

Bhola outrage

FROM PAGE 12 Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police Saheb Ali arrived in Bhola from Barisal on Tuesday and took over charge of the district.

The top official is now scrutinising the law and order situation now prevailing in the district, where indiscriminate atrocities were committed against the Hindu community following the elections, sources said.

SP Syed Shah Zaman Raj is likely to be transferred elsewhere as "top officials are not usually closed to the headquarters", sources in Bhola informed over telephone.

The Daily Star published a series of investigative reports on rape of 200 women, assault on Hindus and looting of their properties at Annada Prashad and Jahajmara villages of Char Umed Union under Lalmohon thana of Bhola on November 9, 10 and 11.

According to official source, after the reports were published, the government replaced all the personnel stationed at the temporary police post at Annada Prashad.

Wanted criminals of the area, who were allegedly involved in atrocities against the Hindus, were moving freely in the village and also had "very friendly links" with the police, the source said.

"Ten people have been arrested since the Daily Star report was published and the administration is looking for the absconding criminals," said a source.

Most of the criminals named in the Star report have been arrested, he added.

Sylhet clash

FROM PAGE 12 started hurling bricks and stones at the police.

Witnesses said some policemen also assaulted the hawkers physically and took away their goods. As a result chase and counter-chase ensued between the police and the hawkers.

Police then opened 31 blank fires and lobbed 32 teargas shells to disperse the agitated hawkers and bring the situation under control. They also took 15 persons into custody who were released later on.

Panic gripped the entire area and shops pulled the shutters during the 50-minute police action.

Later, the hawkers and traders held a rally at the Court point area to protest police action.

Talking to the Daily Star, Police Super Mukhtesur Rahman said the drive was launched three days ago to evict the hawkers and traders from the roads and footpaths of the town.

8 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 12 winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, police said.

The police control room in Jammu said eight of them, killed in the first shootout, have been identified as Bangladeshi nationals. The identity of the four militants killed in the second shootout was not yet known.

Also yesterday, police in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, claimed that special state commandos had killed two militants who were hiding in a house on the outskirts of the city.

Police claimed the two militants were top commanders of Al-Badr Mujahadeen, a Pakistan-based militant group. They have been identified as Hafiz Ahsan Ali and Sayeed Tula Ahmed, both Pakistani nationals, police said.

Ashok Suri, the state's police chief, said that with the killings police had smashed the network of the Al-Badr Mujahadeen.

"The administration has even replaced the officer-in-charge of Lalmohon thana after the report appeared in the newspaper," the source disclosed.

Lawyers boycott court in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh

Lawyers here yesterday started boycotting the Additional District Magistrate's (ADM) Court demanding his immediate removal following a brawl between the judge and the lawyers.

According to the District Bar lawyers, an unpleasant situation was created between ADM Mojiur Rahman and the lawyers over granting bail to an accused on Tuesday.

Altaf: Cases

FROM PAGE 12

1994. M Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan, officer of the Anti-corruption filed the second case with Cantonment thana on October 15 in 1998 against the former air chief.

In the third case, the accused was charged with misusing his official position by flying to his village by helicopter in 1995 that cost the government Tk 16,46,899. He had done it to fulfil his political ambition.

Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, officer of the Bureau of Anti-corruption filed the case with Cantonment thana against Altaf Hossain Chowdhury on October 15 in 1998.

In the fourth case, the accused was charged with misappropriating Tk 51,701 for his wife's treatment in Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre in Singapore in March, 1995.

Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman filed a corruption case with Cantonment thana against Altaf Hossain Chowdhury on October 15 in 1998.

Malaysia's king

FROM PAGE 12 shops. BSS adds: Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia yesterday condoled the death of the king.

"King Salahuddin Abdul Aziz's death is a great loss not only for Malaysia but also to the region in particular and the Muslim Ummah," the Prime Minister said in a message sent to her Malaysian counterpart Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad Khaleda Zia conveyed deepest sympathy to the bereaved members of the Royal family and the brotherly people of Malaysia on behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh.

