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30 hurt in city violence

By Staff Correspondent

At least 30 people, including two press photographers, were injured in violent clashes during a Nationalist Democratic Alliance (NDA) meeting in the city yesterday.

According to witnesses, scores of home-made bombs and cocktails exploded and a number of gunshots were heard in and around the NDA meeting venue at the Dainik Bangla intersection in Motijheel during the clashes which started at around 4 pm.

The nearly hour-long mayhem saw a group of stick-wielding armed youngmen also looting and ransacking over 20 shops in the vicinity and even forcing their way into the nearby National Sports Council (NSC) building, causing extensive damage, they added.

Panic spread in the entire Motijheel and Purana Paltan areas during the melee as people ran for safer places. All roads were closed in the area, causing severe traffic jams in nearby roads.

Riot police fired several rounds of teargas canisters and resorted to lathicharge to bring the situation under control.

Motijheel police arrested two persons from the spot and charged them under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Three people were admitted with stab injuries while a number of others were given first-aid treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted after a few cracker blasts were heard when a pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League procession was heading towards the National Press Club through the Purana Paltan intersection.

Instantly, numerous home-made bombs started to explode near the Dainik Bangla intersection. NDA chairman and former President Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed was preparing to address the meeting at the time, witnesses added.

Two other meetings were also scheduled at the same venue by the Jamaat-Shibir Pratiroh Committee and the Rickshaw-Chalok League. However, only the NDA was allowed to hold the meeting while police barricaded all roads leading to the Dainik Bangla intersection.

Stick-wielding NDA activists, witnesses said, turned violent and went on a rampage and looted about 25 shops in the Motijheel and Purana Paltan areas.

At one stage, they added, the unruly elements stormed the NSC building and ransacked the place breaking doors, windows, furniture, sports equipment and trophies and even of-ice machines. They were also seen walking away with a number of crests and trophies kept at the five-storeyed Sports Council building.

The entire Motijheel and Baitul Mukarram area was



Stick-wielding and stone-throwing youngmen storm the National Sports Council during a meeting of the Nationalist Democratic Alliance at the Dainik Bangla crossing in the city yesterday. — Star photo

WB VP Wood due in capital today

By A Special Correspondent

World Bank Vice President Joseph Wood arrives here today on a five-day trip to Bangladesh to assess first hand the impact of the on-going reform programme and to underscore the WB's commitment to its success.

The WB vice president will call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and six other ministers during his stay in Dhaka.

In his pre-visit letters to the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, Wood said the trip would give him the chance to express his hopes and concerns for Bangladesh's economic future.

Wood, in his letter addressed to the Prime Minister, said that there are good reasons to be proud of Bangladesh's progress over the past three years while the government has taken strong measures to raise taxes so that more resources can be provided for essential development programmes.

He said that the farmers have benefited from agricultural reform and food production has increased and garments exports have continued to rise. Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves are also at an all-time high.

But the WB vice president also expressed his concern, saying Bangladesh is not

Revolution, Solidarity Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The National Revolution and Solidarity Day will be observed throughout the country today with due solemnity and fervour.

On this day in 1975, a sepoys' revolution foiled a reported conspiracy against the

Editorial on Page 4

country's independence and sovereignty.

The day has been declared a public holiday and offices of the national dailies will also remain closed on the day. The occasion will be marked by discussions, public rallies and special prayers in different parts of the country.

The national flag will fly atop public and private buildings. — Page 12 Col 3

Prokrichi plans 8-hr hunger strike Nov 15

By Staff Correspondent

The non-administrative civil servants and the professionals in government service including engineers, agriculturists and doctors (Prokrichi) will jointly observe an eight-hour token hunger strike on November 15 to press home their 17-point charter of demands for administrative reforms.

The agitating civil servants and the professionals, following four fruitless meetings with the government since May last, recently decided to go ahead with a series of demonstrations against the government. Their programmes include a token two-hour work-stoppage every day from November 20 to 25 and going on a three-day casual leave from December 11 across the country by all the members of the non-administrative cadre services and the Prokrichi.

The non-administrative cadres also plan an en masse resignation in the last week of December amid an 'all out' agitation, the programme for which is to be announced on the first of January 1994.

Govt may lower its paddy, rice prices

By Inam Ahmed

Despite the continued slump in rice prices, the government, at its next cabinet meeting Monday, plans to further lower its procurement price of both paddy and rice.

An authoritative source in the Food Ministry told The Daily Star that the decision has been taken to discourage government procurement as all the godowns are now over stocked.

Another source said the Food Ministry has proposed the fixation of paddy procurement price at between Tk 185 and 190 and rice price at around Tk 300 per maund this year. Last year's prices were Tk 210 for paddy and Tk 323 for rice.

The source said the new price has been proposed because the government now feels that the market should determine the prices.

