

Police await high-ups

FROM PAGE 12

died Sunday in a clash with dreaded 'Idul Group' at Motijheel in the capital.

Addressing a meeting at Rajarbagh Police Line the state minister also agreed to provide all logistic supports for members of Cobra, a special dragnet-drive of 20 police teams now engaged in arresting criminals in the city.

Babar also promised to increase the Cobra members' daily allowance.

Inspector general of police, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and deputy commissioners of DMP divisions and intelligence agencies attended the meet.

Meanwhile, Motijheel police have raided the Tipu Sultan Road house of an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) in search of his son Lion, an accused in the Sunday's police murder case. The team led by senior assistant commissioner of Motijheel, Sabubagh and Khilgaon Zone of the DMP searched the ASP's house but to little gains.

Police said Lion was introduced to Bhuiyian Ripon, a dreaded criminal of the area, when he joined a sporting club in the city after his secondary school certificate examinations. Through Bhuiyian Ripon, he became intimate with Idul, a dreaded criminal of Gopibagh, and

got involved in criminal activities.

Idul who received multiple bullet injuries during Sunday's 40-minute clash with police is now undergoing treatment at Suhrawardy hospital.

Of the eight people picked up in connection with the cops murder case, police have released Wasim and his brother Palash under prisoner release bonds, while Shima and Nasima, sisters of Bhuiyan Ripon, were shown arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

Motijheel police said they also have arrested Ripon, an officer of National Credit and Commerce Bank Ltd and younger brother of Kiron accused in the police murder and robbery cases, and three others -- Shahjahan, Mokhes and Monir -- who are implicated in several other robbery cases.

Khandaker Towfiq Hossain alias Babu, whom police arrested on Monday for his suspicious movement around the money exchange shop at Motijheel, was taken on a five-day police remand, after being produced before the chief metropolitan magistrate's court with a petition for a seven-day remand.

All the three cases -- one for police murder, one under Arms Act and one for robbery -- were handed over to the Detective Branch (DB) of Police.

Proshika chief

FROM PAGE 12

and showed police the HC order to send him to hospital. But police reportedly was indifferent to the HC order and kept him in their custody till 3:30am yesterday.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Ashraful Huda told The Daily Star Monday evening that they could not take him directly to hospital from the police station. They had to take him to the court (CMM court) first and act later according to the court's directive, he added.

On insistence of Faruque's relatives and lawyers at the police station, police at last admitted him to the BSMMU at 4am yesterday. The Proshika chief was kept in a prison cell on the first floor of the hospital.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Nurul Amin, investigation officer of the sedition case and officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, denied receiving the HC order at 6pm. "We got it in hand in the midnight (which he later said was 11:30pm) and started for the hospital at 2:30am."

Explaining the delay, he said, "I needed the time to discuss with top police officers."

Contradicting the DMP commissioner's statement, he said police did not need to produce Faruque before the CMM court for taking him to hospital.

A case was filed with the CMM court Sunday accusing seven Proshika officials including the president of holding a meeting on March 7 to plot an oust-government design. They attempted to hire thousands of people from across the country between March 7 and April 30 and gather them in Dhaka to launch an opposition platform, the case said.

Faruq's co-accused of sedition are Proshika Director Sahnewaz and deputy directors Sirajul Haq, Mahbub Alam, Fazlul Huq, Sirajul Islam and Abdur Rab.

Police arrested Faruque on May 21 on charge of embezzlement of fund and fraud, after the Bureau of Anti-Corruption had filed 15 cases on May 15 against him and some of his colleagues.

AL calls 3-day agitation

FROM PAGE 12

AL Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta MP while addressing the press conference dismissed the suggestion that the blast was a sequel to party feuds.

He said AL Presidium Member Abdus Samad Azad wanted to join the press conference, but he could not bear-borne to Sylhet in time.

The AL lawmaker said there was a similarity between the blasts at the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) and at Dera, adding that bombs used on both occasions were not made locally.

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor and city AL chief Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, city Unit General Secretary Advocate Misbahuddin Siraj, district unit President ANM Shafique and General Secretary Iftekhar Hossain Shamim also spoke at the press conference.

Meanwhile, a three-member team of explosive experts headed by Lieutenant Colonel MA Maleque visited the site of the blast at Dera; upazila headquarters yesterday afternoon. They gathered some evidence.

Besides, officials of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) also

visited the blast site yesterday.

Meanwhile, a daylong hartal enforced by the upazila AL was observed peacefully while police and BDR members patrolled along the upazila headquarters.

A sub inspector of Dera Police Station has filed a case in connection with the Monday's blast under sections 324/326/ 307 and clause 3 of section 302.

