

NEWS IN *brief*

Army withdrawn from Bogra

UNB, Dhaka

Two platoons of army men deployed in Shahjahanpur upazila of Bogra yesterday morning to help the administration maintain the law and order following escalating violence were withdrawn in the evening.

The army men were withdrawn from Shahjahanpur area near the Bogra Cantonment at 6:00pm as the area returned to normalcy, said an ISPR release.

Earlier, the army personnel were deployed in Shahjahanpur upazila from 9:00am to help the civil administration maintain the law and order.

3 sued for assaulting TV journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were sued yesterday for allegedly assaulting a television channel journalist.

The case, lodged with Mohammadpur police, stated that Nazia Afrin of ATN News was assaulted when she and a videographer were recording footage of picketers setting fire to a human hauler near the capital's Dhanmondi-27 around 7:30pm.

One of the accused is Noman Rashid Chowdhury, son of former Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, and the remaining two are unidentified.

Noman had allegedly told her to stop shooting, stating that she was instigating the picketers, said Nazia, adding that when she did not listen to him, he assaulted her.

Ctg Gonojagoron Mancha protests hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

People of the port city yesterday again thronged the sit-in, Gonojagoron Mancha, before Chittagong Press Club protesting the two-day dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami.

A mass signature collection campaign was underway at the venue, supporting the six-point demand, including banning of Jamaat and Jamaat backed Islami Chhatra Shibir, and demanding death penalty for all war criminals.

People from all walks of life started joining the demonstration, initiated by Samprodikota Birodi Torun Udgog, Chittagong; from 3:00pm and kept it lively with slogans and patriotic songs.

BYLC Graduate Network launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The launching ceremony of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) Graduate Network, a leadership programme, was held at Brac Center Inn in the capital on Saturday.

Freedom fighter Lt Col (retd) Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir was present as chief guest on the occasion.

Ejaj Ahmed, president of Brac, and Babar Kabir, senior director of the organisation, also spoke at the programme.

Quazi Sajjad said training would help the participants prepare themselves for the challenges of



Bangladesh President Md Zillur Rahman welcomes his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee on the latter's arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ROAD, RAIL, RIVER COMMUNICATION DURING HARTAL Dhaka fares better than rest of country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though far better in Dhaka city, vehicular movement across the country was seriously hampered due to Jamaat-e-Islami's 48-hour countrywide hartal beginning yesterday.

Except a few districts, train communication was almost normal as most trains left Kamalapur Railway Station on time while presence of passengers along waterways was a bit low.

In the capital, a good number of public buses, CNG-run auto-rickshaws and rickshaws ran on different streets, only a handful of private cars were seen while a few inter-district buses left bus terminals.

Though most markets, shopping malls and small shops were closed, people's movement on the streets was better compared to previous hartals called by Jamaat.

Kamalapur Railway Station Stationmaster Nipendra Saha said only two of 30 trains failed to leave on time while all 14 trains on Dhaka-Narayanganj route left and arrived on time.

Md Shahidullah, deputy director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, said 26 launches left Sadarghat Launch Terminal though the everyday

average is 36.

Chittagong correspondent reports: Chittagong city witnessed no major untoward incident as Awami League activists took up positions in the major thoroughfares.

However, the number of vehicles plying the roads was less than usual while most shopping malls remained closed.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: Jamaat-Shibir activists barricaded roads connecting Palashbari, Gobindaganj and Sunderganj upazillas with Gaibandha district headquarters with logs and burning tyres.

They barricaded Gaibandha-Sunderganj, Sunderganj-Bamondanga and Sunderganj-Tarapur roads, snapping connections with Sunderganj. Others barricaded Gaibandha-Palashbari highway which connects the two with Gaibandha district headquarters.

Trains from Dinajpur, Rangpur and Lalmonirhat turned back from Gaibandha, as rail tracks were uprooted near Kahalu Railway Station in Bogra, said Gaibandha Railway Station Stationmaster Wahid Mandol.

Our Bhola correspondent reports: most shops were shut and a few rickshaws and auto-rickshaw were found on the roads.

Jamaat-Shibir's ongoing mayhem condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties and human rights organisations have condemned the ongoing mayhem created by the Jamaat-Shibir alliance.

In a statement, members of Sector Commanders Forum-Liberation War '71 said Jamaat-Shibir has gone berserk to protect war criminals.

Condemning the statement of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that the government has resorted to genocide and brutality like that of 1971, they said it is not only instigating and irresponsible, but defends the subversive activities of the Jamaat-Shibir.

The government should take stern actions against Jamaat-Shibir soon, said a press release of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan).

It urged the government to provide compensation to the religious minority people who incurred losses due to the recent rampage of Jamaat-Shibir.

Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Shamajtantri Dal (BSD) said no new law is needed to ban Jamaat-Shibir. Banning Jamaat-Shibir is possible by using existing laws as they have already committed many terrorist activities, said a press release.

Yesterday, the CPB and BSD jointly brought out a procession in the capital to protest the attacks on minorities and hartals. They also expressed deep anger over vandalising Shaheed Minar and torching national flags. They urged the country's main two political parties and the people to stand united against all communal forces.

\$200m Indian grant to be utilised for Padma Bridge
Says Muhith

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US \$200 million Indian grant will be fully utilised for construction of Padma Bridge, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday afternoon after calling on visiting Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at Sonargaon Hotel.

He said India has already handed over \$50 million and the Indian president informed him that another \$50 million will be given next month.

