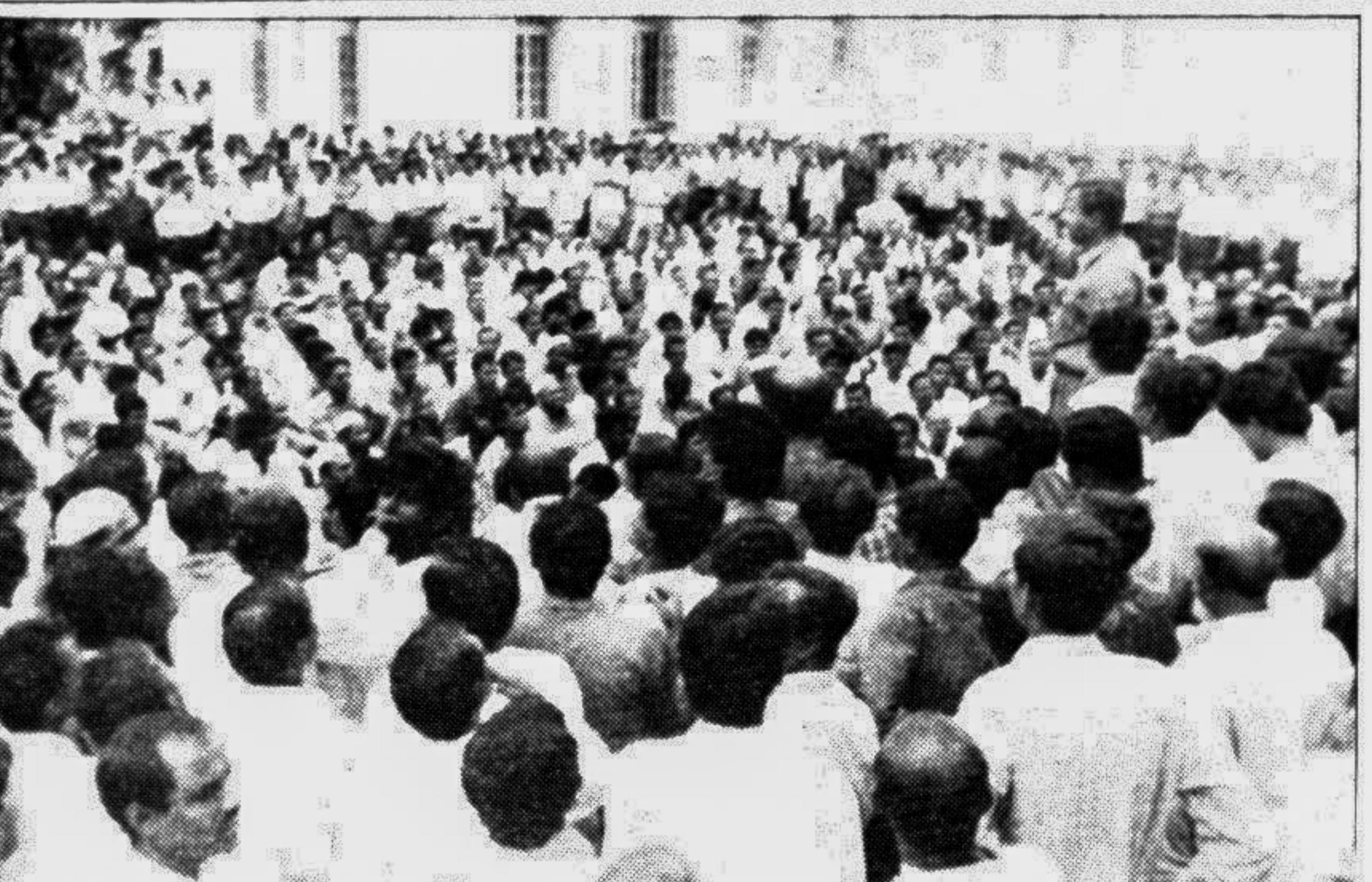


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The World on Time

Government employees holding a rally in the Secretariat yesterday protesting the new office timing and demanding new pay scale.
— Star photo

Sectt employees

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stoppage from 10 am till Sunday, capped by rallies, they said at the rally.

