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The Daily Star

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Seven Rohingyas killed as forces, refugees clash

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven refugees were killed and another 20 people injured on Monday in separate incidents of violence at two Rohingya refugee camps, officials said.

The officials reached by telephone at Cox's Bazar said police fatally wounded four refugees at Dechuapalong-2 and another two Rohingyas at Shatlerdeba. The seventh victim was a 40-year-old Rohingya woman who was kidnapped and shot dead by a group of militant refugees.

The woman and her three children were kidnapped from Dechuapalong-2 camp on Sunday night by some anti-repatriation Rohingya terrorists, the officials said.

As police on Monday morning found the woman, her hands tied and face covered by a scarf, at a nearby jungle some 500 militant refugees attacked the law enforcing personnel and snatched her from them. Then the militants shot her to death in front of hundreds of refugees. The militants fired 15 rounds of gunshots to overpower the police and ansars who were escorting the woman back to her hut.

The woman, along with her three children, Sunday night volunteered to return home. Her children still remain untraced.

According to the officials a magistrate and five policemen were injured by militant Rohingyas during the violence at Dechuapalong camp in Ramu Thana. Four refugees were killed in the clash.

The camp houses at least 23,000 refugees.

The trouble at Shatlerdeba camp in Ukha Thana occurred after some rowdy refugees attacked a feeding centre run by International Islamic Relief Organisation (IIRO). The refugees were demanding increased milk ration for their children.

Police opened fire to disperse the mob of refugees who ransacked the feeding centre and stoned police and relief officials injuring at least 10 people. Police said two refugees died on the spot.

More than 2,65,000 refugees are currently living in 20 camps along Cox's Bazar-Teknaf region. They have fled from Myanmar's (Burma) western province of Arakan to escape a military crackdown. Bangladesh repatriated 216 refugees since September.

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Promotion of sub-judges Govt turns down HC decision

By S Y Bakht

In an unprecedented move the government has turned down a High Court Division 'full court' decision relating to the promotion of sub-judges.

Constitutional experts point out that the move may constitute to be a violation of Articles 109 and 116 of the Constitution, which places the superintendence and control of all subordinate courts with the High Court Division and calls for 'consultation' with the Supreme Court regarding posting and promotion in the judicial service.

However, talking to The Daily Star, an authoritative source at the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs claimed that the "consultation is not mandatory".

Legal circles also note that the 'conflict' over the promotion of the sub-judges touches on the fundamental question of the independence of the judiciary and its separation from the executive branch of the government.

They also look upon this as a test case towards establishing the much talked-about

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Sick unit owners want Article 34 of BSRS order scrapped

By Staff Correspondent

Owners of sick industries, at a press conference Monday demanded repeal of Article 34 of the Bangladesh Shipa Rin Sangatha (BSRS) Order, 1972 turning it an undemocratic law.

The law was enacted in 1972 with a view to taking over and selling out the assets of enemy (Pakistan), which is now being used by the authorities of BSRS against the entrepreneurs of sick industries, they alleged.

The press conference addressed by Alauddin Ahmed, Convenor of Inter-Association Sick Industries Rehabilitation Council (IASIRC) also reiterated

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A policeman posted inside the New Model Degree College in the city to ward off violence running for cover as rival student groups clashed for control of the college union yesterday (Top) and a contingent of police yards away from the college gate moments before the clash started (Above). — Star photo

10 injured in JCD-BCL clash at New Model College

By Staff Correspondent

At least 10 people including three policemen were wounded when two groups of students clashed at the New Model Degree College at Sukrabad in the capital Monday.

Witnesses said that activists of both the pro-government student organisation Jatiya-tabadat Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) fought each other with hand bombs and guns.

Police baton charged the clashing students and nabbed four persons on the spot, said police.

The clash stemmed from an attack made by the JCD workers on the BCL supporters at 12 noon and continued for one hour, witnesses said.

The BCL workers who were forced out by the JCD activists of the college on November 3 tried to get in the college Monday noon.

Following the clash, the authorities declared the college closed on the next day and it opened yesterday, college sources said.

When the BCL workers attempted to enter in the college compound the JCD activists hurled crackers and opened fire from the roof top of the college building. BCL workers immediately responded by exploding crackers and firing gunshots.

