



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistani children throw snowballs at the Margala hills, outskirts of Islamabad on Saturday as the first rain of current winter brought an end to persistent dry weather with an increase intensity of cold in plain areas and heavy snowfall in hilly areas of Pakistan.

BJP runs 'most corrupt' govts in states: Rahul

PTI, Uttar Pradesh

Attacking BJP, Rahul Gandhi yesterday said the opposition party is taking corrupt ministers thrown out by others and was running the "most corrupt" governments in states ruled by it.

"Ministers are being removed and the BJP is taking them. They took Babu Singh Kushwaha, who is the most corrupt minister. He is amongst the most corrupt ministers. BJP took a trip across India against corruption," he said in an apparent reference to LK Advani's rath yatra.

"But they run the most corrupt governments in Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Jharkhand and here (in UP) they have taken Babu Singh Kushwaha," he said.

On Saturday, Rahul had claimed that Kushwaha had approached Congress first after being sacked by Chief Minister Mayawati but his plea to join the party fold was turned down.

He also attacked Mayawati alleging that thousands of crores for MNREGA sent to Uttar Pradesh was eaten by the "magical elephant" sitting in Lucknow, in an obvious reference to BSP's election symbol.

"The magical elephant built by Mayawati is eating people's money," he said.



Journo killed as bus hits his bike

FROM PAGE 1

Amader Shomoy. He quit the daily two months ago. He entered the profession in 1985 and worked in several daily and weekly publications before joining Amader Shomoy seven years ago, family members said.

His death comes just days after Nikhil Bhadra, a journalist of the Bangla daily Kaler Kantha, was badly injured when a BRTC bus ran him over in front of the Jatiya Press Club. Doctors had to amputate his right leg from the knee.

As news of Dinesh's death spread, more than 100 journalists took to the streets and blocked roads in the Press Club area, disrupting traffic on the Paltan to Kadam Phora intersection for four hours from 1:30pm.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) demanded punishment of the killer driver and compensation for the family of Dinesh.

Saiful Islam, a traffic constable who witnessed the accident, said the bus picked up high speed to pass

the intersection to avoid a red signal.

"Hit from behind, he [Dinesh] skidded around six yards with his bike. As he was trying to stand up, the rear wheels of the bus crushed his head, leaving him dead on the spot," Saiful told The Daily Star.

The traffic constable signalled for the bus to stop but it sped away. He then ran after it and managed to arrest the driver and one of his assistants and also seize the bus as it stopped at another signal a few yards away from the scene.

The bus was coming from Narayanganj carrying government staff.

Saiful said he was unsure if Dinesh was wearing the helmet, which was found on the spot intact.

Ramna police took driver Badsha Mia, 26, and his assistant Mahmudul Hasan, 16, into custody.

At the police station, Badsha told this correspondent he had tried to cross the Kakrail intersection to avoid a red signal. The bike was on his right then, but after crossing the signal the bike suddenly

turned left and came in front of him. It happened so quickly that he could not control the steering, he claimed.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station, said Badsha initially denied that he was driving the bus when the accident happened but later admitted to doing so.

All the passengers of the bus were staff of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB). They did not cooperate with the police in identifying the bus driver, Rafiqul added.

Dinesh's body was first taken to Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) where members of different organisations, including Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), observed one minute's silence.

Later, the body was taken to the Jatiya Press Club and then to his village home in Naogaon for cremation.

BFUJ, DUJ and DRU will form a human chain in front of the Press Club at around 11:00am today to protest the death and demand safer roads.

RIFT IN TIES Congress reaches out to Mamata

PTI, New Delhi

A day after Pachimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's attack, Congress yesterday reached out to its ally saying there was need for "better communication" with Trinamool Congress and the two could re-build trust by ironing out "disagreements" within closed doors.

Discounting the possibility of Mamata parting ways with Congress, senior party leader and Union Minister Salman Khurshid said there was no need to read too much into Mamata's statement that Congress was free to walk out of the ruling alliance in West Bengal.

"I don't think we should read too much into these things. I would certainly imagine if we can avoid them, good. Even if our disagreement we can put them across in closed doors.... I hope something like this will be worked out," he said.

