

25 students hurt

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A Press Note issued Tuesday night by the Home Affairs Ministry said: Two groups of students of Mirswara College in Chittagong fell out amongst themselves during a freshers reception ceremony Monday.

This resulted in severe injury to one of the students belonging to Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal, as a mark of protest the aggrieved group raised road blockade on Chittagong-Dhaka Highway Tuesday morning. However, on being persuaded by the local administration the blockade was removed later.

But the other group of students, belonging to Chhatra League in collaboration with their associates from Nizampur College blockaded the main highway totally by piling big logs and trees. Despite persuasion made by the district administration this students group did not clear the road blockade rather they became violent.

The students led by local Awami League leaders and workers brickbated and attacked the law enforcing agency on duty. The aggravated situation compelled the police force to use tear gas and lathi charge to control the situation. The unruly mob then fired upon the law enforcing agency. Since things were out of control and the law enforcing members were under attack by fire arms, the magistrate on duty ordered to open fire in

Attack on PM's nephew: Accused refused bail

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shahiduddin Ahmed yesterday rejected the bail prayer of Bijoy, arrested for alleged involvement in the attack on a nephew of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.

This was the second time that the court refused bail to Bijoy, who had earlier confessed his guilt before a magistrate.

Nine-year-old Atanu was allegedly detained along with the car he was riding and beaten by some young men at Dhanmondi Road No 32, the residence of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, on October 10. He was rescued by police.

Driver Monsur Ali filed a criminal case with Dhanmondi thana and police arrested Bijoy (20) from Savar Oct 18.

Hasina: Anti-terrorism bill

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The Awami League General Secretary said that BNP government would have repealed the responsibility of nurturing the newly-found democracy had "miserably failed."

"BNP does not know how to run the country," she said. "Look at the condition of the country's villages... look at the situation at the Adamjee (jute mills). They have proved their incompetency," she added.

The Awami League leader said that BNP had passed the anti-terrorism bill "only to repress the people."

She said that the 11 amendments to the bill had proved that the bill was a black law "and it will never become white."

Hasina renewed her pledge to restore democratic practice and said that people would resist anyone who turned autocratic.

The meeting was also addressed by AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman and other central leaders Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Mohammad Nasim, Amir Hossain Amu, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Dr. M Selim, Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Mohammad Hanif, Obaidul Kader and Abdul Mannan.

Pourashavas, UPs

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Second Amendment Bill, 1992 to fulfil constitutional obligation to make the union parshads of the country the administrative units.

The bill which was introduced in the House on October 25 was passed last night rejecting the proposals for eliciting public opinion and one amendment — all by Jamaat-Islami members — by voice votes.

Proposing the bill for the passage, LGRD and Co-operatives Minister explained that the second amendment to the Local Government Ordinance of 1983 was needed only to meet requirements under Articles 59 and 60 of the Constitution, which specified the union parshads as administrative units.

He said the amendment was also necessary after the 12th Amendment to the Constitution and to honour a verdict of the Supreme Court delivered recently.

A total of 88 opposition members proposed for eliciting public opinion on the bill but only eight Jamaat members present in the House moved their proposals. The Jamaat members demanded of the government to submit a complete bill instead of a 'half-hearted one' with a view to making the union parshads self-sufficient and effective administrative units. They also demanded to give proper definition of administrative work by the UP chairmen and monthly salaries for the chowkidars and dafadars.

The proposals for eliciting public opinion were given by Jamaat members Shahjahan Chowdhury, Nasir Uddin, Maulana Shakhawat Hussain, Shah Ruhul Qudus, Hafza Asma Khatun, Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, Begum Rasheda Khatun and A M Riasat Ali.

50 hurt, 3 missing in clash over harvesting

MANIKGANJ, Nov 3: At least 50 people were injured and 3 missing in a clash between the landless and the mastans of landlords over harvesting paddy on a char in Shibaloya thana today, reports UNB.

Among the injured, Abdul Majid, Kapil Sheikh and Abu Syed were admitted to Shibaloya Health Complex while Qudus Mollah was rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Ahmed Ali (50), his son Mantu (30) and Aken Mollah (50) were reported missing. Police and witnesses said the clash ensued at noon when about 500 armed goons of a local chieftain attacked landless peasants who went to cut paddy at Alkodiachar.

Local people were reportedly fleeing the area as tension mounted.

Biman plans STOL service

The government plans to introduce short take off and landing (STOL) service for improving the communication between the capital and remote islands, reports UNB.

State Minister for Civil Aviation Abdul Mannan said this in parliament responding to a call attention of Shajahan Omar of the Treasury Bench.

Mannan said the government also plans to construct airstrips at important places including Lalmonirhat, Ishurdi, Barguna, Pahartali, Kuakata and Mongla port for commissioning the STOL service.

He said two STOL aircraft will be purchased for this purpose.

The minister said a survey team has already visited the sites in Barisal. The STOL service will be introduced on the report of the survey team.

Mannan also informed the House that 6,000 feet runway will be constructed at Barisal airport.

In his notice Shajahan Omar said short take off and airlanding service will be viable in the island rich Barisal district.

Depression may intensify further

The depression which formed over east central Bay and adjoining areas in the afternoon yesterday moved slightly north north-westwards and concentrated into a deep depression and centred at 6 pm about 760 kilometres south-west of Chittagong port, reports UNB.

It is likely to intensify further and move in north north-westerly direction, a Met Office special bulletin said last night.

Maximum sustained wind within 48 kilometres of the depression centre is about 50 kilometre per hour rising to 60 kph in gust or squall.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to lower distant cautionary signal number 1 (one) and instead hoist distant warning signal number 2 (two).

Schoolboys

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The students also called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal on Thursday.

UNB reports from Jhenidah: Secondary school students yesterday called a 48-hour hartal beginning Wednesday morning in the town to protest new marking system in the SSC Examination.

Hundreds of students brought out a procession at about 10 am chanting slogans against the new system and blocked traffic.

Hundreds of buses along with passengers were stranded as they staged a sit-in at the post office crossing and blocked roads across the town.

They also held a rally at the crossing where the hartal call was given. Speakers demanded immediate resignation of the Education Minister.

The government has, meantime, announced that the bank of 500 objective questions would be retained in the next SSC Examination.

In Sirajganj students of a school yesterday attacked a train and a railway ferry at Jagannathganj ghat even after government announcement retaining the bank of objective questions in the next SSC Examination.

Station sources said over 200 students of Tigna High School attacked Padma Express and MV Suhrawardy and assaulted 20 people at about 2 pm.

The Sareng and the Master of the ferry were among the injured who were given first aid.

The school boys badly damaged several doors and windows of the train and station master's room at the station.

Ferry and train services were disrupted for about three hours following the attack.



Five-Party Alliance brought out a procession in city yesterday demanding cancellation of all black laws including anti-terrorism bill. — Star photo

CPB returns to House

From Page 1 Col 3
The government agreed upon with the signing of the four-point accord. The people of the country, he added, are apprehensive if the accord will at all be implemented.

"We expect a clear statement from the Deputy Leader of the House on this matter," he said.

Pointing out that in any understanding reached between the two sides both the signatories had an obligation to implement it, Deputy Leader of the House Badruddoza Chowdhury said that, otherwise, there was no reason for non-implementation of the accord.

"It is specifically written on the agreement that lawyers on both sides will take necessary steps regarding this matter," he noted.

The Deputy Leader of the House said that the ruling party will be 'glad' to resolve the matter.

However, he added, "It is true that the lawyers of the two sides are yet to sit together, we are ready to resolve the issue if the Opposition lawyers come forward."

Saying that the Deputy Leader said the same thing before, Shamsuddoha said "it is a shame that no effort has been taken in this regard on behalf of the ruling party." "Thus, we are staging a walkout in protest," declared the CPB leader while leading the other two party members present.

B Chowdhury reiterated the Treasury bench position that implementation of the agreement also included an obligation on the part of the Opposition.

Out of the four bills passed in the House, two — the Supreme Court Judges (remuneration and privileges) (second amendment) Bill, 1992

and the Supreme Court Judges (travelling allowances) (amendment) Bill, 1992, were passed unanimously.

The other two, the Local Government (union parshads) (second amendment) Bill, 1992 and the Paurashava (second amendment) Bill, 1992 were passed by the House by voice votes.

With Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali in the chair, State Minister for Finance Mozibor Rahman sought to introduce the Excises and Salt (amendment) Bill, 1992 for the second consecutive day.

Noting that the bill was included in the Finance Act of 1992 and is a continuation of the presidential ordinance promulgated on September 27 with retrospective effect from July 1, he said that it sought to reduce taxes on the items included in the bill.

State Minister for Law Aminul Huq said that the ordinance was just like an act of parliament and had the same force of law till it was rejected by parliament.

Noting that Article 83 of the Constitution says that no tax can be levied or accepted except by or under an act of parliament, the Speaker cautioned that the House should not set a bad precedent by accepting a bill with retrospective effect. "But if it is found that it could be done, it will be done."

Minister for LGRD Abdus Salam Talukder pointed out that the House had the authority to consider the bill as part of the Finance Act only if the purpose of the bill was to reduce tax, while noting that it was embodied in the Act.

Jamaat member Sheikh Ansar Ali observed that the bill should not be passed in its present form and requested

the State Minister to withdraw it.

Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain differed with the LGRD Minister saying that the bill was recognised as a money bill and required certification of the President as it radically changes the code and in some cases increases the taxes.

"Bringing the bill in the present form will go down as a bad precedent," he added. "We should bring it in an amended form."

He opined that the ordinance involving levying of taxes could not be promulgated and would expire within 30 days.

The LGRD Minister sought a ruling from the chair if the President under Article 93 of the Constitution can promulgate an ordinance involving levying of taxes and expenditure from public exchequer.

He said that the technical question of presidential certification of the bill could not be there after the promulgation of the ordinance.

"If the case is such then the bill is within the bounds of the law and the State Minister sought the introduction of the bill properly," he added.

However, the Speaker again asked if parliament can pass a bill involving retrospective effect on levying taxes.

He concluded by saying that he would provide a ruling on the matter during the next session.

He then went on to defer a call attention notice bought by Jamaat leader Matjur Rahman Nizami on the recent uprisings in Bosnia-Herzegovina for the next session.

State Minister for Health Shirajul Huq read out a statement on the diarrhoea situation in the country in reply to two earlier call attention notices.

The House was adjourned till 4:30 pm today (Wednesday).

US presidential poll

From Page 1 Col 7
took credit for the downfall of communism in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe and often trumpeted the allies Gulf War victory over Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces in Kuwait.

But few voters considered international affairs as being of foremost importance. On top of their minds was the faltering economy, an issue Clinton hit repeatedly.

Also being elected Tuesday was a new House of Representatives. A third of the seats in the Senate, the upper house of the bicameral legislature, were also at stake as well as a dozen governorships.

In New York City, voters slogged through a rainstorm to be at the polls as soon as they opened at 6 am (1100 GMT). Announcements over loudspeakers in subway stations urged commuters to vote.

Perot, a billionaire from Texas, had been labeled as "crazy" by the Republicans. At his last campaign rally Monday in Dallas, he took the label, with a twist.

"There are millions of crazy people in this country," he said of his troops, promising "a crazy day at the polls."

During the campaign in which voters repeatedly voiced anger, the economy was the big issue to most, particularly in states still reeling from recession.

"It's a race of the courage to change against the comfort of the same old failed ideas," Clinton said late Monday at a rally in McAllen, Texas.

All 435 House seats were on the ballot, with more than 120 new faces assured even before the balloting began because of retirements and redistricting. However, the Republicans were expected to make only slight dents in the Democrats' 268-166 margin, with one independent, in the House.

Thirty-five of the Senate's 100 seats were being decided as well, with female candidates ahead or competitive in some races. When the Gulf War ended, Republicans had counted on Bush's coattails to

gain a Senate majority. Now, the Republican party hoped only to keep Democrats from passing their 57-43 Senate margin.

In 14 states voters considered initiatives to limit the number of terms for elected officials. The bet was all 14 would pass. Less certain were the fates of dozens of other ballot initiatives, from Oregon's anti-gay-rights measure to California's proposal to legalize assisted suicide, to Washington DC's proposal for a death penalty.

