

Three killed, 20 hurt in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Three persons were killed and at least 20 others injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

One Belayet Hossain, 30, was gunned down and 15 others were injured during a clash between two rival groups of workers at the Sayedabad Bus Terminal early yesterday.

The clash that began at around 2 am lasted about five hours. It was a result of a conflict between the two groups who were fighting for control of the terminal for a long time, locals alleged.

Belayet, a bus helper, who received bullet injuries in his head, died on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 7:15 am. Of the injured Rustom Ali, 25, and Bakul, 20, were admitted to the DMCH with bullet wounds.

Witnesses said the two groups which reportedly belong to BNP and Jatiya Party chased each other and fired more than 100 rounds of gun shots in the terminal and adjoining areas. He was admitted to the DMCH.

Meanwhile, an unidentified gang gunned down one Liton, 23, at Khondawker road in West Jurain under Demra

thana early yesterday. Liton, a trader at the Bangabazar Hawkers' Market, received fatal bullet injuries in his head and chest and died on the spot, police sources said.

A case has been filed with Demra thana in this connection.

A vegetables vendor was killed when a speeding truck overturned at the College Gate in the city early yesterday.

The victim, Sayed Ali, 65, coming from Rajbari, was seriously injured and rushed to the DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. An unidentified gang fired on a Chhatra League activist, Humayun Kabir, 28, at Dhanmondi Road-19 yesterday afternoon. Humayun, who received injuries in his leg, was admitted to the DMCH.

In another armed clash in the Shahajapur railway colony area, one Babul, 19, sustained bullet wounds in his hand. At least four others were injured.

One Mehdi Hasan, 28, was stabbed during a clash between two groups of Golapbagh and Gopibagh localities in the old part of the city yesterday.



Chinese Foreign Minister Quan Qichen (L) is welcomed by his Japanese counterpart Yukihiko Ikeda (R) prior to their meeting at the Likura guest house in Tokyo yesterday. The meeting is expected to focus on the recent tension in the Taiwan Strait. —APP/UNB photo

Chief Adviser

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immediately, he assured. He categorically said the Special Powers Act would not be applied if work of the government was not rendered difficult beyond any tolerance.

We would have to build homes of peace in the country with the cooperation of parents and elders in the families," he said. He hoped that our boys would return home and devote themselves to their respective work.

Habibur Rahman said there was victory and defeat in election. Whoever emerged victorious would be remembered more by the people for his names than his victory, he said.

He said though some restrictions were prevailing in the country for various reasons, we need not worry much about it. We would soon get opportunity to do our respective work without any hurdle, he added.

Referring to the goodwill and assurance of cooperation by the political leaders, Rahman hoped that the workers of different political parties would respond to the call of peace made by their leaders. If they work with devotion and discipline to achieve their goal it will sugar well not only for their parties but also for the whole nation, he said.

Free country of illegal arms for fair polls: Jamaat

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Prof Ghulam Azam yesterday emphasised the recovery of illegal arms for holding free and fair election under the non-party caretaker government, reports UNB.

"Only a caretaker administration is not enough for holding a fair election. For this, the first condition is to free the country of illegal arms and their holders," he told a party rally at the "Caretaker Mancha" near the Danik Bangla crossing.

City Jamaat organised the rally in the afternoon, marking the party's 'Shukria Dibashi' (Day of Gratitude) to celebrate the formation of caretaker government.

Assuring their full cooperation, the Jamaat chief urged the Chief Adviser of the non-party caretaker government to deploy the army alongside police, BDR and Ansars in the arms recovery operation.

He said that prohibiting the use of black money in election campaign and abiding by the election rules by all political parties are also pre-conditions for free and fair polling like the one in 1991.

Khaleda: Sack officials

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buildings along the road. Begum Zia also called upon her party workers to organise rallies in every wards in the city and at each thana and district across the country today.

Referring to those who supported the agitation from the Janata Mancha (people's podium) set up in front of the Jatiya Press Club, the BNP chief told the gathering, "You must identify who joined the Janata Mancha. They are betrayers and enemies of the country."

Begum Zia termed the Janata Mancha a 'slavery dais' and said it was set up to renew the 25-year slavery treaty which was signed at a similar dais at the Suhrawardy Uddyan in 1972.

Without naming Awami League, she alleged that they were conspiring from the 'slavery dais' to turn Bangladesh into Sikkim or Bhutan. "We won't allow them to do so."

The former prime minister called upon the 'conspirators' to engage themselves in nation-building activities by shunning the path of conspiracy. Otherwise, she said, the people would punish them.

She urged all nationalist forces to unite to protect independence and sovereignty of the country.

Begum Zia said: "We came to power through the front gate and also had an exit through the front gate."

