

Lightning kills two

UNB, Dhaka

Two girls were killed in separate lightning incidents in Satkhira and Sherpur districts in last 6 days. Of them, Salma, 11, was killed as a thunderbolt struck her while she went to bring back cow from nearby field in Jhenaidga upazila of Sherpur district a Thursday.

Her mother also suffered severe injuries and a cow was killed in the incident. The mother was admitted to Sadar Hospital. In Satkhira, Seema, 16, daughter of Kanai Das of town's Etagecha area, was killed when she was struck by a thunderbolt on April 15.



Representatives of civic society, leading organisations and members of the intelligentsia convened a consultative meeting at the Muktiyuddho Jaguhar yesterday. The meeting condemned all acts of barbaric violence against Bangalee culture and called for mass resistance against the evil forces who are out to destroy our culture and heritage.

'1.5 lakh die of cancer each yr'

BSS, Dhaka

At least two lakh people are attacked by cancer every year in Bangladesh and 1.5 lakh of them die, Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim said yesterday. Addressing a function marking the inauguration of the Second Kobalt Unit for cancer treatment in the Cancer Institute Hospital in

the city, he said the present government, in view of higher cost in cancer treatment, was providing some valuable medicines for facilitating patients free of cost. Besides, he said, the government has decided to upgrade the country's only Cancer Institute Hospital from the present 50-bed to 300-bed one at a cost of Taka 19 crore.

Meanwhile, a modern Kobalt cancer machine was imported from China at a cost of Taka 5.50 crore to facilitate cancer treatment in the country, he said. The machine already installed in the hospital is expected to provide treatment to as many as 150 cancer patients every day. The old cancer machines will also be repaired to help cancer treatment in the country, an official handout said.

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Students remain unrepresented as JUCSU polls not held for 9-yr

JU CORRESPONDENT

Election of the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (JUCSU) has not taken place for the last nine years due to various reasons.

Among the different reasons cited behind this is the disagreement among different student bodies over proper atmosphere for holding of the polls and the apparent indifference of the university authorities.

The ninth and last JUCSU poll was held on June 3, 1992. But the university Syndicate dissolved the 16-member JUCSU body the following year as most of the JUCSU leaders were found to have been involved in the incident of beating up teachers, ransacking the Vice-Chancellor's office and University Teachers' Club on July 29.

As per JU Act 1973, a total of five representatives from JUCSU can attend the university Senate to speak for the students. But since

no JUCSU election was held after 1993, there is at present no student representatives to protect and promote the interest of student community.

Student bodies including Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) all accuse Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of having created a reign of terror on the campus. They all stressed on the fact that the university authorities must ensure a peaceful atmosphere on the campus prior to the election.

When contacted, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdul Bayes told the Daily Star that he cannot arrange the polls now because it would hamper the university's academic atmosphere. "Turmoil in national politics should must also be kept in mind", he said.

The VC, however, indicated that he might arrange the JUCSU polls within this year.

Projonmo '71 condemns bomb blast at Ramna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Projonmo '71, (Children of the Martyrs of Liberation War) brought out a protest procession in the city yesterday condemning the bomb attack on the Bengali new year's celebration at Ramna Hatmul.

The procession began from the Jatiya Press Club and went up to the spot of the bomb blast that killed nine people and injured several others.

A large number of martyrs family members, freedom fighters and political workers joined the rally led by parishad president Saifuzzaman Hadsha and general secretary Hedayet Hossain.

State minister for shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and central leaders of the organisation addressed the rally before the process began.

The speakers condemned the attack and demanded trial of those involved in the incident under a special tribunal.

The leaders of Projonmo '71 in a statement also condemned the attack on Probir Sikder, a correspondent of the Bangla daily Janakantha.

Govt urged to increase research allocation for universities

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of different universities of the country urged the government to increase research and development budget for the public universities.

They said, "in the last few years, government has reduce the budget for research activities, and for this the public universities are failing to play an active role in higher education, as well as overall development of the country."

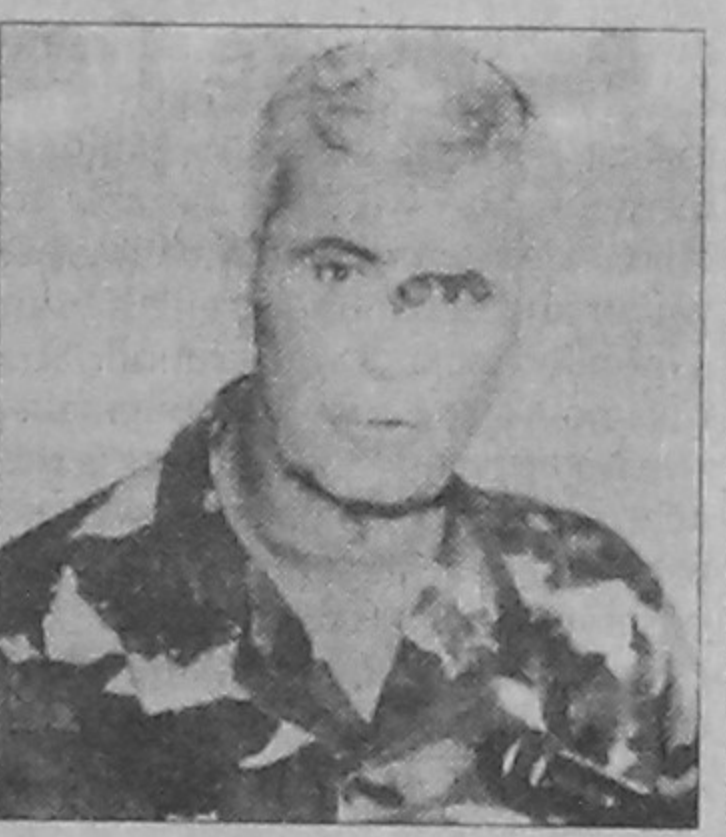
They have criticised both government and main opposition parties for using their respective student organisations as tool grab power and establish supremacy on the university campuses with illegal arms. And this is contributing

to the degradation of quality of education.

They were speaking at a solidarity rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday which was organised by the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF).

Presided over by Mosharraf Hossain of SCF, the rally was addressed, among others, by Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, Prof Ajay Roy, Prof M M Akash, Prof Masuduzzaman, Prof Abul Mansur, Abdur Reza, Prof Shamsul Wares, Kazi Afzal Ahmed Kapil, Maceed Ferdous and Abdullah Al Mamun.

Teachers of the Dhaka University, Chittagong University, Rajshahi University, Agricultural University of Mymensingh, Jahangirnagar University and Shahjalal University of Sylhet addressed the rally. A good number of guardians also attended the solidarity rally.



US General Stackpole due today

UNB, Dhaka

Lieutenant General HC Stackpole, Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies (APCSS), arrives in the city today on a three-day visit.

During his visit, Stackpole will meet the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, chiefs of the armed forces and APCSS alumni. Accompanied by his wife, he will also visit Chittagong.

General Stackpole commanded joint task force 'Sea Angel' in Bangladesh in 1991 which was a major part of the United States' humanitarian relief operation in the country, said a special release of the US Embassy.

Babu's solo painting show in S'pore

A solo painting exhibition of Bangladeshi artist Md Mahbubul Islam (Babu) opens at the BLS society of Kent Reeds in Singapore on April 30, says a press release. Earlier the artist had two more exhibitions in the World Trade Centre of Singapore. He also had 3 exhibitions in London.

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