

Saifur blasts

FROM PAGE 12
traders for misusing the free market economy as a "free-style market," adding such practices were the causes for boosting prices of essentials. "Who knows the price of which item will be increased by those businessmen next?" he asked -- displeased with the corrupt practices.

The minister urged business leaders of chambers and associations present at the session to identify such dishonest traders and mete out punishment to them.

Termining the textiles a basic industry for readymade garments, Saifur assured the textiles businesspeople of providing adequate loans urging them to utilise the money properly. "In the recent past, it was found that some businessmen received loans from banks for one purpose and used it for other," he said.

Urging the textile mill owners to use state-of-the-art technology to enhance performance, the minister said: "Such fair will surely help them."

Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and Chan Chao International Co Ltd of Taiwan co-organised the exhibition, where latest textile and garment machines

Schools put off

FROM PAGE 1
Alliance, student wing of the left leaning political parties, called another strike at educational institutions across the country for today to protest police excesses on the DU campus.

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Dakhil and SSC vocational examinations will remain out of the strike call.

At least 100 people were injured when police used batons and tear-gas to break up a student demonstration against the stabbing of the author of over 50 books, the latest targeted against fundamentalists.

The violence erupted when the university students tried to break through a barbed wire police fence to reach the secretariat and pelted officers with stones.

Two traders gunned

FROM PAGE 12
(DMCH).

The gang including Kamal pushed his wounded brother onto a nearby drain and fled the scene, he alleged.

Relatives rushed the victim to the DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

Hanif alleged the same group shot and injured the victim's younger brother Ali Hossain at Koramtola in January. They demanded Tk 15,000 from Anwar 10 days ago, but Anwar refused to pay them, he added.

The victim's father Abdul Halim filed a case with Sutrapur Police Station and said in the FIR (first information report) his son was killed over enmity.

In another incident on Tuesday, armed assailants shot dead Amanullah Khan, a trader, at Saruliah cattle market in Demra.

Quoting locals, police said a gang called the 35-year-old out of home shortly before 11:00am and gunned him down, police added.

Demra police recovered the body and sent it to Mitford hospital for autopsy.

The victim's wife filed a case with Demra Police Station, but police failed to nab anyone over the killing until 6:30pm.

BODY FOUND
Police recovered the body of Kamrul Ehsan Johnny, an SSC

B Chy
FROM PAGE 12
before the march.

On February 29, Chowdhury said he would unveil a national committee for 'alternative stream' from a public rally at Paltan.

"I have decided to introduce a national platform to promote a different type of politics," he said.

Hasina promises

FROM PAGE 12
AL, suffered injuries in a police raid on the party headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue on Monday evening.

Hasina said her party would write the international rights groups about the government persecution of political opponents and overall human rights violation in Bangladesh.

"Compile the incidents with supporting documents... We'll send them to international rights groups to unmask the fascist character of the coalition," she said.

In a veiled reference to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, she asked: "Is the government the head of which threatens to confine the opposition to their houses is democratic?"

She lauded the mainstream political parties for agreeing to simultaneous anti-government programmes and urged other like-minded parties to join hands.

In a first-ever display of opposition strength against the 28-month-old Khaleda administration the key opposition parties -- the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party of Bangladesh and Jatitya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) -- will enforce a dawn-to-dusk national hartal on March 6.

At yesterday's programme, Hasina challenged her arch-rival Khaleda to prove her political strength in mid-term polls, saying, "If you have confi-

and equipment from around the world are on display.

Speaking at the launch, BTMA Chairman MA Awal said the show would introduce local entrepreneurs to the world's latest textile and garment machinery, embroidery and knitting machines, accessories and yarn and fabrics.

Awal said Bangladesh held only 2.5 percent share of the global textile market, while meeting 90 percent of the domestic demand.

Textiles Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Chan Chao International General Manager Tiger Lin also spoke.

Sixty-nine exhibitors from 20 countries, including Taiwan, US, China, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Singapore, India, Hong Kong and Czech Republic, are participating in the event that remains open to visitors from 10:00am to 6:00pm everyday.

SC rejects govt's plea to review JTV application

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday rejected the government's revision petition against its earlier order that had directed Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to dispose of an application of Jamuna Television (JTV) for frequency allotment.

