

## Police, vendors clash at Gulshan: 7 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven people were injured as vendors at the Gulshan Katchabazaar clashed with police when a DCC team went to Gulshan Circle-1 to evict them yesterday noon.

The incident occurred when the DCC team along with a Magistrate went there at about 12:30pm to demolish some illegal constructions adjacent to the Gulshan No-1 market.

Witnesses said that at the end of the eviction process, some members of the katchabazaar market committee and their supporters were locked in a clash with the police.

In retaliation, police fired gas shells and opened fire to disperse the mob. Seven people including Sher Mohammad, president of the market committee, were injured during the clash.

The injured people were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and local clinics.

The mob also damaged the jeep of Magistrate Mustafizur Rahman.

Officer-in-charge of Gulshan thana said that the DCC did not inform his station prior to the eviction drive. But Gulshan police later brought the situation under control.

A case was filed with Gulshan police in this regard.



DCC demolished some illegal structures adjacent to the Gulshan No-1 market yesterday.

PHOTO STAR

## First Test in Zimbabwe

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fourth seamer in the side in place of left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique. "We will however wait till the morning to have a look at the wicket again before finalising the combination of our playing eleven," said Naimur.

And if medium pacer Musfiqur Rahman gets the nod, Bangladesh would be fielding for the first time a four-pronged pace attack that also includes Monjurul Islam, Hasibul Hossain and debutant Mohammad Sharif. This will also mark an end to an all too familiar defensive concept of the fledgling international side to field seven batsmen.

"We want to start our first away Test on a positive note. We are yet to get rid of the collapse syndrome in the second innings, but, I think, it would not happen this time," hoped Naimur, who added that a few more three-day or four-day tour matches would have helped in their preparation for Test series.

His coach, whose expertise helped Bangladesh improve a lot in the fielding, also expressed his concern about the wicket, terming that the toss would be very crucial for his team.

"There are a lot of grass on the wicket and also a lot of moisture underneath it. The team winning the toss would definitely go for bats first. So, the toss could be very important for the end result," said Trevor.

"Still, I do not think this would be a difficult one like in Harare where ball popped up frequently. It will be moving around and it will be bouncing and will certainly give the bowlers plenty of assistance.

"The batsman would have to be very patient and watchful with the ball. Especially the first session will be important. If we bat first, our job would be to stay on the wicket rather than scoring runs."

Meanwhile, Trevor's compatriot and Zimbabwe coach Carl Rackemann looked happy after seeing the wicket and said that his bowlers would definitely go for claiming 22 wickets. "Being a Queenslander, I love to play on a cricket pitch look like it. I think, it will be a good Test wicket."

Zimbabwe captain Streak is also bubbling with the expectation of bowling on the grass wicket. "We've found out a bit more about them. We've asked for a touch more grass, so we're expecting a hard, quick bouncy wicket," he said ominously.

**Squads**  
Bangladesh: Naimur Rahman (captain), Javed Omar, Mehrab Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Aminul Islam, Akram Khan, Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Hasibul Hussain, Monjurul Islam, Mohammed Sharif and Musfiqur Rahman.

Zimbabwe (from): Guy Whittall, Alistair Campbell, Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Stuart Carlisle, Andy Blignaut, Heath Streak (captain), Mubeki Nkala, Brighton Watambwa, Brian Murphy, Dion Ebrahim, Ray Price.

## Indian envoy

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The latest situation arising out of skirmishes between the border forces of the two countries at Baraibari came up for the discussion when Tripathy called on Foreign Secretary Syed Muazzem Ali.

Later, talking to journalists Muazzem Ali said, "we strongly believe that this tension must be defused forthwith". He said such skirmishes are not unusual when the two countries share a huge border spanning several thousand kilometers and have "adverse possession" of territories.

Replying to a question, he said, "we are fully aware of the developments" that have taken place both in the northwest and in the northeast.

The foreign secretary said during the discussion with the Indian envoy "resumption of dialogue" has been emphasised to defuse the situation. He said soon the sector commanders of the two countries on the ground will sit to defuse the situation.

Answering another question the foreign secretary said he had learnt about the death of a BDR personnel and that the exchange of fire at Baraibari had stopped.

## Mass procession

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Besides, secretaries-general and presidents of the city chapters of BNP, JP (Matin-Nazir), Jamaat and IOI will also address the gathering. The gathering and the procession are also aimed to mobilise public support in favour of the country-wide non-stop 72-hour hartal beginning at 6 a.m. on April 23.

Sources said the alliance partners have done their bit to ensure a massive gathering. BNP will summon its activists from all thana and wards in the capital city.

