

Further blow to education

FROM PAGE 16

the academic calendar and ruined the schedules for annual exams at primary and secondary levels, which have around 3.5 crore children.

Already in trouble, the authorities of different educational institutions said even activities for the next academic year will be delayed if things go on like this.

"As per the education ministry's instructions we are supposed to complete the annual exams by the first week of December and publish the results by mid December," said a teacher of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College.

The ministry instructed the schools so that the institutions could be used as polling centres during the election.

Before the fresh blockade was announced, The Daily Star correspondent visited St Joseph Higher Secondary School in the capital. A group of mothers were seen chatting with each other outside the school while they waited for their children.

They were saying that their children had become hostages to the recent political crisis.

"His preparation got ruined. How can a child concentrate on studies when his

exams are being rescheduled again and again?" said Farzana Rahman, mother of a class-III student who is sitting for the school annual exam.

"He remains unsure of what to study ... this puts extreme pressure on children," she said, adding, "Our children have to pay for their [politician's] dirty games."

Another mother Amena Islam said the political unrest and violent programmes like hartal or blockade was badly hampering the everyday life of the children as they could not go places freely and their holiday plans got ruined.

"My son literally remained confined to the home last week due to the blockade. And there is no respite even in this weekend, as he has exams today [Friday] and tomorrow [Saturday]."

"The violent pictures on televisions and newspapers make us worried about the security of our children on streets," she added.

"We heard rumours that more hartals or blockades may be enforced this week which means another spell of confinement for him," she said, not knowing that by night, the rumours would come true.

UN chief for inclusive polls

FROM PAGE 1

leader Khaleda Zia before UN Assistant Secretary-General (UNASG) for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco comes to Dhaka, Ban gave a strong message of an inclusive election and emphasised reaching a consensus.

Taranco is due to arrive on December 6 evening with a high-profile political mission on a four-day visit. His delegation would be comprised of UN officials drawn from the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and Electoral Assistance Division (EAD).

The foreign ministry has initially denied the news but later said they had received the letter on November 27 and sent it to Prime Minister's Office.

"I have handed over the letter to her [Khaleda Zia]," BNP Vice-President Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

Diplomatic sources said the UN chief in his letter had categorically said the election should certainly be "inclusive, non-violent and credible" to the people of Bangladesh.

They said the UN chief had also mentioned the word "inclusive election" twice and informed Hasina and Khaleda that he was sending his deputy Oscar Taranco to

encourage dialogues and conditions conducive to parliamentary polls.

Ban had also requested the two leaders to cooperate with his envoy, who would lead a "political mission" to discuss with top government and political leaders, national electoral officials to find out a way for an inclusive election, they added.

The foreign ministry officials, however, termed Ban's letter a routine one and was sort of a notification to inform that he was sending a senior UN official to Dhaka for discussion and sought cooperation of all concerned.

Though Ban in his letter talked about upcoming election and a dialogue, it was not a politically important one, they added.

The diplomatic sources said the UN chief regretted the violence that erupted during the recent political programmes like hartal and blockade, which resulted in deaths of several people and injuries to many others.

However, another source said AK Abdul Momen, ambassador and permanent representative to UN, who is now in Dhaka, had himself taken the letter of Ban to the prime minister. In the letter Ban said the problems could be solved if the two leaders - Hasina and Khaleda -- sat together.

Pedestrian killed

FROM PAGE 16

Hamid Bus Terminal.

Abdul Halim, organizing secretary of Chakaria Jubo Dal unit, died at a hospital on Thursday night after being released on bail the previous day. He was arrested while vandalising vehicles on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway during Tuesday's blockade programme, police said.

His family and supporters alleged that Halim died from tortures in police custody, a claim denied outright by the OC of Chakaria Police Station.

When obstructed by the police, the

opposition activists started hurling bricks at the police and vandalising vehicles on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway. As many as 50 vehicles were vandalised and traffic movement on the highway remained suspended for two hours.

