

JCD, BCL men clash at DU, Jagannath

20 hurt; gunshots fired

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Dhaka University (DU) and Jagannath University yesterday locked in clashes where at least 20 were hurt as cocktails exploded and guns fired.

At least three cocktails were exploded and some 12 gunshots were fired during a skirmish between the archrivals at the DU.

Witnesses said the half-hour long clash flared up at around 8:45am when BNP's student front JCD attacked the activists of BCL, student front of Awami League, preparing to bring out a procession from the Bangla Academy area.

BCL activists led by Sohel Rana Tipu, DU unit president, and Sazzad Saqib Badsha, general secretary, pelted JCD men with brickbats, while JCD led by Saiful

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Poll candidates' assets accounts to be probed

Says ACC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will investigate the income and assets accounts of the persons who will contest the upcoming election, ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan told a seminar yesterday.

"The laws regarding the ACC were passed in a way that we remain ineffective but we won't be so. We will verify the asset accounts of the candidates," he observed.

"We already had talks with the Election Commission (EC) and they will give us access to the relevant information," he said adding that there is no legal bar in this regard.

The seminar titled "Corrupt and Black Money Holders Taking Part in

the Election: A Bar to Institutionalisation of Democracy" was organised by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) at National Press Club in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Justice Khan lamented that the politicians are afraid of empowering the ACC, which for lacking necessary rules could not yet be effectual.

In his address, noted jurist Dr M Zahir said a free and fair election could not be expected unless the electoral laws are properly enforced.

He also suggested forming an enquiry committee drawing representatives from the anti-graft watchdog, Special Branch of Police and others to examine whether the income and asset statements submitted by the candidates are

true or false.

If they were true, the candidates would pay tax on the stated incomes but if the statements turn out to be false, legal actions should be taken against them, he noted.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta), said the persons holding the constitutional posts are supposed to protect the constitution, but regrettably a section of them are involved in "crime, corruption and conspiracy to foil democracy".

Until those elements are weeded out, it will not be possible to conduct a free and fair election, he added.

The seminar recommended the

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People to give befitting reply thru' ballots

Hasina on 4-party govt's graft

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina has said the people will give a befitting reply to the "unbridled corruption" of the immediate past coalition government through ballots if the election is held in a free and fair manner.

"The BNP-Jamaat government has amassed thousands of crores of taka during its five-year rule through corruption. If a free and fair election is held, the people will give a befitting reply to the coalition's unbridled corruption," Hasina said in a press statement yesterday.

She blasted the immediate-past prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, as she (Khaleda) claimed that there was no price hike of essentials during her government.

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PHOTO: STAR

Police halt a procession of Jubo Sangram Parishad in front of Mahanagar Natya Mancha in the capital yesterday as the procession headed towards Bangabhaban demanding resignation of the president from the chief adviser's post.



PHOTO: STAR

A gang of criminals set fire to a bus at Khutubkhali near Jatrabari in the capital yesterday after robbing the passengers of their valuables.

Country runs risk of losing export orders

Exporters warn against persistent political unrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh runs the risk of being identified as a 'politically unstable country' in the international market if the present political unrest persists, leading exporters of the country said yesterday.

They also fear that the country's rising export growth will dwindle significantly, as buyers have started shifting their orders to other competitor countries due to the persistent political unrest.

The exporters said they have been dogged by unrest one after another from both the industry workers and political parties since May this year, which have slowed down the overall export activity.

They are also facing difficulties in giving satisfactory answers to their buyers' queries about the unrest, the exporters said at a news conference organised by the Exporters of Bangladesh. Leading exporters from different sectors were present at the conference.

Urging political parties to keep the country's export oriented industry outside the ambit of all political programmes the exporters also demanded that the parties include such a guarantee in their election manifestos.

Describing his experience, Fazlul Hoque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters

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Law enforcers asked to tackle 14-party sit-in with patience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory committee on law and order yesterday directed the law enforcers to tackle the sit-in programme around the Bangabhaban tomorrow and Election Commission (EC) Secretariat on Tuesday with patience and deftness to avert any untoward event.

