

Hasina urges women to join agitation

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on leaders of all professional groups, especially women, to join the current agitation and realise people's voting rights by joining the farcical polls, reports UNB.

With the declaration of 49 BNP candidates elected uncontested, this one-party farcical election has lost all its acceptability," Hasina said exchanging views with leaders of different women's groups on the prevailing political scenario.

She said: "People want a change in power through ballot" as they are fed up with the corrupt and misuse of the BNP regime for last five years.

Recalling her efforts in resolving the crisis, the Awami League president said her all endeavours ended in failures as Begum Zia did not want a solution to the deepening political crisis through negotiation.

Narrating aftermath of mayoral election and Magura byelection, Hasina said those had proved that a fair and impartial voting is not possible under this party government.

"In the interest of free and fair election, we are waging movement for non-party neutral caretaker government to hold the election."

Hasina said no political party is contesting in this one-party unilateral election of the BNP. She called for resisting the February 15 polls at any cost.

Condemning the attacks on the students of Dhaka University on Wednesday-Thursday, she said people are shocked at the behaviour of this government and police torture on students at Jagannath Hall.

Dr Nilima Ibrahim called for boycotting the election socially and politically.

Welcoming Sheikh Hasina's statement requesting donors not to support this farcical polls, Prof Nurunnahar Fatmnessa called for fanning conspiracy against independent Bangladesh.

The women leaders who were present in the meeting include Khushi Kabir, Mamtaz Hossain, Bela Nabi, Dr Makduma Nargis, Aroma Goon, Salma Ali, Ferdousi Sultana Ayesha Khanam, Hazera Sultana and Rokeya Kabir.

Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Jalil, Abdul Mannan and Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder.



Awami League activists brought out a broom procession at Asad Gate in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Rickshaws' contribution to GDP highest in transport sector

Rickshaw accounts for the least per unit value addition as a major transport mode, but its contribution to the GDP is the highest in the total transport sector, a survey revealed, reports UNB.

Conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the survey found that some 12,73,391 rickshaws across the country accounted for a total value added of Tk 67.39 billion at current price for fiscal 1993-94.

Per unit value addition for rickshaw was only Tk 50,000 in the fiscal year — Tk 4,410 a month, the lowest among the major road transport modes, both mechanised and non-mechanised, in Bangladesh.

Rickshaw's share in yearly value addition was 30.41 per cent of the transport sector's total contribution of Tk 208.81 billion to the gross domestic product (GDP) for the year, the survey results pointed out.

Boat with 20.53 per cent followed the rickshaws in terms of share in the total value added in the year. Some 1,162,573 country boats accounted for value added of nearly Tk 49.30 billion, with Tk 3,533 per unit.

The BBS carried out the survey for a new national accounting system, called System of National Accounting-1993 (SNA-1993), which is being absorbed by the country's central statistics office step-by-step, replacing the old accounting system.

Non-mechanised modes of transport dominated both road and water communications of the country in 1993-94 when the contribution of the transport sector as a whole was nearly 12 per cent to the GDP.

The higher value added of the non-mechanised road transport, the share of which was about 52.24 per cent, followed by the whole non-mechanised water transport which had a share of 23.6 per cent.

This may be possible as their operating costs are relatively low, observed the survey.

The contribution of mechanised road transport stood at 19.78 per cent and that of mechanised water transport accounted for 4.37 per cent only during the 1993-94 fiscal.

Some 21,936 buses and minibuses, with a per unit value added of Tk 58,402 per month, contributed a total of Tk 15.37 billion while 27,951 trucks about Tk 18.30 billion to the GDP, with a per unit value added of Tk 54,546 a month.

A total of 644,454 bullock carts contributed nearly Tk 18.70 billion and some 10,392 pushcarts Tk 656.44 million to the GDP while some 96,149 'helicopters' — the commercial use of bicycle — contributed nearly Tk 2.19 billion in 1993-94 fiscal.

Polls violence

UNB adds from Pabna: Some unidentified people last night set fire to a tempo engaged in the election campaign of an independent candidate at Traffic Point in the town leaving three persons injured.

Witnesses said a group of youngmen halted the tempo of the independent candidate from Pabna-5 constituency, Azizur Rahman Arzu and set it ablaze after pouring petrol at about 8:15 pm.

They also burnt two microphones and hurled several homemade bombs. Tempo driver Helal and two campaigners — Hanif and Babu — were injured in the bomb attack.

