

DU VIOLENCE
Probe body
chief visits
incident spots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The one-member judicial commission, formed to probe the recent violence on the Dhaka University campus, visited yesterday different parts of the city to determine whether simultaneous incidents there had any connection with the campus outrages.

The country saw sporadic bursts of violence on August 21 and 22 which emanated from a trifling incident at the Dhaka University.

Commission Chairman Justice Habibur Rahman talked to people in the city's English Road, Phulbari police box, North South Road and Kamalpur's BRTC bus stand areas.

He asked them to show up at the commission office on Sunday and Monday to give their version of the incidents.

Justice Habib told journalists that though the commission's

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INFLATION CURBING MEASURE

BB sticks to its guns amid IMF insistence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday reiterated its earlier stand of contractionary monetary policy for Bangladesh to rein in inflation but the central bank opposed the idea.

During a meeting with the central bank governor, a visiting IMF mission said there is no alternative to adopting tight monetary policy to check inflation.

The IMF mission led by Thomas Rumbaugh, adviser of Asia and Pacific IMF departments, discussed macroeconomic situation with Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed.

Sources said the central bank officials pointed out that without

taking any tight measures, private sector credit growth recently went down significantly.

The private sector credit growth was 15.12 percent in June 2007—the figure was 18.27 in June 2006.

Sources said if any tight policy is taken after the recent devastating floods, it would hamper supply and incur more inflationary pressure. The IMF mission, however, advised that tight monetary policy should be pursued after post-flood economic recovery.

"We also give supply top priority so that inflation could be checked," BB governor told journalists after the meeting held at the central bank.

Inflation rate has been rising during recent months, last June it reached 9.2 percent. Sources said

the inflation rate went beyond 10 percent in July this year.

However, the IMF said inflation rate increased due to high money supply and persuaded the government to adopt tight monetary policy. In line with the IMF's suggestions, BB in a monetary policy statement said it would follow contractionary monetary policy.

The business community along with economists, however, opposed the idea and said lack of proper supply mechanism is the reason behind high inflation.

The IMF mission landed in Bangladesh on Tuesday for a two-week visit. The mission came to discuss Policy Support Instrument (PSI) and will stay here until September 17.

He said rules and regulations in different sectors would be relaxed

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Govt to bring amendments to Emergency Power Rules
Says Mainul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law and Information Adviser Barrister Mainul Hosein yesterday said the government would soon bring some amendments to the Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

He said there would be provisions so that detained family members of the politicians behind bars get bail. He, however, did not elaborate on the matter.

"It would not be right to tell you more about the amendments before they come," Mainul told reporters while entering his office in the morning.

Replying to another query, he said the government has not yet decided how much indoor politics the political parties would be allowed.

He said rules and regulations in different sectors would be relaxed



PHOTO: STAR
A policeman helps pedestrians cross Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at Paribagh in the capital yesterday. The foundation stone for a foot-over-bridge was laid there on September 16, 1996 but the project is yet to be implemented.

