

Prepare for agitation

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the government, she said. She also urged all to prepare for making the movement a success.

Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition, made the announcement while addressing a grand rally at the city's Madrasa Maidan, organised by Rajshahi city BNP.

Describing the failures of the 16-month-old government in every sector, Khaleda during her speech repeatedly wanted to know from the huge gathering what should be the proper action against the government and the whole crowd replied in unison, "Andolon, Hartal, Oborodh."

She said there is no alternative to wage movement right now to save the country and its people from the oppressive rule.

The government has created artificial crisis of electricity causing untold sufferings to the people in a bid to give work of rental power plants to its party men and family members without tender as well as to serve the interest of its foreign friends, she alleged.

She said the government will have to incur loss of over Tk 70,000 crore in three years for giving contracts of private rental power plants and buying electricity at high price. The people will have to bear the huge loss.

Khaleda during her speech touched upon the government's failures in different sectors, AL entente with the last military-backed caretaker government, non-implementation of its election pledges, repression on the opposition and women particularly girl students at

different educational institutions.

Describing the behind-the-scene story of promulgation of state of emergency on January 11, 2007, she asked the government to immediately arrest the former army chief General Moeen for killing democracy by bringing in emergency rule.

Referring to the UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh Renata Lok Dessallien's recent statement, Khaleda said no letter was sent from the UN. The letter, which was made public in the name of the UN, she said, was "jointly prepared by Renata and Moeenuddin." She said "Moeenuddin" had briefed the President wrongly and pressured him to promulgate state of emergency. Moeenuddin also misled the army by showing that letter and also misled the people, she added.

Khaleda further said Renata also mentioned that Moeenuddin had told a lie.

She said the "Moeenuddin-Fakhruddin" government has caused huge loss to the country in every sector and pushed the country 20 years back.

The ruling party activists caused obstructions and made attack on BNP supporters on their way to join the Rajshahi grand rally, she alleged.

Presided over by Rajshahi city BNP President Mizanur Rahman Minu, the grand rally was also addressed by local leaders including Tofazzel Hossain Topu, Aslam Sarker and Abul Kalam Azad. The central leaders could not address the rally due to rain and wind that forced the rally to be concluded early.

Hectic lobbying

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and madrasas get the financial support from the government only if the institutions apply for it. Under the MPO, teachers and employees of an educational institution will get cent percent basic salaries and other benefits from the government.

The government has allocated Tk 112 crore for the MPO for this year. The government has so far received over 7,500 applications while it plans to include around 1,000-1,100 institutions under its payroll.

During a visit to the ministry yesterday, a few people were seen insisting the education minister to receive their applications while the minister was repeatedly telling them he could not help them as the committee concerned had almost finished the listing process.

Some teachers identifying themselves as relatives of influential ruling party leaders were also insisting the minis-

ter and other ministry officials.

The committee preparing the list has been working outside the ministry to avoid the pressure. The ministry also hung a notice asking everybody not to meet with its officials for MPO entitlement.

"Our work is being severely hampered. Sometimes such people are coming who are difficult to avoid," said an official.

At least 20 members of parliament went to the ministry on Tuesday, he said, adding that some high profile persons are also lobbying.

"The list might be published on the website of the education ministry tomorrow [today]," said another official.

A teacher from Pirozpur told this correspondent that his institution does not fulfil the criteria but he came to meet the minister with the hope that his school will be included in the list.

Settle conflicts first

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The BNP chairperson during her 70-minute speech repeatedly asked her party men whether they are prepared for the movement against "misrule of the government." The party men replied in unison, "Andolon, Hartal, Oborodh."

After the rally, several party leaders and workers, however, told The Daily Star that now BNP should settle the intra-party conflicts and form committees before launching any movement.

They said the movement will not be effective before settling the conflicts and forming committees at different units.

People may not accept any movement as the government has passed only one and a half years. So, BNP should reorganise the party immediately, said Mizanur Rahman Milon, Fazlupur UP unit BNP general secretary of Gaibandha.

Uzzal Hossain, a BNP activist from Iswardi of Pabna, said there is no committee at upazila levels in his district while a rift between district BNP convener Habibur Rahman Tota and former district unit president Mokhesur Rahman is affecting the activities of the party.

The movement will go in vein without settling the conflict, he also thinks.