As regards the constitutional provisions for caretaker government, the former PM said the credit for this goes to the sixth Parliament and the people. In this context, she condemned the parties that, she alleged, tried to resist the polls for the sixth Parliament and passage of the caretaker bill.

The BNP leader termed her transfer of power to a caretaker government as a victory of democracy and of the people and claimed it was for the first time in the national history that power had been transferred systematically and constitutionally. "It has created a new chapter in the history of the country."

She said, the agitation by a political party was designed to destroy the national economy, protect the economy of a neighbouring country and sell out the country's independence.

Without naming Awami League, the BNP chairman

alleged that this party, despite people's support to it, failed to fulfil their hopes and aspirations after the country's independence as "it gave a bond to build another country."

Begum Zia urged her party workers to remain calm and have patience under the changed political situation but cautioned that every attack on the partymen would be retaliated.

She thanked the members of the armed forces, the BDR, police and most of the employees of the republic for the cooperation they extended to her government during its tenure.

Chaired by BNP secretary general Abdus Salam Talukdar, the public meeting was also addressed by, among others, party leaders Prof. Badruddoza Choudhury, Saifur Rahman, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Tariqul Islam, Oli Ahmed, Mirza Abbas, Dr. Khandakar Mosharruf Hossain, Goyeshwar Roy, Amanullah Aman, Nazrul Islam Khan and Shamsuzzaman Dudu.

The meeting concluded with a cultural function.

Cabinet secy

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Sources in the President's office said President Abdur Rahman Biswas had asked Cabinet Secretary Ayubur Rahman to invite leaders of all parties having representation in the fifth Parliament. The President even mentioned the names of the leaders of these parties to be invited to the ceremony, they pointed out.

But no leader of Gano Forum, Workers Party, Islami Oikya Jote or National Democratic Party were present at the oath-taking ceremony, because they were not invited.

When contacted, Rashid Khan Menon, General Secretary of the Workers Party told The Daily Star last night: "It is not that I am personally aggrieved for not being invited to the function. But I am worried that the bureaucracy has already started dishonouring the directives of the political authorities."

He also said that by ignoring the President's instruction, "the bureaucracy has visibly shown their inclination to a certain political quarter which would eventually be an obstacle for an impartial polling."

Cabinet Secretary Ayubur Rahman could not be reached immediately for comment yesterday.

Begum Zia's first day after leaving office

By Staff Correspondent

Former Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, on the first day after relinquishing power, passed most of the time yesterday at her Cantonment residence sources close to her said.

She stayed at her house till she left for attending a public meeting of her party at Naya Paltan at 5:45 in the afternoon.

On conclusion of her 25-minute speech at 6:10 pm, Begum Zia entered the party central office. She had about an hour's discussion with her party colleagues and then returned to her Cantonment house.

Begum Zia used the national flag and her party flag on her private car as she travelled yesterday. She was also seen having government security forces.

The BNP chief is scheduled to attend her party office this evening, the sources said.

Clashes leave over 100 injured in dists

By Staff Correspondent

Over 100 people were injured in clashes between the supporters of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and rival political parties in different parts of the country yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal reports: At least 45 people were injured in clashes between the supporters of BNP and rival political parties in Barisal and Patuakhali yesterday.

Clashes occurred at Muladi, Daulat Khan, Bhola Sadar, Patuakhali and Perojpur town when several victory processions were brought out by rival political parties.

Twenty-five persons were injured when the workers of the BNP-backed JCD and the AL-backed BCL activists clashed in New Marka area in Patuakhali town.

Another 16 persons were injured in Perojpur town when BNP supporters attacked a victory procession brought out by AL.

Later, the AL workers ransacked the office of a local weekly newspaper.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent writes: At least 15 persons were injured in a clash between the activists of JCD and Chhatra League and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj yesterday.

Activists of Chhatra Samaj and Chhatra League brought out victory processions in the town. When they reached near the Government KC College on a sun-drenched expanded rail tracks.

Of the injured, Abdul Alim, Abdul Malek, Chamak, Ripon, Jafar, Mithun, Jahangir, Babul, Dalil, Mijanur and Saiful were rushed to the Jhenidah sadar hospital.

Alim was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital this

Phoolan to run for Lok Sabha seat

NEW DELHI, Mar 31: Indian 'bandit queen' Phoolan Devi, who spent a dozen years behind bars for allegedly gunning down 22 men to avenge her gang rape, announced plans to run for parliament today, reports AFP.

Devi told reporters in the northern city of Lucknow she would seek a seat in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, from Uttar Pradesh state, where she eluded the authorities for more than two years before surrendering in 1983.

Devi said she will contest the elections with ticket from Samajwadi Party of Mulayam Singh Yadav, who paved the way for her release from prison two years ago by dropping charges against her while serving as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Announcing her candidacy in Lucknow, the Uttar Pradesh capital, Devi expressed her gratitude to Yadav whose party draws much of its support from members of the lower Hindu castes.

