

Student politics

FROM PAGE 12 imposing such a ban, the secretary said. "We are discussing this with the vice-chancellors of different universities."

The Dhaka University Order, 1973, which was followed by other public universities as a model, later came to be known as the University Act of 1973. It greatly ensures autonomy of the universities.

As per the act, university teachers and students elect their leaders and university administration is run independently without interference from the government.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely to go for dialogue with political parties and professional groups to forge a national consensus on ways of restoring a congenial academic atmosphere at educational institutions. She discussed the issue with

some of her cabinet colleagues on Tuesday night.

Education Minister Osman Farruk said on Tuesday the government plans a blanket moratorium on student politics at all public and private colleges to stop campus violence and restore a congenial academic atmosphere.

The move is being discussed at the highest level of the government. The ban on campus politics at the BUET has encouraged the government to go for such a blanket moratorium, he said.

An expert committee on education reform last week recommended keeping educational institutions totally free from politics, sparking criticism of the government by teachers and students.

Three of a family killed in Sylhet road accident

UNB, Habiganj

A cement-laden truck overturned near Rashidpur gas filed on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway in Bahubal upazila here yesterday, killing three members of a family on the spot and injuring 10 others.

Police and witnesses said the Sylhet-bound truck met with the mishap while giving side to another truck coming from opposite direction at about noon.

The dead, identified as Rahimun, 45, her sons Hamid, 4, and 6-month-old Sukur Ali of Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidha district, were travelling aboard the truck.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with local police.

Karzai appoints Qadir's brother as governor

REUTERS, Kabul

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has formally appointed the brother of his slain vice president as governor of the province of Nangarhar, officials said yesterday.

Haji Deen Mohammad, brother of Haji Abdul Qadir, who was assassinated this month, had already declared himself governor five days before his official appointment, after Karzai had said the powerful family would be asked to fill the position.

"Today he is formally appointed ... discussions are going on regarding the vice-president's post," Karzai's spokesman Sayed Fazal Akbar said.

Asked if the appointment had anything to do with a protest on Monday by thousands of residents of Jalalabad clamouring for the brother to be named, Akbar said: "I was not in the picture. Mr Karzai had spoken to him about his appointment on the phone."

Qadir became the second minister to be assassinated in Afghanistan this year when he was gunned down by two assassins on July 6 as he left his office on his first day as minister of public works, another portfolio he held.

Karzai has already appointed a replacement, but is still negotiating with his cabinet for a replacement vice-president.

The issue is a tricky one as Karzai tries to placate the Pashtun majority, who are suspicious of the multi-ethnic government.

Qadir was one of the new Pashtuns in the Tajik-dominated Northern Alliance, which, helped by the US-led air bombardment of last year, toppled the Taliban and formed the nucleus of the current government.

10 injured

FROM PAGE 12 master, Abdus Salam, and his assistant Giasuddin amid the noon-time melee.

"Police rescued the driver and his assistant from the college campus two hours after they were kidnapped," said a spot report.

Train communications on the route resumed at about 2:00 after police intervened and the torched sleepers were repaired.

Police arrested 12 students from the spot during the dust-up. A case was filed.

Earlier the agitating students took out a procession from the college campus at about 11:00am and damaged five vehicles and 15 roadside shops while parading the town to drum up support for their demand.

Following a government decision to upgrade some old colleges to full-fledged universities, students in different colleges with postgraduate courses have recently mounted a campaign to have their colleges turned into full-fledged universities.

Kajol

FROM PAGE 12 in the killing of 11 people as per hit-list of PBCP," said a senior police officer who is heading the team of interrogators.

"We are really fed up with threats being given by a member of parliament and some leaders of the ruling party who have been named by Kajol as his godfathers," the police officer said.

According to interrogators, Kajol has already disclosed the whereabouts of his party's other ringleaders.

During interrogation, the outlawed party leader told an MP belonging to the ruling party has been harbouring top leaders of Purbo Banglar Communist Party since last October 1 parliamentary elections. Because, a large number of armed cadres of PBCP played an active role in getting him elected to parliament.

"We are still getting both financial and political supports from the MP," Kajol told police during interrogation on Thursday night.

"Most of our top leaders have taken shelter in Khulna Metropolitan City and are staying with their political well-wishers," Kajol said.

