

Bandarila-Halishar incidents Publication of probe report demanded

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, January 1: The enquiry report on the Bandarila-Halishar incidents that took place here on January 2-3, 1993, has not yet been published even one year after the incident.

The Bandarila-Halishar incidents left, according to official sources, 11 persons killed and 200 injured while unofficial sources pegged the death figure at 18.

The incidents occurred when an angry mob, protesting the alleged raping of two girls, was locked in clashes with a section of Navy men in the Bandarila-Halishar areas of the port city on January 2 and 3 in 1993. According to witnesses, a section of the sailors were involved in the violent incidents, over two days, dubbed as the nation's worst tragedy. They indulged in widespread violence which was marked by indiscriminate shooting, arson and looting.

Meanwhile, the people of

Bandarila-Halishar have planned to organise a protest rally on January 3 here in memory of last year's tragedy.

The Halishar Adikar Punaruddhar Committee (Rights Restoration Committee) and local leaders will also organise rallies on January 3 in support of their demand for immediate publication of the enquiry commission report on the tragedy and rehabilitation of the victims' dependents.

The one-man enquiry commission formed by the government is headed by Justice Sultan Hossain Khan.

The commission has already submitted its report to the government but the report has not been published so far.

However, 25 navy personnel were dismissed for their involvement in the incidents.

Among them, 19 navy personnel, including four officers and fifteen sailors, were dismissed immediately after the incidents.

Symbols for Ctg city elections

CHITTAGONG, Jan 1: The Election Commission (EC) here today allocated the election symbols among the mayor and ward commissioner candidates for the upcoming election of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), reports BSS.

According to EC sources, former mayor and BNP nominee Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin got the Bi-cycle, while Alhaj ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury of the Awami League got the Lamp in a lottery.

The election symbols, allocated among other mayoral candidates, are: Former mayor Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party — Umbrella, Afsaruddin Chowdhury of the Jamaat-e-Islami — Pigeon, Mamtazuddin Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Islami Front — Chair and journalist Mainuddin Kaderi Shawkat — the Wheel.

Twelve candidates are contesting the mayorship while 301 candidates, including one woman, are running for commissioners of the 41 wards.

A total of 6,87,700 voters will exercise their right of franchise in the elections to be held on January 30.

Hasina goes to Muktagachha today

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will visit Muktagachha today to address a public meeting there, reports UNB.

Party's central leaders will accompany her. Meanwhile, leaders of the employees union of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation who won the union election yesterday met Hasina at her 29 Minto Road residence.

Greeting the union leaders, Hasina said condition of workers and employees will not improve if BNP remains in power. She said the BNP government has repeatedly violated agreements and commitments made to them.

She alleged that the government is selling out nationalised mills at throw away prices among the BNP men and called for building united movement against retrenchment and harassment of workers.

Employees union president Kutiuddin Ahmed, General Secretary Khan Sirajul Islam, Srani League acting president Fazlul Haq Mantu and general secretary Abdul Matin Master were present.

Book day

From Page 1 Col 2
ing the publication industry, Begum Zia said. "We have to make books our everyday companions. Let us exchange greetings through books during festivals and other occasions."

The Prime Minister maintained that the success of educational programmes largely depended on the development of the publishing industry, mainly books.

"We shall have to find out a strategy for economic emancipation. Education is necessary to turn the manpower into resources and alleviate poverty," she said.

Begum Zia said her government has taken various steps for the growth of the printing and publishing industry in the country. She noted that the publication business had become a competitive one and Bangladesh books are being exported abroad. "It's a good sign for the nation."

Organised by the National Book Centre, the function was presided over by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahanara Begum and was addressed by Secretary Islamuddin Malik and the Director of the National Book Centre.

Sixty-five book stalls have been set up in the exhibition. France, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran and Turkey are also participating in the fair.

See also page 5

In Belgium, a gunman armed with a rifle complained of loud music then opened fire in a dance hall in a suburb in the eastern city of Liege, killing a 19-year-old woman and injuring two men. Police arrested the gunman.

In Northern Ireland, the new year began with a series of suspected IRA arson attacks on 10 Belfast businesses and a historic library. No one was hurt.

