

Admn politicised

FROM PAGE 12 people wanted to live in a society free from terrorism.

The BNP Chairperson said that the country's economy is now crippled as money is being looted from banks at the sweet will of cabinet ministers and Prime Minister's relatives.

She said widespread terrorism is being institutionalised at the state level. Reckless looting of resources is going on. Judges are being threatened. Religious sentiments of people are being hit. She said none of the opponents of the ruling party is being spared from inhuman torture and political repression.

"We cannot allow state terrorism and politicisation of administration to continue unabated. We are now solidly united to resist state terrorists and thus save the country from sure ruin," she said.

Khaleda said she has the highest regard for engineers whose talent and creativity are essential for country's overall development. She said while in power, BNP did its utmost to look after the professional interests of engineers.

Presided over by MAK Azad, President of Engineers' Institution of Bangladesh, the concluding session was addressed among others by Khan Manzur Morshed, General Secretary of IEB and MA Samad, President of Khulna Centre of IEB.

Khaleda in her written speech said that the country's foreign currency reserve has now hit the lowest level. There is no law and order in the country. Indian smugglers have overtaken the local markets and Bangladeshi entrepreneurs are being phased out of the market due to unequal competition from the smugglers. Terrorism and toll collection have forced closure of mills and industries.

She said none wants to invest money in the country to set up any new industry for fear of going bankrupt. Education system has been ruined. The government has also created deadlock in the energy sector, she said.

Khaleda strongly criticised the government for signing unequal agreements with foreign companies on oil and gas, thereby compromising the country's interest.

She also termed the recommendation of government appointed foreign consultants for the use of groundwater only as suicidal for the country.

She called upon the people to forge greater unity to save the country from the clutches of looters who are now in the state power.

Clash at RU: 97 Shibir activists sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 97 Shibir activists were sued in 97 cases filed with Boalia and Mother thanas yesterday in connection with a serious of clashes between the RU students and villagers at RU railway station and Moharchandi village on Friday last.

Of the 97 accused, 75 were sued under the public safety act (PSA).

Tokai Jahangir

FROM PAGE 12 hands and severe injury in his head.

There are at least 20 criminal cases against Jahangir filed with different thanas in the city. He was also wanted in connection with a murder and robbery cases filed with Motijheel thana, police said.

Motijheel police recovered Jahangir's body yesterday morning and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. After autopsy, the body was handed over to his relatives.

None was arrested in connection with the killing till filing of this report last night.

Extortion AL factions clash at Munshiganj

UNB, Munshiganj

Clash between rival factions of Awami League activists over collection of tolls from a contractor left at least five injured in the town yesterday.

Both sides used firearms and homemade bombs during the clash. The clash followed abduction and counter abduction of rival activists, including Dudu Mia, seventy-year-old father of a cadre.

Panic gripped the town, shops remained closed and movement of vehicular traffic was disrupted during the clash.

Tension was prevailing till late in the evening.

Families of Globe Knitting fire victims compensated

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association yesterday gave compensation to the relatives of the August 27 (2000) fire victims at Globe Knitting Ltd.

BGMEA handed over the cheques for Tk 58,000, half of which paid by the owner of the Glob Knitting, to each of the 12 families, said a press release.

Besides, the family of Subarna Papya, another five victims at Rose Fashion two years back, was also given compensation yesterday.

Manpower recruiters

FROM PAGE 12 International, Paradise Recruiting Agency and Silverline Associates to be present at its next meeting on February 26 to defend their positions on charges brought against them.

They were charged with sending some 1,000 Bangladeshis in different Middle Eastern countries last year against no guaranteed job vacancies for them in the recipient countries.

A labour and employment ministry official told The Daily Star last night that replies that the agencies gave after being served with show-cause notices were not satisfactory.

A ruling party lawmaker, who attended yesterday's committee meeting, said that the agencies might face punitive actions including cancellation of their licenses as well as forfeiture of their deposits.

He told The Daily Star that the ill-fated Bangladeshis, sent abroad on false job promises, were now leading a subhuman life.

