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Nation recalls martyrs of anti-autocracy movement

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties and socio-cultural organisations yesterday observed December 6 as Constitution Preservation Day.

On this day in 1990, the nine-year-old autocratic regime of Lt Gen HM Ershad fell in the face of a mass agitation, paving the way for the first-ever general elections under a neutral non-party government.

Ruling Awami League observed the day as 'Democracy Day' while the major opposition BNP as the 'Fall of Autocracy and Mass Uprising Day' and the eight-party Left Democratic Front observed it as 'Mass Uprising Day'.

The Jatiya Party of fallen autocrat Ershad celebrated December 6 as Constitution Preservation Day.

In observance of the day, the city unit of Awami League organised a discussion meeting at the party central office with city AL chief and the city mayor Mohammad Hanif in the chair.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Choudhury and AL leaders including Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Mannan Khan, Mukul Bosh, Siddiqur Rouf Khan, Mozaffar Hossain Choudhury Maya, MP, and Reza-uddin Ahmed, addressed the meeting.

Paying tributes to the martyrs in the anti-autocracy agitation, the speakers said the nation would remain ever grateful to those who made their supreme sacrifices for the protection of people's fundamental rights.

The fallen autocrats, in collaboration with the anti-liberal forces, were still conspiring against the hard-earned democracy, they observed.

Addressing a discussion meeting organised by the BNP at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, claimed that his party freed the country from the clutches of autocracy through the 90 mass uprising, but the present government had re-established autocratic rule in the country.

Mannan Bhuiyan said the Opposition was not allowed to speak on the floor of the House and not even on the streets.

"Since its assumption to power, this government was signing accords one after another, sacrificing national interests and jeopardising the national independence and sovereignty," he added.

Citing two accords, one on the Ganges water-sharing and

the other on the CHT insurgency, the BNP leader pointed out, "No discussion was allowed in the parliament nor the people were informed or the main opposition party was consulted in any way about the accords before signing of those. Both the accords were signed secretly for mysterious reasons."

Mannan Bhuiyan claimed the CHT accord had created discrimination among the people living in the region and feared it would endanger the country's sovereignty and its integrity.

Other BNP leaders including M Shamsul Islam, MP, Mir Shauqat Ali, Khurshid Jahan Haq, MP, Jahannara Begum, MK Anwar, MP, Farida Rahman, Abdullah Al Noman, Haris, Choudhury, Nazrul Islam Khan, Amanullah Aman, MP, and Najimuddin Alam, MP also spoke on the occasion.

The LDP rally at the Osmani Udyan bitterly criticised the AL government for what they said allying with fallen autocrat Ershad and accommodating Jatiya Party in the government. It also demanded Ershad's trial.

Presided by Haider Akbar Khan Rono, the rally was addressed by Front leaders Mujahidul Islam Selim, AFM Mahbubul Haq, Abdullah Sarkar, Kamrul Ahsan, Abdus Salam, and others.



BNP's torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's hartal. — Star photo

Vegetables plenty, but prices still high

By Staff Correspondent

Winter vegetables are in plenty in the city markets but their prices are still high.

Retailers said the high prices are due to the impact of last week's transport strike in the Northern part of the country.

Newly-harvested potato is now being sold at Tk 16 to 20 per kilogram, tomato at Tk 20 to Tk 24 and brinjal at Tk 12 to Tk 16. Last season's potato is being sold at Tk 8 to Tk 16.

Prices of newly-harvested potato were Tk 18 to Tk 22, tomato Tk 32 to Tk 40, and brinjal Tk 14 to Tk 16 per kg a few days ago.

Consumers are still paying higher prices for carrot, garlic, onion, and ginger. One kilogram of carrot is being sold at Tk 24 to Tk 28, onion at Tk 24 to Tk 30, garlic at Tk 52 to Tk 60 and ginger at Tk 24 to Tk 28.

One kg of radish is now being sold at Tk 5 to Tk 8 against its earlier price Tk 6 to 10 and green chili at Tk 20 to Tk 30 against its earlier price of Tk 30 to Tk 40.

"You will get fresh onion and garlic at comparatively lower prices after two weeks when their supplies will increase substantially" said one retailer at the Kawranbazar area. There the price of garlic is high as new garlic is yet to come in the markets, he added.

