

## 50 hurt as employees attack

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Allegedly backed by the leaders of BNP-Jamaat ruling alliance, the attackers severely beat up Mahmudul Hasan, assistant proctor and teacher of population science and human resource department.

Others seriously injured include Assistant Proctor Mokhlesur Rahman, former assistant proctor Enamul Haque, section officers Rokonzaman Mamun, Anarul Haque and Aktar Uddin, police constables Masum, Tofazzal Hossain, Abdur Razzak Ali and Al Mamun.

The injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and RU hospital.

The RU authorities recruited the 546 employees in April 2004 without any advertisement and allegedly in exchange of money. The High Court last year declared their appointment illegal.

Such humiliation of teachers by the illegal employees is "unprecedented and pre-planned" and first of its kind in the history of the university, senior teachers said.

Some BNP-aligned teachers said the attack took place at the instigation of Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, who wanted the RU authority to confirm the jobs of these 546 employees before the next parliamentary election.

Minu, however, could not be contacted for comments. A few weeks ago, he had told reporters that he has no connection with the university affairs.

The employees, mostly BNP-Jamaat adherents, became infuriated at the RU authority's bid to recruit teachers in 11 departments and officials in 12 sections and started to gather near the administrative building since morning.

The campus turned a battlefield as some 200 employees led by Sadar, Motihar thana Jubo Dal President Ruhul Kuddus Dollar, Secretary and RU Karmachari Union leader Muktar Hossain and JCD leader Zakir suddenly stormed into the VC's office at around 11:00am and asked the VC to stop recruitment.

As the VC told them that they should not bother about teachers' recruitment, the employees ransacked office rooms and damaged furniture at the VC office lounge.

An hour later, they swooped on a group of teachers who came out to prevent the agitating employees from stopping the university bus service.

They held Mahmudul Hasan near the administrative building and beat him up severely. They also beat up whoever came to his rescue.

The police allegedly remained inactive during the whole incident. At one stage, some teachers snatched batons and rifles from the police and rescued Hasan, who was profusely bleeding.

The attackers upset the ongoing examinations of the political science and history departments, driving out the examinees and invigilators from the exam halls.

The police later dispersed the attackers using batons. They did not arrest anyone or take any measure to stop the continued vandalism of the employees at various departments.

"We did not have orders from the mayor to resist his men," Fayezur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, told reporters.

The employees claimed that some 30 of them were injured in police action. The attackers later held a rally

near the RU arts faculty building. Rajshahi city Jubo Dal President Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, former city BNP secretary Shaiful Haque Milon, Jatiyatadabi Krishak Dal President Azizur Rahman Bachchu and Jamaat leader Habibur Rahman attended the rally.

The speakers at the rally demanded immediate confirmation of the 546 employees' jobs and threatened to resist all appointment processes otherwise. They also threatened to beat the RU teachers wherever and whenever they will be spotted.

They will hold a protest rally in the city today and declare their next programmes.

Following the incident, RU VC Prof. Altaf Hossain refused to talk to journalists at his office.

Pro-VC Prof. Mannunul Keramat, however, said a decision over the incident will be taken at an urgent meeting of the RU Syndicate at night.

Later at the syndicate meeting, a 21-member probe committee was formed with Prof. Saadequl Islam, dean of Social Welfare Faculty, as convener. The committee was asked to submit its report within 21 days.

**TEACHERS GIVE ULTIMATIUM**

The RU Teachers' Association and pro-BNP teachers' group at an urgent meeting last night imposed a three-day ultimatum on the RU authority to cancel the appointments of the 546 employees.

The illegal appointment has already tarnished the image of the university, they said.

Condemning the attack, the teachers demanded arrest of the attackers.

The emergency syndicate meeting was going on at the time of filing this report.

## IMF, WB start

**FROM PAGE 1**  
With the attorney general and police they will discuss the issues of money laundering investigations and share their experiences regarding illegal remittances while various aspects of money-laundering cases will be on the agenda for the meeting with the magistrates of the money-laundering court.

The visitors may also meet the hundi dealers.

Following the meetings, the team will prepare a report detailing the flaws in the existing systems and suggesting remedies for those to the government.

They will also extend technical help to the BB in carrying out its plan to set up a financial intelligence unit under the proposed anti-money laundering and terror-financing act.

Bangladesh and the US are likely to create an institutional framework of counter-terrorism bureau to enhance Dhaka's capability to deal with terrorism and militancy.