Meeting sources said BAIRA

representatives at the meeting had admitted to the malpractice pursued by some agencies and said that they would welcome any government action against the offenders.

They, however, appealed before the parliamentary committee to pursue the government for declaring the manpower sector as an 'industry' and 'thrust sector'. They also proposed for a special passport for foreign wage earners and demanded tightening of the immigration procedures.

The parliamentary committee meeting warned the manpower recruiters of 'unholy competition' among themselves that results in poor salary bargain for hardworking Bangladeshi workers abroad.

"While an average worker from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka or Indonesia earns 700 to 1000 riyals a month in Middle Eastern countries, Bangladeshis get as low a salary as 200 riyal a month," said a committee member referring to a parliamentary team's visits to UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia late last year.

Opposition for Iqbal's arrest

FROM PAGE 12 obstructing passage of leaders and activists at different parts of the city. BNP lawmaker Sadeque Hossain Khoka, convener of the council, chaired the rally.

While the opposition staged a peaceful sit-in on Sunday, they said, the government unleashed a reign of terror by putting barricades at all entry points and on roads, lanes and by-lanes. False cases under the Public Safety Act were filed against unspecified number of leaders and activists.

Khoka demanded resignation of State Minister for Shipping Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, saying he no longer has the moral right to be a minister now that his son was sent to jail on charge of killing people.

He also demanded immediate arrest of AL legislator Dr HBM Iqbal and his terrorist associates, who fired on a BNP procession and killed four people.

Assault on female students: DU forms fact-finding committee

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities have formed a three-member fact-finding committee to probe assault on two female students of the university at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) Sunday evening.

Following a complaint filed by the victims, the Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury yesterday formed the committee with Provost of Rokeya Hall Prof Shamima Chowdhury as convener. He also asked the committee to serve a show cause notice on the students involved in the incident.

The committee has been asked to submit its report with recommendation within seven days.

The other members of the committee are Provost of Zahurul Haq Hall Prof SM Mahfuzur Rahman and assistant proctor Prof Md Khalilur Rahman.

Administrators for Dist Council: List of first batch finalised

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Establishment Ministry has finalised the list of the first batch of about a dozen administrators for District Councils to be posted soon, according to sources.

Earlier the authorities had planned to hold elections for Chairmen of District Councils but abandoned it in the face of opposition from the opposition political parties.

Instead they have opted for appointing administrators in 61 District Councils.

NDP activist shot dead in Rauzan

UNB, Ctg

An activist of NDP was shot dead in Rauzan yesterday evening.

Police suspected that Fazal Ahmed, a former NDP cadre, was killed due to intra-party conflict.

The killers took him to a rubber garden and killed him.

3 alleged terrorists held with arms in N'ganj

UNB, N'ganj

Police arrested three alleged terrorists with four bullets from Munshikhola area in Pagla on Sunday night.

The arrested were identified as Anwar Hossain, 25, Motahar Hossain, 26, and Atahar Hossain, 35, of village Morichbunia village in Amtali upazila of Barguna district.

Police suspect that the arrested are the members of a fundamentalist group. Later, they were placed on a two-day remand for interrogation.

Taraj murder

FROM PAGE 12 victim, filed a case with Uttara police station after the killing. The case was shifted to the Detective Branch of police on Friday.

Dipu Chowdhury, principal accused in the Taraj Uddin Murder Case, and two other accused Saurav and Rana surrendered to the CMM's Court on Sunday and were sent to Dhaka Central Jail.

Seven Star

FROM PAGE 1 notorious criminal of the Sven Star group.

"We arrested them while they were preparing for a major operation tonight," Nazrul Islam told the Daily Star.

"Some of the gang members were drunk and taking meal. We ringed the house and arrested the seven without any resistance", one of the police officers who took part in the operation said.

Police said they are checking the names and identity of the arrested.



The four-party opposition alliance brought out a procession in the city yesterday after a rally at Muktagang.