But, the sources said the JP (M-N) and Jamaat will call in their party men from outside Dhaka. JP sources said efforts will be there to ensure massive participation in the procession to prove that the Matin-Nazir faction is stronger than the Ershad-led Jatiya Party.

## Ershad

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move anywhere in public. APSU will oppose all his programmes by giving counter programmes."

After his release on April 9, Ershad took a stance against the four-party alliance and finally broke away from it on Monday. The alliance termed him an "agent of the government".

## New Delhi concerned

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close and friendly relations between the two countries.

The spokesman said during the foreign secretary-level meeting between the two countries a joint working group was set up to demarcate the undemarcated border areas and the territories in adverse possession.

Meanwhile, minister of State for Home Affairs I D Swami has said India is committed to an early settlement of all boundary related matters with Bangladesh through peaceful dialogue.

Replying to a question from Asom Gano Parishad member Dr Joyasree Goswami Mahanta in Rajya Sabha yesterday, Swami said at the foreign secretary-level talks between India and Bangladesh held in New Delhi in December last year, the two sides had decided to set up two joint boundary working groups.

The first group will have to deal with completion of demarcation and the second with exchange of enclaves and territories in adverse possession, he said.

Swami said both the groups would systematically address these matters and report to the foreign

secretaries from time to time. The Indian government has proposed terms of reference for the joint boundary working groups. Response from the Bangladesh is awaited, he said.

## Contractors clash in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 10 people were injured, two of whom seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of contractors on the head office premises of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) in Aambagan area under Rajpara thana yesterday noon.

According to witnesses, the clash ensued following the submission of tender documents for a development work of the BMDA.

Both the groups used arms, lethal weapons and cocktails during the clash that lasted for about half an hour.

Two bullet-injured contractors Shahidul, 35, and Farhad, 32, were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

A case was filed with Rajpara thana in this connection.

## Tk 148cr VAT unrealised

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ments from other sources and learnt that the company had 323 acres of land in the project area.

They found that the company bought the lands at Tk11.62 crore and sold those at Tk 416.67 crore. The payable VAT of VAT was Tk 60.57 crore and the company was to pay the money in one month.

But the company filed a writ against the order. Estate officer of Bashundhara Kabir Ahmed claimed that the payable VAT was fixed without proper assessment.

He alleged that the officials demanded money against those plots sold before introduction of VAT. "We applied for re-assessment and the amount came down to about Tk 15 crore after a physical assessment by VAT officials," he claimed.

Following that, the company had been paying VAT on the basis of collection from its clients, he said. But he declined to say how much the company paid as VAT.

In the case of Eastern Housing, customs officials found that the company had been paying less than the payable amount of VAT. An investigation revealed that instead of paying Tk 21.55 crore as VAT, it

paid only Tk 14.07 lakh against the Niketon Housing project at Mahakhali and Tejkunipara.

The VAT commissioner fined Eastern Housing Tk 22 lakh for evasion of VAT. Asmat Ali, a director of Islam Brothers, parent organisation of Eastern Housing, told this correspondent they had a dispute with customs officials on calculation of VAT.

"The demand was so high because the customs officials included the plots sold earlier," he said. "When those plots were registered, VAT was only 1.98 per cent but it was raised to three per cent later. Customs officials calculated the amount on the basis of the increased rate."

He also declined to go into details as the matter was pending with the court.

As regards Mark Shilpa and Engineering Ltd, the customs authorities alleged that the company in its balance sheet submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission showed the total sale proceeds at Tk 247.96 crore during 1991-1996. But it paid only 10.95 lakh as VAT and turn over tax against goods worth Tk 79.01 lakh supplied from three factories. It also

supplied goods worth Tk 3.11 crore to Bata Shoe Company without paying VAT.

Mark Shilpa Chairman Imam Mulkter Rahman could not be contacted over telephone but an official of the company said customs officials made the allegation to show their efficiency.

Peoples Ceramic Industries filed a writ in 1997 against the demand notice issued by the Customs and Excise, Tongi Circle, claiming Tk 1.8 crore as excise duty.

Woram Ltd was accused of paying Tk 1.4 crore less than the payable amount of VAT against sale proceeds of mosquito coil from August, 95 to May '97. The assistant commissioner of VAT, Mymensingh division, issued a notice against the company for paying the evaded amount within 10 days.

The company filed a writ last year. Meanwhile, NBR sources said an amount of Tk 1600 crore revenue could not be realised due to stay orders from the High Court.

Of this, the highest amount was in the import sector as importers filed writ petitions against the decisions of customs officials regarding import tax.