The first meeting of the committee headed by President and Chief Adviser to the caretaker government lajuddin Ahmed gave the directions while discussing the ongoing political situation particularly the Awami League (AL) led 14-party combine's sit-in programmes around the Bangabhaban and the EC Secretariat.

It also directed the law enforce

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48-HR ULTIMATUM ENDS TODAY Rival dockers face off over gantry crane use

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two rival groups at Chittagong Port are drawn into confrontation as their 48-hour ultimatum on the question of operating four sophisticated gantry cranes by a private company at Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) expires today.

The Collective Bargaining Agents (CBA) is in favour of operating the gantry cranes by private company Saif Powertec Limited as per an earlier agreement while Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury wants it to be done by port operators.

CBA General Secretary Nurullah Bahar threatened to stop all activities at the port if the CCT does not start operating by 1:00pm today.

Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury also threatened to shut down all the port activities if the agreement with Saif Powertec Limited is not cancelled by today.

Although work at the general yard of political agitation programme, activities at the CCT have remained suspended since November 12 due to the serious row over the operation of the cranes.

Four quay gantry cranes (QGC) were installed in January this year spending Tk 150 crore for accelerating the container handling at the CCT.

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WATERLOGGED SOUTHERN DISTRICTS 10m people stare at looming disaster

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and human rights activists are apprehending a major humanitarian disaster in the vast waterlogged area of three southern districts of the country, as livelihood of nearly 10 lakh people is threatened due to the longstanding calamity.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city yesterday, the victims of waterlogging,

narrated their sufferings and also urged the government to declare the area 'endangered' and take immediate actions to protect the people from any humanitarian catastrophe and save the environment before any disastrous consequences take place. Nagorik Sanghota, a citizens' rights movement, organised the press conference.

The problem familiar by the name of "Bhabadaha

Waterlogging" was created in the 145 unions, five paurashavas of 12 upazilas in Khulna, Jessore and Satkhira due to construction of sluice gates under Coastal Embankment Project by Water Development Board in 1960.

About 15,000 people of the area are forced to live in 225 centres for the last three months due to the inundation.

Life has turned miserably for

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2 outlaws killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two members of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Lal Pataka faction were killed in a 'shootout' with law enforcement agencies at Mahishkhola village under Gangni upazila in Meherpur early morning yesterday.

The dead were identified as Abdur Razzak, 30, of Shanghat village under Gangni upazila and Ismail Hossain, 25, of Mahishkhola village of the same upazila.

According to a Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) press release, a

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PHOTO: STAR

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus speaks to journalists at Zia International Airport yesterday on returning from the United States. He said he expects a peaceful and acceptable solution to the current political crisis.

Yunus hopes for amicable solution to ongoing crisis

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday expected a peaceful and acceptable solution to the country's current political crisis through consensus.

"I hope a political consensus will be reached to resolve the crisis," he told newsmen at Zia International Airport on his return from USA after attending different programmes, including a UN-sponsored reception, there.

Prof Yunus left Dhaka on

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Baghdad under curfew

Scores killed in attacks, Sunni mosques vandalised

AFP, Baghdad

Baghdad was under curfew for the second straight day yesterday after an explosion of violence killed hundreds of Iraqis and forced President Jalal Talabani to delay his much-anticipated visit to Tehran.

At least 300 people have died since Thursday's wave of car bombings in the politically sensitive Baghdad Shia district of Sadr City killed at least 202 people in the war-

country's deadliest attack since the US-led war in 2003.

On Saturday the US military raided a bomb-making facility near Taji, north of Baghdad, during which 10 insurgents and a teenager were killed, while another 12 insurgents were killed in a separate clash nearby, the military reported.

In another incident north of Baghdad, US forces killed 12 insurgents while en route to capture a

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ECONOMIST SURVEY Bangladesh put in category of 'flawed democracy'

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh ranks 75th among 165 democracies and is grouped in the category of "flawed democracy" in a global survey report released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) on November 24, as hassles hampered a smooth run of the past parliament and continued over the coming elections.

The EIU also put Bangladesh on the "negative list" with a caution that an unclear or disputed election result, to be overseen by the caretaker government, could

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Prayer Timing		
November 26		
	Azan	
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation