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PHILIPS

Rashed Mosarraf seems winning the battle

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Jamalpur Awami League leaders who took on Rashed Mosarraf seem to have run out of steam while the state minister is clearly on way to winning the battle.

The five MPs who were reported to have spearheaded the "suspension" decision on Saturday themselves appeared divided on the issue. Some of them were evasive.

One of the five is state minister for religious affairs Maulana Nurul Islam.

At least one of the MPs who could be reached by phone even denied her reported presence in the meeting that decided on the suspension. Another said he had little knowledge of the developments.

The Jamalpur AL president and four other party MPs from the district, who were to meet party chief and prime minister Sheikh Hasina to explain their position on the issue, could not meet her until yesterday. It was also decided that the five-member team would appeal to the PM to remove Mosarraf as minister in charge of Jamalpur district.

The Jamalpur AL on Saturday suspended Mosarraf's membership in the district chapter on charges of undermining the district committee and misconduct with the party MPs from the area.

Mosarraf has meantime explained his position to some top party leaders including general secretary Zillur Rahman. He has also written to prime minister Sheikh Hasina, de-

Steps being taken to build hotel at ZIA

Hartal observed at Rajbari demanding bridge over Padma

Necessary steps are being taken to build a hotel of international standard at ZIA international Airport (ZIA), reports BSS.

A press release of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued here yesterday said, like many other countries, it has been planned to construct a hotel of international standard at ZIA.

The government has advised the CAA to accelerate the implementation of hotel construction under BOT (build, own and transfer) system with a view to creating accommodation for foreign guests during the NAM summit, to be held in Dhaka in 2001, the press release added.

A total of eight proposals were submitted after the authorities called on December 13 last year for proposals to construct the hotel.

After preparing the comparative statement, the release said, the authorities issued letter of intent on May 19 this year in favour of the Prizama Parmita SDN, BHD.

But as per the terms of conditions, Prizama Parmita could not submit the earnest money and performance guarantee within June 1.

Involuntary resettlement

New WB safeguard policies by year end

In a bid to convert its already mandatory safeguard policies for involuntary resettlement against development projects, World Bank yesterday released a draft policy seeking public comments before finalisation, reports UNB.

"There is already a policy, but case studies on development projects around the world encouraged the Bank to take the new policy," Reidar Kvan, team leader of Bangladesh Social Development Unit of the World Bank, told a press conference here in the afternoon.

He said the new policy is expected to come into being by the end of this year after necessary processes, including reviewing the comments from the masses.

"It's almost final after two years consultation, but the Bank management wants further consultation to finalise it," said the senior anthropologist of the Social Development Unit of the World Bank for South Asian Region.

People can rush their opinion on the draft till first week of September, he added.

Kvan said if poor people are displaced from their homes or lose agricultural lands and other assets, it can cause hardship and impoverishment.

"While Bangladesh and other countries have laws governing land acquisition, these laws generally only provide for basic compensation when government expropriates land, and is limited to land and private property," he said.

He said the laws do not provide compensation to the tenants, traditional user groups and those losing access to

3 policemen suspended in Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, July 21: Three police Sub-Inspectors (SI) were suspended for their alleged negligence of duties, and allegations lodged by local people, reports UNB.

They are SI Salsuddin and Moazzem Hossain of Sadar thana and Samuddoha of Kaukhali thana.

Forex seized

By Staff Correspondent
Foreign currency worth about Tk. 6.75 lakh was seized from a foreign national at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Tuesday.

According to customs officials, Van Der Heijen tried to pass through the customs hall with US dollar 13,250 on his way to board an Emirates flight at about 8:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

Customs surveillance team on suspicion searched him and recovered the money which he was carrying without any prior declaration.

A departmental case was lodged in this connection with the incident.

Rajuk

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widespread reaction.

Asked in which meeting the plots had been allocated, the official preferred not to answer the question. However, it is learned that the plots were allocated at the directive of Public Works and Housing Minister Engineer Mosarraf Hossain.

The meeting to give approval to the PM's directive was held off twice as there has been no such rules and regulation of Rajuk.

"Such directive was the first ever Rajuk has received from a head of the government," another Rajuk official said.

The meeting was scheduled for the day before yesterday, but it could not get off due to unavoidable circumstances.

Informed sources, however, said the board meeting could not take place in the wake of Sunday's agitation by Rajuk employees who demanded allotment of plot from special quota for Rajuk employees.



This has been the regular scene on the road from Saidabad Bus Terminal to Jatrabari crossing. Every morning, commuters stuck in the congestion complain, it takes up to three hours to crawl through the chaos.

— Star photo by Sh. Enamul Haq



A partial view of the ravaged garment factory of Dhaka Dyeing. The picture was taken yesterday.

— Star photo

Alleged vandalism in garment unit Owner lodges complaint against MP Iqbal

By Staff Correspondent

The owner of Dhaka Dyeing and BGMEA vice-president, Nurul Haq Sikder, has lodged a complaint with Ramma thana accusing ruling party MP HBM Iqbal and some unidentified persons of vandalising his garment factory on Tuesday afternoon.

