



Rebellious BNP MPs seek ban on Jamaat politics

By Staff Correspondent

More than a dozen ruling party members spoke in a rebellious tone in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday and a number of them even offered to vote with the Opposition to ban the politics of the Jamaat and the Shibir.

"I will even vote against my party decision if you (Opposition) bring a bill proposing banning Jamaat-Shibir politics," Maj (Retd) Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury, a ruling party MP, said amid thundering cheers from the Opposition members.

Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury, the Deputy Leader of the House, urged the House to study certain provisions of the Constitution before bringing any proposal to ban the Jamaat, but Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury did not make any comment on Chowdhury's proposal.

Akhteruzzaman said that for the past 18 years none of the freedom fighters had become home minister in the country. He regretted that it was only to cling to power that they had to join hands with the anti-independence forces.

He urged all to boycott the

Jamaat MPs socially. The retired soldier also said that anti-liberation forces were controlling the police forces, a fact which had made their role controversial.

When Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni urged him to shorten his speech, Akhteruzzaman said, "It is an irony of fate that today I had to seek floor time from you."

Akhteruzzaman's party colleague Sirajul Islam, who spoke next, expressed solidarity with Akhteruzzaman and said, "I will never compromise with anti-liberation forces."

He also proposed that the relatives and sons of the Jamaat leaders should not be recruited in the armed forces.

Treasury Bench member Abdul Ali Miridha, Maj (Retd) Hafizuddin, Mashur Rahman, Ashraf Hossain, Shahjahan Omar, Farida Rahman, Abu Yousuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, Alamgir Kabir, Khairul Alam, Ziaul Huq Zia and Shahjahan Miah took part in the discussions.

They did not pledge to vote with the Opposition, unlike Akhteruzzaman and Sirajul Islam, but nevertheless placed a common demand of banning the Jamaat's politics of violence.

Jamaat under fire

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fore the issue was taken up in the House for discussion at 8:20 pm. Jamaat leader Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami also managed to condemn the killing at the Rajshahi University.

Earlier, the Jamaat also moved an adjournment motion to discuss the issue on the floor but the Speaker decided to accept the one moved by AL legislator Rafiqul Islam.

However, the MPs of both benches observed during the four-hour discussion that the Jamaat had for long been sponsoring different terrorist activities at different educational institutions of the country and the government must take actions against the party's 'inhuman and irrational' activities for the sake of democracy.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, observed that the Jamaat activists, who 'enjoy killing people', were psychopaths. "Psychopaths are not even eligible for voting, then how come they indulge in politics?" he observed.

Chowdhury also said that the demands for banning the Jamaat's politics deserved consideration because the Constitution, although allowing every

citizen to do politics, does not allow anybody to sponsor terrorist crimes in the name of politics.

The Deputy Leader also asked the Home Minister to take all necessary steps to punish the killers and eradicate campus violence.

Earlier, acting leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad congratulated the MPs, especially the Treasury Bench legislators, for their clear stance against the Jamaat's politics. The Opposition leader observed that the BNP and the Jamaat had for long been sponsoring different terrorist activities at different educational institutions of the country and the government must take actions against the party's 'inhuman and irrational' activities for the sake of democracy.

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Matin tells JS, culprits will be brought to book

The Home Minister last night held out a categorical assurance that persons responsible for the killing of three students in Rajshahi and Khulna would be brought to book and punished in accordance with the law, reports UNB.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury appealed to the members, including those of the Jamaat-e-Islami, to support the government in dealing with the culprits and refrain from asking favours for them.

Speaking on the adjournment motion on the incidents at Rajshahi University Sunday, the Home Minister said in unequivocal terms that none of the culprits would escape the long arm of law.

Seeking unqualified support of all members of the House, he said it is not the responsibility of the government alone but of all to make the country free from terrorism.

Matin Chowdhury regretted that a trifling matter — leading the prayers at the Rajshahi Medical College mosque — had resulted in the tragic incident Sunday after it spread to the campus. Three students lost their lives in Rajshahi and Khulna in two days.

He strongly denied the Opposition charges that police remained silent spectators and failed to contain the trouble.

The Home Minister denied that some 2,000 JCD activists had resigned protesting the failure of the government in dealing with the Jamaat-Shibir activists. "This is not true," he said.

