

# Two killed, 20 hurt in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons were murdered and at least 20 people, including a college teacher, were injured in separate incidents of violence in the city during the last two days.

Police recovered the body of one Ilias Md Faruk, 35, from his house at Tanpara, Khilkhet under Cantonment thana Sunday morning.

Faruk, a grocer, was found dead with stab injuries in his chest and neck, medical sources said. Police recovered the body at around 11 am and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

According to sources, the killing was a sequel to alleged illicit relations of a local young man with Faruk's wife, Moni. A case has been filed in this connection.

Meanwhile, one Jamal, 37, who was beaten up by a mob in Motihel area on April 4 succumbed to his injuries at the Orthopedic Hospital Sunday afternoon.

It was learnt that the angry people caught Jamal and three others when they were snatching Tk 70,000 from a businessman near the Prime Bank at Motihel.

Police said the body was handed over to his family.

A teacher of the Lalmitia Women's College, Shawkat Hossain, 28, was stabbed when a group of four young men attacked him in his house at Zakir Hossain Road in Mohammodpur yesterday afternoon, police and medical sources said.

The victim who sustained wounds in his chest and hand was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The cause of the attack could not be known immediately. However, according to sources, the teacher had a row with the students of Dhaka College. At one stage, the unidentified gang stabbed the teacher.

Mohammodpur police said last night that they were investigating the incident.

Bilkis Begum, 23, a maid, was injured when she jumped from the rooftop of a five-storey building late Sunday night.

Medical sources said the maid tried to flee the house where the family members used to torture her. She was admitted to the Orthopedic Hospital.

**3 killed in city road accident**

From DMCH Correspondent

At least three persons were killed in a road accident at Mohakhali in the city yesterday.

The accident occurred when a bus collided head on with a tempo at around 9 am, police said. The victims were the passengers of the tempo. One of the victims was identified as Mehedi, 30. But the deaths of the two others could not be confirmed from police or hospital sources.

In another road accident at Mohakhali Sunday morning, one Hanid, 30, was killed on the spot when a speeding bus ran over him, medical sources said.

**BA exam**

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The National University took over the responsibility.

Intending BA examinees crowding different city colleges now said that the National University should introduce payment of fine for late filing of application for registration and take steps to stop this malpractice.

A section of employees of those colleges are well connected with the relevant department for registration. They take all the advantages and victimise hundreds of innocent examinees who become late in filing application," said Nasima Banu, a housewife and an intending BA candidate.

Nasima said that she was first asked by a clerk of a women's college to pay 4,000 taka for the registration. Nasima was late in filing her application.

"I then went to another women's college in the city where an employee asked for Tk 2,000 for my registration," she said. Nasima said the official told her that he would have to pay Tk 1,000 to the Registration office.

