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JCD attacks hurt 50 BCL activists at DU

Govt recognises 4-year honours as professional degree; indefinite strike from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A series of attacks by activists of the ruling BNP's student front yesterday injured at least 50 students, mostly members of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), who backed an indefinite strike at Dhaka University (DU).

The strike enforced by DU science faculty students started on Wednesday to press the demand for

Star reporter comes under JCD wrath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cadres of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, attacked the Dhaka University (DU) correspondent of The Daily Star with iron rods and sticks in his room at Jahurul Haq Hall and ejected him from the hall in the early hours of yesterday.

Seriously injured Hasan Jahid Tusher is now under treatment at the General Hospital at Elephant Road.

At least 20 JCD cadres broke into Tusher's room at about 1:45am and asked him to leave the hall at once.



CAMPUS IN RUMPUS: Activists, top, of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) prepare on the nose of law-enforcers to attack the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League on Dhaka University campus yesterday; JCD activists beat up Chhatra League adherents with a wooden block, bottom right, and the JCD activist, bottom left, who attacked a reporter of The Daily Star.

DU orders probe into campus violence

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University yesterday formed two committees to probe attacks on the activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and the campus correspondent of The Daily Star.

The committees were formed at an emergency meeting of the university syndicate with Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.

Sources said one of the committees, headed by syndicate member Prof Kamrul Ahsan Chowdhury, will investigate attack on the BCL workers.

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Dhaka brushes aside Delhi plan for joint border patrol

STAR REPORT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has brushed aside an Indian proposal for joint patrolling of the border between the two countries.

"Such exercise is not feasible," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

India proposed the joint patrol during the biennial meeting of the heads of the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in New Delhi in April.

India suggested that a modality should be worked out so that the border security personnel of both countries could jointly patrol to

prevent smuggling, illegal immigration and other cross-border illegal activities.

Foreign ministry sources said Dhaka was not interested in the proposal as it will allow the BSF to enter Bangladesh territory at will. This will have a 'grave political implication', they said.

Meantime, our correspondent in Delhi Pallab Bhattacharya reports that Indian Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani has told parliament that India was yet to get a response from Bangladesh on its proposal.

Advani claimed that the BSF and

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Two to die for killing 12-yr boy

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two persons were sentenced to death and two others to life imprisonment for killing 12-year old, Minoy in March 1995.

The Seventh Additional District and Sessions Judge Shamsul Hoque gave the verdict in absentia yesterday in a crowded court room in Dhaka as all the convicts are absconding.

The judge pronounced that the punishment of the convicts would take effect from the date of their surrender or arrest.

The convicts, Abdul Wahab and Premananda Majumder, were given death penalty whereas Bhalobasha

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Mother feels doubly denied

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mother who lived all through the shock of losing her son felt doubly denied, as a court in Dhaka cleared five people of murder charges yesterday.

The verdict on the killing of Mohammad Kamal Hossain, a local unit leader of the Awami League, hit Almachi Begum so hard that she fell unconscious and was rushed to hospital.

The 70-year-old woman was waiting at her Noor Baks Lane residence - frail and bleary-eyed, pinning hopes on the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court that the accused would be punished with death.

Vice-president of the ward 67 unit AL Kamal was gunned down on August 15, 2000 in front of a pharmacy near his residence in Old Dhaka. A gang fired on Kamal at about 11:45pm when he was returning home with his elder brother Nazir Hossain. Three bullets hit Kamal killing him instantly.

Kamal's niece Ripa is frustrated too. "I did not expect such a verdict,"

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KAMAL KILLING

Adel, sons, 2 others acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former deputy mayor of Dhaka Jahangir Mohammad Adel and the four other accused of the murder of Awami League leader Mohammad Kamal Hossain, have been acquitted of charges.

