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BNP urges govt to refrain from rigging by-polls

A meeting of the BNP's national executive committee secretariat yesterday called on the government to refrain from any attempt to implement the 'blueprint' of rigging, terrorism and harassment in the coming by-election, reports UNB.

The meeting, held at the party's central office with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair, demanded resignation of the Home Minister and Education Minister for what it said 'failure in curbing terrorism' and 'creating anarchy on campuses'.

It condemned the 'partisan' role of the Speaker denying the Opposition members' right to speak in the House and giving more opportunity to Treasury bench members. It criticised the distortion of Opposition members' speeches by BTV.

The meeting expressed anguish over the killing, terrorism, fling of false cases, arrest and harassment across the country particularly in educational institutions including Dhaka University and different medical colleges.

BCL-JCD clash in Sirajganj: 30 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 27: At least 30 people were injured in a clash between rival student groups in Sirajganj University College today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Chhatra League and Chhatra Dal supporters fought a pitched battle on the campus and adjoining areas over hurling abuse at the Prime Minister from the procession of JCD.

Three bombs were exploded during the hour-long clash. JCD alleged that BCL supporters attacked their peaceful procession without any provocation.

Fifteen of the injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital. The house of Jubadul leader, Tofazzal Hossain, adjacent to the college, also came under attack.



ROYAL MARRIAGE ENDS TODAY: File photo dated July 29, 1981 shows Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on their wedding day. Prince Charles and Princess Diana, who recently agreed upon the terms of their divorce, will officially be divorced as of today. —AFP/UNB photo

Two stabbed in city

By DMC Correspondent

Two persons, including a college student, were injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Nazrul Islam, 22, a first year student of Titumir College received injuries in his head and back when his rivals stabbed him at South Kafrul under Mirpur thana yesterday morning. Now under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), his condition was critical, hospital sources said.

The relatives of the victim said, Nazrul, an activist of the ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), was working for by-election and had an altercation with one of his companions Mohsin. At one stage, Mohsin stabbed him severely.

In another incident, a group of extortionists stabbed a fish vendor and snatched Taka 14,500 from him at the DIT market, Kawan Bazar, under Tejjano thana in the morning.

Delwar Hossain, 28, received injuries in his hands and right leg. He was admitted to the DMCH in a critical condition.

Commission to implement reforms in local govt bodies soon

A high-powered commission will be set up soon for strengthening the local government bodies and making them people-oriented, reports UNB.

The commission will implement necessary reforms. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman told a high-level delegation of the UNDP yesterday.

The delegation, led by Associate Administrator of the UNDP headquarters in New York Rafeuddin Ahmed, called on him at his Secretariat office.

Zillur said Union Parishad will be further decentralised, activities of the Zilla Parishad will be strengthened and the Upazila system will be revived to realise hopes and aspiration of the rural population.

He told the delegation that provision would be made for electing chairman and members of the Upazila Parishad through direct vote and for representation of the villagers in the Union Parishad.

The LGRD Minister said every tier of the local government structure will be made accountable to people's representatives and the centre-point of rural economic activities.

Members of the UNDP delegation praised the government's epoch-making steps for more democratisation of local government bodies as well as administrative and economic empowerment, said an official handout.

They expressed their eagerness to provide necessary technical and project assistance for strengthening the local government institutions.

Ershad: I have won

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President Ziaur Rahman was killed, it was also said that the "autocrat" was ousted. "I am also called autocrat after my departure. If the president under the presidential system is autocrat, then I am the youngest autocrat."

In a personal explanation about the allocation of the cantonment and Gulshan residences to Begum Khaleda Zia, Ershad said being the army chief he gave the cantonment residence to her at a token price of one taka considering her as the spouse of an army officer not as a family of a president.

He gave her the 196 Gulshan residence at a cost of Tk 101 only so that Begum Zia could maintain her family with the rent from the house.

"I tell you, Mr Speaker, it was my responsibility to look after her family. I consider General Zia's children as my children," he said. Ershad, however, said Begum Zia occupied two more houses adjacent to her cantonment residence illegally.