2 killed in polls violence

From Page 1

trict, Islampur thana in Jamalpur district and in Comilla Sadar thana. Polling was cancelled in one centre in Nabina-gar thana in Brahmanbaria district.

Our correspondent from Khulna said voting was suspended at the Gazi Memorial School centre in Naihati union following clashes between supporters of rival candidates at around 10:30 am.

BDR fired 13 shots in the air and police lobbed three tear gas shells to control the situation. At least 10 people were injured in the incident.

The trouble began when the incumbent Chairman of Naihati Union Parishad, Mattiur Rahman, and his supporters were allegedly trying to cast false votes and obstructing supporters of his rival candidates to cast votes. The police deployed in and around the centre remained inactive. It was

leged. At one stage, the voters standing in the queue became angry and demanded arrest of the persons allegedly involved in the rigging. The voters gheroaed the police and those involved in casting false votes.

Our Mymensingh correspondent said, at least 14 people including a member candidate and a police constable were injured in electoral clashes in different centres under Fulbaria thana. Polling in five centres was postponed.

Prisoner dies

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about 10 am. He died at about 1:15 pm, the jail authorities and hospital sources said.

Son of late Rafiqul Islam, Tuhin was taken to Narayanganj District Jail at Bangabandhu Road in the town on June 16 last. He was detained in connection with two cases related to arms and drugs, jail authorities said.

Tuhin was reportedly an activist of Jubo League, youth front of ruling Awami League.

Meanwhile, tension mounted in Sonargaon thana area following Tuhin's death in custody. Local people alleged that he died due to negligence of the jail authorities.

Jail officials however said that Tuhin was taken to Narayanganj Hospital after he fell sick in the morning. Following treatment, he was shifted to the jail after about an hour.

But, an hour later, he again fell sick and was admitted to Narayanganj Hospital at about noon. He died at about 1:15 pm.

Police sent Tuhin's body to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy. No case was lodged in connection with the incident till tonight.

Cars damaged in city during BNP procession

By Staff Correspondent

The driver of a private car sustained burn injuries when the car was torched allegedly by some people participating in a BNP procession at the North-South Road in the city yesterday afternoon, witnesses and hospital sources said.

Both hands of the driver, Jahangir, were burnt as the front seats of the car caught fire.

The BNP processionists carrying torches also damaged some other vehicles in the area. Jahangir was later admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rallies for & against accord

From Page 1

planned rally. The incident put police on alert, ringing an alarm ahead of today's torch procession in the evening.

However, earlier in the day, the Pahari Gano Parishad, Hill Women Federation and Pahari Chhatra Parishad, all supporting PCJSS leader JB Larma, held a joint rally welcoming the CHT peace accord.

Coming in the wake of Friday's anti-accord demonstration, today's rally by the three front organisations of the PCJSS put police also on high alert. Riot police were posted in the town square near the main bazaar since early morning.

A posse of police followed the three organisations' supporters who set out on a two-km-long journey to the town centre from the outskirts, a neighbourhood called Swanirvar.

Tribal men, women and youths carrying banners and chanting slogans, paraded down the tribesman-dominated areas and arrived at the Shapla Chatter, the main square at the bazaar at about 1 pm.

But they wheeled around the square and went back to the ground of the nearby government college, where their lead-

ers addressed a rally, attended by several hundred tribesmen.

Presided over by Shaktipada Tripura, the rally was addressed by among others Advocate Shaktiman Chakma, Dr Kaniska Chakma, Rupak Chakma, Thoaung Marna, Mri-gangka Khisa, Khagewaswar Tripura and Chaitrali Tripura.

They described the accord as a step towards resolving the CHT problems and urged the authorities for its proper implementation.

They also stressed the withdrawal of the settlers from lands of tribals and their resettlement elsewhere.

The Sarbodolityo Parbatyia Oikkyo Parishad staged a big torch procession in support of tomorrow's hartal. The processionists chanted slogans demanding annulment of the CHT agreement.

Later they held a rally at the Shapla Chatter. It was presided over by Parishad's Convenor and JP leader Shahajuddin and addressed by BNP leaders Abdul Wahid Bhuiya, Abul Kalam and Zainal Abedin and Jamaat leaders Syed Abdul Momen and Tajul Islam.

Another rally was also held at the Reserve Bazar with Haji Fazlur Rahman in the chair.

