



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the Combined Military Hospital to see the condition of the injured Police Constable Shahidul Islam yesterday. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury accompanied. — PID photo

### PM visits injured policeman

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night went to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) to see the bullet injured police constable Shahidul Islam, reports BSS.

She stayed there for some time and enquired from the attending physicians about the condition of Islam, who received bullet injuries in his stomach during the two opposition parties' programmes in the city yesterday.

The Prime Minister directed the authorities to provide adequate treatment to the injured policeman and wished his early recovery.

### PM reviews

From Page 1 Col 8

The PM and her cabinet colleagues also watched the 8 O'clock TV news last night which telecast several visual of the siege.

According to an official estimate some 10,000 people took part in the 'siege programme' which was a 'very poor show' compared to the preparations of the Opposition parties.

### Mediation offer on Kashmir Ghali gets no response

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: With India and Pakistan failing to respond to his mediation offer, the UN secretary-general complained as he was leaving the area Saturday that neither country seemed ready to negotiate their rival claims over Kashmir, reports AP.

Boutros-Ghali, after meeting India's Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, said he still hoped both sides would accept his suggestion to act as 'an honest broker' in starting direct talks on the Kashmir conflict.

The role of the secretary-general is to encourage the two parties to talk to each other, he told a news conference. "For the time being, I feel it will need stronger political will."

Boutros-Ghali's six-day visit to India and Pakistan coincided with an escalation in the daily casualty toll in the Indian sector of Kashmir, where troops are fighting Muslim secessionist rebels.

On Friday, defence officials reported 56 people were killed in the previous 24 hours, including 11 people who died when security forces shot at a civilian bus from which militants had fired at them.

Srinagar, the capital of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, was closed by a strike Saturday to protest the killing of a 16-year-old who allegedly had been taken into custody the previous day. His body was found dumped outside the detention camp.

Pakistan has pushed hard for a greater UN role in Kashmir, but India considers it a bilateral problem and rejects all third-party help.

Boutros-Ghali did not suggest United Nations involvement in negotiating an end to the dispute, but offered his help in what he called the pre-negotiating stage.

"We are still at the beginning of the process," he said. "I still hope for positive answers from both sides."

He did, however, leave India with a commitment to send troops to Rwanda, where United Nations forces moved in last month to monitor the safety of Hutu refugees under the new Tutsi-led government.

Boutros-Ghali's special envoy to Rwanda is Sharharyar Khan, the former foreign secretary of Pakistan who held several futile rounds of talks with India on Kashmir, most recently last January. That effort quickly broke down in mutual accusations that the other side was not serious.

Indian officials also rejected a resolution by a conference of foreign ministers of the 50-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference to send a three-member fact-finding team to Kashmir as "unwarranted interference in our internal affairs."

### 40 Tajik troops killed in clashes with rebels

DUSHANBE, Sept 10: Tajikistan teetered on the brink of renewed civil war today as Russian military officials here reported hundreds of Islamic opposition fighters seizing control of a strategic central town in clashes which left at least 40 government soldiers dead, reports AFP.

In a statement carried by the Itar-Tass agency, the Tajik Defence Ministry denied the town of Tavildara, 150 kms (95 miles) east of Dushanbe,

### Earlier story on Page 5

had fallen, and said fighting was going on there. A spokesman admitted only that opposition forces had 'advanced' on the town.

An official of the Tajik security ministry, who asked to remain anonymous, earlier told the Interfax agency that 40 government soldiers had been killed in the clashes and 100 injured.

The Russian officials said 20 government troops were also reported missing.

The pro-communist government meanwhile postponed for 48 hours peace talks

### Agri-exports decline

From Page 1 Col 5

Bangladesh expatriates. An analysis of 27 export target group countries found that 11 had a good size Bangladeshi community ranging from four lakh in Saudi Arabia to 5,000 in Singapore.

Although the country produces over 1.5 million tons of potatoes and sweet potatoes, it has so far failed to export mainly due to inefficient shipping arrangements.

Processing at home and export will add incentive to production of tomatoes, which currently stands at around one lakh tons per year and prices drop sharply in late winter, the report says.

The quality of pineapples is also excellent both for processing and fresh export, it adds, and there is considerable scope to expand commercial production from the current production rate of 1.6 lakh tons annually.

Substantial quantity of exportable variety of bananas are produced among the annual production of six lakh tons and there is also a special market for small-size bananas in Singapore. "However, production and yield could be significantly increased with improved management and technological development."

Litchis, if improved, varieties are developed, could be exported to Hong Kong and Singapore during the early season, the report adds.