She also prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

HC stays

FROM PAGE 12

Hasina. RAM Obaidul Muktar Chowdhury, deputy secretary of Sports Directorate and former private secretary to the Prime Minister was attached to DC, Kurigram, former APS to Prime Minister Ibrahim Hossain Khan to DC, Barguna, former deputy press

secretary to Prime Minister Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan to DC, Jhalakati, Abul Kalam Azad, Mohammad Mainuddin Abdullah of Establishment Ministry and Begum Rebeke Sultana of LGRD Ministry were attached to DC, Panchagarh, Pirojpur and Sumanganj respectively.

Barrister Amirul Islam moved the writ on behalf of the petitioners.

BNP cadres beat molasses trader in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A molasses trader was critically injured yesterday when some BNP cadres beat him mercilessly at Chhatni Bottala areas in Natore Sadar upazila.

Sunil Kumar, 28, a small molasses trader, was rushed to Natore Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

The BNP cadres swooped on Sunil when he was returning home from Natore Station Bazar.

No case has been filed till writing of this report.

Bill

FROM PAGE 12 bothers to comply it.

Replying to Qader, Barrister Moudud told the House that it was not necessary to send the bill to the select committee, as there was no scope to bring about change in the bill at this moment. The minister observed that there were several other clauses to discuss.

Former President Shahabuddin Ahmad promulgated two ordinances ahead of the October 1 election amending certain provisions of the Representation of People Order, 1972 to give some additional powers to the Election Commission to ensure a free and fair election.

According to the constitutional provision, the ordinances require ratification by the parliament at its maiden session.

Accordingly, the government placed the official gazette before the House on the opening day of the first session and tabled it before the House on November 18.

Hasina: Senakunja

FROM PAGE 1

Opposition. However, the only visible representative of Awami League yesterday was Muzaffar Hussain Paltu, Joint Secretary of the party.

Among those who attended yesterday's reception were Raushan Ershad MP and some other MPs from her Jatiya Party faction, Nazir Rahman Manju of another splinter group of Jatiya Party, Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid of Jammata-Islami, Shaikhul Hadith of IOJ, Rashed Khan Menon, President of Workers Party, Hasanul Huq Inu, General Secretary of JSD, and Nirmal Sen. Most of the invited guests faced difficulties in having their iftar due to lack of sitting arrangements and insufficient number of chairs. A canopy was erected exclusively for select invitees.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo carried a picture while The Daily Star ran two other photographs on the November 13 incident.

The Prothom Alo picture shows General Secretary of the DU unit of JCD Mostafizul Islam Mamun, wearing a blazer (in the middle), leading a group of seven cadres during the clash at Jagannath Hall. Sources said he was carrying a sophisticated gun inside his blazer. As an identified criminal, Mamun masterminded many criminal offences on the campus during the reign of the previous BNP government and at the beginning of past Awami League government's tenure, the sources added. The youth standing on Mamun's left and brandishing a gun is also a familiar face on the campus. His name is Shahabuddin Munna and is a student of information and library science. Munna stays in Surya Sen Hall and is an activist loyal to the JCD faction led by its President Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, the sources said. In the same photo-

graph, the young man standing behind Mamun is Ashraf Babu, who led the fight to capture Mohsin Hall in the early hours of October 2, the sources said. He is known on the campus as an eve-teaser.

Identities of the two youths waving bamboo sticks could not be known. Sources believe they were hired from the old part of the city for the fight at Jagannath Hall. The man on the extreme left has been identified by the sources as Titu, a JCD central committee leader.

The first of The Daily Star pictures frames a youth holding a Chinese-made pistol chasing the BCL men during the clash. The sources identified him to be Farhad, the assistance information secretary of JCD's central body.

In the second photograph, two BCL gunmen are seen firing from inside the Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall at a JCD cadre trying to enter the hall. The masked youth has been identified as Liton, while the identity of the other wearing a cap could not be known.