35 bank directors

From Page 1

Bank; Khushi Akhtar — Tk 1.19 cr with Pubali Bank; Nader Khan — Tk 0.46 cr with AB Bank; Khondker Mahmudul Hossain — Tk 0.17 cr defaulting loans with Janata Bank; Nurul Haque Sikder had regularised his Tk 0.82 cr defaulting loan with City Bank.

United Commercial Bank Ltd: Sirajul Islam Chowdhury — Tk 7.45 cr defaulting loan with BSRs and Abdul Gaffar Choudhury Tk 0.26 cr defaulting loans with Eastern Bank, Motmayena Begum and ... abur each had Tk 0.70 cr defaulting loans with BSRs but they regularised their loans.

National Bank: Md A Awal, having Tk 6.03 cr defaulting loan with Eastern Bank has obtained stay order from the High Court. Habibullah has Tk 3.58 cr defaulting loan with Bangladesh Shilpa Bank and M A Reza has Tk 0.7 crore defaulting loan with Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKIB).

AB Bank: Ramjul Seraj and Feroz Ahmed each have Tk ten crore defaulting loan with Janata Bank.

Pubali Bank: Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury has Tk 5.49 cr defaulting loan with BSB and another Tk 0.43 cr with BKB. M Abdur Rakib has Tk .03 cr defaulting loan with IFIC Bank.

NBL: M A Awal Tk 4.11 cr defaulting loan with BSB; Nisar Kader Tk 1.35 cr with Pubali Bank; M A Qasem — Tk 0.16 cr with UCB and Abdus Salam — Tk 1.80 cr defaulting loan with State Bank of India. Tofazzal Hossain had Tk 0.42 cr defaulting loan with Islamic Bank but he later adjusted it. He has another defaulted loan of Tk 0.11 crore with IFIC Bank.

Social Investment Bank Limited (SIBL): Dr J H Gazi has Tk 1.23 cr defaulting loan with Islamic Bank, Tk 0.39 cr with Sonali Bank, and Tk 0.98 cr with Eastern Bank against which he has obtained a stay order from the High Court. Dr Gazi has already been removed from the directorship of SIBL. M N Amin has Tk 5.03 cr defaulting loan with Eastern

Bank, Abdul Awal Patwari Tk 2.05 cr with BSB and A K M Saikatul Islam has Tk 0.15 cr defaulting loan with Islamic Bank.

Al-Arafah Bank: Abdul Malek Mollah has Tk 1.07 cr defaulting loan with Islamic Bank and another Tk 2.47 cr with City Bank. He has obtained a stay order from the High Court for his loan with Islamic Bank and he has already regularised his loan with City Bank. Mir Ahmed Sawdagar has Tk 1.05 cr defaulting loan with Janata Bank, Dr Bahaud-din Md Yusuf Tk 0.83 cr with Islamic Bank.

City Bank: Ibrahim Mia has Tk 0.66 cr defaulting loan with Janata Bank. IFIC: Aminul Huq Chowdhury has Tk 0.67 cr defaulting loan with BSB.

BSRS: A F M Fazle Rabbi has Tk 0.18 cr defaulting loan with BSB.

PM's appeal

From Page 1

velopment removing one problem after another, they (opposition) are creating hindrances in many ways.

"They are opposing the peace initiatives to keep alive unrest in the country," the Prime Minister said, accusing the leader of the opposition of spreading falsehood to confuse the people.

She said the opposition leader told that some portion of the country will become a part of India after the signing of peace accord on CHT.

The opposition leader also said that the sound of Azan will no more be heard in the mosque if the Awami League came to power, Hasina said. "She is spreading all these falsehoods to confuse the people."

About the ongoing Union Parishad elections, the Prime Minister said the government has taken all possible measures for ensuring free and fair voting. She said even the ministers and the MPs have been asked not to visit any election area during the local body's polls.

Jubo League president Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP presided over the meeting, attended by ministers, MPs, diplomats, elite and Jubo League leaders and workers.

Hartal today

From Page 1

hartal. Besides, central leaders of BNP and its front organisations met at Begum Zia's Minto Road official residence yesterday to discuss their preparations to make the hartal successful.

UNB adds: Ambulance, vehicles of newspapers and law enforcing agencies, and medicine and food shops will remain out of the purview of the hartal.

