

No BCL activists involved in JU incidents'

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of ruling Awami League, has said that none of its activists are involved in the recent untoward incidents at Jahangirnagar University (JU).

The JU BCL committee was dissolved about a year ago and there is no activity of BCL on the university campus now. So there is no possibility of involvement of any BCL men in the incidents," said BCL president Bahadur Bepari while addressing a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday afternoon.

Refuting various reports, he said some newspapers were deliberately implicating BCL in the JU incidents in a bid to tarnish the "good" image of the organisation.

Bahadur Bepari said that the "attackers and rapists" were engaged in a deep-rooted conspiracy at JU campus to spoil the reputation of the university. "They are resorting to such heinous incidents on the campus to gain political ends."

Asked about the terrorists and accused rapists at JU, he said they were no longer in the BCL. "Once they were in the BCL, but they were expelled from the organisation."

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organisation on the ground of anti-organisational and immoral activities," Bahadur added.

The BCL president expressed solidarity with the movement of the general students of JU and demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in the recent incidents on the JU campus.

He also said that BCL will give the moral support to the movement of various student organisations.

Among others, BCL acting general secretary Anisur Rahman, Saifuddin Nasir, Meshbaul Hossain Shacchu, Sujit Roy Nandi, Proshanta Vhushan Barua, K M Moimul Islam Mostaq, K M Ashraf Azin Ruban, Sajjad Hossain, Shah Mostafa Alamgir, A K M Ajim and Kamrunnahr Shima were present at the press conference.

4 BNP MPs concerned over attack on procession

Four BNP MPs elected from Barisal Division have expressed concern over attacks on BNP procession, terrorism and toll collection in Barisal town, reports UNB.

In a joint statement, Major (Rtd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Mosharraf Hossain Mangu, Nazimuddin Alam and Shah Mohd Abul Hossain alleged that a reign of terror was created at the patronisation of the Prime Minister's brother.

A few days back, the Chief Whip of the ruling party had exchanged words with BNP MP Mujibur Rahman Sarwar.

Indian sex workers protest eviction

Star Report
Indian sex workers Thursday staged a demonstration in front of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Calcutta protesting eviction of sex workers from two brothels in Narayanjan district, according to a BBC report.

Hundreds of sex workers from Sonagachhi brothel chanted slogans demanding rights of sex workers.

Earlier, the sex workers in a procession from Sealdah station marched toward the Deputy High Commissioner's office to submit a memorandum.

Leaders of sex workers told the BBC that they would launch a global movement against repression of sex workers.

It was illogical to evict Bangladeshi sex workers in the name of rehabilitation, said Mala Singh, a leader of Durbar Mahila Samanarj Committee (DMSC), organiser of the rally.

In the memorandum, they protested torture and violence against the sex workers in Bangladesh.

PDB generates 2601mw of electricity

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) yesterday recorded generation of 2601.2 Megawatt of electricity, exceeding the target set by the organisations, PDB sources said last night, reports BSS.

The Board which has been experiencing higher generation in the recent weeks following commissioning of two barge-mounted power stations at Baghabari and Haripur and also the rehabilitation of old power stations, earlier set the target of generation for today as 2575 MW.

The power generation recorded on Friday was 2460 MW, sources said.

The sources said as a result of increased generation of power there was no load shedding for the last two days. Over six hundred (643 MW) megawatt of power is expected to be added to the national grid by June next on completion of major rehabilitation of power stations undertaken by PDB, the sources added.

The installed capacity in the country currently stands at 3600 MW. There are 21 power stations in the country.

The number of power consumers is about 41 lakhs who falls in three categories - includes domestic industrial and commercial. About 16 per cent of the population have access to electricity.

Auditor General's Annual report launched

The launching ceremony of the annual report, 1998 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh was held at the Financial Management Academy in the city, says a press release.

SM Akram, MP and chairman, Public Accounts Committee, M Hafizuddin Khan, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, David E Lockwood, Resident Representative, UNDP, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Finance Secretary, Syed Sajedul Karim, Controller General Defence Finance and other senior government officials attended the function.



Participants at a roundtable discussion on 'Security Perception in South Asian Region and Beyond' held at the CIRADP auditorium in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs organised the event. —Star photo

TOT course on entrepreneurship begins

The TOT (Training of the Trainers) Course on 'Entrepreneurship Development/ Business Management', an US-AID-funded JOBS Programme, began on August 7 in the city, says a press release.