While talking to newsmen, Superintendent of Police in Sunamganj Mir Shahidul Islam said the remains and splinters retrieved from the spot suggest that it was a powerful grenade.

He, however, did not go into details saying that explosives experts after necessary tests would detect the nature of explosive used.

The body of Abdul Wahid, who was killed in the blast was brought to the Dera; AL office yesterday and handed over to the family members for burial at his village Matargoon.

Of the injured, district AL Vice-president Nurul Islam, Shullia Upazila AL President Mohim Chandra Das, Advocate Sohel Ahmed and Banki Samiya President Sirajuddoula and Rafinagar UP Chairman Abdul Khaleque were still in critical condition, an official said. They were undergoing treatment at Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Later in the day, the team visited the families of Jatuya Party leader Dulu in Hamirkutsa, BNP leader Abdul Wahid in Palashi and Awami League leader Alo Khondoker in Taherpur, who were killed in outlaw attacks.

The families, talking to the team, underscored MJMB vigilante action to fight outlaws in villages, often scarred by an outlaw turf war. Police allowed persons with close ties to Bangla Bhai to talk to the team.

The MJMB adherents told an embassy official that there was no-one called Bangla Bhai and locals united against the outlaws that grouped under the banned Purbo Banglar Communist Party.

Bagmara Municipal Chairman Khoda Bux informed the team that Bangla Bhai terrorised the region with his militant activities under police protection.

He also alerted the officials to threats to villagers. Police repeatedly asked Bux to stop, but he went on.

The team was not taken to the houses of Mukul and Abu Taleb who were killed and hundreds of people maimed allegedly by MJMB men between April 1 and May 31 before the operatives slackened their operations.

EVICION DRIVE

4 cops, 16 others injured in Ctg clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 20 people including four policemen were injured in a clash between slum dwellers and a contingent of police at Pahartoli in the port city yesterday.

A Chittagong City Corporation eviction team and two platoons of police led by Magistrate Shamsul Huda went to New Monsurabad area at around 1:00pm to demolish some illegal structures opposite to Victory Jute Mill at Koibaladham, sources said.

The piece of land, measuring 7.5 katha, belongs to the Department of Housing and Public Works, Chittagong, officials said.

Witnesses said locals attacked law enforcers after a rumour spread that Johnny, a 6-year-old boy, was electrocuted during the eviction drive.

Police shot four bullets and shelled teargas on the agitating crowd to disperse them. Local residents retaliated with bricksbats and other weapons. About 20 people were wounded during the hour-long fighting, they added.

Of the injured, bullet-hit Iqbal Hossain, 18, and Joyanal Abedin, 40, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital while Johnny was undergoing treatment at a local hospital, sources said.

Inspector Monwar, Havildar Motalab, constables Iqbal and Rezaul were also injured during the clash, police said.

After the incident, police nabbed Nurul Amin, Nurul Alam, Rupam Kanir, Das, Abu Ahmed and Khorsheed Alam from the spot.

A case was lodged.

Car bomb

FROM PAGE 1

blast and American forces had surrounded the area, he added.

A US soldier was killed in a mortar attack in Baghdad on Monday, which left six other soldiers and one contractor wounded, the US military said.

The attack took place in the north-central part of the Iraqi capital at about 10:00 am (0600 GMT), it said in the statement released overnight.

"The wounded were taken to a nearby military medical treatment facility," the statement said.

The death raised to 621 the number of US troops killed in action since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, according to an AFP tally based on figures from the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, the dean of Mosul University law school and her husband were killed overnight in their suburban home and their throats slit, police said in this northern Iraqi city.

"The bodies of Leila Abdullah Saad and her husband Munir al-Keiro were discovered this morning; she had been shot and her throat cut, he had had his throat slit," police commander Falah Hassan told AFP.

Hassan said nothing had been stolen from their home in Mosul's southern Danadan neighbourhood. "A large sum of money and objects of value were found," he said.

The autopsy determined that the two were killed overnight and that Saad's throat was cut after she was shot dead.

S. KOREAN HOSTAGE

Militants threatening to behead a South Korean hostage in Iraq unless Seoul pulls troops out of the country have agreed to give more time for talks on his fate, an Iraqi mediator told Reuters.

Jama'a at al-Tawhid and Jihad, a group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi who has been accused by Washington of links to al Qaeda, initially set a Monday night deadline when Kim Sun-il was shown pleading for his life in a video tape on Al Jazeera.

But Mohammed al-Obeidi, an Iraqi working for South Korean security firm NKT'S in Baghdad, said Iraqi clerics who were in talks with the captors of the 33-year-old had told him the deadline for talks had been extended. Seoul has rejected the demand to pull troops out and scrap plans to send more.