The former president paid tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and late President Ziaur Rahman also for their contribution to the country's independence.

He recalled Bangabandhu Mujib's affection for him and candidly said there should not be any controversy on these two national leaders.

DCC driver assaulted

By Staff Correspondent

A driver of a garbage van of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was assaulted by a group of unidentified people at Dhanmondi in the city last night.

Abdur Rob. 35, was severely assaulted when he reportedly dumped one person not to dump the garbage outside the dustbin near Mirpur Road and Road No. 3 intersection, witnesses said. The DCC employees were collecting the garbage from the dustbin at the time at about 11:55 pm.

Khulna JCD leader stabbed

KHULNA, Aug 27: A JCD leader and student of the Khulna Commerce College Shahanoor Kabir Nayan, was stabbed and injured critically in an attack on the campus today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the injured Shahanoor was attacked by a group of miscreants at about 12 noon while talking to some of his friends. He was admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

At a press conference in the evening at the local press club the district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of BNP, condemned the attack and blamed the activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League the student front of ruling Awami League for the attack.

Sudanese plane hijack bid ends

STANSTED, England, Aug 27: A marathon hijack drama ended peacefully here today when six armed Iraqis seeking political asylum surrendered to police after commandeering a Sudanese airliner to a London regional airport, reports AFP.

The hijack was "successfully concluded," said Essex chief police constable John Burrow.

Farooq may be taken on remand again

Star Report

Police may seek remand for Col (ret'd) Farooq again for further interrogation following the expiry of his six-day remand yesterday, according to officials sources.

Following the clearance from the Home Ministry on August 21 and the next day the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) took him on remand for six days for the interrogation.

Three retired army officers — Col (ret'd) Farooq Rahman, Col (ret'd) Shahriar Rashid Khan and Major (ret'd) Khairuzaman — were picked up by the police from the city on August 13. They were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day detention under Special Powers Act of 1974.

A separate case were lodged against Col (ret'd) Farooq with the Cantonment thana under the Arms Act.

Have You Seen This, Mr Mayor?



This is the pitiable condition of an important road connecting Adamjee Court building corner with the main Motijheel road, opposite the MCCI Building which reportedly pays over Tk 6,64,336 as municipal tax annually. Other adjacent buildings, such as, Islam Chamber also pay high rates of municipal tax. The tax payers wonder when they will expect some return of the tax paid. The photograph was sent to The Daily Star by a reader.

Nurunnabi Committee report

From Page 1

to open new diplomatic missions without studying economic feasibility and viability, the sources added.

It also suggested that the official Secrecy Act should be amended so as to permit dissemination of information.

The committee recommending regrouping some ministries to integrate their work for better functioning, has suggested among others setting up two ministries, one the Ministry of Communication and the other Ministry of Transport.

Under the Communication Ministry, all overall communication matters shall fall including the railways, roads, highways and the Jamuna bridge. The Transport Ministry shall look into the affairs of Shipping, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Posts and Telecommunications, it has been proposed.

The committee suggested that the number of government organisations be downsized from their present number of 257 to 224. It has recommended abolition of several government departments and directorates including abolition of the Office of Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Department of Textiles, Marketing Di-

rectorate of under the Ministry of Commerce, Department of Inspection and Supplies and the Department of Investigation under Ministry of Finance. It found out that there were overlapping in the functions of many existing government departments and some were now not required with the ongoing deregulation. Many organisations have been recommended for merger.

The Nurunnabi committee suggested that government employees to be reduced by 48,000 from the current strength of 5,89,577.

The committee, however, stated that if its reorganisation plan was implemented, these 48,000 government employees could be absorbed.

During the study, the committee found the present strength of government employees to be: 30,691 in Class-I, 15,192 in Class-II, 4,33,504 in Class-III and 1,10,190 in Class-IV. It noted that both Class-III and Class-IV employees had a good deal of mobility and with little or no re-training they could be accommodated in the newly streamlined administrative structure.

