

JU teachers, students trade charges

By Shamsad Mortuza

The teachers and the students of the Jahangirnagar University continue to indulge in mutual recrimination following Thursday's violence that left the institution closed sine die.

Different political and other organisations have already deplored the attack on JU teachers and the damage caused to the university's property allegedly by the Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

While, the JCD initially claimed that the attack was an outburst of the long nurtured grudge of the general students against the teachers. They, however, after a meeting with their central leaders issued a statement saying, "No JCD activists were involved in the attack and it was done by outsiders."

The other political bodies of JU have already denied their involvement in the attack, as it was meant to create pressure on the JU administration to rescind the expulsion order on a JCD leader.

Hafizur Rahman, Joint Convener of JCD, JU unit was expelled by the syndicate for hijacking a tender-box on August 6, 1992.

Earlier, JCD, with the intervention of two government ministers managed to withdraw expulsion order on two of their activists.

In a series of events, they ransacked class rooms, opened fire, held some of the Syndicate members hostage and finally resorted to 'hunger strike unto death' programme to convince the Vice Chancellor of their determination to realise their demands.

Interestingly, in case of the expulsion of Hafiz, JCD resorted to violence only within 48 hours of the decision, coincidentally, on the day of Syndicate election.

"It is possible that someone wanted to foil the polls, said Prof Enamul Hoq Khan, former president of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association and a Syndicate member.

Presently, the JU Syndicate is dominated by the teachers belonging to the 'anti-VC' faction.

The VC when asked about the possibility of such conspiracy behind the attack, declined to make any comments. "I am too shocked by the whole affair...and things were out of my control. I've resigned," The VC told this correspondent a day after the incident.

The VC also denied to comment whether his clemency for two JCD leaders had inspired the violence or not.

The JU authority have already brought charges against 21 JCD leaders and supporters including the Vice President and General Secretary of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUJTSU).

The authority identified these 21 students, even though they hid their faces with torn curtains of the teachers' rooms, while the government has formed a one member probe body headed by Justice Abdul Matin Chowdhury. The probe body has been asked to submit its report within three months.

"One day closure means the loss of 3,500 days of the 3,500 students of the university," remarked the VC.



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman speaking at a seminar on the 1993-94 budget at the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) auditorium in the city yesterday. MCCI president Latifur Rahman, National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan and External Resources Division (ERD), Secretary Lutfullahil Majid are on the minister's left while MCCI vice president Azimur Rahman is seen on his right. — Star photo

Saifur on economic reforms

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"The insurance companies are swimming in money," he said. "They are earning a lot of money and I tell you, they must reduce the premium rates."

The Finance Minister agreed with the views of the chamber leaders on the question of Customs and income tax official who were accused of harassing the taxpayers and making illegal money.

"I'm fully aware of this. I wish these departments were abolished and you pay your taxes on the basis of self-assessment," he said.

He said, "I agree the corporate tax should be reduced, and there should be no duty on capital machinery... I want to do many of the things you want but I am constrained. As soon as I get money from other sources I'll do whatever you have asked for."

Referring to the demand for labour wage hikes frequently raised by the SKOP, Saifur Rahman agreed with the opinion of the chamber leaders. "I'm with you," he said. "Labour laws need reforms, wages should be linked with productivity in any labour policy," he said.

The minister strongly opposed to devaluation of the taka, as suggested by the MCCI president. He said the argument that since India and Pakistan had recently devalued their currencies we too should follow suit, does not hold good.

Explaining the said, their currencies were overvalued. Besides, the Bangladesh currency will soon be convertible in the money market.

He said measures are underway to make the tariff structure "stable and certain". "There has to be stability and certainty in tariff. I think it is a bad practice to change duty structure through SROs."

He said the Tariff Commission would be turned into a quasi-judicial and independent body, which will henceforth determine the tariff structure.

About the demand for tariff protection to the domestic industry hit hard by the duty structure, the minister agreed to remove the anomalies and distortions. He advised individuals affected to meet him or the NBR Chairman for getting the anomalies removed. "They must, however, be ready to face competition."

He agreed with a suggestion that the leather industry should be considered an export-oriented one and the interest on

bank loans to the leather industry be substantially reduced from the present rate of 14 per cent. He further agreed to slash duty on spares and to list computers as a service industry.