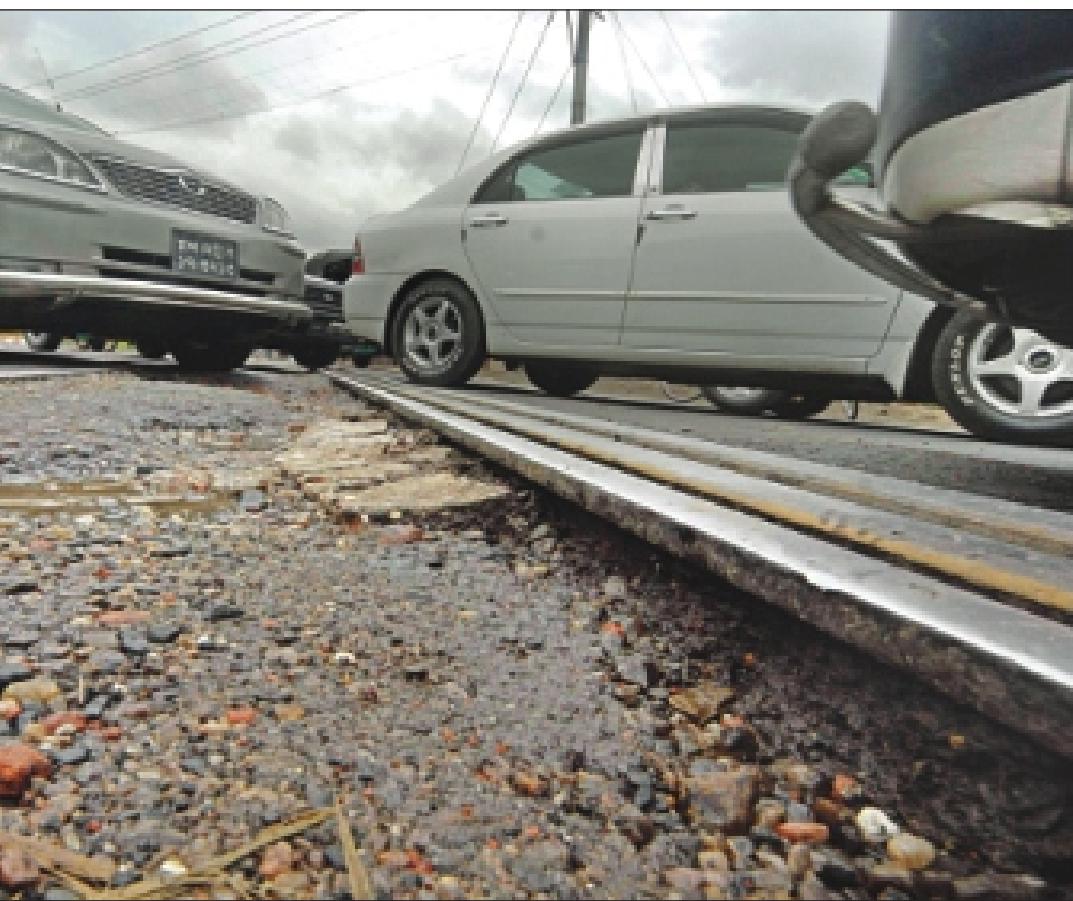


PHOTO: STAR

Damaged level crossing near FDC in Tejgaon in the capital forces vehicles to use a narrow strip of the road. The photo was taken yesterday.

Reforms talks possible despite ban on politics

Says Dr Kamal

UNB, Gazipur

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the political parties can sit with the Election Commission (EC) for discussion on reforms despite ban on indoor politics.

Talking to newsmen before attending a reception here, Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum, said his party is in favour of dialogue with the EC. But he urged for facilitating a congenial atmosphere for free, frank and meaningful discussion.

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Bangladesh faces tsunami threat

Reveals study

AP, Bangkok

More than 1 million people in South Asia's Bay of Bengal could be swept to their deaths by a tsunami if a giant earthquake were to hit off the coast of Myanmar, according to a study published Thursday.

But the study's author, Phil Cummins, said he does not have enough data to say whether such a cataclysmic event a quake projected to be from 8.5 magnitude to 9.0 magnitude is likely to hit parts of Myanmar and Bangladesh in the next few decades or in several hundred years. Smaller quakes in the immediate area are rare.

"I don't want to cause a panic. There is no reason anything like

this would happen soon," said Cummins, of Geoscience Australia, the federal agency that carries out geoscientific research.

The threat of tsunamis has taken on added urgency in recent years after a 9.3-magnitude earthquake off Indonesia's Sumatra island in December 2004 triggered a tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people and left a half million homeless in a dozen countries.

Myanmar and Bangladesh suffered relatively minor damage from the tsunami, with 61 people and 2 people killed, respectively.

Previous research had shown the potential for large quakes in the Bay of Bengal area but Cummins' said his study, which appears in

Thursday's issue of the journal Nature, is the first to suggest a big quake could spawn a tsunami "that could have pronounced impact on the Chittagong coast and the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta at the northern tip of the bay."

The numbers of people at risk from a tsunami, Cummins wrote, may be "over a million," given that the region is home to Bangladesh's second largest city of Chittagong and there are tens of millions of people living just above sea level in the region.

Cummins has not presented his findings to the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh. Officials from Myanmar and

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Wadud Bhuiyan's

close aide held

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

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