

Bagerhat BNP splits

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large as learnt from the people of Rampal upazila.

Meanwhile, amidst allegation of a top BNP leader sheltering the prime accused Kazi Bashar, Bagerhat district BNP president MAH Salim MP went a step forward in condemning the incident, saying that even his own brother won't be spared from stern legal action if he is a miscreant.

Bagerhat district acting DC Mohammad Mansur Ahmed and Superintendent of Police Abdul Jalil Mondal have both been served separate show cause notices to explain their failure to take legal action against those who assaulted and molested Chhabi Rani. The government is blaming these two top officials for delayed action and both officials are likely to be withdrawn from the district shortly.

Shu Prakash Sanyal, UNO of Rampal, was also been served a show cause notice yesterday to explain about his failure to inform the higher authorities about the manhandling of Chhabi Rani.

The acting DC and the police superintendent are expected to reply to the government's show cause notices today.

But a reliable police source as well as BNP insiders said both the acting DC and the police superintendent were asked by MP Selim to "go slow" and not be overzealous in dealing with affairs relating to the party in power.

OC Nasiruddin of Rampal thana was also reportedly asked not to 'go too far and beyond the limit'.

Properties of the FIR-named accused still at large were attached to the state yesterday by order of First Class Magistrate Haroon-ar-Rashid.

Earlier on Sunday, Investigating Officer (IO) of the case OC Nasiruddin, sought permission of the court to attach properties of the ten absconding FIR-named

Public expenditure

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and 188 new and 242 unapproved projects.

At the meeting, the finance minister has asked the commission to avoid theoretical aspects and look into practical problems.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are asking about the progress of the commission's work, the minister told the meeting.

The Bangladesh Bank should play an important role in disciplining public spending, as it is involved in formulating and implementing the government's financial and monetary policies, the minister said.

The minister instructed the PERC to look into the development side first and then revenues. The

DCC blamed

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detected should be earmarked for immediate spraying of appropriate pesticide to kill the infective adult Aedes population, they suggested.

Strategies for mid-term (1-3 years), long-term (5-10 years) and emergency control of Aedes mosquito should be developed to combat dengue fever (DF) and dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF), the recommendations said.

The experts further suggested that to ensure broad-based public participation in 'container (breeding place for Aedes mosquito) disposal and management,' the DCC should initiate formulation of a new line with the existing laws in other countries with dengue problem. Aedes breeding potential of different containers should be widely publicised to increase public awareness.

The current Culex mosquito control programme of the DCC should be reorganised to include the strategy for Aedes mosquito control, they said.

All mosquito management programmes should include adequate manpower with entomological training.

The experts stressed formation of a broad-based national committee to formulate and monitor dengue

One dies, 141 infected

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Our northern region roving correspondent reports that at least one person died in Chapainawabganj district and 15 others were hospitalised for DHF. All of them were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) during last 10 days.

The dead was identified as Zillur Rahman, 45, a businessman from Ranihati village in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj district. Infected with DHF in Dhaka, Rahman was admitted to the RMCH in a critical condition on August 18. He died on the same day. The RMCH authorities have opened a cell styled 'dengue corner' to facilitate treatment of dengue patients.

Of the 15 affected, only five are now undergoing treatment at the 'dengue corner' of the RMCH while the rest have been shifted to Dhaka. The five hospitalised are Nazrul Islam, 30, Safidul Islam, 17, Golam Mustafa, 40, Tawhidul Islam, 17 and Mohammed Selim, 16.

Besides, 10 more persons were being treated at different clinics in Rajshahi city.

Chief Health Officer of the DCC Dr Mohammad Ashraf Uddin and the health directorate's official concerned, Dr Mannan Bangalee, were also invited to the roundtable, but they did not turn up.

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Dissolution of Sylhet JCD

FROM PAGE 1
president, does not enjoy blessing of any faction of BNP, sources said.

The senior leaders of BNP gave statements and counter statements accusing each other for patronising JCD factions, which lead to the clashes.

Former organising secretary of Sylhet district BNP Advocate Shamsuzzaman Zaman (now expelled) in a written statement accused general secretary Ariful Haque Chowdhury for the attacks on students in different areas of the city and on the office of daily Shyamol Sylhet on Saturday night.

Advocate Zaman also termed Ariful Haque Chowdhury a 'godfather of terrorists' in Sylhet and alleged that he provoked the Sadeque-Najib faction to attack innocent members of JCD.

Arif held meetings with "armed goons" before and after the attacks, he alleged.

Zaman, who is also the main

proprietor of the newspaper and an aspirant for BNP ticket to contest in the ensuing mayoral election in the city, sought intervention of the finance minister and the party chairperson to stop unwanted incidents taking place in Sylhet "under the patronisation" of district BNP secretary Ariful Haque Chowdhury.