"I languished in jail for many long years but nobody bothered about me," she said. "had (former chief minister) Yadav not taken an interest in my release I may have died in prison."

Devi, who is in her mid 30s, said she was joining Yadav's party because she supported its advocacy of social justice for India's "Untouchables" and other downtrodden groups.

Referring to BNP leader

Badruddoza Chowdhury's demand for punishment of the bureaucrats and officials who had demanded caretaker government, Hasina said.

"Instead, the BNP ministers should be tried for their misappropriation of crores of taka."

"We want to know, from where the family members of the BNP chairperson acquired such wealth to buy more than one house, when Ziaur Rahman was killed, he left behind a broken suitcase and torn tee shirts among other things. Now we see her family owns industries, ships and assets worth crores of taka," Hasina alleged.

Their corruption should be probed and they should be punished according to the laws of the land," Hasina added.

She also alleged that Begum Zia "helped the killer of Sheikh Mujib to be elected a member of parliament in the farcical election." "I want to know, why she has a soft corner for this killer?"

Mayor Hanif demanded autonomy for the BTV and Radio Bangladesh and called upon the people to help maintain law and order and peace.

Some AL leaders including Sheikh Selim demanded resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner and restructuring of the Election Commission to ensure a sound electoral process.

During the clash series of bombs were blasted and gunshots were fired.

Some vehicles were also damaged, the witnesses added. A BNP activist, Mahbubul Huq, was injured, when he came under attack by his rivals at Boalkhali this morning, police said. He was admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

BNP blamed the supporters of Awami League for the attack on its activist.

Meanwhile, Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami separately held out processions in the city from their respective podiums in

Storm hits Sherpur

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

SHERPUR, Mar 31: At least 50 persons were injured and some 2000 houses damaged when a storm lashed the district last night.

The areas most affected are Charnucharia, Charpukthomasey, Bolayer Char, Sherpurpate and Kanaarchar unions under sadar thana.

Sadar thana Nirbahi Officer Md Asadul Islam told The Daily Star that the storm lasted about 25 minutes also caused heavy damages to standing wheat and irri-Boro crops.

Additional police force to be deployed in city

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has decided to deploy additional force in vulnerable points of the city.

A meeting of the senior officials of the DMP yesterday identified those vulnerable points in the metropolis and directed the field officers to formulate and implement plans to maintain law and order.

The meeting held at the DMP headquarters was presided over by the Commissioner A N Hussain. The police officials reviewed the prevailing situation in the city.

Ajker Kagoj chief reporter granted bail

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division yesterday granted an interim bail to Syed Borhan Kabir, Chief Reporter of the Ajker Kagoj.

A division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Moazzam Hossain and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman also directed the government to show cause as to why he should not be granted regular bail.

Chiefs of three Services call on Habibur Rahman

The Chiefs of three Services yesterday called on the Chief Adviser of the caretaker government Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his office at old Sangsad-Bhaban, reports BSS.

The Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Nasim, the Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Nurul Islam and the Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed felicitated Rahman on his assumption of the office of the Chief Adviser.

They assured him of their full support and cooperation in discharging his responsibilities in upholding the Constitution, maintenance of law and order and holding of free and fair parliamentary elections.

Later the Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Major General Ejaz Ahmed Chowdhury and the Inspector General of Police Shahjahan called on the Chief Adviser separately.

They assured full cooperation to the caretaker government.

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Dr Kamal urges political parties to abolish arms cadres

By Staff Correspondent

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called upon the political parties to abolish arms cadres and stop terrorism for improving the law and order situation in the country.

"The Election Commission will have to be reformed and the election should be saved from arms and black money," he said speaking at a meeting of the Dhaka based central committee members of the party yesterday.

Dr Kamal said that national demand and conditions has been reflected in the formation of a caretaker government led by former Chief Justice Habibur Rahman.

He also called upon all democratic forces to help the caretaker government to revive the democratic system in the country.

Expressing concern over the repeated attempts for capturing different educational institutions by political arms cadres, he said, such activities should be stopped immediately.

Dr Kamal underscored the need for immediate restoration of discipline in the administration and national economy.

Organised by the JP city unit, the rally was addressed by, among others, party president members Begum Roushan Ershad, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzam Hossain, and leaders of its front organisation, Col (Rtd) M A Malek, president of the city unit, presided.

Congratulating those officials who had expressed solidarity with the opposition movement Mizan said, "None can touch them as they came out on the streets to express their solidarity with people. These officials will be rewarded in due course."

The JP leader also demanded formation of an inquiry commission to probe the "corruption by the immediate past government". "It has to be done to prove that nobody is above law," he said.

