



Silent observers of Sunday's gunbattle on the DU campus.



LEFT: From top: Khokan, a street urchin, Moktar Hossain, Biplob and Shafiqul Alam — all injured in Sunday's gunbattle on the DU campus — have been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital RIGHT Vice-president of Rokeya Hall Students Union Shirin Akhtar broke down to see the bodies of the two slain JCD activists in front of the National Press Club yesterday.



—Star photo

Traders gherao BJC chairman for payment

By Staff Correspondent

Jute traders from greater Mymensingh district Sunday gheraoed the Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) at his office for about three hours demanding payment of Tk 4.84 crore, the price of jute they sold to the BJC last year. Some 100 traders entered and sat on the floor of the office of Colonel (retd) M Sariful Islam, chairman of BJC, at around 11 am. Helal Khasru, Convener of Greater Mymensingh Jute Traders Association told this correspondent that the BJC has been purchasing the current seasons jute on cash payment but did not clear the last year's dues. BJC owed a total of Taka 18.5 crore to the traders countrywide for its last year's purchase, BJC sources said. Chairman of the BJC said that last year jute was purchased and supplied to Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) upon a government order but the BJMC had not yet paid Taka 35 crore to the BJC. The Chairman tried to convince the traders that payments to the traders were delayed as the BJMC did not pay the money to the BJC. At one stage he assured them to pay 25 per cent of their outstanding money within a week according to the promise by the Jute Minister, but the traders demanded full payment. The traders demanded payment of the arrears suspending cash purchase this year. At around 1-30 pm the Chairman requested them that he had a meeting with an Egyptian delegation who wanted to buy six to seven thousand bales of Jute. He assured them that he would meet the minister also and tell him their grievances. The traders allowed him to leave the office at 2 pm on condition that he should bring minister's assurance about full payment. Later, the traders left the BJC office at around 5 pm when, on return, the Chairman told them that the BJC would purchase jute from them and pay the arrears bills simultaneously. BJC would purchase 75 thousand bales of jute this year with an allocation of Tk 15 crore, sources said.

The Midnight File

Turkmenia declares independence

MOSCOW, Oct 27: Turkmenia on Sunday became the 10th of the Soviet Union's 12 remaining republics to declare independence from Kremlin rule. Turkmenia's parliament adopted the new independence law Sunday following Saturday's referendum on the issue. The parliament had first declared the republic's independence on August 22. Two other Soviet republics, Russia and the Kazakhstan, have declared themselves sovereign states, but stopped short of outright proclamations of independence from central government, reports AP.

Bandh paralyses Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Oct 27: Militants destroyed a vital communication link in Badgam district and a devastating fire ravaged the central market here as a bandh virtually paralysed normal life in parts of the Kashmir valley for the fifth consecutive day today. The call for bandh was given by several militant outfits, reports PTI.

5,000 killed in Croatia

ZAGREB, Oct 27: A top Croatian leader said in a letter sent Sunday some 5,000 people have been killed in the four-month undeclared war in Croatia—a death toll five times higher than previous estimates. The fighting also has forced 350,000 people to leave their homes, according to Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic, reports AP.

Attack deliberate

From Page 1 Col. 8
Chhatra Dal on Sunday noon resulting in the deaths of some of them.

His brief statement came in the wake of concern expressed by members of the opposition over the incidents at the Dhaka University.

A dozen of opposition MPs referred to the incident on the campus and demanded a statement from the government about the measures taken to tackle the situation.

Immediately after the question hour, Maulana Mattur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami took the floor and said the business of the House could not continue until the government informed the House about the situation.

Supporting him, Awami League member Fazlul Karim Selim said rival groups of BNP-backed Chhatra Dal clashed with firearms on the campus Sunday afternoon resulting in killing of four persons and injuring many others.

He said the incident took place in presence of police who remained as silent spectators. The entire student community was now kept hostage by some armed bandits and common people were anxious about the situation, Selim added.

Deputy Leader of the House and former Education Minister Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury admitted that the situation on the campus is very important and assured that the Home Minister will apprise the House about it.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) Abdus Samad Azad also expressed concern at the incident and assured all cooperation of the opposition for resolving the problem.

The Education Minister threw a challenge to Awami League's Fazlul Karim Selim and said "the clash on the campus today was not an intra-party one but it was a calculated attack on JCD with an intention to disrupt peace."

He said the actual number of casualties could not yet be ascertained and assured the House that the Home Minister who was now busy in taking appropriate measures to restore peace on the campus would later make a statement in the House giving real picture of the incident.

