



A curious crowd looks on as Rajuk continues its drive to remove earth, dumped illegally by the Cooperative Society of the Senakalyan Sangstha (CSKS), from the Gulshan Lake yesterday.

2 corruption cases Charges framed against former air chief Altaf Hossain

By Court Correspondent

The Special Court for Dhaka Division yesterday framed charges against former Air Force Chief Air Vice Martial (Rtd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury in two corruption cases.

The judge, Mohammad Fazlul Karim fixed February 28 and March 13 for hearing the two cases.

The accused pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after hearing the charges brought against him.

In the first case, the accused was charged with misuring his official position to ply to his village by helicopter in 1994 that cost the government Tk 12,54,822.25. He had done it to

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JBIC governor arrives tomorrow

Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) Hiroshi Yasuda will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

During his stay in Bangladesh, Yasuda will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria.

He will visit the Bangabandhu Bridge and Chittagong International Airport as well as the Grameen Bank centres to see the projects financed by JBIC.

JBIC, a government financial institution, combines and enhances functions of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan (OECF) and The Export-Import Bank of Japan (JEXIM) with a mandate to execute Japan's external economic policy and economic cooperation in an efficient and effective manner.

Bangladesh is one of the largest ODA loan recipient countries, administered by JBIC. Some of the major projects completed with JBIC loan include Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge and Chittagong International Airport.

Other important projects under the current and future JBIC financing include Paksey and Rupsa Bridge Projects, Rural Electrification and Infrastructure Development Projects, and Greater Dhaka Telecom Project that constitutes about 45 per cent of total telecommunication capacity of the greater Dhaka area have been financed by JBIC.

The JBIC governor, who will be accompanied by its senior officials, will leave Dhaka on January 30, according to a JBIC press release.

BFTA proposes talks with govt

By DU Correspondent

The Federation of Bangladesh Teachers' Association (BFTA) yesterday proposed talks with government in response to the statement of Education Minister on January 20 regarding inclusion of the third division non-government teachers in the Monthly Pay Order (MPO).

Azizul Islam and Principal Quazi Faruque Ahmed, the acting president and secretary general respectively, of BFTA, made the proposal in a letter addressed to the Education Minister.

They submitted the letter to the Ministry yesterday.

Students, police clash at Sylhet Shahjalal varsity: 30 injured Academic activities suspended: Situation tense as students refuse to vacate halls

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 24: At least 30 people including three policemen were injured in a clash between police and students on the campus of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology today.

The situation became tense at 7 am when police released Vice Chancellor and nine members of the academic council who were confined in the administrative building by the agitating students since yesterday afternoon. The students confined the VC and nine others in the building and locked its main gate to press home their four-point demand. One of the demands is that students securing 60 marks in semester examinations, will have to be placed in the first division.

The agitating students in a procession went to the VC's official residence on the campus at about 12-45 pm and tried to talk will him. As VC refused to talk, the students became furious and some of them started hurling brickbats at on-duty policemen and on the VC's house.

Police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the

students, resulting in a clash between the two sides.

The students ransacked university library and caused extensive damage to the administrative building.

Later, they held a protest rally on the campus and called for an indefinite strike at the varsity. After the incident, the authorities at an emergency meeting, have decided to suspend all academic activities and asked the students to vacate the halls by 10 tonight.

The students announced that they would not leave the campus. They also demanded immediate resignation of the Vice-Chancellor for not accepting the genuine demands of the common students.

The academic council in its meeting yesterday constituted a committee with the departmental heads and deans of the faculties to resolve the issue in consultation with other varsities.

The students rejected it and reiterated their demands.

JCD representatives' meet ends in chaos

By Staff Correspondent

A day-long representatives' meeting of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) ended yesterday amidst indiscipline and chaos.

More than 3,000 representatives from 84 district, thana and degree college units from all over the country attended the meeting, held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) auditorium.

While planned to be a closed-door session, the doors of the auditorium remained open throughout the discussion and a large number of representatives stayed outside. Sources said there was no proper registration system.

Some 200 representatives addressed the meeting and most of them gave routine speech and vowed to intensify the current oust-government movement while asking the parent party to announce tougher action programmes immediately.

During the meeting, different factions of the JCD exchanged heated words, scuffled and made indecent remarks about each other. Dhaka University general secretary Mustafizul Islam Mamun had a scuffle with Narayanganj district unit general secretary Mosharraf Hossain in the morning.

Many JCD leaders in their speeches blamed local MPs for interfering in formation of district, college and thana unit committees. A leader from Rajshahi alleged that local MPs did not inquire about the well-being of the student body, but recommend that their followers be included in different committees when the JCD organise its annual conference to prepare new committees.

As a result, the leader said opportunists and non-students get maximum number of posts in

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FEMA sees 3 major obstacles to holding fair polls

By Staff Correspondent

Terrorist activities, influence of black money and lack of sincerity of political parties will be the major obstacles to holding the next general elections in a free and fair manner.

Concerted efforts by the media, election monitors and the civil society are needed to keep the polls process free from these to ensure a fair election, senior journalists said at a discussion meeting organised by FEMA yesterday.

A good number of columnists took part in the discussion held at the Jatiya Press Club and moderated by the FEMA Chairperson Abul Ahsan.

FEMA (Fair Election Monitoring Alliance) will arrange such discussions with political leaders also.

