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People won't respond to opposition's movement: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the people would not respond to the opposition's "movement for protecting the killers of Bangabandhu," reports UNB.

"Opposition movement is to protect the killers, so this movement cannot be successful, people will not respond to their oust-government movement," she said while inaugurating Bangladesh Krishak League council meeting at Ramna.

The Prime Minister asked the Krishak League leaders to strengthen the organisation to protect the interest of the peasants.

Larma

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"We are planning a big ceremony to mark the historic day," the minister added. Tribal headmen, elders, UP leaders, members of the three hill district councils and guests from Dhaka will attend the ceremony, he said.

The minister said, assumption of charge by the RC Chairman-designate will be an important event since it will help full implementation of the CHT peace agreement and spur development of the region after decades of insurgency.

Earlier on Monday, the PCJSS (Parbattya Chharam Jana Sanghati Samity) announced that its Chairman JB Larma would assume the charge of the interim RC following the Prime Minister's assurance that all "inconsistencies" in the CHT agreement would be removed.

The government in an announcement on September 6, 1998 designated JB Larma as Chairman of the interim RC. But the PCJSS had been undecided about it, saying that a number of "contentious" issues like amendments to the three district council acts and resettlement of the displaced persons remained to be sorted out.

Meanwhile, informed sources said that the government would examine if there were any inconsistencies in the hill district council acts. "It will not be a problem to iron out the remaining differences between the two sides," a source said.

If needed, amendments will be placed before the Parliament, they added.

Police beat up MPs

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Charge Rafiqul Islam led the assault on the MPs near the Bijoyanagar-Purana Paltan crossing. The OC was seen assaulting Faruk and other policemen swooped on Khoka.

Five policemen were also injured in the Bijoyanagar clashes and were admitted to the Raigarh Police Hospital.

Witnesses said police charged batons and fired tear-gas shells after several homemade bombs were hurled from the BNP procession after it was obstructed in its march towards the Purana Paltan crossing.

The police action came after their scuffle with the opposition MPs who tried to proceed toward the Topkhana Road. Then they fired tear-gas shells to disperse the processionists.

Police also used rubber bullets after the angry BNP activists reportedly damaged cars near the party central office at 1.15pm.

Opposition

From Page 1

activists at different parts of the city. At Jatrabari, he said, police fired about 200 rounds of bullets and tear-gas shells while terrorists exploded bombs on pickets during the shutdown.

He alleged that police entered BNP central office at about 1 pm and indiscriminately beat up leaders and activists without any apparent cause. He also claimed that police arrested more than 150 party workers and that some 100 activists were wounded during the hartal.

Jamaat-e-Islami publicity secretary Abdul Quader Mollah said: I don't believe police men can pull sari of women activists. Those uniformed persons who pulled sari must be Awami League cadres. They must be sacked, otherwise we will think that the incident occurred at the instruction of minister concerned."

Islamic Oikya Jote said the police force is now playing the role of "Rakkhi Bahini" at the instruction of the government.

There was no representative of Jamaat-e-Islami at the press briefing. Mannan Bhuiyan said JP leaders are on way to BNP office, but "we concluded the briefing prior to Magrib prayer".

The opposition parties will bring out demonstration this afternoon to protest police attack on activists.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

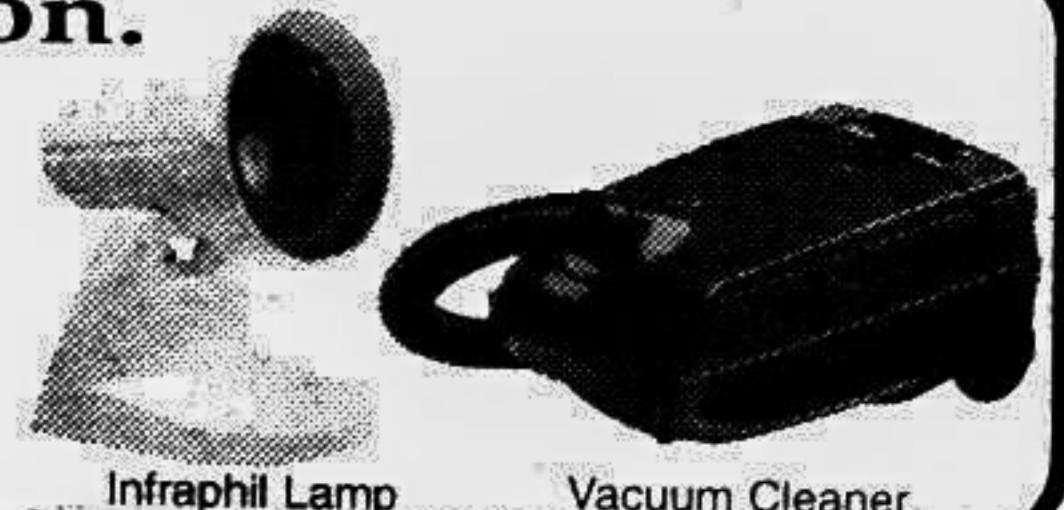
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Ctg lawyers continue boycott of CMM's court

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 11: The lawyers of Chittagong district Bar Council continued boycott of CMM's court for the second day today.

The lawyers began boycott programme for an indefinite period yesterday demanding withdrawal of CMM (Chief Metropolitan Magistrate), Chittagong for his alleged involvement in various corruption, including granting bail to some criminals.

Shazneen murder

From Page 1
case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995 with Gulshan thana after the murder.

Earlier, Latifur Rahman had filed a murder case with the same thana. The murder trial has already begun at the Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court.

In charge sheets for both the cases, police accused seven persons -- domestic help Shahid, contractor Hasan, supervisor Badal, carpenter Shani Ram, guard Humayun Kabir and maid Parveen and Minu. Of the accused, guard Humayun Kabir died of a cardiac arrest on January 11.

Earlier, they went to the secretariat in a procession and held a brief rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Work stoppage at BSMMU from today

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