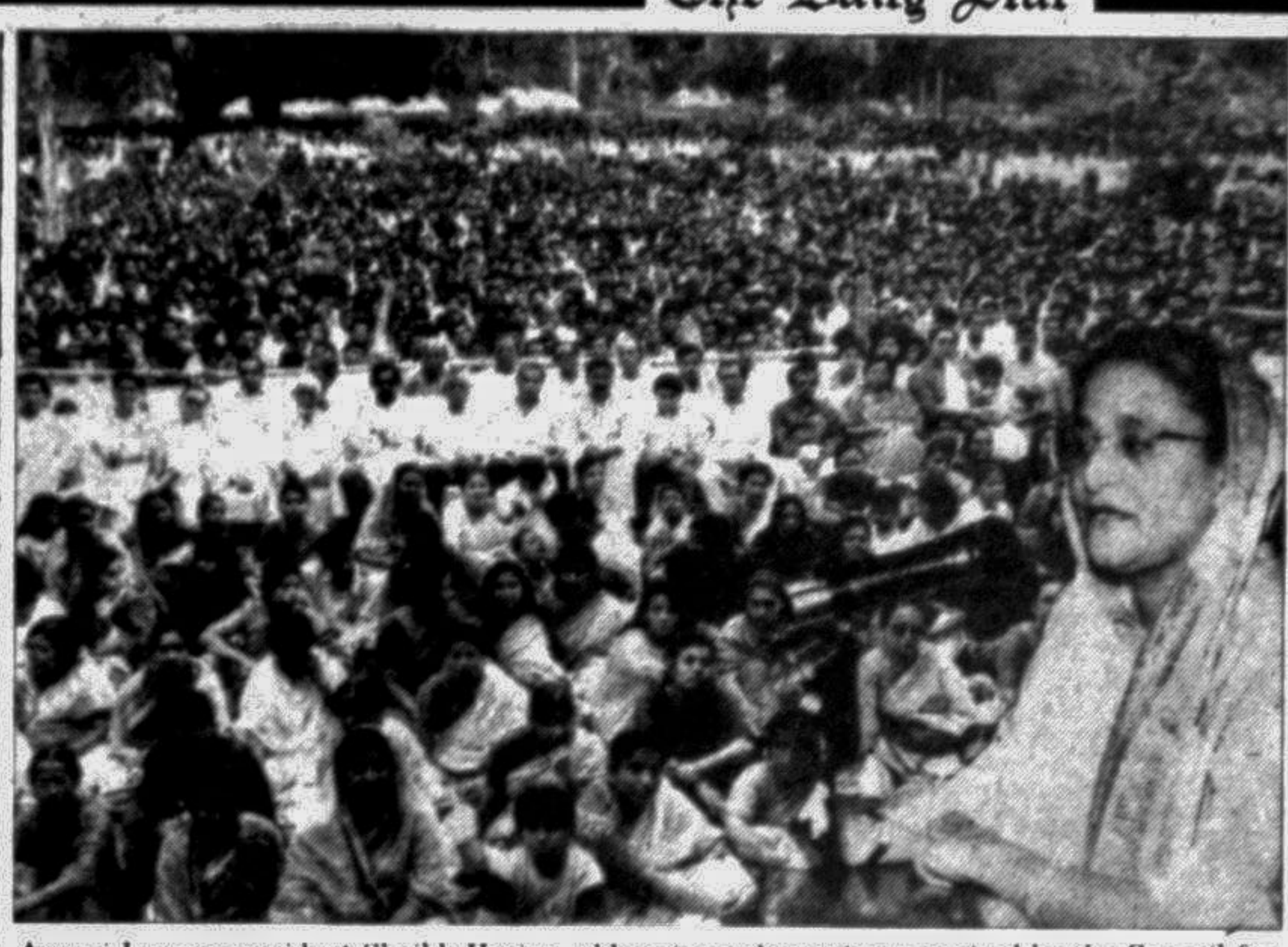
**BNP: Changes**

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The (caretaker) government, installed in power only for 90 days, can definitely issue some transfer orders for the sake of proper elections. But massive transfer in all tiers of the administration will turn the administration "unstable and weak and such steps are not expected and normal also".

The BNP leader alleged that the government's "inaction" against some "identified and controversial" civil servants was "unacceptable". It is "harmful" for the non-partisan and neutral image of the present administration, he observed.

In the statement, Salam Talukdar also criticised the Awami League leadership for raising a new controversy by demanding that the Chief Adviser be given the charge of Defence Ministry at a time when the Chief Adviser, in his address to the nation, urged all not to create any "unnecessary debate".



Awami League president Sheikh Hasina addressing a discussion organised by the Council for the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Independence and War of Liberation at the Ramna Batamul in the city to welcome the Pahela Baishakh Sunday.

**Jamaluddin joins BNP**

Former deputy prime minister Jamaluddin Ahmed on Sunday called on BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and formally joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), reports BSS.

A founder member of both Jagadal and BNP, Jamaluddin was a close associate of late president Ziaur Rahman and served under him as deputy prime minister in charge of Ministry of Industries. He was also president of South Asian Accounts Federation and Bangladesh Institute of Chartered Accounts.

Jamaluddin, who also served as the president of Chittagong Samity in Dhaka vowed to uphold the politics of the BNP under the dynamic leadership of Begum Zia.

**WB representative meets Hasina**

World Bank Resident Representative Pierre Landell Mills called on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday at the latter's Dhanmondi residence.

AL presidium member Amir Hussain Amu, Sheikh Hasina's political advisor SAMS Kibria and its finance and planning secretary Ataur Rahman Khan joined Hasina during the meeting. Landell Mills was accompanied by WB official Owais Sadaat.

Meanwhile, South Asia desk chief of the British foreign office, Carlos Elmes also called on Sheikh Hasina at the latter's residence yesterday.

SAMS Kibria, Ataur Rahman Khan and British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Peter Fowier were also present during the meeting, says a party press release.

**AL's extended meet tomorrow**

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will address a press conference at 4 pm today at the Mahanagar Community Centre in the city, says a party press release yesterday.

An extended meeting of the party's policy planners will be held at 10 am on Thursday at the Engineers' Institution auditorium, said another release.

AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman has requested all members of the party's central working committee, advisory committee, presidents and thana units and party's former MPs of the Fifth Parliament to attend the meeting to be presided over by party President Sheikh Hasina.

**Sanskritik Jote demands full autonomy for Radio, TV**

Leaders of different socio-cultural organisations at a meeting with the Chief Adviser yesterday demanded full autonomy for radio and television, reports UNB.

During the discussion with Chief Adviser Habibur Rahman, they stressed the importance of deciding accepted norms in putting out programmes through the electronic media.

