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Shopkeepers of Gausia, Noor markets clash

By Staff Correspondent

Police picked up seven people from the city's Gausia Market area as two groups of shopkeepers clashed over a passage connecting Gausia and Noor Mansions markets.

Some people received minor injuries as the feuding groups pelted brickbats and chased each other. The incident created panic for about half-an-hour from 3 pm in and around the markets.

Plainclothes police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The Shopkeepers at Noor Mansion blocked the second-floor passage, about five feet long, a couple of days ago as shoppers could easily enter Gausia Market using it.

The clash broke out as some shopkeepers from Gausia Market tried to remove the blockage.

Dhanmondi police said the two groups later agreed to settle the dispute amicably.

No case was lodged in this connection.

Pak army chief says he didn't ask Leghari to step down

ISLAMABAD, Dec 5: Pakistani army chief General Jemhangir Karamat today denied that he asked Farooq Ahmed Leghari to resign as president during his power struggle with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, reports AFP.

In fact, the Chief of Army Staff repeatedly urged the former president not to resign, the military's Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) said in a statement, denying speculative press reports.

Leghari quit Tuesday after three years in office, ending a constitutional crisis.

Senate chairman Wasim Sajjad is currently serving as interim president, with a presidential election due on December 31.

The ISPR statement took 'serious notice' of what it called 'distorted versions' of the recent events.

The army 'remained uninvolved and impartial strictly confining itself to its constitutional obligations,' the statement said, adding 'rumours to the contrary are unfounded and harmful to national interests.'

Fishes

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this. 'The fishes are hiding under the deposits,' said a fisherman.

The Fisheries Department had released fish fries in the lake for several years regularly.

NID programme

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talks with the Election Commission because many of the officials, employees and others engaged in the on-going Union Parishad election duty are also involved in the NID programme.

Referring to the hartal called for tomorrow, the minister said NID programme is for all, as agreed in the UN Convention on the rights of the child.

For the convenience of those who may find difficulty in reaching the vaccination centres tomorrow because of the hartal 'we have added another day, December 8, for vaccination,' he said. This has been decided with the hope of achieving the target in full, he added.

The minister said, 'I have already communicated with BNP Secretary General, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan requesting him for shifting the hartal date. He is yet to respond.'

Asked if there is any scope of shifting tomorrow NID programme, the minister said, 'In fact there is no scope. We have already sent the vaccines protected in cold storages to rural immunisation centres. If we delay by a day or two, quality of the vaccines may be affected, which was ultimately jeopardise objective of the programme.'

The date has been fixed keeping in view the NIDs in SAARC countries so that the programme runs simultaneously, he explained.

Power plant

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ther foreign investment in the country, she hoped.

The government has undertaken several steps to generate additional power in shortest possible time to mitigate the sufferings of the people, she said.

'We know that the people are suffering a lot for the want of electricity and for loadshedding.'

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AL city, thana units to be formed this month

By Reaz Ahmad

The full committee of the Dhaka city unit of Awami League and committees of 15 thana units of the party are expected to be announced later this month, party sources said.

The process of formation of the new committees began on Wednesday last with the holding of the triennial council of Ramna thana unit of the AL Council of Mohammadpur thana AL was also held yesterday.

According to party sources, councils of the remaining thana units in the city will be held in the next two weeks. However, councilors and delegates at these councils are likely to empower the party's central leadership to select and announce new committees of thanas units for three year terms.

The triennial council of the Dhaka city AL was held seven months back but, a full committee

Settlers' protest march

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Some of the demonstrators, before the march, damaged a loudspeaker on board a jeep, campaigning for a rally to be held at the town square tomorrow to celebrate the signing of the agreement.

The incident took place in the evening at Shalban near a slum-like cluster village of settlers. Police were later deployed there.

The rally to celebrate the signing of the accord has been arranged by a citizen's committee, dominated by Awami League and Pahari Peshajibi Oikyo Committee, an organisation of tribals close to the PCJSS.

The Pahari Chhatra Parishad (pro-PCJSS) Hill Women Federation and Pahari Gano Parishad will hold a joint rally in the town at 10 am tomorrow in support of the accord.

The Sarbodoli Oikyo Parishad will stage a torch procession in the town this evening to martial support for Sunday's countrywide hartal called by the BNP to protest the accord.

After the demonstrations, the Oikyo Parishad supporters

Rail, road

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penalty or life imprisonment with fine may be awarded to anyone found guilty of inducing women in prostitution, adultery and flesh trading.

A maximum punishment of life imprisonment and minimum of 14 years imprisonment with fine may be awarded to anyone found guilty of keeping women under custody illegally for flesh trading and prostitution.

'Death sentence or life imprisonment with fine may be awarded to anyone found guilty of trafficking of children or other offences of that nature.'

'Crippling a child to be used for beggars.'

'Abducting women and children.'

'Life imprisonment or a maximum of 14 years and a minimum of seven years RI may be awarded to anyone or to the members of a group found guilty of rape. And if the rape victim dies, the person or persons found guilty of the offence may be awarded death penalty or life imprisonment and fine of Tk one lakh.'

'When rape is committed in custody, a maximum of 10 years and a minimum of five years RI with a fine of Tk 10,000 may be awarded to the authorities concerned for their failure to protect the woman.'

The proposed bill also provides for realisation of fines, investigation, bail, trial formation of court, its jurisdiction, appeal etc.

Autocracy ended this day

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day will go down in the national history as on this day in 1990 the movement for democracy attained its victory through the fall of an autocratic regime following a mass upsurge.

In a message the prime minister extended her deep respect and gratitude to the martyrs including Noor Hossain, Selim, Delwar, Moiz Uddin, Dr Milan, Jehad, Fattah and Titas who made supreme sacrifices for re-establishing democracy in the country.

