

50 hurt as JCD, Jubo Dal, police clash in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 1: At least 50 people were injured, seven of them receiving bullet wounds as the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Jubo Dal activists went on a rampage during and after a half day hartal here today.

The ruling BNP-backed JCD and the Jubo Dal activists exchanged gunfire with the police at different places and at one stage attacked the Narayanganj Police Station.

Those injured by bullets include two policemen — ASI Harun and constable Embadul Huq — who have been admitted to the Narayanganj Hospital. The JCD and the Jubo Dal called a 6 am to 2 pm hartal today protesting the attack on two of their activists yesterday.

The day started with a series of cracker explosions around the Chashara area of the town, the stronghold of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) which the JCD blames for yesterday's incident. The picketeers damaged three trucks and one minibis in the morning and also beat up shopkeepers when they resisted them.

Later at around 10:30 am a large procession of the JCD and the Jubo Dal armed with lethal weapons tried to enter the BCL stronghold but faced resistance. Several shots were exchanged between the JCD and the pro Awami League BCL activists.

When police rushed to the spot, the JCD activists also opened fire at them immediately. The police retaliated by firing 25 rounds of rubber bullets and lobbed ten rounds of teargas shells. Police also rounded up some JCD activists from the spot.

Enraged by the police action, the JCD students attacked the Narayanganj Police Station at around 11:45 am. Later the mob was dispersed through a lathi charge.

Police arrested 28 JCD activists from the spot.

During the hartal hours, the mob ransacked two garments factories and a number of shops at Kalir Bazar.



Visiting artists, critics and members of the jury attending a briefing session yesterday at the Shilpakala Academy prior to the opening of the Sixth Asian Art Biennale 1993 in the city today. — Star photo

Bangladesh no longer a basket case: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said that Bangladesh is no longer an international basket case, but "has become a basket full nation" on its way to achieve a self-reliant economy under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia according to a message received here last night reports BSS.

Bangladesh has been cited as the number one country in the South Asian sub-continent by the World Bank for managing its economy since democracy was restored and people's government was elected two and a half years ago, the Finance Minister said while addressing a function in Edinburgh, Scotland Sunday.

The function was arranged to mark the appointment of Wali Tazur Uddin as honorary consul of Bangladesh in Edinburgh. A prominent businessman and social worker of Edinburgh, Wali Tazur Uddin became the first ever honorary consul of Bangladesh in Britain. Tazur Uddin raised pound 140,000 in 1991 to build a cyclone shelter schools and health complex in cyclone affected areas of Bangladesh.

The function was also addressed by Malcolm Rifkind, MP, Secretary of State for Defence, Bangladesh High Commissioner Dr A F M Yusuf, Lord Mayor of Edinburgh and others. It was attended by more than three hundred prominent Bangladeshis people from all over the UK.

Rahman, who has recently been elected as Chairman of the Board of Governors of World Bank and IMF giving an account of Bangladesh economy, said that it had topped the list of South Asian nation in macro-economic management, bringing inflation to its lowest ever level, and harnessing internal resources as well as accelerating privatisation and other structural reforms receiving recognition by the World Bank and other international organisations.

The Finance Minister said "We have opened up our economy which is in a much better shape now poised to become stronger further as a result of determined efforts by the democratic government during the past two-and-half year."

Hazratbal

From Page 1 Col 4

They said Singh should intervene to resolve the impasse the Press Trust of India reported.

Karan Singh's father Maharajah Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession in 1947 pledging Kashmir to newly independent India and divesting himself of royal rank like hundreds of Indian princes.

Describing the accession of Kashmir as an irrefutable fact, Karan Singh told a news conference here Monday that questioning accession would be unhistorical but denying that Kashmir was a dispute was unrealistic.

Karan Singh said Delhi should declare a unilateral ceasefire and open talks on ending the bloody revolt in the Himalayan region.

The All Party Kashmir Freedom Conference meanwhile called for a general strike from Tuesday across Kashmir to force a lifting of the siege. Mass protests have already paralyzed normal life.

Meanwhile Atal Bihari Vajpayee, parliamentary leader of the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanded that the government take strong action against the Muslim militants holed up in the Muzze.