I've lodged an FIR with Ramma thana in which HBM Iqbal, a member of parliament from the ruling party, and a group of unidentified persons were accused for storming my garment factory at Eskaton on Tuesday afternoon," Sikder said at a press conference at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) office yesterday.

The meeting also discussed the plan to expand the activities of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy up to district and thana levels.

Committee member Taslima Hossain has been made convenor of the probe body. The other members of the committee are Ramesh Chandra Sen and Shamsul Alam Pramanik.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of the implementation of development programmes taken earlier in various offices and departments under Cultural Affairs Ministry.

The sign of vandalism was evident during a visit to the factory by this correspondent yesterday. Huge garment items were scattered on the floor. Some damaged machines were also lying on the floor.

Committee members State Minister for Sports, Youth and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, Ramesh Chandra Sen, M Abdul Latif Biswas, Taslima Hossain and Shamsul Alam Pramanik and M Harunur Rashid attended the meeting.

He alleged that a group of terrorists under the leadership of Iqbal attacked the factory, destroyed exportable goods and smashed valuable machines and furniture. "They also locked the gate following the incident," he alleged.

The sign of vandalism was evident during a visit to the factory by this correspondent yesterday. Huge garment items were scattered on the floor. Some damaged machines were also lying on the floor.

LED by Kari Ashraf, they also laid down 22 fire arms and 34 bullets.

Of the surrendered persons, 19 from Kotwali thana, 16 from Bagherpara thana and one from Chougachha thana.

Police said another group of six outlaws belonging to Biplobi Communist Party, from Abhoynagar thana, led by Rafiqul Islam, surrendered to the SP, Jessor on ten fire arms yesterday.

Sinha said the attack by a ruling party MP on a garment factory was unprecedented and

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36 more outlaws surrender

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 21: Thirty-six armed cadres of outlawed Sramajibi Mukti Andolan from three thanas of the district surrendered to the Superintendent of Police, Jessor today.

LED by Kari Ashraf, they also laid down 22 fire arms and 34 bullets.

Of the surrendered persons, 19 from Kotwali thana, 16 from Bagherpara thana and one from Chougachha thana.

Police said another group of six outlaws belonging to Biplobi Communist Party, from Abhoynagar thana, led by Rafiqul Islam, surrendered to the SP, Jessor on ten fire arms yesterday.

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'Local, non-local' factions of JCD clash at JU: 5 hurt

By JU Correspondent

At least five people were injured when two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) clashed over formation of a new university committee at JU yesterday noon.

The two 'local' and 'non-local' factions clashed in presence of the JCD central committee president, vice president and general secretary.

The injured are former students Faisal, Tutul, Biplobi, university guard Anwar Hossain and an unidentified outsider.

Tension gripped the campus as over 60 outsiders in four microbuses and 15 motor bikes entered the campus at around 10 am and gathered in front of Social Science Building where a meeting to form a new university committee was scheduled to be held.

The meeting was scheduled for the day before yesterday, but it could not get off due to unavoidable circumstances.

When JCD president Habibnabi Sohel, vice president Monowar Hossain Rana, general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and local MP Dewan Salauddin arrived, all the waiting outsiders again entered the campus. The two groups

locked in a clash at around 12 noon when the nonlocals protested the presence of outsiders on the campus. The outsiders entered the campus allegedly in aid of the locals.

The clash stopped at the intervention by the JCD central leaders but the local MP left the scene.

At that time, some Bangladesh Chhatra League activists chased the outsiders and drove them out of the campus.

At this, the agitated 'local' JCD activists put up a barricade on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway near the PATC for about 90 minutes. They also damaged ten buses and two trucks.

Tension heightened when some 15 rounds of gunshots were fired allegedly by local JCD men near the Bishnai Gate of the university at around 1:15 pm.

Meanwhile, leaders of the two feuding groups held a meeting in presence of the JCD central leaders. The meeting lasted for a few minutes and ended without any decision.

The local JCD faction at JU comprises students from Savar and adjoining areas while the non locals comprise students from rest of the country.

Clashes mark BNP-called hartal at Manikganj

17 hurt, 100 vehicles damaged

MANIKGANJ, July 21: Sporadic clashes left at least 17 people injured and a hundred vehicles damaged as opposition BNP enforced a dawn-to-dusk hartal here today to protest Tuesday's killing of a JCD leader, reports UNB.

A murder case was lodged with police against 14 people, including Chhatra League leader Asgar Ali, on charge of killing Kabul.

BNP and JCD had called the hartal also demanding arrest of the killers of Kabul Hossain Kabul. An MA student of Government Debendra College, he was chopped to death by some assailants on his way to Goshor Bazar in the town on Tuesday.