PHOTO: STAR

Aricha ferry services disrupted as shoals emerge in Padma, Jamuna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ferry services between Aricha and Daulatdia and Natakholia was seriously disrupted on Friday and Saturday as new shoals emerged in the Padma and Jamuna, sources in Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) said.

At least two ferries heading for Daulatdia from Aricha ferry ghat, had been stranded in mid-Padma for about an hour in the early hours of Saturday after they hit the shoals, passengers returning to the capital said.

Two more ferries each carrying about 20 vehicles were also stranded as they hit shoals on Friday. Both the vessels remained in

mid-Padma for hours until next morning.

BIWTC sources at Aricha ghat said ferries are frequently stranded due to invisible shoals. Ferries often find it difficult to negotiate the narrow channel, as there is not enough water in the river channels.

"On Saturday, ferryboat 'Jahangir' remained stranded for about two hours with more than 26 vehicles on board in mid-Padma. A tug boat was later sent to salvage the double-decker ferry at about 2 am," said Shahabuddin, BIWTC Manager at Aricha.

He also said that ferries have to ply with great caution as they frequently hit shoals. He also said that

dredging operation in the river has been suspended since December last.

Meanwhile, loading and unloading of vehicles from ferries is seriously hampered as the landing strips are in dilapidated state. Sources said that small vehicles, especially private cars, find it difficult to board the ferries as the river banks have not been flattened.

Officials of the BIWTC fear that ferry services will be disrupted in March unless dredging operation resumes as by that time water level is expected to fall by at least four feet at many points in the channel.

A total of 17 ferries are now operating on Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Natakholia routes.

No action yet against Iqbal

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claiming that he had never before seen the gunman whose photograph was carried in the newspapers.

The ruling party legislator claimed that the armed young men were not in his procession and the whole incident was a sabotage.

Motiuur Rahman, Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that the government has instructed police to arrest the gunslingers present in the procession led by Iqbal.

Accordingly, the police are carrying out raids at different places where the criminals could possibly hide, he said, adding so far the raids have not yielded any positive result.

However, underworld sources say that Liakat is not absconding and in fact, is staying at his own residence.

"He slept in his house even last night," said a source. The others, however, have left the city, he said.

Meanwhile, witnesses and underworld sources say that the 10 important members of the 'Five Star' group were present in the procession led by Iqbal. Liakat's two brothers, Shariatpur Nannu, a Union Parishad chairman, and Hannan, vice president of the Siddeswari College student body, were in the procession with Morshed, Hemayet, Tomi, Ratan, Mithu, Dulal, Kiron and Shomir.

A photograph of Hemayet, a cadre of the Zia Hall unit of the ruling party-backed BCL, firing gunshots following the verdict on the Bangabandhu murder trial was also carried in different newspapers.

Sources allege that police are not taking any action against the 'Five Star' members although they are freely roaming around. Sources also claimed that police were reluctant because of the strong link between Liakat and a powerful minister of the government. Police, however, dismisses such an allegation by simply saying that they could not trace the culprits.

Top policymakers of the government have decided to arrest all members of the Liakat group. Sources believe that a couple of members of the group would be arrested in a day or two.

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Artistes of Sruti performing at the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday on the last day of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote's cultural programmes to mark Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Int'l Mother Language Award soon

FROM PAGE 12 Day in 1999. At the proposed institute in Dhaka, research in scores of languages spoken by various nationalities of the world will be carried out.

The meeting also decided to invite world personalities and hold seminars and discussions in Bangladesh Missions abroad.

Besides, drama festivals, recitation and essay competitions will be arranged at the school level and an international book fair will be held in the country as part of the comprehensive programme.

Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said International Mother Language Day is a glorious achievement of the nation and only Bangladesh is a language-based nation state in the world. "The Bengalis upheld the dignity

of mother tongue at the cost of lives," she told the meeting.

In this context, she focused on the history of the language movement that started in 1947 and reached its climax in 1952 through sacrifice of blood in order to realise the right of mother tongue.

"It is our duty to depict the glorious history of our nation to the new generations and to the world community through films, documentaries and other means of communication," the Prime Minister said.

