

BNP-AL clashes leave 14 dead in 11 days

By Staff correspondent

The BNP and the Awami League (AL), during the period from May 28 to June 7, 1996, clashed 39 times, leaving 14 persons dead and 295 wounded, according to a report five human rights organisations.

During clashes between the BNP and the Jatiya Party (JP), 123 people were injured in 10 incidents. The information "clearly shows that the use of violence is central to the major parties. The student wings of the main political parties also practise violence," said the report released to the press yesterday.

According to the report, other important events include: The destruction of a shop of an AL supporter and a

BNP carrying out false propaganda, says Zillur

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman yesterday alleged that the BNP was carrying out false propaganda against its party and hatching conspiracies to rig the coming elections.

He urged the people and his partymen to remain alert against such propaganda and any attempt to rig the polls. Sensing sure defeat, BNP activists are impersonating Awami League workers and doing terrorism to befoul the people," Zillur said in a statement.

He referred to press reports that audio cassettes intimating the voice of AL president Sheikh Hasina were played in some election camps of BNP to make false propaganda against Awami League.

Hasina

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unit of Awami League and addressed by among others, AHM Khairuzaman Lito. AL candidate in Rajshahi-2 and his mother Jahanara Zaman, widow of late AHM Qamruzzaman who was a prominent party leader and close associate of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Our Pabna Correspondent reports: Addressing a huge public meeting at the Sarh Mannan High School ground, Hasina reiterated that if voted to power, her party would ensure "complete" freedom of the press and the judiciary and make Radio and Television autonomous bodies. State-run newspapers and the news agency will be prioritised, she said.

The meeting was presided over Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilo, president, Ishurdi thana Awami League and AL candidate from Pabna-4 constituency. It was addressed, by among others, Abdul Halim Choudhury, Nuruzzaman Biswas, Ruhul Amin Khan, Rafiqullah and Ruhul Amin Babloo.

Khaleda

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The BNP chief told the electorate that if her party returned to power, it would continue the development programmes undertaken by her government for poverty alleviation and eradication of unemployment and illiteracy. They just did it to make functional another part of a different country. That non-cooperation was not against BNP, it was against the people and the country, she said.

At the meetings, Begum Zia introduced her party nominees Amir Kashru, Mahmood Chowdhury (Chittagong-8), Abdullah Al-Noman (Chittagong-9) and M. Morshed Khan (Chittagong-10). She handed them sheaf of paddy and urged the people to vote for her party.

City campaign

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Major political parties' candidates made vigorous campaigns yesterday rally support in their favour, particularly trying hard to win the hearts of undecided voters.

The formal electioneering of the candidates is to end this midnight, 48 hours ahead of the midnight of the polling date.

Both BNP and Awami League, the two major contenders for power having nominees in all the eight Dhaka seats, geared up their campaigning yesterday.

BNP brought out a colourful truck-procession yesterday. Party workers wearing traditional farmers' straw hats with BNP's election symbol 'sheaf of paddy' in their hands boarded trucks and moved along the city streets.

Female workers of Awami League brought a procession in Ramna-Tejgaon area singing chorus songs with the rhythm of traditional musical instruments.

City AL president and DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif continued electioneering in Dhaka in support of the party candidates in the eight seats in the capital.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam



Awami League supporters brought out a procession with the body of Shamsul Haque in the city yesterday.

Armed forces to act under Home Ministry: CEC

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammed Abu Hena yesterday said the Election Commission was fully prepared with all logistics for holding a free and fair poll on June 12, reports UNB.

He told members of the OCBAB, that some 400,000 personnel would be deployed from police, Ansars, and BDR in addition to 40,000 army and 550 naval troops posted at strategic points to assist the civil administration in maintaining law and order during the voting.

When asked, the CEC said the armed forces would be placed under the Ministry of Home Affairs which will coordinate the law-enforcing agencies.

The army and navy would be called out to help the civil authorities only in the event of violence, on requisition by magistrates, presiding officers or returning officers on duty, the CEC added.

