

UN chief appeals for calm in DR Congo

AFP, United Nations

UN leader Ban Ki-moon has joined international appeals for calm in Democratic Republic of Congo where the presidential election has sparked political violence.

Ban noted the official results which "indicated" incumbent Joseph Kabila has won and "calls for any differences regarding the provisional results of the polls to be resolved peacefully through available legal and mediation mechanisms," said his spokesman Martin Nesirky in a statement released late Friday.

The UN secretary general "strongly condemns any acts of violence in connection with the electoral process" and "reiterates his call for calm and urges all candidates and their supporters to exercise restraint and refrain from any acts of violence, provocation and incitement to violence," the statement added.

Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 20

Paschimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee last night ordered a judicial enquiry into the fire tragedy, which claimed 91 lives including that of Gauranga, our correspondent in New Delhi reports.

Six senior executives of the hospital, co-owned by two private companies, were charged with culpable homicide and violating safety rules after being produced before a court yesterday. If proven guilty, they could be sentenced to 10 year's imprisonment.

Mamata told journalists in Kolkata yesterday evening, "The state government has decided to order a judicial enquiry into the hospital fire."

Asked who would head the enquiry, Mamata said, "The state assembly session begins on Monday. I will not speak much now."

"Since people have faith in the judicial system and a tragedy of huge dimension has occurred, we have made this decision. We have nothing to hide," she said.

She said police investigation would continue simultaneously.

Today forensic experts would make another attempt to collect samples and specimens from the basement of the fire-ravaged hospital annexe building-I, police said.

There was one to two feet water in the basement caused by the fire-fighting operations Friday. A team of State Forensic Research Laboratory (SFRL) tried to take the samples Friday but could not due to water logging.

Kolkata Police Commissioner RK Pachnanda said a patient of the hospital died yesterday, taking the toll to 91.

Joint Commissioner of Police Damayanti Sen, who is heading a police team appointed to investigate the fire tragedy, said all the deaths were caused by inhalation of toxic fumes which quickly filled the wards of the hospital.

Mosharraf

FROM PAGE 20

minister, defying the experts' opinions. The division of the DCC has also divided the people.

Referring to the ruling Awami league arguments that a split DCC would increase services for city dwellers, he said it is not the city corporation's task to solve gas, water and electricity crises in the capital. There are other authorities for these services.

Criticising the PM's recent remark, the BNP leader questioned how she could claim the economy is in a good shape when the share market is destroyed and the government is borrowing money from banks every day.

Mosharraf called on the people to oust the government through mass upsurge as the nation's independence and sovereignty is not safe under this government.

Kamal slams

FROM PAGE 1

government system and retaining Islam as state religion.

Dr Kamal, one of the framers of the country's constitution, came down heavily on the two major political parties -- ruling Awami League and opposition BNP-- for what he said was treating people as their subject although they are the owners of the country.

The eminent jurist was speaking at his party's fourth national convention at the Institution of Engineers in the capital.

He stressed building national unity for fair politics in the country.

Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said at the convention those who win national elections consider themselves owner of this country for five years. Bad people run this country, and this is an obstacle to democracy.

He also said wealthy persons dominate both parliament and politics in the country, and that is why democracy is not there.

"It now seems that people have lost their freedom of speech. For example, 300 MPs keep mum in the House as if they are speech-impaired," Kamal Hossain said.

Formal charges

FROM PAGE 1

Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam Azam.

Prosecution sources claim that Ghulam Azam and some Jamaat-e-Islami leaders had close relations with the Pakistani military rulers even before the Operation Search Light, the crackdown by the Pakistan army on the unarmed people of Bangladesh, on March 25, 1971.

Thousands of innocent Bangalees -- many of them teachers and students of Dhaka University -- were massacred as the military launched a genocide, which continued throughout the nine-month long Liberation War.

Prosecution sources claim they have proof that Jamaat leaders had met then Pakistan president Gen Yahya Khan and Gen Tikka Khan, the infamous "Butcher of Baluchistan", and hailed Operation Search Light saying that Pakistan and Islam had been saved.

Jamaat-e-Islami leaders had built close relations with the Pakistani military rulers so that the Awami League is not handed over the power. The Awami League had won a landslide victory in the 1970 general elections. The Pakistani rulers had held the elections believing that Awami League would not win, sources claimed.

Nizami, president of All Pakistan Islami Chhatra Sangha in 1971, is likely to be charged with imprisonment, abduction, confinement, torture, rape, genocide in Pabna and other regions, and abetment of and attempt or

"Not a single MP spoke on the bill for splitting Dhaka City Corporation, while it was passed within only four minutes. Nothing could be more disgraceful than this."

He went on, "MPs, except one or two, did not speak when the bill scrapping the caretaker government system, and keeping Islam as the state religion was passed in the House."

