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PHILIPS

Over 100 injured as BNP activists clash with police in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 3: More than a hundred people were injured, two with bullet, as supporters of BNP clashed with police protesting arrest of two party leaders in Panchhari thana today, reports UNB.

Bullet wounded Nurul Islam, 55, and Kamal Hossain, 18, were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Five others were undergoing treatment at Panchhari Thana Health Complex. Witnesses said the clash erupted when several hundred people blocked the Panchhari-Khagrachhari road with stumps after the arrest of Panchhari BNP president Amin Sharif and another leader Korushe Alam.

At one stage, the BNP supporters laid siege to the local police station and hurled bricks demanding release of the two leaders.

Special police forces led by two magistrates rushed to the spot and dispersed the mob by charging baton, lobbing, tear gas shells and firing blank shots.

Suspect in Jewel Murder Case being interrogated

By Staff Correspondent. One of the suspects in the Jewel Murder Case, Mamunur Rahman, has been taken to Kaurul police station for interrogation.

He was arrested from the city's Malibagh area on Thursday.

Australia 62 for one at lunch

Sports Reporter

Australia were 62 for one at lunch on the first day of the fourth and final Test against West Indies at St John's, Antigua yesterday.

After Australia skipper Steve Waugh once again won the toss, the tourists found scoring difficult on what seemed to be a placid pitch.

In the session lasting 28 overs, one wicket fell in the last over with the score on 60.

The usually aggressive Michael Slater, trying to force the pace, square-cut off-spinner Nehemiah Perry but succeeded in scooping the ball to Dave Joseph at point.

At the interval, Greg Blewett was batting on 21 and Justin Langer was 2 not out.

Jessore blast: One more held

JESSORE, Apr 3: Police today arrested one more person in connection with the March 7 bomb blast here that claimed 10 lives and left 150 people injured, reports UNB.

Mohiuddin Alamgir, a former ward commissioner of Jessore Municipality, was arrested from his residence at Ghope Central Road in the town.

Khaleda

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Some leaders of Gulshan thana BNP, released recently from jail, led by MA Qayyum, Zahirul Islam Tipu and Anwar Hossain, came with a large bouquet to meet Begum Zia at her official residence, but they were allowed to offer only a few sticks of Rajanigandha to her.

PM: Donors

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pected to speak about her government's performance in the economic field and how it had fought the longest flooding last year.

Apart from economic issues, the donors are likely to discuss with the Prime Minister the current political issues.

Senior cabinet ministers will be present at the meeting cum dinner. Diplomats mainly from EU and USA, and representatives of aid agencies like the World Bank are expected to attend the meeting.

Wheat

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and examining 'geo-physiological conditions' to determine the cause behind.

Wheat expert Dr Craig A Meisner and WRC expert Saifuzzaman visited the fields with sterile wheat.

Lokman Ali of Sonapur in Parbatipur thana of Dinajpur reported that he had sowed imported wheat seeds that resulted in sterility.

At Nasia under Rangpur Sadar thana, landless Khurshid Alam cultivated wheat in two plots. He sowed imported seeds in one plot and have similar experience.

"There I sowed imported seeds — I don't know which variety — and now I see no grain".

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Down such narrow channels, sludge from the city's Hazaribagh tanneries finds way into the Buriganga. A considerable portion of the once-mighty river is already dead. Also dead are various species of fish, once in abundance. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Tri-nation water confce in Kathmandu told Remove 'mistrust' first to ensure cooperation

KATHMANDU, Apr 3: Politicians, experts, scholars and journalists from three neighbouring countries of South Asia — India, Bangladesh and Nepal — have emphasised the need for stronger political will and a sustained effort to remove the historical mistrust in achieving greater cooperation among the regional countries, reports BSS.

This identical opinion was expressed on the first day of a two-day conference on "Regional cooperation in harnessing the eastern Himalayan rivers" that began here today.

The conference was told that the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna river system is the second largest in the world, next to the Amazon with 1.3 billion population, but its people are still the poorest of the poor mainly due to lack of feeling to live together.

The participants have also supported the signing of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty between India and Bangladesh and the Mahakali Treaty between India and Nepal. They termed the two accords as the landmark development in fostering greater regional cooperation.

The conference, which was inaugurated by Nepalese Minister for Water Resources Pradip Nepal is being attended by leading politicians, parliamentarians, experts, scholars and journalists from the three countries. Dr SA Malek, Political advisor to the Bangladesh Prime Minister, was guest of honour.

