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PHILIPS

Clandestine Shibir activities at DU Rokeya Hall

By DU Correspondent

A section of female students of Rokeya Hall of the Dhaka University detected 'underground activities' of alleged Islamic Chhatra Sangstha (ICS), the female students wing of Jamaat-e-Islami in the early hours of yesterday.

While carrying out their 'search' of some rooms at the hall, some of the students were allegedly assaulted by ICS activists. As a result, Soma, Bonni, Anu, Putul and Munni were injured.

The ICS activists led by M.Phil. student Rana allegedly attacked them while they were searching the room no. 112 at Fayjunessa hall.

Later, the general students of the hall, numbering about 200, brought out a procession at the hall premises at about 1 p.m. demanding expulsion of the alleged ICS activists and exemplary punishment to the attackers, sources added.

However, Fatema Begum, assistant provost of the university, appeared at the scene and assured the agitated students that she would look into the matter, sources added.

Searching ten rooms of the hall, the students also recovered a huge number of 'objectionable' papers and documents regarding activities of ICS, Chhatra Shibir and Jamaat across the country. Photographs, some 40 books including those authored by Golem Jamil, Abbas Ali Khan and Matur Rahman Nazami, money receipt, journals and magazines including 'Madina' and 'Adarsha Nari', some diaries of the ICS leaders which included organisational plans and invitation cards from ICS units of Chittagong and Rajshahi university were also retrieved. A letter which declared Barisal as 'city of shibir' was also recovered.

According to the papers, the students also identified some top leaders of ICS including Rahima Akhter of Philosophy Department (Room no. 20 at extension building), Ashrafia Khatun Lipi of Social Welfare (Room no. 4 at Honours building) and Queen of room no. 54 at honours building, a statement issued by the hall students said.

Hall sources told The Daily Star that, some of the students of the hall kept eyes on some

suspected ICS activists, following the recent anti-shibir drive at different dormitories of the university. They started the drive at about 10:00 p.m. on Friday and it continued till 1:30 a.m.

Later, a 15-member delegation of the hall students yesterday called on Vice Chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury at his office at about 11:00 a.m. demanding expulsion of the ICS activists from the university. The VC assured them that he would look into the matter.

Meanwhile, the university authorities yesterday held an emergency meeting of the Provost's Standing Committee following some recent incidents on the campus. As per the decision of the meeting, 'all the students have a right to express their thoughts and opinions, but they must have to be open and not clandestine.'

The meeting resolved that no activity opposed to the spirit of the country's Liberation War and its national sovereignty would be tolerated. The meeting also decided to take action against those who were involved in harassing the students. Anyone so harassed has been asked to contact the respective hall provost.

Talking to The Daily Star some of the students of the hall said, 'Jamaat backed-ICS and Shibir activists are building an underground network in the university and we can not allow the fanatics to pursue anti-state and the anti-liberation activities.'

Meanwhile, leaders of different student organisations at the Shamsunnahar Hall, joined by the hall authorities, yesterday held a meeting of Paribesh Sangrakkhan Committee, which decided to meet again on Tuesday.

Talking to The Daily Star, the provost of the hall, Prof. Sultana Shaif said, 'we must take necessary steps in this connection and formally announce the final decision to the press.'

Earlier, general students led by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) also identified Shibir units in some of the residential halls including Bangabandhu Hall, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, Mohsin Hall and Zahurul Haq Hall.

Police fail to demolish illegal shopping mall of Ershad Shikdar

KHULNA, Sept 25: Police could not demolish an unauthorised shopping complex of infamous terror Ershad Shikdar today as they didn't get permission from Khulna Development Authority (KDA), reports UNB.

With bulldozers and labourers, police waited for about four hours from 8 am in front of Mahanagar Complex, formerly known as Sadmani Complex, in

city's Power House Crossing to demolish it. But they failed to carry out the eviction drive there due to non-availability of permission from KDA that had earlier served notices to owners to demolish the complex.

Sources said KDA chairman Brig Monjurul Alam sent a letter to police saying that he would give his decision about the bulldozing of Mahanagar Complex after his return from Dhaka. He was scheduled to go to Dhaka today.

