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PHILIPS



Prattasha — an anti-drug organisation — brought out a colourful procession in the city marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse yesterday. — Star photo

BNP alleges repression on partymen

The BNP yesterday expressed concern at what it said the continued repression and attack on party leaders and workers allegedly by the ruling Awami League throughout the country, reports UNB.

The new Prime Minister is speaking everyday of her resolve to establish rule of law and root out terrorism, and not to take any revenge against political opponents, a BNP spokesman said.

But in reality, the ruling party has already begun attacking innocent people and rival partymen, alleged Haris Chowdhury, the member-secretary of BNP's national election coordination committee.

Loan defaulters

From Page 1

In a press release, the EC said that criterion for disqualification of an election candidate as described in Article 66(2) of the Constitution and Article 12 of the Public Representation Ordinance, 1972 would be applicable for the election of the 30 reserved seats for women.

The candidature for the reserved seats would be considered disqualified if the intending candidate is found to be a defaulter in paying bank loan instalments of all nature excepting house building loans, the EC said.

She will also be considered disqualified if she is a director or partner of a company or a firm which is a bank loan defaulter or if she is a director of a financial organisation, defined by the Artha Rin Adalat, 1990 which is a loan defaulter.

The EC elaborated saying, if a candidate is a bank loan defaulter on the day of her submission of candidature, she would be disqualified to participate in the elections for any of the 30 reserved seats.

Jahanara Imam's death anniversary observed

The second death anniversary of Jahanara Imam was observed yesterday, paying tributes to her and demanding trial of the war criminals, reports BSS.

'Shaheed Janani' Jahanara Imam was one of the 24 prominent citizens who were charged with treason by the former BNP government for leading a mass movement against Jamaat chief Prof Golam Azam. The charge was withdrawn recently by the non-party caretaker government headed by Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

Freedom fighters and various socio-cultural organisations observed the day with due honour.

The National Coordination Committee for Muktijoddher Chetona Bastabayan and Ghatok Dalal Nirmul placed wreaths in the morning at her grave at Mirpur. A large number of people from all walks of life brought out a procession from the Central Shaheed Minar.

The National Coordination Committee yesterday afternoon also organised a discussion at the Institution of Engineers.

Presided over by convener of the committee Syed Hassan Imam, the meeting was addressed by Faiz Ahmed, Mazharul Islam, Barrister Shawkat Ali, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury,

SG's joining of cabinet Raushan to raise issue with party chief

Star Report

Begum Raushan Ershad, during the meeting with her husband and Jatiya Party chief shortly, will discuss the issue of the party's joining the new cabinet, she said yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star Raushan, a presidium member of the JP said she is likely to meet her husband late this month or in the first week of next month. The issue of JP member joining the cabinet will be brought during my next meeting with my husband and the party chief, she added.

Anwar Hossain Manju, secretary general and acting leader of the parliamentary party of JP joined the cabinet led by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Sunday last.

It was reported in the press that Manju had the blessings of his party chief in joining the cabinet. After joining the Manju had said that he joined a government of national consensus.

Some JP leaders had raised the question whether the government formed by the AL was at all a government of national consensus. It did not have representation from other political parties except the JP, they argued.

This correspondent also consulted some legal experts about the concept of a government of national consensus. According to one expert, this is a new concept, not covered under constitutional law. It is the political policy of a particular party in power, he added.

The terminology is probably meant for seeking cooperation of all the major political parties on the major issues, he said. All the political parties may join in framing the policies without joining the government, the lawyer added.

Meanwhile, some JP leaders told this correspondent that they had requested Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chairman of the party to convene a meeting of the presidium members to discuss the issue.

Concern over sharing of JS women's seats with JP, Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent

An O Salish Kendra yesterday expressed its concern over the possibility of sharing of the 30 reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad by the ruling Awami League with the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat saying these two parties had shown no respect for democracy or the cause of women.