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OIC Secretary General Dr Hamid Al-Gabid talking to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Sugandha yesterday. —PID photo

Khaleda

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tries are likely to sit during the UNGA in New York to discuss the prevailing international relations, especially issues relating to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Palestine.

While referring to the recent peace agreement between Israel and Palestine the OIC Secretary General said the OIC had supported the peace agreement as a first step towards solution to the problem. It laid emphasis on the solution of Al-Quds problem, he said.

Discussing the Rohingya refugees issue, the OIC Secretary General praised Bangladesh's role in giving shelter to the refugees despite its resources constraints. The OIC will continue to give support to Bangladesh in finding a permanent solution, he said.

The OIC Secretary General lauded the Bangladesh role in the activities of the OIC.

He informed the Prime Minister that the OIC was going to hold a conference on children to motivate the Muslim world for children's development. Dr Gabid thanked Bangladesh for extending its cooperation and support to the ICTVTR.

Provosts, Proctors concerned over incidents at DU

A joint meeting of provosts of the residential halls and proctors and assistant proctors of the Dhaka University was held yesterday with acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Waki Ahmed in the chair, a university press release said last night, reports BSS.

The meeting expressed its concern about some undesirable incidents at two residential halls of the University Sunday night and at the Arts building yesterday morning, the press release added.

RU violence victim buried in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Sept 20: Hundreds of people here mourned the death of Zubayer Chowdhury Rindu, killed during the violence at the Rajshahi University yesterday, and buried him at the government graveyard here this afternoon.

Rindu's body reached here from Rajshahi early in the morning. The namaj-e-janaza was held at the Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park.

Rindu, 22, a second year student of Management Department was killed in the violent incident on the Rajshahi University campus early Sunday. He was the eldest son of Abdul Motealeb Chowdhury, an associate professor of Physics at the Satkhira Government College.

Different political parties held a protest rally near the Satkhira post office in the evening. The speakers demanded a ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics and punishment of the killers.

The mourners also brought out a procession in the town. Three shops were damaged by the mob during the procession.

Keating plans to declare Australia a republic

DUBLIN, Ireland, Sept 20: Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said Sunday he had informed Queen Elizabeth II during their weekend meeting that he hopes to declare his country a republic by the year 2001, reports AP.

Keating, who earlier flew to Ireland, took the unusual step of issuing a statement about his formal audience on Saturday with the monarch at Balmoral Castle.

"I explained to Her Majesty that, notwithstanding the deep respect and warm affection felt towards her by the Australian people, there was a growing feeling that Australia should make the necessary constitutional changes to allow the appointment of an Australian head of state," he said.

Student bodies condemn Jamaat, Shibir

Most of the country's students' organisations yesterday condemned the Jamaat-Shibir axis and demanded a ban on their fundamentalist politics, reports UNB.

The organisations, including the pro-BNP JCD and the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) staged demonstrations and rallies across the country reacting to Sunday's violence on the Rajshahi University campus that left one killed and more than 40 wounded.

They blamed the Jamaat-Shibir elements for triggering the violence, one of the worst instances of campus terrorism in recent months.

The violence at Rajshahi touched off a series of clashes on campuses throughout the country yesterday when two Shibir activists were killed and 35 others injured at Khulna.

In the capital, outraged students beat up a number of Shibir activists and damaged vehicles on the Dhaka University campus giving vent to their anger.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent says that a half-day hartal from 6 am to 2 pm was observed by the alliance of eight student organisations to protest the killing of a Rajshahi University student.

All business and educational institutions in the town were closed.

Meanwhile, police arrested

Senior Pan Pacific executive due today

By Staff Correspondent

A vice president of the Pan Pacific Hotels and Resorts arrives in Dhaka today for troubleshooting while the workers and employees of the Sonargaon Hotel deferred their planned hunger strike for "two to three days."

Leaders of the Sonargaon Hotel Workers' and Employees' Union said they had deferred their programme in view of the assurance given by the Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury as well as the visit of Y Hamano, Area vice president of the Pan Pacific Hotels and Resorts, the operating company of the Sonargaon Hotel.

Union leaders called on the Home Minister late Sunday night. They had earlier decided to stage a hunger strike at the hotel today.