To bring the situation under control, police lobbed several teargas canisters and opened fire, leaving 16 people including pedestrian Jager Hossain injured.

Police have arrested four people following the clash.

Meanwhile, BNP has called a daylong hartal in Cox's Bazar district for Sunday to protest the death of Jubo Dal leader Halim.

Arson victims

FROM PAGE 1

Rajarbagh Police Lines.

"My father served the country almost all his life. How could the country do this to him at this age?" asked his son Abdullah Al-Mamun Rakib, a college student.

The mother of another victim of the same incident, Dhaka College student Wahidur Rahman Babu, looked at Nahid's body with horrors as the body was being wheeled out of the ward. She broke down into tears; her son sustained 28 percent burns.

Another mother, whose son Shafiqul Islam suffered 25 percent burns, let out a sudden piercing scream in the crowded third floor of the burn unit Thursday night.

Kazi Zafar heads

FROM PAGE 16

re-structure the party. It would hold a council by December 15 to form a fresh committee.

He claimed that majority of the party members were with them.

Meanwhile, Kazi Zafar met BNP chief Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan home around 7:30pm yesterday. He had explained to her the situation in his party, said meeting

The cry seemed to have sprung from watching her son suffer.

Shafiqul, a banker, has had his entire face melted in flames, his skin peeled back all over to expose the flesh.

"Why is the country in anarchy? Why are we the ones to lose?" the mother yelled out.

Including the 19 victims of Thursday, the number of arson victims of the BNP-led 18-party alliance hartal and blockade this month stand at 52. Nine of them died so far, including Nahid and Robin.

At least four other victims are being treated at the DMCH burn unit in a "very critical" condition.

sources.

Moshi said the BNP chief in the meeting urged all political parties of the country to join the opposition's ongoing agitation to restore the caretaker government system.

According to meeting sources, Khaleda censured Ershad for his recent role saying that Ershad had pledged a tie with the BNP but later betrayed by joining Hasina's cabinet.

Sudan health workers killed in Darfur: UN

AFP, Khartoum

Two Sudanese health ministry workers helping to vaccinate children in the Darfur region have been killed, the United Nations said yesterday, condemning the incident.

The victims, a vaccinator and a driver, were part of a team inoculating vulnerable children against measles in West Darfur state, Ali Al-Za'tari, the UN's chief in Sudan, said in a statement.

It did not say exactly how they died, or when. "I call on all parties to ensure the protection of all personnel working to deliver

assistance to populations in need throughout Sudan," Za'tari said.

Violence has worsened in Darfur, where at least 460,000 people have been displaced by fighting this year, the United Nations says.

While battles between the government and rebels continue, Defence Minister Abdelrahim Mohammed Hussein said this month that violence between Darfur's various tribes has eclipsed rebel activity as the main security threat.

The fighting, largely between Arab groups over land and other resources, has involved heavy weapons including rockets.

Workers set RMG factories on fire

FROM PAGE 1

the company's three multi-storied buildings, brushing aside the policemen on duty at the gates.

The workers also torched 13 lorries parked inside the compound that were loaded with goods waiting for shipment.

Firefighters around 1:30pm yesterday were able to douse the flames in the three buildings that housed six factories, said Akteruzzaman Liton, a deputy assistant director of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Locals and workers claimed that at least 20 workers were injured in the incident but police denied the allegation.

Shawkat Kabir, an industrial police inspector of Gazipur, said, "Nobody died during the incident. The police opened fire to disperse the workers, but nobody was injured."

Mosharraf Hussain, owner and managing director of the family-run Standard Group, told The Daily Star over the telephone, "I am shocked. I am almost finished. I do not know what to do now. The loss will exceed Tk 900 crore."

"The fabrics, machinery, buildings, products awaiting shipment and other raw materials have all been burnt to ashes," he said.

"I have little to do with my buyers. The buyers will have to wait for their goods. I do not know how I will pay the bank loan and supply the buyers timely," Mosharraf said.

