

29983 illegal immigrants held in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 5: Malaysia detained 29,983 illegal immigrants in the first seven months of the year, officials say, reports AP.

The undocumented foreigners were picked up by the government task force on illegal immigration in two major operations in and around Kuala Lumpur, according to Ahmad Bakhtiar Sulaiman, who heads the enforcement agency.

Ahmad Bakhtiar said most of them were detained in raids on workers' dormitories at construction sites and factory areas in and around the capital.

He told reporters Friday that of the immigrants detained, 18,458 had been deported, and the rest had either produced valid work permits or would be sent home soon.

At the end of last month, there were 8,279 illegal immigrants still being detained at eight detention centers nationwide, he said.

Those detained were mostly from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand and the Philippines, he added.

Bangla-US jt naval exercise this week

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 5: A P-3 Orion patrol aircraft of US Navy landed at Chittagong airport this morning, said an ISPR press release.

The aircraft, carrying 21 crew members has come from the US naval base in Diego Garcia and will be staying here till August 12.

The crew members were received by officials of the US embassy and officers of Bangladesh Navy.

The aircraft has come in advance to take part in the joint Bangladesh-US naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal. A war ship of the US Navy is scheduled to reach the outer anchorage here on August 7 for the exercise.

The aircraft will keep surveillance from the sky during the joint exercise.

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BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the party at Hare Road office in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Door for discussion open

From Page 1
Opposition's destructive politics with the politics of peace and progress.

The Prime Minister said the people today had identified those who were now trying to create anarchy and disrupting development process for political reasons or for their lust for power.

"The people know the parties and its leaders who believe in the politics of capturing power instead of upholding the independence and democratic values. In fact the people have identified those who have betrayed with the martyrs of the great War of Liberation and anti-autocracy agitation," she added.

The BNP chairperson called upon her party leaders and workers to unitedly work for the protection of the country's independence, sovereignty, democracy and ensuring the welfare of the people.

She said the people like the BNP as it is very much with them and expressed her optimism that the people would be with the BNP in the future like in the past. Begum Zia also called upon her party men to devote themselves to the welfare of the common man.

The emergency meeting of the BNP national executive committee, which began in the morning, was attended by as many as 265 members of the committee of whom 50

leaders of different tiers took part in the 10-hour discussions. BNP secretary general and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar initiated the discussion.

Resolutions

The National Executive Committee of ruling BNP yesterday voiced its firm resolve to maintain the constitutional process and urged the party leadership to take all steps for ensuring free and fair elections, report agencies.

The executive committee meeting reposed all powers on the party chairperson and the standing committee to decide the course of action to deal with the situation caused by the vacation of seats of some opposition MPs.

"There is no constitutional crisis in the country... rather a few political parties and individuals, rejected by the people in last general election, is trying to create an artificial political crisis to capture power in unconstitutional manner by removing the elected government," said a resolution of the meeting.

It urged the party's top leadership and the government to take all necessary steps for ensuring a free and fair election.

The meeting decided to step up organisational and

political activities. It also decided to form district and thana committees where full committees were not constituted. The meeting urged the central leaders and party MPs to extend their cooperation in this respect.

It directed BNP's front organisations to accelerate their organisational activities.

The meeting urged the government to take steps for keeping the prices of essentials within the purchasing capacity of the people. It also called for necessary steps for further improving the law and order situation in the country.

The BNP, in another resolution, urged the Muslim ummah to be united for the withdrawal of arms embargo on Bosnia.

The meeting urged the government to further gear up the relief and rehabilitation programmes in the flood affected areas and at the same time requested the leaders and workers at rank and file, wellwishers and well-to-do people to continue their relief operations with their all possible means.

In another resolution the meeting directed to complete all the district and thana committees, immediately. It directed the central leaders and MPs of the thanas and districts concerned to extend their all-out support in this respect.

Natore clash: None held yet

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Aug 5: An uneasy calm is prevailing in Abdulpur area under Lalpur thana in the district today following yesterday's violence but police failed to arrest anyone in this connection.

Abdus Salam, a 15-year-old boy was killed and around 300 were injured in armed clashes between activists of the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League at Abdulpur Bazar yesterday morning.

Father of Salam today filed a case with Ishwardi GRP accusing local BNP leaders and activists of killing his son.