Now movement is necessary considering "the anti-people activities," but a strong unity among the party men is a must before launching the movement, said A b d u l K a d e r , Mohammadpur unit BNP

organising secretary of Thakurgaon.

Thousands of people from adjacent districts joined the rally though it was marred partially by rains.

Aug 21 case

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information, journalists rushed in, but Iqbal, who was also the IGP, did not turn up there.

In the afternoon, IO Abdul Kahar went out of his office and quizzed the former IGP somewhere else.

Replying to a query, the IO said, "Where I've questioned him does not matter. An investigation officer of a case can question any body any where for the sake of investigation."

CID sources said the IO wanted to know Rab's role on the day of the attack and in reply Iqbal said Rab men were not deployed on Bangabandhu Avenue during the attack, as the then government's decision did not permit Rab deployment for ensuring security of such political programmes.

On Monday, CID also questioned another former IGP Khoda Bokhs Chowdhury who was the acting chief of CID when Joj Mian story was cooked up. Khoda Bokhs blamed the then supervising officer of the case former CID's Special Superintendent Ruhul Amin for the story, according to the sources.

Earlier, CID questioned former IGP's Abdul Quayyum and Shahidul Haque, the then acting DMP commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman, the then deputy commissioner (east) Obaidul Haque and some other high officials of CID.

One held in ASI Mizanur murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mirzapur police yesterday arrested a person in connection with ASI Mizanur Rahman murder case at Deohata village in Tangail and recovered one of the two missing cellphones of the victim from him.

Arrestee Faruque Hossain was yesterday produced before a Tangail court, which placed him on a two-day remand.

Mirzapur police recovered the body of Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Shah Mizanur Rahman, 35, of Nayatola Outpost under Ramna Police Station on Tuesday around 7:30am from near Dhaka-Tangail highway, about 50 kilometres from his workplace.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirzapur Police Station Habibullah said during the preliminary interrogation, Faruque told that he picked up ASI Mizanur's cellphone from where his body was dumped.

The OC said they are still looking for the other missing cellphone of ASI Mizanur.

Additional Deputy commissioner (ADC) of Detective Branch (DB) of Police Mahbub Alam said although Mirzapur police are investigating the case, they are actually assisting the DB.

He said some kind of enmity might have been the motive as the killers first hit him on the chest with sticks and then impaled his eyes and strangled him to death. He however said police found no family enmity so far.

The ADC suspects that the ASI might have been killed somewhere else and his body was dumped at the spot.

DB police has also interrogated four colleagues of the killed ASI as part of the inquiry.

Meanwhile, OC of Sutrapur Police Station Mohammad Nazrul Islam said a general diary was recorded with the police station yesterday in connection with ASI Mizanur being assaulted by the Chhatra League vice president of Jagannath University unit. The ASI intercepted the unit BCL leader to check his motorbike papers.

No step had been taken in this regard as the matter was settled between the parties, the OC added.

BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force yesterday at Baradi border point under Damurhuda upazila in Chuadurga district.

The deceased was identified as Azad Hossain, 30, son of Abdul Karim of Nastipur of the same upazila.

Sources said BSF members of Bijoypur camp under Nadia district of West Bengal shot Azad dead near the main pillar no-81 at about 12:40am.

BSF took the body and sent to Bijoypur hospital morgue, BDR sources said.

Commander of BDR 35 rifle battalion Lt Col Sultan Ahmed confirmed the incident.

"We have sent a letter protesting the incident and asked BSF for a flag meeting," he also added.

Khaleda's

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"A bench usually drops the petition right away, if any side in the petition verbally conveys no trust in it," he said.

Rafique-ul Huq, also a former attorney general, suspected that the bench might have any bad intention.

Khaleda on Tuesday submitted a petition to the bench expressing no confidence in it and prayed for withdrawal of the writ petition from the bench and returning it to the chief justice.

On April 13, the same bench rejected a similar petition from Khaleda, who expressed no confidence in it.

Khaleda's counsel barrister Moudud Ahmed said they would pray to the chief justice for holding the hearing of the writ petition in another bench.

During the hearing yesterday, Moudud Ahmed told the court that his client feared she would not get justice from this bench.

Khaleda Zia has the right to express no confidence in any bench for the sake of justice, he said.

Moudud prayed to the bench to adjourn the hearing on the writ petition to allow them to approach the Appellate Division to challenge the rejection order.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the petition. He said Khaleda and her counsels are trying to delay the disposal of the pending writ petition to buy her time to keep possession of the cantonment house that has been earmarked for the army.