Cop critically hurt

FROM PAGE 1

entrance to the college. The officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station ABM Sultan Ahmed was also present there. Suddenly, a concrete slab hit Kader knocking him down to the ground. I saw Kader bleeding from his head."

Witnesses said that the incident happened when a group of about 10 students from the college demanded toll from a cloth show room, Pakjia Saree, Patuatiuli close to the college. On refusal, the students, who reportedly extort money regularly, snatched cash and other valuables from the shop and ran away.

Later, some 200 traders of Patuatiuli chased the students, both sides throwing bricksbats at each other from both ends of the main entrance to the college.

"More than 1,000 students clashed with the traders. The fight died down 20 minutes before police arrived at the scene," one witness said.

The police constables Kader and Kabir and Ansar constable Rafiq took cover opposite the main entrance.

As the constables and the OC were negotiating with the student leaders, some unidentified students threw the concrete slab from the rooftop of a building. The students also threw two more heavy concrete slabs targeting the other policemen but missed, witnesses said.

Nizami doubts

FROM PAGE 12

was replying a query why police did not arrest Bangla Bhai, flouting an order of the prime minister.

He however quickly changed his stance when reporters referred to the newspaper interviews and photos of Bangla Bhai. He said, "We cannot reject outright the existence of Bangla Bhai.....What we can say is that Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh has no link with any such groups including Harkatul Jihad.

Social Welfare Minister and Secretary General of Jamaat Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, present at the programme, supported his ameer's view, saying, "The prime minister's directive was in this line -- if there is any one who takes law in his own hands, police have to arrest him immediately."

Later, Nizami told the newsmen that the government's efforts against him [Bangla Bhai] have not exhausted yet.

Without directly supporting the activities of Bangla Bhai, dreaded operation commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata of Bangladesh (JMJB), the Jamaat chief maintained, "People of the north-western districts have spontaneously resisted crimes of Sarbahara men, including killing and extortion. It is only natural for police to take co-operation from the general people in maintaining law and order."

He said the media appear less concerned about activities of Sarbahara men engaged in extortion and killing and keener to

project Bangla Bhai, whose very existence is in question. He termed the activities of Bangla Bhai as 'a drop of water' compared to the 'sea of crimes' by Sarbahara men.

Nizami admitted that, during her recent meeting with him, visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca wanted to know about Bangla Bhai and banning of Ahmedia publications.

Asked if the militant groups in the country have any link with international terrorist organisations, Nizami said pro-Jewish forces in control of international media are misleading the world opinion and forming terrorist organisations in the name of Islam with a view to prove that Islam involves terrorism.

"Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh has no link with such groups, which have no connection with Islamic movement but are only damaging the image of Islam," he asserted.

Replying to a question on prime minister's parliamentary advisor Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's observation that the OIC is a communal organisation, the industries minister said it is an organisation of the Muslim world.

"Salauddin Quader Chowdhury himself claimed that he did not utter any abusive remarks about the leader of the opposition," Nizami replied, when a reporter asked for his reactions on SQ Chowdhury's recent indecent remarks.

Other Jamaat lawmakers were also present at the programme."

England Wayne it

FROM PAGE 12

The Everton forward made the Paul Scholes goal that cancelled out Niko Kovac's Croatia's shock early opener then claimed two more of his own to put England in control of the match and himself at the top of the tournament's goalscoring charts.

Juventus defender Igor Tudor briefly gave Croatia hope of a late turnaround but their resistance was crushed by the tireless Frank Lampard, who scored his own second goal of the tournament nine minutes from the end.

Croatia took the lead by exploiting the English defence's inability to cope with balls fired into their six-yard box at pace.

Milan Rapacic, needlessly fouled by Beckham close to the left touchline, provided the free-kick delivery.

Kovac provided the finish, prodding the ball past David James in the scramble that ensued from

the failure to clear the danger.

Dado Prso provided a reminder of Croatia's attacking threat by drifting along the 18-yard line.

That impression was shattered by the defence-splitting pass from Lampard that put Michael Owen clear in the box. Butina blocked the Liverpool striker's attempt at a chipped finish but the ball flew straight to Rooney, whose header across goal was finished off by Scholes.

The Manchester United midfielder celebrated his first England goal in three years by returning the compliment with the pass that allowed Rooney to score in first half stoppage time.

Butina got a hand to it but there was no stopping the 25-yard drive as it flew into the far corner of the net.

England's fans were able to relax, but only for the five minutes before Tudor headed in a corner.