Awami League today claimed that Salam was an activist of their organisation. The victim was buried today at Lalpur after autopsy.

Talking to this correspondent, president of Natore district Awami League Shankar Gobinda Chowdhury demanded stern action against those responsible for yesterday's clashes.

Sources pointed out that in their attempts to establish supremacy over each other in Abdulpur and adjoining areas, the two parties had earlier clashed on August 30, 1993, September 21, 22 and 23, 1994 and April 21 and June 30 this year.

Armed clash in city: 10 injured

By DMCH Correspondent

At least 10 people were injured during an armed clash between two groups of people in Arambagh area in the city yesterday afternoon.

Four people with bullet wounds — Akkas Ali, 30, Jahangir, 20, Zakir, 28, and Rickshawpuller Mujibur Rahman, 30 — were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The details could not be known immediately. Motijheel police, however, said that they got the information about the incident but no complaint was made to the thana till filing of this report.

Launch owners threaten strike

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 5: Private launch owners today threatened to go on strike throughout the country from August 16 if the directives of the Prime Minister regarding their demands are not met within the time.

Addressing a press conference at a local restaurant, the leaders of the Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier) Association (BIWA) also announced action programme to realise their demands.

Businessman kidnapped

CHITTAGONG, Aug 5: A foreign businessman was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in the port city today, his family sources said, reports UNB.

They said a gang abducted Abu Taher Fakhri, 42, from Jamal Khan Lane when he was going to his business establishment riding a private car in the morning. Driver of the car was later released from captivity.

Fakhri is the proprietor of Fakhri and Sons Ltd, a business establishment of hardware and machine tools.

World Bank

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UNFPA. In the late '70s health and family planning programmes in the country were integrated. "Despite certain benefits, the integration gave rise to conflicts among the field, thana and district level health and family welfare personnel which are yet to be solved," observed the TOR. "This is virtually affecting the performance of both the programmes."

"Over and above, to achieve health for all by the year 2000 and net reproductive rate of 1 per cent by the year 2005, these programmes need re-examination to ensure active delivery at field levels," said an official in the ministry.

The study will review the functions and structure of the ministry and identify viable organisational structures and managerial processes for the programmes at the ministry, directorate, district, thana, union and field levels, the sources said. "It will suggest proper job design, logical grouping of activities for efficient service delivery and faster decision making by reducing hierarchy and levels. It will also suggest an implementation plan," the sources said.

The study would be carried out through extensive consultations with the government officials concerned, NGOs, private enterprises and members of various professional bodies, they said.

Abedi's health had been failing since his heart transplant in 1988. Confined to a wheelchair, Abedi lived in virtual seclusion in his modest home in Karachi.

Abedi's wife was at his side when he died, doctors said. He also is survived by one daughter, Maha.

In one of the most spectacular banking fraud cases, international banking regulators shut down BCCI's worldwide operations on July 5, 1991.

Abedi, however, had relinquished control of BCCI in 1988 following two massive heart attacks. He also suffered a stroke which resulted in brain damage and the loss of his voice.

The Midnight File

Kashmiri rebels relax demands

SRINAGAR, Aug 5: Militants holding five Westerners hostage in Kashmir said today they had relaxed their demands and now wanted India to release 15 jailed separatists instead of 21 in exchange for the captive tourists, reports Reuter.

BNP dist leaders

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general elections.

They also urged the party leadership to do everything within the constitutional framework and to go for by-polls to the vacated seats. They viewed that this would enable the BNP to have more time to bargain with the Opposition and prepare for the next polls.

Terminating the proposed formulas for a caretaker government as impractical, the speakers maintained that the party should not go for any that are not in conformity with the Constitution since these might tarnish the image of the BNP government and create legal complications in future. Acceptance of the formulae would encourage the Opposition to press the government to violate the Constitution, they cautioned.

Sources in the BNP told The Daily Star that the party was preparing to field candidates in the by-polls and some 40 candidates had already been advised to start informal campaign.

A section of the leaders suggested dissolution of Parliament to pave the way

for general elections and stressed preparations for the polls. They opposed any compromise with opposition parties on their demand for a caretaker administration to hold elections.

Criticising the opposition parties, majority of the speakers said that those parties were not acting responsibly and their activities were designed to throw the ruling party into trouble and thus gain political benefits.

