

UN rights office alarmed by Cambodia crackdown

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations' human rights office Tuesday said it was alarmed by Cambodia's crackdown on protests against strongman premier Hun Sen, and urged the authorities to show restraint.

"We are following the situation in Cambodia with serious concern and are deeply alarmed by the disproportionate use of force by law enforcement officials in

responding to demonstrations," said Rupert Colville, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Protest rallies have been banned in Cambodia where several protesters were shot dead Friday during a demonstration in the capital Phnom Penh and others injured by gunfire and beatings.

On Monday, five activists were detained temporarily as they tried to protest against the crackdown.

Govt mulls forming spl

FROM PAGE 1
tomorrow [today] and then sent to the law ministry," a top official of the ministry said requesting not to be named.

The government is also going to order deputy commissioners and superintendents of police of districts to send in a list of cases filed in connection with the recent attacks on the minorities, said another official of the ministry.

The officials even prepared a draft of the letter to be sent to the DCs and SPs and it would be sent once State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku okays it.

Home Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed yesterday held a meeting with the top officials of the ministry on the security of the minority communities.

Afterwards, Mustaq told The Daily Star that he had ordered forces deployed on polls duty to stay put in the areas vulnerable to attacks on the minorities.

He said they were thinking about sending a few of the cases related to the attacks on minorities to the Speedy Trial Tribunals.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission yesterday sought transfer of the superintendent of police in Jessor. The commission's move came after post-polls attacks on the Hindu community of Abhaynagar.

A commissioner of the EC preferring anonymity said, "We do not feel comfortable with him [the Jessor SP] there."

The SP of Jessor told The Daily Star that he was unaware of any EC move to have him transferred.

BNP seeks Ansar team

FROM PAGE 16
deployed several platoons of police at the entrance to Khaleda's residence. Besides, five sand-laden trucks were parked on the roads leading to the house to cut off traffic to and from the house.

The trucks were removed on Tuesday and the extra security staff yesterday morning.

The BNP complained that the government confined its chief to the house, but the administration refuted the claim saying that security was beefed up around Khaleda's residence to ensure her safety.

Since December 28, Khaleda was not

allowed to get out of the main entrance to her home. Even journalists were not permitted in.

However, diplomats from the US, the UK and Canada visited Khaleda at her residence.

Ahsanul Haque, Ansar-VDP officer at Gulshan Police Station, said the BNP chief's security force (Chairperson's Security Force) had sought permission to deploy Ansar members at the opposition leader's residence.

"I've visited the spot and will submit my report to the authorities concerned. The government will decide whether it will permit," he added.

BNP blames AL men

FROM PAGE 16
conflict with the religious minorities. It's the government and the ruling party men who attacked the religious minorities to blame it on the BNP and Jamaat," Gazi told The Daily Star, quoting Khaleda as saying.

"It doesn't matter what the government is saying about the January 5 farcical elections. The whole world has observed how farcical the polls were. They [government] even failed to bring the ruling party men to the polling centres," added Gazi quoting Khaleda.

Khaleda told the delegation that her party as well as the 18-party alliance will continue pressing for national polls under a non-party administration.

BNP BLAMES AL

The BNP yesterday complained that activists of the ruling Awami League had led premeditated attacks on the Hindus in Jessor, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and some other parts

of the country to divert people's attention from the January 5 farcical polls.

In a statement, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamir, on behalf of party chief Khaleda Zia, asked the members of the 18-party combine and the people to be alert to ensure security of religious minorities and take necessary steps in this regard.

Earlier in a press briefing, BNP standing committee member Mahbubur Rahman claimed that the ongoing movement of the BNP-led opposition alliance was "democratic and peaceful".

"Vested quarters are active to push an anti-people agenda. We all should remain vigilant and careful to this end," Mahbub told newsmen at his Banani residence.

He said BNP demanded the government and law enforcers take prompt action against the real perpetrators of the attacks that destroyed the country's historic tradition of religious harmony.

Police protection

FROM PAGE 16
The decision came a day after the O- and A-level exams began. British Council Bangladesh, which administers the exams here, postponed two A-level tests scheduled for Tuesday because they coincided with the countrywide hartal ended at 6:00pm yesterday.

Two O-level tests, which were scheduled for morning and evening sessions, were held in the 7:30pm and 11:45pm shifts yesterday.

As many as 7,000 students from across the country had registered for the January session exams, which are expected to end on January 29. Around 5,800 examinees are taking the tests at eight centres in the capital. The rest are taking them at the Narayanganj, Chittagong and Sylhet centres.