The Supreme Court on October 25 upheld the High Court order that directed the BTRC to dispose of the proposed private TV channel JTV's application for licence and allocation of frequency in a month.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court adjourned till March 14 the hearing of the contempt petition filed by the JTV against the BTRC for not complying with the October verdict of the Supreme Court.

The BTRC sought time to reply to the contempt charge brought against it.

Sylhet ward commissioner, 2 others held for 'mugging'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Kotwali police yesterday nabbed a ward commissioner of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) and two others for their alleged link in the snatching money from a local businessman.

Kotwali police held Jagadish Das, a SCC ward commissioner and convener of Sylhet Awami League, Projit Kumar Modak and Tipu Das on charge of mugging Tk 5 lakh from Karim Ullah Helal, owner of Moutima Confectionery, sources said.

According to sources, four youths took away the money from Helal at gunpoint near Sajid Ali Community Centre at Pathantola when he was returning from the bank with Tk 5 at about 12:30pm.

Locals caught Projit and Tipu from the area a few minutes later and turned them to police, sources added.

The ward commissioner reached the spot at 1:00pm only to be surrounded by an angry mob who sensed his alleged connivance in the crime after he assured them to retrieve the booty.

Police picked the trio in the face of public demand, they added.

However, no case was filed till the writing of this report at 6:00 last evening.

Attack on Mayor

FROM PAGE 12
"But this is not the final figure as some of the teams who have been collecting the data are yet to submit their reports. We will come to know the final count tomorrow (Thursday) when all figures are tallied up," said Ali Kabir Haidar, coordinator of the 32 teams, each comprising eight members.

A given number of pugmarks do not necessarily indicate the presence of an equal number of tigers since multiple marks can come from an individual animal. But the number of paw prints found so far is encouraging enough for the two governments and the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) to want to jointly monitor the world's largest mangrove more frequently to ensure its sustainability.

The final result of the census will be disclosed in July after cluster analysis of the paw prints with computers.

The UNDP gave \$50,000 for the census that focussed on the Bangladesh part of the Sundarbans.

Fish gets

FROM PAGE 12
was selling at Tk 7-9, beans Tk 10-12, tomato Tk 10-12, carrot Tk 10-12, cucumber Tk 15-16, aubergine Tk 12-14 and green chilli at Tk 30-35/kg.

dence, prove your acceptance in snap polls."

She said no BNP government could complete their tenures and the present administration was riding for a fall for what she said were its wide-spread misuse, misdeed and persecution of political rivals.

She also accused the government of carrying out a hate campaign against the AL leadership among the armed forces and police.

On deathly attack on Prominent writer Humayun Azad, Hasina said angered by his outspoken works the anti-liberation, communal and fundamentalist forces made the attempt on his life.

"Government high-ups are now scheming to save the real criminals by shifting the blame onto us," she alleged.

45 slum huts burnt in city during eviction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 45 shanties at Mohammadpur were gutted in a fire allegedly set by police in an eviction drive yesterday.

The fire was spotted at 1:30pm at the Jahuri Mahalla slum near Babar Road when Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was carrying out a drive against unauthorised shops and thatched houses home to around 250 people.

The slum dwellers alleged police set fire to the shanties as it was taking 'too long' for them to vacate their houses.

"They (police) cut off the gas pipeline which might have caused the fire," said M Kawsar Ali, an evicted slum dweller.

Some others said the fire started when police tore some live wires off a nearby electric pole. One of them, Shahnaz, described, "Police cut off the electric wires after locals pelted them with stones."

But the police officers strongly denied the allegations. One of them said, "We were just present at the scene as the DCC people were bulldozing the unauthorised shops and houses."

"Police can't jump that high to cut wires hanging from a pole. How can torn wires create fire?" said another police officer.

DCC Magistrate M Giasuddin, who was present at the spot, denied the allegations too, saying: "Somehow the fire started and now they are trying to shift the blame onto us."

A victim of the fire, Bakul Begum, said, "They didn't give us time to remove the belongings from our houses." She also claimed the police did not permit her to go near the rubble to salvage her things.

Sylhet ward commissioner, 2 others held for 'mugging'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Kotwali police yesterday nabbed a ward commissioner of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) and two others for their alleged link in the snatching money from a local businessman.