The 12-day course is being conducted by 'Steps Towards Development' to provide assistance for the small and medium enterprises to expand their business.

Some 20 persons selected from different NGOs like 'Proshika' and 'Jogshutra' are taking part in the course.

Selina Siddiqua Anna (Deputy Micro Enterprise Coordinator), Zainab Akhter (Senior Advisor, Micro Enterprise) and Anthony Daughus from the USA and other NGO representatives were present at the inaugural ceremony.

DU clarification

The academic and research activities in the Dhaka University have been going on in a peaceful atmosphere and the campus situation has improved significantly, said a DU press release yesterday, reports UNB.

It said the university authorities took immediate steps in regard to certain incidents that took place in the areas adjacent to the campus, including Suhrawardy Uddyan and Shaheed Minar.

Some of the accused were caught red-handed and handed over to the law enforcing agencies, it added.

The press release said that the university authorities were in touch with law enforcing agencies round-the-clock for maintaining law and order on the campus.

So it is not true that the campus has turned into a safe place for the muggers as reported by UNB and published in a section of the press yesterday, said the university authorities in a clarification.

Ershad accuses govt of conspiring to handover land to Indian citizens

Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad has accused the government of conspiring to hand over land property to some Indian citizens in the name of scrapping the Enemy Property Act, reports UNB.

He said the government earlier sacrificed the sovereignty of one-tenth area of the country by signing the CHT deal.

The credit of the Awami League government is to protect the interest of India by signing agreements one after another, he told a public meeting at Madhabpur in Habiganj district yesterday.

Criticising the move to give transit to India, the former President said the government wants to make Bangladesh as a market of Indian goods and economic colony of India.

Inclusion of breastfeeding topic in academic syllabus stressed

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday stressed inclusion of breastfeeding topic in the academic syllabus to make aware the people about its good effect, reports UNB.

He was addressing the concluding function of the World Breastfeeding Week-'99 at the Science Laboratory auditorium.

The function was also addressed by president of Bangladesh Family Planning Association Dr Nilima Ibrahim, Health and Nutrition Affairs UNICEF chief in Bangladesh Dr To Kyaw Myint, Mohammad Ayub, Dr Al Begum and MA Mannan.

"The country can save millions of taka if the mothers feed their babies breast milk," he said adding, "the breast milk can save the child from complicated and fatal diseases."

He said the journalists also could play a significant role in motivating the mothers at the grassroots level.

Yusuf called upon non-government and social organisations to work side by side with the government in this respect.

The minister later distributed prizes among the winners of drawing and essay competitions held on the occasion, says an official handout.

Padma flowing over danger mark

Although most of the major rivers in the country's four basins recorded fall, the Padma was still flowing above its danger mark at Bagyukul yesterday, reports UNB.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre yesterday said, out of 46 water level monitoring points, seven points recorded rise and 33 points recorded fall during last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday.

Both the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and the Padma continued to fall at all points, the rivers in the Meghna basin registered rise and fall and most rivers in the Southeastern Hill basin recorded fall except the Matamuhuri at Lama.

The Padma registered further fall by 13 cm at Pankha, 4 cm at Rajshahi, 5 cm at Haridond Bridge, 3 cm at Goalundo and recorded slight fall at Bhagyukul. The river was flowing 7cm above red mark at Bagyukul.

The Manu recorded sharp rise by 158cm at Manu Rly Bridge and 52cm at Mouyibazar.

Significant rainfall of 50mm was recorded at Lama, 23.5mm at Durgapur and 22mm at Sathkira.

Appeal

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Ameer-ul-Islam, who is also President of SAARC Lawyers' Association said, "If we tried the war criminals, the region would not have to experience any more war. Even, Pakistan would not have to face the problem like now in Karachi."

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury told the function that Bangladesh's foreign policy was on correct track. "We are not in a position to make any judgement. But we did our best for peace in the region," Chowdhury quoted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to have told the Indian Zee TV during her London visit when her views on the Kargil crisis was sought.

Referring to the PM's visit to Delhi and Islamabad after nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, he said her objectives were not to facilitate or interfere. "It was proactive role to bring the ancient neighbours closer and she has told them to resolve the problem within themselves."

