

Plotters must be tried

FROM PAGE 1
 year, a group of disgruntled BDR personnel staged the mutiny at the Pilkhana headquarters against their commanding officers, leaving at least 73 people dead, including 57 army officers.

The PM said when the BDR rebellion was on steam, leaders of all the political parties in the ruling grand alliance rushed to the area to cool down the situation.

"But no one from the BNP-led four-party alliance did go there," she said.

She again alleged that during the BDR mutiny, the leader of the opposition was hiding.

"She was not found during those three days. She had not stayed at her cantonment house for the subsequent one and a half months," Hasina told her audience.

Indicating the opposition, the PM asked them to give up "variegated games they are playing" and speak whatever they want in parliament. She accused them of creating militancy in the country.

Hasina observed that all would get opportunities if democracy exists in the country and reminded the opposition of the plight of the past. "You know better about the consequences of the absence of democracy."

She deplored that it is the nature of the BNP to play with the blood of the people when they are rejected by the people in elections. "Ziaur Rahman did the same" when he was in power, she said.

"In the last election they could not rig the vote, and that's why they are angry with the people of the country," Hasina said.

In this connection, she

thanked the army for their hard work to prepare a photo voter list deducting 1.23 crore fake voters.

"Later, the people of the country voted Awami League to power to restrain the BNP-led alliance government from looting," she told the gathering.

The PM again firmly warned the government officials not to indulge in any sort of corruption.

"Don't try to commit any sort of corruption. There will be no place for the corrupt and looters in the land of Bangladesh," she said.

She said that the main aim of her government is to advance the country. "We will ensure that no person of this country suffers for lack of food, and development of the people of this country is the responsibility of my government."

Addressing the rally, Hasina also directed all concerned to maintain high standards of works and prevent misuse of money while implementing development projects.

She noted that corruption is a major impediment in development process and her transparent government would do whatever necessary to uproot the menace.

Hasina said there is no alternative to improving communications network for attaining desired development of the country.

She listed a number of massive communications projects undertaken by the present government, including Padma Bridge, Teesta Bridge, second Shitalakhya Bridge as well as upgrading the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway to four lanes.

Hasina said her government

has been implementing all of its pledges given in the election manifesto. Prices of essentials have been slashed while subsidies are being given to the farmers.

Besides, emphasis is being given on making the country self-sufficient in food, strengthening industrial base and income generation for the people, the PM said.

Hasina announced that her government would upgrade Gazipur from second-grade district to a special-grade one. There will be a digital university and high-tech park here.

The PM inaugurated the 48-kilometer-long bypass road by unveiling a plaque at Nawjor.

The Dhaka bypass between Nawjor in Gazipur and Madanpur in Narayanganj district has been formally opened to traffic connecting the country's north and eastern regions bypassing the capital city.

About the bypass road, Hasina said that in the future it would be expanded to four-lane and thereafter to eight-lane road, if necessary.

The PM observed that for having safe road communications her government is going to set up a training centre at BUET for the drivers where around 1,000 drivers would be trained up.

The rally was also addressed by Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, lawmakers Advocate Rahmat Ali, AKM Mozammel Huq, Zahid Ahsan Russel and Meher Afroze Chumki.

Earlier, the PM laid the foundation of the BAIRA Technical and Vocational Training Institute at Nawjor.

Violence erupts

FROM PAGE 16
 the army, Rapid Action Battalion, Bangladesh Rifles, and police were patrolling the streets of Khagrachhari town with heavy firearms amid the ban on public gatherings.

High tension between the settlers and adivasi communities however was still quite apparent during the day, as the settlers were seen guarding most of the important markets and other public places in and around the town while the law enforcers were looking for hiding adivasis, especially in remote parts.

The ongoing SSC exams however took place without any disruption there, while adivasi examinees went to exam halls in groups in fear of attacks on the way.

Transport movement and all business activities remained suspended in the town all day.

Tuesday night's curfew was also lifted at 7:00am yesterday.

The law enforcers arrested 70 people comprising 42 adivasis and 28 settlers in simultaneous drives in Narikel Bagan, Muslim Para, Ganj Para, College Gate and different other parts of the Khagrachhari town from Tuesday 9:00pm till yesterday morning.

But the drives ended up flaring the ethnic tension, as many adivasis complained that many of the arrestees are innocent.