Kamal said asked about this, some lawyers told him, "Don't you understand why we had to remain silent in parliament."

Allah has given them -- people's representatives -- ears, mouth and eyes to hear, speak and see. But they sit in the House without speaking anything for people, said a disappointed Kamal.

"It will be disrespect to Bangabandhu if you (law-makers) wear black coat (like him) but keep mum in parliament," he added.

Citing the share market debacle, he said, "A large amount of money was looted from there. But no one spoke on the issue and protested this in the House."

Kader Siddique, Mahmudur Rahman Manna and Abul Hasan Chowdhury, among others, also spoke at the convention.

conspiracy to perform such acts.

Mojaheed allegedly committed similar crimes in greater Faridpur; Kamaruzzaman, then chief coordinator of Al Badr, in greater Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail and Sherpur areas while Abdul Quader Molla, a leader of the Jamaat's student front Islami Chhatra Sangha, in Mirpur and Keraniganj areas, according to the sources.

Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta told The Daily Star, "We have almost finalised the formal charges against Ghulam Azam for his involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. We will submit the charge to the tribunal as soon as possible, along with a petition for issuing warrant of arrest against him."

Prosecution sources said after scrutinising the investigation report and relevant documents they have found that Ghulam Azam, the ameer of then East Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami, was the civilian supreme commander of the Peace Committee, Razakar, Al Badr and Al Shams, which had collaborated as auxiliary forces with the Pakistan occupation army in 1971.

The prosecutors have primarily found proof of Ghulam Azam's involvement in the mass killing of 38 people in Brahmanbaria during the war, the sources said.

Ghulam Azam could not be reached despite repeated attempts over telephone for his comments on the allegations against him.

Ershad

FROM PAGE 1

interests of the citizens of Sylhet," Ershad told a rally on Sylhet Alia Madrasa premises after reaching here on a two-day long march.

A key component of Awami League-led grand alliance government, Jatiya Party (JP) started the long march towards Sylhet from Dhaka yesterday to protest building of the dam in India's Manipur state.

"India can't build any dam unilaterally on an international river as per the 1966 Helsinki Rules.... It has violated international laws by taking a unilateral decision," he pointed out.

Terming it a national problem, he urged all the political parties to jointly protest the Indian move. "It is not the time for creating difference. Let us work together to find out a solution."

The country's northern part has been facing adverse effects of Farakka dam since its construction, maintained Ershad adding, now the Sylhet region will face the same fate if the Tipaimukh dam is built.

"If India builds the dam and an earthquake hits the area, the whole Sylhet region will go under water," he warned.

The former military strongman demanded India conducts a joint study with Bangladeshi experts on the environmental impacts of the dam.

Ruhul Amin Howlader, secretary general of JP, urged the government to hold discussions with India immediately to settle the issue.

Chaired by party president member Atiqur Rahman Atiq, the rally was also addressed by presidium members Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Anisul Islam Mahmud, TIM Fazle Rabbi, Kazi Firoz Rashid and lawmaker Salma Islam, among others.

With his entourage riding on around 1000 vehicles, the JP chief started for Sylhet around 7:30am from the party's Banani office in the capital.

On his way to the divisional city, the former president also addressed nine roadside rallies in Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Brahmanbaria, Habiganj and Sylhet districts.

Sylhet and its haors (wetlands) will face serious catastrophes if the dam is built on the common river Barak, he told a rally in Brahmanbaria. "The Tipaimukh dam issue will be taken to international court if India ignores Bangladesh's concerns."

The long march will leave Sylhet for Zakiganj upazila this morning and JP will hold a rally there before winding up the programme.

One killed

FROM PAGE 20

Both of them were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Sayeed succumbed to his injuries after an hour of admission.

The van's driver was held. According to police, he claimed that the motorcycle overtook his van at a high speed from behind and so he could not avert the accident.

Disrupted

FROM PAGE 20

Matiur Rahmna, Khan Jahan Ali and Kumari ferries remained anchored at Paturia and Daulatdia terminals since 11:00pm on Friday.

BIWTC supervisors of Daulatdia and Paturia terminals said around 800 vehicles were stranded at Daulatdia Ghat and 600 vehicles at Paturia Ghat due to the interruption of ferry service.

Our Munshiganj correspondent reported that 10 ferries with around 300 people had remained stranded on the river.

Sirajul Haque, manager (Mawa side) of BIWTC said Bir Shrestha Ruhul Amin, Kaberi, Kopoti, Taplu, Korobi, Ramshree, Kishori and Jamuna ferries had to stop in the middle of the river, while Raniganj ferry on Mawa side and Ranikheth on Kawrakandi side due to thick fog.

Meanwhile, water and road transports on different routes connecting Barisal region with other parts of the country also faced disruption for about six to eight hours till yesterday morning, reported our Barisal correspondent.