He said there will be sometimes a mismatch in her expectations and mismatch in the Congress' responses "and sometimes a mismatch in answering to our constituencies."

"I am sure that Mamataji also has expectations from people who voted for her to change the ruling establishment in Bengal after such a long time. But again we are a national party and we have a lot of expectations that go beyond the concerns of only one state," he said.

Khurshid asserted, "We all understand her concerns and I am sure that she also understands our compulsions. I think its just need for better communications and there isn't lack of ability on both sides to be able to communicate. I am not going to believe that they can tempt her, any person like her into their fold," he said.

Congress-Trinamool Congress ties have been strained with the Congress' state unit vociferously protesting against Mamata's party. The latest issue involves the state government's move to rename Indira Bhavan in Kolkata which has been strongly opposed by the Congress leading to a confrontation between the two allies.

Hazare won't campaign against Congress

THE HINDU, Pune

Amid talks of the Jan Lokpal movement being directionless, anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare yesterday stated that he will not be undertaking the tour to campaign against the Congress in the five poll bound states because of his weak health.

Addressing reporters after being discharged from Pune's Sancheti Hospital yesterday morning, Hazare reiterated, however, that his fight against graft will continue. Self-immolation

"I will not be going on the tour of the five states, as the doctors have advised me against it," he said. The development could cloud the anti-corruption movement, even as the core committee is meeting in New Delhi over the weekend to chalk out the future strategy.

Asked about the future of the movement, Hazare said, "It is not a fight that will last just for a couple of months; it will go on for years. I have been fighting against corruption for twenty five years. The struggle will continue once I get better."

Ex-president's son

FROM PAGE 1

registrar of the university, were arrested at about 4:30pm for assaulting university Registrar Kabir Hossain Talukder.

In a late night development, Talukder filed a case with the Gulshan Police Station against Imtiaz for keeping him confined and assaulting him.

Sirajul and Junayed were freed shortly after 8:30pm while Imtiaz has been receiving treatment at United Hospital under the safe custody of police.

Imtiaz, founder member of the university's trustee board, suffered injuries while looking for shelter when some university students chased him at about

4:30pm.

The students also beat up several TV journalists when they were recording the incident.

Khandker Lutful Kabir, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Gulshan division), said Sirajul and Junayed were freed on bonds.

Kabir said police had detained them along with Imtiaz on a verbal complaint made by university registrar Kabir. The university official alleged that he came under attack when he went to the Gulshan house of Prof Anwara Begum, former vice chancellor of the university and wife of Iajuddin.

Anwara was founding chairman and vice chancellor of the university established in 2004. Pro-vice chancellor Abul Hossain Sikder was made its acting vice chancellor nine months ago.

Wishing anonymity, a university official said a dispute over the university's ownership and the post of vice chancellor arose when Anwara tried to retain her position. But she could not keep it.

DC Kabir said the students chased Imtiaz and his associates when the registrar told them about the alleged attack on him. "At one stage, Imtiaz ran for shelter, but he fell down and suffered wounds to his leg."

Sayedee ordered torching houses

FROM PAGE 20

Sayedee's order, said Bashudeb Mistri, the tenth witness. The collaborators then torched the houses of Manik Poshari, a fish trader of Pirojpur's Chithalia village.

The three-member tribunal finished recording the deposition and cross-examination of Bashudeb yesterday.

Bashudeb is the 10th out of 68 prosecution witnesses in the case filed against Delawar Hossain Sayedee in connection with crimes against humanity during the 1971 war.

Sayedee, nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, is among five Jamaat and two BNP leaders who are facing war crimes charges at the tribunal.

Bashudeb Mistri, who was 13-14 years old during the war, began his testimony around 10:50am. He said he used to work as an assistant to his

carpenter father and they were working at Manik Poshari's house during the war.

He told the tribunal that the Pakistani soldiers reached Parerhaat some two or three months after the war began. They set up a camp in Parerhaat and they used to patrol the area.

Shanti Committee (Peace Committee) and Razakar Bahini (collaborators) were set up with Dilu Shikdar (now known as Delawar Hossain Sayedee), Sekander Sikder, Danesh Mollah and Moslem Moulana along with other Razakars in the Parerhaat area, he said.