UNB in another report said that Jamaat-e-Islami secretary General Mattiur Rahman Nizami yesterday urged the people to observe hartal and force the government to cancel the "black agreement" with tribal leaders.

Addressing party workers at Purana Paltan crossing, he said the hartal is to protect the independence and sovereignty of the country.

Nizami said peace in the CHT will not be established. Rather, unrest will flare up following the agreement which he said made the Bangladesh in the hill tracts second class citizens. The rally over, a procession paraded the streets touching GPO, Topkhana Road and Bijoy Nagar.

19 injured in post-polls violence

By Staff Correspondent

At least 19 people were injured in post-election violence in Pabna and Kushtia yesterday.

Of them, 11 were injured in Pabna and eight in Kushtia. Our Pabna Correspondent reports: Eleven people were injured in a clash at village Ghoshpur under Hemayetpur Union of Sadar thana yesterday.

The clash erupted as some armed youths, said to be the supporters of a candidate attacked the villagers and started indiscriminate firing.

The villagers resisted them with lethal weapons, resulting in 11 people injured.

On receiving information, police rushed to the spot and seized a microbus allegedly used by the youths. Police also arrested one Mozammel Hoque from the spot while the others fled away.

The injured persons are Nuruddin 35, Manohar 60, Akmal Sheikh 60, Abdul Hamid 40, Abdus Samad 32, Quarimunnessa 40, Rahima Bewa 42, Abdul Ghani 30, Abdul Wahab 31, Asad 27 and Rathan 17.

Our Kushtia Correspondent writes: Eight persons were injured in a gunbattle yesterday morning when a defeated candidate of Kaya Union under Kumarkhali thana along with his supporters attacked a newly-elected candidate and his supporters.

Jubo Dal worker beaten to death in Jessore

BENAPOLE, Dec 6: A Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal activist was killed by unknown assailants at Jamtola in Sharsha thana under Jessore district today, reports UNB.

Police said a group of miscreants beat Abdul Aziz of Kanyadah village in Sharsha thana when he was returning home in the morning.

He died on the spot. A case was filed with Sharsha thana.

Seek people's support

From Page 1

Instead of mutual understanding and harmonious relation, "we find bitter animosity between them" and this reflects necessarily on all matters of state, including holding of elections.

Above all, the President said, political parties should change their attitude towards each other and must not regard the rivals as enemy of the state of the country and the people.

"Nor should they regard themselves as the only patriots branding rival parties as villain and traitors."

President Shahabuddin said political parties must learn from the past and forget the bitterness, they must look forward and concentrate on the existing problems.

"They must believe in peaceful co-existence and give up the present politics of crushing the other parties, which is impossible in this civilised world today," he said.

For ensuring free and fair polls by bringing changes in the existing electoral laws, he suggested appointment of the chief

election commissioner and election commissioners on the basis of some form of consensus or at least in consultation with main political parties.

He called for considering the suggestion for setting up of an advisory committee consisting of representatives of main political parties and respectable citizens at all levels, such as for each polling station.

President Shahabuddin further suggested for creation of special forums, with eminent personalities and retired judges, for quick disposal of election cases.

Barrister Nazmul Huda MP presented the key-note paper in the seminar. The discussants included Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Sheikh Razzak Ali MP, Dr Kamal Hossain, Hasanul Huq Inu, Attorney General Barrister KS Nabi, Barrister Mainul Hussein, Barrister Amirul Khan, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan and Khondaker Mahabubuddin Ahmed.

First phase of 4th NID today

The first phase of the fourth National Immunisation Day (NID) will be observed in the country today, reports UNB.

The second phase will be held on January 18, 1998.

The two-day NIDs, with a gap of about one month, were also observed in the country in the last three years to eradicate the polio disease by the year 2000. Bangladesh achieved an ample success in NIDs in these rounds by covering over 90 per cent of targeted children.

As part of the programme, 20 million children below five years old will be given polio vaccine and about 14 million children aged between 12 and 59 months vitamin A supplement today.

Meanwhile, UNICEF, World Health Organisation and Rotary International have jointly called upon all sectors of the civil society and the government to ensure the success of the National Immunisation Days (NIDs).

Case filed

From Page 1

But the minister visiting Motijheel thana also found a blank page after every page of the case register that indicated that filing a back dated case is possible.