"The issue of conflict between India and Pakistan is not trilateral or multilateral one. It's a bilateral issue and should be resolved bilaterally. We can only express our concern if the region gets tense because of conflict," said the State Minister.

JSD President and Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rofiq urged to stop illegal arms race in the region, reduce military expenditure and declare South Asia a nuclear-free zone.

"A joint arms monitoring team should be formed to control arms race in South Asia," he said. "The consequences of nuclear arms and poverty bombs on which the region is now sitting will be serious if we couldn't eliminate the two enemies right now."

When Abdul Mayeen Khan MP of BNP, cautioned against Bangladesh's involvement in any way in conflict between India and Pakistan which, he said, might be dangerous.

He was also critical of both India and Pakistan for not signing CTBT. "Even China signed the CTBT, but they refuse," he said urging the rivals to take the advantage of SAARC in resolving the Kashmir crisis.

"Bangladesh's foreign policy should be like that of Switzerland. It should not be a party to any conflict between India and Pakistan," former State Minister for Planning said.

JSD General Secretary Hasanul Haq Inu emphasised the need for human security saying military security is not important when everybody talks of globalisation. "Per capita income of South Asian nations is below 300 dollars against 70,000 dollars in the developed world. It should be our prime concern."

Moderating the roundtable, former Foreign Secretary Wajir Rahman posed questions: "What do the South Asian nations really want - tension of stability? War or peace? Marginalisation or development? The answer is quite obvious and the way must be found out, he added.

Barrister, Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed presided over the function that was also addressed by Tasmina Hossain MP, GM Kader MP, Prof Meghna Guha Thakurta, Shah Abdul Hannan, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Hasan Imam, Ali Akhsad, Enaytur Rahim, Dr Salahuddin Ahmed, Rosaline Costa and Shaifq Ahmed.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui and diplomats from other countries, including USA, Germany, Japan and Egypt were present.

Abidur's attackers yet to be arrested

Police is yet to arrest the alleged attackers of renowned freedom fighter Abidur Rahman, Bir Bikram, even after five days of the incident, reports BSS.

Police said the valiant freedom fighter came under attack by a group of miscreants at the intersection of North Brooke Hall road and Pylari Das Road at about 7:30 pm on Tuesday last.

The miscreants led by Biplob and Ujjal attacked him as he tried to rescue one Mainul Islam alias Alok from their target, police said.

They hit on his forehead and other parts of the body with a revolver and other lethal weapons. The miscreants also fired him from a point blank range but luckily he escaped unhurt.

The miscreants tried to kidnap Alok from the area following an earlier enmity. Alok and several others gathered there for a conciliation meeting at the Globe Library to solve their dispute.

Abidur Rahman, along with his seven friends joined the naval commando escaping from a Pakistani fleet anchored in a port of France in the early stage of our country's liberation war.

Workshop on environmental reporting ends

Veteran journalist AZM Enayetullah Khan yesterday called upon the leaders of political parties to focus more on major environmental issues to help achieve sustainable development for this welfare of the people, reports BSS.

He was addressing a session of the two-day workshop on 'Environmental Reporting' organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) with support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest and UNDP at National Press Club.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury presided over the session. Dr Mahfuzul Haque, Dr Ainun Nisat, Mohammad Rezaul Karim, Dr AZM Iftekhar Hossain, Dr AK Enamul Haq, Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Jawadur Rahman were the resource persons.

MOU for establishing Bangabandhu Fellowship signed

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Bangladesh and Heidelberg University in Germany for establishing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Professorial Fellowship at its South Asia Institute, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Germany Kazi Anwarul Masud and Rector of the University Prof Dr Jurgen Siebke signed the MOU in Germany on Thursday, said a message received here yesterday.

The occupant of the fellowship will be accorded suitable administrative recognition by Heidelberg University, one of the greatest centres of learning in Europe, for the fellow to take part in teaching as well as research.

The teaching programme of the fellow would be finalised in consultation with the department where he will be located.

The Heidelberg University will provide the fellow with a work place and other administrative facilities for one academic year initially which may be extended with mutual consultation with Bangladesh for another academic year.

Prof Siebke welcomed the initiatives and expressed deep gratitude to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for establishing the fellowship saying it would help promote scholarly exchanges between South Asia Institute and Bangladesh.