In the Middle East, a 21-



BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia giving her inaugural address at the function organised in observance of the 15th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city yesterday. Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman is seen seated on the right of the Prime Minister. —PID photo

PM: JCD founding

From Page 1 Col 4

for the establishment of democracy and ouster of autocracy and said, "we have to institutionalise democracy in the country."

Begum Zia said the present democratic government had attached the highest priority to the education sector with the largest budgetary allocation aimed at building an educated nation for the economic emancipation of the people.

"We have met almost all the demands of the student community. We have enhanced the budgetary allocation, raised the age limit to 30 years for government jobs, initiated new recruitments and are meeting other demands in phases," she said.

"Do not waste your time unnecessarily just looking for a job. Now you can avail credit facilities and initiate productive ventures of your own and help make yourselves and others employed," she advised the youths.

Prof Yunus

From Page 1 Col 5
important effort. Your experience and your interest and commitment would enable you to make an important contribution."

The Fourth Conference on Women in expected to adopt a concrete plan of action to overcome obstacles in critical areas. These include the feminization of poverty, the lack of participation of women in decision-making at all levels, the effects of conflict on women, and violence against women in society," the UN Secretary General informed.

Prof Yunus recently visited the US at the invitation of Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

He was also invited to the White House for an exclusive meeting with President Bill Clinton. His Grameen Bank concept has been replicated in a number of countries including the United States.

Clinton, as Governor of Arkansas, launched a loan programme — The Good Faith Fund — for the poorer section of people in his state, based on the Grameen model.

Yunus spoke at the conference on "Overcoming Global Hunger" held in Washington on November 30 and also addressed the officials of the US State Department at Luncheon.

despite warnings from police that there could be deaths or injuries if the street party ran out of control.

Only 12 minor injuries were reported by police, who barred alcohol and fireworks from the square. A total of 54 people were arrested, mostly for public drunkenness.

Serb gunners ushered in 1994 by dropping scores of shells on besieged Sarajevo, including one just after midnight that scored a direct hit on the post exchange store at UN headquarters.

At least five people were killed and dozens more were wounded by sporadic shelling on Friday. Gunfire rattled around a New Year's peace concert at the TV building in Sarajevo, capital of war-torn Bosnia.

Many people in Europe heeded an appeal to place candles in their windows on New Year's Eve in solidarity with the people of the be-

Cadburys come to town

By Staff Correspondent

Cadburys, a world famous brand name in chocolate products, will be available in Bangladesh from Friday.

Announcing the opening of sales in Bangladesh, Cadbury India Limited officials hoped to set up chocolate manufacturing plants in Bangladesh in future. Cadbury India will market nine of its 45 chocolate products through 610 retail outlets of Kallol International Limited, a local trading firm.

Briefing newsmen on the occasion yesterday, Suresh R Borker, Vice President of Cadbury India Limited, said his company was entering the Bangladesh market through the marketing of its chocolate products.

Because of the absence of the original products, smuggled Cadburys chocolates from across the border and spurious ones produced inside the country captured the Bangladesh market.

"In Bangladesh, we are seeking long-term business relations. We have plans to open manufacturing plants here, provided the market volume grows," he said.

The Export Manager of Cadbury, Ashoke Jain, said their products would match the Bangladeshi palate and the price would be within the buying capacity of the people.

Bidyut workers' strike postponed

The country-wide continuous strike, scheduled to begin tomorrow, has been postponed following satisfactory discussion with Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, according to a Bangladesh Jatiya Bidyut Sramik-Karmachari Union press release here yesterday, reports BSS.

Prokrichi

From Page 1 Col 5
Scale-5 from Scale-6.

The decision to defer the on-going campaign was reached at an adjourned meeting of the Prokrichi councillors at the conference room of the Engineers' Institution last night.

They also decided to hold a Prokrichi district representatives' meeting on the first Friday in February to chart a greater struggle unless the government takes some specific steps to meet the demands of the professionals, insiders said.

Chaired by Convenor of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council, Dr M A Majed the councillors' meeting was attended by almost all the central leaders.

Prokrichi councillors earlier adjourned their meeting on Friday night after failing to reach a decision.

Talking to The Daily Star late last night Prokrichi leaders said their decision to defer the movement followed the 'good gesture' of the government in removing 'partially' the service anomalies created by the Matin Committee.

