

Resolve outstanding issues thru' dialogue

President tells Veena Sikri

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed suggested thrashing out differences, addressing the pinpricks and resolving the outstanding issues between Bangladesh and India through dialogue and discussion.

"Through dialogue and discussion we will be able to thrash out our differences, address the pinpricks and resolve the outstanding issues," he told the outgoing High Commissioner of India Veena Sikri when she made a farewell call on the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The president stated that as a close neighbour Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relations with India.

"In the past years our two countries were engaged in sustained interaction at various political and official levels with a view to further strengthening the relationship," he told the envoy.

President Iajuddin said there should be people-to-people contact between Bangladesh and India.

He assured all cooperation to her successor as and when he takes up his assignment in Dhaka.

The President underscored the need for setting up a world-class Saarc university in the Saarc region and hoped that the leaders of South Asia would come forward in this regard. He invited the President of India, APJ Abdul Kalam, to visit Bangladesh.

The outgoing Indian High Commissioner said, "I have served my wonderful three years in

Bangladesh. People of Bangladesh are very fine; I have extensively visited the countryside of Bangladesh."

She informed that proposals are there to set up different faculties of Saarc universities to be set up in the capitals of the Saarc countries.

The envoy extended the Indian President's invitation to Iajuddin to

visit India.

Military Secretary to the President Major General Md Aminul Karim and Secretary to the President Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury and other senior officials of Foreign Ministry and Indian High Commission in Dhaka were present on the occasion.

15 injured as JCD, BCL clash at agri varsity

DU CORRESPONDENT

Some 15 activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured when the two organisations clashed at Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) yesterday.

The injured are mostly BCL workers. Some of the injured received first aid from Mymensingh Medical College and later were released.

Sources said the first phase of clash erupted early hours of yesterday when BAU unit BCL leaders visited the Ashrafal Haq Hall. JCD men protested their visit and locked horns with BCL at the hall.

As the BCL gave a threat to the JCD men saying 'wait until the caretaker government assumes

power', JCD beat up some of BCL men, sources said.

Witnesses said BCL decided to submit memorandum to the vice-chancellor in the morning in protesting JCD attack, but JCD launched fresh attack on them in front of Karim Building, igniting the second phase of clash.

JCD set fire to four rooms used by the BCL men at Ashrafal Haq Hall while the BCL men ransacked some rooms used by JCD men.

Harun-Ur-Rashid, proctor of the university, admitted the incident and said the authorities are going to take necessary steps to avoid further clash between the organisations.

Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert further incidents.

Depression weakens into low pressure

Signal three for ports

BSS, Dhaka

The well marked low over the east central Bay of Bengal has weakened into a low pressure area moving into the north Bay, whipping up squally winds in the sea prompting the met office to ask the maritime ports to hoist local cautionary warning signal number three replacing the signal number one from yesterday morning.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay have been advised to remain close to the coast and warned not to venture into the Bay until further notice, a special bulletin of the met office said.

The well marked low was formed off a depression in the east central Bay on Sunday after weakening, but transformed into a low pressure area early yesterday, moving away to the north Bay with deep convection clouds whipping up squally winds roaring over the Bay, making navigation difficult, met sources said.

The coastal areas would have high winds and some stray rains. But inside the country the rains continued to shy away with only two mm rains at Jessore recorded by the met office during the last 24 hours ending at 6am today.

The rains have fallen despite the formation of the depression and the low pressure in the Bay with monsoon is on the retreat to wind up its season likely from today.

As rains slowed down the heat and humidity have risen across the country which is likely to continue so long the low pressure remains in the Bay, the met sources said.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a view exchange meeting with city AL leaders at the Dhanmondi party office yesterday. On her left is party General Secretary Abdul Jaail.

One gunned down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was gunned down at Kafrul in the city over previous enmity last night.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Sumon, 26, resident of north Kafrul.

Sumon's family sources said some youth called him out of his house at around 7:30pm and shot him at East Kachukhet area.

He was shot in his neck and face. His uncle Harun-ir-Rashid rushed him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead at about 8:00pm.

Harun told the reporters that some local goons earlier shot his elder brother, and the same group might have been involved in the incident.

Police, however, said Sumon was a local goon and accused in several cases.

Meanwhile, Ashrafal Islam Johnny, son of a policeman, who was stabbed by muggers on October 7, succumbed to his injuries at the DMCH last night.

Johnny was stabbed by some local goons when he tried to resist them from mugging a cellphone from him in front of his house at Palashpur under Shyampur Police Station.

In another incident, Belal Hossain, who sells Iftar in front of Awami League office at Bangabandhu Avenue, was stabbed for refusal to pay toll to local extortionists last night.

Belal, also vice-president of Sramik League of Ward-56, was taken to the DMCH with stab injuries in the stomach and back.

In a separate incident, several muggers shot a kerosene vendor and snatched Tk 4,700 from him at Malibagh Chowdhurypara at about 8:30pm when he was returning to his house.

The victim was identified as

2 restaurant managers shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals of infamous Shahadat-Khorshed group allegedly shot and grievously injured two managers of a restaurant at Mirpur 1, just over a year into the killing of the shop owner and a local business leader Kazi Shahidullah.

The injured Qazi Moteleb, 38, and Fakhrul Alam, 35, were undergoing treatment at Chest Disease Hospital at Mohakhali and Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) respectively. Moteleb is a nephew and Fakhrul is a brother-in-law of Shahidullah.

Witnesses said two youths entered Prince Hotel and Restaurant at Mirpur Cooperative Market at 7:15am in the morning and took tea.

"After some time, they approached the cash counter and one of them took out a pistol from back pretending to pull out the purse for paying bill and shot six times targeting the two managers sitting in the cash counter," said a hotel staff.

Moteleb and Fakhrul received two bullets each. Moteleb suffered bullets in the chest and abdomen while Fakhrul in the right hand and back.

After the shooting, they fled away in a CNG three wheelers firing blank shots. Two other gang members standing guard outside the restaurant also followed them in a motorbike.

Earlier on August 12 last year, the same gang gunned down the owner of Prince Group Shahidullah soon after he came out of a local mosque after offering Juma prayers. Besides, the gang had killed several businesspersons including business leader Aftab Ahmed, traders Monu Mia, Ripon Chowdhury, Mahbub and Shanto in the last two years.

Shahidullah's family members alleged that members of Shahadat group were pressing the family to withdraw names of the already arrested gang members from the First Information Report (FIR).

The gang members called several times over mobile phone to Shahidullah's family and asked them to withdraw names of their fellows from the FIR after Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested 10 members of the gang around 20 days ago, alleged one of the family members.

"You will have to face the fate of Shahidullah if you do not carry out our command," a family member said seeking anonymity.

Stories about the well-organised Shahadat-Khorshed gang, which has about 250 paid cohorts in areas under Mirpur, Kafrul, Pallabi and Shah Ali police stations, came to light after the DB police arrested its 10 cadres.



Five Left Party takes out a procession from Muktangan in the city yesterday expressing solidarity with today's garment workers' strike.

RMG workers call strike today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment Sramik Sangram Parishad, an alliance of 11 garment workers associations, will observe countrywide strike today demanding Tk 3000 minimum wage and restructuring of the pay scale while other workers' organisations yesterday vowed to enforce a nationwide strike on October 15 and 16 threatening to obstruct roads, railways and waterways.

The Parishad rejected the minimum wage of Tk 1662.50 in the readymade garment (RMG) sector declared on October 5.

The Parishad and other garment workers' organisations also demanded implementation of the tripartite agreement among the workers, owners and the government.

National Garment Workers Federation, United Federation of Garment Workers and Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) declared a countrywide strike on October 15.

National Protection Alliance for Garment Workers and Industries also declared a strike across the country on October 16.

Leaders and activists of Garment Sramik Sangram Parishad yesterday held rallies and urged the workers to make today's strike a successful one.

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Trade Union Kendra held a press conference in the capital yesterday and alleged that the recently declared minimum wage is 30 per cent less than the minimum wage of 1994.

Terminating the recently passed Bangladesh Labour Law 2006 'undemocratic', leaders said at the conference that it would not serve the workers' interest. They urged the workers to refrain from work on October 15 and compel the government to cancel the recently passed Labour Bill and declare Tk 3000 as minimum wage.

"A garment worker will not meet his or her minimum basic needs with Tk 1662.50," said Ruhul Amin, general secretary of the organisation.

Different organisations including Jatiya Gano Front, Garments Tailors Workers League and Sramik-Karmachari Sangram Parishad yesterday expressed solidarity with today's strike.

Criminal killed in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A listed criminal was killed during a shootout between his accomplices and members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Green Model Town in the city's Sabujbagh early yesterday.

The dead, Mohammad Wasim, 28, was accused in two murder cases and a police assault case, police said.

Sabujbagh police quoting the First Information Report (FIR) filed by the Rab said a team of Rab-3 arrested him at Mugdapara at around 10:00pm on Sunday.

Following his statement, the Rab members took him to Green Model Town at around 2:00am to recover his hidden arms and arrest his cohorts. As the Rab team reached

the area, Wasim's accomplices opened fire on the law enforcers to which they retaliated triggering a gunfight.

Wasim received bullets in the head and chest when he tried to escape during the shootout. He died on the spot, while his accomplices fled.

Rab recovered a gun and three bullets from the spot.

Mohammad Nadim, brother of Wasim, said his brother had been living at Madanpur in Narayanganj for the last one year and was involved in fish trading there. He came to visit his brother's residence at Mugda on Sunday and was caught by Rab. He was on bail in all the three cases against him, Nadim added.

Three killed in Comilla road accident

UNB, Comilla

Three people were killed and one was injured in a deadly triangular accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Daudkandi upazila yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when a truck and a bus rammied a private car in Baropara area at about 2:00pm, leaving the two passengers and the driver of the car fatally injured.

The injured were rushed to Gouripur Hospital where doctors declared them dead.

The deceased were identified as Shahidul Islam, 45, of Mirersara in Chittagang and Ibrahim of Muradnagar in Comilla and driver Shahin, 35, of Jurain in Dhaka.