A case was registered with Sadar thana.

UNB add from Cox's Bazar: Section 144 was imposed on the town today to avert a confrontation between the belligerent BNP and Awami League activists over the election issue, reports UNB.

The authorities slammed the ban on gatherings as the ruling BNP and opposition Awami League convened meetings at the Bangabandhu road square this afternoon to protest Friday night's clashes.

The BNP could not hold its scheduled meeting as police took control of the area at noon while the Awami League and its student front, Chhatra League, held a protest rally in front of their party office.

One killed in Satkania clash

CHITTAGONG, Feb 3: One person was killed in a clash over sharing of fish of a common pond at Gutidanga village in Satkania thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Family sources said Abdus Sattar died on the spot at about 10 am when his rivals hit his head with a heavy bamboo stick.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Satkania thana.

48-hr hartal

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programmes like mass contact and exchange of views with people from various strata of the society on the days between the two big programmes of gherao and hartal.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, AL Organising Secretary Mohammad Nasim said "I hope the new programme will be announced tomorrow."

Nasim, who usually briefs newsmen on Opposition activities, said a joint meeting of the three parties is likely to be held today.

JP Secretary General Anwar Hussain Manju, when contacted over telephone last night, only said, "Wait till tomorrow for fresh programmes."

"We are now ready to launch a tougher agitation to unseat the BNP government and resist the one-party elections," said a front-ranking Opposition leader.

12 more expelled from BNP

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has expelled seven more district and thana level leaders on charges of disobeying party decision and indulging in activities contrary to party discipline, a party press release said last night, reports BSS.

The expelled leaders are: Advocate Abu Saleh Chowdhury, President, Chittagong (South) district committee, Amjad Hossain, Vice-President, Meherpur district committee and member, Gangni thana convening committee, Amirul Huq Bhuiyan, member Savar thana committee, Dr Abdul Aziz Khan, member, Faridpur thana committee, Pabna, Lt Col (ret'd) Gazi Sirajul Islam, member, Mehendiganj thana committee, Ms Nabila Chowdhury, member, Shilbar thana committee and Mozammel Huq, President, Gurudaspur thana committee.

BNP discusses polls manifesto

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday discussed with her senior party colleagues the election manifesto of the party and her next campaign tours, BNP sources said last night.

Details of the discussions, held at the PM's Tejgaon office, could not be known.

24 missing Bangladeshi crew traced?

By Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 3: Captain Rabiul Islam, owner of the ship MV Al Kashem along with a 24-member Bangladeshi crew who were earlier reported to be missing in the South China Sea since November last are now in jail in Manila, according to unconfirmed reports reaching here.

Akram Hussain, manager of the Bengal Marine Lines, the local agent of the ship talking to this correspondent at his office today said that he had received information on the whereabouts of Captain Rabiul and the missing crew. He could not give details but said his information was based on reports appearing in a Hong Kong Daily and a Chittagong newspaper.

Earlier, it was assumed that the ship was either hijacked by pirates or it had sunk in storm.

The cargo ship reportedly lost contact with its Khulna office after sailing from Singapore for Onahama of Japan.

Our Staff Correspondent in Dhaka said that neither the Shipping Ministry nor the Foreign Ministry was in a position to confirm the report immediately.

25 DU Senators demand release of students

Registered Graduates representatives in the Dhaka University Senate yesterday demanded immediate release of all the students arrested from the Jagannath Hall during police-students clashes on Wednesday, reports UNB.

After visiting the Jagannath Hall, the 25 senators issued a joint statement demanding compensation for the victims of the tragedy and treatment for the injured students.

The senators described the police attack as 'barbaric' and demanded a judicial investigation into the incident and punishment to culprits responsible for it.

The Midnight File

US soldier killed in Bosnia blast

TUZLA (Bosnia), Feb 3: An American soldier died in a landmine blast in northeast Bosnia today, the first US soldier to be killed on duty in Bosnia, military officials said. A spokesman said the soldier was killed after the mine exploded at a checkpoint near Gradacac, about 40 km north of Tuzla, reports Reuters.

8 killed, 16 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Eight persons were killed and sixteen injured in road accidents in Khulna, Dhaka and Comilla yesterday.