Ferry services on major routes like Barisal-Bhola and Barisal-Kuakata on the Meghna river were disrupted because of heavy fog.

Take care of workers

FROM PAGE 1

confidence among them with care so that they can deliver more," Hasina said at the inauguration of 22nd Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition (Batexpo-2011) in the city.

The prime minister said her government is working to create improved opportunities for businesses.

The three-day annual event is staged at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Jute and Textiles Minister Abdul Latif Siddique, LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Commerce Minister GM Quader, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Faruk Khan and Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, among others, attended the function.

First Vice President of BGMEA Nasir Uddin Chowdhury and Second Vice President M Siddiqui Rahman also spoke while BGMEA President Safiul Islam Mohiuddin was in the chair.

Hasina urged the owners to improve the working conditions and salaries of the workers. "I think better relations between the owners and workers would help achieve better productivity which in return would benefit both."

She also called for launching rationing system for the workers in collaboration with the government, so that the workers do not need

to spend a major share of their income in purchasing food items.

The prime minister said her government is setting up seven special economic zones across the country to encourage new industries. The conversion work of Dhaka-Chittagong highway into four lanes is rolling fast to ensure smooth movement of exportable items for shipment.

"We have enacted a new industrial policy providing greater opportunities for the private sector entrepreneurs. Some 21 sectors have been earmarked as thrust sectors under the policy," she said.

The incumbent government has added 2,694 megawatt of electricity to the national grid over the last three years and more electricity is in the pipeline to be added soon to reduce power crisis, the prime minister said.

Some 349 million CFT of gas was added during the last 35 months, she said and advised the industry owners to use more solar panels at their offices to reduce dependency on electricity.

The government's target is to reduce poverty rate to 21.5 percent from the current 31.5 percent within the next four years, Hasina said adding she wants to turn the country into a middle-income one by 2021.

Later, she visited different stalls at the venue where businesses from home and

abroad are displaying their products in 146 stalls.

BSS adds: Highlighting the steps to protect the highest foreign exchange earning garment sector from global recession, the prime minister said her government is providing incentive to the sector for the last two consecutive years, apart from 17 other sectors.

Domestic and foreign investment is increasing and capital machinery and raw materials import showing positive growth, and Bangladesh has already earned GSP facilities to India, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan and China, Hasina said.

"We have always been attaching priority to the development of textile and garment sectors," she said adding "in our previous tenure we provided 61 special facilities including 30 percent cash incentives, waiver of double LC charge for exports, bonded warehouse facilities and introduced general bond instead of risk and duty bonds to flourish the sector".

The prime minister said at the request of BGMEA, her government for the first time liquidated the accounts of 270 closed and sick industries to facilitate them start their business afresh. The BGMEA has been given the authority to determine country of origin as a measure to save money and time of the exporters.

Even 'crossfire' not this worse

FROM PAGE 1

Another woman Jharna Khanam said seven to eight people identifying themselves as law enforcers picked up her husband KM Shamim Akhter, former vice-president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, from in front of his Purana Paltan residence on September 29.

"I went to the offices of all agencies and ministries concerned, and even to the National Human Rights Commission chairman, but all my efforts went in vein."

"When my two little children ask about their father, I cannot give them any answer."

Like Jesmin and Jharna, family members and relatives of a number of missing people yesterday expressed their concern at an advocacy

meeting on Accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance at Spectra Convention Centre in the capital's Gulshan area.

Saira Rahman Khan, founder member of human rights organisation Odhikar, said there have been reports of disappearance of at least 22 people in the last 11 months from January. Of them, 11 were picked up allegedly by Rab, two by police, six by personnel of the detective branch (DB) of police, and three by unidentified men.

In 2010, at least 18 people went missing. Fourteen of them were picked up allegedly by Rab, two by police and two others by DB personnel.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told the meeting that his party had never supported any extra-judicial killings or forced disappearance.

If BNP comes to power again, it would stop extra-judicial killings and forced disappearance, he said.

The BNP leader, however, admitted that there had been crossfire incidents during the last BNP government's tenure between 2001 and 2006. But none of them were political, he claimed.

Odhikar, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearance, and International Federation for Human Rights jointly organised the meeting presided over by Odhikar President CRAbrar.

Private-public fund to build it

FROM PAGE 1

awarded to the country or the company that will fulfil the project conditions."

The WB must prove the graft claims related to the Padma bridge project, the prime minister said, adding it has raised the allegations based only on idea, not proofs. It could not come up with any documents yet.

"The World Bank has to prove when and where the corruption took place and how much money was embezzled," she said. "How could there be any corruption when the money was not even disbursed?"

Hasina said, "Now the World Bank has no obstacle to investigating the corruption allegation as the communications minister [Syed Abul Hossain] has already been removed from the ministry."