He further said PBCP has regained its lost strength under the leadership of Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Tapan who was snatched from police custody from Khulna Judges' Court on January 26 this year.

Police on Thursday arrested another armed cadre of PBCP from Kalibari ferryghat under Khulna thana. The arrested PBCP cadre was identified as Faruq Hossain, 34, of Shirgati village in Rupsha upazila.



Students of different halls of Dhaka University brought out a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting Wednesday's police raid on Shamsunnahar Hall.

Fresh areas flooded

FROM PAGE 12 routes "closed for an indefinite period" from today (Saturday) for suspension of railway ferry service.

It said ferry movement between Bahadurabad and Balasi ghats would remain closed from today as railway ferry ghats were flooded.

In Sirajganj, overall flood situation further aggravated due to abrupt rise of water in the river Jamuna.

Fresh areas in 31 unions of five upazilas -- Chouhali, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Shahajpur and Sadar -- were inundated.

The Dharta at Kurigram, the Brahmaputra at Chilmari, the Jamuna at Bahadurabad, Sirajganj and Aricha, the Padma at Bhagyakul, the Surma at Kanaighat and Sunamganj, the Kushiara at Amaishid and Sheola, and the Meghna at Bhairab Bazar were flowing above their respective danger levels.

The Brahmaputra, Jamuna and Padma continued to rise at all points and the rivers in the Meghna basin receded at all points, excepting the Meghna at Bhairab Bazar and the Surma at Sylhet. All the rivers in the Southeastern Hill basin also marked fall.

Forecasting and Warning Center bulletin yesterday, the flood situation in the districts of Kurigram and Rangpur as well as Moulvibazar, Sylhet, Sunamganj and Habiganj is likely to improve further during the period.

Out of 46 monitoring stations, seven rivers in the country were flowing above their danger marks at 23 points and fell at 20 other points.

More low-lying areas in Munshiganj, Kishoreganj, Narsingdi and Brahmanbaria districts are likely to be inundated in the next 24 hours until 9am today (Saturday) due to rain and onrush of water from upstream.

According to the Flood

SUST student drowns in Sunamganj

UNB, Sunamganj

A student of Shahjalal University drowned and another remained missing while swimming in Chholti river in the frontier Dolora area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

Local fishermen recovered the body of Rabin, a second year student of economics department, but could not trace Mahibun Nabi, a first year student of English department.

The victims were among a 51-member team of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, which came here on an education tour.

Police said Nabi and Rabin went missing in the river at about 2pm. The body of Rabin was found at about 7:30pm.

Factory blast

FROM PAGE 1 nearby Mirpur station immediately rushed to the spot and doused the fire after two hours.

Neither the factory nor any of his representatives turned up after the explosion. Police has meanwhile cordoned off the area.

DU VC, proctor

FROM PAGE 1 tion.

In the female halls, activists of the JCD have started listing those who joined processions and rallies of general students. "They have already taken video footages of female students taking part in the agitation and will continue to do so," said a resident of Bangladesh-Kuwait Moitri Hall for female students.

She alleged that the JCD supporters are warning the general students of dire consequences and ouster from the halls if they go on with the movement. "On Thursday, they took video footages of a procession of general students at the hall," she claimed.

Two students of Shahnewaz Hall of the Institute of Fine Arts of the university- Tapu and Sabu - were forced out of the hall yesterday morning for taking part in a procession. Sources said three JCD activists forced them out.

Panic gripped residents of Rokeya Hall following threats by JCD hall unit leaders and workers. They were warning the agitating students of the hall that they would have the same fate as that of students of the Shansunnahar Hall, a number of students said.

Some female students were seen leaving the Rokeya Hall in the evening.

Activists of the JCD also ousted several students from the Ziaur Rahman Hall Wednesday night for defying their warning as regards the movement.

Meanwhile, JCD leader Halima

Govt action

FROM PAGE 1 tion from home and abroad.

Officials at the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs said they received information from different sources about how the incident took place.

The prime minister has already instructed the authorities to remain alert to any such incident in future, the officials added.

After reviewing the information from intelligence agencies and the university teachers and students, the government thinks DU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury has miserably failed to tackle the situation.

Also, the VC's press statements justifying the police attack annoyed the government, the sources said.