Workers and employees of the hotel observed a nine-and-a-half hour wildcat strike and confined the General Manager in his room Saturday.

Indian space rocket

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said the first three stages of the rocket performed as expected. But the fourth and final stage "malfunctioned" after the rocket had zoomed some 650 kilometers (406 miles) above the earth.

Indian scientists in the southern city of Bangalore, where the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is based, "are analysing the data to find out what exactly went wrong," PTI said.

A visibly dejected ISRO chairman U R Rao said at Sriharikota that Indian scientists would continue their space programme, and the next PSLV flight would be on schedule after about one year.

"Today was a mixed bag of success," he said.

For the first developmental flight, today's efforts were extremely good, although the mission objective was not fulfilled totally," Rao said. "The lift off was perfect."

But few Indians appeared to share Rao's optimism.

ISRO scientists said the failure would hit future space missions. PTI said the failure had "cast a shadow on India's civilian rocket programme", and added that all ISRO rocket designs should be thoroughly reviewed.

RU incident protested

Four beaten up on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

A group of unidentified youths beat up at least four persons on the Dhaka University campus suspecting them of being Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists yesterday.

Agitating youths also damaged the seminar room of the Department of Islamic Studies yesterday noon.

Another group of young men damaged at least three motor vehicles near the High Court to protest the violence at Rajshahi University (RU) on September 19.

Besides, the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) and different students' organisations yesterday condemned the terrorist activities at RU in which a student was killed and another 40 were injured.

Campus sources said a group of unidentified youths brought out a procession in the Arts building and assaulted one Badruzzaman, a student of the university, in front of the Department of Islamic Studies for his alleged involvement with the ICS, the students wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh.

The group also beat up another two persons in front of the Madhu's Canteen and the Arts Faculty building.

Another group assaulted a person near the Doel Chatter near the Curzon Hall.

The pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession and held a rally near the Aparajeyo Bangla at DU to protest the RU violence.

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) held a rally at the DUCSU building and protested the incident.

The Ganatantrik Chhatra Otkya (OCO) brought out a procession from the DU campus and held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The speakers in the rally said the anti-liberation forces were responsible for all the violence in the educational institutions.

The JSD (Inu)-backed BCL (B-K) and the Chhatra Otkya Forum also condemned the terrorist activities perpetrated allegedly by the ICS at RU.

JCD submits its 14-pt demands to DU Pro-VC

The pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor to press home their 14-point demand for solving the students' problems, reports UNB.

A large number of JCD leaders and activists held a rally at the foot of the Aparajeyo Bangla Statue and then handed over the memorandum to Pro-VC Prof Waki Ahmed in the absence of the Vice Chancellor.

The JCD memorandum also demanded that the university authorities should take over the Katabon Mosque, adjacent to the Ziaur Rahman Hall.

Addressing the rally, DUCSU member and JCD DU unit convener Shahiduddin Chowdhury Ance alleged that the Katabon mosque had become a den of Jamaat-Shibir elements who were using it as their base for political activities.

Pro-VC Prof Ahmed, while receiving the memorandum, assured that the authorities will consider their demands and asked them to work for maintaining peace on the campus.

Earlier, leaders and activists of the JCD brought out a procession on the campus chanting slogans in support of their demands.

Special JS body on campus violence meets

The ninth meeting of the special parliamentary committee on violence on the campus was held at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday afternoon with chairman of the committee and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz in the chair, reports BSS.

The prevailing situation in different educational institutions, including the Jahangirnagar and Rajshahi universities was discussed in the meeting, an official handout said.

The committee underlined the need for making the campuses free from violence at all costs for the greater interest of the nation and restore congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.

Besides, causes of violence on the campus and the recommendations for overcoming those, placed before the committee by invited teachers and student leaders, were also reviewed.

The committee was attended by Agriculture and Irrigation Minister M Majid-ul-Haq, Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Begum Matia Chowdhury, Minister Abdul Mannan and Dr Mizanul Haq of the Awami League and Sheikh Ansar Ali of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Today's mission was to be the precursor to the three-stage geostationary satellite launch vehicle (GSLV), which the Indian scientists had vowed to build on their own after Russia refused to part with a cryogenic engine.