Kotwali police held Jagadish Das, a SCC ward commissioner and convener of Sylhet Awami League, Projit Kumar Modak and Tipu Das on charge of mugging Tk 5 lakh from Karim Ullah Helal, owner of Moutima Confectionery, sources said.

According to sources, four youths took away the money from Helal at gunpoint near Sajid Ali Community Centre at Pathantola when he was returning from the bank with Tk 5 at about 12:30pm.

Locals caught Projit and Tipu from the area a few minutes later and turned them to police, sources added.

The ward commissioner reached the spot at 1:00pm only to be surrounded by an angry mob who sensed his alleged connivance in the crime after he assured them to retrieve the booty.

Police picked the trio in the face of public demand, they added.

However, no case was filed till the writing of this report at 6:00 last evening.

Attack on Mayor

FROM PAGE 12
"But this is not the final figure as some of the teams who have been collecting the data are yet to submit their reports. We will come to know the final count tomorrow (Thursday) when all figures are tallied up," said Ali Kabir Haidar, coordinator of the 32 teams, each comprising eight members.

A given number of pugmarks do not necessarily indicate the presence of an equal number of tigers since multiple marks can come from an individual animal. But the number of paw prints found so far is encouraging enough for the two governments and the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) to want to jointly monitor the world's largest mangrove more frequently to ensure its sustainability.

The final result of the census will be disclosed in July after cluster analysis of the paw prints with computers.

The UNDP gave \$50,000 for the census that focussed on the Bangladesh part of the Sundarbans.

Fish gets

FROM PAGE 12
was selling at Tk 7-9, beans Tk 10-12, tomato Tk 10-12, carrot Tk 10-12, cucumber Tk 15-16, aubergine Tk 12-14 and green chilli at Tk 30-35/kg.

dence, prove your acceptance in snap polls."

She said no BNP government could complete their tenures and the present administration was riding for a fall for what she said were its wide-spread misuse, misdeed and persecution of political rivals.

She also accused the government of carrying out a hate campaign against the AL leadership among the armed forces and police.

On deathly attack on Prominent writer Humayun Azad, Hasina said angered by his outspoken works the anti-liberation, communal and fundamentalist forces made the attempt on his life.

"Government high-ups are now scheming to save the real criminals by shifting the blame onto us," she alleged.

JCD men, cops charge

FROM PAGE 1
"Many students were bleeding from the head and were taken to hospital for treatment," a journalist on the scenesaid.

"A policeman kicked me and beat me with his baton when I fell in the Curzon Hall corridor. I don't know whether they are employed to stully the campus," said a woman student, requesting not to be named.

Police trampled six students to bleed underfoot and picked them up after their harrowing ordeal close to Curzon Hall area, witnesses said.

Tension ran high on the campus as the demonstrators under the banner Humayun Azad Mancha decided to hold a solidarity gathering at Aparajejo Bangla at 10:00 am today and the JCD announced a programme at the same venue to foil demonstration.

JCD activists also threatened that any demonstration protesting the attack on Azad, remarkable for his outspoken comments, often against fundamentalists, would be resisted.

MINDLESS VIOLENCE
The trouble flared up when police in riot gear swooped on students who removed a barbed-wire barricade near the High Court Mazar on their way to the secretariat from the Aparajejo Bangla at about 12:30am.

As police used baton indiscriminately, the demonstrators hurled stones at the law-enforcers, injuring four of them.

In the face of 'mindless violence by rampaging policemen', the students ran for cover in the Curzon Hall and police fired volleys of teargas canisters in an aggressive bid to dislodge them from there.

About 15 minutes later, nearly 100 policemen entered the hall breaking open the gates and batoned the students dragging them out of classrooms, library and washrooms, largely from physics and soil science departments, 'unleashing unspeakable horror in the highest seat of learning'.

"Three to four male policemen caught me at the physics department and beat me in the back savagely like marauders," said Taslima Akhter, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation.

About 60 students and four journalists were injured in the raid, with Daily Aker Kagoj Staff Reporter Mainul Hossain Chowdhury suffering severe head and leg injuries in police beating.

Mainul, who sought police mercy giving his identify, was undergoing treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital with four stitches in the head and a fractured leg.

Police chased down some students near the pond between Fazul Haq and Shahidullah halls, beat them up and fired some teargas shells into the residential halls.