According to the website of the group, it supplies to some internationally renowned retailers and brands, including American Eagle, GAP, Zara, Tommy Hilfiger, KOHL'S, Sears, Abercrombie and Fitch and Gymboree.

Mosharraf said two of the buildings were six-storied and one 12-storied with around 70,000 square feet of floor space on each floor. The now burnt down buildings used to provide 20,000 people with employment.

The entirely export-oriented group employed around 50,000 people in its 23 production units.

"The group exports garment products worth nearly \$325 million annually with more than 13 percent year-on-year export growth," said Mosharraf, who began his business in 1984 with a small factory in a rented building in Kalabagan.

Unlike workers of other production units of Standard Group, who receive wages set by the government, employees of its jumper factories get salaries based on the number of product the individual produces.

Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, termed the incident an act of sabotage.

"Standard Group is one of the most compliant factories in Bangladesh. We refer this factory to buyers for its good reputation," Atiqul said.

"Generally, people do not believe us when we call any incident an act of sabotage, but the fire incident at the Standard Group proves that vested quarters are active to destroy the country's garment sector," said Mohammad Hatem, acting president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

A seven-member probe committee led by additional district magistrate of Gazipur Mohammad Mohsin was formed and it will submit its report within the next seven working days.

Blockade again

FROM PAGE 1

the aspirants of the next parliamentary polls from submitting their nomination papers.

The Election Commission has fixed December 2 as the last date for submission of nomination papers.

BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed announced the blockade at a press conference in the party's Nayapaltan headquarters around 9:30pm.

The announcement came just 12 hours before the programme begins, putting thousands of people travelling in harm's way.

For many people, the late announcement meant they did not get enough time to rearrange their day's activities.

The blockade deals a further blow to the country's education sector, as the government last night once again had to reschedule today's primary and ebtdai terminal exams. The exams will be held on December 6, from 9:30am to 12:00pm.

On top of that, like previous hartals and blockade the opposition alliance did not make clear which sectors would remain out of the blockade's purview.

Meanwhile, the BNP staged quite a drama in announcing its programme. Since the morning, it held three press conferences to finally come up with the blockade.

In the first briefing around 11:30am, it had announced countrywide demonstrations for today demanding cancellation of the polls schedule and

protesting "ruling party men's involvement in arson and vandalism" during the opposition's 71-hour blockade.

It also said that it had sought permission for holding a rally in Suhrawardy Udyan.

In the second press conference around 7:30pm, it said police had not allowed it to organise the rally and protesting the decision, it would hold rallies at all thanas in the capital.

The final decision came two hours later.

Party insiders said the duration of the blockade might be extended or the opposition might go for tougher agitation if BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir and other top leaders are arrested.

Sources in the BNP said the opposition alliance might come up with a weeklong blockade from December 8 if the UN's move fails to break the political deadlock over the general election.

Since October 27, the opposition enforced hartals for 10 days and blockade for 71 hours that claimed 40 lives and wounded several hundred others.

Meanwhile, Mirza Fakhru'l yesterday urged the Election Commission to suspend the polls schedule immediately and take necessary steps for holding an inclusive election through a consensus.

He was addressing a gayebana janaza in front of BNP's Nayapaltan central office after Juma prayers.

AL nomination

FROM PAGE 16

Police fired rubber bullets and lobbed seven teargas canisters to disperse the demonstrators, said Firoj Talukder, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police Station.

In Madaripur, supporters of former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain staged demonstrations in protest at AL Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim's nomination in Madaripur-3 (Kalkini).

Eyewitnesses said a group of AL, Jubo League and Chhatra League activists equipped with sticks brought out a procession and chased Kalkini upazila Chairman Mir Golam Faruk for his alleged support to Nasim, forcing him to take refuge at the local police station.

They also vandalised the office and the residence of Golam Faruk.