"We welcome the step but will see what the government does about our demands," commented one senior leader of the Prokrichi on condition of anonymity.

Prokrichi sources said the upcoming annual convention of the Institution of the Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) and the month of Ramadan were among the causes behind the postponement of the agitation.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is learnt to have agreed to attend the inaugural session of the IEB convention as chief guest.

However, Prokrichi councillors decided that they would continue to collect the resignation letters, submitted at the district level, until January 15.

The members of the Prokrichi began signing their resignation letters on December 15. Earlier, they also observed a three-day mass leave from Dec 11 to press home their demands.

In his New Year's address at the Vatican, Pope John Paul II declared that achieving 'peace remains the greatest challenge of our time,' as he denounced the dangers of nationalism and the gulf between rich and poor nations.

There are, it's true, encouraging signs of easing of tensions and peace, but despite this, one must recall that peace continues to be put to shame by fratricidal conflicts that give no sign of letup," the pope said.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's sobering New Year's Eve address — focusing on the pain of record unemployment — didn't dampen the fireworks frenzy in Germany, where some 150 million marks (dhs 88 million) in fireworks were set off.

Despite a midnight rain, Berlin's streets were thick with the smoke of pyrotechnics.

In his New Year's address at the Vatican, Pope John Paul II declared that achieving 'peace remains the greatest challenge of our time,' as he denounced the dangers of nationalism and the gulf between rich and poor nations.

There are, it's true, encouraging signs of easing of tensions and peace, but despite this, one must recall that peace continues to be put to shame by fratricidal conflicts that give no sign of letup," the pope said.

The Midnight File

Baltic states urge Russia to complete troops pullout

MOSCOW, Jan 1: Leaders of the three former Soviet Baltic states urged President Boris Yeltsin in a new year address to complete the withdrawal of Russian troops from their countries in 1994. Itar-Tass news agency said today. Tass quoted the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as urging Yeltsin in a joint statement to keep the pullout promises which Russia has already made. It gave no further details, reports Reuters.

Rebels blow up power pylons in Peru

LIMA, Jan 1: Minutes before the start of the new year, leftist guerrillas blacked out the city, renewing what has become almost a New Year's tradition in this violence-plagued capital. Rebels blew up power pylons near Lima about 11:50 pm and plunged most of the city into darkness, police said Saturday. The outage last 90 minutes, reports AP.

EC warns candidates

From Page 1 Col 8
said in a press release yesterday.

"No mode of election campaign can be started anytime before three weeks of the scheduled date for polling," the EC said quoting Rule 44 (C) of the Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna City Corporation Rules and Rule 44 'Ga' of the Rajshahi City Corporation Rules.

"Therefore, beginning an election campaign before January 8, 1994 for the city corporation polls is not lawful," the Election Commission reminded. The four city corporation polls are scheduled for January 30.

The caution follows complaints of violation of election rules, as reported by newspapers, over the last few days. City structures have been decorated with posters and graffiti on walls seeking votes for different candidates.

Under the circumstances,

3 students

From Page 1 Col 8
rooms of the college and damaged the car of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) during the HSC Examination on June 21 last year.

The angry students at one stage also attacked the police personnel when they intervened. Later, police arrested the miscreants.

The principal of the college filed a case with the Anwara police.

The learned judge examined 12 witnesses and found three students Kanak Baran Ghosh, Abdul Quayum and Raghubati Sen of Arwara thana guilty.

Public Prosecutor Kafiluddin Chowdhury pleaded on behalf of the state, while ten lawyers defended the accused.

Siraj Sikder

From Page 1 Col 8

Sikder, yesterday demanded the construction of a mausoleum at the place of his killing as a mark of respect to him.

Siraj Sikder took an active part in the country's War of Independence in 1971.

A case was filed with the Ramna police station last year, 17 years after the death of Siraj Sikder, accusing some central leaders of the Awami League (AL) of the murder. A journalist filed the case.

The AL was in power when Sikder was shot dead while in police custody.

The Shaheed Deshpremik Smiti Sangsad, whose aim is to pay tributes to those who embraced martyrdom at different times of our national history, is scheduled to hold a public rally this afternoon in front of the General Post Office (GPO) in the city.

Family members of the slain leader, will feed the poor at noon today.