He said there was no scope for returning the writ petition to the chief justice as he earlier sent it to that bench for hearing.

War probe chief

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Talking to reporters at his Old High Court building office in the afternoon, he said Matin's resignation was expected since questions arose about his past political role. The prosecution earlier on April 25 urged the government to take steps against Matin following his reported political background, he added.

"As there is so much controversy centring me, I think I should not continue with this position," Matin told reporters at the home ministry. He denied the allegations he was involved with Islami Chhatra Sangha, renamed as Islami Chhatra Shibir after the War of Independence in 1971.

He said he was very hurt to hear the allegations brought against him. "I quit willingly thinking I should not hold such a sensitive post after the controversy."

Highly placed sources say Matin stepped down as he was asked to do so. Earlier on Tuesday night, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a meeting with a few of her cabinet colleagues on the issue as her government drew huge flak from different sections.

Arif Tipu expressed the hope the authorities would appoint a suitable person as the chief investigator as soon as possible and would not commit a mistake this time.

Replying to a question, he said the allegations against Matin can be placed at the tribunal if the law permits.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said the

government was not considering appointing any chief investigator, as there is no such position in the investigation agency.

The members of the agency will continue to work as a team, he added.

Qamrul who played a key role behind Matin's appointment said activities of the investigating agency would not be affected. He said other members of the agency will carry on their work.

Earlier on Friday, Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Alauddin Ahmed raised questions about Matin's political allegiance in the years leading to the Liberation War.

Veteran Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu, MP who was elected vice-president of BM College students union in 1963 defeating Matin, confirmed that he was an activist of Islami Chhatra Sangha and its nominee in the election.

Earlier in the week, Qamrul said Matin has been roped in for the task for his competency and professional integrity. "But some quarters are trying to create controversy for political gains."

At the short briefing, both Sahara and Qamrul repeatedly called upon journalists to bring an end to the matter.

On the fact that it is an adviser to the premier who brought the allegation, Sahara said there are more persons in the government who raised the same allegation against Matin.

Law and order

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Star that when a number of police high-ups voiced concern over political affiliation of officers in charge of many police stations, the IGP assured them of addressing the issue.

Some deputy inspectors general and superintendents of police said political affiliation of the OCs is creating obstacles in maintaining law and order.

"If there is any such allegation against any police officer, just let me know," he said, adding that if proved, tough action will be taken against the guilty official.

The officials also discussed many instances of defiance of superiors' orders by OCs.

One police officer in Munshiganj was suspended recently for refusing to obey his seniors' directives.

The meeting also discussed the recent incidents of stalking that led a number of girls to commit suicide across the country.

The IGP said if any girl commits suicide because of stalking, the OC and SP in the area concerned will be suspended.

He also said the SP and OC concerned would be held responsible for violence over tender manipulation and they will face action.

Later, IGP Nur Mohammad at a press briefing at the police headquarters said they would look into all recent mysterious murders after journalists enquired of him about the recovery of a number of bodies in and around the capital.

He said all cases regarding campus violence and tender manipulation would be recorded under the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act to ensure their quick disposal.

The IGP said the conference focused on the recent incidents of tender manipulation, stalking, land grabbing, extortion and campus violence.

Benin

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Rahman in Morocco went to Benin on April 28 and held talks with the port authorities and foreign ministry of that country.

Around 60 crewmembers went to Benin to work in ships in December last year and January. But employers did not provide them with jobs, and they remained helpless in the ships.

Earlier, after repeated requests, Greece-based ship company Golden Shipping SA provided tickets to some 30 for returning home.

"Our only work now is to arrange their repatriation," the official said when asked about realising compensation from the company.

Benin authorities are giving full cooperation in the repatriation process of the seamen, he said.

Bangladesh embassy in Greece is working on ways to realise compensation from the company, he noted.

lence by ruling party men.

The IGP also gave an order to arrest the Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Jagannath University, who abducted a policeman and tortured him.

Mysterious

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of Shyamoli and the other from Uttar Shahjahanpur -- are still lying at the morgue of Dhaka Medical College as none has claimed them.

Sekandar, morgue assistant of Dhaka Medical College, told this correspondent that at least 10 people had come to the morgue in the last two days to find their missing relatives.

