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Anti-repatriation refugees go on rampage Three Rohingyas killed in police firing

By Farid Hossain

At least three Rohingyas were killed on Friday when police opened fire to disperse several thousand refugees protesting their planned repatriation to Myanmar, officials said.

The trouble occurred at Duapalong in Ramu when about 2,000 militant refugees, some of them holding guns, clashed with police to leave their makeshift camp for staging street protests against repatriation, officials reached by telephone in Cox's Bazar said.

The officials said police opened fire in self-defence after some demonstrators used

guns wounding Additional Superintendent of Police Mesbahun Nabi and three constables. Police earlier failed to break up the demonstrators with batons.

Police said two refugees died on the spot, while another succumbed to bullet wounds on way to hospital. It was not immediately known how many people were injured during the three-hour fight.

According to doctors, six refugees and three policemen have been hospitalised with serious injuries.

Police arrested about 200 refugee demonstrators and

seized lethal weapons from many of them.

The Rohingyas have been staging protests on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway since Bangladesh sent 47 refugees back home Tuesday, marking the start of a delayed repatriation of 265,000 people who fled military persecution in Arakan.

A repatriation of the refugees were scheduled to start from May 15, but it was put off following similar protests that left at least 10 people killed.

In sending the 47 refugees back home, the authorities

kept the entire process secret apparently fearing violence.

The demonstrators urged the government to halt further repatriation and bring back those who have already returned home.

During Friday's protests the demonstrators rampaged through Duapalong camp destroying huts, canvas tents, damaging relief office and injuring the Camp-in-Charge A R Majumder. They also blocked the traffic on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway for several hours before reserve police arrived and cleared the road.

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Shantibahini-liaison body talks Govt orders troops out from venue

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Sept 25: In a move to facilitate the September 28 preparatory meeting between Shantibahini and Liaison Committee, the Bangladesh authorities have ordered troops out from five camps at Dudukchhari, the venue of the talks.

Dudukchhari is a hamlet near Loughong border outpost under Panchhari upazila in Khagrachhari district.

The order for troops withdrawal came into effect from today.

The withdrawal order provides the removal of over 300 members of the security force from five camps in addition to suspension of all military activities in and around the place of preparatory meeting between Shantibahini and Liaison Committee members, official

sources added. The order came in line with the condition placed by Shantibahini for keeping the meeting venue free from government troops three days ahead of the meeting and two days after the meeting, officials said.

The preparatory meeting is aimed at fixing a date and venue in addition to discussing the modus operandi of the dialogue between Shantibahini and Bangladesh authorities. If held, this would be the first dialogue under a democratic government, official sources said.

The Shantibahini opted for holding a preparatory meeting with the members of Liaison Committee September 28 before its dialogue with the au-

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BBC will invite Khaleda to phone-in programme

By S Y Bakht

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be invited to participate in a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service programme along with other South Asian leaders.

This was disclosed to The Daily Star by Elizabeth Smith, the controller of English services at the BBC World Service, currently on a visit here, on Friday. She will extend the official invitation to the PM during her stay in the capital.

A prestigious BBC programme, 'Is Your World' is an hour-long phone-in session with a pre-determined question-answer period in which listeners from around the world can ask questions.

The programme is broadcast live through the BBC World Service network.

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Another BSF attempt to push 56

JESSORE, Sept 25: Bangladesh Rifles has thwarted two more attempts by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) to push 86 Indian nationals into Bangladesh, reports UNB.

BDR men foiled the BSF attempt to push 56 people — 24 male, 16 women and 16 children — through the border at Panch Bhulo in Sharsha thana 5.30 am today.

Members of the BDR forced them back when Indian BSF tried to push them inside the Bangladesh territory.

BDR also foiled another attempt at around 9.30 pm on Thursday when BSF men tried to push another 30 people to Bangladesh territory. But BDR drove them back into Indian territory.

Sources said hundreds of men, women and children were brought to the bordering areas of Habra, Bongaon, Joyintipur, Petrapul and Haridaspur to send them to Bangladesh under the 'Operation Push Back.' They are passing their days under the open sky.

Killers of '71 and '75 regrouped again: Hasina

Sheikh Hasina Friday said Awami League is committed to continue the struggle for economic emancipation of vast majority of the people, reports UNB.

Addressing representatives of different trade unions and employees associations at 29 Minto Road, the Awami League President reiterated the party's avowed policy to realise just rights of the people.

A conspiracy is on against the hard-earned independence of the country, she said alleging that the killers of '71 and '75 are regrouping.

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Grant praises EPI success

Executive Director of UNICEF James P Grant has praised various efforts of Bangladesh government for child development and welfare, and noted its tremendous success in the field of Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI), reports UNB.