Hena said deployment of forces in each polling centre

Ershad

The Election Commission and other authorities concerned and also issued directives to them.

The HC, by the rule nisi, had ordered the respondents to show cause as to why they should not be directed to allow the petitioner to address the electorate through the government electronic media, namely, television and radio as per the script submitted to the authorities earlier.

Pending hearing of the rule, the HC directed the respondents to record the speech of Ershad either in TV Bhaban/Radio Bhaban or in the Dhaka Central Jail and telecast and broadcast the same along with the speeches of other party leaders as decided by the government.

The HC also directed the respondents to make such immediate arrangement for recording Ershad's speech in the Dhaka Central Jail so that the same may be broadcasted and telecasted within the time limit prescribed by the election authorities.

However, the HC observed that the respondents will be at liberty to strike down any portion of the speech which is found to be in conflict with the Code of Conduct or any other Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Election Commission.

Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq, assisted by Barrister Kazi Shahad Hossain, Advocate Sharif Islam Khan and Ahsanul Karim moved for Ershad; while, Deputy Attorney General Kaisaruddin Ahmed with Assistant Attorney General Sayedur Rahman represented the government in the HC.

Campaign ends

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are in the race. Of them 281 are independents and 36 female candidates contesting directly from 48 constituencies. Thirty reserved seats for women in the total 330-seat parliament will be filled up later.

Out of total 81 political contesting the polls, only three parties — Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Bangladesh Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami — have filed candidates in all the 300 elective seats.

Another major party, the Jatiya Party, has 293 candidates on the official ballot papers. The party earlier nominated 300 candidates, but the figure was reduced as some of the candidates had been disqualified according to election rules.

And very recently, party candidate former minister Kazi Firoze Rashid, who had filed nomination from two constituencies (Dhaka-9 and Gopalganj-3), has withdrawn from the electoral race.

Left Democratic Front put up 180 candidates, Jaker Party 241 candidates, Islami Oikya Jote 165, Gano Forum 104 and the rest 410 candidates are representing different other political parties.

Interestingly, according to the fact sheet released by the Election Commission, 33 political parties put only one candidate each, showing their presence in the country's political arena. Some 40,000 army and 550

would depend on the category identified by the commission. Of about 26,000 polling centres across the country, the commission has identified 9,000 as vulnerable, 6,650 as less vulnerable and rest as normal.

Categorisation of the polling centres was made after identifying accessibility of the particular polling centre, prevailing law and order situation and persons contesting from the constituencies.

29 EU observers arrive

Twenty-nine observers have arrived in the city from the European Union (EU) to observe the preparations for and conduct of the general elections on June 12, reports BSS.

The EU team includes parliamentarians from Italy, Denmark and the United Kingdom, along with observers from Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Pre-polls violence

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quarters within 200 yards of each other this afternoon. At one stage the activists of both parties were locked in a violent clash. The police personnel who were on duty in between the two meetings tried to prevent the clash but failed.

The clash continued for about half an hour. The BDR personnel were deployed when the situation deteriorated. The injured policemen include, ASP Khondaker Hafizur Rahman, OC Abdul Mannan, ASI Assad Hossain and constable Montajuddin.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent says: At least 15 persons were injured, two of them seriously, when a Jatiya Party procession came under attack allegedly by BNP activists at Bhuighar under Fatullah thana yesterday evening.

BNP activists hurled cock-tails at the procession brought out around 7:30 pm by supporters of the JP candidate for Narayanganj-4 constituency, Shafar Ali Bhuiyan.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent adds: At least seven persons, including two women, were injured in a clash at village Khalkula in Sailkupa thana yesterday.

According to reports, the clash took place at about 1:30 pm when some BNP activists forced the villagers to remove a big boat symbol from the roadside. At one stage, BNP activists allegedly attacked the villagers.

Three houses and one shop were also damaged by the BNP activists, local people said.

AL activist

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was attacked on the way home after participating in an AL election procession in the area, police said.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. However, the local AL leaders and activists held the BNP responsible for the murder.