If the demands are not met by that time, a fresh programme will be announced on Sunday, they said.

The leaders said they have great expectations from the government which came to power with their support.

At least a dozen employees, including some women were injured in Monday's clashes with police as they staged demonstrations in defiance of a ban on agitations inside the Secretariat.

Establishment Secretary Majeed Alam issued a notification to all ministries on Monday ordering all vehicles out of the Secretariat parking bay. Transports Pool, outside the Secretariat have enough room for parking, he said.

Police guarded the outer perimeter of the sprawling complex in central Dhaka, further tightening security in and

Taliban capture Golbajar, part of Jabal os-Siraj

PUL-I-KHUMRI (Afghanistan), June 3: Afghanistan's fundamentalist Islamic Taliban militia said it had captured the town of Golbajar, north of Kabul, in a big offensive today, reports Reuter.

A senior officials said the Taliban had seized Golbajar and part of the nearby town of Jabal os-Siraj from forces loyal to opposition leader Ahmad Masood.

"This morning the Taliban launched a very wide offensive on Golbajar, clearing the area. We have also captured the rear of Jabal os-Siraj and Masood's forces are now surrounded there," Taliban Information Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi told reporters.

There was no independent confirmation of the fall of Golbajar. The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said Taliban jets had pounded the village earlier today.

Masood, who is based in the Panjshir Valley, captured Jabal os-Siraj on Friday, cutting off a Taliban force now based in Puli-Khumri, north of the Hindu Kush mountain range.

Jabal os-Siraj, 70 km (44 miles) north of Kabul, sits at the foot of the strategic Salang Pass, a key artery connecting the Afghan capital with the north of the country.

If the Taliban manage to re-take Jabal os-Siraj, they would still need to force a way through

Urea price

From Page 1

the neighbouring countries, could lead to smuggling of fertiliser.

International price of urea is now Tk 9000 per ton while it costs Tk 4,831 per ton in India and over Tk 10,000 per ton in Myanmer, it said.

BCIC imported 4.28 lakh tons of urea from Karnaphuli Fertilizer Factory (KAFCO) and other overseas sources at a rate of Tk 9,500 per ton to meet the local demand and had to give subsidy to the tune of Tk 285.27 crore.

This year, the demand of urea has been estimated at 25 lakh tons against the projected production of 20 lakh tons in the BCIC-run factories. It shows the need to import 5 lakh tons.

The imported fertilizer will have to be supplied at a reduced rate and if the price is not readjusted, the government will have to incur a loss of Tk 600 crore only during the next fiscal.

With the new price hike, the government still will have to incur a loss of Tk 700 per ton for locally produced urea and at least Tk 4200 per ton for imported urea. The production cost of local urea is Tk 5,500 per ton.

The government, however, would ensure fair supply of the fertilizer to the doorstep of the farmers and has already taken steps in this respect.

2 bodies found in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 3: Police recovered the bodies of two persons here today.

The first one identified as Harun-or-Rashid, was recovered from in front of the Sunilpara Union Parishad office under Siddigong thana at 8 in the morning. Son of Fazayuddin of Godnali, Rashid was a truck driver and his body bore stab injuries. He was 32.

Police also recovered the body of one Salahuddin, son of Abdus Salam of Rajbari area under Bandar thana, from the Shikleshwari river area at none. He was about 20.

Police suspected that Salahuddin might have drowned as he was missing since he went to take a bath in the river yesterday evening.

CAAB probe body fails to submit report

The enquiry committee of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), formed to probe the boarding of Mahabub, a Biman airbus and his consequent death, could not submit its report yesterday, reports UNB.

