

RU violence

FROM PAGE 1
A military trainer of Shibir cadres and he was hiding there.

A team of Rab-2 arrested Reazul at a house in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj early yesterday. He was handed over to Siddhirganj Police Station in the afternoon. He would be sent to Rajshahi later on, Rab sources said.

Rab officials claimed that during preliminary interrogation Reazul told them the attack on Bangladesh Chhatra League on February 9 was carried out following a decision of Jamaat-e-Islami to capture eight dormitories of the university ousting Chhatra League men from there.

Rab intelligence wing Director Lt Col Ziaul Hasan told reporters, "There was a directive of Jamaat to Shibir men to capture Rajshahi University dormitories and according to a plan the Shibir cadres swooped on the Chhatra League men in five groups."

"After the attack and the killing, the Shibir cadres fled the campus on instruction of their high-ups," the Rab director said.

Reazul was brought before journalists and he narrated how the attack was made.

With the arrest of Reazul, so far eight accused in the Faruk killing case have been arrested. One other accused was "found dead" by law enforcers in Chapainawabganj district. However, key accused in the Faruk murder case RU unit Shibir general secretary Mobarak Hossain and Shah Mahmud Hall Shibir unit president Anisur Rahman, who allegedly led the attack, remain at large.

Over 600 Jamaat-Shibir leaders and activists were arrested in connection with the violence in RU, Chittagong University, and other educational institutions across the country.

Of them, Rajshahi city Jamaat unit Ameer Ataur Rahman, general secretary Abul Kalam Azad, assistant general secretary Siddiq Hossain and 100 other Jamaat-Shibir leaders and cadres were arrested in connection with RU violence.

Chittagong city Jamaat unit ameer was also arrested in Chittagong.

3 probe bodies

FROM PAGE 1
formed a three-member committee, headed by its deputy director (administration and finance), to find out the cause of the fire. However, they suspect the fire might have originated from a short-circuit.

On the other hand, BGMEA also formed a seven-member committee in this regard.

The factory will reopen on Tuesday.

The bodies of the victims were handed over to their families yesterday afternoon without autopsy although the bodies were brought to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for post-mortem early yesterday.

The factory authorities gave Tk 15,000 to each of the victims' families in presence of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association officials for transportation of the bodies and burials.

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Begum from Jamalpur, Alamgir Hossain from Thakurgaon and Mamta Begum from Sirajganj.

All the deceased were buried in their respective villages.

The fire broke out on the first floor of the factory Thursday around 9:10pm. Fire fighters brought the fire under control around 11:30pm. On August 21 last year, fire broke out at the very same factory that killed a fire fighter.

Materials and machinery on the factory's first floor were totally destroyed while those on the other floors remained unharmed, as the fire did not spread to other floors.

The owners of the sweater factory could not be reached after several attempts. In a press release, the factory authorities condoled the death of the workers and announced compensation to the victims' families.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock over the incident and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family members.

State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak and members of different garment workers' organisations and rights organisations visited the factory yesterday.

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Tigers

FROM PAGE 16
suffered a horrible injury in the Dhaka Test.

Interestingly, Mashrafe makes his international comeback against England following his nine-month lay-off due to his latest injury. He will not be captaining the team as that responsibility is on Shakib Al Hasan's shoulder.

England will be captained by left-hand batsman Alastair Cook in absence of regular skipper Andrew Strauss. The playing eleven of both teams will be announced today.

State-run Bangladesh Television and satellite channel SuperSport will telecast the match live from the venue at 2:00pm tomorrow.

Syed Ashraf

FROM PAGE 1
The minister said the government will launch a campaign among students and youths to drum up support for trying the war criminals within the shortest possible time.

The government is committed to trying war criminals as it was an electoral pledge of the ruling party, he said.

People voted the party to power in support of it, the minister added.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haq Tuku, Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also president of Chittagong city AL unit, lawmakers ABM Abul Kashem Master and Shamsul Haq Chowdhury and AL Organising Secretary Bahauddin Nasim were present.

Tuku held the anti-liberation force responsible for the violence at Rajshahi University and hill districts of Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

The evil force became active when AL came to power with a commitment to try war criminals.

They first instigated violence at RU that led to the deterioration in law and order there.

Failing to do the same at the Dhaka University and Chittagong University they turned to the CHT where they succeeded in fuelling violence.

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City dwellers

FROM PAGE 1
meet his emergency needs.

"We use jar water to bathe our two babies and to meet other necessary needs like drinking," he said.

Deputy Managing Director (operation and maintenance) of Wasa Liyakat Ali said chemicals used heavily to treat highly polluted water of the Shitalakhya and Buriganga at Syedabad Water Treatment Plant make the water smelly.

Pollution in the rivers increases in the dry season. The use of additional chemicals may somewhat change the taste of treated water but it is not harmful, he claimed.

