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The Daily Star

Jubo League
leader murder
sparks violence
at Atrai

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Aug 6: The violence sparked by the murder of Atrai Jubo League leader Anwar Hossain Belal, continued in the area for the second day today.

At least ten people were injured, one of them seriously, in the violence.

Anwar Hossain Belal, 32, brother of assassinated Awami League leader Siddiquur Rahman Raja, was murdered by a group of unidentified assailants at Singsara Damdama village under Atrai thana Wednesday night.

Protesting the murder, the agitating supporters of Belal set two houses ablaze near the killing spot yesterday.

They also beat up ten BNP activists and set fire to one oil depot, three cloth stores and five stationery shops at Atrai thana headquarters today.

The seriously injured BNP activists Mujibur Rahman was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. His condition is stated to be critical.

Local unit of Awami League blamed BNP activists for the murder.

They brought out a procession at Atrai today demanding immediate arrest of the killers.

None was arrested in connection with Belal murder till writing of this report at 8 pm today.

Transport workers threaten strike from Aug 10

Nearly 10 lakh transport workers have threatened to go for an indefinite strike across the country from August 10 to press home their 11-point demand, reports UNB.

The demands include amendment to the Industrial Relations Ordinance 1969, cancellations of fake registration of transport workers' union and owners' association, effective steps to stop illegal toll collection and highway robbery.

Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation has called the strike from 6 am Tuesday after its several rounds of talks with the government failed.

In support of the indefinite strike, the transport workers will bring out "transport procession" in the capital from Mahakhal Inter-District Bus Terminal today.

The Federation led by its president Wazluddin Khan, MP, and executive president Shahjahan Khan, MP, both from the ruling Awami League, had enforced strike in 1997 and 1998 to realise its demands.

Earlier, the Federation signed agreements with the government thrice but those were not implemented, said Federation office secretary M H Rahaman.

In reply to a question, he said Communications Minister Anwar Hossain invited the Federation leaders to a meeting tomorrow (Aug 8) to discuss the

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Prayer Timings

August 7	
Azan	Jamaat
4-10	4-15
12-50	1-25
Asr	5-00
Maghrib	6-55
Esha	7-55
	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Oxygen supply disrupted for several hours at DMCH

Death of four patients at ICU alleged

By Staff Correspondent

Normal supply of oxygen at different units of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) including the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was disrupted for several hours starting from the early hours of yesterday as the 'disk' of the liquid oxygen tank leaked.

There were allegations that four persons died at the ICU yesterday due to disruption in oxygen supply, caused by leakage in the oxygen tank.

The four were identified as Bhanu, 20; Kamrul Hasan, 18; Shila, 25, and Mosarrat, 10.

According to hospital sources, all the four died between 2 am and 7 am yesterday.

When contacted, a senior doctor at the ICU denied the allegations saying, "Condition of the patients was very bad and their chances of survival was very slim."

One of the patients was suffering from pesticide poisoning. Three others were suffering from meningitis (brain death), viral infection of brain and myopathy (breathing problem)", he told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

Other doctors said, ICU always keeps adequate stock of oxygen cylinders as alternative arrangement. "There was no shortage of oxygen cylinders," another doctor claimed.

When contacted Business Manager of BOC's Medical Division Mohammad Saber said, "The safety disk of the tank that prevents gas explosion leaked automatically."

He said, "When the disk 'leaked' DMCH authorities did not inform our technicians stationed at the hospital. So, naturally there was a crisis of oxygen."

Saber claimed that there was no pipeline supply of oxygen at the DMCH from 1 am to 7 am yesterday. BOC is responsible for supplying oxygen at the DMCH.

The oxygen pipeline system was recently introduced at the hospital. The hospital always keeps a large quantity of oxygen cylinders for any emergency, Saber said.



The liquid oxygen tank at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

— Star photo

Sitakunda BNP leader murder: 4 arrested

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: Four people were arrested today in connection with the killing of Sitakunda thana BNP leader Chowdhury Md Shahjahan.

Of the arrested, three were FIR-named accused in the murder case. The names of the arrested could not be known.

The *Janaja* for Md. Shahjahan was held this morning and he was buried at the family graveyard.

After the *Janaja*, local BNP activists brought out a procession on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, disrupting traffic for several hours. They chanted slogans demanding immediate arrest of the killers.

The JU authorities have agreed in principle to file cases against the accused in the wake of mounting student protests on the campus, sources concerned said.

Earlier in October last year, the authorities had refused to file cases against the identified rapists and killers despite strong agitations by the students.

Meanwhile, the General Stu-

dents Unity (GSU) at JU brought out a torch procession and held a rally yesterday, demanding filing of criminal cases against the students responsible for rapes and killings on the campus.