Sircar said the situation in the campus is not only a challenge to the government but to all the political parties as well. The Education Minister said it is the responsibility of all political parties to contribute their mite in tackling the situation and evolving appropriate measures for a permanent solution of the problem.

Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder of Awami League informed the House that a bullet landed inside Court No 6

During her visit to the remote areas, Hasina was sometimes seen walking on foot and sometimes riding in a car. She talked to the people enquiring about their condition.

A day labourer, Nurul Islam of Kuribisha village of Kolkand union complained to Hasina that his family members were forced to eat the barks of banana trees in absence of food.

Rezaul Huq, an 8-year-old boy of the same village, said he did not find any food to eat for last four days.

A 70-year old Nendu Mamud of Borobari village of Paikanda union was seen sobbing as he could not obtain a VGD card despite frantic efforts.

Hasina demanded of the government to prepare a long term plan to stop erosion of the Teesta and save life and property of tens of thousands of poor.

Muslim world

From Page 1 Col. 4
tion, unity and solidarity. Begum Zia said Bangladesh feels very proud and for being chosen as the location of ICTVTR and deeply involved in rendering services to the Islamic Ummah in an important area.

Begum Zia was happy to note that ICTVTR was successfully training engineers, technologists, technicians and technical teachers for rapid technological and economic development of the Islamic Ummah. She also expressed her happiness to know that the executive body of the ICTVTR had decided to rename the centre as Islamic Institute of Technology, offering regular long academic and short training programmes to bring it in line with other similar international institutions of repute.

The Prime Minister recalled the support of member states of OIC in establishing ICTVTR and said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman laid the foundation stone of ICTVTR in 1981.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul

Mannan Bhutyan and Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Armissoglu attended the convocation as the guests of honour. Ministers, Members of Parliament, diplomats, high civil and military officials were present.

Earlier, the Prime Minister distributed certificates among the 53 students of different Muslim countries including Gambia, Tunisia, Jordan, Somalia, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Iran, Pakistan, The Maldives and Bangladesh, who received degrees and diplomas on different technical and vocational subjects.

The Prime Minister, wearing the ceremonial dress, also took part in the convocation procession which started from the administrative building and entered the central plaza through the Gate of Five Fundamentals of the Centre.

The function was also addressed by the Director-General ICTVTR Prof. Dr AM Patwari.

A message of the OIC Secretary-General Dr Ilyas Alabdidi was read out on the occasion.

BCL (S-A), JCD clash in Ishurdi: 17 injured

PABNA, Oct 27: At least 17 students were injured in a series of clash between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League (S-A) in Ishurdi town during the last 24 hours, police said, reports UNB.

Fourteen students were injured, about 25 cocktails blasted and five gun shots heard during the clash, witnesses said.

Of the injured, eight were admitted to the Ishurdi Health Complex. The condition of Hamidur Rahman, President of BCL of Ishurdi College unit was stated to be critical. He was allegedly stabbed on Saturday by the JCD activists.

SAARC Secy Gen in city for consultations

SAARC Secretary General KK Bhargava arrived in Dhaka on Sunday afternoon for consultations on the forthcoming three-day summit due in Colombo November 7, reports UNB.

During his short stay Bhargava will call on Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and have a meeting with Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan authorities have completed all arrangements necessary to hold the sixth SAARC summit, according to information available in Dhaka.

JS debate

From Page 1 Col. 5
districts and there was no report of its misuse.

Yousuf also refuted the report published in a section of dailies about selling of a daughter at five Taka by one Tajul in Joyprhat. He said that Tajul handed over his daughter to one Sattar, as his (Tajul's) wife left her and married another person. Tajul had two wives. So he decided to give his daughter to Sattar, whose wife was eagerly looking for adopting a girl child. This investigation was made by the district administration along with the local Awami League leader Alauddin Ahmed, he added. He strongly refuted the opposition allegation that there was famine-like situation and that the government had delayed in initiating relief work.

Shah Moazzem who was interrupted many times by one BNP member, said that there was silent famine in Naoga, Kurigram, Pabna, Sirajganj and many other districts. There was no harm to confess the situation, he said and added almost all the newspapers of the country reported about the situation.

State Minister for Communication Fazlur Rahman Patal in his speech attacked Shah Moazzem Hossain and said that during the 'autocratic Ershad regime' people died not only of famine but also due to atrocities. Democracy loving people of this House have not forgotten those, he said. He said that this year the death

BCL (S-A) blamed

From Page 1 Col. 5
the Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina was patronising terrorism all over the country to destabilise the democratically elected government and cause political instability so that she could capture power illegally.

