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Queue of female voters at the Lalbagh Government Primary School centre during by-election in ward no 62 of the Dhaka City Corporation yesterday.

Parliament tidbits

Chair warned the minister that he had then only two minutes in hand. 'I'm afraid of red light since I met an accident while I drove speedily after seeing a red (traffic) light on the street many days ago,' Chowdhury told the Speaker.

Referring to a comment by the state minister, the Speaker remarked, 'The way you've spoken does not establish your claim that your legs were shaken while you spoke in the '91 parliament.'

Two more lawmakers, one each from the Treasury and the Opposition benches, yesterday delivered their speeches in the typical style of addressing public rallies leading all the members to burst into laughter.

Rafiqul Islam Bakul of the BNP, during his deliberation, said 'Bhai O Bonera...' and gave a pause. Abul Momen also pronounced 'Bhayera Aamar' and

consequently begged apology of the Chair and said, 'The habit has developed by addressing public rallies.'

The ruling party legislators thumped their desks to encourage Bakul while he was narrating his courageous role in the War of Liberation but they stopped doing so soon after the BNP MP started castigating the post-independence AL regime.

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf, while criticising the BNP for not accepting Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Father of the Nation, said 'The Jamaat-e-Islami (members) once did not recognise Bangladesh but later applied to get citizenship of Bangladesh. Similarly, you (pointing his fingers to the BNP lawmakers) will also accept it one day when the number of your seats (in the parliament) is reduced from the present 110.'

The minister added: 'We had been in the Opposition for long 47 years... you please remain there (in the Opposition) for five years', the minister commented.

AL lawmaker Abdul Latif, also speaking on the same issue, told the House, 'BNP's deities are like a baby who sometimes refuses to call his father, 'Abu'.'

As Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan of BNP charged the Speaker for allowing the Ministers to deliver lengthy statements uninterrupted and stopping the microphones of his party lawmakers, the Chair told Bhuiyan, 'Have you seen today that the microphones of the ministers have been stopped? But your microphone is still on.'

Earlier in the afternoon sitting, microphones of Water Resources Minister Abul Razzak and State Minister for Labour Abdul Mannan were stopped after their allotted time expired.

A smiling Mannan Bhuiyan then remarked, 'Mr. Speaker, you try to run the House smoothly and as per rule. But you're often seen to be guided by the ministers.'

Students attack CU transport office: 5 injured

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28: Five staff, including an officer of Chittagong University transport pool were injured when a group of angry students attacked the transport office today, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the student who came from Chittagong town by buses and trains turned violent as they did not find any transports to reach the main campus. They also damaged the furniture and window panes of the office.

Transport Director Rabiul Hossain and two drivers - Mostafa and Babul Chandra - were among the injured.

Another report adds: A discussion meeting on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman scheduled for today could not be held due to internal conflict of pro-Awami League Chhatra League.

Flood

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lowlying areas and charlands of Godagari, Paba and Bagha thanas of Rajshahi district and some areas of the Rajshahi City. A portion of the town protection dam was badly damaged at Bulonpur.

Char Ashariadaha, Basudevur and Deopara unions of Godagari thana were affected. One hundred and thirty houses have been washed away.

One Idris Ali, 70 drowned yesterday bringing the death toll to six.

PM at PATC

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The Prime Minister said the world is changing very fast with the innovation of new science and technology. To cope with that, she said, there is no alternative to training for development of professional excellence of different cadre officials of the civil service.

She said her government will provide all support for the development of the Academy. Expressing her hope that BPATC would grow up as one of the famous institutes in South Asia, Hasina said, 'I want to see it as a centre of excellence.'

The Prime Minister stressed that training programmes should be made realistic and suitable to present time to increase efficiency and working skills of the officials.

She also emphasised the need for bringing back the image and glory of the administration, lost during autocratic rules due to partisanship, flattery and massive corruption.

The inaugural function was also addressed by Education Minister ASHK Sadek, Advisor of the training course Nilufer Begum and BPATC Director AZM Shaful Alam. BPATC's Rector AZM Shamsul Alam presided.

The Prime Minister later visited the library of the centre.

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Dhaka tops literacy rate

The Dhaka district has the highest literacy of 68.3 per cent, followed by southern Jhalakathi with 60.3, according to statistics presented in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

The country's literacy rate, however, was 44.30 as per a sample vital registration (SVR) in 1995. Education Minister ASHK Sadek said in a written reply to a question from Dr Rustom Ali Farazi (JP-Pirojpur).

