

10 confined, tortured workers rescued

Ten workers were rescued early Thursday from a leather factory at Hazaribag where they had allegedly been confined and tortured for three days, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

They were named Ishaq, Akhter Hossain, Sekandar, Dular Mia, Abul Hashem, Ali Akkas, Shamsuddin, Baber Mia, Abdul Jabbar and Mizan. They were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where the condition of nine was stated serious.

The victims alleged the owners of the factory held them hostage in a godown of the factory since Friday on suspicion of pilferage of skins and chemicals.

The owners hired mastans and mercilessly tortured them, they alleged. "We were tied

with ropes and beaten with iron rods, lathi during daytime. At night, we were injected pathedin to keep us asleep," one of them told reporters at DMCH.

Police raided the factory several times at day on receipt of a complaint from the wife of Mizan. But they could not trace the victims.

At last, police found them at 3.30 am at the factory. Mizan was released after being given first aid and the rest nine were admitted to the hospital.

However, Dharmondi police told UNB two cases were filed with them in this connection and they picked up the 10 people from the factory.

Nine of them are accused in one case. Another is a victim, they added.

Dhaka gets \$ 37m leather export orders at Paris fair

Leather enterprises of Bangladesh received instant export orders worth 37.02 million US dollars in the recently concluded international leather fair at Paris, Export Promotion Bureau said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

About 2000 leather enterprises from 75 countries including 39 from Bangladesh, took part in the four-day fair the world's biggest on the commodity.

He Bureau said, besides getting instant orders a new avenue was opened for a potential export market for Bangladesh in the fair on finished leather as well as various leather products.

Stolen statue seized

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 1: Police seized a stolen statue of Sri Krishna worth about Tk 10 lakh from a boat at Katakhal river near Shahidganj in the town this morning. The blackish-green statue weighing 5 maunds is made of touchstone. It is 40 inches tall and 26 inches wide. Acting on a tip, police challenged the boatmen early in the morning but they jumped into the river and fled away leaving the statue on the boat, reports UNB.

Pak students unite

From Page 1 Col 4 students who violate the undertaking will be expelled without further notice.

The Chief Justice and two other judges comprised the bench which took this historic and unprecedented decision.

The bench also dealt with the question of cheating at examinations. It said that as soon as a reasonable complaint was received or reasonable suspicion was entertained by the Controller of Examinations that a malpractice had been committed by any candidate or by any one else for the benefit of a candidate, the result of such candidate will be withheld and an enquiry would be held. If the enquiry result is in favour of the candidate, the result with the entire proceedings will have to be forwarded to the Advocate General of the concerned province who will take appropriate measures which may include reference to the Supreme Court for order.

The court's order has naturally evoked mixed reaction throughout the country. The federal government is said to be considering enacting a legislation to outlaw students' groups and unions on the campuses on the basis of the Supreme Court's orders, although no action has been taken yet, i.e. after four months of the court's order.

In the absence of any specific law or administrative order, some educational institutions have started implementing the court's order on their own. The authorities have ignored such individual initiatives giving rise to the impression that the order is to the government's liking.

As the terms 'politics' and 'political activities' have not been defined in the court's order, a definite law or government order would have eliminated the confusion that the order has created, observers feel.

The Mahaz said it would work so that the Supreme Court's order was withdrawn, but will themselves see that

RUCSU polls Nov 29

RAJSHAHI, Oct 1: Rajshahi University Central Student Union (RUCSU) and 12 hall union elections will be held on November 29, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting held today (Thursday) with Vice-Chancellor Prof M Anisur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting also discussed ways and means of holding free and fair polls.

Scramble

From Page 1 Col 7 their inclusion into the new party working committee.

The party chief, while nominating the office-bearers of the central working committee, has shown a sort of peculiar sympathy for those who were repeatedly rejected by the people in the elections, a shaken AL MP, and an aspirant to a working committee berth told The Daily Star Wednesday.

Another MP from the Southern part of the country also said that popularity in the constituency was now the bane for many AL leaders for getting inducted into the central leadership of the party. He declined to be mentioned saying, "I can not dig my own grave."

All of the aspirants, also uncertain about their fate, are, however, frenetically trying to prove their absolute loyalty to the AL chief to get into the working committee.

Unite to root out terrorism: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for unity of the people for eliminating terrorism from the society for smooth implementation of development programmes undertaken by her government, reports BSS.

"Violence and terrorism cannot bring welfare to the people" she told a group of more than 200 leaders and social workers of Sandwip, who joined BNP at her Sugandha office, led by former Upazila chairman Kamal Uddin.

Begum Zia said, some quarters are out to disrupt the process of development by giving protection to terrorists. Sounding a note of caution she said, "those who are engaged in acts of violence will be taken to task."

Welcoming those who joined BNP from Sandwip she said, recently people representing some opposition parties joined her party from Gopalganj. BNP has been attracting people from other parties as it believes in politics of production upholding the interests of the people of the soil, she said.

She called for strengthening her party to pursue the politics of production through utilisation of the available resources including the country's vast manpower.

