

Students clash

FROM PAGE 16
Police Station was injured as the students threw bricks at police.

The situation calmed down when the three students, held at City College, were freed in the afternoon following negotiations between some teachers of the two colleges.

Principals of both the colleges said academic activities would continue as usual.

Contacted, Principal of Dhaka College Bashirul Haque said, "I have heard that following a personal feud between two students of the two colleges, three of our students were held captive by City College teachers when they went near that college."

He denied allegations of vandalism committed by his students saying he did not get any such report. Dhaka City College Principal Md Hafiz Uddin told The Daily Star that such kind of attacks on DCC students by the Dhaka College take place frequently. He also alleged that sometimes the Dhaka College students snatch mobile phones from the DCC students.

One of the held students alleged that they were beaten up by teachers of City College.

Another held student said later they went to City College in an effort to resolve the earlier feud between two students of the two colleges.

But City College teachers said they held the three students with sticks while they attacked their students.

Meanwhile, the clashes and police action on them a severe traffic jam in the areas as vehicular movement from Nilkhet intersection to Science Laboratory crossing on Mirpur road remained suspended for over two hours from noon. About 10 motor vehicles were vandalised by Dhaka College students at the time.

JAGANNATH UNIVERSITY
Activists of the BCL and JCD clashed on the campus yesterday morning as distribution of admission forms for honours classes started. Chase and counter-chase by the twosides continued for about half an hour.

Police lobbed at least 10 teargas shells and charged batons to disperse the activists and the latter retaliated with bricks injuring five policemen.

Police then arrested three activists of the two organisations.

At this, activists of both BCL and JCD together attempted to snatch away the arrested students. The led to clashes with police for about hour. And panic gripped area.

Around 25 people including students and five policemen were injured.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
Two factions of the BCL clashed over domination at Latif Hostel

injuring at least 10 students in the early hours yesterday.

They also ransacked at least five rooms of the dormitory.

Teigona police said four students suffered stab injuries while many others were beaten in the incident. During the hour-long clash, many of the panicked students moved out on the road near dormitory.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
No AL leaders could confirm when the party president will return.

After Hasina's return, a number of election activities is expected to start including formation of a grand electoral alliance, sharing parliamentary seats with its allies, party's election manifesto, the election conducting committee, electoral campaign strategy and nomination process, party leaders said.

AL acting President Zillur Rahman and acting General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam had said Hasina might return by the end of this month. Talking to The Daily Star recently, AL Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu said the AL chief would not return home before the first week of November.

Hasina's personal physician Modasser Ali, who has frequent contact with the AL chief, said she has an appointment at the John Hopkins Hospital in US on October 29. After her check-up she would finalise the date for her return, he said.

About Hasina's health, Joy said the condition of his mother is now better than earlier. Joy demanded that the government withdraw all the charges against Hasina immediately since filing of "false" cases against her was part of a conspiracy.

"The government has given bail to all of the top corruption suspects... then why there are charges against her Hasina," he said. Joy and Hasina's counsel Fazle Noor Taposh expressed concern over security of Hasina in Bangladesh. They demanded that the government ensure foolproof security since she had come under attack several times before.

Taposh, also Hasina's nephew, said Hasina would take part in the upcoming elections from three constituencies, including the one that has Tungipara.

AL has been preparing to accord a grand reception to Hasina on her arrival. The AL acting president said they would mobilise five to 10 lakh people to receive Hasina.

Talking to The Daily Star a senior AL leader said the other aim of giving Hasina such a grand reception is to show-off the party's election preparation for the constituencies in the capital.

Chittagong Test

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Redmond fours came almost 20 overs later, when he crashed two off Tigers captain Mohammad Ashraful. He moved from 45 to 53 with two consecutive boundaries off Shahadat, reaching his maiden Test fifty in 135 balls in over three hours.

Redmond and Ryder grafted long and hard and thrived on a surprisingly better surface, which seemed refreshed by a bout of the heavy roller during the innings break, although Bangladesh didn't produce enough wicket-taking deliveries.

The two Kiwi openers gave them a fine start, adding 55 before Jamie How (36) played back to Abdur Razzak, only to see the off-stump disturbed. Ashraful rotated his bowlers around but luck took a nap for the Tigers.

But unlike the first three days, Bangladesh began well with Mashrafe and Razzak carrying on for their overnight partnership, adding 40 for the ninth wicket. Mashrafe was enterprising to the hilt, notching up 44 with seven boundaries and also adding another crucial 22 with last man Shahadat.

Mashrafe, who had a plan to attack the spinners, did just that as he smashed Vettori for four boundaries, twice over mid-on. And there was a game of cat-and-mouse when Vettori's over-the-wicket delivery that slid down the leg-side was kicked away by a charging Mashrafe.