In a statement, Hamerda Hossain of Ain O Salish Kendra, said, "If parliament members select representatives from these two parties (JP and Jamaat), they will only be strengthening these parties and not encouraging the participation of women who have genuinely participated in the struggle for welfare of women and democracy."

She pointed out that since women's vote has been instrumental in defeating the Jamaat, it is important that the ruling party should pay attention to women's viewpoints regarding the selection of 30 reserved seats in Parliament.

4th anniversary of Tin Bigha accord observed

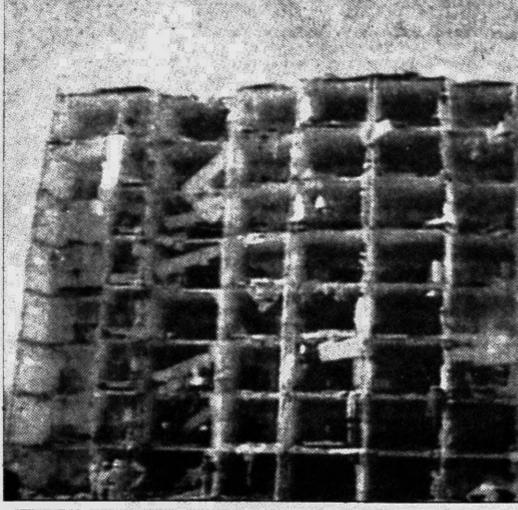
From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, June 26: The 4th anniversary of the handing over of the Tin Bigha corridor was observed in Dahagram and Angorputa enclaves amidst great enthusiasm and colourful programmes today.

In the morning, the national flag was hoisted atop all public and private buildings. Colourful processions were brought out.

The day-long programmes also included milad mahfil, discussion meetings, sports and distribution of prizes.

Meanwhile, a group of Indians belonging to the Sudhir Sumriti Sangha and the forward block's Kamal Guha Bahini tried to stage demonstrations today against handing over of the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh.



The TV grab shows the eight-story Saudi defence ministry building housing Americans and other foreigners, including Bangladeshis, which was totally destroyed in a bomb attack late Tuesday. — AFP/UNB photo

23 Americans killed

From Page 1

Tuesday night that the building hit in the blast belonged to the defence ministry and housed foreigners.

US State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said that in addition to American forces there were French, British and some Saudis in the areas. The troops were all from the residual military force left from the 1991 Gulf War.

Britain's defence ministry said no British troops were injured or killed in the explosion. In Paris, the French government had no immediate information or comment.

A US serviceman based at the complex said by telephone: "The blast shook the whole area. I had no doubt what it was... I was lucky I was in my room and there was a partition that separated me from the glass."

"We are targets here. We have to deal with it. It is in the line of work."

Clinton said a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) team has been despatched to Saudi Arabia to investigate the blast.

"The explosion appears to be the work of terrorists and if that is the case, like all Americans, I am outraged by it. The cowards who committed this murderous act must not go unpunished," Clinton told a hastily-called White House briefing.

"Let me say again, we will pursue this. America takes care of our own. Those who did it must not go unpunished," he said.

US officials said a vehicle, which they described as a fuel tanker, had been driven to the northeast corner of the complex and had stopped beside a fence near a dormitory housing US and other troops.

Residents in Khobar said the Saudi security forces had ringed the site of the blast. They had also set up security checkpoints on the main roads out of Khobar and were checking motorists' identity cards.

One journalist who visited hospitals treating the wounded in Khobar said the casualties included women and children but he did not know their nationalities.

One hospital said it received 20 wounded, including nine Americans. The rest were Indians and Pakistanis. Most were treated for wounds from flying glass and shrapnel.

Witnesses said the blast, which shattered windows five km away, destroyed half the eight-story dormitory building. "Half of it has collapsed," one witness said.

The residents said the dormitory was in a complex of 400 buildings, surrounded by concrete blocks and barbed wire. Fifty buildings were used by the Saudi defence ministry and the rest by Saudi families.