Motihheel Police Station OC Tofazzal Hossain said police was investigating into the murder at Uttar Shahjahanpur. But the victim's identity couldn't be known till yesterday afternoon.

On April 27, dead bodies of three people were recovered from Dhaka Udyan in Mohammadpur area. They were kept hidden under sand.

The three victims are Mizanur Rahman, Shakuria union Jubo Dal president in Jhalokathi and his two accomplices Forkan Ahmed and Murad.

The relatives of the deceased claimed they were hiding in Dhaka to evade arrest as several cases had been filed against them.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad yesterday at a press briefing at the police headquarters said every secret killing is being investigated.

High police officials expressed their concern over the rise of secret killings.

20 kg of heroin

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luggage at departure lounge around 1:00am." Customs Superintendent Shamsul Islam Khan told The Daily Star.

"He hid the drugs inside a water heater to dodge the intelligence," said Shamsul.

During preliminary interrogation, Maruthamuthu said he entered Bangladesh through Benapole border on May 1.

Maruthamuthu claimed that Raja, from Chennai, had supplied heroin for smuggling it into Singapore from India via Bangladesh.

Customs officials said another person might have been with Maruthamuthu, but he somehow managed to escape.

Shamsul also said, though officers of narcotics control department and Rapid Action Battalion identified the powder as high quality heroin, they sent samples to Dhaka University, Science Laboratory and the Department of Narcotics Control for test.

The arrestee was handed over to Airport police and a case was filed.

AL men attack

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told reporters.

Witnesses said activists of Awami League, Chhatra League and Jubo League attacked the buses, minibuses and cars carrying BNP leaders and workers from different northern districts near Singra bus stand at about 11:00am. The BNP men were on their way to attend Chairperson Khaleda Zia's rally in Rajshahi, reports a correspondent from Natore.

The ruling AL men vandalised 50 vehicles. A number of BNP men, including Zakir Hossain, were injured in the sudden attack.

Zakir was admitted to Singra Upazila Health Complex from where he was shifted to Bogra Shaheed Zia Medical College Hospital. He succumbed to his injuries on the way, Sherpur police told our staff correspondent in Bogra.

After being attacked, at one stage the BNP men made a counter-attack on the AL activists. They also set fire to at least 12 houses and shops owned by AL activists in the upazila, said police and witnesses.

The injured include BNP lawmaker Mostafa Ali Mukul, Bogra Chhatra Dal Vice-President Hasanuzzaman Polash and Singra Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Abul Kalam Azad.

The injured policeman and several others were rushed to Singra Upazila Health Complex while others were admitted to different local clinics and hospitals in Bogra.

Singra police rushed to the spot and fired a few teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

Rapid Action Battalion and police personnel were deployed in Singra to avert further untoward incident.

ACC questions

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order was done in a transparent manner.

He said construction firm Edmond Natal Group demanded a compensation of £17 million, which was later reduced to £8 million through an amicable settlement between the firm and the government.

There is no element for framing a case regarding the project as everything was done lawfully, he said.

Huda however alleged that ACC has been unfair to BNP and its Chairperson Khaleda Zia. He also said ACC at the same time is refraining from appealing against the court's decisions to throw away cases against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina one after another.

Meanwhile, former state minister Salauddin Ahmed did not show up for interrogation yesterday.

ACC issued notices to nine ministers of the last BNP-led government in connection with the inquiry.

The commission is scheduled to interrogate former BNP ministers Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MK Anwar, and M Shamsul Islam today.

In a letter to the commission Mannan Bhuiyan said his representative will face ACC instead, due to his illness.

Border killing

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Earlier in January, director generals of BSF and Bangladesh Rifles signed an agreement to stop such killing.

During talks, Sahara also sought India's cooperation to bring back the six fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"One or two killers visited India and we just want cooperation of the country to arrest and extradite them to Bangladesh," she said, adding that Mitter also assured cooperation in this regard.

Gulshan Club

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managing directors of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd and Dhaka Power Distribution Company to respond to the rule while the president of Gulshan Club to comply with the order.

Earlier on May 2, another HC bench comprised of justices AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Md Delwar Hossain directed the authorities of Dhaka Club and Uttara Club to impose restriction on floodlights.

But the bench felt embarrassed to deal with the prayer of imposing restriction on Gulshan Club.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed the writ petition, which was moved by Manzill Murshid.

Cheating

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of jinn impersonators formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club demanding a stronger crackdown on such frauds.