The situation was not so explosive that law enforcers would be called to launch a raid, the ruling party insiders quoted the government as saying.

Meanwhile, a number of senior teachers of the DU, who met some ministers, have suggested that the VC immediately be removed.

In reply, one of the ministers has said the government cannot go for any action till the judicial committee report is submitted.

Suharto's son convicted of masterminding murder

AFP, Jakarta

An Indonesian court yesterday sentenced former President Suharto's favourite son to a total of 15 years in jail for masterminding the murder of a Supreme Court judge and other offences.

Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra was absent from the court after falling ill earlier in the day.

Prosecutors had called for a combined 15-year jail sentence for Tommy for masterminding the killing of a judge who had convicted him of graft, along with possessing illegal weapons and evading the corruption conviction.

"The defendant gave money to (a hitman) to follow his orders. The panel of judges did not find reasons ... to erase the accountability of the defendant, therefore the defendant has to be declared guilty," said Andi Samsan Nngano, a member of the panel of five judges ruling on the closely-watched trial.

Zulfikar Ali new CPA Chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Commodore (Retd) Zulfikar Ali took over as the new chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) on Thursday.

He has been appointed on one year's contact service.

Outgoing chairman Commodore Golam Rabbani handed over charge to the new chairman at a simple ceremony at the port complex, attended by other officials.

Commodore Golam Rabbani who had joined as CPA chairman in 1999 has been made Director General (DG) of Shipping.

Sources said Zulfikar Ali is the first retired armed forces personnel to be appointed CPA chairman. Previously, the post was held by in-service armed forces personnel or by bureaucrats.

Zulfikar Ali retired from Bangladesh Navy in 1997. He is an electrical engineer and hails from Feni.

Benazir set to win party leadership

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's former prime minister Benazir Bhutto is set to walk a ballot for the leadership of her party as she was the sole candidate for the post when nominations closed today, party officials said.

Internal party elections were made mandatory to qualify for the October 10 parliamentary poll by new laws introduced by military ruler Pervez Musharraf.

The twice-deposed Bhutto lives abroad in self-imposed exile, but has vowed to return after the schedule for the October 10 elections is announced.

Senior vice chairman of her Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Makhdoom Amin Fahim filed Bhutto's papers today, the last day for nominations, party election commissioner Aftab Shaban Mirani said.

"Two nominations papers were filed on her behalf ... one by Amin Fahim and another by former judge Rasheed Rizvi, and there is no other candidate for the post," Mirani told AFP.

He said the formal results will be announced on Monday.

The PPP announced last week that party elections will be held on Sunday for the central, provincial and district leadership.

President Musharraf, who seized power in October 1999, has decreed that all parties must hold elections for party offices by August 5 to compete in the October 10 polls, the first parliamentary vote since he seized power.

"We will abide by the condition of the election commission as we have plans to contest polls, we will contest and will sweep the elections despite all moves by the regime to keep Bhutto out of politics," party leader ND Khan said.

Musharraf has also proposed a law banning any person running for a third term as premier, a move that will effectively keep out Bhutto as well as former premier Nawaz Sharif.

Benazir Bhutto is set to return home to lead her party into the country's general election, defying the prospect of arrest, according to the daily Nation yesterday, Xinhua says.

Quoting sources in Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Lahore-based newspaper said a plane might be chartered, which would

carry a very large crowd of media men apart from close confidants of Benazir Bhutto living abroad. Some party leaders would go to London to accompany her.

Benazir Bhutto is most likely to choose Lahore for her return to Pakistan from London. "The date is still being kept flexible but August 14 may be more probable," the sources were quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, PTI says, the family of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sahrfi have ruled out having a deal with President Pervez Musharraf, saying none of them including brother Shahbaz Sahrfi favoured a compromise with the "military dictator."

"Deal with Musharraf government is out of question," spokesman of Sharif family and central information secretary of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Muhammad Siddiqueul Farooque said.

He said Nawaz Sharif had rejected the deal when on the first night of his arrest, a few army officials approached him.

"The army officials had offered him freedom against the dissolution of the Parliament. But Sharif had flatly refused to do so," Farooque told 'The Nation' newspaper.

'Kashem Bahini' cadre Amar Kanti held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a notorious criminal in the city on Thursday night.