The arrestees including Khagrachhari Municipality Councillor Abdur Rab Raza were in the town police station till last evening.

The six days of violence claimed three lives and injured 70 while more than 500 houses were set on fire, over 400 of which belonged to adivasis. The violence made 3,000 adivasis and 500 Bangalee settlers homeless.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku visited Khagrachhari and Rangamati yesterday, where he said BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami are hatching conspiracies to create unrest in the country.

State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder, and CHT Refugee Affairs Taskforce Chairman Jatindra Lal Tripura also visited the two hill districts.

But their visits seemed to do little to ease the tension as most of the adivasi people could not come out of their homes or hiding places to meet the dignitaries in fear of possible attacks or arrest.

Many adivasis who fled their homes remained out in the open in deep forests and could not go back home yesterday, as Bangalee settlers were guarding most of the public places exhibiting their readiness for more clashes.

"We Paharis and Bangalees are the citizens of Bangladesh, and we will resist any conspiracy against the country," Tuku said yesterday.

He said a vested quarter wants to destabilise CHT as they want to deprive the residents of the hills of the development projects the government has planned for them. But the government is alert and the law

enforcement agencies are fully prepared to protect the development initiatives, he added.

Tuku visited the neighbourhoods where arson took place, and assured the victims of government assistance for rehabilitation as soon as possible.

Warning law enforcement agencies, he said no negligence in their public protection duties will be tolerated, and punitive actions will be taken if anyone is found guilty of such negligence.

But he did not make it clear how much time the government will need to rehabilitate the 92 families who were identified by the Khagrachhari district administration as victims of arson. Most of the identified victim families are indigenous.

At a public meeting at Sajek Union Parishad Building in Rangamati he urged all people of the hills to resist any conspiracy to destabilise the hill districts, and asked law enforcement agencies to listen to the peoples' grievances and demands, and to accept cases if anyone wants to file one.

He announced government assistance of Tk 20 lakh for reconstruction of burned houses, Tk 10 lakh for market repairing, 500 bundles of corrugated iron sheets, and 300 metric tons of rice for the victim families in Baghaichhari of Rangamati, where the clashes first erupted, and later spread to Khagrachhari.

For Khagrachhari he declared Tk 7 lakh and 200 metric tons of rice as emergency government assistance for arson victims, and told reporters that more assistance will follow.

Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdullah told The Daily Star, "The crisis in the hills will go away unless the CHT Land Commission and CHT Refugee Affairs Taskforce become functional." The government however is committed to resolve the crisis as soon as possible, he added.

During visits to different places in Khagrachhari, and Baghaichhari and Gangaram Mukh of Rangamati all through the day yesterday, The Daily Star correspondents were always being followed by at least one motorbike carrying different pairs of Bangalee riders.

Settlers turned the correspondents back from the way to Baghaichhari when the latter tried to use the main road to get there. They had to use alternate ways through the hills to get to the destination.

Bangalee settlers stopped the correspondents at Dighinala of Khagrachhari and threateningly advised them to leave the district immediately.

The Rangamati district administration and local Awami League jointly distributed relief for the first time yesterday among the victim families in Baghaichhari.

Most of the adivasi victims however could not get the relief as they were afraid to come out of their hideouts. But a few, who braved the threats of attacks, managed to receive the relief.

"We don't have any security. Bangalees attack us while the law enforcers look for us to arrest. We are afraid of both Bangalees and law enforcers," said a Chakma resident, who came out from his hideout to get the relief.

"The minister did not say when we will be able to return home. We don't want relief. We don't need that. We want to go back home," he added.

Khagrachhari Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Amir Jafar said the number of arrestees might come down as some innocent adivasis were also arrested during the drives.

"My son was pulling a rickshaw when he was arrested," said Rebeka Chakma, a resident of Mohajon Para whose son Rupayan Chakma was arrested by police.

BCL men

FROM PAGE 16
 upazila BCL president Azahar Ali stormed into Fatema's office around 1:00pm.

Following a scuffle over granting loans, the activists hurled abuses at Fatema, beat her up, damaged chairs and tables, and tore telephone line, they said.

Later, locals rescued Fatema and admitted her to the upazila health complex.

According to sources, at least 38 women applied for the government allocated loans amounting to Tk three lakh to be distributed among the poor in the upazila but only 19 women fulfilled the loan criteria.