When the last lever is pulled — polls in Alaska don't close until 0600 GMT Wednesday — the curtain will be drawn on a cantankerous campaign year that took confounding turns.

Conservative commentator Pat Buchanan stung Bush during the race for the Republican presidential nomination, usually a shoe-in for the incumbent. Buchanan ran ads reminding voters of Bush's broken "Read My Lips: No New Taxes" promise. Buchanan's 37 per cent was his peak and was the first sign of how much the recession had eroded Bush's postwar glow.

Clinton emerged at the head of a weak Democratic field, despite allegations of marital infidelity and questions about how he avoided military service during the Vietnam War.

Bush, who went jogging at dawn before voting, had no room for error in his electoral strategy. It counted on wins in several states where polls showed Clinton ahead or competitive. Clinton appeared to have a better chance of winning enough states to put together the 270 electoral vote majority needed for victory.

Two OMCH employees arrested

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Nov 2: Two employees of M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital were arrested by Kotwali police today on charge of ransacking the office of the Director of the hospital.

A group of class IV employees along with some unruly outsiders attacked the Director's office yesterday (Sunday) while pressing for withdrawal of the suspension orders on two of their colleagues. The hospital authority lodged a case on the same day after the incident.

Sind Assembly

From Page 1 Col 8
Bosnia-like situation in Pakistan", minority assembly member Hoshang Baroacha said today.

"The religion column will lead to discrimination," independent member Amir Haider Shah said.

The defiant move signals the most serious challenge so far to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's bid to force Pakistan's 120 million people to declare their religious beliefs on national identity cards.

Such declaration would lead to sectarianism, warned Sind opposition member Saleem Khokhar who tabled the motion.

"Our movement will not suffer because of such resolutions, rather the dormant forces have been identified," Religious Affairs Minister Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi said in an interview.

"These secular-minded people have been led away by cheap slogans," he said.

Christians have taken to the streets to protest.

"They are trying to isolate us further," said a spokesman for Roman Catholic Bishop John Joseph of the central Punjab city of Faisalabad who began a protest hunger strike today outside the office of the regional deputy commissioner.

The Midnight File

Seven Blacks killed on commuter trains

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 3: Attackers armed with guns and knives killed at least seven blacks on commuter trains Tuesday, including five gunned down on station platforms, police said. The army announced call-ups of military units to help patrol eastern Natal province, where political violence killed more than 50 people in the last week, reports AP.

Bhumibol gets UNEP gold medal

BANGKOK, Nov 3: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has awarded its gold medal of distinction to Thailand's constitutional monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and his wife, Queen Sirikit, the agency announced today. UNEP Executive Director Mostafa Tolba gave the medal to Queen Sirikit on Monday and was to present it to King Bhumibol today, the announcement said, reports AFP.

Girl rescued from N'ganj brothel

By Staff Correspondent
Shahr Banu returned home, happy and grateful.

Banu, a teenager from Savar, never thought she could come out of her two-month bondage as prostitute, until a group of journalists rescued her from a brothel in Narayanganj.

The group of eight journalists based in Savar and all of them members of the Bangladesh Rural Journalists Organisation (BRJO), went to the Nimalti brothel in Narayanganj along with police Tuesday and rescued the girl to return her to her parents.

She was "sold off" by her husband Shah Alam two months back to a mistress of the brothel.

Giving an account of the beginning her traumatic life, Banu, 18, said that her newly married husband one day in August took her to visit his relatives in Narayanganj and left her alone near a shop in the pretext of buying cigarettes.

From there she was whisked away by Rokeya, a madame of the Nimalti brothel. The deal was set at Taka ten thousand.

One day, Banu met a youngman from her locality, Anandapur in Savar and passed a message to her father Hasan Ali of her whereabouts.

Alli approached the members of the BRJO requesting them to help him rescue his daughter.

The convenor of the journalists organisation Delwar Hossain visited the red light area on Monday posing to be a client and identified Banu. Delwar knew Banu from her childhood.

On Tuesday at 3-30 pm, Shahr Banu walked out of the Nimalti brothel and to freedom with the group of eight journalists and the police. Brothel mistress Rokeya and Shah Alam are absconding.

