

Hundreds in the open

FROM PAGE 20
He said it was very "painful" for him to not join the burial of his daughter, but he chose to stay back thinking he would otherwise be left out of the victims' list.

Mid Selim, another victim of the fire, his wife and three children slept on Sunday night in the open near his burned down shanty. A betel nut trader, Selim on the fateful night lost to the fire his capital of TK 27,500, among all other things.

The 42-year-old said he had no other place to go and demanded that the authorities take steps to rehabilitate all the victims.

Indeed, condolences, financial support and relief materials from government and non-government organi-

sations poured in following the blaze that killed 11 people and burned down about 700 shanties and 12 tin-shed houses. But as of last night, there was no report of any rehabilitation effort.

Against such a backdrop, the rights body Ain O Salish Kendra yesterday urged the government to take "effective measures" to rehabilitate the affected families.

Contacted, Dhaka Deputy Commissioner Shaikh Yusuf Harun told The Daily Star, "We are thinking what can be done in this regard." He added they were discussing the rehabilitation of the victims but did not make any decision yet.

Relief efforts such as distribution of food and clothing by government and non-

government organisations as well as individuals continued for a second day yesterday.

A government list prepared with the help of local Awami League leaders put the number of affected families at 900. Each of the families was to get 30kgs of rice and Tk 5,000 along with some saris, lungis and blankets and shawls from the government fund.

Some victims, however, alleged a number of local influential people included on the list some families who were not affected at all.

But Selim Ahmed, president of ward-14 Awami League, who was involved with making of the list, rejected the allegation.

"We are trying to make sure that no affected family is left out," he said.

Fever

FROM PAGE 20
An American paediatrician has revealed the high fevers typical of many childhood illnesses can help force a child to slow down, rest and sleep more - all vital in recovering.

High fevers typical of many childhood illnesses can help force a child to slow down, rest and sleep more - all vital in recovering.

Hannah Chow-Johnson, assistant professor at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, said she was often asked what to do about children with a high temperature.

She said, "My most frequent calls are from worried parents who want to know how high is too high of a fever. 'What many parents don't realise is that often, fevers are their child's friend.'"

"Fever is actually help your child recover more quickly, especially if he or she is battling a viral illness."

"I often wish thermometers had a gauge that read either 'fever' or 'no fever.'"

"That would definitely help parents who worry if their child has a fever that's too high."

Researchers at Great Ormond Street Hospital have in the past claimed tackling a fever with medicine before it is allowed to run its course, may slow recovery time, because the temperature can help to kill the bacteria causing the illness.

Fever is defined as a temperature over 37.5c, and can be a sign of something serious.

Parents are advised to seek medical help if a child's temperature reaches 40c or above.

If your child is also unusually sleepy, has a rash, cold extremities, a stiff neck or difficulty breathing, it is always best to contact your GP.

But most fevers are caused by a viral infection, and clear up on their own within a few days.

Despite the advice, the official NHS line on children running a high temperature is to keep them hydrated, dress them in their nappy or pants, and to treat discomfort with paracetamol or ibuprofen.

He declined to comment on the BCL men's assault on the teachers.

IUTA president Prof Yakub Ali said following yesterday's incident they have declared the VC, pro-VC, and treasurer "persona non grata" in Kushtia and Jhenidah towns.

The IUTA will sit today to discuss their next course of action, he added.

Prof Abul Ahsan Choudhury, president of IU unit Bangabandhu Parishad, alleged that the attack was instigated by the VC, pro-VC and their administration.

Denying the allegation, Pro-VC Prof Kamal Uddin termed the attack on the teachers unfortunate.

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Cabinet happy

ITEM	2010-11	2011-12	INCREASE%
REMITTANCE INFLOW	\$11.650 B	\$12.846 B	10
POWER GENERATION	4890 MW	6065 MW	24
FUEL OIL SUPPLY	48,00,000 MT	53,00,000 MT	10
MANPOWER EXPORT	43,9375	69,1402	57
FOOD STORAGE	8.12 LAKH MT	11.58 LAKH MT	42
REVENUE COLLECTION	79,403 CRORE	98,457 CRORE	18
DISPOSAL OF AUDIT OBJECTION	21,570	30,362	40

FROM PAGE 1
meeting at the secretariat.