Responding to various demands voiced on behalf of the people of Sandwip she said, "we are contemplating measures for protection against river erosion though it needs huge investment."

The Prime Minister said, the present government believes in balanced development of all areas of the country. She further said, steps will be taken up for repair of the schools and other infrastructures of Sandwip damaged by the cyclone of 1991.

peace and academic atmosphere were restored in the campuses. For this purpose they will frame a code of conduct.

In the meantime, however, they have adopted a two way strategy to deal with the situation. First, the Mahaz is contacting professional associations, trade unions, politicians, former student leaders and heads of educational institutions to organise opinion against the court order. The body's second strategy is to secure educational institutions for education and to clear education of outside influences.

The students unions in the educational institutions are in a moribund state since 1984 when General Zia-ul-Haq's regime is supposed to have 'banned' them. No specific order was issued as such making student unions illegal but since 1984 no election has been held for any students' union in any educational institution.

The students, however, say that this has had no effect on the incidence of violence in educational institutions. The Mahaz said that during the year preceding the ban there had been 16 campus-related murders; after the ban the number rose to 61. Likewise, injuries increased from 294 to 587 and arrests from 1,193 to 3,474 and students expulsions from 103 to 701.

Another decision of the Supreme Court which deserves special mention is its order that not more than two children should be taken to the airport for the reception of a foreign dignitary to present bouquets. The male and female pair should be brought with the consent of their parents who should also be allowed to accompany their children, the court said.

It said in such matters the government should follow the example of Uzbekistan where during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit only two children were brought to present bouquets.

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Gagged BCL (M-I) activists brought out a procession in front of TSC, Dhaka University demanding implementation of 10-point demands of the students community yesterday. — star photo

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PM: Academic freedom

From Page 1 Col 5 largely depends on education. Terrorism has to be eliminated for the survival of democracy and education in the country," she said.

The PM announced that a residential hall for the female students would be built to ease the accommodation crisis in the Dhaka University.

Begum Zia also assured that the building now being used by the Atomic Energy Commission would be handed over to the DU authorities after the Commission moved to its complex at Savar.

She urged the affluent join hands with the government for the development of the country's universities.

The Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Miah in his welcome address pointed to the different problems being faced by the university.

The one square kilometre area of the DU had been squeezed to 250 acres in 70 years while the population has shot up 50 times, he said.

He congratulated the award winners and called upon the private donors to extend their support to the Alma Mater.

Members of the cabinet, diplomats, members of parliament, DU teachers and students, representatives of different trusts and foundations parents and relatives of students and top government officials attended the function.

Earlier, as the time for PM's visit to the campus neared a small group of processionists chanting 'Joi Bangla', 'Joi Bangabandhu' slogan came out from Jagannath Hall and tried to push through the police guards towards TSC.

As police blocked them, another small group started pelting stones at the police inflicting at least one policeman. Police then countered the attack by firing teargas canisters.

Sounds of a couple of shots and blasts were also heard during the skirmish which petered out soon after the police action.

Int'l Day for Elderly observed

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Indian politicians split

From Page 1 Col 7 sharing, the extension of the bilateral trade agreement and a visit by the Finance Minister symbolised the easing of tensions between the two neighbours who share common borders of more than 4000 kilometres.

The reports suggest that the BJP with its known notoriety for fanning communal tension has started a new game by raising the bogey of anti-Bangladeshism to reap political gains.

The Hindu revivalists, wrote the Hyderabad-based Urdu daily Rehnumay Deccan, were out to "create a sense of hatred and fear among Hindus against the Muslims and to counter the line" what it called a tendency of other political institutions to appease the Muslims for electoral considerations.

While the Party insists that there are some 17 million 'infiltrators' from Bangladesh without any effort to substantiate the figure, it draws a line between the Hindus and Muslims.

Dr Murlidhar Joshi, the BJP President, gives enough indication that his party is all for keeping the Hindus whom it loves to call "refugees". The Muslims, Joshi has said publicly while the Party's Assam chapter chief told the BBC, are "infiltrators".

The BJP-provoked codenamed operation, now reportedly being stalled following objections from some ruling Congress (I) stalwarts who stood to lose politically, came under fire from the Indian press for being "ruthless" with the deportees.

Jyoti Basu, while advocating consultations with Bangladesh, also pointed to the issue at the Chief Ministers' meeting saying "The government (of India) should take up the matter with Bangladesh but the human aspect should not be lost sight of while dealing with the problem."

The chief ministers, however, agreed on some measures to keep a tab on visitors from Bangladesh. The decisions included immediate

Ghali assures all help to solve refugee problem

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 1: The United Nations Secretary General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, has assured Bangladesh of the world body's continued support in every way in resolving the problems of Myanmar refugees, reports BSS.

Boutros gave the assurance when the Bangladesh Foreign Minister called on him here yesterday.

Appreciating the Bangladesh efforts for the early repatriation of the Myanmar refugees, the UN Secretary General reiterated the importance of establishment of a UN presence in Myanmar side.

He said the UN presence in Myanmar side would act as a catalyst in encouraging the refugees to return to their homeland with honour and safety and on voluntary basis.