To protest AL central committee member Kazi Nabil Ahmad's nomination in Jessore-3 constituency, supporters of Shaheen Chakladar, general secretary of Jessore AL, barricaded highways at least at 12 points of Jessore town and vandalised five vehicles yesterday afternoon, reports our Jessore correspondent.

Earlier in the day, AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam announced the names of candidates selected by the party's Parliamentary Board.

Tainted figures on AL ticket

FROM PAGE 1

before the 1/11 changeover the next year. He was abroad until April 2009.

The ex-MP was the AL-backed candidate in 2011 Narayanganj mayoral polls that he lost to his party colleague Selina Hayat Ivy by a huge margin.

Lately, his family's name came up for suspected involvement in the murder of Twaki, 17, son of Rafiur Rabbi, the convener of Narayanganj Gonojagoron Mancha.

Anwarul Azim Anar, who was wanted by the Interpol in 2008 for crimes involving weapons and explosives, will run from Jhenidah-4.

As many as nine cases were filed against him in Jhenidah and Chuadanga, but all those were withdrawn after the AL took office in 2009.

The party dropped 48 incumbent MPs, including former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain, who was at the centre of Padma bridge scandal. Their seats got new faces.

Some senior and mid-ranking leaders, who were kept out of the 2008 race due to conviction, graft charges and links to organised crimes, are happy this time.

Among them are Mohammad Nasim, Kazi Zafrullah, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Mostafa Rashidi Suja, Bahauddin Nasim and Pankaj Debnath.

Maya could not contest the ninth parliamentary election in 2008 as he was convicted of corruption during the immediate past caretaker rule. When he was a state minister in 1996-2001, his and his son's activities drew huge flak.

For Mohammad Nasim, his son Tanvir Shakil Joy, elected MP from Sirajganj-1, is quitting the race.

Talukder Abdul Khaleq and Shawkat Hossain Hiron -- AL favourites who were

defeated in Khulna and Barisal mayoral polls in June -- won the party ticket.

The AL also nominated former home minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and foreign minister Dipu Moni, who have been left out of Hasina's election-time cabinet.

Unlike them, Abdul Latif Biswas, former fisheries and livestock minister; Enamul Haq Mostafa Shahid, ex-social welfare minister; Mostafa Faruque Mohammad, ex-ICT minister; Ahad Ali Sarker, ex-state minister for youth and sports, and Brig Gen (ret'd) Enamul Haq, state minister for power and energy, failed to win the nomination.

Planning Minister AK Khandker has not sought the party ticket.

The AL also did not nominate its Whip Sheikh Abdul Wahab of Jessore and controversial lawmakers Ghyas Uddin Ahmed of Mymensingh and Mustak Ahmed Ruhi of Netrakona.

Dr Md Enamur Rahman, chairman of Enam Medical College and Hospital, has got the party nod in place of MP Murad Jang for Dhaka-19 (Savar) constituency.

The party named candidates for 297 out of 300 seats. It did not pick any for Dhaka-17, Dhaka-8 and Kustia-2, the parliamentary seats of Jatiya Party Chairman Ershad, Workers Party chief Rashed Khan Menon and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal chief Hasanul Haq Inu.

It has also decided not to field "strong candidates" in the constituencies considered Jatiya Party bastions.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina will contest from Rangpur-6 and Gopalganj-3. She ran from three constituencies in the last polls.

LAWMAKERS, LAWBREAKERS

Abdur Rahman Bodi was elected MP in 2008 polls from Cox's Bazar-4. During the Teknaf upazila parishad election on January 22, 2009, he stormed a polling centre and beat up three assistant presiding officers. In May, he manhandled rights activist Rakhil Mitra.

Again in July 2011, Bodi assaulted a local teacher who protested his move to grab part of the land belonging to a school.

His colleague in parliament, Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince of Pabna-5 faced off with the district administration in September 2010 when his demand for recruiting his men in government service was not met.

Cadres loyal to him attacked the administration officials, including a female magistrate, during the recruitment exams.

AL lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon was sued over the killing of party leader Ibrahim Ahmed in the capital in August 2010.