PM to address BFUJ special delegate confce Aug 31

The special delegate conference of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held on August 31 at 10 am at the National Press Club, a BFUJ press release said in the city last night, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be the chief guest at the inaugural session of the conference while State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed will be the special guest.

Delegates from Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ), Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ), Jessore Union of Journalists (JUJ), Bogra Union of Journalists (BUJ), Dinajpur Union of Journalists (DUJ), Rajshahi Union of Journalists (RUJ) and Mymensingh Union of Journalists (MUJ) will participate in the conference.

Issues relating to national policy on newspaper industry, freedom of the press, Wage Board Award, housing complex for the newsmen, journalists welfare trust would come up for discussion in the working session of the conference.

Thousands marooned in Bhola

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 28: At least 10 thousand people were marooned as a large portion of the town protection embankment in Kathia, Ishia and Murad Safiullah unions of sadar thana of Bhola district has been washed away by flood water.

A portion of the embankment has also been washed away in Charfasion thana. Standing crops on about four hundred acres of land are under water.

Several hundred people have taken shelter on the Dhania embankment. The TNO of sadar thana visited the spot...

JCD BCL clash in Sirajganj: 15 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 28: The RM Degree College in Kazipur was closed today following a clash between the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal that left 15 people injured from both sides, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted when the processions of the two rival groups were crossing the college campus at about 11 am.

Later, the angry BCL workers set ablaze two motorbikes of local BNP leaders.

Ershad meets

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polls. They also complained about lack of financial support from the party for poll expenses, the sources said.

Some of them pointed out that 'rumour mongering in the news media surrounding the (party) chief' also affected the image of the party.

When contacted JP secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju said the 'second position leaders' (in the June 12 polls) came to meet the party chief. He did not elaborate.

The JP won 32 seats in the June 12 elections.

Charles-Di divorced

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A survey in today's Daily Telegraph newspaper showed 56 per cent of Britains clergy believe that Charles should not become king if he were to marry Parker Bowles.

Even if he remains unmarried, 40 per cent said that, as an adulterer, he was unfit to be king. Opinion polls have shown deep public hostility to the idea of Parker Bowles as queen.

Charles has said he has no intention of remarrying. But he has continued his relationship with Parker Bowles, whom he met in 1970 when Diana was just nine years old, and whom he has called the 'love of his life.'

The couple were photographed together in Wales last weekend and Charles, 47, has bought Parker Bowles lavish gifts including a horse and a 25,000-pound (39,000 dollars) ring.

As the divorce was finalised, the Prince was in Balmoral, Scotland, holidaying with his sons William, 14, and Harry, 11, and his mother Queen Elizabeth.

Diana, who always loathed the royal family's summer holiday of outdoor pursuits at Balmoral, remained in London and was due to attend a lunch with the English National Ballet.

Terms of divorce settlement

LONDON, Aug 28: Under the terms of their divorce settlement, Charles and Diana will continue to share responsibility for their two children, Prince William, 14, and Prince Harry, 11, report agencies.

Diana loses the coveted title 'Her Royal Highness' and will simply be 'Diana, Princess of Wales,' Buckingham Palace has said she will still be regarded as a member of the royal family.

She will continue to have a residence at Kensington Palace in London, continue use of the state apartments in St James's Palace for entertaining, and continue use of royal flights.

The financial side of her settlement with Charles has not been disclosed. But the Sun, the tabloid that broke the story of the final divorce agreement, said she will receive a lump sum of 17 million pounds (26.35 million dollars) from him.

Under the settlement terms, Diana's private office will be moved to Kensington Palace from St. James's Place, where Charles lives. British media reports said Diana will receive 400,000 pounds (620,000 million dollars a year) from Charles to run the office.

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Gunshots fired on DU campus

By Staff Correspondent

Around 20 rounds of gunshots were fired near the Teacher-Student Centre at the Dhaka University last night, campus sources said.

The incident reportedly followed a clash between the activists of Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at the Shamsunnaar Hall at about 8:30 pm, the sources said.

During the clash, a leader of the hall unit of the JCD was also manhandled by the rivals, sources said adding that the hall authorities however brought the situation under control.

Within half an hour of the incident at Shamsunnaar Hall, gunshots were also fired from Hakim Chatter near Rokeya Hall and from behind the Shamsunnaar Hall, sources informed.