On May 8, 1971, the collaborators and the Pakistani soldiers went to Manik Poshari's house. Sensing their arrival, family members of Manik Poshari fled.

Bashudeb recognised Sayedee, Sekander Sikder,

Danesh Mollah, Moslem Moulana, Hakim Kari and Momin among the collaborators.

First they captured Ibrahim Kutti and Mofiz Uddin Poshari, who used to work at the house. "Then they looted the house of Manik Poshari. Dilu Shikdar (Sayedee) distributed the goods among Razakars but kept the valuable goods for himself," Bashudeb said.

Sayedee then ordered the torching of the houses and then they headed towards Parerhaat with Ibrahim and Mofiz.

When they were crossing the Parerhaat Bridge [a bridge in Parerhaat of Pirojpur], Bashudeb saw Sayedee say something to Pakistani soldiers.

"I don't know what they talked about," said Bashudeb.

Mofiz was taken to the camp while Ibrahim was

shot. Ibrahim's body was then thrown into the canal, he said, adding that he saw the whole thing from the other side of the canal.

Mofiz was later tortured at the collaborators' camp before he escaped, Bashudeb claimed.

According to Bashudeb, his houses were also torched by a group of collaborators led by Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

After Bashudeb's deposition was recorded, Sayedee's Counsel Mizanul Islam began cross-examining the witness at 11:10am.

The counsel asked Bashudeb when the Liberation War began in 1971. The witness replied that he could not remember.

"Do you know how many days make a month?" was the next question.

Bashudeb responded with, "Yes, I know, 30 days."

The counsel said, "Can

you name the month that comes after May?"

Bashudeb said June.

"Can you name the month that comes before May?" was the next question, to which the witness said he could not tell.

The counsel then asked Bashudeb who taught him to say the date "May 8" before the court. The witness said he remembers the date.

Later, counsel Kafil Uddin Chowdhury and Manjur Ahmed Ansari conducted joined in the cross examination.

Ansari concluded by suggesting that the witness, who is suffering from poor health, made a false statement in a false case against Sayedee after his local law-maker promised him government benefits.

Bashudeb said that it was not true.

PM visits Tripura on Jan 11

FROM PAGE 1

Indian state's outstanding supports to the freedom fighters and the war.

As per the programme schedule, Hasina will depart for Tripura for a two-day official visit on a special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines at 2:00pm on January 11 and arrive at Singair Airport in Tripura.

Besides attending the convocation on January 12, Hasina will attend a civic reception and meet with political leaders as well as businessmen.

Hasina is expected to lead a 65-member delegation comprised of several ministers, academics, intellectuals, businessmen and media personalities.

"This is for the first time the Tripura University would confer the honorary D Litt on a person after it was set up in 1987," local media said quoting the university's Vice Chancellor Arunoday Saha.

Vice President of India Dr Hamid Ansari would also attend the ninth convocation.

Tripura, which shares an 856km border with Bangladesh, was apparently ignored since long by Bangladesh leaders despite the crucial Agartala conspiracy case, in which Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was one of the main accused.

Some 15 lakh people took refuge in Tripura, more than the state's total population at that time, while the first assaults by freedom fighters were launched from Tripura's soil in 1971. They were provided all-out supports during the nine-month-long Liberation War.

Meanwhile, the Indian government has completed upgrading the Tripura airport with international facilities ahead of the visit of the Bangladesh premier.

Tripura government officials told The Daily Star

that Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal will arrive at Agartala to receive the Bangladesh prime minister on behalf of the Indian government.

On the first day of her visit, Hasina will call on Vice President Ansari and will also attend a banquet to be hosted by the vice president, according to the officials in Dhaka and Agartala.

Chief Minister of Tripura Manik Sarkar and Governor of Tripura Dr DY Patil will meet Hasina at the State Guest House of Tripura on the same day.

It is expected that Hasina will also hold a meeting with businessmen to discuss ways to boost trade between Bangladesh and the north-eastern states of India.

On the concluding day, on January 12, she will reach Tripura University at 10:00am, inaugurate an open air theatre and unveil a statue of Rabindranath

Tagore and then join the convocation procession.

When the ceremony is over, Hasina will attend a civic reception to be hosted by the Tripura chief minister at Assam Rifles Ground. Officials said a huge ceremonial reception would be given to Hasina on behalf of the people of Tripura.