But the Tigers innings ended when Mashrafe, having treated Redmond's leg-spin with disdain, was controversially given out stumped in the 108th over.

Mashrafe's contribution was minimal but could well be the foundation of something great today.

Ex-ministers

FROM PAGE 16
Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Upon separate stay petitions filed by the ACC against the HC orders, the apex court also asked the ACC to file regular leave to appeal petitions with it against the HC orders.

Barrister Ahsanul Karim, counsel for Mosharraf, Altaf and Mohiuddin, yesterday told The Daily Star that following the SC orders, there was no longer any legal bar to his clients' release from jail since they got bail in all cases against them.

The proceedings against them in these cases would continue in trial court as the SC vacated the HC's stay orders, he said.

Mosharraf is an accused in two cases—one for amassing wealth illegally and hiding information about it to the ACC, and another for land grabbing. Altaf and Mohiuddin are indicted in two corruption cases that accused them of amassing illegal wealth and hiding information to the ACC.

Akhter's lawyer barrister Nasiruddin Ahmed Asim said the SC turned down its chamber judge's order staying the HC bail to his client, and also the proceedings against him in the case accusing him of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information to the ACC about it.

"Following the Supreme Court order, the High Court order for his bail, and stay of proceedings in the case remain upheld. There was no legal bar to his release from jail since he was earlier granted bail in all cases against him," the counsel said.

Police rearrested Akhter after his release from Dhaka Central Jail on August 30 on charges of violating Emergency Powers Rules.

Dhaka extradited

FROM PAGE 16
them returned home exhausted jail terms.

Officials said 10 alleged operatives of outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) were killed in an encounter with the anti-crime elite force as they infiltrated into Bangladesh territory.

The revelation came against the backdrop of a protracted accusation by the Indian authorities and media that Bangladesh harbours their separatist elements, an allegation that Dhaka consistently denied.

Bangladesh and India agreed on "expeditious" return of criminals staying in either of the countries as home secretaries of the two countries ended a two-day annual meeting in Dhaka on August 31.

Both sides also agreed to "continue efforts" to track down criminals who took shelter in either country to evade justice and send them back "expeditiously" as Dhaka also sought India's cooperation to take preventive measures against anti-Bangladesh outfits based in its territory.

Bangladesh handed over an updated list of 1,648 Bangladeshi criminals hiding in India while the Indian side gave a list of 464 Indian criminals during director general level talks between the Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Forces (BSF) of India ahead of the secretary level meeting.

BNP chairperson

FROM PAGE 1
However, it allows associated organisations made up of students, teachers and others professionals.

On foreign chapters, he said the Bangladeshi expatriates willing to champion Bangladeshi nationalism abroad can organise on their own, subject to the law of the country they reside in.

In line with the RPO stipulations, the revised BNP constitution provides for the grassroots level committees to select panels of prospective candidates for parliamentary election. The parliamentary board shall pick the contenders from those panels.

"In absence of committees in a constituency, the parliamentary board will step in to choose contestant there," Nazrul explained.

In the interim charter, the party pledges to ensure 33 percent seats are reserved for women at all committees by 2020.

Replying to a query, he said BNP maintains two bank accounts. "Of those, one has Tk 5.80 crore for organisational purposes and the other Tk 46 lakh for relief funds."

He said the provisional constitution requires the party to have its incomes and expenditures audited in every three months instead of six months.

"If necessary, the national council will bring about more changes," Nazrul added.

BNP and its allies including

Jamaat-e-Islami had been vehemently opposed to registration with the EC under the new electoral provisions.

They had been demanding that some provisions of the revised RPO be scrapped or suspended till the ninth parliamentary election is over.

Then in a major development, BNP and Jamaat collected application forms for registration Sunday, a day before the deadline for submissions.

The other partners of the BNP-led coalition—Islami Oikya Jote and Bangladesh Jatiya Party—too turned in applications yesterday.

Explaining the rationale for the shift in registration stance, the BNP joint secretary general said it occurred to the party high ups that a conspiracy was on to leave BNP out of the upcoming election. "We have opted to apply for registration to frustrate the plotters."

Nazrul said the party's constitution was democratic, and the changes were made to conform to the RPO provisions.

According to the pre-revision BNP charter, national council was supposed to elect party head in every two years.

On election, the chairperson was to pick 14 members for the national standing committee and 251 for the executive committee.

The grassroots level committees would be elected at councils.

BCL violence

FROM PAGE 1
men on the committees.

DU unit president Sheikh Sohel Rana Tipu told The Daily Star that a few petty problems got in the way of forming the committees.

"The organisation is getting weaker in the DU halls for dithering over announcing the hall-unit committees," said a president candidate for such a committee.

He said the hall unit committees should have been declared shortly after the present committee for the university unit was formed.