Pollution in the Shitalakhya is rising day by day and the water level of the river this year is far lower than usual, he added.

Liyakat also said the government has taken an initiative to set up a pre-treatment unit at Syedabad Water Treatment Plant to solve the problem.

Dhaka residents, especially those who get water from the Syedabad Water Treatment Plant Phase-1 like Motijheel, Rampura, Shanti Nagar, Bashabo, Madartek, Khilgaon, Goran, Jatrabari, Syedabad, parts of Karwan Bazar and parts of old Dhaka, will get odour-free supply water from next year, said a Wasa official.

The construction of the pre-treatment unit under the second phase of the project will take a year to complete, said Liyakat.

"We hope to start work the next month as a contract has already been signed between the Wasa and Danish contractor MT Hojgaard on February 11," he said.

CHT violence

FROM PAGE 1
The Bengalee-Chakma clash regulated the violence from Dhaka and Chittagong and the intelligence agencies are working to gather detailed information, he alleged.

Asaduzzaman, however, declined to name the masterminds or the eight arrestees in the interest of further investigation.

Tripura told the meeting the violence was instigated in a planned manner to destabilise the rugged region with an apparent objective to put the government in a difficult situation.

The senior leaders of the indigenous people and Bengalee community yesterday staged several peace rallies in the district.

The authorities however, decided not to enforce the curfew from last night.

17 killed in Kabul

FROM PAGE 16
on, the first car bomb exploded and the full roof came on my head."

The Kabul attacks came two weeks into a major offensive against the southern Taliban stronghold of Marjah, where thousands of US, Afghan and Nato soldiers are battling to drive insurgents out. The British government said one of its soldiers was killed Friday by an explosion while on a foot patrol the 14th international service member to die in the operation.

In recent weeks, more than two dozen senior and midlevel Taliban figures have been detained in Pakistan, suggesting the attack in the capital could be a way for the militants to show the insurgency remains potent.

In a statement, Karzai condemned Friday's assault as a "terrorist attack against Indian citizens" who were helping the Afghan people. He said it would not affect relations between India and Afghanistan.

Indian officials also condemned the attack.

"We are shocked at the inhuman attack on innocent lives," Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vishnu Prakash said.

"Our ties are strong and deep (with Afghanistan) and will remain so. We are very clear that the forces of terrorism will not succeed and we will take every measure to defeat the forces of terror," he said in New Delhi.

Three police were killed in the attacks, Interior Ministry spokesman Zemer Bashary said, adding that at least 38 people were wounded, six of them police.

Kabul Police Chief Abdul Rahman Rahman told reporters that the attacks began when a car bomb exploded outside the Arya Guesthouse where Indian doctors, who treat Afghan children in the area, were living.

The blast levelled the building, also known as the Hamid Guesthouse. After the car bombing, a suicide attacker detonated his vest of explosives outside the demolished building.

Two other attackers then entered a second hotel known as Park Residence. Police surrounded the building. One of them holed himself up in a room and then blew himself up, killing three police officers and wounding six others. The other attacker was shot dead by police. The Italian diplomat who died had been assisting the police.

"From beginning of the operation, he was in contact with our units and gave us tips and even information regarding the terrorists' position, which was quite helpful for us," Rahman said, adding that the tips helped police rescue four other Italians from the scene.

"He was killed by the terrorists who realised that he was passing information to police forces," Rahman said. "He was in a room right behind the attackers and he could see where they were and what they are doing."

The scene was chaotic. A body of a man wearing a red shirt was lying near a burned-out vehicle in the rubble. The remains of another man laid in a gully near the epicentre of the blasts. Policemen ran down the streets carrying the injured.

Witnesses said one explosion created a crater about three feet (one meter) wide in front of the Arya Guesthouse; the windows of the nearby luxury Safi Landmark Hotel were blown

Miladunnabi

FROM PAGE 1
various programmes.

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BNP wants

FROM PAGE 1
committee decisions.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhruddin Alamgir was also present.

The committee formed 19 teams with central leaders to ratchet up party's organisational activities. The teams will organise meetings for party workers as well as public meetings in all district headquarters by April 7.

Party Chief Khaleda will address public meetings in all divisional headquarters across the country during the period.

"We are deeply concerned about the two recent bomb attacks targeting BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. BNP standing committee demands SSF protection for her," said Nazrul.

He said since a law was passed to provide SSF protection to the premier and her family members, a similar law should be enacted to ensure security of Khaleda, who was elected premier thrice.

The BNP-led governments did not provide SSF protection to the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina.

The previous AL government enacted a law in June 2001, providing SSF protection to two daughters of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- Hasina and Rehana.

But the BNP-Jamaat alliance government scrapped the law in December 2001 right after assuming power.