The West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu today said any force should be used in flushing out the militants and efforts should be made to persuade the militants to surrender.

1 dies in DU violence

From Page 1 Col 3

Building

During this chase, the gunmen opened fire on Jinnah but the bullet missed the target. A retired peon Altin who went to the Registrar's Building to draw his pension, was injured in the shooting.

With his life in jeopardy, Jinnah ran into a room of the Accounts Section of the building and tried to hide in the crowd. His assailants cornered him in the room and fired nine times, seriously injuring Jinnah and also Haider and Sattar, who were inside the room.

All of them were first admitted to the DMCH after the armed men left the area. Jinnah and Haider were later admitted to the Pongu Hospital, where the former died.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: Jinnah died of excessive bleeding while Sattar, who was in a critical condition, was out of danger in the evening.

Meanwhile, the employees of Dhaka University closed all the office rooms on the campus and brought out processions.

Hundreds of curious people were seen visiting the place of occurrence which was left with a pool of blood and traces of the savage attack.

All the employees' unions, including the Dhaka University Officers Association, the Chhatra Oikyo Parishad, the Chhatra Oikyo Forum and the Bangladesh Chhatra League have called a strike today demanding arrest and punishment of the terrorists. They also sought tighter security on the campus.

The Dhaka University Employees Association, in a meeting presided over by Deputy Registrar (Education) Md Selim, also decided to hold a protest rally at the Anzala.

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) meanwhile, in a meeting presided over by its vice president Sayed-Ul-Rahman, expressed solidarity with the strike call and said the incident proved once again that the campus had become a sanctuary for the terrorists.

The DUTA said it had earlier warned the university authorities of further violence because the had not taken any action against the terrorists.

Witnesses suspected that one of the main reasons behind the violence was the participation by Jinnah in a tender floated by the university, besides, inter-caste JCD rivalry is also a cause.

However, a DU employee commented: "The university authorities are responsible for such campus violence." The authorities are backing such criminals, he said.

Jinnah married Nilu, vice president (VP) of the Shamaunahar Hall unit of the JCD, on October 20.

Jinnah hailed from village Kalikapur of Dewanganj under Jamalpur district. His father Nurul Islam is a retired teacher. Ironically, the university reopened only Sunday, after the Durga Puja vacation.

Boarding bridges at ZIA soon

By Staff Correspondent

The Zia International Airport (ZIA) will be equipped with four boarding bridges shortly to facilitate passenger embarkation and disembarkation.

Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan will lay the foundation of one of the bridges at the airport today.

An American firm will install the boarding bridges at a cost of Tk 6.5 crore.

AL rally on Jail Killing Day tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League (AL) will hold a public rally in the city tomorrow (Nov 3) afternoon in observance of the Jail Killing Day.

Four central leaders of the Awami League were killed in the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. They were Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Monsoor Ali and A H M Kamruzzaman.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina will preside over tomorrow's rally, scheduled to be held at the Bangabandhu Avenue at 3 pm. She is expected to strongly demand the trial of those responsible for the killings.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 6

Road residence. The chairman apprised Hasina of various problems they were facing.

Hasina alleged that the government was ignoring the elected chairman and entrusting its party men with the responsibility of implementing various developmental projects and distributing relief goods.

The ruling party men are resorting to corruption, hampering developmental activities," she further alleged.

The Awami League chief urged the chairman to discharge their duties neutrally in their respective areas relieving illegal pressures from any quarters.

DU authorities deplore act

By Staff Correspondent

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka University (DU) authority, presided over by Vice Chancellor Emajuddin Ahmed, yesterday evening deplored the violence in the administrative building that left one student killed and three others injured yesterday.

The meeting felt that the law enforcing agencies should identify the criminals involved in the armed vandalism and ensure prompt punishment.

The meeting, attended by the deans of different faculties, hall provosts, executive body members of the DU Teachers' Association and the proctors, demanded government's intervention to prevent recurrence of such violence.

They decided to observe a full-day work abstention today and hold a joint rally at 10 am in front of the administrative building.

Meanwhile BSS says, DUCSU vice president Amanullah Aman, MP and general secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon condemned the killing of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Jinnatul Islam Jinnah in an attack by a group of miscreants at the Dhaka University yesterday.