US Assistant secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina Rocca, who is scheduled to be in Bangladesh on January 26, will discuss the modalities of the proposed bureau.

After the terrorist attack of 9/11, the US undertook initiatives to prevent terrorist financing in global context and as part of that initiative Bangladesh is working towards framing a new anti-money laundering and terrorist financing act.

The Bangladesh government has taken steps to enact a new law

in place of the existing money laundering act on the basis of the US government's suggestions through Financial Systems Assessment Team (FSAT).

The draft law was sent to the cabinet for approval last month, but the cabinet sent it back for further scrutiny so that it does not clash with a new anti-terrorism law being crafted by the home ministry.

The draft law had a provision of setting up Financial Crimes Investigation and Prosecution Office (FCIPO) that was supposed to be directed by the BB. The law also outlines some 'predicted crimes'.

After the cabinet sent it back a meeting was held with the finance secretary in the chair last week. Another meeting regarding the proposed law may take place this week. This time it is to be presided over by the law secretary.

In last week's meeting the law and home ministries have proposed to cut off the terrorist financing issue and enact an anti-money laundering act instead.

The ministries also proposed to leave out from the law the provision for FCIPO, as they want to incorporate it into the anti-terrorism law proposed by the home ministry.

Sources said if the ministries' proposals are implemented the real objectives of enacting the law may not be attained. Especially if the terrorist financing issues come under the authority of the home ministry, the mechanisms to prevent such crimes may get politicised.

## Mizan Chy

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Comilla district wing, in 1945. He was elected general secretary of Feni College students union in 1950 and actively took part in the language movement in 1952.

In 1966, he became the organising secretary of then East Pakistan Awami League and also served as the party's general secretary. He was the convener of an opposition alliance in 1968 and acted as one of the prime organisers of the 1969 mass upsurge.

During the Liberation War in 1971, he was one of the major organisers among the top Awami League leaders.

He became the information minister in the independent Bangladesh in 1972. In 1973, he won the election and became the relief and rehabilitation minister, but resigned from that cabinet soon.

After the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, he tried to reorganise the Awami League and was elected joint secretary of the party.

But the Awami League was divided in 1977 over the issue of Baksal and he became the president of one of the factions.

Mizanur Rahman, who was one of the closest associates of Bangabandhu, returned to the mainstream Awami League just before the 2001 general elections.

He is now a member of the advisory council of the main opposition Awami League.

## 4 carjackers

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College and Hospital where the doctors declared them dead, police added.

Two cops, including a sub-inspector, were also injured in the encounter. Police recovered two revolvers, one light gun and some bullets from the scene.

Sources said six members of an inter-district gang of carjackers, including the four, hired a microbus from Shirmal in Narayanjan on Thursday to go to Sherpur. After reaching Nokla in Sherpur, they strangled the microbus driver, Kamaluddin, 28, and fled with the vehicle.

Police recovered the body of the driver from Baneshwardi in Nokla upazila of Sherpur district on Thursday night.

Jahangir and Alamgir were arrested in Comilla when they came to sell the microbus on Thursday night. According to their statement, police arrested Suja and Ershad in Gazipur early Friday.

Two other suspected female members of the gang—Tahmina and Halima—were arrested in Laksam upazila of Comilla district.

## 14kg explosives

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titled 'Al Jihad' and 'Dween Kayemer Shathik Aqida' in the two other sacks.

Rab said there might be more explosives and bomb-making equipment in Shahjahanpur and Sherpur upazilas of the district.

On Thursday, Rab arrested JMB Ehsar Ashraf, and Abdul Pramanik alias Mansur, and acting on their information, recovered a huge cache of bomb-making materials from North Shahpara under Sherpur upazila, which was enough for a bomb factory.

The Rab yesterday handed over Ashraf and Abdul Pramanik to police.

One Sheesh Mohammad of Sherpur upazila, arrested several times earlier, has also been named in the case filed in connection with the explosives recovery.

## 5 lakh

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According to sources, it is also very difficult for traffic police to pick out a counterfeit licence as the quality of fake licences is very good.

"Fake licences also have the holographic imprint on them like the genuine ones and it is hard to differentiate," a broker working at the Mirpur BRTA office told The Daily Star.

There are hundreds of vendors in city's Baitul Mukarram, Kamalapur and Mirpur areas who supply these licences and brokers at the BRTA offices work as the middlemen between the buyers and suppliers.