The overall performance of the government was positive last year, he said, adding, "implementation of the decisions was very satisfactory but there is still room for improvement."

Musharraf said there were many achievements in the communications sector, but did not elaborate. Population growth rate has been reduced slightly. The government gained 91 per cent implementation of the annual development programme (ADP).

In reply to a query, he said the discussion did not shed light on the Padma bridge project as the ministries had not given any information

regarding the matter in the reports.

Asked whether corruption issues came up in the meeting, the cabinet secretary said, "There was in fact no real discussion on corruption. However, the ministries and divisions identified barriers to implementing projects and decisions. The cabinet discussed how to remove those barriers."

Mosharraf, however, said the number of vacant posts in government services increased by 2,42,236 or 2.07 per cent at the end of fiscal 2011-12.

"Lack of capacity of Public Service Commission, absence of rules and writs filed against recruitments are the reasons for the

vacancies," he told journalists, adding the cabinet had given necessary instructions for recruitment.

As per the fact sheet, both import and export of goods increased in 2011-12. The export earning rose to \$24.28 billion from \$22.928 billion in 2010-11. Total import cost in the last fiscal year was \$35.441 billion while it was \$33.657 billion in 2010-11.

Musharraf said the expenditure in the ADP in 2011-12 was Tk 37,372 crore, which was Tk 32,855 crore in the previous fiscal year. The expenditure in different social safety net programmes also increased to Tk 20,279.02 crore from Tk 15,565.43 crore in 2010-11.

Alim-led Razakars

FROM PAGE 20
Rasul, the seventh prosecution witness in the case, said the former Convention Muslim League leader Alim formed the Shanti Committee and the Razakar force in Joypurhat sub-division in 1971.

"Abdul Alim was the chairman of the Shanti Committee and he served as the commander of the Razakar Bahini [force]," said the 59-year-old witness from Panchbibi.

In collaboration with the Pakistani army, members of the Shanti Committee and the Razakar force committed destructive activities including looting and arson, in Panchbibi, said Rasul, adding, "I have heard such incidents from people and I also witnessed some too."

Rasul identified the 81-year-old politician and former minister of Ziaur Rahman's cabinet present in the courtroom yesterday.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam, recorded Rasul's testimony before adjourning the case proceedings until today when Rasul would face cross-examination.

During his one-and-a-quarter hours testimony, Rasul said he was an intermediate second-year student and was living in his village home at Dhurail of Panchbibi during the war.

Between April 16 and April 19, Alim formed the Shanti Committee there with members from Convention Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami and Nezam-e-Islam. Afterwards, with the members of the Shanti Committee, he formed the Razakar force, said Rasul.

The Pakistani army attacked Panchbibi Bazar on April 20 and with the directives of Abdul Alim, Joybar Ali of Panchbibi Shanti Committee cooperated with the Pakistani army, said Rasul.

Many including Sattar and Nani Kundu were killed on that day, he said.

Rasul said his father-in-law Jabbar Hossain was a subedar major of East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) in Chittagong. After the war broke out, the Pakistani army controlled the EPR arsenal.

"I heard from my father-in-law that he attacked the Pakistani army to take away the keys to the arsenal and Bangalee EPR men took up arms for self-defence after he had opened the arsenal to them," said Rasul.

Jabbar received bullet injuries as the Pakistani army had opened fire, said Rasul, adding that in the first week of May, his injured father-in-law along with his family members came to his home for shelter.

Feeling insecure at Rasul's home, his father-in-law, mother-in-law, and other family members took shelter at the home of Najimuddin of the neighbouring village, said Rasul.

"After getting a tip off, Abdul Alim ordered Razakars

to arrest my father-in-law," said Rasul.

Top-level Pakistani army official and Shanti Committee leaders picked up his father-in-law on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr, which the witness said was probably on November 20, 1971, and took him to the local Shanti Committee office.