The country has achieved 80 per cent EPI coverage now from 2 per cent in 1986.

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Drug company director, another killed in road accident

By Staff Correspondent

An owner of a pharmaceutical company and another unidentified man were killed and three others wounded when a minibus hit a private car and a bicycle at Chairmanbari (Banani) on the Airport Road last night.

A passenger-minibus (Dhaka Ch-8332) on its way to the Zia International Airport (ZIA) hit the private car (Dhaka Metro Bha-958) driven by Dr Gazi Nurul Nabi and a bicycle.

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New garments quota policy soon

A new quota distribution policy for the garments export sector is in the offing to promote backward linkage and encourage newcomers in the business.

In an interview with UNB, Commerce Minister M K Anwar said that under the proposed policy, export performance as well as use of local raw materials would determine the quota entitlement of a garments exporter.

"Our major objective is to use quota as an instrument to develop backward linkage in the garments sector making it more competitive in the international market," he said during the interview on Wednesday.

Anwar said Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is being consulted in framing modalities of the proposed quota distribution policy.

Value added in garments export is only 25 per cent on an average and the government has embarked on a move to raise the percentage through strong backward linkage in the backdrop of likely integration of MFA (Multi Fibre Arrangement) with GATT.

MFA has been facilitating the LDC's garments exports by arranging quota from the developed countries.

The Commerce Minister, See Page 12 Col 8

Kamal to stay in AL for a while

Star Report

Dr Kamal Hossain has said that he has no immediate plan to quit the Awami League and float a new political party, though he has declined to accept his nomination as a member of the newly-created AL Advisory Council.

"I am still in Awami League, now is not the stage to talk about a new political party," Kamal told The Daily Star from New York by telephone Friday.

There is widespread speculation that Dr Kamal Hossain is going to float a new party with the dissidents of Awami League.

He said that he would take his decisions after assessing the latest development after returning home.

Kamal Hossain has been away since September 18 for some professional purpose and was absent at the party's council session held on September 19 and 20. Kamal was dropped from the party presidium, but was later nominated a member of the Advisory Council by the party chief Sheikh Hasina.

When asked to comment on his nomination as an adviser, Kamal blasted the formation of the Advisory Council saying, "the concept of advisory council is not acceptable to me at all, so, the question of my taking part in it does not arise."

He said if the power in the party remained concentrated in one hand what would the advisers do? "This is not fair, this goes against the democratic norms... we were supposed to work in one team."

According to Kamal, advisory council is an old concept, a concept of 19th century, which is now obsolete, particularly in a political party. As regards new Working Committee of AL, Kamal expressed dissent.

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Dr Kamal:Waiting in the wing. — Star photo

Malaysia eager to import more manpower

Acting Malaysian Prime Minister Ghafar Baba has expressed his country's interest to import more manpower from Bangladesh, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

This was conveyed to visiting Bangladesh Minister for Labour and Manpower, M A Mannan, when he called on the acting Prime Minister at Kuala Lumpur Thursday.

During the meeting the Acting Prime Minister assured the Bangladesh Minister that the 6,000 Bangladeshi workers, who applied for registration after the scheduled period, would be registered and provided with jobs subject to the availability of job opportunities.

Referring to the Bangladesh workers now detained in the jails or deportation camps, the Acting Prime Minister hoped that a workable formula would be found in cooperation with Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur to either get some jobs for them or to repatriate the detenus as early as possible.

Mannan requested the Malaysian Acting Prime Minister to consider the possibility of employing doctors, engineers, nurses, teachers and other categories of professionals and technical personnel in Malaysia.

The minister said that Bangladesh had a readystock of trained and experienced manpower of these categories and the Bangladeshis would love to work in a brotherly country

like Malaysia where the ecological condition was favourable for their stay.

Ghafar Baba mentioned his personal role in extending recognition to Bangladesh after the liberation and his visit to the new born country in 1972.

The Bangladesh minister invited the Malaysian leader to revisit Bangladesh at his convenience.

Mannan Thursday also met the Malaysian Federation of Manufacturing Associations and Bumpitara Contractors Association in Kuala Lumpur.

Both the associations expressed their interest regarding employment of Bangladeshi labours and also to set up industries in Bangladesh on joint venture basis.

Fresh clash at Adamjee: 15 injured

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 25: At least 15 persons were injured in renewed clashes between two groups of workers of Adamjee Jute Mills today.

An outsider, Khaleq, was arrested during the clashes.

The clash ensued today at 11 am when two activists of Awami League-backed Rehan group, Yunus and Mostafa, were beaten up by the activists of BNP-backed Quasem group at the new colony area, according to sources.