Moudud Ahmed demanded resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner within 24 hours. He also suggested reorganisation of the Election Commission in consultation with political parties.

Gunmen fire on Mohiuddin Alamgir's car

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified gunmen yesterday fired on the car of Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, member, Planning Commission and joint convener of Officials' Co-ordination Council of the Republic, opposite Shiksha Bhavan near Secretariat at 1.20 pm, according to police.

Two bullets hit the car — one in the door and another in the back puncturing the petrol can — but Dr Alamgir escaped unhurt, police sources said.

Dr Alamgir, who was the first among the high officials to demand of the President to form a caretaker government, was going to the secretariat from Planning Commission in an official Pajero car, his family sources said.

The shots came from the direction of Curzon Hall, they said.

UNB adds: Dr Alamgir filed a general diary with the Ramna police station on the incident in which he complained the gunmen attempted on his life.

He did not mention any suspects in the GD but said he was constantly receiving death threats after the BNP leaders issued threats at their Saturday's rally against him and other officials.

Special security was posted at Dr Alamgir's residence.

JP: Ershad

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ment and installation of a caretaker government as demanded for the last two years is partial victory of our movement. The final victory will come through unconditional release of Ershad," Mizan said.

A JP programme for observance of 'Ershad Release Day' on April 4 across the country through demonstrations and rallies was also announced at the rally.

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The sixth parliament will be scrapped by the next amendment bill (which provided for caretaker government) will be declared null and void to bring about another amendment for a permanent structure of the caretaker government," Moudud said.

UNB adds: "If you (Chief Adviser) want to create a democratic environment in the country, it can't be possible without releasing Ershad. Free Ershad immediately or we will fire him by street movement," said Kaushan Ershad, wife of former president and a member of the JP presidium.

Trading at DSE resumes

By Rafiq Hasan

Trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) resumed yesterday after a 23-day suspension due to political uncertainty in the country.

Trading at the DSE could not be held since March 9 as the three major political parties started an indefinite non-cooperation programme demanding resignation of the BNP government.

The bourse opened and experienced brisk trading during the day. "We are happy that at least we could open the market after the long closure," Imtiaz Hossain, Chairman of the DSE.

He noted that the market lost a total 18 days of trading excluding weekly and government holidays during this period.

"It is a good news for the investors as well as people of the country that the political situation has turned towards a specific direction," the DSE chairman told The Daily Star last night.

He termed the market as "hctic" and said that a positive attitude was observed among the investors.

On the opening day, the DSE All Share Price Index rose by about eight percentage points and a selling pressure was observed among the investors and share holders.

The All Share Price Index increased to 804.80 points from 796.80 points at the close of trading on March 7. The market capitalisation also rose to Tk 5244 crore from Tk 5192 crore.

More than one lakh seventy-five thousand shares and debentures of 65 companies changed hands of which, shares of 39 companies gained and 21 issues incurred losses. While shares of five companies remained unchanged on the opening day yesterday, the value of the traded issues was over Tk 2.94 crore.

The actual trend of the share market could only be understood after some more days of trading as most of the investors are still observing the situation, a member of the DSE said last night.

BCL exchanges fire with JCD, captures DU hall

By DU Correspondent

A group of armed men reportedly belonging to a faction of the Bangladesh Chhatra League attacked Shahidullah Hall of the Dhaka University and took position at the extension-2 building of the hall at about midnight Saturday night, according to witnesses.

During the attack they exchanged over 100 rounds of gunshots with the rival activists of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). The hall was a stronghold of the JCD, campus sources said.

A tense situation was prevailing on the campus till last night. Most of students of the extension building of Shahidullah Hall have left for security reasons.

Meanwhile, some unidentified people set fire to the office of Prof Irshadul Bari, dean of the Faculty of Law of the Dhaka University, Saturday evening. Some valuable documents were gutted in the fire.

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Two killed

From Page 1

BCL identified Shaha as its activist and blamed BNP activists for the killing. But sources said Shaha was killed following intra-party rivalry in BCL.

Another person, Md Masud, 23, who received bullet injuries during the non-cooperation movement at Halishahar five days ago, succumbed to his injuries today. BCL identified Masud as its activist.

At least nine people were injured this afternoon during a clash between two groups of supporters of BNP and Awami League at Chattashari road, witnesses said.

The injured were rushed to hospitals and private clinics. The clash erupted when a procession of BNP supporters heading towards the "Ganatantra Mancha" at Kazir Dewri at 4 pm, came under bomb attacks, witnesses said.

The BNP supporters in retaliation chased the attackers, witnesses added.

During the clash series of bombs were blasted and gunshots were fired.

Some vehicles were also damaged, the witnesses added. A BNP activist, Mahbubul Huq, was injured, when he came under attack by his rivals at Boalkhali this morning, police said. He was admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

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