Rasul, along with his mother-in-law Kulsum Begum and brother-in-law Jahangir Hossain, went to Panchbibi Shanti Committee office where they came to know that his father-in-law was taken to Joypurhat Shanti Committee office at Shaonlajja's Gadighar.

"After going there, we saw Abdul Alim sitting with some other Shanti Committee and Razakar members," said Rasul, adding, "We humbly requested him [Alim] to tell us the whereabouts of my father-in-law."

Rasul said Alim informed them that his father-in-law was appointed to Bogra intelligence branch and told them to meet Rafique Khan Bihari (Urdu speaking people) of Bogra who would help them.

Alim handed a letter to them to give to Rafique but they were not aware about the content of the letter, said Rasul, adding that they went to Bogra and gave the letter to Rafique.

Getting the letter, Rafique took them to Bogra intelligence office and then to a jail but they had to return home not being able to find Jabbar.

"The next day, we again met Abdul Alim. Alim became angry as we met him on two consecutive days and said, 'Your father-in-law fought against the Pakistani army in Chittagong, so he wouldn't be released'," said Rasul.

Rasul said when they were returning from Alim's house, they met one Farid Doctor at Joypurhat who told them that members of the Shanti Committee and Razakars tortured his father-in-law to death following the orders of Alim at Joypurhat Shanti Committee office.

"Then, we realised that my father-in-law is no more," said Rasul, adding that they realised that Alim had told them to go to Bogra just to "show people" and it was a "farce".

On June 11 this year, the tribunal framed 17 specific charges of crimes against humanity against Alim, which included genocide, murder of Bangalee civilians, and burying people alive.

QUADERMOLLAH Meanwhile, Tribunal-2 completed recording cross-examination of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah, the first defence witness in the case against himself, and adjourned the case proceeding until tomorrow.

During cross-examination, Prosecutor Mohammad Ali suggested, "During the Liberation War, all leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Sangha [the then ideological student wing of Jamaat] joined Al-Badr."

"It is not true. However, some might have joined Al-

Badr. It was beyond my knowledge," replied Mollah.

During Sunday's testimony, Mollah admitted that he was involved in Islami Chhatra Sangha from 1966 and was its elected president at Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University unit in 1970.

Mohammad Ali said, "You joined a symposium of Islami Chhatra Sangha at Dhaka University Physical Centre in the middle of the Liberation War in 1971."

"It's not true. I didn't know the Physical Centre then," replied Mollah.

Replying to a question, Mollah said immediately after the Liberation War, he was arrested and kept for some hours at Sadarpur Police Station but was later released with the intervention of Sadarpur Awami Leader Shahjahan Talukder and Freedom Fighter commander Lutful Kabir.

Mohammad Ali suggested, "Mirpur was under the control of the Pakistani army, local Bihari and you until January 31, 1972, and when Mirpur was freed, you fled to Faridpur, police arrested you there."

"It's not true," replied Mollah.

"You were in Dhaka during the Liberation War and in collaboration with the Pakistani army and Biharis of Mirpur, you were involved in the allegations brought against you in connection the crimes committed under Mirpur and Keraniganj police stations [in 1971]," suggested Mohammad Ali.

Mollah denied it.

In his testimony, Mollah claimed that he had left Dhaka on March 11 or March 12 in 1971 for his village home and received training for the Liberation War along with some youths at Amirabad village in Faridpur.

On May 28, the tribunal framed six charges against Mollah for his alleged involvement in murders and mass killings during the war.

ACC to quiz

FROM PAGE 20
to Sonali Bank's local, Agargaon and Gulshan branches in the capital and principal branch of BDBL last week, asking the officials concerned to appear before the ACC on Wednesday and Thursday, said Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, public relations officer in the ACC.

Deputy general managers (DGM) Mohammad Kamrul Islam, MA Salam and former DGM Mir Mohidur Rahman of Sonali Bank's principal office and Assistant General Manager Khandakar Rakib Hossain, principal officers Nurul Amin Kazi, and Tahmina Banu of BDBL are among the officials notified to appear.