It recommended setting of a central body for the transfer and posting of Class III and IV employees, which will issue a special service book keeping his or her posting and service record.

The Nurunnabi Committee sent out two sets of questionnaires to 267 government organisations, including security agencies. Of which, detailed replies were received from 257.

The Committee reviewed the function of each and every government organisation and the nature of their work and made recommendations about the size, function and the equipment for the government department. It also prepared a job description for every Class-I officer in all government organisations and to whom he was to report. The organisation chart prepared by the committee gives a chain of command, area of control and a comprehensive look at the government hierarchy, the official sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Chairman of the Committee Nurunnabi Chowdhury said: "The report is with the government. We have done our job. It was a hard task. I am sure this government would take up the recommendations in right earnest."

Foreign diplomats meet Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held informal talks with foreign diplomats and representatives of development partners here yesterday, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister exchanged pleasantries with the Dhaka-based diplomats and representatives of donor countries and agencies during the informal meeting at her official residence at Ganobhaban in the afternoon.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury were present.

Among the senior Awami League leaders present on the occasion were Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Abdul Mannan MP, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Abdul Momen MP and Abdul Jalil.

Khaleda: AL making

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the recent incidents at Bogra and held the government responsible for those.

Replying to a question, in this regard Begum Zia claimed that the recent acts of killing and repression at Bogra took place following direct instruction from the Prime Minister.

She claimed that the situation there would have worsened further had she not stopped the people from going ahead with hartal for indefinite period. She, however, said that the students did not fire any gunshot and that the death of the policeman at Bogra was from the firing by police.

BNP chief also accused the government of designing a blueprint to jeopardise fair holding of the coming by-polls by repressing her party workers using police. "Bangladesh is a very small country and we get every information as regards their intrigues," she noted.

Besides, she added, 40 to 45 of her party activists had been killed in the terrorism let loose by the ruling party in collaboration with the police since the party took over.

The Opposition leader also alleged that any elections — be it JS by-polls or local government polls — would not be held in a free and fair manner under the present government.

The popularity of the government has declined to the lowest level in its two-month-rule," Begum Zia said. "The two-month-old Prime Minister cannot go anywhere without helicopter now because she has been isolated from the people."

"Realising this," she added, "the government has opted for the path of terrorism and repression to win the by-polls forcefully."

The BNP chief also alleged "large-scale repression and harassment" of her party activists on the campuses and elsewhere in the country. "Forty pipe members including the President of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney have been arrested from the Dhaka University alone," she said.

She claimed that the Election Commission would not be able to ensure a free and peaceful by-polls since massive transfers of government officials were on ahead of the polls and a congenial atmosphere for fair election was absent.

Replying to another question the BNP chief said she is not afraid of the government plan to lodge cases against her on corruption charges.

"I'm ready to face any case as per the law of the land... I'm not afraid of the government plan..." she said.

The press conference was also addressed by the BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and attended by some other party leaders including Abdus Salam Talukdar, M Saifur Rahman, Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Nazrul Islam Khan and Morshed Khan.

Construction of border pillars along Meghalaya from Nov likely

A four-member delegation from the Indian state of Meghalaya met State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharaf at his secretariat office in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters relating to construction, reconstruction and repairing works of boundary pillars in Indo-Bangla border areas, specially in the Meghalaya state.

The construction work is expected to begin from November this year, said a PID handout.

Led by Winston Simon Parial, Special Director of Land Records and Survey of Meghalaya, the delegation members also included B Lyngdoh, Director of Land Records and Survey, Additional Director SS Giri Lyngdoh and Assistant Director TS Sangma.

Additional Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Land, Syed Margub Murshed, Chairman of Land Appeal Board (Secretary) AH Mofazzal Karim and Director General of the Directorate of Land Records and Survey Md Shafuiddin were present.

DU clashes

From Page 1

claimed.

The two student organisations recently clashed for control over the Registrar's building areas which is considered to be the most "lucrative area" for collection of toll. The JCD had control over the area but BCL recently "captured" the Mohsin hall, situated behind the Registrar building.