According to the local people, a gang of about five unidentified persons intercepted Shamsul on his way home and stabbed him in his thigh, belly and shoulder. A van driver later picked up Shamsul in an unconscious state from the roadside and took him to the DMCH at around 2 am, police and hospital sources said.

Hospital sources said till his death at around 11:40 am, none of the relatives or family members of Shamsul came to the hospital.

Later, Hajee Selim, the AL candidate for Dhaka-8 constituency and a number of party activists from Lalbagh and adjoining areas rushed to the hospital. In the afternoon, Shamsul's mother Sakina Bibi also went to the DMCH and the body was returned after autopsy.

In the afternoon, AL activists brought out a procession in the city carrying the body of Shamsul and blamed the BNP for the killing. The processionists marched towards the Jatiya Press Club and held a protest rally there.

Shamsul's mother filed a case with Lalbagh thana under section 302 and 34 of the Penal Code late last night, police said. In the FIR she accused 18 persons of the killing, police added. Police declined to give the names of the accused.

Voters in 44 areas under threat, says ADAB

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) yesterday said it has identified 44 areas of the country where voters are alleged to have been threatened not to go to the polling centres to cast their votes, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at its Lalmatia office in the city ADAB Chairman Dr Kazi Farooq Ahmed and Executive Director Ms Rasheda K Chowdhury said that they had already informed the Election Commission and other relevant organisations of the allegations so that appropriate measures were taken by the authorities concerned accordingly.

The places identified by the ADAB include Chittagong, Dhaka, Noakhali, Barisal, Satkhira, Bogra, Patuakhali and Sylhet. Dr Kazi Farooq said the ADAB had undertaken a massive voter awareness programme throughout the country in view of the coming elections. He said the trained volunteers of the organisations, split in various groups, had covered nearly one crore voters in this mass awareness programme.

Truck kills 4 in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least four persons were killed when a speeding truck hit them near the Chairmanbari crossing on Airport road at Banani early morning, according to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) sources.

Police, however, confirmed the death of three in the accident.

According to DMCH sources, the four victims were identified as Golam Hossain Sadhin, 30, Alamgir Hossain, 20, Abul Hossain, 25, and Zinnat, 22. Sadhin was the sales agent of The Daily Janakantha newspaper.

The accident occurred when a speeding truck hit a group of people waiting by the road side at around 5:30 am for transport, police and hospital sources said. They were seriously injured following the accident and later died at the DMCH.

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Russia agrees to pull out from Chechnya

NAZRAN, Russia, June 9: Russians and rebel Chechens agreed today on a timetable for Russian forces to pull out and rebels to lay down their arms, but a separatist official said key talks on political issues were still going on, reports Reuters.

3 killed in Ctg road accident

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 9: At least three persons including a baby were killed and one person was injured when a passenger bus collided head on with an auto-rickshaw this morning at Shikabaha area under port thana.

The victims were passengers of the taxi but their identity could not be known immediately, police said.

The injured was rushed to the hospital where his condition was stated to be critical. Police seized the vehicles and arrested the drivers.

Vehicles go off streets in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 9: Hundreds of vehicles disappeared from the city roads in the past two days after police began a requisition drive for using them on election duty.

The vehicles — mainly microbuses, car, truck and tempo — were the targets of the requisition drive, owners and vehicle operators said.

Most of the microbuses owned by private individuals seemed to have taken into hiding to avoid requisition.

EC examining

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commitment for upgrading the Barisal Brojo Mohan University College to a full-fledged university. His commitment came when a delegation of college teachers called on the President at Bangabhaban.

Awami League accused the President of violating the code of conduct by making promise as his son, Dr Ehtesamul Huq Biswas alias Nasim Biswas, is contesting the forthcoming parliament election as BNP candidate from Barisal. The AL also lodged a written complaint with the Election Commission on this issue.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা মেডিক্যাল কলেজের পঞ্চাশ বছর পূর্তি উপলক্ষে আগামী ২৩শে জুন সকাল ১০ ঘটিকার সময় বর্তমান ও প্রাক্তন ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের একটি সাধারণ সভা আহ্বান করা হইয়াছে।

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