Water level

FROM PAGE 1

Bhairab Bazar, 126.2 mm at Chapai Nawabganj, 100.0 mm at Dewanganj, 98.5 mm at Parshuram, 95.0 mm at Chandpur, 85.5 mm at Rangpur, 81.0 mm at Kurigram and 80.0 mm at Sunamganj.

The River Surma is flowing above danger level at Kanaighat. The River Manu marked sharp rise at Chatalaghat and Mouli Bazar while it is flowing above danger level at Manu Railway Bridge. The Khowai River is flowing above danger level at Ballah and Habiganj.

Besides, rivers at some other points may also cross the danger level in a day or two if the monsoons continue to pour down.

The FFWC said the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and the Ganges-Padma observed further rise at all points while most of the rivers in Meghna basin recorded sharp rise. However, the river in the South-Eastern Hill basin recorded both rise and fall.

Brahmaputra basin

In Brahmaputra basin, the Brahmaputra-Jamuna registered further rise by 26cm at Noonkhawa, 30cm each at Chilimari and Bahadurabad, 25cm at Sirajganj and by 33cm at Aricha.

The Dharla marked sharp rise by 50cm at Kurigram. Teesta receded by 32cm at Dalia while it recorded rise by 11cm at Kaunia. The Old Brahmaputra observed rise by 10cm at Jamalpur and by 28cm at Mymensingh.

The Buriganga at Dhaka recorded rise by 12cm, Lakhya at Narayanganj rise by 20cm, Turagat Mirpur further rise by 15cm. The Tongi Khai registered further rise by 11 cm at Tongi. The Kaliganga at Taraghat also recorded further rise by 11 cm.

However, all the rivers in this basin are flowing below their respective danger levels.

Ganges basin

In the Ganges basin, the Ganges-Padma registered further remarkable rise by 52 cm at Pankha, 88 cm at Rajshahi, 53 cm at Hardinge Bridge, 35 cm at Goolando and 9 cm Bhagayukul.

The Punarbhaba marked sharp rise by 91 cm at Dinajpur, Mahananda at Chapai Nawabganj observed rise by 39 cm. The Little Jamuna recorded further rise by 18 cm at Naogaon. The Atrai at Mohadevpur observed further rise by 18cm. The Goral registered rise by 4 cm at Gorai Rly Bridge. The Kumar at Faridpur registered further rise by 22 cm.

All the rivers in this basin too are flowing below their respective danger levels.

Meghna basin

In Meghna basin, the Surma observed further rise by 24 cm at Kanaighat, 35 cm at Sylhet and by 55 cm at Sunamganj. If is, however,

ADB chief

FROM PAGE 12

ADB disclosed its plan for common Asian goals in a letter to the government earlier this month. The ADB also sent similar letters to other Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries and Asian nations.

Finance ministers from Asian nations will gather at the ADB headquarters in Manila next month to discuss merits and demerits of this unification bid and can suggest ways to achieve this. The meeting was supposed to be held on June 17, but was deferred, as India could not send its finance minister for election.

The ADB president urged Saifur at yesterday's meeting to play a leading role in making the plan work, as he is the senior most finance minister in Asia.

"Our economy as well others' will get a significant boost if we join the ADB bandwagon," Saifur said.

Many EU nations used to be poorer than some Asian nations but they could change their fates through unity, the 74-year-old minister quoted Chino as saying.

The poor or disadvantaged nations can not progress in a globalised world economy without regional cooperation, Chino was said to have told the meeting.

The ADB will try to foster this unity, but the real job to get it going will be up to politicians, the ADB chief pointed out.

"We have also discussed various reform steps and issues, and how these can be achieved," Chino briefly told newsmen after the meeting.

Belittling Louis Kahn

FROM PAGE 12

Meteorological Office building and constructed the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre.

Besides, the project on Zia's grave, the bridge over the adjacent Crescent Lake and the tall NAM apartment buildings in front of the parliament complex have contributed to destruction of the landscape in the whole area, experts at the IAB said.

General Secretary of the IAB Sanaul Haque said every successive government has tampered with Louis Kahn's design in one way or the other but each tried to justify it.

"This structure is a national icon known throughout the world as a masterpiece of modern architecture. It earned a lot of prestige for the country abroad," said Sanaul.

Meanwhile, sources in the Housing and Public Works Ministry said plans are now under way to 'launch a complete interior renovation project' for the main parliament building.

IAB officials said the government should form a committee to protect the national heritage.

Tadao assures PM

FROM PAGE 1

development of Bangladesh for the last 30 years," Tadao Chino was quoted as saying during the meeting with the prime minister.

He informed the prime minister of ADB's \$532 million commitment in the current fiscal year for development of Bangladesh, which is the highest commitment of the bank since independence of the country.