Two other youths standing with firearms on the rooftop of Mohsin Hall and photographed in another national daily have been identified as Faisal and Sumon. They are JCD activists and stay at the hall, the sources added.

During a visit to the DU campus yesterday, a Daily Star correspondent found Mamun sitting at the Madhu's canteen along with other JCD leaders and workers. Later, he had a meeting with the proctor of the university at the latter's office.

A police officer stationed on the campus told the correspondent that they could not arrest the terrorists unless asked by the government high-ups. "How can we arrest a

government and the outsiders responsible for the unhealthy atmosphere on the campus should have been arrested by the time. "If not punished, they could spill more trouble for the university," observed a leader of the DU unit of JCD, requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile, Shahidul Islam, deputy commissioner (South) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star last night that they had identified the criminals but could not arrest them as the cadres went into hiding immediately after the gunfight.

"Osama is still in southern Afghanistan," alliance interior minister Younis Qanooni told AFP.

"He sometimes travels to Pakistan where he also has secret places," Qanooni said.

PM for allout nat'l unity

FROM PAGE 1

should stand together to ensure welfare of the people as well as protect common national interests.

The PM, who holds the charge of Defence Ministry, was addressing the reception function on the occasion of Armed Forces Day 2001 at Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment in the late afternoon.

"You certainly remember that before election on behalf of all major parties we had given our commitment to turn Jatiya Sangsad into the focal point of all activities. Now it's time to fulfil that commitment," she told her audience from the military and civil elite in her brief speech.

"Let's take the opportunity to work en masse for protecting common national interests as well as ensuring all that is best for the people of the country."

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, leaders of the four-party coalition, Awami League leader Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, acting JP chairperson Rawshan Ershad and Anwar Hossain Manju of his faction of the JP were among others who attended the function.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, editors and journalists of different national newspapers and agencies and civil and military high officials were present.

Chiefs of the three services received Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at 4:30 pm on the Senakunja premises.

About the role of army in the present context, the prime minister said the new-generation soldiers like their predecessors should remain ever ready to face any aggressive force that may pose a threat to the country's independ-

ence and sovereignty. "The nation is proud of our armed forces for their sense of duty, sincerity and skill as valiant sentinels of the country's independence and sovereignty since independence," she observed.

She said traversing a long way after the independence, the armed forces had reached a strong and dignified position.

The PM expressed her government's determination to build the armed forces yet stronger, modern, skilled and capable of facing the challenges of the 21st century. "Inshaallah, the present government will take all possible steps affordable with the limited resources."

Recalling with deep respect the great sacrifice of the martyrs from the barracks in the Liberation War, Khaleda said 21st November, the Armed Forces Day, shines in its historical glory and dignity.

On this day in 1971, she mentioned, the armed forces comprising army, navy and airforce along with the people launched combined offensive against the occupation forces to wrest the country's independence.

This onslaught had accelerated the final victory of the freedom fight and "we gained the independent and sovereign Bangladesh," she told the function.

"The valour and sacrifice of the members of the armed forces will remain a source of inspiration of our soldiers forever."

Khaleda said during the rule of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who proclaimed the independence war, effective steps were taken for the first time to build modern armed

forces suitable for an independent country.

Under his leadership, the PM recounted, an army of only five brigades were upgraded to one consisting of five divisions alongside infrastructure development for the military.

Modern frigate was also added to the naval force while a remarkable number of fighter planes and equipment were procured apart from training aircraft shown by the rule.

Following the path shown by Zia, the BNP government in 1991-96 also implemented massive development works to build up modern and strong armed forces.

She said the armed forces, "who are our brothers, sons and daughters, our beloved and relatives," are an important segment of the people.

Recalling the laudable role of members of the armed forces during natural calamity, infrastructure development and cooperation with civil administration, the prime minister said they made valuable contribution to development of the country and people's welfare alongside performing the important duty of safeguarding the country.