The blast blew out all the front rooms of the building. Torn mattresses, mangled televisions and furniture and melted video players were lodged among slabs of fallen concrete.

Window frames were scattered in the vicinity as rescue workers, including Saudi men in military fatigues, worked under floodlights looking for survivors.

The Saudi television showed bulldozers clearing away rubble and the nearby buildings where window frames were blown out. Some cars in the area were burnt out and others were twisted by the blast.

An explosion at a US-run military training centre in the Saudi capital Riyadh last November killed five Americans and two Indians, shattering the myth that the world's largest oil producer and exporter was immune to political violence that has plagued the Middle East.

Four Saudi nationals confessed on state television in April that they were behind the blast and said they were influenced by Islamic groups outside the Kingdom. They were beheaded in May.

Saudi Arabia, which in April said it thwarted an attempt to smuggle a booby-trapped car into the kingdom, has not pointed the finger at any specific group or country for the November blast.

US and other Western embassies tightened security around their compounds and other institutions after the blast.

Tk 58.5 cr DU deficit budget approved

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Senate yesterday approved a Tk 58.43 crore budget for the university for fiscal 1996-97 with a deficit of Tk 10.35 crore.

Prof M Shamsul Haq, treasurer of the university, placed the revised budget for 1995-96 and the new budget for 1996-97 before the Senate. The budget was okayed by the DU Syndicate recently.

The senate session, presided over by Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, also approved the revised budget for 1995-96.

Of the total expenditure, Tk 49.76 crore (92 per cent) will be collected from the University Grants Commission while Tk 4 crore (7.44 per cent) will come from the university's own income.

Of the expenditure, Tk 37.61 crore (64.36 per cent) has been allocated for the salaries and pensions of the teachers, officials and employees of the university.

In the budget, funds have also been allocated for scholarship for students (Tk. 80.52 lakh), research (Tk. 90.34 lakh), development of education standard (Tk 65 lakh), books for library, departments and halls (1.12 crore), examination expenses (1.54 crore), purchase of equipment and chemical and practical training (1.99 crore).

Besides, there are also funds for medicine and equipment purchase (36.16 lakh), bus service for students (1.02 crore), building maintenance expenses (1.81 crore), furniture (30 lakh), taxes (2.10 crore) and electricity (1.93 crore).

6 hurt as armed groups clash in old city

By DMCH Correspondent

At least six people were injured in a clash between two armed gangs of terrorists at Haricharan Roy Road in the city's Sutrapur area yesterday.

During the clash, Heialuddin, 50, was hit by bullet in his head while his son, Sohel, 18, a grocer Kawsar, 20, and one Ratan, 35, were injured, police and local people said. All the injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The rivals known as Rafi and Habib groups were locked in an armed clash when a supporter of one of the groups opened fire at Haricharan Road at around 6:30 am, police said.

Gunshots and blasts of crackers created panic in the whole area. The exact reason behind the clash could not be known immediately. However, according to police, the two groups were involved in 'terrorism' in the area for a long time.

Sutrapur police arrested one Iqbal, 25, in this connection.

2 contenders for post of AG

By Staff Correspondent

Names of Barrister Rafiqul Huq and Barrister Shafique Ahmed are being considered for appointment in the post of Attorney General, according to sources concerned.

Some sources hinted to this correspondent that one of the contenders has proposed to the government that the rank and status of the Attorney General should be elevated to that of a minister as in some other countries.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq who was Attorney General for some time during Ershad's rule, when contacted last night however denied having any knowledge about appointment of the Attorney General. Barrister Shafique was not available for comment.

BNP legal aid

From Page 1

tees at the local level, including districts and cities, in the concerned constituencies.

It has also been empowered to contact different legal aid committees at the national and international level.

The committee will have the right to co-opt members, said a party press release.

All concerned have been requested to communicate with the committee at the BNP central office (Telephones: 834888/415955, Fax 838687 and 834886).

BNPPP

From Page 1

Former Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Choudhury might be made the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the sources added.