What measures would be taken for the examinees outside Dhaka could not be known immediately.

The DMP commissioner urged the political

parties to reach a consensus and stop the violence considering the future of the students.

"What message are you trying to convey by destroying the students' future?" he asked.

Many parents welcomed the decision, but were unsure how it will be implemented since the students live in different parts of the city.

"Their initiative is praiseworthy, but we want to see it implemented," said Nabidul Islam, a parent from Dhanmondi.

Contacted, an official involved in the British Council's school exams said the DMP had informed them that police would be deployed at the Dhaka centres during the exams.

Besides, additional police will stand guard at different strategic points of roads leading to the centres.

The official said today's examinations will be held as per the schedule if no new shutdown

Violence could never be a language of protest as such act was a violation of human rights, they said, adding, "We are strongly protesting against such destructive acts and demanding a stop to all sorts of violence immediately."

They also called upon the ruling and the opposition parties to keep education institutions out of all sorts of political activities and take necessary initiatives so that schools are not used as polling centres in future.

Eminent citizens have meanwhile urged all political parties to stop violent activities and compel their respective activists to refrain from damaging education institutions.

In a statement on Tuesday, they said they were aggrieved at the incidents of arson and destruction at more than 500 education institutions.

"Not only the furniture of the schools, textbooks of thousands of students and other education tools and materials were burned down and children watched those scenes on television with concerns and panic," reads the statement.

It will push the nation's future to



Firefighters douse a burning truck at Tultulipara on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway last night after alleged Jamaat-Shibir activists torched the tomato-laden vehicle.

PHOTO: STAR

I will lead

FROM PAGE 1
January 5 general polls, Hawlader took side of the party chief. But, Anisul and Bablu made a tie with the government with support of Raushan.

The JP had contested the 10th parliamentary election to uphold the constitution and save democracy, Raushan said in the press conference.

"Though we had some confusion over the polls, we took part in it for continuation of the constitution and democracy," said the JP leader.

Asked if Ershad would take the oath as an MP of the 10th Jatiya Sangsad, she said, "We are going to be sworn in. Ershad will also take the oath," without mentioning if her husband would do it with them.

She added Ershad was well at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and would soon join them.

JP presidium member Mujibul Haque Chunnu also said their elected lawmakers had decided to join the next parliament under Raushan.

Raushan said an interim election might be held after the two major political parties reached a consensus through dialogues.

She urged both the major parties to sit for a dialogue for the betterment of the country and its people.

Earlier, the newly elected lawmakers of JP held a meeting for nearly one and a half hours with Raushan in the chair.

Hartal goes

FROM PAGE 16
Braving security fears amid blockade and hartal yesterday, many people poured out onto the city streets while a large number of vehicles plied the thoroughfares in the capital and some other districts.

In Kishoreganj, alleged Jamaat-Shibir men removed fishplates from railway tracks at Bajitpur, snapping rail communication with Dhaka, Mymensingh and Chittagong for seven hours.

The engine of the Chittagong-bound Nasirabad Express from Mymensingh veered off the track soon after the fishplates were removed near Halimpur Railway Station. None was hurt.

Train communication on the route resumed around 2:00pm after a relief train from Akhaura salvaged the locomotive, said Jayanta Kumar Saha, station master of Kishoreganj Railway Station.

Ramzan Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bajitpur Police Station, said Jamaat-Shibir activists might have removed the fishplates.

Incidents of torching and vandalising many vehicles and attacking the activists of the ruling party and its allies were reported from different districts.

The joint forces, as part of their ongoing drive, arrested at least 220 opposition activists yesterday. Seventy seven arrests were reported in Bogra, 24 in Comilla, 42 in Pabna, 19 in Rangpur, 70 in Jessor and eight in Kaliakoir of Gazipur, report our district correspondents.

Apart from this, a garment worker, who suffered serious injuries in an attack by blockaders at Hathazari in Chittagong on January 4, died at a hospital in the port city yesterday.

The dead, Rashedul Alam Russell, sustained the wounds when stick-wielding blockaders attacked a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying him in Chariya Madrasa area.

In Lalmonirhat, around 15 men of BNP allegedly attacked Rafiqul Islam, a local leader of the ruling Awami League, and stabbed him indiscriminately on Lalmonirhat-Kurigram road at Burir Bazar.

Police suspect that Rafiqul was attacked as he was appointed a polling agent at a local polling centre where the voting could not be held during Sunday's polls. He was admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

In Chapainawabganj, activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir attacked a joint procession of pro-AL and pro-Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal supporters at Shaheed Satu Hall market area in the town.