The details of the incident could not be known immediately.

EC to publicise JS bypolls results from 5pm

The Election Commission (EC) will publicise the results of coming September 5 by-election through government and private media from its secretariat conference room from 5 pm on the day, reports UNB.

The Commission will also issue cards to observe and collect the election results. Each political party and media will get two cards, said a press release yesterday.

Interested political parties or media have been requested to contact with Public Relations Officer of the Commission - Mesbah Uddin Ahmed in this regard. His phone number is 814176.

Pabna SP killing Coach driver surrenders in court

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 28: The driver of the coach that killed the Superintendent of Police, Pabna and three others in a road accident on August 16 surrendered before the court here today.

The bail prayer of Majharul Islam alias Tia, the lone accused in the case, was rejected by the presiding Magistrate.

The tragic road accident occurred when a Rajshahi-bound passenger coach collided head-on with a jeep carrying SP Jamsheduddin Bhuiyan and three office staff near Maligachha on the night of August 16.

The jeep fell into a roadside ditch killing all four on board.

2 killed as bus tempo collide in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 28: Two persons were killed when a Kushtia-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a tempo near Jhenidah Cadet College this morning.

According to police and witnesses, the accident occurred at about 9:45 am.

Tempo passenger Abdus Sattar, 40, of village Chandpur in Subupha thana died on the spot while another injured passenger, Moulana Tajul Islam, 45, of Laudia in Jhenidah Sadar thana succumbed to his injuries at the Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

An injured woman was also admitted to the hospital, police said.

Both the bus and tempo drivers managed to flee away.

An appeal

From Page 1

town, Zahurul Haq expressed his 'hatred' about the political culture in the country and alleged that the local police administration had totally failed to play its due role.

'While police found it rather easy to open fire on agitating people, they have failed to seize the bus that crushed the college student and also failed to arrest the driver and conductor of 'that bus,' he regretted.

Police at Bogra, Kotwali Thana, who could not move out for the last couple of days due to public protests, admitted that they were yet to seize the bus.

Tears rolled down his cheeks as Zahurul Haq described how he had got the saddest news of his life on August 24. 'I was at my work place, Mohammad Ali Hospital. At around noon a dead body and an injured person were brought there. As no doctor was immediately available, I first attended the injured. Later, when I moved to see the face of the dead person, I found that he was none but my son.'

Prof Emajuddin protests ministers' remarks in JS

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed has protested the remarks in Parliament of the Education Minister, Post and Telecommunication Minister and a ruling party member following his resignation as Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, reports UNB.

In a letter to Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury on Tuesday Prof Ahmed described contents of their statements as 'untrue and concocted' and requested him to expunge those from the proceedings of the House.

He termed the remarks of Education Minister ASHK Sadek as 'fabricated,' of Post and Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim as 'disrespectful' and of Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP as 'arrogant.'

The letter to the Speaker of Prof Ahmed, who had tendered his resignation as VC on August 24 amidst violence on the DU Campus, was made available to the press yesterday.

It was compelled to quit as it has become impossible for me to play an effective role as Vice-Chancellor,' he said while explaining the reasons of his resignation to the Speaker.

'Mr Speaker, in my resignation letter, I did not make any complaint. Whatever complaint is there is against me, against my inability. I have failed to run the university in the present situation,' said Prof Ahmed.

Describing the statement of the Education Minister as 'regrettable,' he demanded that the Speaker read out his resignation letter in the House to apprise the nation of the facts.

Prof Ahmed claimed that during his tenure as VC from November 1992 the university was not closed for acts of terrorism even for a single day.

He, however, admitted that six students were killed during his tenure. Three of them were killed in intra-party clash of Chhatra League (S-P), two due to internal conflict of Chhatra Dal and another in a clash between BCL (S-P) and BCL (K-C).

Prof Ahmed said the Education Minister had spoken of the incident in which Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Dr Arefin Siddique were assaulted, but he did not mention ransacking of the room of Prof Ershadul Bari that led to the incident of assault.

He charged the Post and Telecommunication Minister

Servant

From Page 1

something wrong informed Raunia thana immediately. A police team rushed to the spot.

Police also found severe injuries in the head of the victim. They sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, one Kuddus, 22, of Sribridi thana of Sherpur district, who stayed with Shafiq the previous night was missing following the incident.