However, this amount actually goes down to about two per cent after deduction of taxes.

"For these reasons, the bonds are attractive," the accounts chief of a commercial bank said.

Meanwhile, a T&T source said, the authorities may float more bonds because of the high demand.

"The government will commission 2.75 lakh new telephones in the country by 1996," the source said adding "a major portion of the money required for installing these telephones will come from the bonds."

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by Mediaworld Ltd. 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

and printed at City Publishing House Ltd. 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.

Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4.

Advertisement: 500091 (Direct). Fax No: 88-02-863035. GPO

Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR DHAKA.

Sporadic violence mars a peaceful welcome to 1994

UNDATED, Jan 1: Filipinos and Italians who greeted the New Year with fireworks and gunshots, a gunman in Belgium who opened fire in a dance hall, and attacks by suspected IRA bombers and Serb gunners marred a mostly peaceful welcome to 1994, reports AP.

Japan started the festivities with peals of bells at temples and shrines. And Japanese toasted the gods with sweet rice wine.

As clocks struck midnight in Europe, fireworks exploded across Italy. French revellers flocked to a champagne-drenched celebration on the Champs Elysees, while Spaniards joined a huge outdoor champagne party in Madrid.

Londoners packed Trafalgar Square by the tens of thousands.

In New York's Times Square, a quarter of a million revellers fastened their eyes on the 200-pound (90-kilogram) ball that marked the last seconds of 1993 as it dropped

77 feet (23 meters) into the new year.

Barbra Streisand stretched her vocal chords in Las Vegas, where a sellout crowd paid up to dhs 1,000 per ticket to hear the singer overcome her legendary stage fright during a two and a half hour New Year's Eve show. It was her first paid concert in 22 years.

American and Vietnamese jazz musicians greeted the New Year with an old-fashioned jam session in Hanoi.

Even North Korea's hard-line Marxist leaders unbent a little, staging what was called a "grand celebration" at a stadium.

In Manila, appeals from officials failed to stop Filipinos from greeting the New Year with fireworks and gunshots.

Radio stations said six people died from stabbings and gunshot wounds and 31 were wounded.

More than 723 people were treated for fireworks-related injuries. Last year, 10 people

were killed and more than 1,000 injured.

Filipinos spend large sums on firecrackers, sparklers, skyrockets and other fireworks on New Year's though the government discourages private displays.

Hundreds of revellers throughout Italy also were injured by rockets, firecrackers or guns fired in jubilation. Two lost their lives, and many others lost fingers, hands or eyes.

See also page 5

In Belgium, a gunman armed with a rifle complained of loud music then opened fire in a dance hall in a suburb in the eastern city of Liege, killing a 19-year-old woman and injuring two men. Police arrested the gunman.

In Northern Ireland, the new year began with a series of suspected IRA arson attacks on 10 Belfast businesses and a historic library. No one was hurt.

In the Middle East, a 21-

year-old man lost his eye to a bullet shot in the air during celebrations in a refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip, hospital officials said.

Members of the Hawks, the armed wing of the mainstream Fatah wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization appeared throughout Gaza, marking the New Year and the 29th anniversary of Fatah, founded on January 1, 1965.

It was the first "Fatah Day" celebration since the September 13 PLO-Israel accord. Instead of calling for a strike, as in previous years, the celebrations were on.

Thousands of Spaniards flocked to Madrid carrying bottles of champagne and bunches of grapes, which were hurriedly consumed as bells tolled for midnight. Hours of drinking followed.

In London, police said 90,000 party goers disregarded warnings to stay away from Trafalgar Square. The celebration was mostly calm,

despite warnings from police that there could be deaths or injuries if the street party ran out of control.

Only 12 minor injuries were reported by police, who barred alcohol and fireworks from the square. A total of 54 people were arrested, mostly for public drunkenness.

Serb gunners ushered in 1994 by dropping scores of shells on besieged Sarajevo, including one just after midnight that scored a direct hit on the post exchange store at UN headquarters.

At least five people were killed and dozens more were wounded by sporadic shelling on Friday. Gunfire rattled around a New Year's peace concert at the TV building in Sarajevo, capital of war-torn Bosnia.

Many people in Europe heeded an appeal to place candles in their windows on New Year's Eve in solidarity with the people of the be-