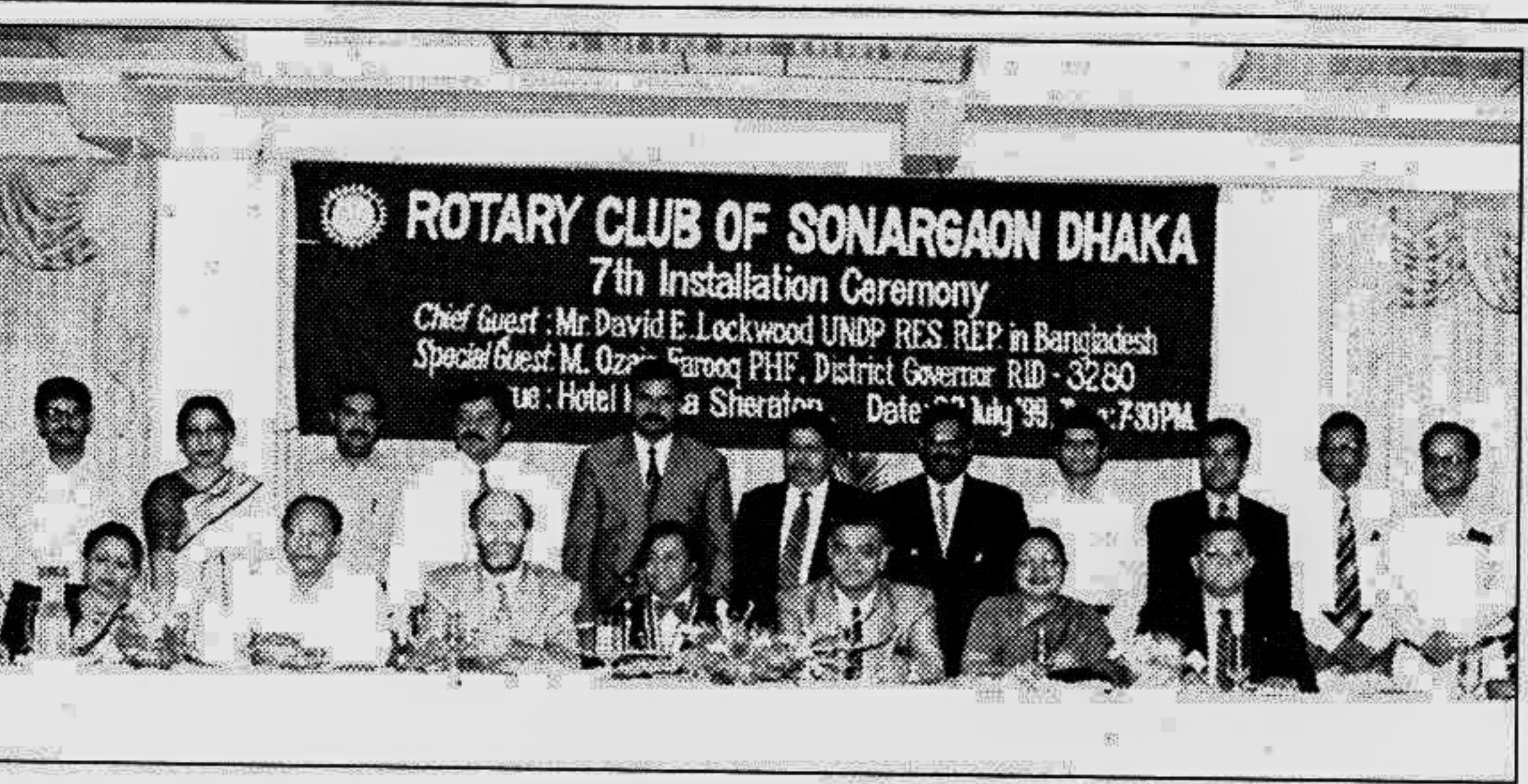
Valuables worth Tk 2 lakh looted in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Aug 7: Armed daicots looted valuables worth over Tk 2 lakh from 15 shops at Khunnabazar in Sadar thana Friday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the gang numbering 10-12 swooped on the bazaar at 1 am and started looting after exploding bombs and firing gun shots. They also stabbed and beat up 15 shop owners and workers, who tried to resist them.

The robbers left the bazaar safely with booties at 2.30 am crossing the river Mrigi.

Four of the injured identified as Almahs (25), Saiful (20), Kutubuddin (22) and Moutu (26) were admitted to Sherpur Sadar Hospital.



