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Nurses go on 72-hr strike from today

By Staff Correspondent

Nurses across the country start a 72-hour work stoppage from 8 am today (Monday) to press home their 14-point charter of demands.

On Saturday and Sunday, the nurses observed 12-hour work stoppages from 8 am each day in the hospitals and medicare centres all over the country causing immense sufferings to the patients. The movement of the nurses began with a two-hour work stoppage on September 19, followed by a series of programmes since then. They have also threatened an indefinite strike from October 3, if their demands are not met. The demands of the nurses

include regularisation of the jobs of 750 nurses appointed on an adhoc basis, pay raise, changed payscale and allowances to student nurses. Sufferings of the patients at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) soared because of the work stoppage with 28 more patients leaving the hospital Sunday, witnesses said.

Of the total 1400 patients admitted to the DMCH before the strike, 19 left Saturday, the first day of the 12-hour stoppage. Hundreds of patients, particularly those in the gynaecology department, were lying unattended while a small team

of doctors attended only those in the most critical conditions. Leaders of the Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association (BDNA), the organiser of the work stoppage, alleged that no effort had been made by the government to end the strike. However, one leader indicated that the headway might be made when the Finance Minister returns to the country.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: The student nurses at the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital observed 12-hour work stoppages Saturday and Sunday causing sufferings to the patients in the hospital.



Patients leaving Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday as nurses announced a 72-hour strike from today. — Star photo

PM asks high officials in Khulna 'Apply anti-terrorism ordn carefully'

KHULNA, Sept 27: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia asked the government officials here today to apply the newly promulgated anti-terrorism ordinance carefully so that innocent people were not harassed, reports BSS.

Addressing high government officials of Khulna Division at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Begum Zia said, "We must keep in mind that our government wanted welfare of the people, so we

have work with accountability." She said the socio-economic problems of the country could not be solved without curbing terrorism and anarchy.

Begum Zia said a congenial atmosphere had to be maintained also for investment. She said the officials should give concentration on the development of villages.

She said the rural people now needed roads and electricity for their development. We have to give top priority to

establish communications network and give electricity in the rural areas for speeding development activities.

Later the Prime Minister reviewed the sector-wise development programme in Khulna Division. The Prime Minister was informed about law and order situation of the area.

The meeting was attended, among others by Member of Parliament Nargis Ali, the Di-



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing high government officials of Khulna Division at the Khulna DC office yesterday. — PID photo

Rich nations face criticisms in IMF-World Bank meet

From M Syeduzzaman, Guest Columnist from Washington

For the first time in many years, industrialised countries have been openly criticised by the leadership of the World Bank and the IMF for their failure to provide adequate real resources to developing nations. This criticism serves as one of the central points in the deliberations of the just-concluded IMF-World Bank meeting in the US capital.

The industrialised nations were also told by the heads of the two organisations that they were not fulfilling their obligations in stimulating world economic recovery or in speeding up the conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

This concern for developing countries in the World Bank came into a sharp focus when its president Lewis Preston urged the industrialised nations to create a favourable external environment for the Third World states to pursue their reforms to reduce poverty.

For this writer who had the 17th opportunity to attend the annual meetings of these two organisations, and the third in a non-official capacity, this particular meeting was certainly one with a difference.

with a number of distinguishing features. For one thing, coming as it did against the backdrop of the currency crisis in the West, differences over the exchange rates between the United Kingdom and Germany and clashes of viewpoints over European integration, the meeting felt the tension, with shadows of uncertainties cast over its deliberations. However, what impressed one most was the concern the meeting showed for the global scene, especially for the developing nations, instead of confining its attention to the West.

It was a driving force in mustering financial support for the fundamentalist rebels in the jihad, or holy war, against Afghanistan's Communist government that collapsed in late April. The party has also been arming and training Muslim militants fighting in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Diplo-

Pak Jamaat supplying arms to Hekmatyar, says Rabbani

ISLAMABAD, Sept 27: Afghanistan's President on Sunday accused a powerful Pakistani religious party of supplying weapons to help dissident rebels try to overthrow his government, reports AP.

Speaking to reporters before departing for Iran, President Burhanuddin Rabbani said he was confident the Pakistani government had stopped all weapons shipments to the renegade Hezb-e-Islami faction headed by

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. But Rabbani said he had information that some arms had been clandestinely shipped last month by Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami party to Hekmatyar's forces entrenched on the southern edge of the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Hekmatyar's fighters poured the city with rockets and mortars for most of August, killing at least 2,000 people and wounding nearly 10,000 others. The pitched

battled prompted an estimated 500,000 people—one-third of Kabul's population—to flee the city.

Much of Kabul has been without functioning electricity and running water for months. "He was a close friend," Rabbani said of Jamaat-e-Islami's leader, Qasi Hussain Ahmed. "It's a shame. Instead of contributing to peace, he has contributed to the bloodshed."

Jamaat-e-Islami is considered the most organized and influential of Pakistan's religious parties, although it has never had a strong political base.

Strike continues

Polytech teachers submit memo to PM today

By DU Correspondent

The indefinite strike by the teachers of the country's Polytechnic institutions passed its seventh day yesterday with no signs of a resolution in sight.

