

# Shibir attack triggers off protests at RUET

## 2nd year students boycott classes; BCL, JCD stage demonstrations

RU CORRESPONDENT

Second year students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET) yesterday boycotted classes and examinations protesting the attack on Shahid Shahidul Haque Hall students by armed cadres of Islamic Chhatra Shibir earlier.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) staged separate demonstrations on the campus protesting the attack and demanding steps by the authorities to ensure security by "freeing the campus of Shibir".

Additional police have been deployed in front of student dormitories and key points on the campus.

On Saturday night, around 70 Shibir activists led by its Rajshahi University (RU) unit president

Mahbub Alam Salehi stormed into Shahid Shahidul Haque Hall and swooped on students, allegedly to retaliate display of anti-Shibir posters on walls.

At least 25 students including 10 JCD activists were injured in the attack, campus sources said.

Tension mounted on the RUET campus yesterday as motorcycle-mounted Shibir cadres, joined by party men from neighboring RU, moved around, campus sources said.

Salehi, a prime suspect in Prof Taher Ahmed murder case, staged a comeback to the RU campus through holding a rally by gathering outsiders with alleged tacit approval of the university authorities.

Prof Taher Ahmed of geology and mining department was killed on February 1 at his campus residence. Meanwhile, second year stu-

dents of 4th batch residing at Shahid Shahidul Haque Hall declared an indefinite boycott of classes and examinations protesting the attack.

Many of the resident students were seen leaving the dormitory fearing further attack as armed Shibir cadres 'took control' of the hall Sunday night.

Many students told this correspondent that the university authorities did neither take any step after the attack nor form any committee to probe the incident.

JCD RUET unit general secretary Sajib Barua told newsmen yesterday that Shibir "took control" of the university with blessings from the authorities.

The injured students who are under treatment at different hospitals and private clinics in Rajshahi city alleged that the university

authorities did not inquire about their treatment.

Faisal, classmate of an injured student, said money is being collected from students for their treatment.

This correspondent despite repeated efforts failed to contact RUET Vice-chancellor Prof AFM Anwarul Haque on cell phone and land phone. Officials at the RUET public relations office also declined to make any comment on the campus situation.

Some sources on the campus claimed that the university might be closed if the situation deteriorates. A seven-day mid-semester vacation is scheduled to begin on August 17.

## JMB cadre held in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Charge-sheeted JMB (Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) cadre Habibur Rahman, who was involved in the August 17 serial bombing in Nilphamari, was arrested from a bus stand in the town yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from Nilphamari Sadar thana led by Officer-in-Charge Sohrab Ali lay in wait at Nilphamari bus stand at about 2:30 pm.

As a Rangpur-bound bus from Jaldhaka stopped at the stand, Habibur got down from it in the guise of a passenger and was arrested.

He tried to identify himself as a police source. But police recognised him and took to the police station.

For further verification, he was later taken to Nilphamari jail where Nilphamari district commander of JMB Md Sayem identified him as party cadre Habibur Rahman, police said.

He was interrogated by DB police and would be produced before court today, police said.

## Five JMB men produced in court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Five out of 25 cadres of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) arrested recently by RAB from a madrasa at Jibontala village in Bhaluka were produced before a court yesterday after expiry their 10-day remand. Earlier, they were sent to Dhaka on August 4 for interrogation by a joint interrogation cell (JIC).

The five are Mufti Abdur Rouf, JMB suicide squad members Saiful Islam and Kamruzzaman Kamal, and Ehsar (full time) members Tofazzol Hossain and Mahmudur Hasan. The court sent them to jail.

# Stop harassing opposition men, Nasim urges govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Awami League central leader and former home minister Mohammad Nasim urged the government to stop what he called torture and harassment of opposition leaders and activists by filing false cases.

"The torture and harassment is part of the ruling parties' plan to desist opposition men from launching pre-polls campaign in their respective areas", he told a press conference at Sirajganj district AL office.

Seeing their declining popularity, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami have become nervous and so they are planning a stage-managed election to cling to power, he alleged.

He claimed that the AL-led 14-

party alliance will bag all the seven parliamentary seats in Sirajganj in the coming election. Sensing a sure defeat, the BNP-Jamaat government is arresting opposition activists and implicating them in false cases, Nasim alleged.

AL leader and former chairman of Bhadrachal Union Parishad Mozammel Hossain, Kamar Khanda upazila AL organising secretary Shariful Islam Sharif and Sirajganj town Jubo League assistant secretary were arrested recently in false cases, he claimed.

He also called upon AL leader and workers to work together to win the next polls.

The former minister alleged that the government patronised Islamist militants in the country. The country

will face a disaster if this government can retain power, he added.

He refuted the government's claim that law and order improved during its tenure. "How the government can make such a claim while hardly a day passes without killing or bomb blast?" he posed the question.

They have also destroyed educational institutions as Islami Chhatra Shibir activists "captured" campuses one after another since the government came to power.

The Earlier on the day, Nasim led a 14-party procession in the town demanding trail to the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The processionists marched the main roads of the town.

## Janakantha Editor to contest from Munshiganj-2

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

"From now on, I am at your service always and I shall remain with you", said The Daily Janakantha Editor Mohammad Atiqullah Khan Masud, who is seeking Awami League nomination to contest the coming election in Munshiganj-2 constituency.

He was addressing a meeting at his village home at Khansahebbari at Medinimondal in Louhajanj upazila on Saturday.

Masud who was the Sreenagar thana commander of freedom fighters during the Liberation War has called upon the people to work for the nation.

He urged the people of Munshiganj-2 constituency to work for emancipation of the masses under the leadership of AL chief Sheikh Hasina.

Earlier Munshiganj district AL President announced that the party chief wants Masud to contest from Munshiganj-2.

## 20 hurt in JCD factional clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

At least 20 people were injured in Jaliyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) factional clashes here yesterday following formation of its new district committee by the central body, police sources and witnesses said.

The new committee was formed with Manikur Rahman Manik as president and Ibrahim Kazi Jewel as secretary by dropping its former president Nurul Amin Khan Akash which is the main reason behind the clashes.

Rival activists of the student front of the ruling BNP locked in a series

of clashes on the Chandpur Government College campus, Chitrolekha Square and Zia Hostel areas in the town.

However, police brought the situation under control.

Earlier, the news of formation of the new committee triggered a tense situation in the district town at about 9 pm Sunday. Rivals chased and counter chased each other. But they cooled down following police intervention.

Additional police forces have been deployed on the Chandpur Government College campus and its adjacent areas.



A huge quantity of date-expired powder milk was seized from several godowns during raids in Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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