

Fire at Brac Bank head office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire at the head office of Brac Bank at Gulshan Avenue in the capital yesterday morning damaged office equipment and furniture.

The fire broke out about 8:30am at the third floor of the extension building of the bank burning down around 40 computers, furniture and other office equipment of Small and Medium Enterprise, a section of the bank.

Firefighters rescued five trapped staffs breaking the lift during the blaze. They managed to douse the fire within one hour.

The fire brigade officials are yet to confirm the source of fire but the staff of the bank suspected an electric short circuit.

The services of the bank were temporarily suspended during the incident, but resumed as soon as the situation was brought under control, a press release of the bank said.

54th BCU founding anniversary today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 54th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) will be observed today.

To mark the day, the BCU will hold a rally in front of DUCSU Bhaban on the Dhaka University campus.

A reunion of BCU leaders and activists will also be held on April 28.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

China to provide assistance for capacity building

UNB, Dhaka

The Chinese government will provide interest-free loan of Yuan 50 million to Bangladesh for procurement of equipment for the capacity building of law enforcement agencies.

Bangladesh and China signed an agreement to this effect during official talks between State Minister for Home Affairs Lutuzzaman Babar and State Councillor and Minister for Public Security of China Zhou Yongkang in Beijing on Monday, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

Bangladesh Ambassador to China Ashfaqur Rahman and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Public Security of China Meng Hongwei signed the agreement.

During the official talks, Babar exchanged views with his Chinese counterpart on a wide range of issues of common interest, including combating international terror-

ism, drug trafficking and counterfeit of currency.

The two ministers also discussed possible areas of cooperation in criminal investigation, traffic management, cyber patrolling, personnel training, coastal and border security, fire service and civil defence.

The Chinese state councillor and minister lauded Bangladesh government's success in combating terrorism and extremism, and stressed the importance of learning from each other's experiences in fighting this menace.

Earlier, the first joint working group meeting between the Home Ministry of Bangladesh and Public Security Ministry of China was held at the joint secretary level under an agreement on cooperation between the ministries signed in April 2005 during the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Bangladesh.

JU BCL enforces two-day strike from today

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) is enforcing a two-day strike on the campus from today as the university authorities did not take any action against the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres involved on Monday's attack on its activists.

The strike followed the expiry of a 24-hour ultimatum given by the BCL immediately after the attack that left at least four including its president and general secretary injured.

In the last few months, at least 20 BCL activists came under JCD attacks but the university authorities did not take any action or even serve any show cause notice on them forcing the BCL activists to enforce the strike, said sources.

"The two-day strike will be extended for an indefinite period if the identified JCD cadres are not punished at the earliest possible time," said Mahabub Naser Jony, general secretary of BCL.

"We will not do anything that hampers congenial academic atmosphere on the campus," said JU JCD President Parvez Mallik.

"We have already served show cause notices on four JCD activists," said Proctor Prof Sayeed Kamrul Ahsan.

'SEEING IS BELIEVING'

Henry arrives in city to support fund raising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"I have lost my sight, not my vision. I have come here to work for the people who have the ability to see the world but can't see now because of minor problems with their eyesight."

The statement came from a famous Kenyan athlete, Henry Wanyoike, who lost his eyesight at the age of 21. But his disability could not prevent him from winning gold medals in the 10,000 meters and 5,000 metres for the visually-impaired at Olympic games.

Henry arrived in Bangladesh yesterday as a global goodwill ambassador for the Standard Chartered Bank's project 'Seeing is Believing.'

On the first day of his three-day visit, Henry met some media people at a local hotel in Dhaka. "It is possible to eliminate blindness from the world, if we come forward with our little ability," he said.

The 'Seeing is Believing' project aims to restore the eyesight of one million people in 10 countries, including Bangladesh. Sight Savers International and Vision 2020 are helping Standard Chartered Bank to implement the project.

Henry is visiting Bangladesh for the first time to support fund raising for this great humanitarian cause. "It is a noble task," he said, adding that teamwork is very important in accomplishing such mission.

Henry called on the people to come forward to do something for the visually-impaired.

Henry, a young man from central Kenya, has demonstrated on numerous tracks around the world that disability is not inability and that life can go on after the most devastating of calamities.

Running with a sighted guide as is the norm, he won the gold medal in the 5,000 metres for the visually-impaired at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, making history as the first African ever to win an Olympic gold medal in that category.

Henry won gold medals in the 10,000 meters and 5,000 metres, and went ahead to break the world records in both races at the 2004 Athens Olympic (blind category).

During his stay in Dhaka, Henry will visit some projects of 'Seeing is Believing' in different parts of the country.

M Enamul Kabir, country representative of Sight Savers



Henry Wanyoike, goodwill ambassador for the Standard Chartered Bank's project 'Seeing is Believing', speaks at a press conference in the city yesterday.



A signing ceremony was held in the city recently for syndicated term loan facility of Tk 250 million raised for PRAN Group to set up an export-oriented food processing industry, namely PRAN Exports Ltd., to produce juice, flavoured drinks and candy using local raw materials. The City Bank, United Commercial Bank and Prime Bank participated in the syndication with IIDFC as the lead arranger. Sitting from right are Lt. Col. (Retd.) Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, chairman of PRAN-RFL, Mahmood Malik, MD of IIDFC, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Amjad Khan Chowdhury, CEO of PRAN-RFL, M Matiu Islam, chairman of IIDFC, Abbas Uddin Ahmed, MD of City Bank, Hamidul Haque, MD of UCBL, and M Shahjahan Bhuiyan, MD of Prime Bank.