Khaleda said the nation is proud of the role played by armed forces in holding the October elections in a free, neutral and peaceful manner.

The prime minister, on the occasion, prayed for departed souls of the martyrs of freedom fight and conveyed her sympathies to the freedom fighters wounded in the Liberation War.

The reception was followed by iftar at the end of the day's fasting.

DU gunfight: Armed cadres

FROM PAGE 1

The university authorities formed a six-member probe body, headed by newly appointed Proctor Dr Nazrul Islam, on the very day of the incident to trace out identities of the armed men within a week of the incident. But it failed to deliver.

The DU authorities also issued a statement asking all to provide the probe body with any information about the clash, particularly those photographed in newspapers. It also said identity of the informant will not be disclosed.

But sources said most of the cadres earned notoriety as terrorists on the campus. Moreover, police also found out their identities during their primary investigation.

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AL expels 24 rebels

FROM PAGE 1

of 24 rebel candidates was finalised yesterday.

"Besides, partymen who directly or indirectly acted against party interest during the recent election would be served with show cause notice," the AL general secretary said.

Yesterday's meeting was considered a crucial one following AL's debacle in the election. Many party men believe that other than 'rigging of polls' and 'bias' showed by the caretaker government, internal feuds and betrayal by some party leaders and workers at the grassroots level had contributed to the party's poll debacle.

Members of the party presidium, advisory council and working committee attended the meeting.

"We have discussed our plan to reorganise the party from the grassroots level to the central level," Zillur Rahman said.

He hinted that fresh and young leaders would find their way to the helm of the party provided the party successfully prunes the troublemakers within it.

The meeting discussed at length preliminary preparations for holding the planned all-party national convention, 'Crimes against Humanity,' in the first week of January next year.

The convention would project incidents of atrocities on party workers, members of the minority community and people in general since the present government took power on October 10, sources said.

The meeting decided that it would be a national convention with AL acting as the key organiser.

A steering committee would be

formed soon to organise the convention and initiate dialogues with all political parties, human rights bodies, various professional groups, NGOs and journalists.

The meeting in separate resolutions denounced incidents of repression by 'terrorists blessed' by the ruling alliance and asked the government to stop acts of killing, arson and looting across the country.

It said the present rulers are filing false and baseless cases against AL leaders and workers as political vendetta.

The meeting also protested 'harassment' of administrative officials and condemned the recent killing of a college principal in Chittagong.

The ALCWC denounced 'grabbing' of public property since the takeover by the present government.

The meeting was attended by Zillur Rahman, party presidium members Abdul Momin, Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and Kamaruzzaman, party advisory council members Advocate Gazil Haq and Mazharul Islam.

Besides, AL organising secretary Mohammad Nasim, agriculture secretary Matia Chowdhury, publicity secretary Abdul Mannan, office secretary Abdul Mannan Khan, Jubo League chief Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and city AL president and general secretary Mohammad hanif and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya respectively were present.

122 intellectuals

FROM PAGE 12

Asia by bringing the minority repression issue in the forefront," the statement said.

The statement reminded that members of the Shato Nagorik Committee earlier had protested the repression on some members of the minority community in post-election period.

"We would like to categorically demand stern actions against the culprits irrespective of their party affiliation", it said, but added that similar action should also be taken against those who are spreading distorted information on the issue.

"Actions must be taken against those conspirators who are ready to sacrifice national interest for individual or party interests," the statement said.

They expressed their deep concern about the proposed sit-in and hunger strike in West Bengal on November 26 and 27 called by the Trinomul Congress, a component of the ruling coalition in India.

The distinguished citizens also criticised the activities of some communal organisations of India including the Bishwa Hindu Parishad, Udbastu Kallayan Parishad, Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal and Bishwa Hindu Kallayan Parishad centring the issue.

"These activities are tantamount to naked interference in the domestic politics of Bangladesh," they said, and observed that few anti-state elements are also involved in the conspiracy.