She mentioned that a Canada-based organisation International Mother Language Lovers Association proposed to UNESCO to declare the 21st February as International Mother Language Day. UNESCO suggested them to tell the Bangladesh government to send the proposal.

Accordingly, Bangladesh gov-

ernment promptly sent the proposal and thus the mother language day of the Bangladeshes got the status of International Mother Language Day.

"We achieved our independence through our struggle initiated at the language movement," Sheikh Hasina said in tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for establishing the Bengalees right to speak, write and express through the language they learnt from their mothers.

The PM said ahead of the Independence Day, the International Mother Language Day would be observed through elaborate programmes upholding the great achievements.

Education secretary Dr Saadat Hossain placed the agenda of the meeting while Education Minister ASHK Sadique gave the welcome address.

Present among others in the meeting were Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Suranjit Sengupta, Nurul Islam Nahid MP, language veteran Gaziul Haq, DU VC AK Azad Chowdhury, cultural activist Hasan Imam, journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, principal M Kamaruzzaman, artist Hashem Khan, MR Akhter Mukul, Kazi Farooq, National University VC Prof Durgadas Bhattacharya, Lutfur Rahman Riton, Foreign Secretary Syed Moazzem Ali and Cabinet Secretary Kazi Shamsul Alam.

Talks with abductors

FROM PAGE 1 sealed off a 35 km area, closing all entries to and exit from Kalapahar.

Earlier, the authorities in a message delivered yesterday insisted on signed notes from the hostages for confirmation of their well-being.

But the authorities declined to pay the ransom and withdraw the army troops, who were seen on Monday patrolling roads and camping at strategic points apparently not conducting a combing operation, correspondents visiting the area said.

The hostages are Tim Selbi of Britain and Torben Mikkelsen and Nels Hulggaard of Denmark who work for a Danish consultancy firm engaged in construction of a road in the area.

The kidnapers had earlier set free another British consultant, David Weston, with a message demanding a ransom of Tk nine crore.

But the authorities in Dhaka and Rangamati are still confused about the identity of the abductors.

Although Minister for CHT Affairs Kalparanjan Chakma said it was not known who had kidnapped the foreigners, initial suspicion centred the United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), a militant faction who broke away from the Jana Sanghati

Samity (JSS) led by CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma. Both have accused each other of the kidnaping.

Sources in Rangamati said Betchhari area where the abduction took place is a stronghold of JSS but Kalapahar range where the victims have been taken is a stronghold of UPDF.

Some sources said it is not understandable if UPDF abducted the three, why they have not demanded release of their leader Sanchoy Chakma and about 50 activists from jail. If JSS is involved, why they should risk something like that before the next general elections for which they are already preparing. However, money could be a factor behind the abduction, the sources added.

None has so far claimed responsibility for the kidnaping. Our Correspondent Abdullah Al Mahmud reports from Rangamati: The authorities are expecting a fruitful negotiation with the abductors today.

Torben Mikheljen in his letter to his wife Divina and two children wished them well. He said they are "being taken care of well".

Hosts face real test today

FROM PAGE 1

came half-century. The six-footer from Narail created a record of some sort when he blasted a 14-ball 50, including half a dozen six and a couple of fours. The hard-hitting lower order bat remained undefeated on a 17-ball 60.

It was a perfect warm up for Bangladesh ahead of their first real test against Pakistan.

The two title aspirants will look

horns in their last Group B match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. Bangladesh Television will cover the battle of future stars from the big bowl.

Holder Sri Lanka, on the other hand, will take on India in another important Group A match at the BKSP today. India also ambled into the semifinals defeating Oman by ten wickets at the number one strip of the BKSP ground yesterday.

India to fence border

FROM PAGE 1

Tripura S Nag said the centre had already approved rupees 8.75 crore for the purpose.

If everything goes well, then the BRO will start erecting 2.6 metre-high barbed wire fencing from next month, the report said.