Pranab wanted to know how the Padma Bridge could be self-financed, Muhith said.

"I told him that when I took the office the country's development budget was Tk 19,000 crore. This year, it is likely to be almost Tk 55,000 crore," Muhith said adding that he also told Pranab that Tk 5,000 crore would be spent this year from the annual development fund for the Padma Bridge project.

Police informer found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police informer was found dead in the capital's Paltan area early yesterday.

The deceased, Alamgir Hossain alias Tunda Alamgir, 35, worked as an informer for the Detective Branch of police and Paltan Police Station for a long time.

Police recovered the bloodied body of Alamgir from a yard of a tin-shed house and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy. The body bore several stab injuries in the throat as well as blunt force injuries to the head, said Sub-inspector (SI) Shafiqul Islam of Paltan Police Station.

Initially the body was found by the locals in the morning and then they called the police.

Shohag Khan, a cousin of the deceased, said on Saturday morning Alamgir went out of the house like everyday but did not return. He used to reside in the area with his mother and sister.

On Thursday night, some youths of the area beat Alamgir during a quarrel between them, Shohag added.

About two years ago, local miscreants of the area had slashed the veins of two wrists of Alamgir, said Shohag.

Khaleda Zia under death threats

Alleges Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that death threats were being issued against their party chief Khaleda Zia through some blogs and social media Facebook.

"In a post it was stated 'I wish to launch mass killing by killing Khaleda,'" he told a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office.

Describing such threats as a criminal offence as well as crimes against humanity, he said, "We strongly protest against it and condemn the remarks made by those spoiled, dirty, derailed and misleading bloggers."

In the wake of widespread killings of people in the country following the ICT-1 verdict against Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee, Khaleda at a press conference on Friday criticised the government for what she said regarding the remarks.

Reacting to her remarks, some bloggers and Facebook users accused Khaleda of siding with war criminals and Jamaat. They also made some unguarded remarks and issued threats against her.

Replying to a question, Rizvi said that his party was not worried about the threats as people would give them a befitting reply in time.



Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) sets underground pipeline by digging a road at Gulshan-1 in the capital, putting passengers of vehicles and pedestrians at risk as there is no safety measure taken around the deep ditch. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

LAND BOUNDARY AGREEMENT WITH INDIA

Pranab optimistic about passing bill

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has expressed optimism about his government introducing and passing a constitutional amendment bill in parliament to give effect to the provisions of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) with Bangladesh and its 2011 protocol in the current budget session.

"He (Pranab) himself said that the bill will be placed and expressed his belief that it would be passed in both the houses (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) in this session," Foreign Minister Dipu Moni told reporters after her meeting with the Indian president at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday afternoon.

Dipu Moni said the Indian president has also expressed his belief that the Teesta Water Sharing Agreement will also be signed soon.

"I informed him (Pranab) that we are also

preparing for the ratification of the protocol of LBA signed in 2011 in our parliament," she said, adding, "We are hoping that the Teesta agreement would be signed as soon as possible."

"Discussions are going on with the West Bengal state in this regard," Dipu Moni said quoting the Indian president.

In response to a question from an Indian journalist about the recent attack on Hindus in the country, the Bangladeshi foreign minister described the attack as "unfortunate and deplorable", saying the government had expressed its firm conviction not to tolerate any activity by any quarter to destabilise the country and breach communal harmony.

On another query about the cancellation of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's scheduled meeting with President Pranab Mukherjee this (Monday) afternoon, Dipu Moni said she

heard about the matter through television news. "It is a hartal called by them. Failure to attend after seeking and fixing an appointment with the president of a country may not be that decent."

Responding to another question, the foreign minister said they did not talk about the border killing issue specifically, but discussed the issue with regard to border security and other initiatives being implemented jointly by the two countries.

Asked whether they had any discussion regarding the country's recent political situation, Dipu Moni replied negative.

Dipu Moni said the meeting with the Indian president was very good and productive. "Pranab Mukherjee is a friend of Bangladesh...he was a friend of Bangladesh during the Liberation War and he will remain our friend in our journey together," she added.

DHAKA TODAY

Procession

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will bring out a national flag procession protesting desecration of the flag; Starting Venue: TSC, DU; Time: 4:00pm.

Rally

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will stage a rally in protest against killing of freedom fighter army members between Aug 15, 1975 and 1981; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club;

Weather may remain dry

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6:00pm today.

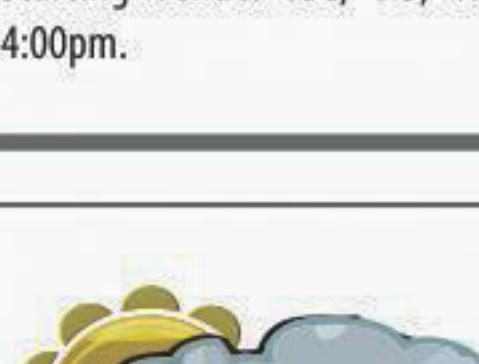
Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:03pm and rises tomorrow at 6:17am.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 12.0 degree Celsius at Sreemangal.

Highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature	Humidity
in Celsius	percentage
Max: 31.0	Min: 19.0
Morning 58	Evening 41
Chittagong 32.5	18.0
53	52
Rajshahi 30.4	13.8
70	53
Rangpur 30.7	16.5
78	58
Khulna 31.0	15.0
66	45
Barisal 31.0	14.0
70	52
Sylhet 34.5	16.0
59	43



WEATHER TODAY

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