Brokers said they could arrange a genuine or fake driving licence for buyers. The cost of a genuine licence is Tk 5,000 for non-professional drivers and Tk 5,000 for professionals as the fee for a non-professional licence is Tk 1,250 and Tk 650 for professionals.

They said BRTA officials have to be 'managed' in case of a genuine licence and an applicant has to go through the procedure. It takes around two and a half months to arrange a genuine driving licence.

On the other hand, price of a counterfeit licence is Tk 700 and the brokers can supply it within a few hours.

"Very few people want to spend more than Tk 5,000 for a licence, most of them buy fake ones as they are cheaper and less time consuming to get," said Abdul Burek Ratan, a broker at the Mirpur BRTA office.

## Leaving warehouse

**FROM PAGE 1**  
enter any padlocked mortgaged property without permission from the mortgagee.

Sources at the Detective Branch of police said the operation from 7:00am Thursday to 1:30am Friday was focused on Rashid Rice Mill, which intelligence reports identified as a den of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The mill compound occupies some 100 acres of land. Its gate has always been kept shut and no outsider would be allowed to enter the mill area, which made the locals and the police suspicious. The compound also houses two farms.

Mill sources including some workers who were confined in the mill for 18 long hours verified the information that law enforcers did avoid inspecting the storehouse.

But some high police officials of the district declined to make any comment on the subject yesterday and told The Daily Star to contact their superiors in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, nine out of the 10 persons arrested during the operation have been released. The police are reportedly quizzing the lone remaining arrestee, Jamal Uddin, 42, son of Abed Ali of Ailchhara Village under Mirpur Upazila of the district. Jamal works at Siddique Rice Mill, owned by a brother of Abdur Rashid, proprietor of Rashid Rice Mill and president of BNP Poradabo Union Parishad unit.

State Minister for Home Affairs

Lutfuzzaman Babar told the media on Friday the JMB top brass had enough time to escape as the number of the initial raiding team members was inadequate to seal off the entire area.

There was 'enough time' for anyone to flee before the full-fledged operation began, he said. The minister also repeatedly stated that the information that top leaders of the banned outfit met in a secret meeting came from 'a very reliable source'.

The operation was conducted in two phases -- starting at 7:00am Thursday by local police forces and additional forces from Dhaka joined them at 5:00pm. It was wrapped up at 1:30am yesterday.

"We cannot take such information lightly. We immediately started the operation with local force. But that was not enough for searching the entire area," he narrated. Primarily, a 100-strong local force started the operation and then three helicopters took commandos of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) from Dhaka.

Babar said it took 'a good time' for the additional forces including Rab personnel from Dhaka to reach the area and join the local force, adding, "Five minutes are enough for making an escape."

About 1,700 law enforcers from the police, Rab and Bangladesh Rifles searched every house in 10 villages in two upazilas but failed to hold a single JMB operative, leave alone any top leader.

## Nepalese protesters

**FROM PAGE 16**  
around Durbar Square in the historic centre of the Nepalese capital.

Dozens of police were carrying firearms in place of their usual bamboo batons.

The square was the planned venue for a pro-democracy protest but there was no sign of a mass rally, with small groups of people sporadically trickling into the square, which was littered with stones and half-bricks.

Some 300 demonstrators were rounded up and bundled into police vans, according to journalists and other witnesses. The activists chanted pro-democracy slogans as they were taken away.

"It makes me sad the state and political parties have to engage in violence. It's ordinary people who end up suffering," said cyber cafe owner Nani Shova Mulni as she watched police and young men hurl bricks at each other.

Citing the threat of Maoist rebel violence, the government banned Friday street protests, cut mobile telephone services, imposed a daytime curfew and arrested hundreds of activists.

A number of political party leaders including former prime minister G.P. Koirala were placed under house arrest after a nighttime curfew was imposed on Kathmandu valley earlier this week.

Activists from a seven-party alliance sacked by the king in February last year when he seized total power called the rally to protest municipal elections due to be held February 8 as part of the king's roadmap to restore democracy.

Political parties have denounced the elections as a sham.

The United States, the European Union, India, Britain and Japan have all voiced deep concern at the royal government's actions over recent days and called on the king to enter into dialogue with the political parties.

## US sees Iran

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the rest of the world.

The spokesman reaffirmed that the United States believes it has enough votes at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to refer Iran to the UN Security Council for action. The IAEA's board of governors is to meet in Vienna on February 2.

"We'll see if the added weight of finding themselves before the Security Council provides an incentive for the Iranian regime to engage with the international community in a serious manner on this topic," said McCormack.