Earlier the Foreign Minister apprised Ghali of the latest situation in respect of repatriation of the Myanmar refugees.

Boutros recalled his very fruitful meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in New York in March this year and requested the Foreign Minister to convey his warm regards to Begum Zia.

During the meeting, the Secretary General was assisted by UN coordinator for humanitarian affairs, Jan Eliason while the Bangladesh Foreign Minister was accompanied by Akhtaruzzaman MP, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, Ambassador Humayun Kabir.

5-party call to donate money for Menon

By Staff Correspondent

The Five-party alliance on Thursday appealed to the countrymen to donate money for the continuation of medical treatment of Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP at a hospital in London.

A statement of the alliance last night said a savings account No 2792/3 has been opened at the Jatiya Press Club branch of Agrani Bank to receive the donation.

The alliance convenor Khalequzzaman in the statement said Menon has survived the danger period. However, he added, Menon would have to be kept under observation of the physician for a long time.

Meanwhile, Zaman pointed out, huge sums of money had been spent for Menon's treatment at the London hospital and more money is needed for him to be totally cured.

Zaman hoped for cooperation of all concerned.

PIA plane crash

Two other Bangladeshis identified

Two other Bangladeshis nationalities killed in the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Air Bus crash in Nepal three days ago, have been identified as Mian Alim and Sulman, reports BSS.

Four Bangladeshis were killed in the crash. Identity of two victims has already been known.

Two others, whose names were given by Foreign Office sources here today, began their journey from Riyadh and were transiting through Karachi and Kathmandu.

Further details about their tour plans were not available.

4 die of diarrhoea in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 1: Diarrhoea claimed four lives in Sadar thana of the district in last 24 hours, hospital sources said today, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Ibrahim (6), Selim (2), Rahjha (4) and Zinnah (6).

BNP concerned

From Page 1 Col 8

ever for a Bangladesh national to go and stay back in India, they added.

The BNP leaders regretted that when the two countries were taking initiatives to solve their bilateral issues through negotiation, a vested quarter was engaged in an inhuman action which may jeopardise the efforts.

Such actions are also likely to disrupt communal harmony in the region, they feared and demanded immediate halt to the "push back operation".

It is also an attempt to destabilise the newly earned democracy in Bangladesh, they said adding that the people of the country will unitedly resist such conspiracy.

The Midnight File

Myanmar frees 18 more politicians

BANGKOK, Oct 1: Myanmar authorities released 18 more political prisoners today, bringing to 573 the number of political detainees freed since April, official radio Rangoon reported. Those freed today had been held in provincial jails in Mergui, Tavoy, Thayet, Toungoo and Hinzada towns, it said in a broadcast monitored here, reports AFP.

Indian troops kill 7 militants in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Oct 1: Indian troops intercepted and shot dead seven heavily-armed Muslim militants in a curfew-bound border belt of Kashmir, the Press Trust of India reported today. Troops cornered the seven Wednesday night in the Kupwara Sector along the line of control dividing the region into Indian and Pakistani zones. PTI quoted a Defence Ministry spokesman as saying in Kashmir's summer capital of Srinagar, reports AFP.

Govt must try war criminals in special tribunals: Imam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 1: Convenor of Nirmul Committee Jahanara Imam today said rule of law will never be materialised if the war criminals of '71 were not tried, reports UNB.

Speaking at a gathering of representatives from all walks of life here this morning at the end of her three-day visit to the district she reiterated the demand for implementing the judgement of Gono Adalat.

The Nirmul Committee convenor said the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia must set up special tribunals to try the criminals.

Jahanara said, "if Nazi war criminals can be tried still today, then trial of the war criminals of the Liberation War of 1971 can also be done in the same way."

Jahanara declared that a human chain will be formed during the grand conference on October 14 to give their movement a new dimension.

Different political, socio-cultural and educational organisations extended their support to the token hunger strike demanding full-fledged TV station in Natore.

The strike was called by Natore TV Station Bastabayah Samannay Parishad from 10 am to 4 pm.

The association said that the leaders of the nurses sat with the government for several times to discuss their demands but the talks failed.

The press conference was attended by BDNA president Kohinora Begum, Bangladesh Diploma Student Nurses Union (BDSNU) president Sultana Hena, Bangladesh Assistant Nurses Association (BANA) President Anisur Rahman, Shaiful Islam GS, BANA, Sheikh Nizam Uddin, GS, BDSNU and BDNA General Secretary Mafiz Ullah.

Mafiz Jiliah said, the government was given enough time to take positive decision regarding the demands.

"But so far only one of the 14 demands was accepted by the government," he said adding that "but no agreement was signed between us and the government... so we can not withdraw our programmes".

The 14-point demand include regularisation of 750 nurses appointed on ad-hoc basis, pay raise and increase of allowances to the students nurses.

UP polls

From Page 1 Col 7 pm and snatched one ballot box.

Police opened two rounds of blank shots. Polling in the centre was immediately suspended.

In another incident two groups of people clashed at Kayostha Chat Govt Primary School at about 1 pm.

In the melee some people snatched ballot papers from the presiding officer.

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