Winding up the meeting, Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia asked the delegates to highlight the government's development programmes and get prepared for the elections.

The meeting was attended by all the 265 members of the NEC, the standing committee, advisory council and the MPs of the party.

Party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar earlier opened the discussion dwelling on the current political situation and organisational matters.

A total of 50 leaders spoke at the meeting that began at about 10 in the morning and ended at about 10 at night.

WASA employees

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ties to update the "fauty" service rule of WASA for promotion and introduction of pension provision for the employees who have been working for last 15-20 years without any lift.

The Karmakartia-Karmachari (officers-employees) Oikya Parishad has arranged a general meeting Monday from where they will announce next course of their action programme if the authorities do not meet their demands.

Parishad leaders Harun ar Rashid Khan Majnu, Mirza Abdur Razzak, M Fazlul Haq, M Hafiz Uddin, Manjurul Islam, Gazi Habibur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman and Shaifur Rahman were present at the press conference.

EC starts

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ing ID cards. The recommendations would be sent soon, the sources added.

In accordance with the EC Bill, passed by Parliament last year, every voter must be provided with ID card before any elections. The work on ID cards is scheduled to begin on October 8 after the publication of final voters' list on the day before.

As by-election should be held before September 17, the EC has planned to hold elections on the basis of the old voters' list, published in 1990, the sources pointed out.

Asked whether the EC would announce the by-election schedule 45 days ahead of the elections, as in the past, an EC official said there was no such obligation.

Meanwhile, the EC has asked for fund from the government for holding by-elections in 89 vacant seats. "It is our regular practice to seek fund for holding any election," the official said.

The EC has also asked the deputy commissioners of the flood-hit districts to inform it about the flood situation in their respective areas.

Tagore's death

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Academy will hold a discussion and musical soiree at its auditorium at 7 in the evening. Dr Anisuzzaman will attend the discussion as the chief guest.

Bangla Academy will hold a discussion at 10:30 am at its seminar room. Prof Syed Manzurul Islam will present a paper on "Aesthetics in Rabindranath."

Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, will attend the Bangla Academy programme as the chief guest, while Prof Shawkat Ali, Prof Abul Kashem Chowdhury and Prof Karunamay Goshwami will take part in the discussion.

The academy will also arrange a musical soiree at its Batmul in the evening.

BSS adds: a discussion was held yesterday at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium to mark the day.

The Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain was present as chief guest.

Shishu Academy yesterday staged 'Tagore's Postmaster' and also published a book entitled 'Rabindranath's selected works on children's literature.'

Orphanage inmate beaten, dies at DMCH

By DMCH Correspondent

A schoolboy of Salimullah orphanage, severely beaten by a group of unidentified youths at Azampur in the city Friday, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

The victim Amanullah, 14, son of Lal Miah of Chandpur was a student of class VI of Fariduddin Siddique High School at Azampur.

Amanullah was returning to the orphanage by a rickshaw at about 5 pm Friday when the youths dragged him to a staff quarter premises at Palashi and beat mercilessly. People nearby took him to the DMCH in a critical condition.

Manzur murder

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Chittagong Sessions Judge Case No 123 of 1995 arising out of Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Case No 290 of 1995 between state versus Ershad and four others have been transferred to Dhaka Sessions Judge's Court as per the order of the ministry.

Of the five accused, Ershad and Lt Col (Retd), Kamaluddin Bhuiyan were produced before the Chittagong court on July 16.

It was the first production of Ershad in this case. He was flown to Chittagong and the court went into session in the VIP lounge of the Chittagong airport.

Three other accused — Maj Gen (Retd) Abdul Latif, Lt Col (Retd) Shamsur Rahman and Major (Retd) Kazi Emdadul Haq could not be produced because of inclement weather and security reasons, the court was told.

The case which was later shifted to Chittagong Sessions Judge Court from Chittagong CMM Court, had fixed August 7 as the next date of the case.

9 killed, 50 hurt

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Hundreds of anxious relatives of the workers who thronged the premises said a number of workers were missing.

Local people alleged that the building lacked planned exit arrangement. This correspondent also found a narrow stair of only about three and half feet width from the top floor to the ground floor.