The leaders of the Samilita Sangskritik Jote, an umbrella organisation for different associations dealing with performing art led by Falz Ahmed, met the Chief Adviser at his office in the afternoon.

Other leaders present during the meeting were Ramendu Majumder, Mamunur Rashid, Maifid Huq, Asaduzzaman Noor, Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, Golem Qudus, Khair Khan, Hasan Arif, Sayed Badal, Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, Ataur Rahman and Mohor Raihan.

The leaders of the Jote insisted on putting total embargo on politicisation of the electronic media and called for liberating government-controlled institutions dealing with art and culture from the fetters of bureaucratic and political control.

They suggested formation of an advisory council to make sure that politicisation and predilection cannot influence projection of news and programmes over radio and television.

**Immunization drive**

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Auguring the programme, asked the mothers present on the occasion to vaccinate their children against the disabling polio as well as other deadly diseases for a healthy future generation.

Adviser for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Maj Gen (ret'd) Dr Abdur Rahman Khan and officials of the EPI were present on the occasion.

Polio is a viral disease which affects children under five and causes paralysis or even death. In the absence of vaccination, 15,000 children may die or become disabled each year.

Nearly 70 per cent of reported cases of polio worldwide occur in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has been observing NIDs since last year and achieved a remarkable success, observes the WHO and UNICEF.

According to a joint press release of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UNICEF, Bangladesh had already achieved a 'real miracle' in vaccinating 80 per cent children under the age of 5.

The government and donors have committed a fund

# Biman's ATP plane averts accident

By Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 15: A Bangladesh Biman plane escaped a serious accident yesterday while it was taking off from Rahmatpur airport here.

Witnesses and some passengers said the ATP Biman flight BG-427 was in trouble when its right side wheel suddenly went into the runway while taking off for Dhaka with 54 passengers at noon.

The aircraft had run about three thousand feet from the touch down point to the turnover point of the runway before the incident occurred, Biman local office sources said.

Captain Siddique, pilot of the flight, turned the engine off and aborted the flight fearing serious danger. He also ordered the passengers to disembark immediately.

The stuckup plane was rescued from the runway after about 6 hours with the help of a truck.

All flights of Biman and Aero Bengal private airlines in this route were cancelled yesterday.

An ATP flight however, took off for Dhaka at 7.55 am with 13 passengers today.

**Attack on principal**

**M M Ali College in Tangail closed**

TANGAIL, Apr 15: Prof A K M Abdullah, Principal of Government M M Ali College here, received multiple injuries on his person when he was attacked by a gang of miscreants today, reports BSS.

The miscreants with lethal weapons attacked Prof Abdullah on the Tangail-Santosh Road when he was going to his college this morning.

After initial treatment at local hospital, he was rushed to P G Hospital in Dhaka for further treatment.

A case was filed with Tangail Sadar thana but no one was arrested in this connection.

Meanwhile, the college union elections scheduled for April 13 has been postponed indefinitely. Besides, the college has been declared closed till May 5.

The teachers council of the college expressed concern at the attack on Prof Abdullah.

**BNP meeting**

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especially the people living in the city and its adjacent areas to attend the rally on time and make the programme a success.

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will deliver an "important" speech at the meeting, the press release added.

The BNP rally is being held a day before the planned extended meeting of the party's National Executive Committee.

The extended meeting scheduled to be held at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city tomorrow is expected to discuss BNP's preparations, nominations and other strategies for the coming general elections, strengthening the party and dissolving intra-party conflicts and other polls related issues.

**AL manifesto**

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Chief Sheikh Hasina in several public meetings in the last few days said that if elected, her party would form "effective policies" on various sectors on the basis of "national consensus".

"For preparation of our election manifesto we have taken the endorsed policy of the last year's council session as the main guideline," said the AL leader. Over 3,000 party delegates from across the country had attended the day-long council session on September 11. The previous council session was held in late 1992.

The party leaders while talking to this correspondent yesterday gave the impression that the economic part of AL's polls manifesto would incorporate such proposals which would "infuse dynamism in the stagnated and deteriorating economy" of the country.

There would be pledges in the manifesto that no commercial or industrial organisation would be nationalised. Rather, a competitive atmosphere would be created for smooth management of the state-owned enterprises and growth of the private sector, they said.

The manifesto will include programmes for poverty alleviation, development of an agro-based industrial economy, creation of more jobs for the downtrodden and subsidising agriculture sector, the leaders said.

Besides economic aspects, the AL election manifesto would concentrate on other crucial issues like independence of the judiciary, scrapping of "black laws", autonomy for the state-run electronic media, strengthening of the local government structures and improvement of law and order situation, they further added.

