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VOL. VIII NO. 285 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> KARTIK 24, 1405 BS DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 1998 RAJAB 17, 1419 HIJRI 16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

FBCCI leaders told Give ideas to new investors, let them grow

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the business leaders to come up with unique but simple ideas for investment and massive industrialisation, even at grass-roots level, reports UNB.

"Give ideas to new investors and let them grow...this will help develop industrialisation all over the country," she said while addressing the newly elected members of the FBCCI.

A 30-member delegation of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, led by newly elected president Abdul Awal Minto, called on the Prime Minister at her office in the morning.

Hasina said: "We are ready to provide all facilities for devel-

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Barricade on highway for 7 hrs

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Nov. 7: Vehicular traffic on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet highways remained stopped for about seven hours yesterday as some trucks left their vehicles haphazardly on the road at Shanir Akhra at 11-30 a.m.

This created a 20-km gridlock of vehicles on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway under Demra thana and a similar jam on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway up to Jatramura under Ruppangj thana, witnesses said.

Police removed the trucks at 6-30 p.m and traffic movement resumed. Six Dhaka police said the trucks put up barricade on the road after clashes with BNP workers at Kanchpur truck stand.

The clashes took place when the trucks refused to rent out their vehicles to local BNP workers to carry people to Begum Khaleda Zia's public meeting at Paltan Maidan, police said.

Shamim Osman, local MP of the ruling Awami League, when contacted blamed the BNP for

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Five held in N'ganj for distributing objectionable leaflets

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Nov 7: Police arrested five persons from different parts of the town in the early hours today on charge of distributing objectionable leaflets on the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

People caught and handed over two persons Abdul Hajim, 35, and Shahidul Islam, 18, — to police while they were distributing leaflets in the town's Shitalakkhya-Kumidini area at around 12:10 a.m.

According to their statement, police later arrested another three persons from Nalupara area and recovered 780 printed leaflets from their possession. The arrested three were identified as Advocate Abdul Hamid Bhasani, 32, Abul Hashem 44 and Khoka.

Halm admitted to the police that he was hired by Advocate Abdul Hamid Bhasani for distributing the leaflets for Tk 200.

Advocate Bhasani claimed that he was the joint convener of Narayanganj unit of the Jatiyatabadi Shechchasebak Dal, police said.

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PANIC AT PALTAN, MAYHEM IN MOTIJHEEL: BNP meeting participants advance towards the podium (photo taken from the dais) leaving behind smoke-emitting blasts in the middle of the Maidan (left) and later give vent to their anger on the vehicles parked inside the nearby Rajuk Bhaban compound (right). —Star photos by A K M Mohsin

Blasts, gas shells foil BNP meeting

By Staff Correspondent

BNP's public meeting at the city's Paltan Maidan yesterday was foiled halfway after cracker blasts led police to fire teargas shells, which forced thousands of panic-gripped people to flee for safety.

They ran in all possible directions as smoke filled the entire Maidan. In five minutes, it was almost empty.

BNP chief Khaleda Zia had just begun her speech when teargas smoke invaded the dais, forcing her to stop immediately. "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim. You have seen..." she began but stopped as blasts continued and gas shells fell right in front of the dais.

The party's acting secretary general, Ashraf Hossain, had abruptly stopped his speech amid cracker blasts, and

Khaleda Zia took the microphone not allowing former finance minister M Saifur Rahman whose name had been announced earlier to speak before the chairperson.

In about a minute after the Maidan became empty, Khaleda Zia left the venue.

As people were fleeing, she was found almost alone with only a few including Mosaddek Ali Falu and Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP beside her on the dais.

The rest of the party leaders and her own security guards — both her private and government securitymen — were busy finding safe places for themselves.

With the chairperson in helpless condition, former state minister Abdul Moyeen Khan

MP and others rushed to help her board the waiting jeep. The car soon sped away amid panic all around.

The angry meeting participants, scattered to all directions, then went on the rampage. They damaged and set fire to vehicles parked in and around the Paltan Maidan.

Dozens of vehicles were also damaged in Motijheel area, including the ones parked on the Rajuk Bhaban premises.