They feared that existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and India would be seriously hampered following these untoward and

unacceptable incidents.

They also urged the government to ensure security of all the citizens of the country by improving the law and order situation.

National Professor Syed Ali Ahsan, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Emajuddin Ahmed, former advisor to the caretaker government Dr MA Majed, eminent cultural personality Professor Askar Ibne Shaikh, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Professor M Maniruzzaman Mian, former vice-chancellor of Chittagong University Professor R Chowdhury, Professor Jassim Uddin Ahmed, eminent journalists Sadeq Khan, former chairman of the Public Service Commission Professor S M A Faez and former president of the National Press Club Riazuddin Ahmed and Muhammad Abu Hena MP were among those who signed the statement.

The meeting was held at the residence of the organisers in the use of the Buriganga but they do not have proper coordination among themselves and work according to their own decisions.

Due to lack of inter-agency and inter-ministerial initiatives, many illegal establishments have been built on the river banks, the meeting observed, and stressed the need for an integrated planning and its proper implementation.

Secretary of Shipping Ministry Golam Rahman, Managing Director of Dhaka WASA Dr Azharul Haque and BIWTA Chairman Abdul Malek Miah were present in the meeting.

Save Buriganga

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Moratorium on JCD Mixed signals from Musharraf

FROM PAGE 12 JCD leaders and activists had revolted against the decision and went on violent protest, even attacking top leaders' houses. Since then there has been serious intra-organisation conflicts.

Although most of activists have welcomed Khaleda Zia's latest action against the JCD central body, cadres and non-students backed by Pintu are unhappy because the suspension order has partially halted their terrorist activities such as toll extortion and other criminal activities.

Sources said moderate BNP leaders and majority of JCD leaders and activists in most of the educational institutions including Dhaka University are happy and they now expect a new committee comprising genuine students.

Talking to The Daily Star, a senior BNP leader said yesterday Khaleda Zia was influenced by hardliners within the party to form the committee headed by Pintu and Latu.

This time, he said, a move has already been initiated to turn the student body into a purely campus-based organisation led by genuine students.

Many of the JCD leaders were seen in the last few days moving door to door at the residences of ministers, mostly those known as moderate BNP leaders, to request them to take immediate initiative and play an effective role in freeing the JCD from 'evil influence' of the hardliners and their supporters, party insiders mentioned.

Moderate BNP leaders and dedicated JCD leaders are now eagerly awaiting what Khaleda Zia's eldest son Tareque Rahman does for the betterment of the party's student wing, they said.

They pointed out that Tareque who has long been involved in many important party affairs favours turning JCD into a campus-based organisation of genuine students.

Some sources said Tareque might take an initiative to bring

honest and dedicated activists in the new leadership of JCD central, city and Dhaka University units.

Meanwhile, a section of the policy makers of BNP prefer continuation of the moratorium on JCD central committee's activities for long while others think that it would not be wise to delay formation a new committee.

Many BNP leaders think that Jamaat -e- Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir would 'gain politically' if the moratorium on JCD's activities continues for long.

Officials observe that the state minister is giving confusing policy statements every other day. While some statements suggest that the government has already decided to export gas, others indicate that it is weighing the pros and cons of gas export.

On Monday, Mosharraf told journalists that the government would take a decision on gas export to India within two months and send a high-powered delegation to New Delhi to discuss its financial aspect.

At a gas sector workshop on November 10, the state minister said that gas export had become necessary for the country because of liabilities with international oil companies and emphasised on deciding fast how to export gas.

However, at the Jatiya Sangsad on November 13, without giving any timeframe, he said that the government would decide on gas export if it benefited the country and after scrutinising the option.

Earlier on November 7, the finance minister told donors that gas would be exported only after careful considerations.

The state minister, along with the finance minister, is also being criticised for making the gas export issue political by blaming the Awami League for signing too many PSCs, which were forcing the government to consider gas export.

At a seminar on November 14, Mosharraf criticised the