A US envoy, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, Robert Joseph, is on an international tour seeking support for action against Iran.

He was in Tokyo on Friday and will go on to Beijing, having already visited Moscow this week.

Russia and China have so far proved reluctant to take the matter to the Security Council. Both have large business interests in Iran, which has denied that it is seeking to build a nuclear bomb.

"We believe it's important that the world send a unified message to the Iranian government that their behaviour is unacceptable, that they cannot violate with impunity their international obligations," said the spokesman.

The clampdown showed the government was afraid, said a senior politician.

"The royal government has sensed danger from the people, and that's why it is trying to sideline the people's movement using force," Shobhakar Parajuli, secretary of the Nepali Congress, told AFP.

"The alliance is for peaceful demonstrations, but it is the autocratic government who is trying to make peaceful demonstrations violent," he said.

Local private media had called Saturday's planned rally a "show-down".

The Maoists have fought a decade-long "people's war" aimed at establishing a communist republic in the impoverished Himalayan kingdom between India and China. Some 12,000 people have been killed during the fighting and at least 100,000 displaced.

Last November, the seven political parties ousted by the king entered a loose alliance with the rebels, asking them to refrain from violence.

The alliance stills holds despite the deaths of at least 51 people since the end of a unilateral rebel ceasefire in early January.

In the latest clashes Friday, suspected Maoists killed five police and seriously wounded three when they attacked two police checkpoints in mid-western Nepal, a police official said.

"The rebels gunned down three policemen at Jamuniya checkpoint along the Nepal-India border, and two at B.P. Chowk in Nepalgunj," said an official at Kathmandu police headquarters who asked to remain anonymous.

The government security services and the Maoists are regularly criticized by rights groups for extra-judicial killings, disappearances and torture.

## US scrambles

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Japan would scrutinise American shipments at Japanese ports. INTENSIVE LOBBYING

BSE was found in US cattle at the end of 2003, prompting Japan to impose the import ban.

Previously, Japan was the most lucrative export market for US beef producers, and the Bush administration lobbied intensively for the ban to be dropped.

Last month, the Japanese government agreed to allow imports of products from cattle less than 21 months old, as long as parts thought to have a higher risk of carrying BSE, like spinal cords, vertebrae, brains and bone marrow, were removed.

Eating beef from infected cattle can cause a fatal human brain disorder, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

BEEF FALLS

## Opposition march

**FROM PAGE 16**  
police backed off to the entrance to Bangabandhu Avenue.

Over 100 policemen kept the AL office and the surrounding areas cordoned off, preventing movement of vehicles through the busy Gulistan intersection.

Following the half-hour clash between the pro-hartal supporters and the police, AL leaders Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Rahman, Hazi Muhammad Selim and Jahangir Kabir Nanak tried to calm down their supporters. But police provoked the AL activists leading to another half-hour battle.

Panic gripped the pedestrians and the people of surrounding areas during the clash. Markets and shops pulled down their shutters.

Three or more vehicles were vandalised near Baitul Mokarram Mosque, while incidents of such kind were reported to have occurred in other parts of the city.

Press photographers Indrajit Ghosh of the New Age, Jiban Ashish of Focus Bangla, Julhas of The Independent and Bappi of Naya Diganta are among the injured.

To drum up support for hartal, the AL and its front organisations yesterday brought out processions in the city and elsewhere in the country.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil in a statement urged the people to show that they do not have confidence in the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition by making today's hartal a success. He reiterated their stance that they would not take part in any elections under the current chief election commissioner and until their demands for electoral reforms are met.

The Jubo League, youth wing of AL, in a statement condemned the police attack and urged the people to observe the hartal.

The 14-party organised processions in the city yesterday in a bid to gain support for today's hartal on at least 50 trucks. A number of senior leaders of the opposition combine were seen on the trucks and some leaders were seen distributing leaflets to bus passengers and pedestrians. Police allegedly obstructed a truck procession at Azimpur and resorted to baton charge leaving some 20 people injured.

## Time running out for Canadian PM

**Election Monday**

AFP, Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin unleashed a last-ditch bid to save his job, shadowed by opinion polls predicting he will slump to a double-digit loss to opposition Conservatives in tomorrow's election.

Martin, 67, battled to shore up support in the key province of Ontario, a traditional stronghold of his centrist Liberal Party, parts of which are now a battleground in a bitterly fought campaign. He was later due to head west to the city of Winnipeg.

Stephen Harper, 46, the Conservative leader tipped to emerge from the election atop a minority government -- and end 12 years of Liberal rule -- was also campaigning in Ontario.