Meanwhile, replying to a question regarding selection of party candidates for the upcoming elections, AL presidium member Tofael Ahmed said the nominations would be finalised by a parliamentary board of the party. "Such a board is generally formed after announcement of the election schedule," he added.

Muhammad Abu Hena, a retired secretary, was appointed as Chief Election Commissioner on April 8. Thereafter, the only Election Commissioner, Justice Abdul Jalil, also tendered his resignation on April 9.

# The Midnight File

**Russia begins withdrawal from Chechnya**

GROZNY, Apr 15: A regiment of Interior Ministry troops pulled out of Chechnya today in the first stage of a phased withdrawal of Russian troops from the breakaway republic, news reports said. The regiment, which had been deployed in the village of Kargalinskaya, about 90 kilometers north of the capital, Grozny, departed for Dagestan Monday morning, the ITAR-Tass news agency said, reports AP.

# Pahela Baishakh

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The day's programmes included cultural functions, musical soirees discussion meets, Baishakhi melas or fairs, exchanging greeting cards, sweets and flowers, partaking of traditional foods and opening of halkhatas (fresh ledger books) by traders and shopkeepers.

Newspapers brought out supplements while Bangladesh Television and Radio aired special programmes highlighting the significance of the day in the life of Bangladesh.

In the city, festivities began Saturday night with musical soirees at the Bangla Academy and Shahbag.

Hundreds of joyous Dhaka University students poured onto the roads inside the campus late into the night — singing and dancing — to bid farewell to 1402 and welcome the new year.

The new year, 1403 BS, was accorded the traditional welcome at Dawn on Sunday, with the rendering of Tagore's memorial song, "Esho Hey Baishakh, Esho, Esho..." by artists of the cultural group, Chhayanotat at Ramna Batamul.

Braving a sizzling hot summer's day, ecstatic crowds of neatly dressed men, women and children from all walks of life thronged the open air festival venues.

The women and girls wore red-bordered white sarees and fresh flowers in their hair and men and boys were attired in *porjola*, *porjanas* and in some cases, traditional *dhobis*.

The main centres of festivities were at Ramna Green, Suhrawardy Uddayan, TSC and Doel Chhatter on the DU Campus and Dhanmondi lakeside. Motorised vehicles were kept away from streets around the venues.

Make-shift food stalls offering "pantha bhat" (watered rice) with chili paste, "pithas" and other indigenous dishes in earthenware crockery, and others selling handicrafts, sprang up in and around the Ramna Green in spite of an earlier ban by authorities.

Various socio-political and cultural organisations, including the Bangla Academy, the Nazrul Academy, the Shilpakala Academy and the Shishu Academy, organised separate programmes to celebrate the day.

The star attraction of the day was a colourful and lively **Rupali Bank warehouse had no Fire Service Clearance**

**Star Report**

The Rupali Bank warehouse at Hathkhola in the city that caught fire on Friday last with highly inflammable materials did not have the required certificate from the Fire department to store such materials, said Fire Service sources.

When contacted a high official of the Rupali Bank said, "Usually the Fire Service department do not issue such certificate." Even after repeated requests, he did not elaborate.

Under the Fire Service Ordinance, at least 200 items have been categorised as highly inflammable and for storing and processing of such materials, a Fire Service warehouse licence is a must. The Explosives Act also does not allow storing of inflammable and explosive materials in a residential area.

More than 30 drums with different chemicals around 30 motorcycles, 20 bicycles, a huge stock of tyres and tubes and yarn were burnt in the devastating fire.

The warehouse also did not have any temperature control system and the ventilation was also inadequate, said witnesses.

Since the political landscape over different trade bodies and associations have started a stocktaking of the losses suffered by their respective industries. These bodies have already voiced demands for financial helps, both direct and indirect.

**Govt plans**

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taken to allow importers release their containers in Dhaka instead of Chittagong Port.

Such administrative steps will quicken the works of the trade and industrial sectors and at the same time entrepreneurs will be relieved of immediate cash payments which they can use as working capital," the official said.

Such steps will not have any effects on the revenue position of the government as the taxes and duties waived for the time being will be realised later, sources in the National Board of Revenue (NBR) maintained.

Already, the government is under severe pressure in the revenue side as resource mobilisation dropped drastically during the recent non-cooperation programme. The sources said adding there was a shortfall of over Taka 200 crore in revenue collection target.

Moreover, the government had to bear heavy expenses for maintaining law and order. Expenses for this alone will increase further now. The need to meet the current food deficit will have further impact on the current account balance and we have the elections ahead which means further spending. We understand that these facts are likely to affect our decisions," said a source in the ministry who is directly involved in policy formulation.

"The government is also trying to narrow down its fiscal deficit in the wake of the major donors' fear that this fiscal year's deficit might witness further widening, resulting in an imbalance in macro-economic stability."

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