



Visiting United Nations Children's Fund Executive Director Carol Bellamy called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

— AFP photo

Hill students protest killing of Mongshe

By DU Correspondent
Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus protesting the killing of Mongshe Marma.

Two student leaders, Mongshe Marma and Atushe Marma, were kidnapped from Manikchhari on December 3. Later, the body of Mongshe was recovered, but the fate of Atushe could not be known as yet.

The student organisation also held a rally in front of the DUCSU building at Noon. Addressing the rally, the leaders said the JSS is responsible for the incident as they are harbouring the terrorists.

They also demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those involved in the incident.

JS petition committee meet held

The petition committee of the Jatiya Sangsad held a meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with its president Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury in the chair, reports BSS.

The committee heard and discussed about petitions for entering service for the government officers and employees to 35 and raising the retiring age to 60, a press release said.

Besides, discussions also took place on attaching clause 110 (KA) with clause 110 of the Rules of Procedures. Members of the committee, Colonel (retd) Shawkat Ali, advocate Rahmat Ali, Shahjahan Miah, Advocate S M Akram and Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar attended the meeting.

PM hands over family savings certificate to arson victims

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over a family savings certificate worth Tk 100,000 to Uttam Kumar Das and Shankar Kumar Das — two brothers who are the victims of an arson, reports UNB.

Kiron Rani Das, their mother, along with her grandsons, burnt to death as pickets set fire to a bus near Tukatuli overbridge in the city on a night before hartaal last April.

"The hartaal supporters doused the bus with petrol and set fire to it," says a news release from the Prime Minister's office.

Five other passengers also died in the arson, it said.

Metropolitan

JCD strike: Classes not held at BUET

By DU Correspondent

Classes and academic activities of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) could not be held yesterday due to a strike sponsored by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The BUET unit of the organisation called the strike to protest Friday's police "action" on the JCD activists. It also demanded immediate release of all activists including the JCD president and general secretary.

Sources, however, said the administrative activities of the university were normal despite the strike.

More than 80 JCD activists including its president Habib-un-Nabi Sohel and general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu were arrested in the city on Friday as police cracked down on the opposition-backed student organisations. Over 20 activists were also injured.

Police resorted to crackdown as the student bodies were demonstrating against the decision of Dhaka University authorities to confer honorary degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The JCD leaders demanded immediate release of all the JCD activists.

The rally was addressed by acting general secretary of JCD Bazlul Basit Anjum, A B M Mosharraf Hossain, Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Asaduzzaman Asad, Nurul Islam Nayan and Haider Ali Lenin.

The JCD will bring out a procession in the city and hold a rally at Muktangan at 3 pm today to protest the police action.

the BUET campus. BUET central students' union, EUCSU, in a statement yesterday congratulated the students for making the strike a success.

Signed by EUCSU vice-president Hasib Sayed Ahmed Chowdhury, the statement called upon all students to be united and stand against the government's repressive measures.

The JCD unit at Dhaka University also brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of DUCSU building to protest the police action.

At the rally, the JCD leaders condemned the "cowardly" attack on the JCD activists and warned of a dire consequence if such repression is not stopped immediately.

They also condemned the government for resorting to repressive measures and urged the Prime Minister to refrain from such activities for the sake of democracy.

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Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) staged a protest rally at Muktangan yesterday demanding withdrawal of false cases against former minister Tariqul Islam and release of JCD activists.

— Star photo

Attack on journalists at Laldighi Maidan

BFUJ warns of tougher stand

CHITTAGONG, Dec 19: Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) to-day gave a 72-hour ultimatum to the government for arrest of the miscreants who assaulted working journalists at Laldighi Maidan here on December 12, reports BSS.

The leaders said that otherwise the journalists community would be compelled to launch a greater movement throughout the country.

They said anti-democratic and communal forces have thrown a challenge by assaulting journalists and that they would again raise their heads at a convenient time if they were not resisted unitedly in time.

The BFUJ leaders were addressing a rally of professionals, jointly organised by Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) and Chittagong Press Club in protest against the heinous attack on journalists when they were covering a public meeting of the four-party alliance at Laldighi Maidan on December 12 last. At least fifteen journalists were injured in the attack.

Presided over by the president of CUJ Ataul Hakim, the rally held at the local press club was addressed by the Editor of the Daily Bangladesh Observer and former President of BFUJ Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, President and Secretary General of BFUJ Abul Kalam Azad and Akbar Ahmed Khan respectively, former President of BFUJ Habibur Rahman Milon, DU President Altaf Mahmud.

Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian, BFUJ and CUJ leaders Zakariya Kazal, M Nasirul Hoq, Nurul Amin and General Secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Chittagong chapter AQM Sirajul Islam also attended the meeting.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said that the criminals who had assaulted the journalists had been identified and cases had been lodged against them but that they had not been arrested yet, even after the order by the home minister.

He said people of different professions had waged a movement against the autocratic regime in 1990 to establish their rights so that they can discharge their responsibilities

in a free and peaceful atmosphere.

BFUJ president Abul Kalam Azad said people of the country cannot accept the attack on journalists by communal and anti-liberation forces. Such attack was also made on journalists at the National Press Club in Dhaka during the BNP regime but journalists had not got any justice even then, he said.

He urged the journalists to remain alert against those who are out to destroy democracy.

"There can be no compromise with communal forces who are still speaking against the spirit of our Liberation War," he said.

Grand confce of 'Sanatan Dharma' Dec 25

Dr Mahanambrata Foundation and Mission will celebrate the 96th birthday of Baishnabacharya Dr Mahanambrata Brahmachari on December 25, reports BSS.

On the occasion, a grand conference of "Sanatan Dharma" will be held at "Prabhu Jagatbandhu Mahaprakash Math" at Hatkhola Road in Tikatuli of the city, said a press release of the Mission.

Other programmes include "Bigraba abhishek", prayers devotional songs, lighting candles, and assembly of the Late Brahmachari's devotees.

Priyabrata Brahmachari, Principal of Prabhu Jagatbandhu Mahaprakash Math and convenor of Bangladesh Sant Mahamandal, at a press conference on Saturday described the grand conference as a milestone of unity for all.

"We want to spread the ideals and philosophy of Dr Mahanambrata among all to sink mere differences by upholding the real identity of mankind in the present conflict-ridden world," he told the newsmen.

Dr Mahanambrata Brahmachari, who died on October 18 last, was the second to Swami Vivekananda to attend a conference on World Fellowship on Faith held in Chicago in the United States in 1933.

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