Fatima told The Daily Star those who failed to certify that they do not have any loan elsewhere, were refused by the office but BCL men were pressurizing her to approve some of them.

Her gold chain, ring were also robbed off during the attack, she claimed.

When contacted, Azahar refuted the allegations and said he didn't go to the office.

BCL vice president Faruk Hossain said the woman officer was falsely accusing the BCL activists for the incident as they went to the office to protest her wrongdoings.

Mahbulul Islam, OC of Durgapur Police Station and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Altaf Hossain Sheikh visited the spot.

1 killed

FROM PAGE 16
 used to live on the footpath near Government Science College in Farmgate, was killed as the gusty wind lashed loose bricks on him from a 12-storey under-construction building in the area.

Sub-Inspector Jahangir Alam of Tejoanga Police Station said Parvez sustained head injuries as the bricks fell on him from the building around 6:00pm. The boy died on the spot and his body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, many playful people were seen collecting hails exhibiting a break from a gloomy afternoon.

On the other hand the storm caused immense sufferings to the city dwellers, especially the ones returning home from work. They were seen taking shelter under shades till late in the evening due to lack of transport, while many others faced huge traffic congestion.

Vast area of the city plunged into darkness due to power failure as soon as the hailstorm started. The tempest continued for a short time, but many areas of the city experienced blackout for hours.

Apart from Dhaka, Sylhet also experienced rain yesterday.

Sachin

FROM PAGE 1
 Three Indians -- Tendulkar, current captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and former skipper Sourav Ganguly -- are responsible for four of the largest 11 solo one-day international scores while only Tendulkar and West Indies great Vivian Richards feature in that list twice.

Tendulkar's world record enabled India post a massive 401-3 against the Proteas in the second one-day international at the Captain Roop Singh Stadium in Gwalior.

Zimbabwean Charles Coventry (194 not out) and Pakistan's Saeed Anwar (194) were the joint-record holders for the highest individual score.

Tendulkar, 36, reached the milestone in the last over when he took a single off paceman Charl Langeveldt, much to the delight of the sizeable crowd at the ground.

The veteran Indian opener smashed 25 fours and three sixes in his 147-ball knock for his 46th one-day hundred in the day-night match to boost his team's hopes of clinching the three-match series.

The hosts led 1-0 following their one-run victory in the previous game in Jaipur on Sunday.

Justice kept in wait

FROM PAGE 1
 Col Mojiul Haque, said, "There is no mercy for such brutality. We want justice without any delay."

"You ask me what I want? I want to get back my husband. But I know you cannot do that, so ensure justice quickly," said Rashida Begum, the widow of rickshaw-puller Amzad Ali who was killed by a stray bullet fired by some BDR soldiers.

The victims' families also want that the real motives behind the mutiny be revealed.

On the eve of the first anniversary of the bloodbath at Pilkhana, the CID yesterday briefed the media for the first time about the state of the investigation.

"We are hopeful of submitting the investigation report within a few days," investigation officer of the case CID's Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand said at the briefing.

Replying to a query, he said former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Awami League ward unit leader Torab Ali got involved in one stage of the mutiny conspiracy as individuals, but no involvement of any political party was found.

Akand said they have so far found involvement of around 900 people in the carnage. The mutiny was the outburst of the BDR soldiers' pent-up frustration over different demands. "The mutiny was staged to taint the image of the government," he said.

Family members of two slain army officers said they have so far received Tk 5 lakh each from the army, Tk 10 lakh each from the prime minister as compensation. The Bankers' Association of Bangladesh promised to provide them Tk 40,000 a month for 10 years and has already given one year's total Tk 4.8 lakh.

The family members of other victim army officers also received the same amount.

They also said they are yet to get the two flats for each of the victims' families promised by the prime minister.

However, the family members of two civilians killed in indiscriminate firing by BDR soldiers get varied amounts as compensation.

Father of Hridoy Hossain Rakib said they got Tk 10 lakh from the prime minister in two phases, Tk 50,000 from local lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh, Tk 25,000 from Bhola Samity and Tk 10,000 from former president HM Ershad.

Slain Amzad Ali's wife Rashida Begum said she only got Tk 2 lakh from the prime minister and Tk 50,000 from Taposh.

They said the prime minister promised to provide each of the slain civilians' families with a flat, employment to one family member and the cost of studying for school going children, but they are yet to get those.