"The climate and soil of Bangladesh are suitable for growing a large number of plant species used as vegetables and it includes both tropical and temperate types," it observes.

The major problems associated with production and post-harvest handling of vegetables and fruits were identified in the report as: Lack of varieties with wide adaptability, lack of quality seeds, low yield, high cost of inputs and poor preservation, marketing and distribution system. An estimated 25-30 per cent of the vegetable production is damaged during post-harvest handling.

The report suggests immediate improvement in variety, insect and disease control, nursery, research and cultural practices relating to production, handling and processing of products.

It also recommends improvement in packaging, transportation, market research and providing institutional support for the growers and outlines a tentative outline for an overall project formulation and implementation.

Editor: S. Mahfuz Anam

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### LDF condemns govt activities during 'siege'

By Staff Correspondent

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) at a meeting in the city yesterday strongly condemned the government activities during the 'Dhaka siege' programme saying these are affecting the process of democratisation in the country.

The meeting presided over by Bimal Biswas was addressed by Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Manzurul Ahsan Khan, Hasanul Huq Inu, Nirmal Sen, Khalequzzaman, AFM Mahbulul Haq, Dilip Barua, Noim Jahangir, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Morshed Ali, Abu Sayed Khan, Bazlur Rashid Firoz and Mir Hussain Aktar.

They said, the people would not accept the 'undemocratic and irresponsible' activities of the government. The government stopped all the Dhaka-bound road and water transport services to foil the Dhaka siege programme. The authorities also took repressive measures against the opposition political parties, the leaders alleged.

### Jamaat

From Page 1 Col 8

final consequences of forcing the opposition parties take to the streets, he said.

"We demand a caretaker government to ensure fair polls. The ruling BNP should accept the demand before it is compelled to do so," Nizami said.

The Jamaat leader blamed the BNP for 'inciting' the AL to fight fundamentalism on the one hand and 'assuring' his party of passing the blasphemy law on the other. Such tactics by the ruling party would not harm the Opposition unity on the caretaker government issue, he said. "We will maintain the unity at any cost."

Nizami criticised the BNP government for participating in the Cairo conference on population and development by 'ignoring' public opinion.

Chaired by Jamaat's city unit Ameer ATM Azharul Islam, the rally was also addressed by party leaders including Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Abdul Daker Mollah, Sheikh Ansar Ali, Jasimuddin Sarkar and ATM Masum.

### JP on 'siege'

From Page 1 Col 5

protest 'police action' during yesterday's 'siege' and to force the government to agree to the demand for a caretaker administration.

"The government forced us to go to the street by ignoring our demand for holding general elections under a caretaker government," Mizan Chowdhury said.

He said that besides the caretaker government issue, they also demanded release of their party chief H M Ershad.

The acting JP chief alleged that more than 100 JP supporters were injured in yesterday's 'police action' and several dozens were arrested.

### 19 injured as JCD, BCL (S-P) clash in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 10: At least 19 students were injured in a clash between two rival student organisations at the Kazipur Munsur Ali Government College here today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted between the activists of the Jatayatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League BCL (S-P) when the BCL brought out a procession protesting the removal of the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the College Union office.



One of the processionists faces the fury of the police at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### Violence marks 'Dhaka siege'

From Page 1 Col 4

the AL and the JP started gathering on the roads near the secretariat since the morning and paraded in groups chanting anti-government slogans.

A group of AL leaders and workers including a dozen of women activists managed to assemble in front of the Press Club defying government order and held a rally without obstruction from police.

The situation started growing tense when some hand bombs exploded at Bijoy Nagar at around 9 am.

Scuffles between the police and the demonstrators took a violent shape at around 11-30 am near the Star Gate and at the Bangabandhu Avenue and north gate of Baitul Mukarram.

The trouble started when opposition activists tried to break through the police cordon near the Star Gate of Ramna Park.

Hundreds of demonstrators led by Awami League leaders Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Abdur Razzak and Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Ahmed attempted to break the barbed-wire barricade to enter the government-announced restricted areas for rallies and processions.

Police used batons, teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the activists who immediately spread all over Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Uddyay and Shahbagh areas.

The agitated activists of the Opposition badly damaged the iron fence of Ramna Park and Suhrawardy Uddyay. They also damaged the road dividers and roadside billboards in the areas.

Opposition Chief Whip in Parliament Mohammad Nasim was beaten up by police around 12:30 when the demonstrators made a fresh bid to break the police cordon in the area. Nasim was rushed to the PG

Hospital and admitted there with head injuries.

At the Zero Point, a large number of police personnel with some BDR men was deployed. Unlike in the case of previous hartal or siege programmes, this time policemen were also deployed on the roof of all the nearby markets and buildings.