The Prime Minister said, the rule of the anti-liberation, reactionary and autocratic forces began in this country following the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members, and the

Australia welcomes CHT accord

Australia has welcomed the historic peace agreement between Bangladesh government and tribal people of Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

"I congratulate the government and people of Bangladesh on the signing of the historic peace agreement between the government and the tribal people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts," said Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer in a message from Ottawa yesterday.

"This event promises to end over two decades of armed insurgency in the CHT and establishes an administrative structure to meet the desire of the tribal people for enhanced autonomy," the Minister said.

The statement, which was released by the Australian High Commission in the city, said, "The agreement represents a significant achievement for Bangladesh and the Australian government recognises the commitment and dedication that Bangladesh governments have brought to negotiations since 1986."

"We hope that the peace agreement will bring about a durable and lasting settlement to this long running problem," Downer said, urging all parties to apply their best endeavours to ensure its success.

Solaiman

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Solaiman died on Thursday at the Suhravardy Hospital.

His family members wanted to bury him at the Mirpur Intellectual graveyard where Solaiman had bought a piece of land in 1995.

But local people of Mirpur and pro-liberation groups opposed his burial there for his opposition to the country's liberation war. The opponents damaged the fence around the reserved land at about 12 Noon.

The agitating people also put up guards there to resist the burial of late Solaiman at the graveyard where martyred intellectuals of 1971 were buried. Besides, the graveyard is kept reserved mainly for the burial of freedom fighters and other leading personalities of society.

The Ekaturer Ghatai Dalai Nirmul Committee also staged a demonstration in front of the graveyard throughout the day yesterday.

Also, his namaj-e-janaza could not be held at Baitul Mukarram.

His family members said Solaiman was later buried at his village home due to the agitation.

Megacity

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join the megacity club.

The other members (meeting the 10m citizens rule) are Beijing, Mumbai, Calcutta, Jakarta, Osaka, Seoul, Shanghai, Tianjin and Tokyo. There are only eight megacities outside Asia — Buenos Aires, Cairo, London, Los Angeles, Mexico City, New York, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Around 40 billion dollars will be needed each year to fund the infrastructure to sustain productivity and moderately improve the quality of life in these Asian cities.

Tokyo will have a massive population of 27 million in 1998. And Manila is in a similar position.

By 2025, India will have three more megacities — Bangalore, Hyderabad and Madras. Lahore in Pakistan, Shenyang in China and Yangon in Myanmar will also have topped the 10m-mark by then.

Khaleda

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ment has betrayed with the nation by sacrificing national interests in the agreement. The country's independence, sovereignty and integrity are now at stake," she said.



GOLDEN TONES

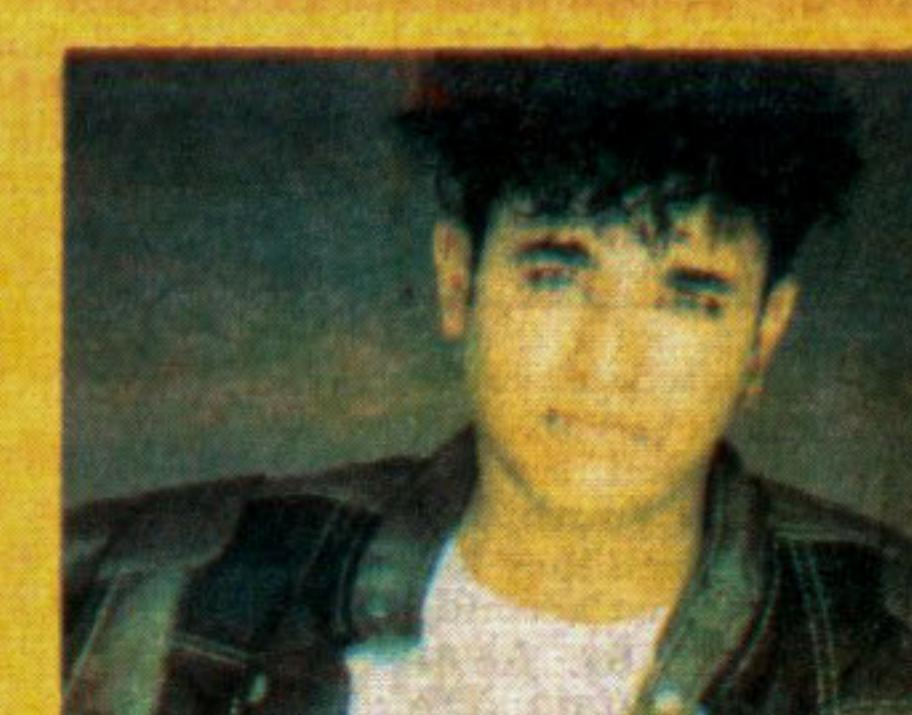
brings you the international music

EXTRA VAGANZA

featuring



SOLAIMAN



RAHIL
(from India)



TUNISHA
(from India)

December 8th & 9th, 1997

Venue : Sheraton Winter Garden

Time : 6:00 pm

Tickets : 400 Taka each available from December 2nd at : Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Swiss Plus (Baily Road), Bridgehouse Hallmark Shop (Banani), La bamba (Dhanmondi), Yum Yum (Dhanmondi), Patisserie (Elephant Road), Hot Hut (Dhanmondi), Candy Floss (Gulshan), Film Fair (Dhanmondi), Dolce vita, Dhaka Billiard Centre.

Organized by Sandhani National Eye Donation Society. All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Society. No one under 18 years will be admitted.

Benson & Hedges

GOLDEN TONES