However, this money has no value to Hridoy's father Raja Mia. "If my son were alive, he would call me 'abba' and he could earn much more money in his life," he said.

Fatema Sultana said, "Life cannot be compensated by money."

Meanwhile, on the second day of the trial at BDR Special Court-5, set up in the same Darbar Hall that witnessed the bloody mutiny, 83 accused of Dhaka sector headquarters of BDR sat in the dock.

Two other accused in this case are fugitives -- sepoys Maksudur Rahman and Nurul Alam.

The three-judge court headed by BDR Director General Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam again issued arrest warrants against them and ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate movable and immovable properties of the two.

The court also asked the prosecution to publish advertisement in two leading Bangla newspapers asking the fugitives to surrender. If police cannot arrest them in the next few days they would be tried in absentia at this court.

Another accused suffering chickenpox and undergoing treatment at a BDR hospital was

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brought in front of the court entrance in an ambulance. However, the prosecution did not take him to the dock. As per court order, the prosecution set up a loud speaker near the ambulance so that the accused could hear the proceedings.

On the same day a year ago, 40 of the total 86 accused in the case were in the Darbar Hall and had allegedly took part in the mayhem. Yesterday, they were sitting inside the same Darbar Hall with other soldiers accused.

Prosecutor Maj Matiuur Rahman, who is the acting commanding officer of the Dhaka sector headquarters, yesterday briefly narrated the carnage again and delivered an emotional statement before the court about the post-BDR-carnage life of the victims' families.

He repeatedly prayed for justice for the sake of the victims' families and described the specific offences committed by the 86.

Maj Matiuur said, "When Maj Moqbul's family came to know that their dear one was killed in the carnage and they witnessed the body of another officer being recovered from the sewerage, Moqbul's child prayed to the Almighty so that He does not give his father's body back through the sewerage line."

Moqbul's body was found in a mass grave along with other slain officers.

He also said the child of another slain officer asked him "Will meet my father if die?"

The court adjudged proceedings till 9:00am April 15 and asked the accused to prepare their defence.

CID BRIEFING
 The investigation officer of the case during the press briefing said preparations are on to submit the charge sheet of the case very soon, after verifying and double-checking everything for the sake of proper investigation and justice.

He said they are working hard to make sure that the offenders do not escape punishment through loopholes in the law.

Asked whether they found any links between the carnage and Jamaat leader Abdur Razzak, whom they summoned to the CID office and questioned earlier, the investigation officer replied in the negative.

He said during and prior to the carnage, no vehicles or firearms that do not belong to the BDR were used or were transported in.

Replying to another query, he said two Chinese citizens were at the home of slain BDR director general Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed. The male and female foreigners studied in Bangladesh and were friends of Shakil Ahmed.

He also said around 3,700 firearms were used during the mutiny while around 70 firearms--64 pistols, five rifles and an SMG--are still missing.

The investigation officer said they have so far arrested 2,205 people in this connection and 523 of them made confessional statements before magistrates. The investigators have so far quizzed 7,974 people and collected 3,700 pieces of evidence from Pilkhana, where around 11,000 BDR members were present during the mutiny for BDR Week-2009.

India to run

FROM PAGE 16
 tariff by Rs 100 per wagon in transportation of food grains, kerosene and fertilisers to tackle price rise.

This is the seventh year in a row that passenger fares have not been raised.

Announcing a slew of concessions for passengers, Banerjee proposed free travel for cancer patients going for treatment in three-tier AC and sleeper class and continuance of concessions for students of madrasas and journalists.

Banerjee also proposed to raise 12 companies of women railway protection force personnel within the next five years to ensure security of women passengers.

She also proposed to convert all unmanned level crossings in the country into manned ones within the same period and to introduce automatic fire and smoke detection system in 20 long-distance trains.

For the benefit of passengers, she announced short message service providing updates of reservation status and train timings to passengers as well as updates on movement of wagons to freight customers.

Banerjee also announced introduction of mobile e-ticketing centres at hospitals, universities, courts, Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management, district headquarters and village panchayats.

Opposition parties, including BJP and CPI, flayed the rail budget terming it a "mockery" while ruling Congress said the budget is futuristic and reflects the concerns of the common man.

Unknown Islamist group

FROM PAGE 16
 were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the rest at Hathazari Health Complex. One of them was hit by cocktail splinters and his condition was stated to be critical.

