

Student hurt as JCD factions trade fire on DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student sustained bullet wounds when two factions of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) traded gunshots on the campus yesterday evening.

The injured, Abul Bashar Liton, is a third year student of the Department of Marketing and resident of Surya Sen Hall. He was hit in the leg.

Campus sources said a female student was also injured during the skirmishes. However, her identity and the nature of injury could not be known.

Sources said the clash occurred when activists of the 'Laltu group' hurled abuses at a group of men belonging to the 'Pintu group' at Surya Sen Hall gate at around 7:00pm.

In response, the Pintu group chased the Laltu group and fired gunshots.

The Laltu group then took position in front of Jashim Uddin Hall and fired around five to seven rounds of gunshots at its rivals near Surya Sen Hall gate.

Police also fired about five rounds of gunshots to disperse the feuding JCD men.

Schoolboy shot by friend in Mirpur

BSS, Dhaka

A student of German Technical School was shot by one of his friends at Mirpur Section-2 yesterday.

Police quoting local people said Mohammad Yasin Khan, 15, a student of class-IX was called out of the school by two of his friends Mosharaf and Salah Uddin at about 12 noon.

They took Yasin to the residence of Mosharaf and gave him a revolver. Yasin became frightened to see the firearm and tried to flee from the house.

Mosharaf chased and fired Yasin as he refused to take the weapon. Two bullets hit his belly and left hand.

Yasin was immediately taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police arrested Mosharaf from his residence but Salah Uddin remained absconding till filing of this report at 9:45 pm.

Yasin was the son of Abdullah Khan of 42/2 Ansar Camp area at Paikpara.

A case was registered with Mirpur police station in this connection.

Shipu murder First prosecution witness cross-examined

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Istiaque Ahmed, first prosecution witness and complainant of Iftekhar Ahmed Shipu murder case, was cross-examined in the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

After two hours cross-examination by the defence lawyers, Judge Mollah Mostafa Kamal adjourned the hearing till 10.30 am today.

During the cross-examination Istiaque told the court that the investigation officer (IO) of the case did not include the name of the driver as witness in the charge sheet, who took the victim Shipu to

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Minister tells JS Ganges treaty has helped widen irrigation network

UNB, Dhaka

The Ganges Water Sharing Treaty signed by Bangladesh and India during Awami League rule has helped widen the irrigation network of the country.

Water Resources Minister Engr LK Siddiqui said this in parliament yesterday replying to a question from Prof.Joynul Abedin of BNP.

He said more cultivable lands under the G-K Project could be brought under irrigation following the treaty.

US to attack Iraq in May, Israeli defence experts say

AFF, JERUSALEM

The United States will launch an attack on Iraq in May, Israeli defence experts predicted yesterday, after US President George W Bush branded Iraq, Iran and North Korea an "axis of evil".

The military experts, who were not identified, told best-selling daily Yediot Aharonot that the Pentagon has received the green light to start preparations for an offensive against Iraq as the second phase of Washington's global war on terror after Afghanistan.

The Israelis said the Americans had already started mustering the necessary troops and were coordinating with the Iraqi opposition.

Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer, who is due in Washington this week, is to ask the US administration to coordinate its offensive with the Israeli leadership, the paper said.

During the 1991 Gulf War when a US-led coalition forced Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's troops out of Kuwait, Israel was hit by 39 Iraqi Scud missiles which killed two people and injured hundreds.

Yediot added that according to Ben Eliezer, the United States will not ask Israel to show restraint in case of it being attacked by Iraq.

Bush sparked outrage in the Middle East last week when he charged Iran, North Korea and Iraq were proliferating weapons of mass destruction and represented a danger to world peace, adding that "all options are on the table" in making "the United States and our allies more secure."

Reuters from Beijing adds: China said yesterday President Bush's comments calling North Korea, Iran and Iraq an "axis of evil" suggested the United States was preparing the ground for widening its "war on terrorism".

A strongly worded commentary, carried by the official Xinhua news agency less than three weeks before a planned Bush trip to Beijing to meet Chinese President Jiang Zemin, said no such axis existed between the three Asian nations.

"No small number of people suspect that by labelling Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an 'axis of evil' the United States seeks to prepare public opinion for possible strikes against those countries under the banner of anti-terrorism," the article said.

Rhetoric concerning states which the United States considers sponsors of terrorism has heated up since the September 11 attacks and speculation has grown over what will be the next US move in its drive to stamp out groups it considers terrorists.

China has backed the US-led "war on terror", but maintains ties with Iran, Iraq and North Korea, whom Washington considers "rogue states" that sponsor terrorism.