Our Khulna correspondent says, six persons, including an engineer and a ward commissioner of Bagerhat Poursava, died when a jeep bound for Jessore airport collided head-on in thick fog with a Bagerhat-bound minibus at 6 yesterday morning at Kudir Battala under Fakirhat Thana of Bagerhat district. Two persons were injured.

The deceased are sub-assistant engineer of the Roads and Highways Division Bipul Bihari Mitra (45), word commissioner Jamiuruddin (40), Lito (25), Abdus Sattar (35), Anil Krishna Das (28) and Abdul Kader (30).

Witnesses said all but Abdul Kader died on the spot. He succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

Five of the deceased reportedly boarded the jeep from Bagerhat town for a lift up to the Rupsha ferryghat. But engineer Bipul Behari was bound for Jessore airport for going to the city.

UNB adds: A young man was killed and four others were injured when a truck and a tempo collided head-on at Rajshahi of Keraniganj on Dhaka-Maoa road yesterday morning.

Nannu (30) succumbed to his severe injuries after admission to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The other injured also under treatment of the hospital. They are Ayub Ali (20), Gazi Sardar (60), Khaleq (50) and Abdul Wahab (10).

A minor boy was killed when a bus ramed his roadside home on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Daudkandi thana of Comilla yesterday.

The boy, identified as Mainuddin (7), died on the spot.

Ten passengers of the Majde-bound bus were also injured. They were admitted to Daudkandi health complex and other local clinics.

Police seized the bus, but its driver fled.

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Schoolboy murder Three teenagers remanded

By Staff Correspondent

The three teenage boys arrested on charges of killing a schoolboy in South Badda in the city Friday, were taken on a two-day police remand yesterday, police sources said.

The three, identified as Ripon, 18, Khokon, 14, and Rana, 13, were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court yesterday morning. Police prayed for five-day remand for interrogation, police said.

Sohel Fathan, 14, a student of class nine, was murdered reportedly by some of his friends at South Badda in the city. Police recovered the body from a ditch in the area.

Meanwhile, Gulshan police were interrogating the arrested teenagers last night, police said.

Quake in China

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capable of widespread, heavy damage.

On October 25 an earthquake measuring 6.5 points on the Richter scale left 51 dead and more than 800 injured in the Wuding region, not far from the site of today's quake.

A series of tremors were also felt in Yunnan last July, one of which measured 7.3 on the Richter scale and left 11 dead.

Godowns collapse

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which the three labourers were killed. The five other godowns collapsed immediately afterwards. The injured persons were rescued from the debris of the five other godowns two of which were rented out to Sunnex Limited and one each to Rumajhuma Ltd, Janata Salt Mills and Chad Salt Mills.

Fire fighters from the Mandolpara unit conducted rescue operations. Huge contingents of police were cordoning off the entire area till filling this report late last night. Thousands of onlookers thronged the area.

Hartal in city

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tional institutions remained closed. There was no movement of buses to and from the city during the hartal. Trains, however, left the Kamalapur station, some behind schedule.

Pickets were relatively less in number yesterday. Police, backed by paramilitary BDR, patrolled the strategic points and guarded important establishments in the capital.

On Wednesday last, the day before the Prime Minister's opening of the Bangla Academy Book Fair, about 200 students were injured and 95 arrested during clashes that ensued when police raided the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University.

The Opposition parties held separate rallies and brought out a number of processions in the city during the hartal hours chanting full-throated anti-government slogans demanding immediate resignation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The JP rally at Mahakhali was addressed by its senior leaders' Begum Raushan Ershad, Moudud Ahmed and Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

15 hurt in polls related clashes in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Feb 3: At least 15 people were injured in two election related clashes in the town last night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when two election processions confronted each other in front of the Town Hall at about 9 pm.

One group of the processionists were chanting slogans in support of M Abdullah, a BNP candidate for Chandpur-4 constituency (Sadar and Haimchar) while the other group for expelled BNP leader and independent candidate AKM Mohiuddin Patwari.

Both the groups used lethal weapons and exploded several handmade bombs during the clash leaving six people injured.

Nine people were injured in the other clash that took place between Mohiuddin's supporters and Jatiya Party activists when a JP procession came near the Town Hall a few minutes after the first clash.

Japan cancels meet

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Japan has also decided to stop all project related missions' visit to Bangladesh.

These could not, however, be confirmed from the Japanese Embassy.