The injured was identified as Zakir. Police sent the bodies to morgue for autopsy.

KTS fire victims receive compensation

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday afternoon handed over cheques for compensation to the family members of 17 workers who were burnt alive in the worst-ever factory fire at KTS Textile and Garments at BSCIC Industrial Area of the city's Kalurghat on February 23 this year.

Each of the family members received Tk 79 thousand in cheques while the members would get the rest Tk 21 thousand from the Labour Court as per law, sources said.

BGMEA President SM Fazlul Haque handed over the cheques to the relatives of the remaining 17 workers of 65 KTS victims, as the chief guest at a ceremony.

BGMEA First Vice President Moinuddin Ahmed Mintu chaired the ceremony.

Fazlul Haque in his speech expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members of the dead workers and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

Moinuddin thanked the Chittagong city mayor, police commissioner, fire service and civil defence, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), DGFI and NSI for their cooperation during the disaster.

BGMEA Director and Chittagong Region Labour and Fire Standing Committee Chairman ANM Saif Uddin, former first vice president SM Abu Toyeb, Second Vice President Lutfar Rahman Matin, Fire Service Deputy Director Rashedul Islam Majumder, Workers leader Safar Ali and other BGMEA directors were present in the ceremony.

The KTS Garment and Textile Factory authority gave the compensations, salaries and allowances through the BGMEA.

It may be mentioned that, 65 garments worker were died in the fire.



Local traders stage a demonstration at Mirpur in the city yesterday protesting attack on two hotel managers of A K Mazar Co-operative Market by the criminals.

'Evolve ways to combat diseases on croplands without chemical fertilisers'

BSS, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar yesterday asked the entomologists to evolve ways to combat diseases on croplands without using chemical fertilisers.

"Use of organic fertilisers instead of chemical ones would help reduce agricultural production costs and have positive impact on environment," he said while inaugurating a daylong workshop on "progress and prospect of IPM on rice, vegetables, fruits and sugarcane."

Bangladesh Entomological Society organised the workshop at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium here.

Presided over by President of

the society and Executive Chairman or BARC Dr M Nurul Alam, the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by director general of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Ibrahim Khalil and eminent entomologist Prof Dr Monwar Ahmed while Prof Shaiful Islam presented the keynote paper.

Laying emphasis on ensuring fare price of agri-products, the minister said, "We have to take appropriate steps so that the farmers get fare price of their produces. Otherwise, he said, they will desert their profession leaving behind agriculture."

"The farmers will not survive if we fail to ensure fare price of their

produces," he added. MK Anwar said despite increase in production cost in agri-sector, the cost of agricultural production did not increase that much, which could create a negative impact on this very vital sector.

He also asked the agricultural scientists to take appropriate measures to reduce post-harvest wastage of agricultural goods.

Representatives from different research organisations, universities and non-governmental organisations participated in the workshop where five technical papers were presented by the country's eminent entomologists.

Petrol bomb hurled at RU teacher's house

RU CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants on Sunday midnight hurled petrol bomb at the residence of former president of Rajshahi University Teachers' Association, a Jamaat loyal teacher of Accounting department.

Nobody, however, was injured in the explosion. Panic was gripped among the teachers and students of the university following the incident.

Sources said the miscreants have thrown a bottle filling with petrol and set fire to Professor Nazrul's Binodpur residence near the university campus.

The bottle was exploded with huge cracking sound near the reading table of Nazrul's son.

Suddenly, the fire spread out as the bottle exploded in the room, Professor Nazrul said. Other explosive ingredients were also loaded in the bottle, he said.

The terrified members of the house rushed to the room and managed to extinguish the fire before it engulfs the room.

They, however, could not identify any assailants.

Yesterday morning, the university proctor, student adviser and higher police officials visited the residence of Nazrul.

The university and police administration have taken additional security measures around the house of Professor Nazrul, said Proctor Enamul Haque.

Professor Nazrul told newsmen that he would take legal action after consulting with the university administration.

The motive of the attack could not be known, he said.

AL Faridganj unit dissolved

UNB, Chandpur

Faridganj upazila unit committee of Awami League has been dissolved.

The committee was dissolved Sunday in a letter signed by AL General Secretary Abdul Jaail.

The letter also asked to form a new committee by October 31 at a council session.

Abu Naim Dulal Patwari, general secretary of district AL, confirmed it.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Alpha Ali, daughter of late Akbar Kabir and late Selima Kabir, passed away due to a cardiac arrest in the city on Sunday at the age of 65.

She is survived by her husband, daughter, son and grandson.

She was one of the pioneering women journalists in the country.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baridhara Jame Mosque at 9:00 am on Wednesday and qualkhwani at her residence at 44 Park Road in Baridhara after Asr prayers on Friday.

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

The sixth death anniversary of Prof Mohammad Tawhidul Anwar, former director general of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), will be observed today.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Hathazari in Chittagong, says a press release.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.6 degree Celsius at Srirangon.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.37pm today and rises at 5:54am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Advertisement for DHAKA TODAY Discussion Roundtable Dialogue and Discussion events with details on dates, venues, and times.