

2 young men shot dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Two young men were shot dead by a rival group of youths in a house at Rayer Bazar in the city yesterday.

The victims, Liton, 19, and Siraj, 18, died on the spot at around 3:30pm, police said. Dhanmondi police recovered the bodies and sent those to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

The armed youth entered the house at Rayer Bazar in Rayer Bazar area and fired on Liton and Siraj from close range, sources in the area claimed.

The killing was sequel to a previous rivalry between two local groups known as 'Emon group' and 'Rafiq group', police and locals said. They were fighting for long for supremacy in the area, locals and police said.

It was alleged that the 'Emon group' members were

the supporters of the BNP while the 'Rafiq group' supported the Awami League.

Meanwhile, several gunshots were fired and cocktails blasted following the killing creating panic in the area, locals said.

Locals claimed that the members of the 'Rafiq group' came to the spot in a microbus at around 3pm. They blasted some crackers and attacked the house where few members of 'Emon group' including Liton and Siraj were present there.

They fired shots indiscriminately inside the house killing Liton and Siraj on the spot. It was not known whether any family residing in the house.

A case has been filed with Dhanmondi thana in this regard but no one was arrested in connection with the killing till last night, police said.

Hartal observed Injured truck driver dies at CMCH

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 25: A half-day hartal was observed in the port city today.

The hartal was called by the Opposition to protest the alleged repression on political leaders and activists.

Meanwhile, one person, injured earlier in a bomb blast, died at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital today.

Dil Mohammad, 35, a truck driver, and his helper, Helal, received bomb injuries when pickets hurled a bomb on their truck carrying fertiliser at Strand Road on Saturday last.

Helal's right hand was blown off in the blast and he died in the hospital on the same day.

The driver succumbed to his bomb injury early today after fighting for life for two days, hospital sources said.

Meanwhile, the half-day hartal called by the Opposition here passed off peacefully today, although normal life was paralysed.

Police raided different places in the city and picked up at least 15 people.



Partial view of the rally inside the Secretariat yesterday.

— Star photo

BASA denies link with Officials' Council

M Nuruzzaman Mia, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association, said in the city that the association has no involvement with the formation of the 'Officials' Coordination Council of the Republic' led by Science and Technology Secretary Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

The recent activities of some government officials under the banner of 'Officials' Coordination Council of the Republic' were the activities of the individuals not the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association, he told BSS.

The Secretary General said the association has not authorised any of its members to carry out such activities.

He said that some government officials led by Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, who is the Vice President of the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association, were carrying out their activities at their own responsibilities.

Describing the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association as an association for the welfare of its members the secretary general said that its executive committee takes decisions on matters related to the interests of its members to place them before the government as usual.

Addressing the rally, Syed Mohiuddin also urged the officials concerned to complete the formalities for payment of salaries for the month of March on an emergency basis.

Dr. Mushtaq Hussain, a leader of the Bangladesh Medical Association also attended the rally to express BMA's solidarity with the agitating employees and officers.

The rally was preceded by a series of processions of the employees which paraded different premises of the secretariat. The processionists chanted various slogans in support of their demands.

Despite tight security in an around the Secretariat

Rally inside Sectt

From Page 1

Some Secretaries have extended their moral support to the demands of the employees and officials while some others consider it 'unwise' to involve the administration in politics, informed sources claimed.

One Secretary, requesting anonymity, while talking to The Daily Star said 'the government has absolutely failed to assess and address the situation for which the economy of the country will have to pay price for the next 10 years.'

When contacted Information Secretary Syed Amir-ul-Mulk said he was also requested to join the rally. He was willing to join but could not do so because of an important business, he said.

'Some of my colleagues expressed solidarity with them', the Information Secretary told this correspondent.

Addressing the rally, Syed Mohiuddin said if Cabinet Secretary Aiyubur Rahman failed to meet their demands, 'we will replace him by a new official and will from a caretaker government.' Representatives of agitating employees had a meeting with Aiyubur Rahman on Saturday last over their demands but it ended inconclusively.

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98 Bangladeshis detained at Malaysian airport

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 25:

The Immigration Department said today that 98 Bangladeshis who arrived from Dhaka were detained at the airport on suspicion of having fake visas, reports AP.

A statement from the department said the approval reference numbers and the issuing officer's signature on the visas were dubious.

The passports also contained two rubber stamps showing purported approvals from the Foreign Workers Task Force. But the company said to be employing them has denied seeking the task force's approval, the statement said.