Walling Putuli, a security woman in nearby Hamim Fashion Ltd, told this correspondent that her 10-year-old son Babu, who worked at Lusaka was missing. Rokon, of 35 Lalsarai in Cantonment area said his younger brother, Tutu, 17, was missing from the Lusaka Fashion.

However, the small fire was put off immediately by the factory staff causing no loss of property, said Shaheed Ahmed, Administrative Officer of Faa Apparels. Owner of the factory is new out of the country.

Fire service sources said fire fighters from Kurmitola Fire Station rushed to the spot immediately but the fire was extinguished before they came, they said.

An employee of the Faa Apparels also said that a short-circuit caused the fire but it only burnt few feet of electric wire.

Some furniture in the factories were damaged by angry people of the locality before riot police came and dispersed the mob.

Hatem Ali, who was on security duty, said the workers were killed in the stampede when they ran pell mell to escape.

Talking to this correspondent at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue S

Alam, Executive Director of the Faa Apparels, said they were arranging transportation of the bodies for burial and compensation to the bereaved families.

Alam admitted that there was so lift in the building and exit facilities were poor. "None was injured in the fire incident. Stampede caused the deaths."

Sohel, 14, an 'overlock operator' in Faa Apparels, who narrowly escaped the stampede said, "I had just heard a sound of blast and ran down the stairs. But, many others, who followed me fell on the steps of stairs and were run over by fellow workers."

Meanwhile, police from Cantonment thana were deployed at the premises of the factories and a case was filed with the police station.

Lusaka Fashion Ltd went into production just a week ago on 26th of last month. A three-member inspection team from the office of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Establishment and local MP Maj (retd) Qamrul Islam visited the spot.

Khaleda shocked

BSS adds: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her deep shock at the tragic death of eight persons including four women in a stampede after a fire broke out in a garments factory at Ibrahimpur in the city.

Condoling the death the Prime Minister prayed for the peace of the departed souls. She also prayed for early recovery of the injured persons.

Begum Zia also conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.



A TV image of Knin after heavy Croatian bombing Friday. — AFP photo

Croats capture Serb-held Knin

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Serbs were abandoning the Udbina air base town in what appeared to be an unexpectedly swift rout.

Troops of the Muslim-led Bosnian government army pushed into Krajina from the Bihac enclave of northwest Bosnia to assist the Croatian offensive.

Croatian Serbs now have full control only of their eastern Slavonia enclave on the border with rump Yugoslavia. UN spokesmen said Serbs in eastern Slavonia opened up artillery fire on neighbouring Croatian towns this morning and the Croatian army fired back.

It was not immediately clear whether the Serbs wanted to open another front in the region to stretch Croatian military resources.

The Croatian offensive in the Knin Krajina disregarded a demand for a halt to the fighting by the UN Security Council which also called for measures to protect civilian lives.

Knin Krajina is the biggest of three enclaves seized by minority Croatian Serbs in 1991 when Zagreb took independence from former Yugoslavia.

Defence ministry spokesman Ivan Tolj said Croatian troops advanced up to 15-km into Krajina on Friday.

capturing most of Petrinja and encircling Clna and Knin.

Natasa Rajekovic, spokeswoman for Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, told reporters the whole operation "will take much less than a month but a little longer than this weekend."

The UN admitted its monitoring network fell apart under the weight of the fighting during which a Danish peacekeeper was killed by Croatian tank fire and two Polish soldiers were wounded.

Western countries feared Croatia's action could provoke war with rump Yugoslavia. But Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic showed no sign he intended to bail out the Krajina Serbs.

International response to the Croatian attack was varied and ambiguous.

European Union mediator Carl Bildt, angrily accusing Zagreb of wrecking peace talks, warned Tudjman he could be held responsible for war crimes over the shelling of Serb civilians.

Russia, Britain, France and Germany demanded a halt to the offensive but US President Bill Clinton gave qualified support although concerned the fighting could start a larger conflict.

disabled some Serb missile launchers in the Glina region pointed at Zagreb. The Croatian capital was hit by rockets three months ago in reprisal for the Croats' reconquest of a small Serb enclave.

Meanwhile, Croatia's state news agency said today government forces in Croatia had linked up with Bosnian Muslim forces who had broken out of the besieged Bihac enclave.

BCCI founder

From Page 1

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