ACC sources said around Tk 250 crore has been misappropriated from the Gulshan and Agargaon branches of the state-owned Sonali Bank over the last three years.

However, the amount embezzled from the BDBL could not be known.

TIB flayed

FROM PAGE 1
Iftekharruzaman said, "I have full respect for parliament. If something is decided or discussed in the House, it should be consistent with democracy."

What TIB did was for the sake of democracy, he said, adding that if any adverse decision is taken against TIB, it must be considered how different quarters at home and abroad will take it.

Before taking any decision, MPs should consider whether it goes with their image and democracy, Iftekharruzaman added. "The parliamentarians should have the mentality to tolerate criticism as critics are also well-wishers."

The ruling alliance MPs participating in an unscheduled discussion for over 40 minutes, rejected the survey and challenged the watchdog to prove its findings.

Speaker Abdul Hamid, who was presiding over the sitting, questioned the method of the survey, saying TIB took opinion of only 600 people. "Who are these people? Are they commoners? Or are they employees of TIB?"

Both ruling and opposition MPs are bad as per the TIB report, Hamid said. "Then who will run the country? TIB or civil society? I am asking them again to join the next election and win people's mandate if they want to run the country."

The Speaker said it was unfortunate that a section of the media desperately and deliberately was trying to undermine the image of the Jatiya Sangsad and MPs.

Veteran AI leader Tofail Ahmed said TIB had prepared the report by taking the opinion of only 600 people out of 16 crore. "TIB's whole survey is unethical. Did it set up a court to judge MPs?"

Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujibul Haque said releasing such a report ahead of the national polls was ill-motivated.

AL leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, who piloted the discussion, said, "It is a shameful attack on parliament and it is tantamount to sedition."

"TIB has crossed its limits. It wants to control parliament, state and judiciary. It considers itself a superpower."

He added, "I request you [Speaker] to convene a meeting of the privilege committee and summon them [TIB officials] to prove their findings. If they fail, the government has to take action."

Selim alleged some NGO officials live luxurious lives and some NGOs bring crores of taka from abroad in the name of running their activities. "I will ask the finance minister to check how they spend their money. If they spend their money against the state, government and democracy, beyond their jurisdiction, then ban all their activities and expel them from the country."

He said TIB had undermined parliament and the government as well as by releasing an imaginary report. "Our privileges have been violated."

TIB was conspiring against democracy and was in favour of undemocratic forces as it got privileges with an unelected government in power, Selim added.

"Those who patronised the minus-two formula are now engaged in conspiracy to promote a third force as they do not get importance during the tenure of an elected government."

"In the name of searching for honest and competent candidates, they are launching attacks on parliament," he said.

A total of eight MPs participated in the discussion and many others sought the floor to speak on it.

Inter-ethnic clashes in Nairobi

Afp, Nairobi

Clashes broke out yesterday in a predominantly Somali district of Nairobi between people of Somali nationality or origin and other Kenyans, leaving several people wounded, a police chief said.

The clashes broke out at the site where a bomb went off on a bus on Sunday, killing seven and wounding many more.



Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Islamic University in Kushtia assault teachers outside the university administrative building yesterday and hurl abuse.

BCL men swoop

FROM PAGE 1
removal of the vice-chancellor, pro vice-chancellor and treasurer over the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of 132 teachers, employees and staff against 76 posts.

A group of BCL men led by IU unit president Jahangir Hossain and general secretary Shamsuzzaman Tuhin entered the campus with a procession around 11:00am. A large number of outsiders including cadres of an outlawed party led by Bikash Ali joined the procession.

Besides, a group of university staff led by Jahangir Alam Shimul were in the procession. Jahangir and his followers are known as supporters of the VC Prof M Alauddin and pro-VC Prof Kamal Uddin.

While crossing the sit-in around 11:30am, the BCL men made the unprovoked assault on the teachers.

They also vandalised some chairs and loudspeakers there and tore off the banners of the IUTA.