He also indicated that the price of paddy in India, which is now Tk 147 per maund, had been taken into consideration when scaling down the proposed price for this year.

The Food Ministry officials had very recently taken trips to Dinajpur, Barisal, Chittagong and Thakurgaon and other districts to examine the rice and paddy prices before making the new recommendations.

However, when contacted, an agriculturist said further lowering of the government's rise purchase price would only dampen the market and the farmers would face heavy losses since their production price is already higher than the selling price.

Food Ministry sources, however, maintained that the government's offer will be much higher than the market price and indicated that for Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna divisions the average price of rice ranges between Tk 130 and Tk 140 per maund.

According to data, the total cost of agricultural input for one acre of HYV rice land was Tk 8700. Fifty maunds being the average per acre production, and Tk 140 the price per maund, the average retail market price of rice stood at Tk 7000.

During fiscal 1992-93, the total food production target, fixed at 195 lakh tonnes, might cross the target.

Hasina arrives in Beijing

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina reached Beijing yesterday to start her first-ever visit to China, reports UNB.

Hasina, leading a 4-member delegation, left Dhaka Friday for Hong Kong en route to Beijing on a fortnight visit at the invitation of the Liaison Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Other members of her entourage are Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament Abdus Samad Azad, member of Awami League Advisory Council SAMS Kibria and Abul Hassan Chowdhury MP.

The Awami League chief is expected to meet with top leaders of the government and the Communist Party of China during her stay in the Chinese capital.

Most urban dwellers are denied municipal services, says report

By Special Correspondent

The report mentioned about wastage of water where public supply system exists and said that the wastage remains between 40 to 75 per cent. The wastage was attributed to inadequate supervision, operation and maintenance of the water supply system while the pricing policy and general apathy of consumers and agency personnel to water conservation was also pointed out as a major cause.

As regards sanitation services, the report said that only 25 per cent of the urban population have access to proper hygienic sanitation. The remaining 75 per cent depend on open latrines or open places.

Dhaka is the only city with a

Most of the urban population in Bangladesh have no access to municipal services since the growth of urban areas has consistently been faster than the growth of service infrastructure.

This was stated in a report prepared recently by the relevant authorities of the government that dealt with the overall situation in urban services including water supply, sanitation, drainage, waste management and other aspects.

The country's urban population has been estimated at 23 million, living in about 500 urban centres including the metropolitan cities, district towns, thana headquarters and small townships.

Only 106 towns are managed by municipalities and the four big cities — Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi — have corporations.

According to the report, only 40 per cent of urban households, accommodating about 8.6 million people, have access to public water supplies. Forty per cent of these people have to depend on 20,000 hand pumps for water.

The remaining 60 per cent urban households where about 14 million people live, obtain water from private sources including ponds, surface water and hand-pumped tubewells. People living in urban fringe settlements and slums do not have access to piped water while only Dhaka and Chittagong have extensive piped water distribution networks.

25 RU students chargesheeted

RAJSHAHI, Nov 6: Police today submitted two charge sheets on the violence occurred on the Rajshahi University campus in September last, reports UNB.

The charge sheets covered the campus violence on September 20 in which one student was killed, several others injured and the Registrar of the university, Omar Faruk was assaulted on September 22.

The Motihar police submitted charge sheet against 23 activists and leaders of the Islami Chhatra Shibir, including Mdhatir Rahman Akand, president of its university unit, upon a case filed by the Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Another charge sheet was submitted against two JCD leaders after filing a case by the university Registrar, accusing central assistant secretary Shahin Sawkat and assistant office secretary of the university unit AHM Kader Siddiqui for assaulting and threatening him.

Auranga gets life term for murder

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League MP KM Hemayetullah Auranga has been convicted for murdering a defence intelligence man and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Additional District and Sessions Judge of Dhaka Zinat Ara also fined him Tk 5,000 and in default to suffer another one year's rigorous imprisonment for killing DGFI corporal Ali Azam in January, 1980.

The 40-year old AL leader, wearing white kuata-pyjama and a 'black Mujib coat' stood silently in the dock when the Judge delivered her 38-page verdict in the decade-old murder case yesterday.

Auranga's supporters, mostly AL and Jubo League activists on the ground floor of the old court building, chanted slogans during the delivery of the verdict while policemen cordoned off the courtroom on the second floor of the building.

After the judgement, Auranga told a group of reporters that he would appeal against the sentence in the higher court.

Once a leading student leader of the AL's front organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League, Auranga was elected MP for the Shariatpur-1 constituency in February 1991.

Col (ret'd) Shwakt Ali, another AL MP from Shariatpur, was present in the court during the judgement.

Our Court Correspondent adds: According to the prosecution story, Auranga shot and

CMC reopens Nov 13

CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: Classes in the Chittagong Medical College will resume on November 13 with a ban on all political activities on the campus.