The 7th installation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka was held recently at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Chief guest David E Lockwood, UN Resident, Co-ordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh, District Governor M Ozair Farooq and IPDG MA Awwal seen with the newly elected office bearers of the RCSD.

'Govt aware of rights of workers'

SYLHET, Aug 7: Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury said the government was quite aware of the rights and demands of working people, reports BSS.

Addressing a function, organised by the CBA of Sylhet Textiles Mills, as the chief guest yesterday evening, the Speaker said the government was taking all possible measures for the welfare of peasants, workers and other professionals.

He said necessary steps would be taken so that no worker or staff of the mills was thrown out of job. He assured that the handling over process of the mills would be stopped and power connection would be restored within a day or two.

Woman killed in road accident

By Staff Correspondent
A female motorcycle rider was killed when a speeding minibus hit the two-wheeler in the city's Uttara area yesterday evening, police and hospital sources said.

The victim was identified as Rukhsana Aktar, wife of Mohammad Yusuf, a resident of Dummi in city's Badda area. She was working with an NGO as a programme organiser.

Sources said the accident occurred at around 7 pm. Rukhsana died on the spot. The minibus sped away soon after the accident.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. No case, however, was filed with Uttara thana till filing this report.

Mozammel urged to withdraw 'indecent' comment

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) has urged State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain to withdraw his "indecent" comment about journalists and seek apology to the journalist community, reports UNB.

"Otherwise, journalist community will be compelled to take necessary steps," DRU said in a statement yesterday.

It said the State Minister's comment that journalists taking bribe are writing against the rehabilitation of prostitutes of Tanabazar and Nimto is not only false and condemnable, it is also an attempt to undermine journalists and assassin their characters.



The residents of city's Laxmibazar area brought out a procession yesterday protesting the killing of Sentu. —Star photo



Muktijodha Sanghati Parishad brought out a silent procession to mark the National Mourning Day in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Trial of killers of Col Taher demanded

By DU Correspondent
JSD-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus demanding trial of the killers of Colonel Taher.

As part of its country-wide programme, Central Reform Committee of BCL also held a rally on the campus.

Addressing the rally, BCL leaders said, "the government has started the process of trial of all killers, but the trial of the killers of Colonel Taher is yet to be started."

Among others, Obaidur Rahman Chunnun, Karim Sikder, Mirza Md Anwarul Haq and Munir Ahmed Lenin addressed the rally.

2 killed in Ctg road accidents

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 7: Two people were killed in separate road accidents in the city today.

An unidentified youth died on the spot when a tempo overtook a bus near matha area at around 8 am.

In the other incident, a 12-year-old boy was run over by a speeding truck near East Colony at around 11 am today. The boy could not be identified.

Both the vehicles were seized, but the drivers managed to escape.

Meanwhile, Bandar thana police recovered a body of an old man from the Karnaphuli river near Rubi Cement Clinker Factory in the morning.

Terrorist held in Ctg

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 7: Paharoli thana police in a pre-dawn raid arrested one enlisted terrorist from Halishahar New "A" block area today.

The arrested was identified as Jahangir Alam Munna, 30. He was arrested on charge of terrorism and toll extortion.

Police also recovered some electronics goods including TV and fans from his possession.

Discussion on Hiroshima Day

A discussion meeting was held at the office of the United Nations Schools Organization of Bangladesh (UNSOB) in the city on Friday, says a press release.

Rezaur Rahman, president of UNSOB presided. The meeting was attended by teachers and students of different secondary schools. A number of speakers including Shofiqul Alam, a teacher of Motijheel Model School, Dr M Torab Ali, treasurer of UNSOB, Fariduddin Ahmed and Kazi Ferdous - life members of UNSOB took part in the discussion. The speaker demanded a total ban on the production and stockpiling of all kinds of nuclear weapons and urged all countries not to indulge in any atomic bomb test and divert the money spent on nuclear bomb test to the pressing needs of socio-economic development of the poverty-stricken peoples.

Marchers

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Among others Professor Anisur Rahman, Poet Shamsur Rahman and left front leaders attended the rally.



Adcom, a leading advertising firm, organised a five-day workshop 'media trek-99' for the media experts in its office in the city recently. The workshop was conducted by Rajat Gupta, associate vice president, and Indranel Basu, media director, both of Ammirati Puris Lintas.