

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 by 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 his 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 befool the people," Zillur said in a statement.

He referred to press reports that audio cassettes inciting 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 Khairuzzaman Lifon, 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 Mujibar 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 by Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilu, 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 supporting 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 out 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

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

— Star photo

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 OCAB 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 insisted, 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 Shafiqul Islam Khan and Ahsanul Karim moved for Ershad; while Deputy Attorney General Md. Solaiman Ahmed with Assistant Attorney General Sayedur Rahman represented the government in the HC.

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Campaign ends

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8 from Cambodia, 18 from Canada, 20 from the Commonwealth, 31 from European Union, 2 from Iran, 41 from National Democratic Institute of USA, 5 from Nepal, 9 from Japan, 3 from Norway, 5 from Pakistan and 40 from South Asian Observation Team. Others are from South Africa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Foreign Ministry sources said 132 observers have arrived here from eight foreign organisations to oversee the June 12 election. Besides, a Japanese observer team is due to arrive here today.

Ctg campaign

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the situation round-the-clock, according to official sources.

Election materials have already been sent to all the constituencies.

As door-to-door and person-to-person campaign here marked a trend, this time, compared with that of '91 election, most of the voters also were keeping mum and seemed very calculative about their choice in this year's polls.

As a result, political observers here say they find it very difficult to make any prediction this time.

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 Sakhina 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.

The clash continued for about half an hour.

The BDR personnel were deployed when the situation deteriorated. The injured policemen include, ASP Khondaker Haftor Rahman, OC Abdul Mannan, ASI Assad Hossain and constable Momtajuddin.

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 cocktails at the procession brought out around 7:30 pm by supporters of the JP candidate for Narayanganj-4 constituency.

Shafiq Ali Bhuiyan, our Jhenidah Correspondent adds: At least seven persons, including two women, were injured in a clash at village Khalkula in Saikupura 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.

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 Lalmonirhat 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 voters 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.

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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 Reuter.

3 killed in Ctg road accident

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 microbus, 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 election as BNP candidate from Barisal. The AL also lodged a written complaint with the Election Commission on this issue.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা মেডিক্যাল কলেজের প্রাচীর পৃষ্ঠায় উপরের আগামী ২৩শে জুন সকাল ১০ ঘটকার স্থায় বর্তমান ও প্রাচীন ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের একটি সাধারণ সভা আহবান করা হইবাবে।
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গণতন্ত্র

অর্থনৈতিক মুক্তি

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