A large number of crackers blasted and a series of chases and counter-chases took place during the clash. It lasted for about half an hour.

Following the arrest of Khaleq a second round of clash began at 2-30 pm, witnesses said.

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Jamuna Bridge railtrack Rlymen give 15-day ultimatum to govt

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Bangladesh Railway Workers-Employees Action Council (BRWEAC) Friday gave a 15-day ultimatum to the government to accept their demand for installing railtrack on the proposed Jamuna multi-purpose bridge.

They threatened to launch a vigorous movement if their demand was not met during the period.

Speaking at a press conference in Dhaka, the leaders suggested steps to develop and expand the Railway sector for raising revenue.

The action council leaders also suggested cross-border communication between

Bangladesh and India, which they said would add about Taka 84 crore to revenue earning a year.

The BRWEAC is a platform of five out of the total eight registered trade unions.

The component organisations of the council are: Bangladesh Rail Sramik Union, Bangladesh Railway Jatiyatabadi Sramik-Karmachari Dal, Bangladesh Railway Running Staff and Sramik Karmachari Samity, Bangladesh Railway Karigori Parishad and Bangladesh Railway Employees League.

The country has about 2818 kilometres of railroad and, ev-

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De Klerk, Mandela sit again in quest of peace today

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 25: South Africa's long-awaited peace summit between President FW De Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela to try to end spiralling violence will be held on Saturday, a joint announcement said, reports Reuters.

The announcement made today said the meeting will begin at 10.30 am (0830 GMT) at Johannesburg's World Trade Centre, where multi-party democracy talks collapsed last May.

The agreement for the country's two most powerful leaders to meet followed last-minute procedural talks be-

tween the chief negotiators for the government and Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

Mandela had revealed on Thursday night that the two sides had broken a deadlock in negotiations leading to the summit. He telephoned UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to say obstacles had been overcome and a meeting was imminent.

De Klerk told a Natal provincial meeting of his ruling National Party on Friday that the country had reached a crossroads in its history.

"We need to turn our back

on the past, we need to clean the slate and create conditions conducive to negotiations. We need to forgive and forget," he said.

Government sources said a letter from De Klerk to Mandela on Thursday suggesting the release on parole of three guerrillas serving life sentences for killing white civilians had broken the deadlock on the summit after 18 days of negotiations.

De Klerk had invited Mandela, whose ANC broke off democracy talks with the government after a massacre in Boipatong township in June, to

discuss political violence in which at least 2,500 people have died this year.

The ANC accepted the invitation on condition the government addressed its demands for the immediate release of political prisoners, banning dangerous weapons in public and fencing in migrant workers' hostels which have been flashpoints for Black township violence.

Sources on both sides said the final sticking point in negotiations was the prisoner issue, with the ANC seeking the release in particular of the three men sentenced for

killing White civilians in 1985.

Robert McBride, a mixed-race ANC guerrilla, was convicted of killing three White civilians in a bomb attack on a seafood Durban Bar frequented by police and soldiers.

Two Blacks, Mzondeleli Nondula and Mthetheli Mube, were imprisoned for placing land mines which killed three White farmers in the northern Transvaal.

Government sources said De Klerk had proposed the three be released soon on parole pending the adoption of legislation in a special parliamentary session next month covering the question of pris-

oners across the board, not just ANC members.

Several White rightwingers are also in prison for attacks on Blacks.

The government also said it planned legislation to scrap some of the last vestiges of apartheid covering separate administration for various racial groups.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Maizuddin's death anniversary Sunday

The eighth death anniversary of Awami League leader and former vice-chairman of Bangladesh Red-Crescent Society, Maizuddin, will be observed tomorrow. Awami League and its front organisations have chalked out day-long programmes, including Quran khwani, milad mahfil, destitute feeding, and public meeting, on the occasion. Central Awami League leaders will attend the public meeting at Kaliganj Sramik College premises at 3 pm on the day, reports BSS.

Mannan Bhuiyan returns

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan returned home last night ending a four-day official visit to Malaysia. During his stay in Malaysia, the Labour Minister, who led a four-member delegation there, called on Acting Prime Minister of the country Ghafar Baba, Minister for Human Resources Datu Lim Ah Lek and Deputy Home Minister Datu Megat Juned Bin Megat Ayub. On his way back, Bhuiyan met his Singaporean counterpart Dr Li Bun Yang at Singapore, reports BSS.

Vaccination drive starts today

A 15-day vaccination programme, phased in two parts, begins today throughout the country to boost mass awareness in favour of Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI), reports BSS.