The Detective Branch of police arrested Amar Kanti Das, 35, also a member of a gang of kidnappers, from Saltgola rail-crossing area under Bandar thana at around 11:15 pm.

Detectives arrested him according to the confessional statement of Taslim Uddin alias Montu, an accused in Nazirul Court college principal Gupal Krishna Muhuri murder case.

Amar Kanti was produced before the court yesterday with a prayer for a seven-day remand. The court placed him on one day's remand.

Montu in his statement also identified Amar as a notorious cadre of 'Kashem Bahini' of Fatikchhari.

Indo-Pak tensions

FROM PAGE 12 Pakistan's reported military acquisitions from the United States, official sources here said. India does not expect articulation of this concern to impact negatively on the current status of its ties with the US, they added.

During Straw visit, India let it be known that neither Washington nor London has so far been able to prompt Pakistan to implement its promise to permanently stop cross-border infiltration. The same view will be conveyed to Powell, said the sources.

The US, of course, feels there has been some reduction in infiltration and India should respond by more de-escalatory measures to give Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf the necessary space for a stronger crackdown against terrorism in his own country, diplomatic sources said.

India does not accept this view. Acknowledging there had been slight reduction in cross-border infiltration in early June, India says it has showed a marked rise in recent weeks.

Besides, India sharply disagrees with the US view that Musharraf is a 'stalwart ally' in the fight against terrorism. India, the sources said, is going to tell Powell that it finds the view unacceptable that terrorism in Pakistan's western border with Afghanistan is bad and that on the eastern frontier (with India) good.

India, however, has derived comfort from US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca, testifying before the Senate recently, rejected plebiscite in Kashmir. Interestingly, Rocca is accompanying Powell to India.

After talks with Indian leaders, Powell will travel to Pakistan from where he will fly to Brunei to attend a meeting of ASEAN Regional Forum for security which will be attended also by Yashwant Sinha. Powell and Sinha are also likely to meet again in the Brunei capital on the margin of the ARF meeting.

Powell begins the Pacific portion of the trip with talks with Thai officials

on Monday in Bangkok, according to AFP.

From there he will head to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines for lightning stops of less than 24 hours in each of the capitals.

"In all the visits in this region, counter-terrorism will be a major topic," US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "We're working directly with many governments in this region against terrorism."

Powell is not expected to announce any substantially new US anti-terror programmes at every stop but there are signs Washington may be ready to resume suspended military assistance to Jakarta and propose expanded US-Philippines operations in Manila.

US officials are keen to establish closer contacts with their counterparts in Indonesia -- the world's most populous Muslim nation -- as they look to retard the spread of Osama bin Laden's brand of militant Islam.

In addition to a meeting with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who spoke on Tuesday with President George W. Bush about counter-terrorism, Powell plans to see the country's economy and security ministers in Jakarta on August 2.

From there, the secretary heads to Manila where earlier this week Philippine Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said that Powell would be discussing new joint counter-terrorism operations between US and Philippine forces.

Power sector

FROM PAGE 1 financing of power projects provided expected reforms are made in the sector," said a power sector expert.

The PDB chairman Syed Abdul Maveed while talking to The Daily Star the week before last said that the PDB would have the hundred per cent ownership of the SBUs.

The PDB would purchase power under a power purchase agreement (PPA) signed between the PDB board and the PMBs.

In 2000, the PDB converted its Jamalpur and Sherpur distribution areas into pilot projects to reduce systems loss. After the introduction of the pilot project, systems loss in both areas went down to 18 per cent from 38 per cent.

Following success of the pilot projects, the PDB has already converted 23 of its distribution areas into SBUs where the systems loss has decreased with significant increase in revenue collection.

In the same year, the 110MW Haripur plant was converted into an SBU. Since then power generation at this plant has increased by more than 60 per cent, PDB officials said.

Coordination body

FROM PAGE 1 said an NGO leader. The government included 'persons of its own choice', the leader added.

The convention organisers said their aim is to make the ADAB effective, hold talks with the government to expedite the development activities of NGOs and to establish self-regulation, making sure that the NGOs are not involved in party politics.

The 18-member coordination committee was formed at the national convention organised at the Ganoshasthya Kendro in Savar by some leading NGOs and attended by leaders and representatives of as many as 3,000 NGOs.

However, the call for the convention has apparently split the NGO community, sources said.