Saifur Rahman said the two-and-a-half year old BNP government had inherited a constrained economy. The constraints have resulted from "expensive mistakes of nationalisation, restrictive policies and mindless expenditure," he said.

"I'm sometimes frustrated that the policies are not implemented... Even in my own organisation, I had often been opposed," he said, in an oblique reference to the BNP, a section of which had, opposed introduction of VAT two years ago.

The Finance Minister said his policies were highly acclaimed by the World Bank and the IMF, which also expressed their satisfaction over the achievements at the macro-level of the economy.

Among those who took part in the discussion with the Finance Minister were Ahmedul Kabir, Waliul Islam, Salman F. Rahman and Murshed Khan.

Murshed Khan was highly critical of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and dubbed it a "non-believer in reforms."

He said the government seemed to have backed off from its professed policy of privatisation. He questioned why the telephone and power sections, which are causing obstacles to progress, have not yet been privatised.

MCCI Vice-President Azimur Rahman later delivered a vote of thanks to the participants at the seminar.

ACU board meets in city today

By Staff Correspondent

The 21st board meeting of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), a forum of the central banks of seven nations of the continent, begins at 9-50 this morning at the Bangladesh Bank.

Governor of Bangladesh Bank Khorshed Alam, Deputy Governor Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Executive Director Walayat Hossain and General Manager (Accounts) Syed Ashrafullah will represent Bangladesh at the meeting.

The delegates from other member countries are: P B Kulkarni, Executive Director and Chief Officer P R Anantharaman of the Reserve Bank of India; M Mozyeni, Vice Governor and M H Majidpour, Director of the Central Bank of Iran; U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Governor and U Than Lwin, Deputy Director of the Central Bank of Myanmar; S P Shrestha, Deputy Governor and B M Gnawali, Assistant Controller of the Nepal Rastra Bank; Mahfooz Alam, Executive Director of the State Bank of Pakistan; H B Dissanayake, Governor and M B Dissanayake, Chief Accountant of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

General Manager of the Asian Clearing Union M Firuzdor and Financial Analyst of the union Morteza Farshichi will also be present.

Ravi Sawhney, Chief, IT and T Division of the UN-ESCAP Secretariat, Bangkok and M Sakbant, Chief, MFCTA Branch Division for ECDC of UNCTAD will attend as guests.

Lebanese back home as Israeli troops pour out

SIDDIQINE (Lebanon), Aug 1: Tens of thousands of civilians bombarded out of their South Lebanon villages by Israeli troops and tanks poured out of Lebanon, reports Reuter.

Shocked at the devastation of Israel's fiercest ever mauling of the south, many returnees and even wounded said a seven-day Israeli assault only increased popular support for the guerrillas.

The pro-iranian Hizbollah

(party of God) put away its guns and worked to win hearts and minds with a clean-up and speeches stressing Israel was to blame and promise some compensation.

A US-brokered ceasefire halted Israel's operation accountability and stopped guerrillas firing Katyusha rockets into the Jewish state on Saturday after the fiercest Israeli assault on the south since Israel's 1982 invasion to Beirut.

Zulus massacre 32 blacks in S Africa

TEMBISA, Aug 1: Some 200 Zulus rampaged through a township with guns blazing, leaving at least 32 blacks dead in one of the country's worst massacres, police said Sunday.

The Saturday night slaughter in the Tembisa township, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Johannesburg, was particularly brutal even for South Africa, where mass killings have become routine.

Many residents had fled the area by Sunday morning, but the evidence of the battle remained: there was blood on the streets, burned out cars on the side of the road, and many houses had broken windows and smashed doors.

AL calls hartal

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According to the meeting sources, the August 20 rally would call upon the people to launch a 'bigger agitation' against the alleged corruption and misuse of the ruling BNP.

The meeting, chaired by AL chief Sheikh Hasina, was adjourned at 9 last night to resume at 10 this morning.

According to an influential AL leader, today's meeting is likely to discuss a fresh strategy aimed at compelling the government to constitute a special tribunal for trying Jamaat Chief Golem Azam as a war criminal.

Besides, the meeting is likely to take up the Dr Kamal Hossain issue for discussion.

Kamal Hossain, who refused to work in the AL as a member of the Party's Advisory Council, is now reportedly planning to float a new political party.

Mugging incidents

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tacked by local hoodlums after he declined to give them money.