According to a probe body report, a BCL leader, Ananda Ghosh, was killed in a clash between rival factions on November 3, 1997.

Meanwhile, the Karmachari

Cases against 'rapists and killers'

JU authorities to work out modalities today

From Gobinda Bar at Jahangirnagar University

dent's Unity (GSU) at JU brought out a torch procession and held a rally yesterday, demanding filing of criminal cases against the students responsible for rapes and killings on the campus.

According to a probe body report, a BCL leader, Ananda Ghosh, was killed in a clash between rival factions on November 3, 1997.

Meanwhile, the Karmachari Union, associations of class three and class four employees respectively of JU, will go on a week-long strike from today to press their demands.

The demands include their representation in the JU Senate, Syndicate and Finance Committee and an end to 20 per cent deduction from their pension money.

The university authorities have decided to meet leaders of the employees associations tomorrow.

Huge outstanding loans

Janata Bank summons Beximco owner

By Inam Ahmed

The Janata Bank (JB) has decided to summon Salman F Rahman, owner of Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Monday to discuss how he will repay the bank's huge outstanding loans to his companies.

"We have called Beximco owner Monday to explain the bouncing of cheques and his loan situation," said Managing Director of JB Aminul Islam, talking to The Daily Star.

But local people told this correspondent that Sanjoy was killed by his rivals of the party. All but Sanjoy of the Daulatpur-based unit of PBPC surrendered to police on July 30. Police recovered a printed black cap and the motorbike he was riding before being gunned down.

None has so far been arrested in this connection.

In another incident, sweeper Sitaram, 38, was stabbed to

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death at Motijheel on Saturday morning.

The Janata Bank (JB) has decided to summon Salman F Rahman, owner of Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Monday to discuss how he will repay the bank's huge outstanding loans to his companies.

JB will also notify the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) and the SEC about Beximco's failure to repay debt.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Bank is conducting an investigation into the irregularities in sanctioning loans.

Beximco Pharma had deposited three post-dated cheques with JB which later bounced thrice and it then took out money without meeting the loan conditions.

The persons responsible will be identified and the

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Moslemuddin Delhi yet to confirm arrest

Star Report

The government is yet to receive any official information from the Indian authorities that Assam police have arrested a person resembling Moslemuddin, sentenced to death in absentia in the Bangabandhu murder case, BBC reported yesterday.

BCB quoted Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad as saying that the Indian government did not officially inform anything about the reported arrest.

Fifteen persons have been sentenced to death in the Bangabandhu murder case. Five of them are in jail. The government has requested Interpol for arrest of the absconders.

SPA was scrapped on Dec 6, '90, claims Ershad

Deposed president H M Ershad has accused President Shahabuddin Ahmed of violating the Constitution by not executing an ordinance abrogating the Special Powers Act while he was head of the caretaker government, reports UNB.

The Special Powers Act was revoked, along with two other acts, on December 6, 1990," said Ershad, who stood down the same day in the face of an uprising against his nine-year regime.

But Shahabuddin, as head of the caretaker government thereafter, did not execute the ordinance regarding SPA although the two others were implemented, alleged Ershad who is chairman of opposition Jatiya Party.

Ershad was talking to the leaders of National Lawyers Federation who called on him at his Baridhara office yesterday.

Ershad spoke his mind amid a controversy on the SPA issue.

"It was an extreme violation of the state Constitution. He violated the Constitution, although as a Justice it was his duty to protect the Constitution," the former president said, terming it a 'lone instance in world history.'

He also shrugged off the idea that he tried to strike off the strong-arm law to protect himself. "It's totally a false propaganda."

The prime minister, minis-

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Providing corridor is treachery: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

She was addressing an emergency joint meeting of National Executive Committee, National Standing Committee, Advisory Council, MPs and presidents and general secretaries of all front organisations at her Minto Road official residence.

"The government, since its assumption of power, has been taking steps that go against the independence, sovereignty, integrity and interests of the country. It is now trying to invite a disaster for the nation by giving corridor to India," she said.

Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Abdur Sattar Khan visited the site and requested the mosque committee to suspend their building construction work to facilitate excavation.

Director of the Museum Akku Choudhury said when contacted over telephone yesterday evening.

"We are yet to reach the bottom of the well where we may find more human bones," he said.

Digging was suspended yesterday and will be started after giving protection to the adjoining wall so that it does not collapse due to digging, he said.

A human skull was found in the well when the mosque committee started digging it for piling work on July 27. They informed the Liberation War Museum authorities which started digging there on July 31.

So far, more than 150 pieces of human bone, clothing materials, sandals, boots and some other articles have been recovered from the well.

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The meeting warned that the government would not be allowed to implement its conspiracy and vowed to resist this "heinous game" at any cost.

An unprecedented secrecy was maintained during the

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