Witnesses said troubles erupted when Chhatra League supporters hurled stones and crackers on a mourning procession brought out by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at the Rupnagar Bank Crossing in the town.

At least 14 JCD activists, including its president Samsul Islam, were injured during exchange of gunshots between the two rival student groups.

BNP and JCD had called the hartal also demanding arrest of the killers of Kabul Hossain Kabul. An MA student of Government Debendra College, he was chopped to death by some assailants on his way to Goshor Bazar in the town on Tuesday.

Riot police resorted to baton charge and fired teargas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the clashing groups.

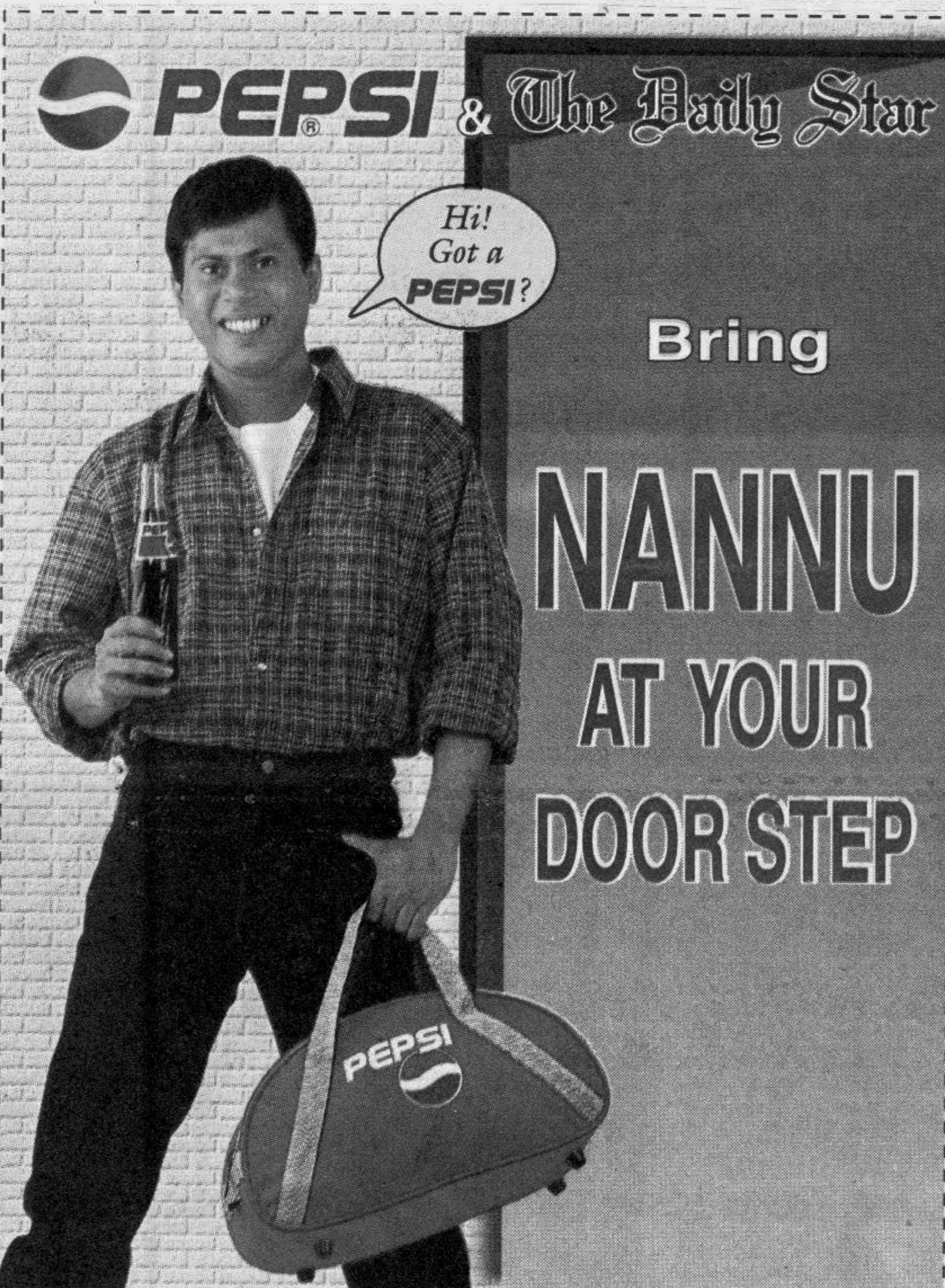
Road communications between Dhaka and other parts in southern-northern region remained snarled during the hartal hour as JCD and Jubo Dal

activists put up barricades on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in the morning.

The pickets damaged a hundred of passing vehicles on the highway, witnesses and officials said.

All shops, business establishments, banks and educational institutions also remained closed during the hartal.

Meanwhile, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday protested the "firing by Awami terrorists" on a procession that was carrying the body of a JCD activist, killed in Manikganj on Tuesday, and demanded the arrest of the killers.



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