The Liberals, soiled by corruption allegations, have clung to power since they had their majority snatched away in the last election in June 2004.

Until springing into life in recent days, Martin was accused of running a lacklustre campaign, based largely on attack politics. Opponents say his Liberals are tired and sullied by being in power too long.

"Canadians are waking up to the possibility of a Stephen Harper government, and they're thinking about what it would mean in their lives," Martin said Friday, painting his rival as an extremist akin to US arch-conservatives.

But Martin has never shaken off the 1990s scandal spawned under his predecessor Jean Chretien, in which officials were found to have funnelled public money to Liberal-friendly advertising firms.

## Kosovo President

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Montenegro, Kosovo has been a cauldron of tension between the majority ethnic Albanian population and a minority population of ethnic Serbs.

The United Nations has administered the region since NATO forces ousted Serb-led Yugoslav troops in 1999.

Long before most outsiders even knew the province existed, Rugova was agitating non-violently for Kosovo self-rule, squaring off against the Serb-dominated Yugoslav regime led by Slobodan Milosevic -- now on trial at The Hague for war crimes during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

A slight figure in spectacles and a trademark scarf, Rugova testified at Milosevic's trial in 2002.

Rugova had been a prominent figure in the fight for self-rule among the Albanians and had long been a popular figure among moderate Kosovars.

As a president with few powers, however, Rugova struggled to subdue squabbles within the ethnic Albanian leadership. He survived at least two assassination attempts.

In the face of mutual hatred that often exploded into violence, Rugova did what he could to reconcile Albanians and the Serb minority.

He died at a crucial moment in the Kosovo conflict. Last year, the international community finally agreed to begin negotiations on independence for Kosovo.

According to the United Nations, this year "will likely see the end of the process to determine the status of the ethnically divided Serbian province which the world body has administered since 1999."

## Another legal war looms

**FROM PAGE 1**  
non-compliance with the HC directives.

In such a situation, officials both at field level and the EC Secretariat fear that the ongoing task, which is already mired deep in controversy, will face further difficulties when the fresh legal skirmishing begins.

Two former judges of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division yesterday termed its ongoing voter listing a contempt of court due to its non-compliance with the HC directives.

"It's a contempt of court," Justice Ghulam Rabbani told The Daily Star yesterday, "because the respondents have continued the work for preparing a fresh voter list, ignoring the High Court's judgement that asked for revising the existing one."

Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque echoed Rabbani and said it will be a contempt of court if the EC deliberately disobeys the court's order. "However," he noted, "it's for the court to decide whether it's a contempt of court or not."

On how a contempt of court suit usually starts, Justice Rabbani said, "The party aggrieved by the non-compliance of the judgement brings the matter to the notice of the court by filing a contempt charge against the respondents," [in this case, the CEC and the EC Secretary].

Sources said the EC has already told its counsel, Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP, about its decision to appeal against the January 4 HC directives and he is preparing fast

to file the appeal within a couple of days. They said in the appeal, the EC is likely to seek a stay order on the HC directives in a bid to justify the ongoing voter listing.

Even after the HC directives given on January 4, amid clamour and confusion reigning over the voter list scenario, the EC Secretariat has continued implementing the CEC's decision to make a fresh voter list. On Friday, it issued verbal command to its field-level staffs to complete the task in time, sources said.

According to the schedule announced by the EC Secretariat, the work of gathering and scrutinising the information about the prospective voters has to be completed by January 31. Then the accumulated information will be compiled until February 20 and a draft fresh voter list will be published on February 28.

As many as 15 days into the HC judgement, the EC decided last Thursday to appeal challenging the legal validity and constitutionality of the judgement. During this period, the EC has neither initiated steps to comply with the HC directives in making the electoral roll nor stopped the enumeration launched on January 1.

Justice Rabbani said, "From the very day the High Court delivered the judgement, they [the respondents] were bound to obey it until the higher court gives any stay order on it."

Justice Haque said, "They [the EC] have been bound to comply with the directives since the higher court has not stayed that. They have just created more unnecessary confusions."

## Costly cranes lie idle

**FROM PAGE 16**  
done at the port before installing such heavy machines."

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain also ruled out opposition from the workers. He told The Daily Star that operation of the cranes will start through a formal ceremony on January 30.

Some other CPA sources said the port authority has been preparing to install the cranes ignoring protests from the workers and stevedores.

The workers held protest rallies and submitted memorandums to