"We've been involved in Chhatra League politics for over four years now but did not get any post at any level of the organisation. What we have got are police repression during the Khaleda-Nizami regime and a string of false cases," another aspirant hall president said preferring anonymity.

The top BCL leaders did not show up on the campus on October 19 for a scheduled agitation programme to press for the Awami League president's release.

Hall-level leaders and activists held the procession where they chanted slogans demanding new hall committees.

107 parties

FROM PAGE 1
Allying some controversies, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said registration does not mean imposing the commission's control over the parties—it is aimed at bringing political parties under a "legal framework" to ensure accountability and consolidate democracy.

Huda said, "It's a big achievement of the present commission as the previous Election Commission did not do it."

Manzurul Islam, Prof Fakhrul Alam, Prof AKM Golam Rabbani and Dr Salma Chowdhury, among others, were present.

Sources said none from the BNP-Jamaat backed 'White-Panel' participated in the programme although the decision of holding the programme was made at a Duta meeting with its president and White-Panel Convener Prof Sadrul Amin in the chair.

Meanwhile, several hundred madrasa students formed a human chain at the TSC (TSC) intersection demanding cancellation of the university authorities' decision.

Earlier, DU VC Prof Faiz said stern actions would be taken against the people involved in the vandalism.

But the law enforcers deployed at the TSC did not take any action against the madrasa students.

While talking to The Daily Star, Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim said, "We need clear-cut orders to go for action on the university campus. Besides we have to be cautious that no untoward incident occurs on the campus," he said.

He also said they had already identified some madrasa students involved in the vandalism and would take action against them soon.

DU authorities on Saturday night filed a case against 150-160 unidentified people with Shahbagh Police Station in connection with the vandalism at the VC office.

Asked who had arranged the meeting, Mojahid said they wished to meet her when BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain applied for permission to visit the former prime minister in jail. "I won't say anymore about the matter."

Queried, he declined to disclose the number of seats they are seeking to run for on the alliance ticket in December 18 polls. For the cancelled January 22 election, they got 34/35 seats.

"Five to six ministers have been dropped from the cabinet due to corruption at the beginning of the alliance rule. And I can assure you that we'll go tough on graft if voted back to power," he said.

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Hillary joins Obama

FROM PAGE 16
The Arizona senator was campaigning in midwestern Missouri yesterday, after Obama attracted a monstrous crowd of 100,000 people to St. Louis on Saturday.

He will fly onto Pennsylvania, a Democratic state in 2004 and a Republican target this year which now seems clearly tipping towards the 47-year-old Obama.

Just two weeks from election day, McCain's hopes rested on a hard-hitting campaign of mailings and automatic "robo-calls" to voters in swing states assailing Obama's character, past acquaintances and record on abortion.

McCain and his feisty vice-presidential running mate Sarah Palin were also seeking to break through with claims that Obama is far more liberal than mainstream Americans, and is bent on pursuing "socialist" tax policies.

Powell, a Republican and former secretary of state and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the highest-ranking African-American ever in US government service.

In a stinging blow to his long-time friend McCain, Powell said on NBC that Obama, vying to be the nation's first African-American commander-in-chief, would be a "transformational president."

In another demoralising blow to McCain, the Obama campaign announced a record-shattering take of more than 150 million dollars last month -- nearly double McCain's budget for the entire general election campaign.

Despite claims by the McCain camp that the race is narrowing, daily tracking polls on Sunday showed a steady Obama lead.

Gallup had Obama up by 52 to 42 percent among registered voters nationwide, reflecting the last presidential debate last week in which Obama was adjudged the winner by most snap polls.

Rasmussen also had Obama above 50 percent, with a 51 to 45 percent lead.

Obama's fundraising bonanza is helping him pummel his rival in a nationwide advertising blitz and allowing him to pin down McCain in Republican states, stretching his foe's resources even further.

The Democrat said in North Carolina that he was "beyond honoured and deeply humbled to have the support of General Colin Powell."

Speaking on Fox News Sunday, McCain said he had "always admired and respected General Powell."

"We're long-time friends. This doesn't come as a surprise," the Arizona senator said, touting his endorsement by other former secretaries of state including Henry Kissinger and James Baker.

McCain on Sunday renewed his

Melamine

FROM PAGE 1
Sultana and Dr Umme Ara, child specialist at national nutrition institute Dr Mukim Ali Biswas, two chemistry department teachers of Dhaka University, and Ziaul Abedin of Plasma Plus, a private laboratory.

The decision to retest the brands were taken following confusion arising from different test results from different laboratories.

The Dhaka University chemistry department found unacceptable levels of melamine in eight popular brands--Nido fortified instant, Red Cow, Yashili 1, Sweet Baby, Diploma, Anline, Yashili 2 and Dano.

Private laboratory Plasma Plus found the toxic element in one of the four brands it tested while the BSTI said it found melamine in Yashili 1.