Leading participants from India, among others, are Jaipal Reddy, MP, TN; Chitruvedi, MP, Tara Kanta Jha, former MLA from Bihar, Eric Gonsalves, former foreign secretary, Muckund Dubey, former foreign secretary, BG Verghese, Ramaswari R Iyer and Kalpana Sharma. The Bangladesh side is being represented by Fazle Rabbi, MP, Ziaur Rahman Khan, MP, Hasanul Huq Inu, general secretary of the JSD, Prof. Sajedur Rashid of Dhaka University, Prof. Muniruzzaman Mia, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, Khalilur Rahman of the JRC, Syed Habibullah of the BUP and senior journalists Haroon Hobbil, Sohrab Hossain and Morol Nazrul Islam.

Nepal is being represented by a 52-member delegation which include Dhaman Nath Dhungana, former speaker, Jhala Nath Khanal, member, central committee of Communist Party of Nepal (CPN), Rabindra Nath Sharma, former finance minister, Pashupathi Shumsher JB Rana, former minister for water resources, Laxman Prasad Ghimire, former minister for water resources, Hiranyan Lal Shrestha, member of the CPN and journalist Rajendra Dahal.

Expressing Bangladesh's total support to the concept of regional and sub-regional cooperation, Dr SA Malek said the countries of the region have a shared vision, and all should make the best use of the huge potentials and opportunities for the welfare of the people. He pointed out that Sheikh

Hasina's government is actively pursuing a policy of working together with the countries of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna basins with a view to promoting collaborative development in the region. The conference will conclude tomorrow with a set of recommendations for harnessing waters of the eastern Himalayan rivers for the welfare of the three countries. Explaining water policy of the Awami League government, he said it had clearly and unequivocally declared the intention of the government that all necessary measures would be taken to manage the water resources of the country in a comprehensive, integrated and equitable manner.

AL vows to fight

From page 1

suspects with a human heart," one member was quoted as saying.

They said elements of corruption had penetrated into the law enforcing agencies because of long years of neglect and abuse by political authorities. They hoped that "Hasina's government" would be able to make a difference in this regard.

"We'll not show mercy to criminals whoever they may be," Hasina said, in response. The ALCWC expressed deep concern at the growing number of the accused criminals being bailed out through the legal loopholes.

As the prime minister is meeting the representatives of the aid-giving countries, the ALCWC members spoke in favour of the party's present position of an open-agenda dialogue with the main opposition BNP if the latter wanted it.

Hasina is hosting a dinner tonight for the diplomats, who have already met with the Opposition leader Khaleda Zia on March 25 last.

Discussing the incident of deaths of two persons in bomb blasts inside the Chhatak residence of a ruling party MP, an angry presidium member described the "lawlessness in Sunamganj" as a result of intra-party rivalry.

The presidium member from the greater Sylhet region, Suranjit Sengupta, also demanded an investigation into the incident by a party committee.

The home minister said he had order police probe into the Chhatak incident impartially, "no matter whether or not ruling party men were involved".

The meeting, from 10:30am to late afternoon with a lunch break, also heard foreign minister Abdus Samad Azad, LGRD

Italy, France

From page 1 day that he expects a meeting next week of the so-called Contact Group — the United States and five European powers — on Kosovo.

He said the meeting would take place before a long-scheduled conference Friday of foreign ministry political directors representing the Group of Seven industrialised nations and Russia.

President Boris Yeltsin had asked Thursday for foreign ministers from the G-7 and Russia to meet to discuss halting NATO air attacks on Yugoslavia.

All the G-7 nations except Japan are taking part in the assault, and it had appeared unlikely they would agree to Yeltsin's request.

Dini said he consulted US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and foreign ministers of Britain, Germany and France on the matter by telephone Friday night, getting favorable responses.

In Paris, the office of French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine released a statement saying he believes such meetings would be "useful".

Also today, D'Alema made an unscheduled visit to the Vatican, which has made repeated appeals for talks to end the fighting.

Earlier, Russia today condemned NATO attacks that hit targets near a hospital and the Russian Embassy in Belgrade, and warned of "grave consequences" if Russian citizens are wounded in future airstrikes.

Russia's Foreign Ministry called the attack a "barbarous act" because of its closeness to the hospital compound, which was shaken but not damaged. The Russian embassy was also too close for comfort, the ministry said.