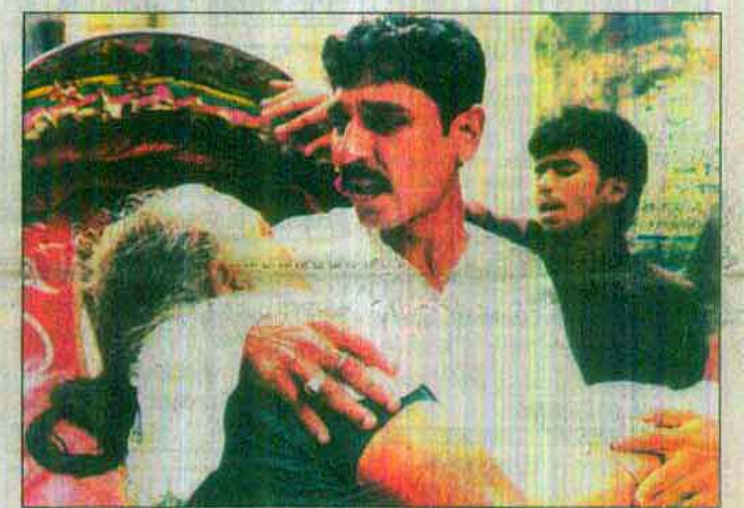
The others are Jahangir's two sons Zobayed Mohammad Adel and Tareq Mohammad Adel and two alleged hoodlums - Nitya Sarker and Shahed Parvez alias Pappu.

The First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka gave the judgement, about three years after the murder of the AL leader.

In the verdict, Judge Mohammad Sirajul Islam said charges brought against the defendants were not proved beyond doubt, making way for the acquittal.

Jahangir, Tareq and Pappu were present in the dock. Zobayed and

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Seventy-year-old Almachi Begum, mother of murdered Kamal Hossain, is being taken to hospital after she fainted on hearing the acquittal of the accused in her son's killing case.

Lack of 'party loyalty' leads to record OSD

REZAUL KARIM

The number of officers on special duty (OSD) in the administration has reached a record high as the government suspects they are loyal to the opposition.

Many officials of a particular batch have been serving as the OSD for a long time because the ruling BNP believes they are loyal to the previous regime, said an official of the establishment ministry, prefer-

ring not to be named.

Official statistics show that currently more than 350 officers of different levels, the highest ever at a time, are serving as the OSD.

But another senior bureaucrat defended the government's stance on the issue terming the rise a temporary phenomenon.

"The OSD is a recognised position and is included in the organogram of the government. It

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No college entry test for GPA 1, Grade D achievers

STAR DESK

The government yesterday in a circular laid out the guidelines regarding the cancellation of test for admission into public and private colleges.

From now on, college admissions will be based on the grade point average (GPA) in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

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2 Marines killed, 5 hurt in Iraq

Bremer predicts elections within a year

BBC ONLINE

Two American soldiers were killed and five wounded yesterday in attacks in and around the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

The US military said a member of the 1st Armoured Division was killed and three of his colleagues were injured when their armoured personnel carrier hit a landmine on a road in Baghdad.

But eyewitnesses said the vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade or rocket fired at close range.

Earlier, a unit from the 4th

Infantry Division come under small arms fire at a tactical operations centre near Baqubah, north-east of the city. One soldier died and two were wounded.

The latest evidence of sustained resistance to the American presence came on the same day that the US administrator of Iraq, Paul Bremer, said general elections could be held within a year.

There is substantial hostility to the US presence in Iraq.

The Baghdad area has seen repeated attacks against American

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Secretaries must explain fund frauds to JS body

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The first meeting of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the current Jatiya Sangsad yesterday made the presence of secretaries mandatory for its sittings.

All secretaries must be accountable to PAC, a constitutional body, and must attend its meetings in person to explain irregularities in the spending of public funds, the meeting resolved.

"We will work to bring transparency to public expenditure. Secretaries have to be accountable to the committee," said Harun Al Rashid, chairman of the JS body,

emerging from the meeting.

"According to the committee decision, we will not allow representatives of secretaries at the meeting. Secretaries must attend the meeting," Khurram Khan Chowdhury, member of PAC, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We will review expenditures of all the ministries, so secretaries must be present to explain the spending."

The comptroller and auditor general's (CAG) Office told the meeting that audit objections since 1972 involving Tk 24,000 crore waited before the committee for

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