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Liaison body meets again today to finalise programme

By Staff Correspondent

The liaison committee of the BNP-led opposition alliance has reiterated its determination to further intensify the one-point movement to oust the government.

The committee which sat yesterday to chalk out fresh agitation programmes failed to do so and decided to meet this morning to finalise the next course of action. Held at the official residence of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the meeting was chaired by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

"We will discuss with the leadership of our respective parties and finalise fresh programmes in tomorrow's (Monday) meeting," said a liaison body member.

The meeting condemned and protested the killing of some Bangladeshis and push-in by the Indian BSF in different border areas including Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Jessor and assembling of thousands of people along the borders for further push-in. It also protested BSF's firing of thousands of gunshots, mortar shells and violation of air space by Indian helicopter at Kurigram border.

Another hartal in last week of this month likely

The BNP-led four-party opposition alliance is likely to enforce a nationwide hartal in the last week of this month to gear up the one-point oust-government movement, reports UNB.

"We have discussed either to enforce hartal or stage demonstration to intensify the ongoing one-point demand. A final decision will be taken tomorrow (Monday) at a meeting of the liaison committee," said a member of the liaison committee after attending its meeting yesterday.

The four opposition parties will announce fresh programmes from their separate rallies today.

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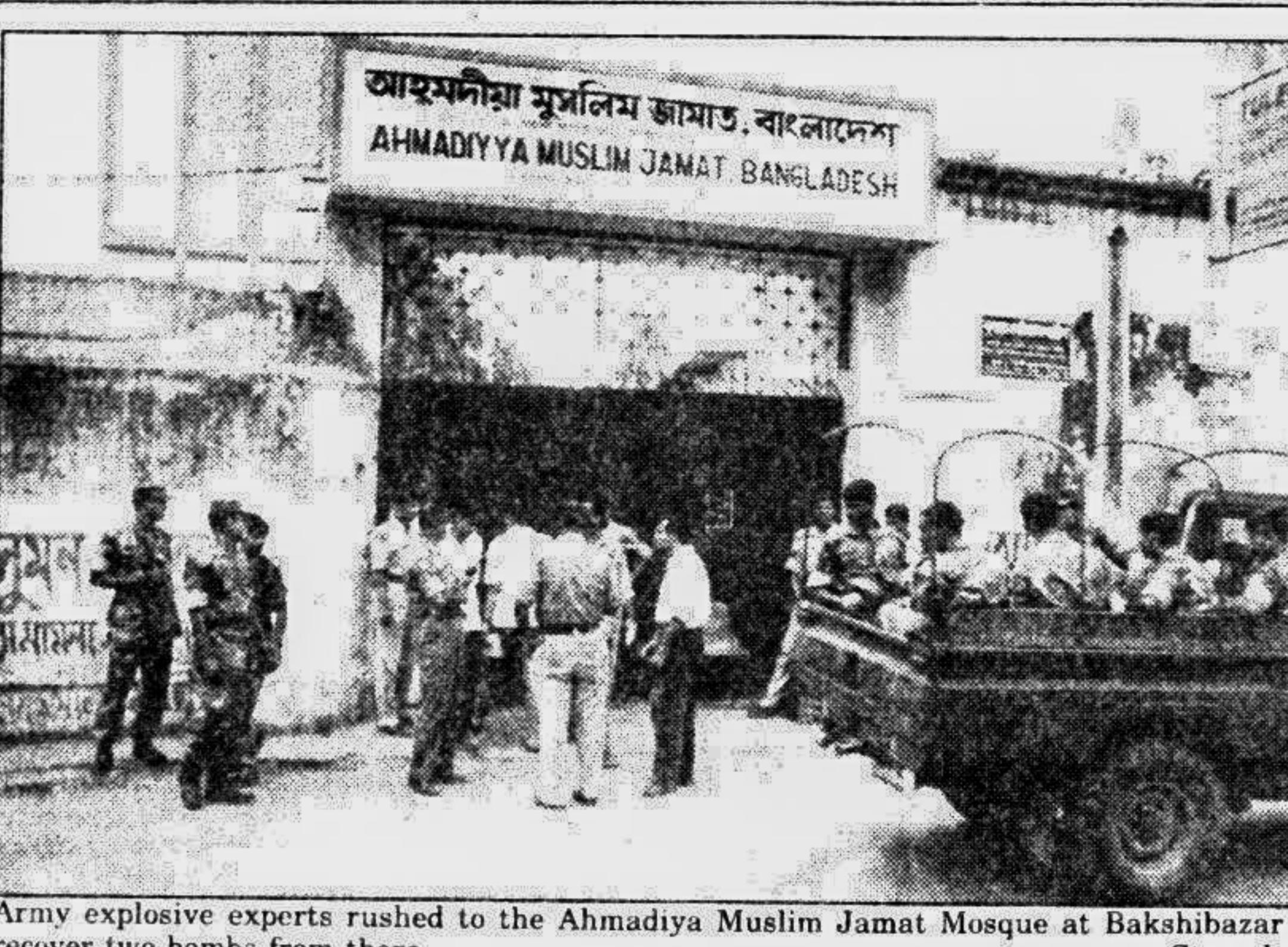
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Army explosive experts rushed to the Ahmadiya Muslim Jamat Mosque at Bakshibazar to recover two bombs from there.