A group of agitators had been trying to break through the police barricade near the Zero Point, near the Awami League office, whom the police resisted peacefully till 12:10 pm. But when the agitators started throwing brick bats and occasionally blasted cocktails, the police resorted to lathicharge and lobbed dozens of tear gas shells to disperse



Injured photographer Shahadat Hossain

the mob.

The police attack on the agitators left 30 to 50 people injured while over 50 others were arrested from this spot.

Due to strong wind, the tear gas smoke spread around the area fast for which both the police and agitators retreated to distant places for a while.

The police also resisted several attempts by agitators to break the police barricade. Till 2 pm, at least 20 to 25 cocktails were blasted in the areas.

The police also found a live grenade (HE 36) on the Abdul Gani Road and sought the help of army ammunition experts in the evening to avert an accident. The army experts defused the grenade at around 5

pm according to police sources.

Repeated gunshots and blasts rocked the area from the North Gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque to Motijheel Shapla Chattar where Jatya Party activists agitated for hours.

The JP activists gathered in the area early in the morning and repeatedly clashed with police.

The police used batons, lobbed scores of tear gas shells and fired shotguns to disperse the JP activists who repeatedly chanted slogans demanding release of deposed president HM Ershad.

A photographer of the Daily Millat, Shahadat Hossain, and a police constable, Shahidul Islam, suffered bullet wounds during the clashes.

Both the victims were hit by revolver bullets. Constable Islam underwent an operation at the Combined Military Hospital last night and his condition was stated critical.

Our DMCH correspondent adds: Twenty two injured persons were brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Of them, 13 were bullet hit, five received hand bomb injuries and four were injured in baton charge. Two of them were shifted to the Mohakhali Chest Diseases Hospital. The two are Tajul Islam, 15 and Mayenuddin, 8.

The roads surrounding the secretariat remained almost deserted due to restrictions imposed by police.

At several points, police were seen checking identity cards of government officials and pedestrians before allowing them to cross the barricades.

During the siege programme, all modes of transport — except rickshaws and auto-rickshaws were off the road. Most of the shops and business centres remained closed.



Police rounded up a number of people from the Bangabandhu Avenue during 'Dhaka Siege' programme yesterday. — Star photo

### Struggle will continue: Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5

the 'Dhaka Siege' programme yesterday.

Awami League's partners in the anti-government agitations — the Jatya Party (JP) and the Jamaat-e-Islami — have also announced identical programmes.

The opposition agitation programmes include an eight-hour hartal beginning 6 am today in Dhaka city, another eight-hour shutdown in all the five divisional headquarters of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal tomorrow and a dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country on Tuesday.

Hasina, addressing the crowded press conference at the Jatya Press Club yesterday afternoon, accused the government of autocratic behaviour and said that the government of Khaleda Zia could not fulfil the expectations of the country's democracy-loving people.

She said that the Dhaka Siege had been planned to put pressure, by staging peaceful demonstrations, on the government to restore people's franchise.

"But the government has reacted violently to our peace-

ful demonstrations," she said.

Hasina said that some 500 people were injured and more than 200 others were arrested during the 'siege'.

The AL chief, however, asserted that the struggle would continue and "no measure of repression by the government could suppress the people and their demand for a caretaker administration to conduct general elections."

She said, the police fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets on her party activists, injured AL leaders including Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim and earlier, the government instructed transport owners to take their vehicles off the roads to prevent thousands of people from joining the siege. "If the government thinks that such steps would enable it to suppress our demands, it (the government) is living in fools' paradise," the AL chief added.

When asked, what would be the fate of a possible dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition in Parliament, Hasina said, "There can be no dialogue without a specific agenda."

The AL chief, however, told

newsmen that the opposition would think of returning to Parliament only after the treasury bench move a bill seeking constitutional provision for a caretaker administration for holding national elections.

When her attention was drawn to the remarks of the visiting British Parliamentary delegation on the issue of the Opposition boycott of Parliament proceedings, Hasina said, the British MPs were possibly not well aware of the mode of functioning of the present Parliament of Bangladesh. "May be, the British parliamentarians have made their observation on the country's present situation with their own experience in the House of Commons in mind," the opposition leader said.

In this connection, she, however, recalled, three British MPs had come to Dhaka during the autocratic regime of General Yahia in the erstwhile East Pakistan to give the general a 'good certificate'.

"This time the present government has brought the British MPs at the cost of public money, to secure a certificate for the BNP," the Leader of the Opposition claimed.

### The Midnight File

#### 5 killed in Karnataka blast

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: At least five people were killed in a bomb blast today in the southern state of Karnataka, the Press Trust of India said. Two others were seriously injured in the explosion, which occurred during a clash between rival union workers employed in a carbon block factory, the news agency said, reports AFP.

#### UN warns Serbs of NATO action

SARAJEVO, Sept 10: UN Bosnia Commander Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose warned Bosnian Serbs today to halt artillery attacks on the UN-declared safe haven of Bihać or face NATO action. In a statement released here, Rose warned "the Bosnian Serb authorities that they should desist from firing into the UN safe area of Bihać or risk NATO action," reports AFP.

### Press Note: 11 cops injured

From Page 1 Col 7

Awami League tried to cross the police barricade at (Ramna) star gate and the police obstructed them.

The processionists hurled bombs and pelted bricks towards the police. At one stage police dispersed them by throwing tear gas shells and smooth lathi charge. Again at around 12:25 pm the processionists attacked with bricks, bombs and to break the police barricade but the police dispersed them with tear gas and smooth lathi charge. This time five policemen were injured by brickbats and bombs hurled by the processionists.

The Press Note said at around 12 noon a group of unruly Jatya Party supporter processionists attacked the police in front of the House-Building Finance Corporation office with bombs, brickbats and bullets. As a result police constable Shahidul Islam and journalist Shahadat of the Daily Millat received bullet injuries. This time too the police were able to disperse the unruly processionists with lathi charge and tear gas.

The Press Note said at about 12:15 another group of unruly processionists led by the Awami League tried to break police barricades in front of the Pir Yamani Market with high powered grenades, bombs and brickbats. Three police personnel including head constable Shamsul Haq, Nayek Faruq Hossain were injured during the encounter. Police dispersed the mob through lathi charge and tear gas.

The Press Note said at around 12:45 another group of unruly processionists attacked the police personnel posted at Fulbaria area and wounded police Sub Inspector Shaharul Islam.

At around 2 pm police Subedar Abul Kalam was injured from brickbating of the indiscipline processionists in front of Pritam Bhoban.

### Election schedule for DCC women seats changed

The schedule for election to the reserved seats of women in the Dhaka City Corporation has been re-scheduled due to unavoidable circumstances, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

According to the new schedule, nomination papers will be received on September 22 and scrutiny of the nominations will be made on September 24.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is September 29 and election would be held on October 15.

The nomination papers could be collected from the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka during the office hours till September 21, the press release added.

### Closure of oil well Govt urged to form body to find out reasons

By Staff Correspondent

The Sylhet Bibhag Andolan and Unnayan Parishad today issued a statement Saturday urging the government to form an expert committee to find out the reasons of closure of the number 7 oil well of Haripur.

The president of the parishad Abed Raja and general secretary Wayesur Rahman said the statement issued by the government in this regard was not enough to convince the people.

They demanded punishment for those responsible for the closure of the oil well.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: The office of the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet was gheraoed today at the call of the greater Sylhet Ganadabi Parishad, a non-partisan organisation, to press the demand for a new division in Sylhet. The organisers also brought out a procession in the town. Later they held a protest meeting in the collectorate building premises.

### Hand bomb hurled at a city clinic

A hand bomb was thrown at KC Memorial Clinic at Outer Circular Road at Magbazar here yesterday morning by a group of unruly processionists of the Awami League, police sources said last night, reports BSS.

About 80 persons including patients were present at the clinic at that time. The bomb blast caused panic among the patients but none was injured.

A general diary has been filed with Ramna thana by the managing director of the clinic, Hasina Warda Chowdhury.

### India, US begin joint naval exercise

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: India and the United States began a 20-day joint naval exercise off the Arabian Sea coast today.

Initial trials have begun and the exercises will be stepped up next week, a Defence Ministry spokesman told Reuters.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said US marine commandos will take part in manoeuvres off Ratnagiri in Maharashtra state.

A US Air Force C-130 cargo plane has carried boats, weapons, explosives, ammunition and diving equipment for the exercise to Bombay, Maharashtra's capital, he said.

### BSC to procure

From Page 1 Col 7

Already, the BSC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Malaysian Shipping Corporation, the Iranian Shipping Lines, the Pakistan National Shipping, the Italian Loyd Cristiano Shipping, the MD said, adding the BSC would sign a joint venture agreement with Jordan by next month.

Besides, many other joint venture proposals on shipping and cargo sharing were received by BSC from outside, the MD further said.

### Oil exploration

From Page 1 Col 7

duction sharing contract (PSC) for the Chittagong region.

Sources said, the government found the PSC more or less satisfactory but suggested some amendments.

"If the agreement is initiated next month and all goes well, the final agreement may be signed by December next," a source close to the Petro-bangla, said.