Abul Ahsan said incidents of election-day rigging "significantly reduced" in recent years but pre-polls manipulations increased, jeopardizing fairness of polls.

The manipulations include intimidation; posting, promotion and transfer of officials with "clear political motives" and

putting political opponents behind the bar, said Abul Ahsan, a bureaucrat turned polls monitor.

It is difficult for a caretaker administration to neutralise all these pre-polls manipulations during its three-month tenure, he said.

Senior journalist ABM Musa said terrorists operate under the patronization of political parties. "So, once a party government resigns, the terrorists, arrested or not, go into hibernation."

An effective mechanism is needed to keep black money holders away from the election process. A greater sense of responsibility among major political parties can ensure fair polls, he added.

The discussants also proposed that to ensure transparency in election expenditure, donations to political parties by businessmen should be made public.

FEMA Secretary General Feroz M Hasan explained its plans to

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Hill students form human chain to protest 'police attack' on rally

By DU Correspondent

Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) and Hill Women's Federation (HWF) together formed a human chain at the Aparaajeo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus at 11:30am yesterday in protest of a 'police attack' on a meeting of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) at the Chittagong Zilla Parishad auditorium on January 12.

Protesters in the human chain programme that lasted for about half an hour demanded immediate release of those who were arrested from the UPDF programme in Chittagong including UPDF leader Sanchai Chakma.

The programme over, they held a rally at the Aparaajeo Bangla.

Speaking at the rally, hill student leaders said that the government is harassing the PCP and HWF leaders by lodging 'false cases' against them and by 'violating' their human rights through obstructing the peaceful programmes.

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Police interrogating arrested Rohingya separatists

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 24: Police at Cox's Bazar are interrogating the two arrested Rohingya separatist leaders.

Police said efforts are on to unearth clues to their alleged involvement in arms trade and other activities.

Police arrested Salim Ullah, chief of military staff of Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO) and his aide Nur Mohammad after raiding their headquarters in Chandgao residential area in the city on Sunday night.

They were placed on demand for interrogation, police said.

Police sealed the two houses at Chandgao, suspected to have been used by ARNO as its headquarters.

Police said they had recovered a picture of Salim Ullah with Libyan leader Moammer Gaddafi and other documents.

Police are also looking for other leaders of ARNO, an alliance of extremists fundamentalists groups of Myanmar fighting for the independence of Arakan state from Myanmar.

Bangabandhu murder Steps to expunge proceedings against Mohiuddin sought

By Special Correspondent

A demand for justice notice has been given seeking 'appropriate measure for expunging' the criminal prosecution and eventual criminal proceedings against Lt Col (rtd) Mohiuddin Ahmed, one of the accused in Bangabandhu Murder Case, now in death row at Dhaka Central Jail.

To justify this, the notice given by Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman on behalf of Mohiuddin's wife cited certain provisions of Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.

Mohiuddin, is one of the 15 former military officers sentenced to death by trial court on November 8, 1998 for killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members at his residence on August 15, 1975.

But he was acquitted along with four others by one of the two

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JUTA polls today Rivals in pro-AL, pro-BNP groups close their ranks

By JU Correspondent

Rivals in pro-Awami League and pro-BNP groups of teachers at Jahangirnagar University (JU) have closed their ranks after a long time to contest the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) election, sources concerned said.

The election will be held at the University Teachers Club from 9am to 1pm today.

A total of 275 teachers are likely to cast their votes to elect a 15-member Executive Committee of JUTA.

Vice-chancellor Prof Abdul Bayes and Treasurer Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir had been leading the two rival factions of pro-AL teachers. One pro-BNP faction was being led by Prof Musthiur Rahman and the other by Prof

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Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain addresses a rally at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday. The rally was organised to protest the bomb attack on Saturday's CPB meeting at the same venue that left four people killed and at least 50 injured.

-- Star photo

Gano Forum tells rally in city Bomb blast at CPB rally an attack on democracy

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Gano Forum at a rally at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday strongly condemned the government for its failure to ensure security to people, particularly those at the CPB rally on Saturday.

They said Saturday's bomb explosion took place at the rally at Paltan Maidan as the government failed in its duty to take security measure. Four persons were killed and about 50 injured in the bomb explosion.

"It was an attack not only on innocent people but also on democracy and the Constitution which guarantees the fundamental right to hold public meetings," Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain told the rally. "It was an attack on

national security".

Security was tightened at Gano Forum's rally yesterday. Prior to the rally, a police team with a dog squad checked the field and also the dais.

Expressing grave concern at the failure of the Home Minister, Dr. Kamal said law and order is deteriorating in the country and people have no security of life and property.

Incidents of violence, terrorism, murder and extortion have become rampant.

"Why (Home Minister) Mohammad Nasim will not resign when a number of police officers have been suspended for failure in their duties?"

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Blast at rally Cops give their statements to probe body

By Staff Correspondent

Five police officials ranging from sub-inspector to Assistant Commissioner, who were on duty at Saturday's CPB rally at Paltan Maidan, gave their statements to the inquiry committee at the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday.

The committee headed by Aftab Uddin, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, told The Daily Star that the officials were questioned to find out about the loopholes in their security cordon.

Seven people were killed and more than 50 others injured in two separate bomb explosions at CPB's Paltan Maidan rally and at Bangabandhu Avenue on Saturday.

Sources said that the committee, in last three days of investigation, has gathered some vital

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