On the other hand, Ariful Haque Chowdhury said the people of Sylhet know well who is the 'godfather of terrorists' here. Without naming Zaman, he said, "we had expelled him (Zaman) from the party due to terrorism long ago".

He said, "Such comments from a leading terror can never be accepted. It is very much clear who are involved in terrorism and use of illegal fire arms in Sylhet".

Both Ariful Haque Chowdhury and Shamsuzzaman Zaman are aspirants for the party nomination for contesting in the mayoral election. There are some other senior

ETV case

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ing on the review petition on the ETV case.

The licensing process is basically a regulatory measure and so, the irregularities in the licence, if any, should have ways to stand corrected and there is scope for that, Dr. Kamal contended.

The court questioned whether the ETV and its partners are in an insoluble situation or whether there is any way left for them to mend the irregularities. In response, Dr. Kamal said the problem may have solutions. Any decision from the government to this end may take time. But if the verdict is stayed for six months, such an effort can be initiated.

He said there are countless instances of such decisions. He pointed out that the court itself could give clues in terms of mending the irregularities in the license. Dr. Kamal said the court should give a judgement taking into account the public interest litigation in a wider perspective. In such a case, the court should make a judgement so that the interest of a vast segment of the public is not compromised by way of entertaining the interest of a particular party or prescribing remedial measures.

Dr. Kamal said Citi Corp International Finance Corporation Ltd. and Water Ford Partners LLC are the third party here who invested a huge sum of money in October 1999. They invested the money taking credits from Citibank in December 1999. Much before this, in 1998 the ETV got the license.

They invested being sure that all legal procedures to obtain the license were complete and all ministries and the Board of

Minu Ara

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prits responsible for my daughter's death are arrested and punished so that no other girl meets the fate of my daughter," a grief-stricken father of Minu Ara told the visiting DIG and journalists.

Meanwhile, five persons including Machhura's husband Abul Kashem were taken into custody for interrogation, police said.

Jail Killing Case

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Then I along with my friend went to the T and T staff quarters. Obaidur Rahman and Shah Moazzem followed us in their car. After some time, my father returned to our residence at Hair Road and Obaidur and Moazzem also went there. We found that some uniformed army men cordoned off the house. The army men then entered our residence and took away a portrait of Bangabandhu."

He said, "On August 20, 1975, Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Manzoor and IG of police Nurul Islam went to our house where my father was under house arrest. They took him to the Bangabhaban. My father later told us Mushtaque requested him to take charge as prime minister. As he refused to do so, Mushtaque threatened him and reminded him of the August 15 incident (killing of Bangabandhu and his family members)."

On August 22, 1975, the witness said, his father was arrested and sent to Dhaka Central Jail. "Later, I came to know that the killers of Bangabandhu - Mushtaque, Rashid, Farooq and their accomplices- killed my father and Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed and AHM Quamruzzaman in the jail on November 3, 1975."

Special PPs Anisul Haq, Mosarraf Hossain Kajol and Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Abdul Majid Munshi, ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, Arshadul Haque and Sohail Mallick represented four of the 21 accused in the case. The four - Taheruddin Thakur, Lt Col (dissided) Syed Farooqur Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Maj (ret'd) Bazlul Huda- detained at Dhaka Central Jail- were produced before the court yesterday.

Four other accused now on bail - KM Obaidur Rahman, MP; Shah Moazzem Hossain, Nurul Islam Manzoor and Maj (ret'd) Khairuzzaman- were also present in the court.

Police also testified that they had entered the hall at 12:30am upon hearing a 'false alarm' from Room No. 235, occupied by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Halima Khatun Lucy and Noorjahan Begum Shanta. They went to the room and stayed there until 3:30am when agitating students inside the hall were being dispersed by the law-enforcers.

The commission has found improper the police decision to put the arrested female students in the lockup of the Ramna station. They should have been detained in the provost's chamber or the office of either the officer-in-charge or the second officer of the police station, it observed in the report.

The judicial probe body has also agreed with some findings in the

police commission report of 1988-89.

"... after independence several governments... have also been accused of using police for their political ends and this resulted in political unrest accompanied by rivalries, agitation and lawlessness to the extent of violence," it said.

"... there are alleged instances when leaders of political parties and particularly the ruling party by influencing the police prevented them from taking legal and proper actions in favour of the victims against the criminals thus disappointing the affected people," the report added.

The judicial commission has recommended that the police findings should be taken into consideration to avoid repetition of such incidents, the sources said.

It also observed that if the former vice-chancellor, proctor and provost of the hall had look at the matter from a guardian's point of view and been more conscious, the incident could have been averted.

The commission is also learned to have linked the incident to teachers and students politics, sources said.