DUCSU General Secretary and JCD Joint Convener Khairul Kabir Khokon alleged that armed activists of the BCL suddenly attacked the DUCSU office to kill him and his fellow JCD leaders engaged there in organisational activities. He said that Obhi, Sajal, and Jewel, the alleged killers of Dr Milton led the armed group. Khokon also alleged that the BCL gunmen later attacked JCD workers on the campus and shot dead Galib and Liton and critically injured several others including Mizan.

The DUCSU leader said that the enemies of democracy in the guise of opposition activists chose the path of violence falling to face their opponents politically.

Replying to a question, Khokon denied his organisation's involvement in Sunday's terrorism. "JCD has no connection with any of the terrorist acts that took place after the fall of the Ershad regime", he claimed.

The JCD joint convener called upon the members of the law enforcing agencies to take action against the terrorists on the campuses to avert more killings. Khokon admitted that the police had failed to tackle the situation. But, he added, the crisis was totally political and viewed that under such circumstances police had little to do. The campus terrorism was occurring as per a well-planned blueprint by certain political quarters, he added.

Talks fail to stop today's barricade

Negotiations between the government and the Jute Mill Workers-Employees Action Council failed to stall today's countrywide road barricade announced by the Council, reports UNB.

Jute Minister Hannan Shah who led the government side in the seven-hour talks regretted the attitude of the labour leaders and warned against lawlessness.

Hannan Shah said he was ready to consider an interim relief for public sector workers if the strike was postponed. But he regretted the tough attitude of the labour leaders who demanded immediate payment of two months' salary for the workers and a commitment that jute mills will not be further denationalised. The public sector jute in-

Political parties

From Page 1 Col. 8
ism. They also urged the concerned quarters not to use the students as their political pawns.

The Joint Secretary General of the BNP, Abdul Mannan Bhutyan, in a statement expressed his deep indignation at the killing of Chhatra Dal leaders Mirza Galib and Liton and said: "We have no language to condemn such barbaric incident."

He said due to the terrorism resorted by the identified quarters' many educational institutions all over the coun-

Gunbattle

From Page 1 Col. 7
dents and teachers to stay inside the Arts Building, central library and TSC for about two and a half hours.

During the gunbattle police took up positions at all the entry points to the campus and on the road between Mohsin Hall and Zahurul Haq Hall.

Meanwhile, the Honours examinees falling to appear the examinations scheduled to begin Sunday at 2 pm ransacked the examination halls in the Arts Building in protest against terrorism.

They damaged chairs, tables and window panes in the examination halls. The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Democratic Student Unity (DSU) brought out separate anti-terrorism processions in and around the Arts Building during the fierce gunbattle.

JCD later held two separate rallies protesting the killing of its two activists, one at the Aparajeo Bangla at 3.30 pm and the other in front of the National Press Club at about 4.30 pm with the bodies.

Both rallies accused armed hoodlums of the BCL (S-A) for the killing and pledged to teach them a good lesson by ousting them from the campus. The rally held at the Press Club was addressed by Khairul Kabir Khokon, DUCSU General Secretary. Ilias Ali, Habibunnabi Sohel, Ali Akkas Nadim, Sharafat Islam Shafu and Rafiqul Islam Jaghu.

The DSU rally held at the TSC at 6 pm was addressed by Nairuddin. The rally blamed the armed hoodlums of both the JCD and the BCL for the deterioration in the campus situation and demanding their arrest and trial.

try, including Dhaka University, remained closed. The Five-Party alliance in a meeting held on Sunday night with Comrade Bimal Biswas in the chair expressed deep concern at the repeated armed clashes between the rival student organisations of the BNP and the Awami League.

Khalequzaman Bhutyan, Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Nirmal Sen, Hasanul Huq Inu, Kazi Arif Ahmed, Nayeem Jahangir, A F M Mahbulul Huq, attended the meeting.

The Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh, Abbas Ali Khan and Secretary General Moulana Mafizur Rahman Nizami, MP, in a joint statement said the entire nation was stunned at the continued terrorist activities in the country's educational institutions.

They pointed out that the responsibility of the ruling party and the main opposition party was very important in nourishing the democratic system. The gun fight between the student wings of these two parties was unfortunate for the nation, they said.

Others who condemned the incident were: Bangladesh National Awami Party (Bhashani), Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Majlis and Swadheen Sangbad Patra Pathak Samity.

JCD, BCL (S-A) blamed for campus violence

By Staff Correspondent
Democratic Students Alliance (DSA), comprising nine left student organisations, Sunday blamed both the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra League (S-A) for the armed battle on the Dhaka University campus.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, Nazmul Haq Prodhan, president of the JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League (N-S), one of the components of the alliance, said student fronts of the two leading political parties were continuing terrorism for supremacy on the campuses.