Earlier, Qazi Faruque Ahmad who heads the ADAB said he would not call any separate meeting, countering the BRAC's move.

The BRAC chief held several meetings with ADAB leaders to resolve the stalemate over the ADAB. "The ADAB could have held the convention but its leaders did not heed our request," said a leader on condition of anonymity.

Contacted, the ADAB chief said the convention was not a conference representing the NGO sector, rather it was a gathering of representatives of the organisers association -- most of them are not NGOs as such.

He termed the coordination committee the "committee of the defeated". "Most members of the committee were defeated in the last election to the ADAB executive committee," he said.

The convention is a counter-weight to the ADAB's present committee, Ahmad told The Daily Star.

By contrast, Fazole Hassan Abed said, "We don't want abolition of the ADAB. We want to make it effective. But we want to keep us off party politics."

The coordination committee consists of Dr. Zafarullah Chowdhury of Ganoshasthya Kendro, Shaifiqui Haq Chowdhury of ASA, Bitu, D Costa of CARITAS, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, Rasheda K Chowdhury of Gono Sakhorota Oviyan, Rizwana Hassan of BELA, Mashuda Khatoon Shefali of Nari Udjog Kendro, Shamsunnahar Rahman Paran of Gashful, Afzal Hossain of RULFAO, Shah-E-Mobin Zinna of CDA, Azadul Kabir Arju of Jagoroni Chackro, Abul Hassan Khan of RIC, Zakir Hossain of Bureau Tangail, Shahidul Haq of SARPV, Michel PK Bar of CSC, Abdul Kader of Shetu and Moezzen Hossen from Gram Bikash Kendro.

The leaders at the convention pledged to keep away from any political involvement to bring dynamism to the NGO sector now involved in mudslinging.

Dr. Zafarullah Chowdhury said, "The political ambition of some NGO leaders has worsened the situation... our main problem is bureaucratic."

Musharraf's tour

FROM PAGE 1 As opposition grew in Dhaka to Musharraf's visit, Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury on Thursday said Islamabad would be asked for 4.5 billion dollars in compensation for Bangladesh assets left behind in Pakistan when the countries split.

The main anti-fundamentalist Ektatur Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee called Musharraf "one of the leading figures of the military junta... which carried out genocide during the 1971 Bangladesh independence war".

However, diplomats in Islamabad said Musharraf would most likely be able to push forward trade initiatives with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Colombo already has a free trade pact with New Delhi, but Sri Lankan officials complain India has failed to deliver on promises.

"We are going into the free trade pact with Pakistan after learning a lesson from our experience with India," a Sri Lankan official said.

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Morshed Khan also said Dhaka was looking for economic fallout from Musharraf's trip.

"We expect the president's visit will contribute to expanding trade and economic cooperation, which are likely to figure prominently during official talks," he said.

Heroin worth Tk 3cr seized in city: 3 held

BSS, Dhaka

Three youngmen were arrested with 2.5 kg heroin worth Taka 3 crore in the city Thursday night.

Police said Shah Alam alias Sijar, Modabbir Ali and Nurul Islam were arrested at Progoti Sarani checkpoint at about 11.45 pm. They were carrying the heroin in two taxi-cabs.

The arrested persons, who came from Sylhet, were going to Hotel Purbani from Zia International Airport, police said.

A case was lodged with Badda police station in this connection.

Jute, textile

FROM PAGE 12 Khaleq, ZM Kamrul Anam and Lutfar Rahman addressed the rally. Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan read out the declaration.

The declaration said in closing down Adamjee the government showed excuses of loss to misguide people. But in fact, it implemented an agreement signed with the World Bank in 1993 in France to satisfy the donors.

"We used to earn Tk 1,500-2,000 crore in foreign exchange by exporting jute and jute goods. From now on the earning will decrease by a third and the market go to foreign countries, that we'll never gain," it said.

The council alleged that the government was protecting interests of the defaulters from whom Tk 20,000 crore could never be realised.

The federation of jute-yarn-textile workers also blasted the government for what they said conspiring to sell out country's limited natural resources -- oil and gas.

It was also critical about "allowing foreign companies to build terminal to destroy Chittagong port and foreign troops to develop bases in the name of joint exercises."

The Council warned against any bid to ban student politics.