— Star photo

Shab-e-Meraj on Nov 6

Holy Shab-e-Meraj will be observed on the night of November 6 as the Hijri month on Rajab begins tomorrow, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held at the Islamic Foundation auditorium yesterday.

Committee President and State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam presided over the meeting.

It was decided at the meeting that as the moon was not sighted anywhere in Bangladesh yesterday, the month of Rajab will begin tomorrow (Tuesday).

According to local people, the terrorists exploded bombs and fired shots, leaving at least

20 houses damaged, 50 hurt

Armed terrorists go on rampage at Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 10: At least 50 people were injured and over 20 houses and shops were damaged in a fresh attack by a group of armed terrorists in Amanaganj and Palashpur slum areas in the town at around 12:45 pm today.

Over 20 dwelling houses, including roadside shops were damaged and looted by the gang.

They also attacked the houses of the district BNP secretary Ebadul Haq Chand and his relatives. Chand could manage to flee during the attack.

BNP ward office at Palashpur and its secretary Manik's house were also damaged by the terrorists.

The trouble began after a group of slum dwellers of Palashpur slum brought out a procession demanding trial of those involved in an alleged incident of rape at the slum.

Judge Amar Kumar Roy fixed November 3 for recording the statement of the prosecution witnesses.

The prosecution in brief: The accused Nazir Rahman along with five other co-accused misappropriated government money while he held the office of the Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation.

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The arrested was identified as Shahidul Islam, also an accused in four murder cases.

Meanwhile, police claimed they made further headway in interrogation of Ershad Shikdar, Lilaquat Lashkar and Noor-e-Alam. Twenty-five senior police officials are interrogating the three alleged terrorists separately at the KMP headquarters. The interrogation was going on till filling of this report at 7:30 pm today.

The DC (South) of KMP said that Ershad had confessed his involvement with an international gang of drug traffickers.

He also admitted having purchased a land at Uttara in Dhaka for Tk 19 lakh from one Hitlu, also an international smuggler, DC added.

Lilaquat Lashkar has confessed that he is one of the eyewitnesses of the murders of three persons committed by Ershad Shikdar, but there is no protection from the administration. "Is it not a violation of rights?"

She alleged that her husband's lawyers (including Advocate Monjurul Alam — Shova's paternal uncle) are being threatened by local influential people not to stand by Ershad Shikdar, but there is no protection from the administration. "Is it not a violation of rights?"

Asked if Shikdar had any links with political leaders, Shova disclosed names of a number of high-ups from the ruling and the opposition parties.

"All these people frequently talked to my husband and were in touch with him." None of them came to this house, she added.