The bank has been extending cooperation in the field of primary education, power, gas and railway and it would continue, he said.

He appreciated the success in economic growth and reforms, poverty reduction and progress in setting up Independent Anti-corruption Commission.

During the meeting, the ADB president stressed the need for strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation in economic development. And he assured that the donor agency would sponsor the conference of Saarc finance ministers to that end.

He hoped that the new areas of cooperation would be identified at regional level.

ADB Country Director Toru Shibuchi accompanied Tadao Chino.

Manpower

FROM PAGE 1

Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng and Minister for Manpower Ng Eng Hen.

The Singaporean head of government will attend a banquet hosted by Khaleida tonight and will have a tete-a-tete with her at the Prime Minister's Office on Thursday noon.

The draft of the investment protection agreement was passed in a cabinet meeting on Monday that seeks to promote and protect investment in both countries.

The consultation protocol will ensure an annual consultation and cooperation between ministries of the two countries.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Kamrul Islam will call on Goh Chok at Sonargaon Hotel on Thursday afternoon.

Sources said discussions between Morshed and Goh Chok are likely to focus on increased manpower exports including IT professionals.

Currently, 45,000 Bangladeshis work in Singapore mainly in private construction and port related jobs.

Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will also call on Goh Chok during his visit. The Singaporean prime minister will visit the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar as well as the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman on Thursday.

Stormy debate

FROM PAGE 12

round allegations of harbouring criminal activities against each other.

Bhuiyan finally made his statement where he accused the past AL government of state terrorism.

"The Awami League created godfathers at different places of the country and protected them. But the BNP government is against all criminal activities and is not patronising state terrorism," he said.

Bhuiyan brushed aside the allegation of involvement of BNP activists with the bomb blast at Suranjit's rally and said there was no scope of his party's activists going there, as only the AL activists were at the rally ground.

He, however, assured the AL legislators of bringing to book criminals responsible for the blast. He asked the opposition not to blame the government for every incident.

Earlier, senior AL lawmaker Abdus Samad Azad stood on a point of order and protested the speaker's allowing two BNP lawmakers to speak.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar said, "If I allow two of you then I should allow two from the treasury bench."

Azad said, "You (speaker) can't do that. We didn't want any debate on the issue. We wanted a statement from the prime minister or any senior minister."

The statement prompted the treasury bench lawmakers to shout at the top of their voice that they reserve the right to speak on the matter. Azad retorted, "If you want to debate, then adjourn the House. We also want to debate on the law and order downside. In this way, everyone will get chance to speak."

Senior AL lawmakers alleged the two BNP lawmakers -- Manjur Kader and Ilias Ali -- in their speeches tried to raise a debate at the instruction of the senior treasury bench members. The two deputies blamed Monday's

48 killed

FROM PAGE 1

emergency officials said.

An official from the Ingush Interior Ministry said it was not immediately clear who the attackers were, but said some of them were shouting 'Allahu akbar' a frequent rallying cry of Chechnya's separatist rebels as their insurgency increasingly comes under the influence of radical Islam.

Chechnya's Interior Minister Alu Alkhanov, the Kremlin-supported candidate in Chechnya's upcoming presidential elections, told the ITAR-Tass news agency that he believes Chechen rebel commander Shamil Basayev, who has been blamed for some of the most audacious attacks, was behind the foray into Ingushetia.

Yakhya Khadziyev, spokesman for Ingushetia's Interior Ministry, said the 48 dead included 18 police officers and 28 civilians. He said that a military field hospital was set up in Nazran, a possible indication of more casualties.

A firefighter who would reveal only his first name, Aslan, said he had seen more than 10 corpses on the streets of the city.

"Wherever we were, there were armed people, some in uniform, some not, and you didn't know whose side they were on," Aslan said.

Ingush police estimated that up to 100 militants, armed with grenade and rocket-launchers, were involved in the assaults. The attacks sent the sounds of gunfire booming across Nazran and other settlements for most of the night.

Imran

FROM PAGE 12

difficult for her to adapt to life in Pakistan."

A member of Imran's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf (Movement for Justice) party told the Associated Press news agency that the couple had formally divorced a few days ago.

Jemima, the daughter of late multimillionaire British industrialist James Goldsmith, married Imran in Paris in May 1995 after she converted to Islam. They have two sons, Suleman, seven, and Qasim, five.

Legendary all-rounder Imran led Pakistan to victory in the cricket World Cup in 1992 and later formed his own party in 1996, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf (Movement for Justice) party.

He founded a charity cancer treatment center in Lahore in memory of his mother Shaukat Khanum who died of cancer.

<