FURTHER MAYHEM
After the Curzon Hall mayhem,

DU students

FROM PAGE 1
Pathanatik Parishad will hold a citizen's protest rally at and take out a 'black flag' procession from the Central Shaheed Minar at 4:00pm today.

They urged all socio-cultural and political organisations to make today's programme successful.

The SSJ and the allied organisations called the programmes to protest the recent deadly attack on writer Humayun Azad, protesting against incidents of murder, repression and human-rights violations in the country.

Dr Kamal Hossain, convener of the Oikya Prochasta, a socio-political platform, said the people are gravely concerned about the rising violence and a trend towards confrontation.

Presiding over a meeting of the platform yesterday in the city, Kamal, also president of the Gono Forum, said the students are protesting against the country's progressive forces, which no-one should undermine.

Meanwhile, different organisations yesterday also condemned the police brutality on Dhaka University students and demanded punishment of the police officials responsible for the attack. They also expressed grave

Six more BDR

FROM PAGE 12
Ministers, MPs, diplomats, senior civil and military officials, incumbent and retired BDR officers and soldiers, and their family members, among others, attended the function.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, State Minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and BDR Director General Maj Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury received the prime minister on her arrival.

Apart from carrying out the sacred duty of safeguarding the country's borders, the prime minister said the other important responsibilities of the BDR personnel are to protect the country's resources and national economy by curbing smuggling and checking the inflow of foreign goods.

"The BDR personnel will also have to give equal importance to maintain an atmosphere conducive to economic development besides safeguarding the borders," she said.

She appreciated the successes of the BDR so far achieved despite inadequate manpower and various limitations. Describing the government's various initiatives, Khaleda said a decision had already been taken to provide rice instead of ruti, border allowance, oil and sugar at subsidised rates to the BDR personnel.

The prime minister assured that her government would always remain active for the development of the paramilitary force.

Later, Khaleda had a brief meeting with sector commanders and senior officers. She asked them to sincerely carry out their additional duties to strengthen the national economy.

demonstrators marched towards Vice-chancellor SMA Faiz's office at about 2:20pm to protest the police action.

As the gate of the registrar's office building was locked, they staged a sit-in there, hemmed in by a large contingent of police.

About half an hour later, a procession of about 100 JCD activists led by its President Sahabuddin Laltu and General Secretary Azizul Bari Helal barged to the scene and jumped on the agitators as police stood by.

Witnesses said the activists slapped, kicked and beat up the students with rods, sticks and tree branches and tore the clothes of women students, injuring 30 protesters.

The JCD activists assaulted Firoz Chowdhury, chief photographer of the Daily Prothom Alo, as he tried to capture the scenes of violence.

They dragged him near a bus parked behind the administrative building and beat him again before snatching his camera and cellphone.

Firoz was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with chest and leg injuries and later shifted to Shamrita hospital.

ARSON
The demonstrators broken up by the violence regrouped at the Fine Arts Institute at about 3:00pm where they became the victims of another raid by JCD men.

They attackers damaged a podium on the institute premises, torched the coffins used in previous demonstrations in symbolic protest against the attempt on the life of Azad.

Entering the institute, the JCD activists searched for students who joined the recent protests and beat them in the style they unleashed in front of the registrar's office building.

They also threatened them not to join any further agitation on the campus in protest against the attack on the 56-year-old writer.

The JCD activists also forced camera crews of two private television channels from the scene.

Some 12 attackers dragged Bablu, a student, to the street and showered him with slaps and kicks before using sticks.

Hospital with the injured included Bangladesh Chhatra Federation General Secretary Kaniz Fatema, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front central leader Anupam Saikat Santo, Biplobi Chhatra Maitro Joint convener Mahabub Liton, Dhaka university Chhatra Union General Secretary Sayeda Akhter, Pahari Chhatra Parishad leader Anju, Sashi and Subrato Kumar.

Pro-BNP cultural organisation Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha held a cultural programme last night on one of the daises the JCD captured from protesters last night.

DU students

FROM PAGE 1
Pathanatik Parishad will hold a citizen's protest rally at and take out a 'black flag' procession from the Central Shaheed Minar at 4:00pm today.

They urged all socio-cultural and political organisations to make today's programme successful.