Extra funds

From Page 1 Col 6
Bangladesh Bank were also making special arrangements for loanable funds. He said Bangladesh Bank had already provided Taka 100 crore for revitalising productive non-performing industrial projects. This fund had been disbursed through five nationalised banks and four private banks. Taka 50 crore would be disbursed through these banks for the purpose, he added.

The Finance Minister said Bangladesh Shilpa Bank had been provided with Taka 25 crore for investment in new industrial projects and rehabilitating non-performing productive industrial enterprises. He said BSB would be provided with additional Taka 25 crore for the same purpose.

He said government had also arranged Taka 100 crore more for revamping the industrial enterprises which were commercially viable but risky for banks.

Nationalised banks had been provided with full authority to reschedule the loans of non-performing industries. Government, the Finance Minister said, wanted to give real boost to rural economy and for that Taka 200 crore would be provided to Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) for investing in agro-based enterprises and farms like fish, poultry, livestock and other allied farms. He said Taka 100 crore would immediately be available with BKB for disbursing as loans to the entrepreneurs.

Saifur Rahman directed the bank authorities to be friendly with clients and make bank-clientele family relations. He said efficient allocation based on discipline and prudent consideration of factors from the point of view of reality was imperative to bring dynamism in national economy.

He urged the bankers to be at par with the spirit and policy direction of the present government.

Two convicted in arms case

A special tribunal yesterday convicted two persons to 10 years imprisonment in an arms case, reports UNB.

The convicts are Mesbuddin (40) of village Darichar in Palash thana of Narasingdi district and Mohar Ali (35) of village Purulia in the same thana.

According to the prosecution, CID ASP M Abdul Baten, acting on a tip, arrested the accused from Suhrawardy Udyan on August 24 in 1984 when they were preparing for committing robbery.

Following their statement, police recovered two cut rifles and 15 bullets from the rented house at 14/3, North Sayedabad.

Economic cadre

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The average project experienced cost over-runs on the order of 35 to 40 per cent and delays in completion by 60 per cent as compared to the time expected at project approval.

In view of these difficulties and the growing resentment of the cadres, the Prime Minister's Secretariat had issued an unofficial note to the Planning Division on October 13 to expedite the finalisation of the gradation list and filling up the vacant posts on the basis on existing rules and regulations.

Though the letter asked for taking actions within one month from the issuance of the letter, no actions have yet been taken, concerned sources said.

The Planning Division earlier on June this year formed a task force and prepared a final draft of the gradation list. The division sent it to the Establishment Ministry for comments before sending it to the Standing Committee of the Public Service Commission (PSC).

The Establishment Ministry after examining the list sent it back to the Planning Division with minor comments asking it to forward the list to the Standing Committee of the PSC for finalisation in August this year. Accordingly, the Planning Division sent the list to the PSC the same month.

Since then the list has been lying with the PSC.

This inaction of the PSC has enraged the economic cadre members and they have even threatened to go on a strike.

Later, the Prime Minister took up the issue and the instruction from her secretariat was issued.

BJP workers

From Page 1 Col 6
headquarters in Bombay and ransacked the Chief Minister's office, PTI said. Some 1,500 strikers were arrested.

In New Delhi, reputed to be a BJP bastion, police arrested some 6,000 activists of the party including all its four city MPs, the party said. Police could not immediately confirm the figure.

Feisty BJP MP Madan Lal Khurana who represents south Delhi in the federal parliament, was arrested at his house at dawn. Police caned protestors who tried to block roads and dragged them off in waiting buses at several places.

Most markets and wholesale trading centres were shut and traffic was noticeably thin. Many schools declared a holiday fearing violence.

In the Marxist bastion of Calcutta supporters of the BJP and a communist coalition clashed at nearly 100 places, Joshi said, alleging that leftist activists attacked strikers under police protection.

He said 139 BJP members were injured and hospitalised in the eastern Indian city.

Normal life was paralysed in the four BJP-ruled states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. In Jaipur, the Rajasthan capital, woman strikers picketed the airport.

Today's action was the first all-India general strike called since leftist trade unions organised a walkout on November 29 last year to protest economic reforms that ended four decades of quasi-socialist policies.