"Finally we failed to submit the report, but we are hopeful to submit it tomorrow," said a committee member.

He, however, said their investigation was almost completed.

Lightning kills 2 in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, June 3: Two people, one of them an employee of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), were killed by lightning yesterday, reports UNB.

Probe into Bandarban incident complete

BANDARBAN, June 3: A one-member probe committee, formed at the directive of the Home Minister, has completed investigation into the May 31 police excesses in the district headquarters.

Additional Divisional Commissioner, JP Tanchangya, who came from Chittagong on Sunday interviewed a cross section of people including local political leaders and officials.

He told UNB before leaving here that he would submit his report to the higher authorities soon suggesting transfer within seven days of the officials responsible for the incident.

It may be mentioned that local residents brought out a procession in the town on May 31 demanding restoration power and water supply which were snapped on May 19 cyclone. Police attacked the procession injuring some of the demonstrators.

A dawn to dusk hartal was observed on Monday demanding punishment and removal of the persons responsible for the police excesses.

Raozan plant

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190 MMCFD. If the second unit of the Raozan Power Plant begins operation in July, the authorities will have to augment this supply to a minimum of 240 MMCFD.

"This augmentation can not be done right away," an official source said. "In order to do, we might have to reduce gas supply to some other sectors."

BNP protests

From Page 1

two-day weekly holiday and new office timing, the BNP leader demanded immediate cancellation of the order.

He also demanded an end to government "torture, harassment and repression" on the employees.

In another statement Jatiyabadi Mohila Dal convener Begum Khurshid Jahan Huq MP condemned the Monday's "police attack" on the employees, including women.

The Daily Star

Vitamin A can help reduce child mortality rate!

Vitamin A has gained the status of seventh vaccine by playing an important role in reducing child mortality rate, according to a report of International Vitamin A Consultative Group (IVACG), reports UNB.

About 33 to 34 per cent child mortality can be reduced by maintaining normal Vitamin A.

"Community trials achieved this impact within a brief (4-6 months) period through universal periodic supplementation in the form of either megadoses, small weekly doses or Vitamin A fortified foods," says the IVACG report.

Vitamin A deficiency is endemic in developing countries like Bangladesh.

"It's possible to prevent the death of many under 6 years children in Bangladesh with regular intake of Vitamin A," said Dr Badrul Alam, a clinician of the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN).

Hasina greets Lionel Jospin

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated French socialist leader Lionel Jospin on his appointment as Prime Minister of France, reports UNB.

In a message of felicitation yesterday she said, "It affords me great pleasure to convey to you on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh our warmest and heartiest congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister of the Republic of France."

The prime minister wished her new French counterpart all success in the discharge of his onerous responsibility.

Bangladesh and France enjoy excellent relations, she said, adding "I have no doubt that our ties will be even further strengthened during your tenure."

Adarsha Gram Project

2746 families rehabilitated in 10 months

Under the Adarsha Gram Project from July '96 to mid-April this year, 2746 landless families were rehabilitated in 55 villages.

Officials sources told BSS yesterday that the rehabilitation programme that achieved 81 per cent of its target will continue till December.

The Adarsha Gram Project was introduced by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in February, 1972, to rehabilitate landless people in khas lands at Poragachha village under Ramgati thana of Laxmipur district.

EC steps

From Page 1
entertained because of legal binding, an EC official explained.

Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena attended office yesterday, ending one month's leave.

The CEC passed a hectic day yesterday meeting his colleagues who apprised him of the developments that took place during his absence.

When contacted last night, Mohammad Abu Hena told The Daily Star that preparations were being taken for holding the by-polls in a free, fair, responsible and transparent manner.

"We'll not hesitate to take any measure to ensure fairness and transparency in the by-election," he noted.

The CEC also expressed happiness that all the major parties were going to contest the by-polls.

Asked about BNP's demand for appointment of returning officers from the judiciary, the CEC said that the existing laws did not permit him to do so as he was not empowered to take action against judicial officers.