Kamal Ahmed Majumder, AL MP of Dhaka-15, assaulted a woman television journalist at Monipur High School and College in 2012.

The journalist had sought the lawmaker's comment on the school authorities' decision to charge extra admission fees. Kamal is the chairman of the school's managing committee.

He also earned a bad name during the AL rule in 1996-2001.

AL lawmaker Ilias Uddin Mollah of Dhaka-16 assaulted an on-duty policeman on June 30, 2010.

Another MP, Sheikh Afil Uddin of Jessore, beat up the officer-in-charge of a police station in August 2010.

Bodi, Prince, Shaon, Kamal, Ilias and Afil -- they all will contest the next national polls as AL candidates.

Before making public the list at Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office, AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam said the party finalised its candidates based on grassroots opinion gathered over the last one year.

After the announcement, he distributed nomination letters to the candidates starting with Tofail Ahmed and Matia Chowdhury.

Ershad doubtful

FROM PAGE 16

neutral?" he told a views-exchange meeting with the party nomination seekers at a convention centre in the capital.

The former military dictator said it would not be possible for his party to contest the January 5 election if there is no favourable environment for holding the election in a free, fair and credible manner.

"There is no alternative to establishing law and order for the voters to go to the polling centres," he observed.

The political parties are now doing this (violence) only from a craving power, not for the peace of the people or for the democracy, complained the JP chief.


"In 1990, I quit power giving in to people's demand for the cause of peace in the country when agitations were staged against

me only in Dhaka. I didn't want people die from fire or terrorism," Ershad claimed.

People are disappointed at the conflicts among political parties though the country has seen 23 years of "democratic rule" in the country, he said.

"Jatiya Party will contest the election in 299 constituencies and our candidates will submit nomination papers. But you [candidates] will have to wait for my signal. You will go to the polling centres only after I ask you to do so observing the situation," Ershad told his party candidates.

The JP chief urged the political parties, including the BNP and its allies in the 18-party combine, to contest the election and free the people from the "brutal rule" of Awami League.



দি খ্রীষ্টান কো-অপারেটিভ
ক্রেডিট ইউনিয়ন লিঃ, ঢাকা
রেভাঃ ফাদার চার্লস জে. ইয়াং ভবন, ১৭৩/১/এ, পূর্ব তেজগুরী বাজার,
তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫, ফোন- ৮১১৪৫৩৩, ৮১১৫৬২২,
৯১৩৯৯০১-২, ৯১২৩৭৬৪, ফ্যাক্স-৯১৪৩০৭৯

বিশেষ সাধারণ সভা ও নির্বাচন
সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এতদ্বারা "দি খ্রীষ্টান কো-অপারেটিভ ক্রেডিট ইউনিয়ন লিঃ, ঢাকা"-এর সকল সদস্য-সদস্যর অবগতির জন্যে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ৩১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৪ খ্রীষ্টাব্দ, রোজ-শুক্রবার, সকাল ৮৪৩০ মিনিট হতে বিকাল ৪৪৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত বিরতিহীনভাবে বটমলী হোম বালিকা উচ্চ বিদ্যালয় গ্রাণ্ড, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫ এ ঠিকানায় সমিতির বিশেষ সাধারণ সভা ও পরিচালকমণ্ডলী, ক্রেডিট কমিটি ও সুপারভাইজারী কমিটির নির্বাচন অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।
নির্বাচন পরিচালনার জন্য গঠিত নির্বাচন কমিটি কর্তৃক নির্বাচনী তফসিলসহ যাবতীয় তথ্যাদি যথাসময়ে সদস্য ও সদস্যদের অবগতির জন্যে প্রকাশ করা হবে।
ধন্যবাদান্তে,
দীপক পিরিছ
সেক্রেটারি
দি খ্রীষ্টান কো-অপারেটিভ
ক্রেডিট ইউনিয়ন লিঃ, ঢাকা
সি-১২১৪