



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi sing at a programme at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. The cultural organisation arranged the programme to press its demand for fresh investigation into and trial of Udichi blast case.

CLASH AT JAGANNATH Probe body seeks seven days' time

DU CORRESPONDENT

The probe committee, formed to investigate the recent violent incidents at Jagannath University, sought seven days' time to submit its report.

The stipulated 10 days for submission of report expired yesterday, but the investigation work did not progress, as the committee could not interview the students due to closure of the university, sources said.

The seven-member committee headed by Registrar Abu Hossain Siddiqui, was formed on July 17 after violent clashes between Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), and Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and other left-leaning student organisations on July 16 and 17. At least 100 students and several policemen were injured in the clash.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union and other left leaning student organisations are sceptical about the publication of probe report. They said authorities are trying to save the culprits through wasting time in the name of investigation.

Main entrance of the university has been closed since July 18. No student is allowed to enter the campus.

The university authorities deferred the date of reopening the university two times, showing lack of security.

The university is now scheduled to be reopened on August 1.

Int'l magicians' conference from July 31



A six-day international magicians' conference styled 'Fism' will begin at Stockholm in Sweden on July 31, says a

press release.

Renowned magician Jewel Aich will attend the conference to be held at Stockholm Convention Centre. This is the first time that a magician from Bangladesh has been invited to such a world gathering of magicians.

The conference is held every three years.

78.62pc sanitation coverage achieved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maintenance as well as checking quality of latrines being set up under the programme 'Sanitation for all by 2010' is a key challenge, said Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday.

"Proper maintenance of latrines, which have already been set up, should be ensured and at the same time quality of those to be set up in future should be checked seriously," he said at a programme where 583 officials of district and upazila level and engineers of public health and engineering department and representatives of paurasavas and union parishads were honoured.

Each of them were conferred a crest and certificate for achieving the goal of 100 percent sanitation in three districts, 27 paurasavas, 43 upazilas and 464 unions during a period from July 2005 to March 2006.

Earlier, the government gave special allocation to 14 paurasavas, 25 upazilas and 482 unions as a recognition of their achievement of

100 percent sanitation by June 2005.

Speaking as chief guest at the programme at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city the LGRD minister said monitoring should be strengthened through taskforce so that the latrines that become inoperative are replaced in time and nobody uses open space for defecation or urination.

"Innovation of sustainable technology is an imperative for wetland areas and tea gardens," Bhuiyan said, adding special emphasis should be given on the overall hygiene and waste management.

Bangladesh is now at the second position after Sri Lanka in South Asia in case of sanitation, he said, adding sanitation coverage was 78.62 percent until June 2006, which was 72 percent until March this year and 33 percent in 2003.

"This is a tremendous success," the minister asserted.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ziaul Haque Zia said the officials and local government representatives should be sent abroad as recognition to their suc-

cess in achieving 100 percent sanitation coverage in their respective areas.

"The officials should be given preference in case of promotion," he said, urging the health and family welfare ministry to help sustain the achievements by creating mass awareness on sanitation.

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam said political will is a must in upgrading the socio-economic status of people. "Achieving the goal of 100 percent sanitation in some of the areas is a bright example of political will," he said.

Recognising the role of the UP chairmen he said thousands of crores of taka will be saved when people will protect themselves from various diseases by using sanitary latrines.

Chaired by SM Zahurul Islam, secretary to Local Government Division, the programme was also addressed by Moezuddin Ahmed, joint secretary to LGD, Paul J Edwards, chairperson of LCG Sup-group, and SMA Faiz, executive director of NGO Forum for Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Tk 21.75 crore Japanese grant for Barisal city corporation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government of Japan yesterday approved the utilisation of Japanese Counterpart Fund, amounting to Tk 21.75 crore, for a project to develop infrastructure at Barisal City Corporation.

The city corporation has recently extended its area of about 20 sq. km. where civic amenities such as roads, drains or water supply and drainage facilities have not yet been extended.