No negotiations were held between the government and the teachers, striking to realise their demands.

Teachers of the 20 polytechnic institutes began the strike September 21 to press home their 10-point charter of demands.

The polytechnic teachers submit a memorandum to the PM today. — Star photo

Huda denies statement

Hasina's plea for case against Cabinet

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday (Sunday) asked the State to file a case against the present Cabinet for a minister's "confession" that BNP supplied arms to its young activists to topple the Ershad regime, reports UNB.

She made the plea responding to Information Minister Nazmul Huda who reportedly told a seminar at the Jatiya Press Club Saturday that being a minister he admits the youngsters were supplied with arms to oust Ershad.

"After this confessional statement, the State should file cases of sedition and possession of illegal arms against the Cabinet", Hasina said at a discussion meeting at the Party Central office last night.

She said the concerned government officials and the law enforcing personnel who are the servants of the Republic should take note of it and on behalf of the State file a case against the "arms supplier minister" and the Cabinet as well.

"The truth cannot be suppressed, and the minister, by slip of tongue, has unveiled the truth", the Awami League President said wondering at file cases of sedition and possession of illegal arms against the Cabinet". Hasina said at a discussion meeting at the Party Central office last night.

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— Star photo

Gunshots shatter 3-week lull on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Shattering a hall of about three weeks, sounds of guns were again heard in the Dhaka University campus Saturday night.

According to campus sources, five shots were fired from areas around the TSC midnight Saturday.

This was the first incident of firing after the violent gun-battle between two rival factions in the pro BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) September 4 that left two students killed on campus.

Gunmen responsible for Saturday's firing could not be identified, campus sources said.

After the violent incident September 4 the university authorities took strict steps to

oust armed hooligans and outsiders from the residential halls of the university.

The authorities also circulated copies of a resolution, adopted at a joint meeting of the Provoosts and Proctors with the Vice Chancellor earlier this month, among the general students for the restoration of a congenial atmosphere on campus.

Police also raided the residential halls several times after the violent gunfight in a bid to recover illegal arms and ammunition.

Large contingents of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel have also been deployed on the campus particularly in front of the residential halls, reports UNB.

Earlier on September 13, the court rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail ha-jat.

The court on that day also ordered the Investigation Officer to submit his report within September 27 but no report was submitted in spite of the court's order.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shahiduddin Ahmed Sunday ordered for submission of the report by October 10 with explanation.

BDR sends back eight Indians

JESSORE, Sept 27: Bangladesh Rifles today sent back eight Indian nationals who were earlier pushed back into Bangladesh territory, reports UNB.

200 feared killed in Nigerian air crash

LAGOS (Nigeria), Sept 27: More than 200 people were feared dead Sunday after a Nigerian military plane crashed shortly after taking off from Lagos on Saturday night, military sources said, reports AP.

Reporters who visited the crash site said 15 bodies had been pulled from the wreckage so far. There were no immediate reports of survivors.

Military officials at the site said at least 200 people, mainly Nigerian military officers and their families, were aboard the C-130 plane.

Reuters says: A Nigerian air force C-130 Hercules transport plane crashed shortly after take-off from Lagos and all 163 people aboard were killed, government officials said today.

Foreigners barred from speaking to Rohingyas

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Sept 27: Foreign relief workers will not be allowed to talk to the Rohingyas refugees in the absence of a Magistrate or a concerned official, according to an order issued by the local relief authorities today.

Official sources said that the order came following Friday's anti-repatriation violence at Doapalong refugee camp under Ramu upazila that left three refugees killed and several others injured and similar moods of unrest in some other refugee camps.

A senior official wanting

Fresh clash at Adamjee

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 27: At least three workers were injured in gunshots and bomb blasts at the Adamjee Jute Mills Sunday.

Police said that Habib, 22, sustained bullet wound on his chest and Babul, 18, and Khokan, 28, were injured when a bomb was set off at about 7-15 am Sunday at the Dhaka Baju Kutcha Line area in the mills.

The workers were hurt when a worker mistakenly pulled the trigger of a gun, police said, creating panic in the area. The bomb blasts followed the shot, they said.

The injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

All the injured workers be-

CMM rejects bail petition of Ilias

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate rejected the bail petition of JCD leader Ilias Ali, for the second time Sunday, reports UNB.

Earlier on September 13, the court rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail ha-jat.

The court on that day also ordered the Investigation Officer to submit his report within September 27 but no report was submitted in spite of the court's order.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shahiduddin Ahmed Sunday ordered for submission of the report by October 10 with explanation.

BDR sends back eight Indians

JESSORE, Sept 27: Bangladesh Rifles today sent back eight Indian nationals who were earlier pushed back into Bangladesh territory, reports UNB.

The intruders, mostly residents of Delhi, were pushed back into Bangladesh through frontier village of Shitepur in Sharsha thana at around 5.45 this afternoon.

The BDR personnel picked them up while they were roaming near the border and handed them over to BSF at Benapole checkpoint.

The intruders, all Muslims, confessed to BDR that they were forcibly sent to Bangladesh by the Border Security Forces.