Regarding Shikdar's alleged illegal activities, she said she was never allowed to ask about her husband's wealth and property or his business activities. "Although, I was curious, I had no scope to know what were his sources of income," she said.

Shova, who claims she is the second wife of Shikdar, said, "my husband only told me he is a contractor supplying building materials and owns a number of shops."

Asked about the alleged murders by Shikdar, she said, "I don't believe he murdered so many people."

Regarding theft of Railway property, she said, if he is found guilty, law should take its own course.

Asked about Shikdar's first wife's (Khodeja Begum) whereabouts, she said, "I am not sure but I hear that she went to India for medical treatment."

The only inmates in the well-protected house now are Shova and Khodeja's mother Farida Begum, with two guards staying on the first floor.

Babu also said that he would move a contempt petition against Zafar Chowdhury for violating the court order.

EC verdict on 'floor-crossing' today

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission today passes the verdict on the controversial case of alleged floor-crossing by two opposition lawmakers.

Two BNP lawmakers — Mohammad Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapan joined the government of Sheikh Hasina in February last year against their party decision.

Since then, the BNP has been accusing them of floor-crossing which it says is tantamount to violating Article 70 of the state's Constitution. The BNP has also been demanding that the seats of the MPs in parliament be declared vacant under the dictates of the article concerned.

But the MPs in question have been arguing that their conduct did not go against the Constitution. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury holds the same view.

However, the controversy went to the Election Commission on August 8 after the Supreme Court ordered Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury to refer the matter to the Commission for a verdict.

The EC asked the contending parties on August 10 to defend their positions in black and white in a week from the date of receipt of the letters.

Relying to the EC on August 17, the last date of one-week deadline, the BNP re-iterated

Transport strike in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 10: Sirajganj District Motor Sramik Union began an indefinite transport strike in Sirajganj-Belkuchi and Sirajganj-Empetpur routes yesterday protesting assault on a bus driver by a shop-owner and his supporters 15 days ago.

Police sources said, a bus damaged a shop at Chala bus stand under Belkuchi thana when its driver failed to control the steering.

The shopowner and his supporters beat up the driver seriously.

Motor Sramik Union had demanded arrest of the shop owner and his supporters by October 8, otherwise, they threatened to go on strike from October 9.

Anti-aggression

From page 1

four parties will separately organise public rallies and bring out processions carrying black flag in all city, district and thana headquarters.

Sources said the opposition parties will announce fresh programme from their respective public rallies in the city today.

In capital Dhaka, the main opposition BNP will hold a public meeting at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm and later bring out procession in the city. BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia is expected to address the meeting.

JP will hold a rally in front of its central office at Kalabagan at 4 pm. Jamaat at the North Gate of Baitul Mukarram at 4 pm while the IOJ at the Purana Paltan mosque premises after the Asr prayers.

Secys gen of 4 opposition parties to sit with Ershad on Wednesday

Secretaries general of the four opposition parties are likely to sit with Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad on Wednesday, according to a decision of the liaison committee yesterday, reports UNB.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan presided over the liaison committee meeting held at 29 Minto Road in the afternoon.

The move was taken to consolidate the unity of the parties in the alliance as well as to work out a joint declaration to advance the current movement to a logical end," a liaison committee member told the news agency.

Such meetings will also be held in a cyclic order with other chiefs of the alliance partners, he said.

The liaison committee leader said besides the secretaries general, members representing the four parties in the liaison committee will also attend the meeting with the party chiefs.

On Friday, BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia had a meeting with the secretaries general and members of the liaison committee at 29 Minto Road.

Tendons of father, sons severed in C'nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 10: Tendons of hands and legs of a father and his two sons were cut allegedly by the Shibir cadres on the court premises here today when they came to appear before the court in connection with the case, reports UNB.

The victims, Suman, 20, Shahin, 18, and their father Saiful Islam, 43, were rushed to the Nababganj Hospital and later shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

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