Asked if the bomb attacks were staged by BNP itself, Nazrul said this insinuation was part of the propaganda by Awami League. "They are spreading the untruth as they don't want to offer Khaleda Zia any security."

On Joy's joining politics, he said they hope and believe that Joy's joining in AL as a progressive man will help the party change its "bad political culture of repression and hostility towards political opponents."

"We see it positively. He [Joy] has come under political framework and all his activities will be considered from a political perspective," he added.

The committee also demanded immediate trial and punishment to the perpetrators and their patrons in the killings at the BDR headquarters.

BNP leaders called for "reinstatement of the army" in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and expressed worries over the recent violence in the CHT.

They also offered condolence to the bereaved family members of deceased garment workers in Gazipur and demanded compensation for them.

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Myanmar rejects

FROM PAGE 16
French Ambassador Jean Pierre Lafosse said Suu Kyi was "the victim of a sham trial."

Suu Kyi's lawyers appealed to the court last November after a lower court a month earlier upheld a decision to sentence her to 18 months of house arrest. She was convicted last August of violating the terms of her previous detention by briefly sheltering an American who swam uninvited to her lakeside home.

The 64-year-old democracy icon was initially sentenced to three years in prison with hard labour in a trial that drew global condemnation, but that sentence was commuted to 18 months of house arrest by junta chief Senior Gen. Than Shwe.

Suu Kyi has been detained for 14 years. Her National League for Democracy won elections in 1990 by a landslide, but the military, which has ruled Myanmar since 1962, refused to cede power.

The junta has announced it will hold elections some time this year under a constitution that allows the military to maintain substantial power. It effectively bars Suu Kyi from participating in the polls, the first general elections since 1990.

Suu Kyi's party has not announced whether it will contest the elections.

If the vote goes ahead as planned and Suu Kyi serves out her latest 18-month sentence, she would still be in detention during the elections.

The court ruling also denied freedom to two female companions who share Suu Kyi's house arrest. It comes nearly two weeks after the junta released Tin Oo, the 82-year-old deputy leader of Suu Kyi's party, from nearly seven years in

detention. Myanmar, also known as Burma, has been widely criticised for its continued violation of human rights, including atrocities committed by its military against ethnic minority groups. Human rights groups say the junta holds 2,100 political prisoners.

The Singapore government, which normally refrains from criticising the junta, said "it is of course very disappointing that her appeal did not succeed."

It said a dialogue among the junta, Suu Kyi and all other political groups ahead of this year's elections "offers the best prospects for national reconciliation and the long-term political stability of Myanmar."

"We thus hope that the Myanmar authorities will, in their own interests, allow her to participate in the political process in a meaningful way as soon as possible," it said in a statement.

During a meeting with her lawyers Thursday, Suu Kyi jokingly asked them if she had been behaving well, as junta chief Than Shwe had said she could receive amnesty if she serves her time according to the prescribed regulations.

"Than Shwe already made the verdict for (Suu Kyi) and no judge will have the nerve to change it," said Aung Din, executive director of the US-based US Campaign for Burma, a lobby group.

"The judiciary system in Burma is just a part of the regime's oppressive mechanism," he said. "The only way to make the release of (Suu Kyi) and all political prisoners in Burma is to keep putting maximum pressure on Than Shwe and his cronies until they feel the heat."

Thai court seizes

FROM PAGE 16
unanimously agreed Thaksin and his ex-wife still hold shares in Shin Corp., a telecommunications giant he founded, while he was prime minister.

Thaksin was ousted in a 2006 military coup for alleged corruption and abuse of power.

The court also agreed that he had shaped government policies on mobile phone regulations that profited the country's largest service provider, also controlled by his family.

Legal experts have said that a ruling that Thaksin had hidden his shares in Shin Corp. while in office would lead to a court decision that government policies had benefited the company and constituted a conflict of interest.

Tight security was in place around the courthouse, amid government fears that Thaksin loyalists could react to the verdict with violence. Whatever the decision, Thailand's four-year-long political turmoil is expected to persist.

The Supreme Court is broadly applying mostly untested anti-corruption statutes in determining whether Thaksin a telecommunications tycoon before entering politics became "unusually wealthy" by abusing his position at the head of government in 2001-2006.

They could order the confiscation of the \$2.29 billion of his family's assets frozen in Thai banks. Thaksin and an unknown portion of his family's wealth are safely ensconced abroad.

Thaksin, who faces a two-year jail term in Thailand, was monitoring the proceedings from exile in Dubai, where he was scheduled to provide a running commentary via video link.

In an early decision favouring the prosecution, the judges dismissed defence arguments that the process leading to the trial was illegitimate.

The defence had argued that a special committee set up to investigate Thaksin included appointees who were previously involved in the popular movement to oust him. It also questioned whether the committee had legal authority