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta, LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni were present at the press conference organised to brief the media about the outcomes of her recent visit to Myanmar and Indonesia.

Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, questioned the logic behind the WB fund suspension. As the Padma bridge is something very important for the country, the premier said, the government would not wait for the donor agency's funds.

The bridge, expected to

be completed by 2014, will connect 19 southwestern districts with the capital.

If the WB fund is disbursed in future, the money would be utilised for other development projects, she added.

Referring to the Indian move to build the Tipaimukh dam on the common river Barak, Hasina said her government would never accept any projects that may harm the country. "We have already conveyed our stance to the Indian government and it has assured us of not doing anything harmful to Bangladesh."

"We have also demanded the project details," she added.

Talking about the main opposition BNP's long march protesting the hydroelectricity project, the premier asked why it did not speak against the proposed dam when it was in power.

"When it [BNP] is in power, it forgets everything and remembers everything when it is in the opposition," the AL chief said, adding that the past BNP governments never claimed water share of common rivers from India.

She said her government has resolved many longstanding issues, including border demarcation and enclaves in India.

On splitting the Dhaka City Corporation, Hasina said it has been done to deliver better services to city dwellers.

be united about the long-awaited trial.

"Those who committed crimes against humanity being the sons of this country, shall be tried on this soil," she added.

Rajuk

FROM PAGE 20

Development Authority (DDA), said it is vital to rethink urbanisation based on redevelopment of the old city and by incorporating the mixed use of land.

While making a presentation, he drew similarities in urbanisation of Delhi and Dhaka in terms of population, area and unplanned growth.

Half of 17 million people in 1,483-square kilometre area of Delhi live in 1,400 unauthorised colonies and 1,500 squatter settlements after four decades of planned development, he said.

Of the 75,000 acres land that the DDA has developed over the four decades, more than 12 percent is open space.

The DDA, under the central government, owns and disposes the land of the capital and regulates development plans, he said.

Architect Tanwir Nawaz said controversy over the proposed metro rail's alignment should be resolved soon to avail the Japanese fund for the project.

Prof Nazrul Islam, honorary chairperson of Centre for Urban Studies, chaired first session of the seminar followed by two more sessions.

Bahrain breaks up Shia demo

AFF, Dubai

Bahraini security forces on Friday fired tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades to disperse hundreds of demonstrators in a Shia neighbourhood of the capital Manama, the opposition said.

The protesters were heading towards Manama's Pearl Square, epicentre of an anti-government movement, from the western neighbourhood of Jad Hafs when they were set upon by the security forces, according to Matar Matar, an MP for the Shiite Al-Wefaq opposition.

"Some demonstrators were brutally beaten while others suffered breathing problems due to the tear gas," he said.

The demonstration was the second in three days by Shias in Manama.

On Wednesday, an attempt to march on Pearl Square by protesters from the outlying Shiite village of Al-Daih was similarly broken up by the security forces.

Sunni-ruled Bahrain was rocked by Shiite-led democracy protests between mid-February and mid-March, which were crushed by security forces backed by its Gulf neighbours.

4 credit card

FROM PAGE 20

Mashiur Rahman said Rauf was arrested following a case filed with Gulshan Police Station by Brunhilde Descamps, a Swedish national and the country manager of Hemtex Dhaka.

In the case statement, Brunhilde Descamps mentioned that she was supposed to receive her credit card from the Gulshan Post Office. Her company sent it from Sweden in May this year.

Later, the company found that the card, which the woman was yet to receive, was being used by someone else.

Climate accord

FROM PAGE 1

emissions cuts, and China and India which want to ensure their fast growing economies are not shackled.

HOPES DASHED?

The spectre of a collapse in the talks hovered over the dragging negotiations, which would be a major setback for host South Africa and raise the prospect that the Kyoto Protocol could expire at the end of 2012 with no successor treaty in place.

Earlier, Brazil's climate envoy Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado had said he believed a deal would still be done, avoiding the postponement of decisions until next year.

"We are agreeing, a protocol or another legal instrument. Everything is there," he said. Developing and EU states objected to the phrase "legal framework" in a previous draft, saying it was too vague, insisting "instrument" implied a more binding commitment.

That commitment would start "by 2020, so as not to have a gap," he said. That date would meet a key EU demand.

But if Durban failed to produce an accord, a number of measures tentatively agreed could fall by the wayside, calling into question the effectiveness of such large-scale negotiations. Scientists warn, however, that time is running out.

UN reports released in the last month warned delays on a global agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions will make it harder to restrict global warming to safe limits.

A rise in average global temperature within 2 degrees Celsius over the next century is the generally accepted target.

A warming planet has already intensified droughts and floods, increased crop failures and sea levels could rise to levels that would submerge several small island nations, who are holding out for more ambitious targets in emissions cuts.