The United States has accused Iraq and North Korea of violating the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty ad interfering with monitoring by the

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Tremor kills 35 in Turkey

REUTERS, Afyon



An powerful earthquake killed at least 35 people and trapped 11 others under rubble in western Turkey yesterday, officials said.

A statement from the authorities in the capital Ankara said 35 died in the quake, which local experts put at 6.0 on the Richter scale.

Eleven were reported buried as 77 buildings collapsed under the strain of the tremor, which struck the province of Afyon at 9:15 am local time.

At least 111 others were hurt by falling masonry as they rushed from their homes.

Witnesses reported windows shattering and cracks running up walls as the quake struck. The first quake was followed by a series of powerful aftershocks.

Most of the damage appeared to have been in two regions, Sultandagi and Cay, where houses a n d

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Residents of the village of Cay stand in front of rubbles and ruins of a house after an earthquake hit the western Turkish province of Afyon yesterday.

Dialogue with opposition BNP urged to be sincere, specific

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid called upon the ruling party to restrain from 'futile' practices in proposing the boycotting main opposition to attend the parliament and requested it to be sincere and specific to its proposals.

"The ruling party is yet to give any specific proposal and it is not yet clear whether the government is sincere to have a dialogue with the main opposition," said the opposition chief whip responding to recent telephone conversation between the Opposition Deputy Leader and the LGRD Minister. He was briefing newsmen at his parliament office last night.

In last week, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan offered the Deputy Opposition Leader for having a dialogue, but he did not specify how the dialogue would take place.

The main opposition Awami League has been boycotting the House since its maiden session citing a lack of atmosphere as ground and expressed its plea to join it once a congenial atmosphere is created.

Shahid questioned the proposal of Chief Whip of the House who sent a letter to the opposition leader seeking names of her party members in the parliamentary standing committees saying the ruling party should also propose the names of the chairmen of the committees.

"Since the ruling party sought names committee members on party proportion, it should had proposed the names of chairmen proportionately," said the opposition chief whip. He demanded for at least 10 out of 41 standing committee chairmen from the main opposition Awami League.

Asked whether the opposition is sending names of its party representa

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Normalcy restored on JU campus

UNB, Savar

Normalcy restored on the campus of Jahangirnagar University yesterday following deployment of heavy police.

The University Teachers Association has demanded deployment of traffic police on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in front of the varsity.

The association also demanded construction of speed breakers on the busy highway and widening the road divider in front of the university to ensure safe movement of students, teachers and staff.

The demands were raised yesterday at a meeting convened to mourn the death of Kausar Hossain, a lecturer of English Department, who was killed in a road accident here on Friday.

The JUTA also proposed to erect a memorial plaque on the spot where Kausar Hossain was killed and name the main gate of the university after him.

The meeting chaired by JUTA president Prof Amin Mohammad Ali demanded an inquiry committee to probe the irregularities of the university medical center.



The 11-party Alliance brings out a procession in the city yesterday to protest police attacks on party activists during Saturday's hartal.

Shazneen case: Hearing resumes

COURT CORRESPONDENT

First prosecution witness and complainant in the Shazneen Rape case, Mojibur Rahman, Additional SP of CID, was cross-examined in the Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday.

After two hours of cross-examination by the lawyer for the main accused Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, judge Kazi Rahmat Ullah adjourned the hearing till 10:30 am today.

Mojibur Rahman said yesterday that as per an oral directive from the higher authorities, he took over charge of investigation into the case on the filing day.

Later he received a written directive on September 10, 1998.

He further said that he recorded statements of some people who were near the place of occurrence.

Family members of the victim did not give judicial statements as prosecution witness under Section 164 of the criminal procedure code (CrPC), Mojibur Rahman added.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

Latifur Rahman filed a murder case with Gulshan thana on April 24, 1998, accusing Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help at his residence.

Contractor Hasan is the alleged mastermind behind the incident.

Mojibur Rahman filed a rape case with Gulshan thana, accusing seven people including Shahid, after six months of investigation into the murder case.

All the accused Shahid, Hasan,

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BNP men snatch accused in murder case from police in Cox's Bazar

BNP supporters allegedly swooped on police and snatched an accused at Shikalgat in Chakaria upazila early yesterday.

Police said they arrested Feroj Ahmed, an absconding accused in Advocate Belaluddin murder case, from the area at about 2 am.

As the news of his arrest spread in the area, local BNP workers attacked the police with lethal weapons and took away Feroj.

Police filed a case against the attackers with Chakaria thana in this regard.

SI of Siddhirganj thana suspended

UNB, N'ganj

A Sub-Inspector of Siddhirganj thana was temporarily suspended yesterday for his negligence of duty, police sources said.

They said SI Abdus Sattar showed negligence to investigating a dacoity case and failed to arrest the dacoits.