The crowd became restless when former vice president Moudud Ahmed was speaking at around 4.30 pm. The blasts started when acting secretary general Ashraf Hossain began. He stopped as cracker blasts forced the audience to move towards the podium.

Bypassing other scheduled

speakers, Khaleda Zia was brought in apparently to keep the crowd in place but it did not work as a gas shell almost hit the podium. Another shell fell near her jeep parked just beside the dais.

The party had to shorten the list of speakers as they smelled trouble.

Thousands of people including women were fleeing to escape teargas smoke and cracker blasts. Caught in the melee, many of them were hurt.

According to witnesses, it all started when pro-Awami League activists were bothering the BNP meeting-bound processions near GPO crossing and Stadium Gate, leading to clashes.

The entire area from Gullis-

See Page 12 Col 2

Bangabandhu Murder Case Verdict today

By Staff correspondent



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



Police guarding the makeshift court at Nazimuddin Road in the city. — Star photo

The judgement in the Bangabandhu Murder Case will be delivered today.

The District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Kazi Golam Rasul will pronounce the judgement at 10 a.m.

Trial of the case began on April 8 last year in the judge's court which sat in a makeshift court room near Dhaka Central Jail.

Twenty people were indicted in the case. During the trial, the court sat for 149 days and examined 61 of the 74 prosecution witnesses.

Charges framed against the 20 included criminal conspiracy (under Section 120 B of the Penal Code), murder (under Section 302/34) and destruction of evidence following the murder (under Section 201).

The CID had chargesheeted 23 people for the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members on August 15, 1975. Of the accused, four were not set up for trial as they were dead. Of the rest, one was discharged by the High Court, five are now detained in Dhaka Central Jail and 14 have been absconding.

Those detained are: Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farukur Rahman, Lt Col (relieved) Sultan Shahriar Rashid, Taheruddin Thakur, former state minister for information Taheruddin Thakur, Lt Col Muhiuddin (former acting director of the BNCC, Dhaka) and Honorary Captain Wahab Joarder.

Begum Zobeida Rashid, wife of absconding accused Lt Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, was discharged from the case by the High Court.

The four who were not set up for trial are: former president Khandakar Mushtaque Ahmed, former secretary Mahabubul Alam Chashi, Captain Mustafa and Risalder Sarwar.

According to CID investiga-

See Page 12 Col 1

Khaleda alleges attempt on her life BNP calls 48-hour hartal Nov 9-10

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led Seven Party Alliance has called a 48-hour countrywide hartal on November 9 and 10 to protest an alleged "attempt" on the life of alliance leader Khaleda Zia.

The shutdown along with a series of other programmes were announced at a press conference yesterday evening after a BNP public meeting at the city's Paltan Maidan ended in a fiasco.

The Leader of the Opposition told reporters at her Minto Road residence that "ruling party goons" were responsible for attack on the rally she was addressing in the afternoon and dubbed it a pre-planned act carried out by the government with support from police.

Khaleda Zia said senior party leaders were looking at possibilities of filing a case for the "attempt" on her life.

Her party colleagues narrated the incident and said one teargas shell missed the BNP chairperson narrowly while three others were fired in quick succession as the Opposition chief was getting into her car.



Begum Khaleda Zia BNP leaders claimed that 250 of their leaders and workers were injured, five of them seriously, during attacks by "police and AL activists". City BNP convener Sadeq Hossain Khoka said party president was getting into her car. See Page 12 Col 4

AL claims the dead was its activist Spreading violence kills one, hurts 150

Star report

One person was killed and at least 150 people were injured in clashes between the supporters of Awami League and BNP in different parts of the city and its suburbs yesterday.

At least 16 vehicles were torched and over two dozens damaged during the violence in which rivals fought with sticks, rocks, homemade bombs and guns. Police arrested 51 people on charges of arson and rioting.

The dead was identified as 26-year-old Waiur Rahman, also known as Oli Miah.

The Awami League claimed him to be a joint-secretary of Ward no 56 unit of Juba League and blamed BNP for his death. An AL press release said BNP activists gunned him down.

But Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said his body bore only stab wounds.

Police fired volleys of teargas shells and used batons to contain the violence starting in the early afternoon when BNP supporters were coming to attend the meeting at Paltan Maidan from different parts of the city.

At least 20 people were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Of them five had bullet injuries.

After the violence and police action, the BNP rally was abandoned.

Some activists stoned the offices of the daily Ittefaq, Inqilab and Banglar Bani, damaging windowpanes, officials of the newspapers said.

They made a bonfire of waste paper at the offices of the Ittefaq and Banglar Bani offices. A security guard of the Inqilab was wounded. Police were accused of responding late to the attacks on newspaper offices. Fire service later doused the fires.

Attempts were made to set on fire a petrol pump in Motijheel Commercial Area during the clashes.

A number of vehicles parked at the forecourt of the RAJUK Bhaban, in front of the Jiban Bima Bhavan and near the Paltan Maidan were torched by mobs. Several premium buses were also set on fire or damaged. [See Blasts, gas shells foil city. See Page 12 Col 2

Spectacular win against Windies A



A West Indies batsman drives as Bangladesh wicket keeper watches in yesterday's one-day exhibition match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh cricketers yesterday pulled off a sensational two-wicket win over the West Indies 'A' team in the first of the three limited over exhibition matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Bangladesh, chasing a fighting West Indies A total of 232 in the stipulated 50 overs, reached the victory 234 for eight with five balls to spare. The hosts needed three runs from the final over and slow left-arm Enamul Haq, who had earlier captured four wickets for only 25 runs, smashed the first delivery of leg-spinner Ronald Lewis for four through the covers much to the delight of a strong eight thousands ardent cricket fans.

But it was Akram Khan, who laid the foundation for yesterday's victory. The portly-right hander, 'booted out' of the national team only a few months back, celebrated his recall with a swashbuckling 61 off 62 balls studded with seven hits across the rope.

The former national captain in his fourth wicket partnership with Al-Shahriar added 77 runs. But Bangladesh, needing 24 runs from the last seven overs, could not fare well as they lost three wickets at

See Page 12 Col 7

IU closed sine die

KUSHTIA, Nov 7: Islamic University was closed today for an indefinite period to avoid possible clashes between two rival student groups, reports UNB.

It was decided at an emergency meeting tonight with Vice Chancellor Prof M Quaisuddin in the chair.

Earlier, Section 144 was imposed on the campus for 12 hours till 6 pm today as Islami Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra League had called for rallies.

BCL and Shibir, however, held their rallies at Mandanga and Madhupur near the campus.

Shibir in its rally condemned the role of the university authorities during the violent incidents of October 31 and demanded trial and expulsion of those responsible for the killing of their two activists on the campus.

BCL leaders in their rally condemned terrorism by Shibir activists.

Zillur urges BNP to shun path of terrorism

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman yesterday condemned the anarchist activities in Dhaka, alleging that the rampant terrorism was a pre-planned conspiracy by BNP and its allies aimed at protecting the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman ahead of the historic verdict, reports BSS.

In a statement last night, the Awami League leader said the armed terrorists of BNP let loose a terrorism in the city firing indiscriminately, hurling bombs, damaging vehicles and attacking the newspaper offices including the daily Ittefaq and the Banglar Bani. He also said the BNP activists had also launched planned attack on banks and various other offices including the Nagar Bhaban.

Zillur Rahman also alleged that a group of armed terrorists led by BNP's commissioner Chowdhury Mohammad Alam, commissioner Abul Bashar and Jubo Dal leader Ahmed also

BNP supporters ransack shops, damage vehicles in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 7: BNP supporters staged demonstration in the port city today protesting police attack on the party rally in Dhaka.

They ransacked wayside shops and damaged vehicles at WASA crossing, Nondankanon and Lovelane, police and witnesses said.

The incidents took place at around 6 pm while BNP supporters were returning from a meeting held at Laidighi maidan on the occasion of November 7.

The incidents mounted tension in the city. Large number of police force was deployed at various points of the city to thwart further incident.

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