"The law needs amendment and it can't be done right now," he explained.

The ruling Awami League and opposition BNP and Jatiya Party have, meantime, asked their candidates to collect nomination forms.

AL and BNP will interview their candidates on June 6 while the JP interviewed its candidates yesterday. The last date for submitting nomination papers to the EC is June 8.

12 terrorists

From Page 1

murder and other criminal activities.

The JCD leader, who was serving jail terms for offences under the now-abolished Anti-terrorism Act, was released following a general amnesty announced by the previous government. Sent to jail again in connection with murder cases, he was released on bail recently. But after release, he released tolls from the local business, police said.

The other arrested are: Yunus Munna, Suman Khan, Shamim Porimol, Mohiuddin Mohi, Ashish, Lablu, Habibur Rahman Babu, Mohiuddin, Tuku and three drivers.

Angry villagers

From Page 1

shen Ara, a class ten student of the Sonargaon Choudhuriganj Government High School and raped her at a local hotel on May 28 after his proposal to marry the girl was rejected.

Sudhir also poured poison into Rawshan's mouth while carrying her back home where she died.

The members of Sudhir's family attacked Rawshan's friends when they visited the victim's house last night. Angered by this, the villagers attacked the houses of Sudhir and his relatives and set fire to six houses.

Police rushed to the spot and picked up one jail from there. A temporary police camp was set up in the area to contain further violence.

BNP protests

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honest and patriotic leader like Zia," Bhuiyan said and called upon the students to build themselves as honest and worthy citizens to take the future responsibility of the country.

BNP Standing Committee member Dr Khandker Mosharaf Hossain MP in his speech alleged that the present government was out to sell the country.

"As part of the deep-rooted conspiracy and blueprint, the government is selling national interests one after another to India as it was committed to that country before the election," he told the meeting.

Presided over by JCD President Shaheeduddin Chowdhury Anee, the meeting was also addressed by Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Prof Mahbubullah, Journalist Aktherul Alam, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokon and JCD general secretary Habib-un-Nabi Sohel.

He said Ziaur Rahman proved that Bangladesh can survive without any subservient policy. "Due to the revolutionary programmes undertaken by Zia, Bangladesh was marching towards rapid development."

The nation now needs an

Discussion on Zia

From Page 1

ident Ziaur Rahman at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium in the evening.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia attended the function.

The speakers described Zia as the architect of modern Bangladesh, who took revolutionary programmes to place the country in a dignified position in comity of nations.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said Zia had taken the initiative to export foodgrains whereas people had starved to death in the country before Zia took over the helm of the nation.

He said Ziaur Rahman proved that Bangladesh can survive without any subservient policy. "Due to the revolutionary programmes undertaken by Zia, Bangladesh was marching towards rapid development."

The nation now needs an

He said improved Vitamin A supplementation can reduce the duration, severity and complications associated with both measles and diarrhoea.

Diarrhoea and measles are still leading causes of infant and child morbidity and mortality in developing countries.

The IVACG that carried out a research in six Asian and African developing countries found that the reduction in child mortality was due to a fall in diarrhoea and measles-related deaths.

Clinical trials of children hospitalised with measles showed that a large-dose of Vitamin A had beneficial effect on mortality in previously deficient children, with case-fatality ratios reduced on an average by 66 per cent.

Vitamin A not only prevents nutritional blindness among the children but also plays a vital role in the overall development of children and increase resistance to infection.

Dr Alam said IPHN had launched a programme across the country to eliminate Vitamin A deficiency and its consequences.

The programme is aimed at enhancing production and consumption of Vitamin A rich foods and increasing awareness about the usefulness of Vitamin A in reducing mortality and morbidity in pre-school aged children.

The Nutritional Blindness Prevention Programme that began in 1973 helped reduce the prevalence of night blindness in the country from 3.76 per cent in 1973 to 1.1 per cent in 1996.

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