OC Akhtaruzzaman told the minister that they did it for 'various reasons' but pledged not to do it in future.

The Home Minister also wanted to know how the accused in the case, Runa Akhter, could flee as the case was filed instantly. The police officials said they could not find her during a search of the house.

He directed the police officials to arrest the accused immediately and proceed properly so that justice is ensured for the minor girl.

Earlier in the afternoon, the Home Minister went to see the condition of Mahi who is undergoing treatment at bed number 17 of ward number 33 at the DMCH.

Mahi narrated the episode of torture unleashed on her since she came to the house of SI Shamim about six months back.

Garments units hardly follow safety rules

From Page 1

cial. "At least a two feet clearance has to be kept between cartons and walls and three feet clearance between ceiling and cartons."

Gangways and feeder gangways are supposed to be kept inside the warehouse so that fire fighters could move freely and extinguish the fire. But this is never maintained in any factory.

"If a fire catches inside the warehouse, it is absolutely impossible for us to locate the exact place of fire as we can not move inside," said a fire fighter.

One of these correspondents had accompanied the inspection team to a factory at Kamalapur area last week owned by a former BGMEA leader.

"This factory should never get a licence from us in such clumsy conditions," the head of the team Brig Obaidullah of the Fire Brigade told the factory management.

He was disappointed at the risky working environment of the factory.

The correspondent discovered that fire service officials had informed the management

early in the morning about the inspection visit. A Fire Brigade vehicle was also parked in front of the factory premises when the team arrived in the afternoon.

The most unacceptable part of the team's activities is that it informs the owners beforehand about its visits to the factories.

"In the beginning we conducted surprise visits. But we were often not allowed to go inside on the plea that either the owner or the manager of the factory is absent. Now, we inform the factories prior to the inspection," said a member of the team.

BGMEA's own survey team, however, visited more than 600 factories so far. The team is asking the factory owners various questions from a "check list" jointly prepared by the International Labour Organisation, Fire Brigade and Civil Defence and BGMEA itself. The outcome is again frustrating.

The association has appealed to the Home Ministry for additional six months' time to equip the factories with fire fighting gears and to take other precautionary measures to

handle fire accidents. The ministry allowed them a further three months time.

BGMEA could not provide sufficient fire extinguishers, build alternative staircases and lighting arrangements for emergency exits. It also failed to install necessary smoke detectors, and fire alarms within the one month-period for which it made a press statement on August 2, 1997.

"Despite their willingness, the factory owners could not build alternate staircase because of RAJUK's lengthy permission procedures," BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Qudus told The Daily Star.

He said the Ministry of Commerce has already urged RAJUK to expedite the procedures so that staircases could be built on an urgent basis.

Qudus said BGMEA will be importing sophisticated smoke detectors from the US by late December or early January 1998 to instal in the factories.

He said Fire Brigade's complicated procedures to issue fire licences was discouraging the factory owners from complying with their regulations. "At least

Constitution

From Page 1

tion War was staged and songs were rendered.

At the Shaheed Minar premises four street dramas organised by Somoy, a drama group, were staged in the evening. A poetry recitation session preceded patriotic songs.

Meanwhile, an exhibition of the original copy of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh introduced in 1972 will begin from tomorrow at the Liberation War Museum in the city in observance of the V-Day, says a press release.

Designed by Zainul Abedin, the special edition of the Constitution bears the signatures of all parliament members including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Junabul Islam, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury and Abul Bark Alvi assisted Zainul Abedin.

Hasem Khan wrote the whole contents of the Constitution by hand.

Notice Regarding Land Record and Survey

1. Land record programme for the current field season has started in Dhaka metropolis including different zonal settlements.
2. In the interest of preparing proper drawing & correct record of land, land owners or their representatives of mouzas where land survey work has begun are advised to assist the survey staff working in the field by appearing before them at proper site in due time.
3. Prior to starting of survey all land owners should get the boundary of their land in possession marked and produce the ownership documents including up-to-date land development tax Dakhila to the survey staff working in the field.
4. It is a punishable offence to get the land recorded through fake/forged deed & drawing.
5. Landowners are requested to contact the officer in-charge in their respective areas for information in case of any problem in matters of land record.

Director General

Directorate of Land Record & Survey Tejgaon, Dhaka.

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