Official sources in Agartala told this correspondent that foolproof security measures have been taken in view of the visit and the Indian central government is closely monitoring the arrangements.

They said separate advance teams of special security forces from Dhaka and New Delhi arrived in Agartala last week to give flawless security to the Bangladesh prime minister and the vice president of India, as well as the accompanying dignitaries.

Besides the tight security arrangements, which include among others,

stricter border vigilance and round the clock surveillance, the state administration and the Agartala municipal council are also giving a facelift to the city and its roads through which the VIPs will travel.

"The Union Home Ministry has deployed an additional two battalions of BSF," IANS said quoting BSF's Tripura frontier Inspector General PC Meena.

"Security along the border with other northeastern states has also been strengthened. Though there is no specific security threat to the Bangladesh premier, additional deployment has been done in vulnerable areas of the border to foil any intrusion bid from across the border," he added.

The India-Bangla border in Tripura has 20 air-maintained BOPs (border outposts) where logistics support and supplies are being provided by helicopters.

JMB chief's son arrested

FROM PAGE 1

Bashar, 21, is the finance wing chief and also a Majlis-e-Sura member of the JMB, and his accomplice is identified as Mohammad Abdul Alim, 23, who is an Ehsar member of the banned Islamist outfit, Rab said.

Hailing from Khojargaon village under Bahubal upazila in Habiganj, Bashar and Alim of Ashulia Barapara village in Dhamrai of Manikganj were arrested from their hideout in Achintola Bahrapur village under Rajpara Police Station in Rajshahi in the early hours.

According to Rab officials, Bashar is a fugitive accused in an explosives case with the capital's Sabujbagh Police Station in 2009 while Alim is a fugitive convict in another explosives case with Manikganj police in 2005.

JMB chief Saidur Rahman was arrested along with one of his wives and three other top leaders of the JMB on May 25 last year in the capital. Saidur's another son, KHM Shamim, who was the chief of JMB's IT wing and elder brother of Bashar, was arrested in 2006.

Saidur took over as the JMB chief in February 2006, shortly after the arrest of Shaekh Abdul Rahman, the then JMB supremo.

After their arrest in Rajshahi, both Bashar and Alim were brought to Dhaka and a press briefing was held at the Rab headquarters in Uttara. Rab's Legal Wing Director Commander M Sohail said all the family members of Saidur were active leaders of the banned organisation.

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Rab intelligence officials suspect that JMB militants might have links to the recent bomb blasts, he said.

Sohail said they were also verifying whether the JMB militants were linked to the bombing on December 18 in the capital when BNP and Jamaat activists went on the rampage and charged bombs resulting in the death of a youth and injuries to several others.

The Rab officer said at present Sohail Mahfuz is operating as the JMB chief and he is leading the organisation staying on the other side of the border.

Asked, Sohail said activities of the JMB and other militant organisations are now very limited as Rab has already arrested 803 militant leaders and activists, including 557 of the JMB.

বিসমিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

বাংলাদেশ ক্রিকেট বোর্ড

শের-ই-বাংলা জাতীয় ক্রিকেট স্টেডিয়াম, মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬

সূত্র : বিসিবি/এজিএস/০১২/১০ তারিখঃ ০৮ই জানুয়ারী, ২০১২

বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার নোটিশ

বাংলাদেশ ক্রিকেট বোর্ডের বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা ২০১২ নিম্নে উল্লিখিত তারিখ, সময় ও স্থানে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে :

দিন ও তারিখ : বুধবার, ০৮ই ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০১২ইং।

সময় : সকাল ১১ঃ০০ ঘটিকা।

স্থান : উইস্টার গার্ডেন, রূপসী বাংলা হোটেল, ১ মিটু রোড, ঢাকা ১০০০, বাংলাদেশ (সাবেক শেরটন হোটেল)

সাধারণ পরিষদের সকল সম্মানিত কাউন্সিলরবৃন্দকে উক্ত তারিখে নির্ধারিত সময় ও স্থানে বোর্ডের বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় অংশগ্রহণ করিবার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা
বাংলাদেশ ক্রিকেট বোর্ড