Chhatak blast All-party protest meet on Apr 6

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 3: An all-party meeting has been called at the thana headquarters of Chhatak on April 6 to protest the bomb blast incident at the house of ruling party MP Muhibur Rahman Manik.

The thana unit of Jatiya Party held a rally at Chhatak Bus Stand this afternoon demanding immediate arrest of the MP and others involved in the bomb-making. The agitators also brought out a procession at the thana headquarters condemning the bomb blast incident. Advocate Akikur Reza Chowdhury, Secretary of thana unit of JP, presided over the rally.

Jamaat-E-Islami and BNP also plan to hold separate meetings, protesting the same incident, on April 9 and April 15 respectively, said sources concerned.

The tri-nation conference is being held at the joint initiative of the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Dhaka, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi, and the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Kathmandu.

While the experts from three countries showed enormous possibilities of greater cooperation in the water sector, the overall observation made by the participants was that unless the deep-rooted mistrust, that still persists in the region, can be removed, the countries of the region would continue to suffer.

They also advocated for a stronger political will in all three countries and freeing the political arena from the communal vices and religious extremism to restore the much-desired trust.

and cooperatives minister and AL general secretary Zillur Rahman, senior members of AL presidium including Amir Hossain Amu, commerce and industries minister Tofail Ahmed, food and agriculture minister Matia Chowdhury, forest and environment minister Sajeda Chowdhury and finance minister SAMS Kibria.

Sources said the finance minister gave a briefing on the current state of the economy, which he described as satisfactory, especially after the prolonged flooding last year.

The food and agriculture minister also came up with words of relief, saying there would be no food shortages. A number of ALCWC members expressed dismay over the power supply situation, which they said was affecting public life and the economy.

"If needed, I will bring in ready-made power plants from abroad to install here," sources quoted Hasina as telling the party members.

As many of the party colleagues criticised Abdul Kader Siddiqui for his meeting with the BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia on the Eid day, the celebrated freedom fighter retorted by saying that he saw nothing wrong in sharing Eid greetings with her as a citizen of the country.

The meeting decided that the golden jubilee of the founding of the Awami League would be celebrated on June 23 this year. In May, it was decided, the party would organise big public meetings in all divisional headquarters except Dhaka.

The meeting agreed with Dhaka mayor and ALCWC member Mohammad Hanif as he proposed to host a civic reception in honour of the prime minister for her winning a prestigious UNESCO award.

NATO bombs Belgrade

From page 1

junction used by Serb forces.

The Serb-run Media Centre in Pristina reported that missiles had hit military barracks in the southern Kosovo town of Urosvac and an explosion occurred near the border town of Kacanik.

Tanjung said missiles hit the southwestern Kosovo town of Djakovica twice on Friday, and that other attacks killed two ethnic Albanians and injured six, including two children.

Today's bombings signalled a promised escalation of the NATO air campaign intended to force Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to accept a peace plan on Kosovo, a province of Serbia, Yugoslavia's dominant republic.

Despite 11 days of missile and bombing raids on Yugoslav targets, Milosevic's forces are continuing a terror campaign to drive ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo, NATO officials say.

NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said more than 2,90,000 ethnic Albanian refugees had been expelled over the past 10 days and estimated that 200,000 to 300,000 more were heading toward the borders.

NATO decided today to send up to 6,000 Italian troops to Albania to protect the humanitarian operation dealing with the refugee flow, Shea said.

In neighbouring Macedonia where 50,000 people waited to cross the border, the government announced today it could not accept any more Kosovo refugees and the army would block the illegal entry of any more of the displaced.

Macedonia, a former Yugoslav republic, has large Serb and ethnic Albanian communities and fears the tensions that exploded into open conflict in Kosovo could sweep across its territory.

3 DB men

From page 1

murder took place. The interrogation started at the CID conference room yesterday evening and was continuing till writing of this report last night.

CID sources said that more DB personnel would be interrogated in connection with the murder.

In another development, AIG Nurul Huda met the Home Minister yesterday and discussed about the investigation. The minister ordered the authorities concerned to investigate the murder and asked the DB to cooperate with the CID team, the sources said.

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BM College teacher's house ransacked

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 3: A group of youths ransacked the house of a teacher of Government BM College here today.

The angry youths attacked the house of Khan Habibur Rahman, lecturer, Department of Zoology, for his alleged remarks about War of Liberation, witnesses said.

They went on a rampage and allegedly looted gold ornaments and cash and damaged some furniture of the house near the college campus. Police brought the situation under control. However, no case has been filed.

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