The group was being detained at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport pending deportation, the statement said.

The department said it believed that a syndicate was involved in bringing the Bangladeshis here for illegal employment. They arrived on Saturday, it said.

Jute Secretary's solidarity with movement

Jute Secretary Saifur Rahman in a statement yesterday expressed his solidarity with the on-going 'peoples' movement.'

The following is the English rendering of the statement made in Bangla:

'As an employee of the Republic, our duty is to obey orders of the government. But the government, formed through the farcical elections of February 15, has no legitimacy. Government officers and employees did not perform any duty in this election. People did not cast their votes in this election. This was completely a rigged and farcical poll. Through this farcical election, an immoral act of bringing into parliament a self-proclaimed killer of Bangabandhu was accomplished. As an employee of the Republic, I do not consider it my duty to abide by the orders of this illegally constituted government.'

'There is no legal government in the country now. The law and order situation had deteriorated severely. The economy stands shattered. The country is now facing a disaster. The only way out of this impasse is the immediate resignation of Begum Khaleda Zia and formation of a representative government by holding election under a neutral caretaker government.'

'As an employee of the Republic, I am expressing my solidarity with the agitating countrymen's on-going movement.'

'We wish to make it very clear that BRAC, which is a non-political development organisation, has always been in the vanguard of democratic movements in the country and has been promoting grassroot democratic organisations of the poor.'

In his statement, Abed said: 'BRAC hopes that with the early resolution of the present crisis the poor people of the country, who have been the worst sufferers, will be able to resume their normal livelihood.'

BRAC chief expresses solidarity

BRAC, the largest non-government development organisation in the country, has expressed solidarity with the current 'democratic movement' in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, Fazle Hossain Abed, the founder of BRAC, said his organisation believed that the February 15 election was 'heavily rigged and that the government arising out of that is devoid of moral authority to govern.'

Abed differed with a statement of LGRD Minister Barrister Abdu Salam Talukder, made in the parliament on Sunday, where he tried to convey an impression that BRAC was not supporting the current movement for democracy in the country.

'We wish to make it very clear that BRAC, which is a non-political development organisation, has always been in the vanguard of democratic movements in the country and has been promoting grassroot democratic organisations of the poor.'

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The Midnight File

Big-3 sign South Pacific N-free treaty

SUVA, Fiji, Mar 25: The United States, Britain and France signed a treaty today declaring the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone, ending the region's use as an atomic playground for the superpowers. Fiji's prime minister said. The treaty covers 30 million square kilometers of ocean and tiny islands, some of which was used by the Western superpowers for nuclear explosions, reports AP.

2 killed during hartal

From Page 1

The hartal in the capital was observed at the call of Dhaka Mayor Mohammad Hanif to protest Sunday's police action on citizens' sit-in in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The hartal coincided with the Opposition sponsored indefinite non-cooperation movement that passed its 17th consecutive day yesterday. Full-day hartal was also enforced at Tongi for the same cause as declared by Tongi Pourashava Chairman Azmatullah.

All the injured passengers of the minibus which came under petrol bomb attack at Bijoy Smarant were rushed to the DMCH. The unidentified woman, aged about 40, died at the hospital. The injured, Helal, Asma, Sufia Rozza and Saifur — all employees of a garments factory at Mahakhali — were also undergoing treatment at the DMCH.

Aklima, 17, a rickshaw passenger, died on the spot after being crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus near the House Building Finance Corporation office at Uttara at around 5:30 pm. Uttara

Bomb explosions at some other parts of the metropolis including Saidinagar, Malibagh, Mahakhali, Jatrabari left few more people injured.

During the hartal hours rickshaws were seen plying as usual while some autorickshaws, tempos and minibuses besides state-run BRTC buses were seen plying on the city streets from morning hours.

Shops in the main commercial areas remained closed. Private-owned business institutions and schools and colleges remained closed for the 17th consecutive day yesterday.

AL leader killed in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Mar 25: A freedom fighter and Sadar thana Awami League leader was killed by unknown assailants in the town last night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Mostafizer Rahman Bablu, 38, commander of Gokunda unit during the 1971 Liberation War, came under attack at about 7:40 pm when he was listening to the BBC Bangla news at a betel-leaf shop at Teesta Bazar of the town.

The miscreants hacked him with Chinese axe and ranshao.

Official sources told UNB the austerity measure came following a recent meeting on budgetary situation at the Ministry of Finance.