## 16 BSF, 2 BDR troops killed

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there from three nearby BOPs to repulse the unprovoked attack. Indian border forces vacated the Bangladesh territory within four hours but exchange of gunfire continued throughout the day.

The sources said some civilians were also injured during the attack. Three BDR personnel, two BSF soldiers and five villagers were being treated at Roumari Health Complex, according to reports reaching the capital last night.

Yesterday's attack by nearly half a battalion Indian troops was the first by the neighbouring country since Bangladesh's independence, said security officials.

The attack along Kurigram border came less than 24 hours after BDR reclaimed the Padua BOP and 230 acres of land near Tamabil border after 30 years of Indian occupation.

A defence analyst did not rule out more such surprise attacks by BSF in other frontiers after the Padua debacle.

Independent witnesses in Kurigram border and BDR sources said Bangladesh and Indian forces exchanged gunfire from heavy weapons across the international border line for nearly 14 hours from dawn yesterday.

The sources said one BDR soldier was killed while defending the outpost and the other died later from injuries.

BDR Director General Major General Fazlur Rahman said Indian

forces used mortars and smoke screens, two unusual weapons used only during conventional war.

"Our forces were told to refrain from opening mortar fire as these may cause damage and serious injuries to villagers," the general said.

The mortars in BDR arsenal are learnt to be more lethal because of their large calibre and tested potential.

"Our troops acted with courage and fortitude in defending our territory during the unprovoked attack", said Maj Gen Fazlur Rahman who carried out the Padua recovery operation successfully.

The sources said a tense situation is prevailing in Kurigram border and villagers in large numbers have left homes for safer places.

There was sound of volleys of artillery shelling and gunfire across the international border line till dusk, the sources said quoting villagers who fled their homes.

By yesterday afternoon, BDR beefed up its forces and supplies considerably in Kurigram frontier. BDR troops have been sent there from Hijalmari, Baraiman, Khewarchar, Banglabazar and Hijlam BOPs. Fresh reinforcements have also been sent from other BDR sector headquarters, the sources said.

### Situation at Padua

A stable situation is prevailing at Padua near the Sylhet-Tamabil border. BDR troops are on high alert

## Israel

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Prime Minister Ariel Sharon insisted that the withdrawal was not ordered because of the withering criticism sounded by US Secretary of State Colin Powell who said the Israeli takeover was "excessive and disproportionate."

Raanan Gissin, an aide to Sharon, said yesterday that the decision to withdraw was already made Tuesday morning, before Powell issued his statement.

However, government critics said Sharon was trying to pin the blame on the army in order to extricate himself from the embarrassing situation of being seen having succumbed to U.S. pressure.

Israel had seized a slice of Gaza after Palestinians fired mortar shells from the Beit Hanoun area at Sderot, an Israeli desert town about three kilometers from the Gaza border fence.

Both actions were seen as an unprecedented escalation of the nearly seven-month-long conflict that has taken more than 470 lives.

## Spl tribunal

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forces." Terming the attack a deep-rooted conspiracy against the Bangalee heritage, he urged all pro-liberation political forces to unite under an umbrella to resist religious fanatics.

Among others, President of Ghatat Dalal Nirmul Committee Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Maya, Kamal Lohani, Justice KM Sobhan, Kazi Farook of Proshika, Hasanul Haq Inu of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Principal Abdul Ahad, Prof. Abdul Mannan MP, Habibur Rahman Milan and Asaduzzaman Noor spoke on the occasion.

The SSI will submit memoranda to some foreign embassies in Dhaka on April 22.

It will also submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on April 30 if the tribunal is not formed by this time.

## Bomb blast

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the school authorities two months ago.

Explosive experts of Army visited the place of occurrence yesterday morning. They had collected some evidences which include splinters of the time bomb.

Police have started vigorous investigation to find out clue. A high official of KMP termed the incident as sabotage.

Meanwhile, security measures have been beefed up in all key installations in the city. Heads of academic institutions, govt and autonomous bodies, banks and all industries have been asked to take necessary security measures.

Combing operations have been launched to nab extremists. None was arrested till filing of this report at 6pm yesterday.

## 100 patients

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otherhand, the intern doctors said they would continue strike till realisation of all their demands.

The entire administration in the KMCH has been in disarray since April 11. None was seen attending his duty properly. Patients were found scared due to tense situation prevailing at KMCH.

## BTTB

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There are about 20,000 telex subscribers in the country most of whom are engaged in important corporate dealings.

Majority of the banks in all sectors, including the Nationalised Commercial Bank (NCB), foreign and private banks, use telex service to transmit messages related to financial dealings.