Memo to VC 17 JU teachers demand law to check sexual harassment

JU CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen teachers of Jahangirnagar University (JU) submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor yesterday demanding immediate introduction of new laws to check sexual harassment of female students on the campus and amendment to the existing Proctorial Law.

As there is no specific law against the crime, the university authorities can not deal with the offenders who, even if brought under trial, escape through loopholes in the existing law, the memo said.

As a result, the offenders roam scot-free while the victims fall victim to further torment, it added.

Introduction of rules against sexual harassment was a demand of the anti-rap movement at JU in 1998 when the whole nation was shocked at several such incidents on the campus.

Pointing out that the existing Proctorial Law is "repressive, irrelevant, inaccurate and backdated", the teachers said the university authorities can not cope with the present campus situation.

"We think that introduction of law against sexual harassment and revisions to some articles of Proctorial Law is a must to resist further incidents of sexual harassment, repression, rape and terrorist activities and to create a sense of security among the campus insiders", the memo said.

Signatories of the memorandum are Prof Anu Muhammad, Prof Nasim Akhter Hossain, Prof Amir Hossen, Prof Nurul Haq, Prof Shaikh Monjurul Haq, Prof Khaled Hossain, Shamsud Mortuza, Ryhan Rhyne, Shajed Ashraf Karim, Farid Ahmed, Sharmind Nilormee, Mirza Taslima Sultana, Sayeed Ferdous, Manash Chowdhury, Shwadhini Sen, Altaf Hossain and Mazuhidul Islam.

The teachers also attached with the memorandum a model set of laws prepared by themselves to prevent sexual harassment.

On Monday a newspaper report said that an unidentified person fired gunshot at the window of a GMG aircraft which was carrying Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Agricultural Minister Maulana Motiur Rahman Nijami and Whip Mojibur Rahman Sarwar. The Home minister's wife and daughter were among other passengers.

The report said that as soon as the GMG aircraft Z-5-402 took off from Barisal airport on Saturday, a bullet hit the first widow left of the aircraft where the home minister was sitting.

The report, quoting the Agricultural Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, said that they were frightened after hearing the sound on the window pane. He further said that miscreants, most probably, targeted the wheels or the engine of the aircraft trying to cause it to crash.

The report further said, quoting anonymous retired airforce officer, that the bullet was fired from a high range rifle such as AK47 or chins rifle.

The GMG airlines in a written statement yesterday said that the window pane was damaged as a result, but it was no danger at all for any of the political leaders.

They refuted the newspaper report saying that they neither have male Stewards nor do they have anyone named Hasan as was mentioned in the report.

Our correspondent from Barisal added that the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police (SP) disowned Saturday's incident. They said nothing like the incident mentioned in the report took place.

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C'wealth for democracy

FROM PAGE 1
McKinnon said, "Commonwealth is closely watching the political development in Pakistan and polls observers from the Commonwealth countries, including Bangladesh, will be sent for Pakistan elections."

Speaking about the next Commonwealth Summit, scheduled to be held in Nigeria in December 2003, he said the theme of the Summit would be economic development in the Commonwealth, especially poverty alleviation and trade issues.

Welcoming the thrust the Commonwealth was putting on economic questions Khaleda spoke about her experiences in the SAARC in poverty alleviation in South Asia.

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan, PM's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddique and Foreign Secretary Shamsheer M Chowdhury were present. The secretary-general was accompanied by an official of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Khaleda also inquired of McKinnon about the situation in Zimbabwe and said Bangladesh is concerned about the welfare of its people. The secretary general said, "Unfortunately, there is no progress because of the attitude of President Mugabe."

McKinnon said Bangladesh has always played a useful role in the Commonwealth, saying he took note of the prime minister's insistence that more Bangladeshis should be employed in the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Khaleda made a strong plea for increasing the number of Commonwealth scholarships for

Earth Summit

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last week.

Just before the formal opening of the Civil Society Forum, a hundred or so of the South African delegates led their colleagues from Asia and South America in the toy-toy, a dance borrowed from the country's Zulu tribe that became a fixture at anti-apartheid protests.

The disappointment of the day was that former president Nelson Mandela did not show up as the programme for the event promised.

His spokeswoman hinted that the organisers had misled the delegates, but instead they got the celebrated South African singer Miriam Makeba, who arrived fresh from a conference on culture by European ecologists on the sidelines of the summit.

Outside, South African fishermen and their colleagues from elsewhere on the continent held a protest at the scarcity of quotas, waving a banner saying, "There are more sharks on land than in the sea."

In one of the halls at Nasrec an exhibition of photographs silently protested human rights violations in China and the presence of US soldiers in South Korea. Next to the

Only after new discoveries

FROM PAGE 1
a small amount of revenue budget is required for gas purchase from the IOCs under the existing contracts. The projection is based on the trend in the growth rate of revenue budget for 1995-2001.

