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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 Mansion markets.

Some people received minor injuries as the feuding groups pelted bricks 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 blockade.

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

No case was lodged in this connection.

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 commit-

tee is yet to be announced. At that council, the councilors empowered party chief Sheikh Hasina to nominate a new committee. Thereafter, only the names of Mohammad Hanif and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya were declared as president and general secretary of the city unit of the party for a subsequent term.

Talking to this correspondent, AL leaders hinted that full committees of the city unit and all thana units will be announced later this month after AL president Sheikh Hasina's meeting with party leaders.

As per schedule, councils of Gulshan thana AL will be held today, Sutrapur on December 7, Cantonment-December 8, Uttara and Gulshan-December 9, Sabujbagh December 10 and Motijheel thana on December 11. Dates for other thana units are yet to be finalised.

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 Suhrawardy 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 Ghatok 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 Mukkaram.

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. They 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.

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

ISLAMABAD, Dec 5: Pak-istani army chief General Jehangir 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 fisheries official.

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 that 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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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 Oikkyo 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 Sarbajito Oikkyo 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 Oikkyo Parishad supporters

held a rally later in the evening at Shalban. Presided by Khagrachhari Jatiya Party (Ershad) Convenor Shahajuddin the rally was addressed by BNP leader Abdul Wadud Bhuiya and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Mobin. They resented what they said the failure of the accord to protect settlers' interest.

A large posse of police in riot gear kept vigil near the rally. Extra police also guarded the town square during their march earlier.

Similar demonstrations took place at Panchari today. Rallies and demonstrations denouncing the accord was also held yesterday at Matiranga and Dighinala, homes to a large number of settlers.

Meanwhile, nothing was known about the fate of dissident Pahari Chhatra Parishad leader Minto Khisa, kidnapped by his opponents Wednesday. The PCJSS and Shantibahini leaders vacated their temporary hideout at Dudukchara today.

One stabbed to death in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 5: A young man was stabbed to death at Kashipur union under Fatullah thana this afternoon.

Police said Pintu, 22, was killed on the spot at Farashikanda village when a gang of miscreants stabbed him indiscriminately at about 2 pm, police said.

Local people said that the young man was murdered following a factional clash among the criminals.

Sundarbans among 46 new world heritage sites

NAPLES (Italy), Dec 5: The UN cultural body UNESCO yesterday announced 46 new world heritage sites, including the Sundarbans in Bangladesh, Greenwich and Pompeii in Europe and the birthplace of Buddha in Nepal and the Chinese gardens of Suzhou, reports AFP.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation agreed the list — bringing to 552 the number of protected towns monuments and other sites worldwide — at a meeting of its World Heritage Committee in Naples.

Sites on the list, which this year includes applicants from Estonia, Kenya and Latvia for the first time, benefit from the protection, preservation and promotion measures under a 1972 UN Convention.

Autocracy ended this day

From Page 1

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, Jihad, Fattah and Titus 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

killing of four national leaders in captivity inside Dhaka Central Jail.

The Prime Minister noted that more blood had to be given in the process of institutionalising democracy as the misuse of a disguised autocratic, communal and partisan force had descended on the nation. Finally, the nation rejected these forces through the June 12 general elections in 1996, she pointed out. She said, people's right of franchise had been established through holding free and fair polls under neutral caretaker government.

"Let the people's right to food be ensured and democracy be ever lasting," the prime minister said.

Leader of the Opposition in parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia in a message urged the people to intensify the current movement, upholding the spirit of the mass upsurge of 1990.

She congratulated the leaders, workers and organizers of the movement and also the people on the occasion. Begum Zia also paid rich tributes to those who embraced martyrdom for

the cause of democracy.

Different political parties and socio-cultural bodies have taken up elaborate programmes to celebrate the day.

BNP will hold a discussion at Begum Zia's official residence at Minto Road today at 11 am.

To mark the 7th anniversary of the fall of autocratic regime, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) will hold a discussion at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city at 4 pm today.

Gano Forum will hold a public rally at the city's Paltan Maidan at 2:30 pm on December 10.

Meanwhile, in a joint statement, 12 former student leaders said that after seven years of the fall of the autocratic regime, democracy is still under threat. They blamed the present government for, what they termed, pushing the country to the verge of collapse. Signatories to the statement include, Amanullah Aman, MP, Habibur Rahman Habib, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Fazlul Haq Milon, Nazimuddin Alam, MP, Zahiruddin Swapan and others.

GOLDEN TONES

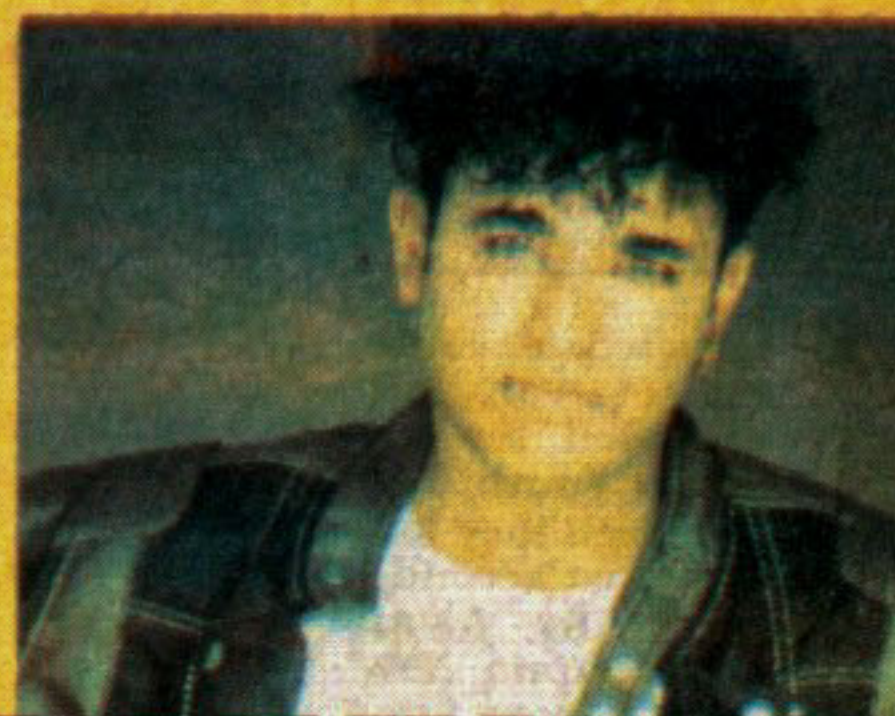
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Feelings



RAHUL

(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.

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