The sources say Hefazate Islam announced to hold the rally in the afternoon in protest against the government's move to slap ban on religion-based politics, cancellation of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution and proposed education policy.

The organisation claims they obtained permission from Muslim High School authorities for erecting the podium as the ground belongs to the school.

Assistant Commissioner (DB) Jahangir Alam however said they did not allow erection of the podium or holding the rally as the organisation did not have required permission from the Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

A tense situation was prevailing since morning as the police barred the organisation from erecting the podium.

Meanwhile, the madrasa students went on the rampage again in the evening and injured a police constable in Hathazari and vandalised the vehicle of Superintendent of Police (SP) Md ZAMorshed.

Morshed came under attack near Chittagong University gate No 2 around 6:00pm. He was

going to talk to Hathazari Moinul Islam Madrasa Director Ahmad Shafi, also ameer of Hefazate Islam.

Over 1,500 students put up a barricade near Hathazari Bus Stand and clashed with the police, leaving one policeman injured, said Additional SP Amena Begum.

The students were face to face with police as of 8:30 last night.

HISTORY OF HEFAJATE ISLAM
 Director of Hathazari Boro Madrasa Ahmad Shafi, popularly known as Boro Huzur, and Chairman of a faction of Islam Oikya Jote (IOJ) Mufti Izharul Islam are its main founders.

The platform was formed a month ago in Chittagong comprising teachers of several hundred Kawni madrasas in order to forge a greater movement against the government's different steps.

Yesterday's rally was the first showdown of Hefajate Islam. The organisation had planned to make a huge gathering of students from over 100 Kawni madrasas from Hathazari, Fatikchhari and Patiya, and Cox's Bazar.

Contacted, Mufti Izharul Islam of Jameyatul Ulum Madrasa in Lalkhan Bazar claimed himself as Nayebe Ameer of Hefajate Islam. Izhar is the founder of the hilltop madrasa where over one thousand students reside.

He said Ahmad Shafi is the Ameer of Hefazate Islam. He blamed the government and law-enforcement agencies for foiling the pre-scheduled rally and attacking the madrasa students. He announced to raise a greater movement in protest against the police attack.

He also termed the move "stupidity" of the government.

Izhar said they formed the platform to raise a movement against the government's "anti-Islam activities" like attempt to ban religion-based politics, formulating secular education draft policy and cancelling the Fifth Amendment.

He also warned of tougher movement against "foreign conspiracy" to separate Chittagong Hill Tracts from Bangladesh.

"It is foreign conspiracy to make a separate Christian state there," he said.

He vowed to form a greater platform in cooperation with different political parties to protest against the government's "anti-Islam" activities.

Asked about joining a movement with Jamaat-e-Islami, Izharul said they have no relation with Jamaat.

Parliamentary

FROM PAGE 16
 voiced concern over the tension in the CHT following the attack on indigenous people at Baghaichhari.

United People's Democratic Front strongly condemned the "mass arrest and physical torture" on 60 people including its members and members of indigenous communities.

They alleged that some army men and settlers are trying to hide the facts of the incident in which ethnic people were killed and their houses were looted and burnt down.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu and Secretary General Sharif Nurul Ambia expressed concern over the acrimony in Baghaichhari.

Termining the role of the CHT administration in the incident mysterious, they sought the premier's intervention in the matter. They said a vested quarter is out to create obstacle to implementation of the CHT Peace Treaty.

Bangladesh Juba Moitree President Sadakat Khan Babul and Secretary General Mostafa Alamgir Ratan termed the incident at Baghaichhari a conspiracy to create tension in the CHT.

They said a vested group is trying to create chaos in the country at a time when the government is preparing to hold trial of war criminals.

Expressing concern over the flare-up in the hills, Manusher Jonno Foundation said the activities carried out by the foundation in collaboration with 20 indigenous development organisations are being hampered due to the incident.

Naya Ganotantrik Gano Morcha, Karmojibi Nari and Communist Party of Bangladesh also condemned the incident and demanded punishment of the culprits.

BNP demands

FROM PAGE 1
 BNP leaders said Abdul Hamid Paban, son of party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, was injured in the blasts. But doctors of United Hospital, where Paban was undergoing treatment, said he did not sustain any external injury.

"He was admitted to the hospital with chest