Witnesses said that over 50 gunshots and 70 blasts were heard when the students were engaged in the clash. After an hour police brought the situation under control, they added.

Three policemen including Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station, MA Awal, sustained blast-injuries and were given first aid while two students Firoz and Babul who were identified as BCL workers were admitted to a private clinic at Dhanmondi.

Public Relation Department of Police said four students involved in the clash were arrested but the Dhanmondi police denied having arrested anyone last night.

Meanwhile Joint-Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Abdul Jalil in a statement last night expressed concern over the violence in the college and blamed JCD workers for breaching congenial academic atmosphere.

Charge against Ovi, Guddu : 13 freed

Special Tribunal Judge Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday framed charge against former student leader Golam Faroque Ovi and Intiazuddin Ahmed Guddu under section 19 (A) and 19 (F) of Arms Act, reports UNB.

Detective police arrested Ovi and 14 others from the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University on May 18 last.

Two cases, one under the Arms Act and other for firing on police have been filed against them.

After hearing both the sides, the court released the other 13 co-accused of the case.

Auranga's bail petition rejected

Judge Kazi Habibul Awal rejected the bail petition of Awami League MP Hemayetuddin Auranga yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate also rejected the bail petition of the MP immediately after his arrest on October 25.

A special squad of detective branch arrested Auranga from Purbani hotel on October 24 on charge of involvement in a murder case.

A case had been filed against him in 1980 for killing an inspector, NK Ali Azam, of intelligence branch.

Push in : Delhi changes style

By Staff Correspondent

The Indian border guards tried to push 24 people into Bangladesh Sunday night in a somewhat clandestine manner, violating a pledge their officers made at a flag meeting October 28, a senior BDR official in Jessore said last night.

An attempt was made at 9.30 Sunday night to send 15 people and then again at 2.30 am Monday night others, Lt Col Bazul Huq, reached by phone, said.

Lt Col Huq, who commands the BDR battalion that takes care of the Benapole border post, said that the latest attempt was a departure from earlier ones when the BSF used to show up.

But this time, the BDR officials said, the Indian border guards apparently remained in the background while trying to push these people at the dead of night.

He said that his forces foiled the moves.

"I don't think this is a major event," Col Huq said, rejecting suggestions that the new attempt might trigger fresh tension along the southwestern border.

Complying with accords reached between the border officials, the two sides withdrew their troops posted in advanced positions, easing the tension that flared after India launched the so-called Operation Push Back.

At the meeting, the BSF delegation also promised that no further attempt to push Bengali-speaking people would be made.

UNB adds: BDR sent back to India 23 Bangla-speaking people who were pushed into Bangladesh by BSF through Hatibandha border in Lalmonirhat district Saturday night.

Among the Indian nationals, pushed back Sunday night, were 16 men, four women and three children.

The BDR personnel thwarted another Indian attempt to send 14 people to Bangladesh through Moghul Hat border of the district Monday night.

Information trickling in from across the border said about 450 Bangla-speaking people were gathered at different camps along Lalmonirhat border. Among them 150 people were collected at Nirapara camp in Koochbehar district of India.

Meanwhile, the BDR men intensified vigilance along the border. They also met the leaders of the bordering areas and sought their help to foil the Indian push in drive.

Our Correspondent in Jessore says: Meanwhile, the BDR jawans

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Gayoom invited to SAARC summit

MALE, Nov 9: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday handed over the letter of invitation from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the President of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, for attending the seventh SAARC Summit in Dhaka in December, reports BSS.

The Maldives President conveyed his thanks to the Bangladesh Prime Minister for the invitation saying he was looking forward to visiting Dhaka next month.

During the call on the President Secretariat here, the Maldives President and the Bangladesh Foreign Minister discussed organizational and substantive matters relating to the Dhaka Summit and other matters of common interest.

The Foreign Secretary of Maldives, Saiah Shihab was present.

Maldives capital, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister was received by his Maldives counterpart, Fathulla Jameel.

Seven more die of diarrhoea in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 9: Seven people, including four children, died of diarrhoea in the district in the last 24 hours, reports UNB.

According to unofficial sources, the killer disease attacked 8,592 others during the period.

With this, the death toll from diarrhoea stood at 100 since the disease broke out in the district on August 1.

The Civil Surgeon confirmed three deaths over the last 24 hours. Officials put the toll at 48 and the number of people attacked at 3,400 since August 1.