In 2020, the government has to pay the IOCs \$428 million, which will be two per cent of the projected \$8,480 million revenue budget.

The government's payment to the oil companies will stand at \$154 million in 2002, or three per cent of the \$4,637 million revenue budget.

Another analysis shows that the payment to the IOCs for gas until 2020 will hardly affect the balance of trade, contrary to the claims of the IOCs, the World Bank and other donors.

The IOC payment will be only 0.64 per cent of exports in 2020 and 2.35 per cent in 2002.

In broader terms, the committee believes the country's energy consumption scenario is beset with complex problems and recommends multiple approaches to resolve them.

The utilisation committee made its assessments on the basis of the

Chemical report

FROM PAGE 1
However, close aides to Islam told The Daily Star that the secretarial probe committee was putting in its best and honest efforts to expose the real players behind the scam.

Islam is working round the clock at the office of the managing director of the Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL), the owning company of Sheraton Hotel, avoiding visitors and away from day-to-day civil aviation jobs. Islam is the ex-officio MD of the BSL.

The much-publicised irregularities took place allegedly over procurement of an additional one lakh metric tonne (MT) of wheat worth Tk 90 crore at the fog end of the extended procurement drive that ran from March 15 through July 31.

The procurement target was revised to four lakh MT despite the fact that country grew two lakh MT wheat less than the previous year.

A four-member food ministry probe committee already submitted its report to Food Secretary Abdul Latif Mandal on August 18. The report found involvement of ruling party lawmaker Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lahu and ten food officials including the additional director general of food directorate, Entajul

Haque. Meanwhile, another probe committee headed by a director of the food directorate, Aminul Haq, is now on a visit to nine districts of the country against which allegation of buying low-quality imported wheat has been levelled.

Police reportedly reached the spot too late. None was arrested till filing of this report at 3:00pm yesterday.

No case was lodged with Sreepur thana in this connection.

Despite repeated attempts, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Sreepur Police Station could not be reached for his comments.

Superintendent of Police (SP) in Magura, Biswas Afzal Hossain, however informed that he ordered deployment of police in the village to keep the situation under control and assured proper action against the culprits.

Bangladeshi students for higher studies in Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

The Commonwealth chief executive recalled that the main emphasis of the Coozum Summit was on economic progress and poverty alleviation, and said the prime minister's contribution in this respect was recognised by all Commonwealth countries.

McKinnon, who is from New Zealand, is visiting Dhaka for the first time since the present government assumed power.

Nazrul's death

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Academy will hold a discussion meeting presided over by Prof. Wakil Ahmed at its Art Gallery at 5:30pm. The discussion will be followed by a musical soiree and poetry recitation.

Dhaka University will arrange Quran Khwani at the university mosque after Fazr prayers. Later, a discussion will be held at the premises of Nazrul's grave.

The Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum has organised a discussion meeting and cultural evening at 4:00pm at the National Museum auditorium. State minister for Energy and Mineral Resources A K M Mosharraf Hossain will be chief guest on the occasion. Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintu, Vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof. Jasimuddin, author Dr Rezwana Siddique and cultural organiser Rezaabudoula Chowdhury will be present as special guests.

pictures, were small notices announcing debates in the coming days.

Amidst all the peaceful protesting and dancing, the tension suddenly rose when a group of Jewish delegates stormed into a meeting of Palestinians, screaming that the Palestinians supported terrorism.

DMCH

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The incident took place when the gang went to a shop and demanded toll at gunpoint from the shop owner at about 6:00am yesterday. Other businessmen of the area called the police, who went there and chased one of them. Police shot Hasan in the right leg, as he was about to fire at them, according to police.

The other, Noor Mohammad Babu, 23 was beaten by the mob. Police sent them to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another incident, two alleged extortionists were chopped by a mob as they went to an iron shop at Fakirpool in the city's Motijheel area yesterday.

The injured are Mohammad Javed and Borhan Uddin, each 35 years old.

They were also sent to the DMCH.

gas demand growth up to 2020 and a proven gas reserve of 16 trillion cubic feet (TCF).

The committee saw that the gas reserve with seven per cent demand growth rate would be exhausted by 2014-2015. If the growth rate is set at six per cent, the reserve would run out sometime before 2020 and with a five per cent demand growth rate, the reserve would hold up to 2020.

The gas demand growth rate on average was 15 per cent in the 1980s and ten per cent in the 1990s.

Sony murder

FROM PAGE 12
killing.

After hearing both the sides, the court rejected the petition.

Sagar was arrested on August 14 and placed on a six-day remand in two phases.

Sony, a student of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), was killed during a gunfight between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus on June 8.

With the arrest of Sagar, the number of arrests is now 15.