The meeting with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair was learnt to have noted with concern the uncertainty in revenue receipt during the current budget due to the crippling political impasse that hit hard the economy. Saifur stressed expenditure control to strike a balance in the current budget.

Directive to cut spendings in govt offices

The exchequer has asked for a 10 per cent ancillary spendings cut in all ministries, divisions and government agencies because of a revenue crunch amidst the staggering political unrest, reports UNB.

Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan this week sent a directive to this effect to chief executives of different ministries and divisions in view of mounting strain on the 1995-96 revenue budget as a result of fattening food import bills against an uncertain revenue earning scenario.

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Independence Day

From Page 1

To celebrate the silver jubilee of independence in a befitting manner throughout the country, the government and various organisations have planned elaborate programmes.

The day, a public holiday, will be heralded by a 31-run salute.

The President will take salute and inspect a national day parade at the National Square at the old airport.

Members of the army, navy and air force, BDR BNCC, police, ansar and VDP will participate in the parade and their bands will play at selected points in the city.

Later in the afternoon, the President will host a reception at the Bangabhaban.

The National Flag will be hoisted atop all public and private buildings and main streets and road islands will be decorated with small flags. Besides, all important buildings will be illuminated in the evening.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations will place wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti Soudha (national memorial) at Savar.

Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television will air special programmes and newspapers will bring out special supplements on the occasion.

Rallies, sports competitions and cultural functions will be arranged for students of schools and colleges.

Cultural programmes, discussions and art exhibitions on the Liberation War will be held throughout the city.

The Muktiuddha O Swadhinatar Rajat Joyanti Udjapon Gano Committee, has organised a three-day programme, that began last night at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

BNP, AL clash in Sirajganj: 35 hurt, 7 houses ransacked

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 25: At least 35 people were injured and seven houses were ransacked and set ablaze in three separate incidents in the district today.

During a clash between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at Alampur Bazar in Kazipur thana, 15 people were injured.

Seriously injured BCL workers Rafiqul Islam, 20, and Harunur Rashid, 22, were admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital and later sent to Dhaka.

BNP processionists ransacked the houses of Golam Mostafa, Mokslesur Rahman and Motur Ali Talukder at Alampur during the clash.

In Chouhali thana, 18 people were injured in a clash between the Awami League (AL) and BNP workers.

Of the injured, five persons were admitted to Chouhali Thana Health Complex while seven others were sent to Nagarpur Thana Health Complex.

In another incident, one Nurul Islam was beaten up by a group of processionists in Belkuchi Thana. The group also ransacked four houses in Mokundakati Bazar.

Huge arms

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Recovered weapons included SMG, LMG, rocket launchers, automatic rifle, pistol and several thousand ammunition. These weapons were believed to have been brought from abroad by travellers through sea route and were meant for distribution among terrorist groups inside the country, the sources added.

The sources did not give further details saying investigation was on to determine the sources and persons involved in smuggling the weapons into Bangladesh.

DU senate session postponed

Adjourned session of Dhaka University senate scheduled for March 28 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. Special (requir) session of the senate, scheduled for March 30, has also been postponed, said a DU press release yesterday, reports UNB.

Addressing the rally, Syed Mohiuddin also urged the officials concerned to complete the formalities for payment of salaries for the month of March on an emergency basis.

Dr. Mushtaq Hussain, a leader of the Bangladesh Medical Association also attended the rally to express BMA's solidarity with the agitating employees and officers.

The rally was preceded by a series of processions of the employees which paraded different premises of the secretariat. The processionists chanted various slogans in support of their demands.

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Ctg port to operate

From Page 1

The decisions taken at the joint meeting organised by Chittagong Port Authority we have now taken fresh initiatives to run the port on the basis of those decisions defying anything of the 'illegal' government, Mohiuddin said.

'The Chittagong Port will now resume operations as per decisions of the All Party Action Committee' the mayor asserted.

He claimed that the decision of the opposition leaders here was also approved by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

Earlier, the port authority, being authorised by the Ministry of Port and Shipping had organised the joint meeting of opposition leaders, port users and officials at a local hotel yesterday.

But the decisions taken at the meeting could not be turned into an agreement as the State Minister for Port and Shipping reportedly instructed the Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority not to sign any such agreement.

Meanwhile, partial cargo handling and delivery of food-grains, which continued for the past two days, stopped today after the withdrawal of the gang-labourers and staff of food