The attack left Mamanur Rashid Moon, 18, a first year student of HSC level in Chapainawabganj Govt College, injured.

Shibir men attacked the procession with sticks and sharp weapons and hurled brick chips and around 10 homemade bombs targeting the supporters. Local police rushed to the spot and fired 25 bullets to bring the situation under control.

Later, BCL men smashed the glasses of Radhuni Hotel with brick chips. Acting Jamaat ameer of the district Latifur Rahman owns the hotel.

Five people were injured, including a woman, by rubber bullet pellets during a clash between pickets and police at Fulgazi of Feni yesterday.

The clash ensued as police opened fire on some BNP and pro-BNP Chhatra Dal activists who vandalised four battery-run three-wheelers. Police chased the vandals and they pelted police with brickbats.

In Tangail, five leaders and activists of the local wing of the BNP were injured when police charged batons on a BNP procession in the town. Some party activists from the procession tried to vandalise a truck.

At least 20 people were injured in a series of clashes between activists of the BNP and AL at Ghosherhat in Chandpur.

The clash ensued when AL activists from a procession tore down posters and banners of local BNP leaders. During the clash, a motorcycle was torched and several vehicles, an AL activist and some shops were vandalised.

Besides, activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Islamic University unit, torched a bus on the university campus and exploded six handmade bombs while Jamaat-Shibir activists torched two trucks at Godaghata and vandalised a truck at

Odhikar secretary

FROM PAGE 1
framed charges against the accused and fixed January 22 for starting trial.

After the charges were read out in the court, Adilur and Nasir, now on High Court bail, pleaded innocence and demanded justice.

If found guilty, the accused might face up to 14 years in jail or a fine of Tk 1 crore each under the ICT act, 2006 and seven years' jail term each under the penal code.

Detectives arrested Adilur at Gulshan on August 10 last year shortly after filing the GD complaining that the rights body on its website ran a false report titled "Assembly of Hefajat-e Islam Bangladesh and Human Rights Violation". The report tarnished the image of the country, its government and the law enforcement agencies, read the GD.

Following his arrest, Adilur was placed on five-day police remand.

During yesterday's hearing, defence lawyer Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan told the court that his clients "did not run any false news". The government did not publish any correct list of victims who died during the May 6 police crackdown on the Hefajat rally, he added.

He claimed that the charges brought against his clients were "false and fabricated" and prayed the court discharge the accused from the charges.

The prosecution argued for framing charges against the accused under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act, 2006 and the penal code.

Odhikar's report claimed that 61 people died in the wee hours of May 6 when the law enforcers flushed several thousand Hefajat activists out of the Shapla Chittor in the capital's Motijheel. The government, however, put the number of deaths at 13.

Briefing the press at the media centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on August 10 last year, Monirul Islam, joint

commissioner of DMP, said no lethal weapons were used to drive the Hefajat men out of the Shapla Chittor. Law enforcers only used tear gas shells, sound grenades and water cannons to disperse the Hefajat men, he added.

Referring to the violent incidents at Paltan and Motijheel areas between May 5 morning and early hours of May 6, he said a total of 13 people, including police officials, transport workers and pedestrians, died in those incidents.

On the pictures used in the Odhikar report, Monirul said though the report was based on the incidents of that night, some pictures were of those who had died earlier in the day (May 5), and some were of people who are still alive.

CHARGE SHEET

After probing the case, the DB on September 4 last year pressed charges against Adilur and Elan.

"We've investigated the Odhikar's fact finding report uploaded on its website in Bangla and English on June 10 and found numerous distortions and false and fabricated information," Monirul told newsmen on September 4 at his office, quoting the charge sheet.

The cover page of the report also carried doctored images. In one photo, an injured Hefajat activist was shown as dead. Photographs of four other people, who died earlier in the day at other places, were shown as the victims of the police raid, mentioned Monirul.

"The distorted report and the doctored images might instigate the religious sentiment of the Muslims and malign the law enforcers and the country as well as the government at home and abroad," he added.

Detectives on August 11 last year raided the Odhikar's Gulshan office and seized three laptops and two desktop computers, which were used to prepare the fake list of 61 dead victims.

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED	
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)	
Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3402, Bangladesh.	
Telephone : 08528-74033, Fax: 08528-74044, E-mail: procurement@apscl.com	
Memo No. APSCL/Pro-02/2014/17 Date : 07/01/2014	
Request for Expression of Interest (Firm)	
01. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division
02. Agency	Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. (APSCL)
03. Procuring Entity Name	Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd.
04.	