Earlier, Officer-in-Charge of the thana, Muhammad Shahjahan, was also temporarily suspended in the same incident.

On January 12, the sources said, robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 15 lakh from Bengal Pacific Industries at Painadi in Siddhirganj.



Malancha Natyamof Char Fashion of Bhola stages a drama at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to commemorate the Language Martyrs' Day on February 21..

Donors wave red flag Funding may cease if major changes made in healthcare programme

NAIMUL HAQ

A shift in the current implementation status of the Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP) may see the scheme run short of funds worth US\$200 million a year.

The pace of the US\$2.4 billion (Tk 13,000 crore) five-year programme may slow down, as the government differs on the 'sector-wide programme' and wants to bring some major changes to its design, sources in the health ministry told The Daily Star yesterday.

The first phase of programme implementation is supposed to end in June next year.

The sources said the development partners who are funding the vital sectors of the health programme might stop giving 200

million dollars a year, if the government brings changes to the programme.

Last week, the finance minister met top health officials, including those of development partners to discuss the issue of funds and expressed the government's position on bringing 'some major changes to the design of the programme.

The fund is channelled into the purchase of commodities like vaccines for Extended Programme of Immunisation (EPI), contraceptives, drugs and other equipment for hospitals.

The sources said the government differs on the decentralisation process, which will be a major change in the management of the healthcare services and which is

one of the first conditions to bring about reforms in the health sector.

The government also disagrees on the unification process of health and family planning wings at the district and upper levels.

According to the HPSP document, both wings of the health ministry will gradually come under a single, unified command of the ministry.

Twenty development partners, including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, contribute about one third of the five-year revised budget of \$2.4 billion.

Approved by the ECNEC in August 1997, the HPSP came into being in July 1998.

The aim of the 'sector-wide'

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Massive politicisation on at all tiers of admn: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the students to prepare list of the officials belonging to BNP-Jamaat to free the administration from "massive politicisation."

"Massive politicisation is going on at all tiers of the administration through sacking of freedom fighter," she said.

If the government wants to free the administration from politicisation, it should also sack pro-BNP-Jamaat officials.

Otherwise, the government cannot dismiss anyone, said the Awami League chief.

She was addressing the 54th founding anniversary and reunion programme of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Engineers Institution.

She said after assuming power in

1996, the AL government did not terminate anybody on the excuse of politicisation. "We did not do anything out of vendetta."

Referring to alleged distortion of history in the textbooks and insertion of false and incorrect information, Hasina said the people of this country would throw those into dustbin who are distorting the history again.

Hasina asked her party's student wing to project the true history of the glorious independence and liberation war of Bangladesh to the future generation.

"I am asking you all to project the true histories to the new generation," she said suggesting the student leaders to raise their voice against the governments move to present a twisted history in the textbooks.

Referring to campus terrorism and growing session jams, the former prime minister said during her rule session jams from the educational institutions were removed.

About the information technology sector, Hasina said the former Awami League government had given highest priority to the IT sector but the incumbent government imposed tax on computers.

The BCL reunion programme marking the 54th founding anniversary was chaired by BCL president Bahadur Bepari and conducted by general secretary Ajay Kar Khokon.

Party leader Abdus Samad Azad, Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Prof. Abu Sayeed and teachers, former diplomats, members of

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Asadul Habib made dy minister for communications

UNB, Dhaka

Deputy Minister for recently abolished Jamuna Bridge Division, Asadul Habib (Dulu), has been appointed Deputy Minister for Communications, said an official handout yesterday.

Meanwhile, eminent journalist Fazal M Kamal took over the charge of Principal Information Officer (PIO).

Outgoing PIO Sayed Suzaddin Ahmed handed over the charge yesterday, said another handout.

Dhaka urges UN Take sr army officers for peacekeeping

UNB, London

Bangladesh has urged the UN Secretary General to recruit senior army officers in the peacekeeping missions abroad.

"We have the largest peacekeeping force 15,000 troops in 26 countries. But the seniors are from other countries, which is not fair ... I've discussed with the UN Secretary General to also take generals and

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Pintu removed as JCD president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu was stripped of his post as president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) by the BNP Chairperson yesterday.

Pintu, who was elected MP from the city's parliamentary constituency of Lalbag in the 8th general election, was made president of JCD in December of 2000 amid strong opposition in the rank and file of BNP and JCD.

Following Pintu's appointment as JCD president, two rival factions of the JCD engaged in a prolonged series of violent encounters attacking each other. The anti-Pintu faction had also attacked houses of BNP policymakers and other central leaders protesting Pintu's appointment as president of the student body.

The BNP was apparently forced to suspend activities of the JCD central committee following the non-stop conflict between two factions involving attacks and counter-attacks, capture of university halls, toll extortion etc

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