Water logging has become an acute problem in this city. To provide minimum civic facilities for the city dwellers, a proposal for the project was submitted to the government of Japan.

The Japanese Counterpart Fund is generated from the Debt Relief Grant Aid (DRGA) and the KR Food Aid. The Japanese government provided DRGA for eligible debtor countries, including Bangladesh, in return for repayment of their ODA debts.

The total amount of DRGA provided to Bangladesh was about 256.8 billion yen (approximately Tk 15,100 crore).

Japanese ambassador in Dhaka Masayuki Inoue has expressed the hope that the assistance under Japanese counterpart fund will contribute greatly to the development of infrastructure of Barisal City Corporation, said a press release.

JCD FACTIONAL FEUD Cultural function at JU foiled

JU CORRESPONDENT

Cultural functions in celebration of the first anniversary of 34th batch at Jahangirnagar University (JU) could not be held on Wednesday evening due to intra-party rivalry between the two groups of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The programme was foiled by the cadres loyal to JU JCD General Secretary Nazmul Hasan Ovi who alleged that the organiser gave priority to the activists of President Parvez Mallick in holding the function.

The cultural evening was due to be inaugurated by the activists of general secretary group as activists of president group inaugurated the morning session. But the evening session began without inauguration.

Equipped with fire arms, lethal weapons and hockey sticks a group of 50 to 60 goons of general secretary group stopped the cultural programme just after it began on the cafeteria premises at 7:30pm triggering chasing and counter-chasing between the cadres of both the groups.

During the clash, cadres of both the groups holding firearms in hand marched through the campus with university administration standing only to watch them.

According to witnesses both the groups fired two blank shots in the air.

Later, the cadres returned to their respective dormitories at 10:00pm after the programme was cancelled.

Law and order on JU campus seems to be deteriorating as the university authorities have turned a blind eye towards the issue of firearms.

Sources said the authorities usually overlook such incidents to remain neutral.

1,574 held on various charges

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,574 people from across the country on various charges in the last 24 hours as of 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcers also seized 13 firearms and 19 rounds of bullet, said an official handout.

The firearms include three revolvers, two pipe guns and eight rifles.



PHOTO: PID

A Turkish parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker Ismail Alptekin called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Dhaka denounces all forms of terrorism

President tells Turkish delegation

UNB, Dhaka

Deploping the raging incidents in Lebanon, President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said Bangladesh denounces terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

"The recent incidents in Lebanon have created serious concern for all and Bangladesh expresses its serious concern at continued deterioration of the situation in the Middle East," he told a Turkish delegation.

Led by Deputy Speaker Ismail Alptekin, the delegation met the president at Bangabhaban and discussed matters of bilateral interest.

President Iajuddin said Bangladesh always attaches great importance to its existing relations with Turkey, which has occupied a strategic position at the confluence

of Asia and Europe, and is one of the major regional powers in the world.

He hoped that cooperation between the two parliaments of the two countries would benefit both the democracies.

In reply, Ismail Alptekin MP said Turkey and Bangladesh could cooperate each other in many fields, including education, culture and tourism.

He underscored the need for exchanges and linkages between the educational institutes and business chambers and said Islam has no connection with terrorism.

He invited President Iajuddin Ahmed to visit Turkey.

The other members of the delegation were Harer Tufekc MP, Elazing Semsetrin Murat MP, Bursa Faruk Ambarcioglu MP and Yilmaz Kaya MP.

RAJSHAHI POLYTECH INSTT

10 injured in JCD-BCL clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute yesterday.

Additional police were deployed on the campus as JCD cadres beat BCL activists up and drove them away.

BCL activist Khairul Islam was seriously injured and was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

JCD activist Belal and BCL activists Rasel and Tarikul were admitted to private clinics.

The clash erupted after JCD cadres attacked a BCL procession on the campus.

BCL leaders complained that they were beaten before the policemen yet they were mere spectators.



PHOTO: STAR

Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and civil society members form a human chain as part of 'Blue for Peace' programme at Bangla Motor in the city yesterday demanding fair trial of Kibria murder case.