The SSJ and the allied organisations called the programmes to protest the recent deadly attack on writer Humayun Azad, protesting against incidents of murder, repression and human-rights violations in the country.

Dr Kamal Hossain, convener of the Oikya Prochasta, a socio-political platform, said the people are gravely concerned about the rising violence and a trend towards confrontation.

Presiding over a meeting of the Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday chaired by its President Rokonuddin Mahmud also condemned the attack on Azad.

SSC, Dakhil
FROM PAGE 12
sources added.

Choppers will be kept ready to fly education ministry officials at examination centres, where cheating is reported.

This year, a total of 9,73,958 candidates are appearing at 1,723 examination centres across the country.

Of them, 7,61,960 appear in SSC examinations under seven education boards, 1,80,546 in Dakhil examinations under the Madrasah Education Board and 31,452 in SSC Vocational examinations under the Technical Education Board.

On the first day, examinees will sit for the test of English first paper.

Police excesses

FROM PAGE 1
that he did not know until then what exactly had happened on the campus yesterday.

Bhuiyan, also secretary general of ruling BNP, however said if it was a case of police excesses, actions would be taken. But Bhuiyan quickly added police had the right to take counter-measure if they came under attack.

Unlike on other recent occasions, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury yesterday refrained from issuing any statement on the day's incident in the House.

Earlier in his statement, Kader Siddiqui warned the government against beating females and also spoke about the rumour of death of writer Humayun Azad, now being treated at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka for life-threatening wounds.

Bhuiyan told the House in response that whoever had made the attack on Azad would be haunted down and handed down punishment. He alleged 'an identified clique' was spreading the death rumour to create public anger.

Tk 87 lakh gold, cellphone sets, drugs seized at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials at Zia International Airport (ZIA) seized large caches of cell phone sets, imported medicines and gold ornaments worth about Tk 87 lakh on Monday and Tuesday.

One kilogram of gold ornaments and 25 mobile phone sets were confiscated Tuesday night from a home-bound passenger of Singapore Airlines flight SQ-436. The customs team on duty at the ZIA challenged the passenger when he was passing through the green channel and found the goods in his luggage.

The phone sets were seized the carrier had no no-objection certificate from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission for importing those.

In another raid Tuesday, customs officials seized contraband medicines worth about Tk 18 lakh from two bags that arrived by Gulf Airways flight GF-458 and lying near a conveyer belt.

Scanning the bags on suspicion, the customs team unearthed and confiscated 24 kinds of imported medicines, including Methergin, Nolvadex, Neoral, Gemacoid and Aldactone tablets and Neural injection. The carrier of the banned medications melted away in the crowd of passengers sensing the detection, officials said.

Earlier, on Monday night, customs officials seized 289 mobile phone sets and 20 walkie-talkie sets worth about Tk 26 lakh from some luggage that arrived by Bangladesh Biman flight BG-079 and left abandoned on a conveyer belt.

Separate departmental cases were filed over the incidents.

POLICE RAID AT KCC OFFICE

Leaders of three associations of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) yesterday threatened to start work stoppage if their demand to punish the police personnel, involved in yesterday's raid on the corporation office, was not met in 72 hours.

Leaders of Ward Commissioners' Welfare Association, Officers' Welfare Association and Employees' Union of the KCC at a press conference at the local press club gave the local administration the ultimatum, which expires on Friday morning.

Led by Sajjad Ali, acting police commissioner in Khulna, a police team crushed the locked collapsible gate of the KCC office at noon and clubbed aytayebur Rahman, they alleged.

The demonstrators also demanded immediate arrest of the culprits who had a grenade on Tavbar's car on Sunday and scheduled a two-hour token hunger strike at Shaheed Haidis Park for today.

The assistant police commissioner alleged the demonstrating KCC staff attacked Khulna Police Station during the clash and damaged doors and window panes of its officers' quarters.

They were also shocked and astonished to see that most of the arms are US-made.

Official sources said the team led by Lieutenant Colonel Michel Petigro visited Naikhongghari headquarters of paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and talked to Major Arshad, second-in-command of Naikhonggharhazone.

Security forces recovered three M-16 rifles, seven M-79 rifles, 12 extra barrels of M-16 rifles and 451 bullets from Naikhonggharhazone and Bandarban district in the last six months till February 22.