Similar attacks on businessmen by extortionists were also recorded at College Gate, Mohammodpur, and Maghbazar areas.

Local bullies raided the work sites of two contractors and demanded tolls at gun point. They also damaged property and assaulted labourers at the site. At College Gate, however, the contractor fired back at the extortionists with his licensed revolver—forcing the hoodlums to beat a hasty retreat.

Clashes between local mobsters on bullies also marked a rise in the city.

At Lalbagh, two feuding factions engaged in three-day long fight creating panic among the dwellers. Police made ten arrests to bring the situation under control.

Warring groups exchanged gun fire at Rajabazar and Khilgaon in separate incidents. One schoolboy was injured at Khilgaon while a pedestrian received bullet injury in the Rajabazar incident.

Stabbings as a sequel to long-standing enmity were also reported in July. At least 10 cases—three in the Shymoli

PM : Pisciculture

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modern technology-based pisciculture to increase the country's aqua-resources. "We need more research and its application in the fisheries sector."

The Prime Minister invited private and individual initiatives to supplement government efforts. "Our aim is to extend overall support to the private sector," she said.

Rural poverty will decrease to a large extent if the social welfare organisations integrate pisciculture with their activities, she pointed out.

Derelict ponds and water bodies should be cleared under food for work programme for use in the development of pisciculture, Begum Zia said, adding unemployed rural youths can be organised in this campaign.

The Prime Minister asked for maintaining favourable environment for fish habitat and spreading the spirit of the fortnight ceremony down to the remote villages in order to motivate the people.

The present government aims at achieving self-sufficiency in nutrition supply and boosting foreign exchange earnings from the fisheries sector, she said.

Begum Zia said proper initiatives could yield many times more fish output. "Present production of shrimp only can be multiplied 30 times, which can earn foreign exchange to the tune of Tk 500 to 2,000 crore a year."

The present government in its trade policy has identified fisheries as an industrial sector and constituted a committee headed by Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan to boost shrimp production, she told the function and mentioned the increase in the infrastructural facilities for entrepreneurs in the shrimp cultivation areas.

Later, Begum Zia inaugurated fortnight-long 'Fish Exhibition '93' at the BARC premises.

US flood: Clinton thanks Khaleda for letter of sympathy

US President William J Clinton thanked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her letter of sympathy for the affected people and the damage in the severe floods along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, reports BSS.

"We are grateful for your willingness to help, an offer which underscores the friendly relations between our two countries," Clinton said in a letter sent to Begum Zia yesterday.

Kurdish rebels kill 24 troops

SASON (Turkey), Aug 1: Separatist Kurdish guerrillas killed 17 soldiers and wounded 24 others in two separate attacks in southeastern Turkey, a local official and the Anatolia news agency said Sunday, reports AP.

King Baudouin

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The Belgian news agency Belga, which monitored the report, said there had been no official confirmation.

Other reports said that he had died of a heart attack while on holiday.

King Baudouin shocked

UNB adds: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday (Sunday) condoled the sudden demise of King Baudouin I.

In a message to Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, Begum Zia said: "I am deeply shocked to learn the news of the sudden demise of His Majesty Baudouin I, King of the Belgians."

She said the people of Bangladesh had deep admiration for the late King and his concern and commitment for the development of Bangladesh would be remembered with gratitude.

She prayed for the salvation of the departed leader.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her profound shock at the death of King Baudouin I.

AIDS lab to be set up at Mongla

From Munir U Ahmed

KHULNA, July 31: An AIDS laboratory will be set up in the Mongla port area, according to a highly placed source in the Health Department.

A representative of the WHO recently visited Mongla and advised the government to select the spot near the port.

Accordingly, a high level team from the ministry will visit Mongla for the purpose and the construction work of the proposed laboratory would start later this year.

Another four such laboratories would be installed in the country, financed by the WHO, the source said.

A patient with AIDS was detected at the Bania Shanta brothel at Mongla port recently by the WHO and the Health Department.

However, the identity of the HIV positive prostitute was not disclosed by the authorities nor has she been segregated from the other inmates of the brothel, it was learnt.

Meanwhile, the Health Department is planning to examine blood samples of all the prostitutes at the Mongla port brothel very soon, the source disclosed.



The Fisheries Directorate arranged a 'fish-fair' at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) yesterday. — Star photo

The Midnight File

Indian Boeing grazes jeep

NEW DELHI, Aug 1: An Air India Boeing 747 jet grazed a speeding jeep on the runway after landing in Bombay early today, but all 408 passengers and crew were safe, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says AFP.

