

21 SIs appeal to PM for reinstatement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one sub-inspectors (SI) of police who had been suspended by Sarda Police Academy authority in late 2004 appealed to the prime minister to reinstate them in their jobs.

At a press conference in the city yesterday, they said they were suspended over the allegation that they were associated with Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) during their student life.

They called on the prime minister to conduct a fair probe into the allegation.

They were suspended only 14 days before the completion of the one-year programme at Sarda Police Academy.

"None of us were involved in any political activities, which was proved in the police verification report, but we were given no chance for self-defence," said Mohammad Shaheen Fakir in his written speech.

The sub-inspectors had appealed to the home minister, LGRD minister and Inspector General of Police to consider their cases, but no step was taken in this regard,

he said.

They will form a human chain on October 16 to press home their demand for reinstatement.

World Food Day Oct 16

UNB, Dhaka

World Food Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere around the globe on October 16 with a vow to prevent hunger.

In a message on the occasion, Executive Director of the World Food Programme James Morris urged the developed world to give a fairer chance to the world's 400 million hungry children, many of whose lives are still blighted by malnutrition in the first few months of their birth.

"Hunger negatively affects the brain development of children, setting back their chances of success later on in life," he said.

Citing a research conducted in Chile, Morris said children who suffered from malnutrition before the age of two tend to have smaller and less developed brains than those who were well nourished.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers Party of Bangladesh stages a demonstration at Motijheel in the city yesterday protesting price hike of essentials.

Blasts, JCD-BCL clashes spark tension on DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Tension ran high at Dhaka University (DU) after crude bombs went off on the campus yesterday, leading to clashes between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

At least five people were injured in the explosions and clashes and all of them were given first aid.

BCL activists also laid siege to the office of the vice-chancellor and ransacked furniture in protest against the attacks by JCD activists.

Campus sources said the clash erupted after a bomb went off near the Shaheed Minar of Jasimuddin Hall at around 1:00am, injuring two staff of the hall canteen and salon.

Bombs also went off beside the Modhu's Canteen at noon, injuring a student, Iqbal Hossain, a resident of Moshin Hall. Iqbal said the bomb was hurled from inside the boundary of the Institute of Business Administration.

On Tuesday night, a bomb

exploded near the Teacher-Students.

Soon after the explosion at Jasimuddin Hall, the JCD activists came out onto the campus at dead of night and blamed the BCL for it.

They ransacked the cafeteria of Surya Sen Hall suspecting that the attackers took shelter there. They also drove away the BCL activists from the Jasimuddin Hall and Ziaur Rahman Hall after beating them.

Hearing the news, VC Prof SMA Faiz and Proctor AK Firoz Ahmed went to the hall, but the hall provost, Mahabur Rahman, went to the scene three hours after the incident and faced agitation by JCD activists.

The provost submitted a resignation letter in the face of students'

agitation, but the authorities are yet to accept it.

Protesting the attack on its activists, the BCL took out a procession yesterday morning and laid siege to the VC's office. A group of activists also ransacked the furniture in the office and held the VC responsible for the violence.

Meanwhile, panic gripped the students staying in halls. They feared that as the time of transferring power to a caretaker government nears, student organisations' bid to establish supremacy in halls would lead to bloodshed.

Dhaka for democratisation of int'l financial system

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has called for democratisation of the international financial system and institutions to better reflect the voices and aspirations of the developing countries.

Bangladesh's permanent representative to the UN Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury made the call at a meeting of the Economic (Second) Committee of the United Nations in New York on Monday, according to a message received here yesterday.

He raised the problems of the international financial system and foreign loans at the meeting.

He welcomed the recent debt relief of few developing countries by the Rich and industrialised countries and at the same time called for the debt relief for all the developing countries without hindering the process with political considerations.

"Otherwise, the countries which

maintained the rules and regulations, and did not default the repayment schedule will be penalised for their good achievement," he told the meeting.

The Bangladesh envoy strongly criticised the present system of keeping international reserves and said a huge amount of foreign currency either remain idle in the developing countries or invested at a very lower rate of interest.

He called for developing a system so that the developing countries could get interest-free loans against the international reserves.

On the impact of globalisation, Dr Iftekhar stressed the need for proper management of the strengths of globalisation for fair distribution of its benefits. "Otherwise," he warned, "the concept of globalisation would run the risk of being rejected by the developing countries."

JU first yr Hons admission test Nov 19

Bss, Dhaka

The first year honours admission test of Jahangirnagar University for 2006-2007 sessions will start on November 19 and continue till December 2.

Admission forms and guide-books will be available on payment of Tk 300 at the Farmgate branch, National Museum branch, Savar Bazar branch and Jahangirnagar branch of Agrani Bank from October 15 to November 10, said a press release.