Of the injured, Baki Billah

of Bangla department, Mahbubur Rahman of chemistry, Tapan Kumar and Tariqzaman of information and communication engineering, Sahjahan Mondol of law, Asaduzaman of public finance was given first aid at the university medical centre.

The university authorities made the appointments on September 7. The following day, the IUTA protested the recruitment alleging nepotism and recruitment trade and decided to boycott classes.

Since then there has been no academic activity at the university.

Among the appointees are a daughter and other relatives of the VC.

Teachers belonging to several organisations including ruling Awami League backed Bangabandhu Parishad and BNP backed Zia Parishad joined the protest.

Yesterday's attack by the BCL members took many at the university by surprise, as the student body had initially

demanding cancellation of the recruitment process.

Contacted, BCL President Jahangir Hossain said the teachers' movement against the university authorities is part of a ploy to foil the ongoing trial of war criminals.

He declined to comment on the BCL men's assault on the teachers.

IUTA president Prof Yakub Ali said following yesterday's incident they have declared the VC, pro-VC, and treasurer "persona non grata" in Kushtia and Jhenidah towns.

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Jamaat continues attacks

FROM PAGE 1
attack, reports our correspondent.

The Shibir activists vandalised at least five vehicles and set fire to a police van in Rail Gate-2 area of the river port city.

None was, however, arrested in this connection.

Police and witnesses said Shibir brought out two processions from Noor Masjid area and Old Court area in the city around 11:30am, demanding release of the detained top Jamaat leaders, who are now being tried on war crimes charges.

When the processions reached Rail Gate-2 area, Shibir men attacked on-duty police personnel with sticks and threw brick chips on them. They vandalised five vehicles including the police van carrying the officer-in-charge of Sadar Model Thana and set fire to it. The OC was also injured.

Police lobbed 10 teargas canisters and 20 rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

Witnesses claimed that many Shibir activists were hitting in a BNP rally held in DIT commercial area in observance of the 48th birth anniversary of Senior Vice Chairman of the party Tarique Rahman. They also joined the attack on police.

In another incident in Martuzabad area of Ruggan upazila in Narayanganj, police detained four Jamaat-

Shibir activists from their procession.

In Dhaka, police detained 16 Jamaat-Shibir men at Kafur early yesterday on charge of attacking police on November 10. And huge leaflets, posters and other publications against the war crimes tribunal and the government were recovered from their possession, said Shah Iftekharruzaman, DMP assistant commissioner of Pallabozona.

The detainees were produced in a court that placed them on a one-day remand.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Police detained 78 Jamaat-Shibir activists from Sunday midnight to yesterday evening at different dormitories and messes in Chittagong in connection with their rampage in different places of the port city on Sunday, leaving five law enforcers injured.

On Sunday night, police filed three cases against 65 Jamaat-Shibir men, including party lawmaker from Satkania constituency ANM Shamsul Islam and former lawmaker from the same constituency Shahjahan Chowdhury.

A Chittagong court yesterday sent 40 of them to jail.

Police also held six Jamaat-Shibir activists yesterday morning in Chandanaish upazila and detained four from Sitakunda of Chittagong from their procession in Dohajari area of

the upazila.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: Police held three Jamaat-Shibir activists at Sonadighi intersection of the city yesterday morning for resorting to after a procession.

A report from our Narshingdi correspondent says: Police detained six Jamaat-Shibir activists from their procession in the town.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports: Shibir activists yesterday morning burnt tires on a road in presence of police.

Later, they brought out a procession in the town brandishing wooden sticks without any action from law enforcers.

But police later claimed they drove away the Shibir activists as soon as they got together in Kalitola area.

On November 4, Jamaat announced a nine-day agitation programme from November 5 to press home its demand for immediate release of the party's top leaders, including those facing war crimes trial.

In the last few days, several hundred people including more than 200 policemen and three journalists were injured during dozens of clashes between the law enforcers and Jamaat-Shibir men across the country.

In a statement yesterday, Shibir said they would continue street agitations until their top leaders are released.