Earlier, Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Yoshikazu Kaneko after a meeting with the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan told The Daily Star that the two sides had talked about how to resolve the (Sonargaon) problem amicably.

Later, about the impact of Sonargaon incident on the bilateral economic cooperation, Minister of Japanese Embassy S Takahashi told The Daily Star on Thursday night, "I think if and only if Pan Pacific hotel withdrew from the management of the hotel... it might affect in one way or the other the Japanese investment or economic cooperation."

"The decision to stop the consultation mission's visit means that Japanese aid for the next year will be either delayed or stopped, seriously affecting the next government's development programme," according to a source concerned.

Moreover, it will leave serious adverse impact on projects, especially on those which we attach priority importance, because of the

Japanese has to furnish many formalities in their side before the end of Japanese financial year in giving go ahead for any projects," another source said. The Japanese fiscal year is from April to March.

The being projects currently being financed by Japan are Dhaka container port terminal, Pakshi bridge, Bhangra-Narail-Khulna road, reconstruction and upgradation of railway locomotives, rural electrification, improvement of system loss in power sector, construction of multipurpose cyclone shelters and five bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong road.

Japan also provides debt relief grant (DRG), an annual grant equivalent to the debt service payment on Japanese loans in two instalments, which helps Bangladesh finance its imports and since 1990, is also used as local counterpart funds for project financing. The total DRG availability from Japan from 1979 to June 1995 was estimated at about 1,10,156 million Yen (1101 million US dollars). Till the last fiscal year (1994-'95), the cumulative Japanese aid to Bangladesh stood at about 5050 million US dollars.

During the last financial year, Japan had committed 590 million US dollars to Bangladesh.

Strike observed at DU

By DU Correspondent

The Ganotantik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) observed a day-long strike in the Dhaka University yesterday protesting the police attack on the students in Jagannath Hall last Wednesday.

Classes and examinations were not held and the buses of the university did not ply.

The GCO brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla. The GCO rally was addressed by Manjoor-e-Khuda Toriq and Nurul Islam.

BCL leaders condemning Wednesday's police attack on the students demanded the resignation of the PM, the Home Minister and the VC of the university.

Meanwhile, the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling BNP, brought out a procession and later held a rally in front of the DUCSU building to register their protest against the 'politics of hartal'.

Sonargaon Hotel incident: Probe begins

A high-powered team from Pan Pacific Headquarters began investigation into the January 30 incident at Sonargaon Hotel which damaged the 5-star hotel's reputation, reports UNB.

The 2-member team, comprising Tetsuo Kanazashi, Managing Director of Tokyu Hotels International Co Ltd, and Shozo Kita, Vice-President of Pan Pacific Hotels and Resorts Pte Ltd, assured the guests that there would be no such further trouble in the hotel.

A group of armed people stormed the Pan-Pacific Hotel on Tuesday and went on rampage. They also beat up several officials of the hotel, leaving at least 15 officials seriously injured.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের পুনঃ অনুরোধের প্রেক্ষিতে সমুদয় বকেয়া পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে সারচার্জ ব্যতীত পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিকর পরিশোধের সময়সীমা ২৯শে ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯৬ইং পর্যন্ত পুনঃ বর্ধিত করা হল।

উল্লেখ্য যে, পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিকর পরিশোধে বার্থ গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের কার্যক্রম অব্যাহত রয়েছে। তাছাড়া পিডিআর এ্যাক্টের আওতায় মামলা দায়েরের মাধ্যমে খেলাপি গ্রাহকদের মালামাল ক্রোক করে বকেয়া আদায়ের কার্যক্রমও চালু রয়েছে।

বকেয়া আদায়ের কারণে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন এবং পিডিআর এ্যাক্টের অধীনে মামলার বিড়ম্বনা এড়ানোর নিমিত্ত ২৯শে ফেব্রুয়ারীর মধ্যেই বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ আপনার পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিকর অবশ্যই পরিশোধ করুন। এজন্য প্রয়োজনে সদস্য (অর্থ) (ফোনঃ ৮১৬৭৯৯), বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৩২৭২৪৫) অথবা প্রধান বাজস্ব কর্মকর্তার (ফোনঃ ৩২৫২৪০) সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

ওয়াসা-জঃঃঃ ২৬/৯৬

আপনাদের সেবায় নিয়োজিত

ওয়াসা ঢাকা ওয়াসা

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