,000 of these warheads. They would be cut by two-thirds under the new agreement, which was subject of intense negotiations on Monday night by Secretary of State James Baker and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

The cuts would go far beyond the reductions under the not-yet ratified strategic arms reduction treaty. The United States' ceiling on strategic warheads is about 8,500 and for Russia 6,500.

Bush and Yeltsin opened their summit promising to forge a new era of cooperation between two former enemies. Bush, asked why the nuclear weapons were needed at all if the two countries were friends, said, "who knows what lies out there ahead?"

"The cold war days are over and he came here in a spirit of forward movement on these arms control agreements and that speaks for itself," he said.

Yeltsin said the cuts would come in two phases. Under the first phase, each side will go down to a range of between 3,800 and 4,250 warheads, and to 3,000 to 3,500 in the second phase.

The agreement would get rid of what Bush called the "World's most dangerous weapons" — heavy intercontinental Ballistic Missile Systems (ICBMS).

This apparently would eliminate Soviet land-based SS-18 missiles, considered the most potent in Moscow's arsenal, as well as make cuts in US multi-warhead missiles based in submarines, a move for

which Moscow has pushed for years.

US officials who briefed reporters after the announcement used words like "amazing" to describe the agreement.

Yeltsin said each country could elect the figure within the range that it considers appropriate to assure its defence and security.

He said Russia "cannot afford" to pursue an arms race when "half of its population" is living below the poverty line.

A senior US official said the two sides would have treaty written within weeks that Bush can submit for approval to Congress.

Taking up another lingering cold war dispute, Bush said Yeltsin had told him his government may have information about missing American prisoners of war from Vietnam. Bush vowed to give the issue "highest priority."

Yeltsin had said in a television interview on Monday that some US captives from the Vietnam war were taken to the Soviet Union and might still be alive.

The Soviet Union had never admitted holding any Americans from that war although it imprisoned hundreds of them during and after world war two.

NATO welcome today the agreement reached by Russia and the United States to make deep cuts in their arsenal of nuclear warheads.

"These far-reaching reductions will make a further contribution to enhancing global security," NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner said in a statement.

He also said the agreement was a promising step in the new relationship that has developed between the United States and Russia.



Students of Mirzapur College broke windscreens of four public buses in a clash with transport workers. The clash forced disruption in road communications on Dhaka-Tangail Highway yesterday. — Star photo

Khaleda-Samad Azad meet fails

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first sitting of the budget session in protest against "Khaleda Zia's indifference to opposition demands." The ALPP meeting resumes at 11 this morning.

Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party has already announced that they would abstain from joining the first sitting of the budget session to register their protest against the government's continued refusal to allow JP chairman Ershad to attend parliament.

A senior AL leader, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star last night that the opposition was likely either to boycott the first sitting or to stage a walkout immediately after the session begins at 3 pm today to protest against what he described as the government's undemocratic attitude towards the opposition. He, however, said that final decision would be taken in consultation with other opposition parties today.

The meeting between the Prime Minister and the deputy leader of the opposition began at 5-44 pm and ended at 6-43 pm.

According to sources, the AL leader's demands include trial of Golam Azam under the International Crimes Act, 1973, withdrawal of cases against 24 prominent persons

associated with the "people's court" which "tried" Golam Azam, ensuring due honour to the leader of the opposition in parliament and assurance of democratic behaviour to the opposition parties.

Although JP representative in the combined meeting of the opposition earlier requested the deputy leader of the House to press for the JP demand to release Ershad, Samad Azad, however, did not raise the issue in his meeting with Khaleda Zia. The Indemnity Repeal Bill, however, came up in the discussion.

After the hour-long meeting with the Prime Minister, Samad Azad briefing the newsmen said "Since the last session of parliament there was no progress with regard to the four-point opposition demand," adding, "our expectations were not fulfilled." He did not elaborate.

Besides, they were at liberty to have dialogue with the government to solve this problem, she added.

On the Indemnity Repeal Bill, the Prime Minister told Samad Azad that this issue should be settled in the concerned parliamentary standing committee that had been formed earlier comprising MPs belonging to both the ruling party and the opposition including Awami League.

The Prime Minister, however, was not convinced about the ruling party's undemocratic behaviour towards the opposition parties in and outside parliament, BNP sources said.

BNP secretary general Barister Abdus Salam Talukder, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Food Minister Shamsul Islam were present in the meeting.

The combined meeting was attended by Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, Rahamat Ali and Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder of AL, Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party, Suranjit Sengupta of Gonotantri Party, Manirul Hoque Chowdhury of Jatiya Party and independent member Nurul Islam Moni.

CPB leader Shamsuddoha joined the meeting at a later stage.

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প্রধান কার্যালয়
ঢাকা।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ আগামী ২৯ জুন '৯২ অপরাহ্ন ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় অনুষ্ঠিত বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সহকারী পরিচালক/সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক ও অফিসার পদে নিয়োগের জন্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষা আগামী ৪ঠা জুলাই '৯২ রোজ শনিবার অপরাহ্ন ৩.০০ ঘটিকার পূর্ব নির্ধারিত স্থানে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে।

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