Among the dead, Alpina (10) and Zaida (11) died at Hornahata in sadar thana, Hamida (9) at Brahmanbaria in Royganj thana and Shefalt (8) at Kofjuri in Shahjadpur thana.

Identity of others could not be ascertained immediately.

Appeal to resume wheat supply to Pak refugees

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh have appealed to the President and the Prime Minister to resume relief supply to some 2.38 lakh refugees living in 66 camps.

Supply of wheat under gratuitous relief (GR) of the government remained abruptly suspended since August, chief patron of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) M Nasim Khan told The Daily Star Monday.

In an urgent telegraphic message, the SPGRC leader appealed to President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Home, Relief and Food Ministries to restore the relief supply.

A copy of the message made available to The Daily Star said that the overall administration in the camps has come to a complete halt because of the snap in the supply of GR wheat.

"We are confident and hopeful (that) there will be no bitterness at the end for this interim period of their stay," it said.

7 file nomination for Bhola-4 by-election

Seven candidates submitted their nomination papers yesterday for contesting the by-election of Bhola-4 constituency, according to an Election Commission press release here, reports BSS.

The candidates are : Motahar Hossain (Alamgir) Maltia, Principal Moulana Ansar Ali, Kriyak Mohammad Sadeq, Zafarullah Chowdhury, Abdus Shahid Maltia, Mohammad Shahed Ali Mia and Saifur Rahman.

The nomination papers will be scrutinized today while the last date for withdrawal of candidature is November 15.

The election will be held on December 2 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. without break.

Bhola-4 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad fell vacant following the death of Principal Nazrul Islam.

PM for accountability in education

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for establishment of accountability in the field of education for improving its quality, reports BSS.

"The main question before the nation is whether the standard of education in our country is satisfactory. You have to make self-appraisal," she said while inaugurating national grand conference of Bangladesh College Shikkhak Samity (BCTA) at the Engineers Institution in city yesterday.

Begum Zia said unless accountability was established in the field of education, the desired results could not be achieved. Turning to the teachers, she hoped that they would not be party to the rise and fall of any government but always uphold the ideals and principles of their profession.

She said, "I would always stand beside the people for the cause of national development."

Presided over by President of BCTA AKM Shahidullah, the function was also addressed by Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan, State Minister for Culture Professor Jahanara Begum, parliament members—Dr.A Moyn Khan and Major (Retd) Qamrul Islam, Sheikh Amanullah, President, Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity Federation and Kazi Faruq Ahmed, General Secretary of BCTA.

The Prime Minister sought cooperation of the members of

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Anglo-Russian treaty signed

LONDON, Nov 9: Russian President Boris Yeltsin and British Prime Minister John Major set the seal on a new closer relationship between their countries today with the signing of a full Anglo-Russian treaty, the first since 1766 reports Reuters.

The treaty, the centrepiece of Yeltsin's first official visit to Britain, contains strong commitments to western political and economic values and is intended to lock post-Soviet Russia firmly into the Western democratic camp.

The first such agreement between the United Kingdom and Russia since the 1766 treaty of amity and commerce during the reign of Catherine the Great, it sets out cooperation in all aspects of relations between the two countries.

Yeltsin said the new treaty would bring an end to the period of confrontation between the two countries and "the whipping up of military hysteria and ideological confrontation."

"The new, democratic Russia is building its relations with the outside world on the basis of generally recognised norms of international law and human morality. This is one of the reasons for the spectacular changes that have taken place in Russian-British relations in the past year," he said.

The treaty includes a framework for peaceful ties, economic cooperation and joint work to promote international security.

British and Russian ministers also signed several other agreements, including one on economic affairs, setting up a hot line communications link military cooperation, combating air piracy and transporting nuclear arms.

The military agreement covers exchange visits of chiefs of defence staff, reciprocal ship visits and advice on running a military establishment in a democratic society. The nuclear arms agreement offers special British vehicles and containers for the safe transport of nuclear warheads to sites for destruction.

The economic agreement formalises bilateral cooperation on economic issues between the two countries.

Full details of the treaty and agreements were to be released by Major and Yeltsin in statements to reporters after the signing ceremony.



Russia and Britain signed a friendship and economic treaty in London on Monday. — Star TV photo