Some contractors doing construction works on the campus said toll is collected at the rate of three per cent of the total cost of the work.

The toll money is initially divided between BCL and JCD, which later trickles down to various tiers in the leadership of both the organisations, the sources said.

The student organisation having 'stronghold' in a particular area collects tolls there. The toll money collected from other areas not controlled by any particular party or group, is usually divided, the sources added.

A ten crore taka construction work near the science library has now drawn the attention of leaders of the student organisations. The Gopalganj factory of BCL captured Shahidullah Hall with the intention of gaining control over the science library area.

The Daily Star earlier published findings of a study on "Campus Violence: Dhaka University" conducted last year by the students of the International Relations Department of the university. It had pointed out that a section of teachers and officials of the DU, some political circles and influential quarters "patronised the campus terrorism for their vested interest." "Some teachers even provided safe passage to the identified terrorists," the study said.

A section of the teachers, fearing loose of their privileged positions and due to pressure from influential quarters also maintain silence over the issue of campus terrorism, noted the study. "Various industry committees formed to find out the reasons of campus terrorism failed because of it."

Tripti Begum

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dent, she alleged that local police and people have been trying to treat her as Kalpana Chakma, which was completely false.

But the so called husband of Tripti Begum, Seikh Shukur Mahmud, is yet to be traced.

Transport strike

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respondent that they had given commitment to the administration that they would extend full support in restoring law and order in Bogra and would not create any obstruction in normal activities of police provided the policemen on duty do not include those involved in the recent firing.

AFSU leaders also handed over a memorandum to the DC to send it to the Prime Minister's office. In the memorandum AFSU leaders appealed for raising the amount of compensation from Tk one lakh to Tk five lakh for the victims' families of those killed in police firing in the town in the last few days.

Responding to students' appeal, the DC also gave assurance that no bus or mini-bus would move on the road in front of the Azizul Haq College for the next 40 days.

As per an earlier programme the AFSU plans to put up a road barricade at Sathmatha in the town tomorrow and enforce a day-long hartal the day after (August 29).

Production in Jamuna Fertiliser factory disrupted

JAMALPUR, Aug 27: Production in the Jamuna Fertiliser Factory was disrupted today as tension was mounting in the factory following an attack on the CBA general secretary last week, reports UNB.

Factory sources said a group of hoodlums, allegedly led by former CBA general secretary Azizur Rahman, attacked the incumbent CBA General Secretary Morshed Talukder in his office on Tuesday last.

CBA leaders demanded immediate removal of Azizur Rahman.

They alleged that Aziz had been transferred from the factory on charge of corruption in 1995, but recently managed to return to the factory with the help of a state minister.

Task force soon to improve city's traffic system

A task force will be formed to improve the city's messy traffic system and maintain peace in its bus and launch terminals, reports UNB.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting with Home Minister Rafiqul Islam in the chair.

Among others, Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Commissioners, Communications Secretary Waliul Islam, Home Secretary Rejaul Hayat, Inspector General of Police and high officials of the departments concerned attended the meeting.

The Home Minister directed the police and other authorities concern to take strict measures in maintaining peace in the city's bus and launch terminals.

PM: Teachers

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the movement of the non-government primary teachers during the rule of BNP government is sympathetic towards them and is willing to do its best to address their problems.

Acting president of the association Golam Mohammad placed a five-point demand of non-government primary teachers that includes nationalisation of all registered primary schools.

There are about one lakh teachers in 20,000 non-government primary schools, he added.

Secretary general of the association Monsur Ali and joint secretary Mohit Chandra Gobinda also spoke on the occasion.

DU women's halls

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protesting the alleged attacks on JCD activists at DU and their arrests by police.

The campus was calm yesterday due to the thin presence of students. A good number of residential students of the university have already left their dormitories fearing fresh clashes.

All classes and examinations of the university were earlier declared suspended by the authorities till August 29 following a series of clashes between the student fronts of the ruling Awami League and opposition BNP.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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