Christopher leaves for ME

WASHINGTON, Aug 1: Secretary of State Warren Christopher left here today for the Middle East where he hopes to revive peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Christopher will fly to Egypt tomorrow to meet with President Hosni Mubarak, before heading on to Israel, Syria, Jordan and then back to Israel. He will return to Washington by the end of the week, reports AFP.

Prince Albert to succeed King Baudouin

BRUSSELS, Aug 1: Prince Albert of Liege will succeed King Baudouin following the death in Spain late Saturday of the Monarch, Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene announced here late today. Prince Albert is the King's brother, reports AFP.

Journalist held in Srinagar

NEW DELHI, Aug 1: Indian security forces arrested a journalist in Kashmir's summer capital of Srinagar and seized two AK-56 automatic rifles from his house, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today. Farooq Bhat of the Srinagar News Daily was arrested late Saturday by the Border Security Force (BSF), whose troops also found a rocket and ammunition at his house, the news agency said, reports AFP.

Health Ministry

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sources said.

"It is not clear to the bank as to why the percentage basis (for payment) should be applied to the total project cost, as shown in Article 3. Where several hospital buildings are to be designed, constructed and renovated, the total estimated 'project cost' does not provide a suitable basis to compute payments for work done on several building sites that may be in different stages of design, construction or renovation," the ADB said. It added that it would be clearer and also provide much more flexibility if the percentage basis is applied to the cost of building work estimated or completed, at each of the construction sites.

"It is unclear how the percentage project management fee in Section 4.5 and the construction supervision fee in Section 4.6 is to be converted to equal monthly payments for purposes of payment. As stated there are two separate basis for payment and should not be mixed", the bank said.

Irregularities were reported also in selecting the consulting firm for the work, which are pending with the Petition Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad for investigation, the sources said.

Ravi Sawhney, Chief, IT and T Division of the UN-ESCAP Secretariat, Bangkok and M Sakbant, Chief, MFCTA Branch Division for ECDC of UNCTAD will attend as guests.

Police arrest 251 in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 1: Police detained some 251 suspects including 68 outlawed Sarbahara party men with firearms in a special crackdown during past one week, officials said today.

In the face of increasing crimes, police launched the operation from July 25 in six districts of the new division. Ziauddin Ahmed, DIG of Police Barisal range told The Daily Star, adding that five pipeguns and ammunition were seized from Barisal and Patuakhali districts.

Some 134 were arrested in Barisal, 49 in Patuakhali, 24 in Jhalakathi, 22 in Pirojpur, 18 in Bhola and four in Barguna districts, he said.

Most of the arrested were allegedly involved in money extortion, terrorist acts and other crimes, he added.

Report on reforms

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transparent, accountable system of public management.

The report has been prepared by the UN experts team led by Dr ATR Rahman. Other members of the team are Sir Derek Andrews, Dr Jeanne-Marie Col, Dr Dai Young Kim, Dr Robert LaPorte, Jr and Dr Svedur Rahman.

Jamuna Bridge

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would put up 200 millions US dollar each. The money will be deposited in a foreign bank with a branch in Bangladesh. The initial deposit will cover estimated expenditure over four months which will be replenished when half of the deposit amount is depleted.

The Bangladesh government believes that the joint financing arrangement is superior to parallel financing in view of the particular way that the Jamuna Bridge Project components can be packaged.

The Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority has recommended to the Government that it supports the joint financing formula in the forthcoming meeting of the Jamuna Bridge Project cofinanciers in Washington.

HC rule

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leged 10 cadres had definitely given rise to discrimination against those of the rest, the petition argued, adding that the members of all the cadres had to cross the hurdle of identical examinations at the entry point, which initially put them on equal footings.

The bench comprised of Justice Anwarul Islam Choudhury and Justice Md Strajul Islam Choudhury asked the ministries concerned why the amendments should not be declared void and ultra vires of the Constitution and gave three weeks' time to prepare the case for hearing.

Barister Amirul Islam moved the petition. He was assisted by Advocate Md Nurul Huda, Advocate Shirin Ahmed Choudhury, Advocate Raquibul Haque Ripon, Advocate Naima Haider Choudhury and Advocate Md Delwar Hossain.