Ershad Shikdar and his business partner Sikandar Ali run the complex having over 50 shops, forcibly occupying 12 acres of land owned by KDA and Railway.

KDA served legal notices for demolishing the centre several times. The last one was served on Thursday.

However, police demolished Ershad's Ice Mills in the afternoon with the help of BDR and APBN. Officials of KMP, Khulna City Corporation, Railway and a magistrate were present during the drive.

In last three days, police successfully cleaned the ghat number 4-5 area, where Ershad Shikdar illegally built slums and business establishments on Railway lands.

Police have so far demolished about 600 slum houses, 180 illegal shops, godowns and business establishments, used by Ershad and his associates in the name of lease.

Heroin haul
DNC yet to make any headway

By Staff Correspondent

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) could not yet make any headway in its probe into the biggest ever heroin haul in the country from a city hotel on Monday.

Three Pakistanis arrested in this connection—Abraham, Alefzan and Rais—were placed on a five-day remand on Tuesday for interrogation.

When contacted last night, the director general of DNC said, 'We are looking for clues and would be able to reach our goal shortly.'

A high police official said, 'DNC is trying to save the culprits, as is usual for it.' He, however, sought anonymity.



Jahangirnagar University students yesterday formed a "human chain" to protest fee hike. — Star photo

Workers of 3 jute mills put up road barricade

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 25: The road link between Chittagong and the rest of the country remained snapped due to a railroad barricade enforced by the agitated workers of three jute mills at Darobkunda under Sitakunda today.

Around 8000 workers of Anowara Jute Mills, Kashem Jute Mills and Mokbulur Rahman Jute Mills put up barricade at different points on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway demanding their arrears.

The mills were laid off 4-5 months ago and the salaries of the workers remained held up. A tripartite meeting of the mill owners, workers and the officials concerned was held at the office of the minister for jute on Sept 14 to resolve the crisis.

However, the decision to pay off the arrears of the workers by September 22 failed resulting in widespread agitation. A meeting to resolve the crisis was continuing till filing of this report tonight.

BNP office at Muladi ransacked

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 25: At least 10 people were injured when some unruly AL and BCL activists attacked and ransacked the BNP office and Sirajul Islam Mantu Smriti Sangsad at Muladi at about 1 p.m. today, police said.

According to Mosarraf Hossain Mangu, BNP MP of Muladi, the attack was led by Mithu of BCL and Malek Rari of AL. The incident followed an altercation between Swapna, a supporter of JCD and the BCL activists there at about 10 am this morning.

Almost all the furniture and articles at the BNP office and the Smriti Sangsad were set on fire, Mangu added.

3 JCD activists arrested in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 25: Police arrested two leaders and an activist of JCD last night from the town in connection with cases against them.

The arrested three are: Ashraful Islam Pintu, Milon alias Raju and Shankar Kumar.

They were sent to jail after their bail petitions were rejected by the court.

BCS co-ordination body renews demands Cancel order to upgrade 321 posts without delay

By Special Correspondent

BCS Co-ordination Committee (26 cadres) yesterday renewed its demand for immediate cancellation of a government order for upgradation of 321 posts of BCS (Admn) cadre.

After an emergency extended meeting of the central executive council of the 26 cadres to review the situation arising out of the recommendation by a parliamentary committee to upgrade the 321 posts, it said that without upgrading the scales of equivalent posts in other cadres such a decision would only add to the disparity.

In a resolution, the meeting urged the parliamentary standing committee to reconsider its recommendation for upgradation of the 321 posts of BCS (Admn) and urged the government to repeal the quota-based guidelines on appoint-

ments to posts of deputy secretary and above. Instead, it said, the promotions should be based on open competition and merit, according to a press release of the co-ordination committee.

The 26 cadres also demanded removal of disparities due to selection grade to 50 per cent of posts in Grade 6 of the BCS (Admn) cadres and other disparities in the pay scales on the basis of national pay scale of 1977-78.