Meanwhile, different women and children organisations yesterday demanded that the government immediately impose restrictions on the milk brands found to be tainted with melamine beyond tolerable level.

"The detection of melamine in a few milk-powder brands has endangered the food security of children and the elderly," said a press statement from the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).

It called for immediate measures against importers of the tainted brands and increasing awareness among people about baby foods.

Children organisation Shishu Kishore Mela formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the capital demanding punishment to those responsible for mixing melamine in powdered milk and ensuring children's food security, said a press release.

It criticised the government for not showing responsibility regarding the health issue.

Sammito Nari Samaj, a women's rights group, also made similar demands.

Ctg mayor

FROM PAGE 16
October 30 for hearing of the case.

The court however exempted the mayor from the charges brought in another graft case filed by the Bae.

The case was filed on July 9, 2001 accusing the mayor of embezzling Tk 2.44 lakh from the fund allocated for earth filling work of a CCC graveyard near Pahartali Eye Hospital.

condemnation of Obama's economic policies as "socialism" and warned a rally in Toledo in the key swing state of Ohio that Obama planned to "redistribute wealth" to the "more than 40 percent of Americans" who are too poor to pay income taxes.

In North Carolina, Obama told more than 10,000 supporters that McCain backed tax cuts for wealthy corporate bosses who have driven their companies into the ground.

"If John McCain wants to talk about redistributing wealth to those who don't need it and don't deserve it, let's talk about the 700,000 dollar tax cut he wants to give Fortune 500 CEOs, who've been making out like bandits -- some of them literally," he said.

34 Taliban

FROM PAGE 16
ammunition, motorbikes and other vehicles used by the Taliban. Two policemen were wounded.

Last week, Taliban fighters launched several barrages of rocket and mortar fire into Lashkar Gah, which is the capital of Helmand province.

Suicide bombing kills two German soldiers, five children. A Taliban suicide bomber yesterday killed two German soldiers and five children in northern Afghanistan, the NATO-led force and local officials said.

The force did not give the nationalities of the dead troops but Berlin said earlier that the attack just outside the northern town of Kunduz was against German troops. The provincial governor said the two troops killed were German.

Another soldier and a civilian were wounded, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement. The soldiers had been on patrol when they were hit.

Kunduz province governor Mohammad Omar, who gave the same toll, said the bomber had been on a bicycle.

"The blast took place on a main road. This is the work of terrorists. We have arrested two suspects in relation to the incident," he said.

A spokesman for the hardline Taliban, Zabihullah Mujahid, told AFP by telephone that the attack was carried out by one of the militia's men. He claimed a dozen foreign soldiers were killed.

It was the second suicide attack in Afghanistan Monday after another bomber blew himself up against an armoured Afghan army vehicle in the southern town of Lashkar Gah but killed only himself.

The attacker, who detonated bombs strapped to his body, appeared to be around 15 years old, Afghan army officer Gul Noor said. The vehicle was badly damaged.

44 killed

FROM PAGE 16
land area from the LTTE," the ministry said in a statement, referring to fighting on Sunday.

The main frontlines are currently around 10 to 15 kilometres away from Kilinochchi, according to military officials.

Sri Lanka's hawkish government, which pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce in January--said several weeks ago its troops were poised to capture Kilinochchi.

It claimed over the weekend that it had breached the final LTTE defence line protecting the town.

But army units, despite high morale and a wave of public support in the ethnic Sinhalese-majority south, appear to have been held back by dogged rebel resistance and monsoons rains.

Journalists are not allowed access to the front lines but pictures released by the defence ministry Monday showed vehicles bogged down as troops travelled cross country in muddied jungle terrain.

Aid officials who had rare access to the region said the Tigers had built a network of bunkers and other defences in the area, from where local civilians were evacuated weeks ago to other LTTE-held parts of the north.

The casualty figures given yesterday marked the biggest single loss for the security forces since April, when 43 soldiers were killed and 38 reported injured after an offensive on the Jaffna peninsula north of Kilinochchi.

Since then, the military had moved into rebel-held areas by taking a different route through the northern mainland.

There was no immediate comment from the LTTE, but the pro-rebel Puthumam.com website said the ethnic rebels had allowed government troops to advance into their territory -- only to hit them with heavy fire.

4-party

FROM PAGE 1
election commissioner are repeatedly saying that the parliamentary election will be held on time but they are yet to create a congenial atmosphere for elections," he said.

He said they applied for registration with the Election Commission for the sake of the party's existence despite the 'unjust conditions' imposed by the caretaker government.

Delwar demanded the government arrange another round of talks with the four-party alliance.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid, Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami, Bangladesh Jatiya Party Secretary General Shamim Ali Mamun, among others, attended the meeting.