Begum Zia, who won five seats, did not take oath on Monday last when all other MPs-elect of her party took oath. She could not decide till that time which seat she would retain.

It could not be known till last night which constituency she is going to represent. However, one source said, she would retain either the Feni-1 or the Chittagong-1 seat. She also won the Laxmipur-2 and Bogra-6 and Bogra-7 seats in the June 12 election.

Mannan Bhuiyan

From Page 1

his gratitude to party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia for assigning him to the new post.

Expressing his thanks to the leaders and workers of the BNP, Mannan Bhuiyan said he would make all endeavours to make the party more stronger, a press release said last night.

Mannan Bhuiyan after being appointed as the Secretary General of the party, called on Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar at later's residence. He also went to BNP office at Kakrail where leaders and workers of the BNP greeted him with flowers. He also addressed a few hundred party workers and supporters assembled there.

Mannan Bhuiyan will visit the mazar of BNP's founder former president Ziaur Rahman at 11 am today, the press release said.

The Midnight File

Saudi blast: Al-Huzaifi group claims responsibility

DUBAI, June 26: An unknown group today claimed responsibility for an attack on a Saudi Arabian military complex which killed 19 Americans and wounded nearly 400 people. Al-Arab newspaper in London said it had received a call from a man claiming to be a member of the 'legion of the martyr Abdullah Al-Huzaifi,' reports Reuter.

Taliban rockets kill 60 in Kabul Hekmatyar sworn in as new Afghan PM

ISLAMABAD, June 26: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was sworn in as Afghanistan's new prime minister today after returning to Kabul amid a deadly bombardment of the city by the opposition Taliban militia. Afghan sources said.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press said President Burhanuddin Rabbani had administered the oath of office to his former foe Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-i-Islami faction.

No details of the ceremony were immediately available. Hekmatyar drove into Kabul earlier at the head of a cavalcade of supporters in 100 vehicles to be welcomed by government officials and troops lining the road.

Gunners of the Islamic Taliban militia showed their disapproval by unleashing fierce rocket and artillery barrages into the capital, killing more than 60 people and wounding nearly 150, sources in Kabul said.

Streets were deserted and shops stayed closed for most of the day as residents took over from the attack, one of the heaviest inflicted on Kabul in recent months.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has congratulated Hezb-i-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar ahead of his swearing in as Afghan Prime Minister in Kabul today, a Hezb spokesman here said.

Bhutto in her message hoped that Hekmatyar would play a positive role in bringing peace and stability to war-ravaged Afghanistan, spokesman Abdul Saboor told AFP.

Saboor said a special plane had been sent to Islamabad by Hekmatyar's Burhanuddin Rabbani's administration which would fly representatives of Pakistan's ruling and opposition parties to Kabul.

Hekmatyar signed a peace deal with his former foe Rabbani on May 24 which gave him the post of Prime Minister.

Blue Panel

From Page 1

The VC, however, tried to bring the Blue Panel senators back in the meeting.

Earlier the VC in his presidential address said changes have already brought to the curriculum of the university to keep pace with the developed countries.

He said more changes will be brought to the syllabuses and curriculum. But that must be in accordance with the tradition of the country, he said.

He hoped that the DU would be able to overcome the existing session jam by the 1996-97 session.

In the press briefing, Senate member advocate Syed Ahmed said "We tried to run the university according to the University Ordinance '79. But the VC by his widespread corruption is heading the university towards ruins."

He added: "In the last two meetings of the Senate we tried to form an inquiry committee for investigation into the allegations against the VC but the VC rejected our proposal in this regard."

The penal members demanded the formation of a probe committee for a judicial inquiry into the irregularities of the VC.

Fire service

From Page 1

the workers and employees in this regard. A number of factories had bought fire extinguishers and also trained the workforce while many others are located in buildings having safety measures, he claimed.

Fire service sources, however, said despite regular reminders to all concerned about safety measures in factories hardly any positive steps were taken by them.

বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড

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