Show cause on 2 Sylhet BNP leaders

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 1: Show cause notices have been served on two office-bearers of the break-away district BNP committee here today.

Advocate Abdul Gaffar and Saiful Kabir, president and secretary of the rebel committee, have been charged with tarnishing the image of the party.

PM: Health

From Page 1 Col 7

the development of the health sector of the WHO member countries.

Begum Zia gave a resume of the health situation in Bangladesh and said most of the activities in the health sector were being carried out in the light of primary health care approach to achieve the target of "Health for all by the year 2000."

The Prime Minister outlined the objectives of the health policy of her government. These include establishment of health infrastructure throughout the country, expansion of disease prevention and health development works, expansion of health facilities and their improvement, expansion of health services for mother and children and ensuring the participation of the people in the local health development activities.

She said despite resource constraints allocation for the health sector had been increased.

Referring to considerable reduction in the incidence and mortality rates of communicable diseases and rise in people's health awareness, the Prime Minister said the overall health situation in Bangladesh was gradually improving.

Begum Zia said there had been positive changes in people's attitudes to family planning, the number of couples adopting family planning had been increasing, remarkable progress had been achieved in immunization of mothers and children and in the supply of safe drinking water for the people in rural areas.

The Prime Minister said despite a number of achievements there had been several challenges in this sector.

Firstly health care is to be ensured for the underprivileged people particularly the slum dwellers and, secondly, accountability of health workers at different levels is to be ensured, she said.

The Prime Minister also emphasized the need for taking effective preventive measures against the killer disease AIDS, malaria, leprosy and strengthening natural disaster management system.

She sought cooperation of the WHO, international agencies and donor countries to meet these challenges.

Begum Zia termed the nutritional problem as a major hindrance on the way to people's health improvement and said her government had taken specific programmes to increase food production and people's awareness about nutrition.

The Prime Minister said food yield had increased but production was being hampered in the country's north-western region due to droughts in the dry season. This problem, she said, had been attributed to the creation of impediments in the natural flow of the common rivers.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haq, Director General of WHO Dr Hiroshi Nakajima and Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia region Dr U Ko Ko spoke on the occasion.

Regional move must for actions: WHO DG

Dr U Ko Ko

Dr U Ko Ko, WHO Regional Director for South East Asia, said yesterday that in an era of increasing interdependence and rapid changes in the global environment, regional consultation has become all the more necessary to develop and adopt concerted actions in all fields of human endeavour, reports BSS.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the 11th meeting of the Health Ministers of the WHO South East Asia region, Dr Nakajima said societies in the region are undergoing thorough rapid and continuous changes. Labour intensive agriculture and industry still make up a big part of the economy of this region, he mentioned. He said by raising healthy children who can utilize their full mental and physical potential, can these countries keep their competitive advantage and attract further investment for further development.

The WHO chief said the region can take pride in having achieved much social and economic progress. He particularly spoke about performances of the Grameen Bank which has combined economic and social development. The success of the Grameen Bank Dr Nakajima pointed out, empowered the poorest — mostly women — by providing them not only loans, but also with associated social and educational facilities including health education.

Dr Nakajima said as the changes in economic trends, market structures and marketing practices have direct bearing on lifestyles and disease patterns, health policies will have to be revised and adapted to fit the changed environment.

The Director General of WHO asked the health ministers of the member countries to strongly plead with their respective governments for health to be recognised as a condition of sustainable development, just as development is

Fakir Abdul Mannan laid to rest

KAPASIA, Nov 1: Former minister Fakir Abdul Mannan was laid to rest at his family graveyard at village Ghagutia of Kapasia thana in Gazipur today. He died on October 31, reports BSS.

Mirza Azam granted bail

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to Mirza Azam MP, accused under the Anti-Terrorism Act, reports UNB.

Begum Zia welcomed the concept of setting up a regional disaster management centre and said the centre could be established in Bangladesh since it is a disaster prone area.

In the business session, the ministers discussed the trends of communicable diseases like AIDS, malaria and cholera, public and private co-ordination in health care and technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC).

The ministers opined that HIV infection is likely to increase and steps are being taken for its prevention and control in the region.