"In all likelihood, the phase-wise fencing would start from March 15. The first phase will cover a 40-km border area mostly in the northern part of Tripura in Shimna-Shibari in West Tripura and Dhalai districts and the Tarapur-Ragha stretch in North Tripura, the chief engineer was quoted in the report as saying.

The next phase of fencing was likely to come up along a 39-km-long stretch in the highly porous Jaleya area near Raishyabari to

Boalkhali in south district and was expected to cost about rupees 11 crore. The cost of fencing per km is estimated at rupees 28 lakh.

"The need for a barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border was felt to check the cross border movements of militants as well as other outfits from the north-east maintaining their base camps in Bangladesh territory from where they make regular intrusion," the paper said.

Quoting a police official the report said that it is practically impossible to effectively man the border which runs through highly inaccessible terrain and deep forest, no matter how many BSF personnel are deployed and how intensified the policing is."

Brazilian prison riot

FROM PAGE 12

visitors, including women and children, as the jail opened Sunday for family visits, according to security officials.

Prisoners later released an undetermined number of captives after riot police stormed the giant complex some five hours after the uprising began.

According to Petreluzzi, the mutinies were orchestrated by a prisoners' "organisation" which is demanding that 10 of its leaders, switched from Carandiru to other jails this week, to be returned to Sao Paulo.

Television images filmed from the air showed a number of

Carandiru's nine prison blocks ablaze, hundreds of white sheets hanging from windows, barricades and bloodstains. Shots were also heard.

Relatives and friends of jailed inmates, gathered outside the complex, many of them hysterical and yelling "murderers," and anti-riot police preparing for a possible assault.

The Carandiru complex was the site in October 1992 of Brazil's bloodiest prison massacre, when police stormed the jail after a fight between prisoners, killing 111 inmates and injuring 100 others in the space of just 30 minutes.x

CD-ROM on Ekushey

FROM PAGE 1

Betar, LGED, etc. The group has now set a target on developing an English version of the CD-ROM. Mahmudul Islam Sajal, Zillur Rahman, Ashfaq Rahman of BUET and Rowshan Jahan Nupur of Jahangirnagar University have the driving force behind this pioneering project, with Syed Ahmed in supervision.

The CD-ROM contains some authentic pictures of the Language Movement, clippings from the Daik Azad newspaper, brief history of the movement in Bangla and scanned images of important documents.

There are also interviews of individuals who took part in the movement, photographs of the first

Shaheed Minar and processions, the song Amar bhaiyer rokte rangano rendered by renowned artists, lists of the martyrs and video clips taken during the movement.

The highlight of the CD-ROM is a few rare photographs taken by Takiullah, son of Dr Mohammed Shahidullah. There are also celebrated songs by Abdul Latif. Besides, exclusive interviews of Gaziul Haq and Dr Rafiqul Islam are also there in the CD-ROM.

The programmers hope that researchers would be immensely benefited by Antarjatkatay Amar Ekushey, currently on display at the Ekushey Book Fair 2001 at the BanglaAcademy.

'Govt committed to truth'

FROM PAGE 1

of the press from encroachment by any forces whether internal or external.

He stressed that media bodies should also be alert to prevent obstruction to free flow of information regardless of whether the 'obstruction emanates from within or without.'

The WAPC president said the media can be a powerful instrument in building bridges of understanding among nations and in promoting international peace and unity.

He hoped that media persons and the peoples of different countries would try to pave the way for making common endeavours to solve the problems confronting the whole mankind.

"Freedom is the basis of welfare. It is also indivisible. It cannot be protected and promoted in one part

of the world while it languishes and perishes in other part," he noted.

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan said that the long journey of press freedom had never been without any setback.

Colonial and autocratic rulers argue that press freedom threatens stability and endangers progress, he mentioned.

"This argument," he said, "is never made by the people but by the rulers, never by the powerless but by the powerful, never by the voiceless but by those whose voices are the only one to be heard."

Justice Khan said journalists are very often subjected to attacks by terrorists and unruly persons. There must be commitment for safety and security of journalists and it must be ensured that crimes against them do not go unpunished, he added.