## JP to play due role in JS: Ershad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman H M Ershad has said his party will play its 'due role as Opposition in parliament' and follow constitutional provision to determine JP's parliamentary party leadership.

"We are still waiting for the Speaker's ruling to determine our majority in the House and resolve the issue of parliamentary party leadership," the former military ruler told a group of newsmen yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban after a meeting of the JPPP.

Sixteen MPs loyal to Ershad attended the meeting that lasted over three hours. Acting chairman of JP Rowshan Ershad presided.

Ershad asked all his followers to get prepared for the upcoming general election as well as all local body polls. "We shall nominate candidates in all the 300 parliamen-

tary constituencies," Ershad was quoted as telling the meeting.

Asked about the allegation of his double-dealing with the four party alliance, Ershad said all he has done is for the welfare of Jatiya Party and protection of its election symbol 'plough'.

To a question on restructuring of the Election Commission, Ershad said BNP earlier accepted the Chief Election commissioner and others. "What's the wrong with us in accepting them?"

Earlier, lawmakers of Ershad's JP attended the 22nd session of parliament to retain Ershad's leadership of the JPPP and the party's election symbol, also claimed by the two others factions of JP.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju and Nazirur Rahman Manjur are leading the two other JP factions.

## DB tightlipped

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spot during the incident. Motiur received the body of his cousin from the DMCH morgue and was supposed to accompany the body to Jasim's village in Mothbaria. But, according to sources, the DB team did not find Motiur in his village.

The detectives are also looking for an unidentified man with a flowing beard and wearing a turban and long robe. Photographs published in a newspaper show that immediately after the bomb went off the person had been desperately trying to drag a number of bodies of the victims who have been suspected to be involved in the incident.

Meanwhile, Fatema Akter, a resident of West Shwepara, identified one of the dead bodies yesterday afternoon as his brother Afsar Khan 30, who was a clothe trader in Dohar, Dhaka.

According to Fatema, Afsar had been staying at her residence for a couple of days. On Friday night he left the residence saying that he was going to Dohar.

## Musharraf

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However Benazir evaded a direct reply to questions about her plans to return to Pakistan. Her party would take full part in the alliance for the restoration of democracy rally in Karachi on May but she had no plans to return to Pakistan on that day, she said. This matter was being discussed by the party, she added.

## Stop throwing bombs

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Director Prof M Jafaruddin, Director, National Institute of Kidney Diseases Prof Harun Or Rashid and Director, National Institute of Mental Health Prof Nazmul Ahsan also addressed the function.

The prime minister said the government is trying to ensure that the people are getting medical services in cities, towns and villages. She said the present government has concentrated on expanding healthcare system at three stages primary, secondary and tertiary during last four years and nine months.

"We have been implementing massive programmes of child and maternal health, EPI, polio, family planning, pure drinking water and hygienic drainage system for the development of rural health system."

She said the government has taken up a project to establish 18,000 community clinics in the country.

Of them, 6,000 clinics have already been established. Another 4,000 clinics would be established by June.

"We have been implementing a massive nutrition programme for the development of nutritional standard of the poor people," she said. The government has adopted

## 2 new ECs

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extended five times by the EC.

Presided over by the CEC, the meeting was attended among others by Election Commissioner Shafiqur Rahman, the deputy election commissioners, divisional and district election officers and others concerned.

The meeting was informed that the printing of voter list of 40 districts has already been completed and the rest of the work is going on.

## Biman clarifies

FROM PAGE 12

The following day the passenger started to behave rudely with the crew on board. He made several attempts to approach the cockpit but was barred. However, he was given a comment card to write down his grievances but nothing could calm him down, the clarification added.

Considering the safety of the flight, the captain declared him "violent" and made necessary arrangement for dealing with him in Dhaka upon arrival as per standard procedure, the Biman clarification said.

an integrated nutrition project to remove the nutritional problems of mothers and children, she added.

Hasina said child mortality rate has decreased to 57 per thousand and maternal mortality rate to 3.4 percent.

The prime minister said the government has been implementing massive programmes for expansion of specialised medicare services and increased beds and extended modern medicare facilities at the district level hospitals.

During the BNP government, there were 28,200 beds at the hospitals throughout the country and the present government has added 7,000 beds raising the number of beds to 35,000.

She said the government for the first time established Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University at the post-graduation level.

The government has given promotion to 543 doctors. The creation of posts for 1,000 new doctors is under consideration, she said.

"We recruited 4,000 nurses in two phases. We are going to recruit 4,000 more nurses. We have increased the pay and allowance of the doctors and nurses through pay scale," she said and urged the doctors to provide best possible treatment and service to the patients.

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