The Midnight File

Jewish settlers denounce accord

JERUSALEM, Sept 20: Jewish settlers are staging a four-day campaign to try and overturn the Palestinian autonomy accord which goes to the Israeli Parliament this week, the organizers said today. Under a banner reading "Israel is in danger," settlers have built a stage outside parliament for speakers to rally demonstrators from Tuesday when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin opens the debate, reports BSS.

Wei to continue to fight for democracy in China

BEIJING, Sept 20: China's most prominent dissident Wei Jingsheng said today he would continue to fight for democracy in China. In his first appearance since being paroled last Tuesday after 14-1/2 years in prison, most of them in solitary confinement, Wei said his health was rather poor, but his spirit was strong, reports AFP.

Bosnia talks end in failure

ZAGREB, Sept 20: Urgent talks between the warring parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina aimed at saving the stalled Geneva peace plan ended in failure late today, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said. The talks on the British aircraft carrier Invincible broke down over demands by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for a land corridor linking a proposed Muslim mini-state to the Adriatic coast, said Tudjman, cited by the official Hina news agency, reports AFP.

Partial hartal observed at Raozan, Rangunia

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: A half-day hartal was observed partially at Raozan and Rangunia thanas, 30 miles off the city, today.

The National Democratic Party, Chittagong unit, called for this hartal in support of their demand for release of its leader Abu Bakar Chowdhury.

Police and local sources said most of the vehicles could not ply at Raozan and Rangunia points of Chittagong-Rangunia and Chittagong-Kaptai roads during hartal hours.

But life was almost normal. Most of the local shops and markets were open. No untoward incident was, however, reported during hartal period.

Ban 'student politics of tailism': EUTA

Engineering University Teachers' Association (EUTA) yesterday demanded ban on 'student politics of tailism' to cleanse the campus of terrorism, reports UNB.

The association at an emergency meeting chaired by its President Prof Mohammad Abdur Razzak Akand observed that such student politics should be banned immediately to free the educational institutions from violence.

PM on violence

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siders and non-students to destroy peace on the campuses, Begum Zia said.

She called upon the teachers, guardians, political parties, student organisations and others concerned to extend cooperation to the government to maintain peace and stability on the campuses.

Begum Zia said, a certain quarter which did not want that the students should have a close relationship with the soil of the nation and carry forward the country towards progress were trying to make the educational institutions non-functioning.

The function was also addressed by DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP, DUCSU QS Khairul Kabir Khokan, Chhatra Dai President Fazul Huq Milan and other Chhatra Dal leaders and members of Tejgaon and Dhaka Colleges.

2 Shibir activists

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man, Milon, Nixon, Hafiz and Azizul, all students of B L College.

Those admitted to hospital with injuries from the Aliya Madrassah were Al-Amin, Abul Kashem, Moazzem Ali, Moazzem Haque, Sirajul Islam, Azizur Rahman, Mohsin and Moniruzzaman.

The authorities declared the Aliya Madrassah closed for three days while the B L College, which was scheduled to re-open tomorrow after a 10-day closure, was declared closed *stne die* to avert further clashes.

At a press conference yesterday evening the Islami Chhatra Shibir blamed the JCD, the Chhatra League, and the Chhatra League for the attacks and demanded immediate punishment of the culprits.

The secretary of the city unit of the Islami Chhatra Shibir alleged that the plot was made in the B L College office yesterday evening where Ashraf Hussain, MP and Whip of the ruling BNP was present. Witnesses also confirmed that student leaders also met the Whip at the Khulna Circuit House for over three hours yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Islami Chhatra Shibir has called for a half-day hartal in Khulna town tomorrow.

The local JCD also brought out a procession in the town and paraded the different streets to protest terrorism unleashed by the Shibir activists.

UN member states are waiting to see if Clinton will maintain the US commitment to working in Somalia under UN direction, possibly putting US troops under UN control.

UN diplomats also expect developments in several separate efforts to expand the Security Council. The process was accelerated June 30 when the United States officially confirmed it would support permanent council membership for Japan and Germany.

Britain, China, France and Russia — the current permanent members along with the United States — have not said no, but have warned against hastily taking any such major step.

48th UNGA

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years despite the international body's unprecedented financial woes, will be high on the session's agenda.

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is expected to present new ideas for UN peacekeeping efforts as the UN peacekeeping mission in Somalia comes under criticism from several humanitarian organisations.

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