They also handed over a memorandum on the problem to Home Minister Sahara Khatun, asking her to take additional steps.

All the demonstrators were from Gobindaganj, where the scams have proliferated and victims say local law enforcement is not taking the problem seriously. One of the demonstrators, Md Milon, said the fake jinn are bringing a bad reputation for them nationally and they feel insecure when they go outside their town.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Fazlul Karim of Gobindaganj police station in Gaibandha said more than 150 gangs based in the area impersonate jinn, and call people over cellphones across the country. Each gang consists of around seven to ten gang members.

He added that over the last four months, police have arrested 29 alleged jinn and have filed 13 criminal cases. That is after filing 17 cases between May and December 2009.

Rapid Action Battalion intelligence unit arrested two purported jinn from Uttara of the capital yesterday.

The arrestees are Helal Uddin Talukdar, 35, and Delwar Hossain, 45, both residents of Gulshan-1, and originally from Sirajganj.

Director of Rab Media and Legal Wing Commander M Sohail said they raided a house in Uttara on a tip-off, and arrested the two.

The two arrestees used to promise people increased earnings with the help of their supernatural spirits, in exchange for fees. They were also getting clients, said Sohail.

Rab set up hidden video cameras to record the suspects' dealings with clients before arresting them, Sohail added.

In Rifa's case, the voice on the cellphone also began calling her father, warning he would die if his daughter did not give offerings to the shrine of Paglababa in Bogra.

Rifa eventually agreed to give the Tk 11,151. The voice told her that a jinn in human form would meet her on a bypass road in Bogra town, exchange "salam" with her and then take the money. She was strictly forbidden to look back at the jinn after handing over the money, or else it would bring great harm to her and her family.

She did as told. "I walked down and came across a youth wearing a lungi and a jacket who exchanged a salam and received the offertory," the student recalled. "He also handed over a small idol of gold which later proved made of lead."

"With night fall I had been eagerly waiting for further instruction over cellphone and at the dead of night the call came again, which asked me to bury the idol under my parents' bed" she said, adding she did that, too.

She said after few days into

receiving the idol, the voice informed her she was to receive other treasures from Allah, but that would cost her Tk 1,90,000 in cash and around Tk 15,000 for a cellphone recharge. If she did not follow through this time, her family would face dire consequences.

Rifa claimed her father sold some ancestral farmland and also borrowed money at a high interest rate to make the next payment. The student then said she met the man in the lungi several times in different places to pay off the full amount.

At this point, the men involved in the scheme apparently began fighting over the money. One of them called up Rifa and confessed she was not dealing with real jinn. She informed Rab, and the battalion laid in wait when Rifa arranged to meet two jinn to hand over some of her mother's gold ornaments.

Rab arrested the alleged jinn Zafur, 38, and Sarwar, 25, both of Gabindaganj on February 15. They arrested Nurul, a third man involved in the scam, on April 14.

BCL activities

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criminals from outside were locked in a clash with machete, Chinese axe, hockey sticks and iron rods.

Kotwali police arrested Abdur Razzak, Chhatra League president of Barisal Polytechnic Institute and its general secretary Mizanur Rahman from their dormitories and the rest were arrested from different parts of the city, reports our Barisal correspondent.

The arrestees were brought to Kotwali Model Police Station. The two student leaders said they were not at the spot during the clash. They said the clash erupted over the formation of Chhatra League city unit committee.

Three policemen of Kotwali Model Police Station were suspended for their negligence in duty during Tuesday's clash, ATN Bangla adds.

The suspended policemen are Kotwali Model Police Station nayek Abdur Rahman, constable Sohail and Swapan Kumar.

Earlier four Chhatra League men were injured in an intra-party clash at Barisal Polytechnic Institute on Tuesday.

Campus sources said the two and a half hours long clash erupted around 11:45am as the supporters of Chhatra League magazine secretary Imran Hossain Mishu hit Nazrul, a supporter of Abdur Razzak, president of the same organisation, with a sharp weapon.

Those who were arrested on Tuesday night include Mustafizur Rahman, Imran Hossain, Mashrur Mollah, Sourav, Saidul Islam, Mehedi Hasan and Abu Sayem, an outsider.

Police also arrested Sajid, Yunus Ali, Maqasudur Rahman Taslim and district Tarun League joint convener Shekhar Chandra Das yesterday morning.

UK votes today

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