It further demanded that the every pay scale should be declared as grade and the officials would be known on the basis of the grade and the warrant of precedence should be redrawn accordingly. It also demanded that the chiefs of functional directorates and organisations and highest posts of

Industrialist, 5 others killed in 2 road accidents

From Staff Correspondent

COMILLA, Sept 25: Six people, including an industrialist, were killed and 40 others injured in two accidents on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway today, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said renowned businessman Alhaj Abul Kashem Babul, Managing Director of New Text Group, died instantly as his Pajero jeep skidded off the road in Chowddagram thana as the driver made an abortive bid to save a pedestrian.

The six-year-old passerby, Sujon, and driver Belayet Hossain, 40, of the Chittagong-bound jeep also died in the accident at Syedpur village.

The jeep from Dhaka skidded 30 feet off the highway, at about 10:15 am, a witness said.

Kashem's companions—Abu Taher and Abul Hossain—suffered injuries. Taher was sent to Dhaka while Abul admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital.

Zimbabwe beat Kenya

From Staff Correspondent

NAIROBI, Sept 25: Zimbabwe beat Kenya by three wickets in the first match of the four-nation LG Cup cricket tournament held here on Saturday, thanks largely to batsman Murray Goodwin, reports AFP.

Goodwin's 76 not out not only won the match for the Zimbabweans—who reached 200 in the last over—but also the man-of-the-match for the former Western Australia player.

He came into the game when the visitors were in all sorts of trouble after opening batsmen, Grant Flower and Neil Johnson, had been sent back to the pavilion.

Zimbabwe won the toss and put Kenya in to bat, with the hosts setting a target of 199 for eight in their allotted 50 overs.

Opening Kenyan batsman Ravindu Shah maintained his form from the World Cup, hitting a 71 before being caught by Guy Whittall, who also took two wickets as Kenya's middle-order collapsed.

The match provided the stage for two youngsters to make their debut in international cricket, Paceman David Mutendera, who replaced the injured Heath Streak, made his maiden appearance for Zimbabwe and conceded 20 runs without taking a wicket.

But for Kenya's Josphat Ababu, it was a day to remember, as in only his first international for Kenya and with his first ball, he took the prized scalp of Neil Johnson.

Violence, fraud mark fourth round of Indian polls

5 killed in Bihar, minister arrested

BARHARIAH, India, Sept 25: Five people were killed and a government minister was arrested today amid large-scale election fraud in Bihar, India's most lawless state, during the fourth round of voting for a federal parliament, reports AP.

India's news agencies estimated that half of the 80 million eligible voters had cast their ballots today in nine states, and violence was widespread.

Two people were killed by suspected militants opposed to the polling, and their bodies were displayed by police in Nalanda in Bihar.

Another two people were gunned down in Barh and one died in a clash between political groups in Siwan, both of India's national news agencies reported.

Police arrested Bihar's junior minister for cooperatives, Shyama Bihari Prasad, and charged him with instigating violence at a balloting station in the Motihari district. Press

Trust of India said. Prasad said he had been 'unnecessarily harassed' (and) subjected to humiliation on false charges,' the news agency reported.

In Nagaland, at least six bomb blasts were reported in polling stations but no one was injured.

In the populous northern state of Uttar Pradesh, police swung bamboo canes and fired bullets in the air to disperse villagers in Muzzafarnagar district who hurled rocks at officials. Six people were injured and polling was halted at nine stations. The mob also set a government car on fire. Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Police, however, feared violence mostly in Bihar, where every politician has a private army to scare away voters and intimidate polls officials.

By afternoon, election officials in Bihar's capital, Patna, said 45-50 per cent of the state's 18 million voters eligible

to cast ballots today had done so. But many officials in polling stations that looked deserted to visiting journalists said more than 50 per cent of the voters had showed up early in the morning.

Journalists travelling through the state saw few voters venturing out into the rain and wind to vote. Several rivers burst their banks, flooding towns and villages.

Seventy-four constituencies spread over nine states were voting today, wrapping up balloting for 420 of the 543 elected seats in the Lok Sabha. Voting is also taking place in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur and Maharashtra.

Polling for the remaining 123 constituencies will be completed Oct 3 and 4, and vote-counting will begin two days later. A new government is expected to assume office by the middle of next month.

AL MP Shamsul Huq dead

A K M Shamsul Huq, a member of the parliament from Kishoreganj-1, died at a city hospital yesterday morning. He was 65, reports UNB.

The nama-e-Janaza of Shamsul Huq, who was also a veteran Awami League leader, will be held at South Plaza of Jatya Sangsad at 12 noon today, said a Jatya Sangsad press release.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Tarakandi of Pakundia thana in Kishoreganj.

Shamsul Huq was an elected member of the then Provincial Assembly (MPA) in 1970 and Member of Parliament in 1986 and June 1996.

Born in August 29, 1934 he started his political career through joining Chhatra League while studying at Anandomohol College. Later, he joined Awami League and made a great contribution in the country's politics.

Late Huq actively participated in the War of Liberation in 1971 and carried out the responsibility of political coordinator and recruitment in sector-3.

He was also involved in the country's cooperative movement and discharged responsibility as chairman of Kishoreganj District Cooperative Society.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages condoled the death of Shamsul Huq.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia also condoled the death of Shamsul Huq.

Jewellery shop looted in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Sept 25: Gold ornaments worth about Tk 50,000 were looted from a jewellery shop at Singhajani High School Road in the town today, reports UNB.

Police said Bachchu Mia a resident of the area allegedly stormed into Matri Shilpajala at about 9 am, broke open the showcase by a Chinese axe and decamped with the ornaments.

Jewellery shop staff murdered in Natore

NATORE, Sept 25: An employee of a jewellery shop in the town was murdered last night, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Ujjal Pramanik, 20, son of the late Suresh Pramanikan of Bhusangachha village in Sadar thana. Police picked up five people for interrogation in this connection. They are shopowner Bipad Chandra Shah and his four employees—Biplob, Bikash, Mohadev and another Biplob.

Ujjal, who had been working at the shop for last one year was murdered by beating and pouring acid on his body, family sources said.

It was found that only three 'tolas' of gold ornaments were robbed from the shop at Hira Supermarket.

'He might be the victim of internal conflict among the employees of the shop,' police said.

The owner said he came to the shop this morning as usual at 11.30am and found the shop under lock and key. 'Later I opened the shop with my duplicate key and informed the police after seeing the body.'

B'baria clash

From page 12
Moulana Islam said, 'All NGO activities must stop by October 19 in the district.' Otherwise, he warned, a dawn-to-dusk hartal would be observed.

At the rally, Moulana Fazul Huq Amin, secretary general of IOJ, demanded withdrawal of all the cases filed against Madrasa teachers and students.

Assess gas reserve

From page 1
covered fields is to be seriously considered in the light of augmentation of the gas reserves due to new discoveries.

Petrobangla must earn its own funds for the planned development and growth of this sector,' he said.

But Prof M Nurul Islam of the Appropriate Technology Department of the same institution said it was not advisable to consider export of gas to a foreign country without assessing the marketable surplus of gas for at least 25 years.

'If decisions are made with the assumptions that more gas will be discovered in future, it can cause great financial loss to the country if the assumed quantity of gas is not discovered,' he said.

'Optimum production of gas and its best possible use for economic development of the country should be our national strategy.'

Jatya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader Hasanul Haq Inu quoting an international study said the fossil fuels like gas would remain the main source of energy in the world for at least another 50 years until alternative sources like solar power came up.

Inu, also an engineer, said Bangladesh could decide on the export of gas after discoveries of new fields but there should not be any pre-condition from the foreign investors for their exploration activities.

Petrobangla officials should not be allowed to join foreign oil companies, he said.

FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo strongly backed the idea of exporting gas saying, 'Gas under the ground is no wealth to me.'

He also refuted an argument that gas consumption would shot up at a high rate for industrialisation. Technological advancement and efficiency

10 hurt in house collapse in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Sept 25: At least 10 people were injured in house collapse and over 500 mud houses damaged due to incessant rains in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj during the last three days, reports UNB.

Local Met Office said 200 mm rains were recorded during the period disrupting normal life of the people.

Standing crops on some 2,000 hectares have been damaged or submerged by rain waters. Agriculture officials here said.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi RA, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet - edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net