They said, the medicare services are increasingly becoming costly and private organisations should come forward in providing better health services to the people.

The regional health ministers also reviewed the progress of implementation of the recommendations of the 10th meeting which was held in Bhutan last year. They expressed their satisfaction over the progress, the WHO officials attending the conference said.

The ministers will go for a field trip to the Shreepur Thana Health Complex today and will resume the business session at the BRAC centre at Rajendrapur.

Youths: PM

From Page 1 Col 4

youth community was being increasingly involved in poverty alleviation programmes, poultry and dairy farming and pisciculture.

She said another programme on family planning would be taken up to involve the youths in population control activities.

Begum Zia said: "We want proper grooming of the youths as an economic force and creation of proper atmosphere for them is our political commitment."

The Prime Minister said "Let's take a pledge to organise the youth community and help them devote themselves in nation-building activities."

Begum Zia underlined the need for creating a social movement to turn the youth of the country into a productive force.

Earlier, the Prime Minister inaugurated the day by hoisting the national flag and releasing balloons.

The function was also addressed by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, Dhaka Mayor Mirza Abbas MP, Youth and Sports Secretary M Azizul Haq, Director General of the Youth Development Directorate Mohammad Zaiul Abedin some successful self-employed youths and youth representatives from the Maldives and India who are taking part in the five-day programme arranged on the occasion.

Begum Zia also opened a youth fair in which more than 60 stalls have been set up with hand-made products on display.

WHO emergency centre

From Page 1 Col 8

within the Asia and Pacific region, the services from the centre, if located in Dhaka, can reach quickly the disaster areas."

The first business session elected the Bangladesh Health Minister chairman and Mongolian Health Minister Dr P Nyamdava as vice-chairman of the conference.

Earlier, in the morning, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurated the three-day eleventh conference of the health ministers of South and South-East Asia at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

Ten health ministers and deputy health ministers from North Korea, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and host Bangladesh are attending the conference.

The South-East Asia region of the World Health Organisation (WHO) comprises 11 countries including Bhutan which is being represented by senior officials because the country currently does not have a health minister.

The Director General of WHO, its Regional Director and a number of senior WHO executives are also participating in the meeting.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, inaugurating the conference, said the South Asian countries should set up a regional forum to combat common diseases.

Mentioning malaria, kala-azar, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and leprosy as the common diseases of the region, Begum Zia said, Bangladesh is committed to protect the entire population from these common diseases.

Health Minister Kamal ibne Yusuf, Deputy Minister Sirajul Haq, WHO Director General Dr Hiroshi Nakajima and Regional Director Dr U Ko Ko addressed the inaugural session.

Later, the participating

BNP rally Nov 7

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka metropolitan city unit of the ruling BNP will hold a public rally on November 7 at the Democracy Square of the city in observance of the Revolution and National Solidarity Day.

Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia will address the rally as chief guest.

The Midnight File

Rutskoi sent back to jail

MOSCOW, Nov 1: The former Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi has been sent back to Lefortovo prison here after spending five days in hospital for treatment of high blood pressure. Interfax news agency said today. Rutskoi was placed under doctor's supervision at the prison and his condition was said to be satisfactory, but he would not undergo further questioning in connection with the October 3-4 riots in Moscow until his condition improved, reports AFP.

Burundi's army rejects plans to deploy foreign troops

BUJUMBURA, Nov 1: Burundi's army today rejected plans to deploy foreign troops in the central African state 11 days after toppling the elected government and killing President Melchior Ndadaye and six ministers. "The Burundi army today rejects any attempts to deploy foreign troops anywhere in the country. This is against our laws against Burundi's common good," Army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jean Bosco Dararanga told Reuters in an interview.

Bosnian army chief under house arrest

SARAJEVO, Nov 1: The chief of the Bosnian army's General Staff Sefer Halilovic has been placed under house arrest charged with covering up war crimes, a senior government official said today, reports AFP.

The move against Halilovic follows the arrest last week of two local commanders in Sarajevo and the smashing of a network of criminal activities.

The official, who would not be identified, said Halilovic was accused of concealing war crimes, in particular in the Mostar and Jablanica areas.