The hostels of the college will reopen on November 11.

The decision of reopening the college was taken in a meeting of the academic and staff council of the college today with its Principal Dr Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan in the chair.

The Chittagong Medical College was closed *since-de* immediately after some gunmen attacked the doctors' cafeteria

Wasim Sajjad PML's candidate for presidency

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6: Pakistan's main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) named Acting President Wasim Sajjad as its candidate for next week's presidential election, reports AFP.

Sajjad will face Farooq Ahmed Leghari from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in the election to be held November 13.

Announcing the decision, former premier and PML president Nawaz Sharif said the party and its allies were strong enough to source the presidency for Sajjad.

The president is to be elected by some 460 members of parliament and four provincial assemblies.

Auranga's men go on rampage in city

By Staff Correspondent

The conviction of Hemayetullah Auranga, MP, by the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka yesterday sparked off a series of violent incidents in the Nawabpur Road area in the afternoon, leaving scores of vehicles and shops damaged.

Witnesses said, immediately after the pronouncement of the life sentence against the Awami League parliamentarian, a militant procession made its way from the District Court area towards Gulistan.

The agitated processionists pelted stones at the passing vehicles and damaged at least 15 cars during the rampage.

Kotwall and Sutrapur police, when contacted last night, shifted blame on one another saying 'it is not within our jurisdiction.'

The police also failed to give details of the violence.



Hemayetullah Auranga, MP being whisked away by police from the Dhaka court building after he was convicted for murder yesterday. — Star photo

Murtaza proclaims himself innocent

KARACHI, Nov 6: Mir Murtaza Bhutto, jailed younger brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, proclaimed himself innocent in court today, after 16 years in exile, he was innocent of a hijacking charge, reports Reuters.

Appearing for the first time since he was arrested when he arrived at the Karachi Airport on Thursday, Murtaza complained he had been detained without a warrant.

But he said he was delighted to be back in Pakistan — even if in a Pakistani jail.

"I am very happy that I am in Pakistan," Murtaza, who was a state guest of Syria for many years, told reporters after a 30-minute court appearance.

"Even though I am in jail it is a jail in my country, which is much better than living in exile," said the 39-year-old son of Pakistan's first popularly elected Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Bhutto was toppled in a military coup in 1977 and hanged two years later on charges of conspiring in a political murder despite worldwide appeals for a pardon.

Police brought Murtaza to

Hazratbal crisis Separatists' surrender only solution: Delhi

SRINAGAR (India), Nov 6: The Indian army siege of the Hazratbal Mosque entered a fourth week today with the authorities raising renewed hope of a settlement with Kashmiri Muslim rebels holed up in the mosque, reports AFP.

But nothing less than a surrender by the separatists would be acceptable, the government said.

Brigadier S P S Kanwar, commanding the siege of the lakeside mosque told reporters the new government negotiator Mehmood-ur Rehman had held three rounds of talks with representatives of the separatists in the mosque.

"My personal view is that we are going to have a settlement very soon," Kanwar said, without specifying a likely date for an end to the standoff.

It was the first statement of hope by an Indian official since a painstakingly brokered agreement collapsed Wednesday after the militants at the last minute reverted back to demands for a safe passage.

Kashmir police chief

Manohar Nath Sabarwal earlier said that the estimated 50 militants who have been entrenched in the revered Islamic shrine since the night of October 15 had no choice but to give themselves up.

The police chief said the only thing being discussed during the negotiations related to how the rebels would be treated after their surrender.

Meanwhile, 88 packets of food were sent in today to the militants and the 60 to 70 Muslim pilgrims trapped in the mosque, Kanwar said, and added that a physician had been allowed inside the complex to treat the sick.

Some people emerged from the mosque around noon to collect five blankets from an abandoned hut inside the complex, he said.

Rehman, an additional chief secretary for Home Affairs, replaced Wajahat Habibullah as the chief government negotiator on Thursday after Habibullah was critically injured in an automobile accident.

RU to name hall after Khaleda Zia

RAJSHAHI, Nov 6: The Syndicate of the Rajshahi University today decided to name a new women's hall after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, official sources here said. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Syndicate tonight with the Vice Chancellor Prof Anisur Rahman in the chair. It would be the 4th women's hostel and 14th hall of residence in campus, reports UNB.

Mayor re-elected UNESCO DG

PARIS, Nov 6: Federico Mayor was re-elected today as UNESCO Director General renewing the six-year mandate he began in 1987. Mayor, 59, and a Spaniard, was voted in by 168-3, reports AFP.

JP meets today

An emergency meeting of the Jatya Party Dhaka city unit will be held today at 3 pm. Dhaka City Unit general secretary Abdus Salam, in a press release, has requested all office-bearers of the city, wards, thana units and different wings of the party to attend the meeting at Gulshan residence of JP acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, reports UNB.