The family member who first entered the room also did not find Kuddus in the flat at the time, police added.

A friend of Shafiq, Kuddus often visited the house and stayed with him.

According to family members Shafiq had an altercation with Kuddus late Tuesday night. The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Alal a cousin of Shafiq filed murder case with Ramna thana police said they were investigating the incident.

Agri sector growth

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Total fertiliser consumption also registered a lower growth of 6.63 per cent in recent years compared to a robust growth of over 10 per cent in the late 1980s. In terms of nutrient contents, this deceleration is more pronounced, the review added.

Comparing the growth of tube-well irrigation between the late 1980s and early 1990s, the review revealed a slowdown of growth, from 10.59 per cent during the 1984-85 to 1989-90 period to 7.60 per cent during the 1990-91 to 1994-95 period. The review attributed this slowdown to deceleration in growth in both shallow and deep tube-well irrigation in the early 1990s compared to the late 1980s.

The declining surface water levels caused its share in total irrigation to decline from 49.4 per cent in 1984-85 to 29.4 per cent in 1994-95, contributing to a considerable deceleration in growth in total irrigated areas during the early and mid-1990s (only 2.50 per cent) compared to the late 1980s (8.39 per cent).

The review also said that there had been a steady decline in the acreage devoted to rice cultivation.

The declining trend in rice acreage was identified by the reviewers as a matter of concern especially when this had not been accompanied by corresponding increase in acreage of non-rice crops.

Dwelling on deep tube-wells (DTWs), they said DTWs are technically feasible in only 130 thanas and asked the government to devise alternative ways for making DTWs financially attractive to farmers in these thanas.

The poor financial performance of DTW, particularly in comparison to STW and LLP, dictates that in areas where STWs can operate, a phasing out of DTWs might be encouraged,' the review pointed out.

The government's internal procurement of foodgrains as a policy for both augmenting public stock and offering price support to farmers during the harvest seasons also showed a declining trend in recent years, the review said.

'In any case, procurement programmes has hardly been effective in providing price support in the past,' it pointed out.

About rice price, the review said that although the low prices of rice was a boon to the poor urban consumers and made a favourable dent in poverty profile, this definitely had adverse impact on production incentives to the farmers.

With trade and exchange rate liberalisation, the review said that it would have a significant implication for public welfare since a high proportion of consumer budget is spent on rice.

'While ensuring adequate supply of rice at affordable prices to consumers will largely depend on the country's ability to achieve higher yield in an environmentally sustainable manner, the government has to formulate an effective mechanism to deal with price shocks to minimise its adverse effects,' the review suggested.

All-party meet

From Page 1

transport workers following the recent killings and related incidents in Bogra, ensuring safe movement of vehicles. Tk one crore compensation for the losses incurred by them due to the violent incidents and hartals in Bogra since August 22.

On the other hand, the All Party Students Unity (APSU) put up a road barricade at Sathamtha yesterday, causing a day-long halt to traffic movement at Bogra town.

APSU has also planned to enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Bogra today to press their various demands that included raising of the amount of compensation to the families of the victims of recent violence in the town.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner of Tangail when contacted last night, told the Daily Star that the district administration had convened a joint meeting of the students and transport workers at 4 pm today (Thursday) to resolve the issue.

This correspondent, on his way back to Dhaka yesterday morning, saw that agitating students of Sadat College put up road barricades in front of the college and at some other nearby places to stop movement of vehicles.

They, however, allowed small Hekshaws and tempos to ply and requested passengers not to pay extra fare.

BNP ready

From Page 1

mills and factories in the private sector. He said his party will help the government in re-opening the closed mills.

He added that they would cooperate the government in making the nationalised industries into profitable concerns.

Referring to food deficit, the former food minister said it was caused by both drought and flood. He assured the government of BNP's help in meeting the food deficit.

There was a food stock of 10 lakh tons when BNP left power, he said and advised the government to sell the rice before it is spoiled in the godowns.

Bhuiyan listed economic achievements during the BNP rule and said per capita income rose to 265 dollar in 1995-96. GDP growth was 4.7 per cent in 1994-95 while the literacy rate was 42.06 per cent.

The BNP leader suggested reduction of taxes on public transport to ease the communication problem, granting autonomy to radio and TV, scrapping of the Special Powers Act, formation of Wages Commission with the representatives of workers, and separation of judiciary.