"Harris Silajdzic, a new government will fight all crimes and rights abuses and also probe war crimes," the officials said.

The official's statement was confirmed by high ranking military sources who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

Halilovic, a former officer of the federal Yugoslav army who joined Bosnian forces after the break up of the old Yugoslavia, was dismissed as army commander on June 8 after occupying the post for a year.

He was later named chief of the mainly Muslim army's general staff and in September tried to unite troops sent from Sarajevo to Jablanica under his command with forces from Mostar.

The area of southern Bosnia is the theatre of fighting between government and Croat forces.

Reaz

From Page 1 Col 8

to Minister in the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York where he served from September 1976 to July 1980.

He was Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from July 1980 before taking over as Additional Foreign Secretary in July 1981. He had been Bangladesh Ambassador in Italy since February 1983 with concurrent accreditation to Switzerland and Albania. He also served as Ambassador in Algeria from July 1986 in February 1988. He took over as Foreign Secretary in September 1991.

Reaz Rahman represented Bangladesh in many international conferences and carried out other important assignments during his more than three decade long diplomatic career. He has also been closely involved with the evolution of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) from its inception. He is the current Chairman of SAARC Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries.

Rahman is married and has two children.

Azam's citizenship

From Page 1 Col 8

Earlier on August 23, the Appellate Division bench comprising Justice ATM Afzal, Justice Mustafa Kamal and Justice Latifur Rahman, granted a prayer of the Attorney General seeking adjournment of the hearing until a week after the court returned from annual vacation. The court reopened on October 26.

Last April a single-bench of the High Court restored the citizenship of Jamaat leader Gulam Azam after a Divisional Bench had given a split decision last year on a writ petition challenging the government order disqualifying him from becoming a citizen.

On July 22 the government appeal against the High Court verdict initially came up for hearing before the Appellate Division, when the Attorney General's office had also sought adjournment for four weeks.

On the same day the Appellate Division lifted the stay order on the High Court verdict restoring the citizenship of Azam, while granting the adjournment motion of the government.

Ishaq Khan

From Page 1 Col 4

Ishaq Khan was forced last July to resign along with his former protegee turned bitter enemy, then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in an army-brokered deal to end a paralysing six-month powers struggle between the two men.

Ishaq Khan, nominated by the PPP's main ally in Bhutto's coalition government — a splinter group from Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML) — said failure by the partners to agree on a candidate for the head of state could jeopardise their pact.

"They are in an alliance and that would have serious implications for both sides," he said.

The PML has put forward five candidates and the PPP three for the presidency — a part of the informal triumvirate, including the Prime Minister and the powerful army chief, that runs Pakistan. Neither party has yet decided on an official candidate.

The rush of rival nominations marked Bhutto's failure to reach agreement with arch-rival Sharif on a consensus candidate after several days of intense talks.

"In party based politics a consensus is not on" Ishaq Khan said, but acknowledged that PPP stalwarts might resist supporting a man who sacked their government in 1990.

There are conscientious objections to me in their party."

The PML's leading nominee for the five-year post is Acting President Wasim Sajjad, the Senate Chairman who took over after Ishaq Khan's humiliating resignation.

Ishaq Khan has become one of the most unpopular politicians in Pakistan after he twice exercised his presidential powers under a controversial constitutional amendment to dissolve parliament.

The vote for President by the 87 member Senate, 217 seat National Assembly and four provincial assemblies will be the first major trial of strength for Bhutto's government.

Israel

From Page 1 Col 7

around the Gush Katif block of settlements in the south where the military headquarters would be re-located from Gaza city.

The three areas would be protected by electronic barriers and linked to Israel by roads which avoid built-up Palestinian areas and have no roadside dwellings.

For the Palestinians, Colonel Naseer Yuseef said a plan for a withdrawal from all the Gaza Strip was put forward and would be examined.

The Palestinians would present counter-proposals in the coming days.

Under the September 13 autonomy agreement Israeli will maintain responsibility for the settlements and the 3,000 5,000 settlers on the Gaza Strip.

Guska said withdrawal from the Jericho region which has also been granted autonomy would take place at a later date. The exact area for autonomy in the West Bank town still has to be defined.