

Extortionist killed

FROM PAGE 12
was pushed down that ultimately caused his death.

Later police rescued the two injured colleagues of Babul from public anger and sent Babul's body to DMCH.

In a separate incident, two students were struck by bullets when a gang of criminals opened fire at them at Nurjahan Road in the city's Mohammadpur area.

Arifur Rahman, a student of Dhaka College and Atiqur Rahman, a student of a local IT institute, came under gun attacks reportedly from the underlings of the local terrorist Raju, Police said.

Both of them are now under treatment at DMCH. Atiq's condition is learnt to be critical.

In another incident one Ilyas Mia, 30, was shot by extortionists at Begunbari under Tajgaon police station. Ilyas, a hired worker, was accosted by a gang of extortionists who wanted to know about the owner of the house. They wanted to scare him with a gun which accidentally fired and hit Ilyas in his right arm, sources said.

Earlier, a police inspector and a businessman were killed in the city on Friday.

At about 10:30 pm Friday, CID Inspector Nazrul Islam was returning home on an auto-rickshaw from his office. When the auto-rickshaw reached Asad Gate the driver

7 killed

FROM PAGE 12
spot and injuring 25 others.

The injured passengers were immediately taken to Savar Thana Health Complex and different clinics and nearby hospitals. Some of the injured passengers were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where one Rafiqul Islam, 30, of Bainchhari village under Ghior thana of Manikganj district succumbed to his injuries.

Identity of six other victims could not be known.

Police seized both the buses but the drivers fled.

Malaria

FROM PAGE 12
do not come to hospitals or clinics, he pointed out.

The civil surgeon of Chittagong however said he was not aware of the outbreak of malaria in an extensive form in the district. But he found a few malaria patients at the thana health complexes during a recent visit, he added.

Experts say Chittagong district and the three CHT districts are 'malaria-prone' areas.

Air show

FROM PAGE 12
was tarnished last year when a stray test missile brought down a Russian airliner.

The Russian-built Su-27, whose NATO codename is Flanker, is comparable to the U.S. F-15 Eagle but has a superior performance in many respects.

Officials at Sknyliv said the local Ukrainian airforce wing was celebrating its 60th anniversary at the show.

Television pictures showed the crash appeared to have damaged the nose section of an aircraft on the ground, an Ilyushin Il-76 cargo aircraft.

A Russian military export success, the Su-27 is now a key frontline fighter for the air forces of China and Vietnam, as well as Ukraine and some Central Asian republics.

The Su-27 amazed audiences at its first appearances at Western air shows in the 1990s with aerobatics manoeuvres previously unknown for a twin-engined jet aircraft its size.

Test of changes

FROM PAGE 1
match and they will have to put in a lot of hard work," said Jayasuriya, who hammered a breezy hundred in the first Test.

Bangladesh have also made five changes in favour of younger talent, with experienced middle-order duo of Akram Khan and Aminul Islam topping the chop list.

"There will be a few changes," said coach Mohsin Kamal. "Akram and Aminul played in all the practice matches and the first Test. And, being experienced players, their performances have been disappointing."

Number three Ehasanul Haque, veteran left-arm spinner Enamul Haque and injured pacer Alamgir Kabir have also been left out of the final eleven.

Mohammad Ashraf, the youngest ever Test centurion, returns to the side along with leg-spinning all-rounder Alok Kapali, 18. Kapali and pacer Tapash Baisya, 19, both of whom have just arrived in Sri Lanka, is set to make their debuts.

Mohsin also played down the absence of Muralitharan. "It doesn't matter whether Murali or the others are playing. Our players will be trying to make a mark in the side."

Although Sri Lanka's decision to blood youngsters may provide Bangladesh with their best chance so far in 13 games of winning a Test, Mohsin played down the importance of the result.

"Even if we don't win, we are looking forward to playing as a good

stopped the vehicle without any apparent reason. A group of hijackers brandishing lethal weapon surrounded the vehicle and stepped inside.

The hijackers took away Nazrul's licensed revolver and other valuables. When the hijackers came to know his identity, they stabbed him to death. The screaming of the CID inspector attracted a crowd who caught three hijackers from the scene and handed them over to the police.

Police is yet to recover the robbed revolver.

In another incident, a saree-trader in city's Pallabi area was killed by a local gang led by Naizza.

10 AL activists hurt, 5 shops ransacked by BNP men in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

At least ten Awami League activists were injured, five of them seriously, in an attack by BNP men at Kuthurhat Bazar under Sonagazi upazila of the district on Friday night.

According to local people, BNP activists, equipped with lethal weapons, swooped on the Awami League activists as they held a rally at the bazar the day before protesting against the ruling party men.

The BNP men also ransacked five shops belonging to AL activists during the attack.

The seriously injured, identified as Jamaluddin, Abdullah, Abdul Munna, Nur Nabi and Nizamuddin, were admitted to a private clinic in Feni town.

Additional police have been deployed at the bazar to avert further clash.

HC rejects writ seeking order for issuing fresh licence to ETV

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition, seeking an order for issuing fresh licence to Ekushey Television to continue its transmission.

Fifteen petitioners, including former Chief Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain and writer Humayun Ahmed, had jointly filed the petition, seeking the HC order for issuance of licence under the Bangladesh Telecommunication Act.

A division bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Mohammad Araeshuddin rejected the petition when it was moved before the court. Dr M Zahir assisted by Advocate Subrata Chowdhury moved the petition on behalf of the petitioners while Additional Attorney General Fida M Kamal aided by Assistant Attorneys General Md Abdul Quadir Talukder and Firuzur Rahman Khan stood for the state.

A division bench of the HC earlier declared the licensing agreement between the government and ETV illegal upon a writ petition that challenged the agreement.

ETV filed petitions of leave to appeal before the Appellate Division challenging the High Court judgement. After hearing the petitions, the Appellate Division rejected those petitions. The Appellate Division, however, stayed its order and allowed ETV to submit a review petition.

side and performing well over five days.

"Some of the youngsters on this tour have already shown that they have the ability to play continuously for Bangladesh in future. But we need more competitive cricket to make sharper minded cricketers. This Test series is an opportunity for that."

Jayasuriya and veteran left-hander Hashan Tillekeratne are the only experienced batsmen in the Lankan line-up that will be without regulars Marvan Atapattu, Mahela Jayawardena, Kumar Sangakkara, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa and Russel Arnold.

TEAMS
Bangladesh: Khaled Mashud (capt), Habibul Bashar, Al Sahariar, Hannan Sarkar, Mohamad Ashraf, Fahim Muntasir, Monjural Islam, Talha Jubair, Tushar Imran, Taosh Baisya and Alok Kapali

Sri Lanka (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (capt), Hashan Tillekeratne, Michael Vandort, Jehan Mubarak, Naveed Nawaz, Tilan Samaraweera, Upul Chandana, Charitha Buddhika, Sujeeva De Silva, Prasanna Jayawardena, Chamila Gamage, Pulasthi Gunaratne, Hasantha Fernando, Chamara Silva

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and David Shepherd (England)

Match referee: Wasim Raja (Pakistan)

DU closed sine die

FROM PAGE 1

Some 40 teachers of Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University expressed solidarity with the general students as did the students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

It was the biggest procession by general students since the mass upsurge of 1990 against the autocratic rule of military strongman HM Ershad, according to sources and students.

However, no untoward incident took place on the campus yesterday.

Till Friday night, activists of the ruling BNP's student front JCD warned general students not to organise or participate in any agitation programmes against Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury and Proctor Prof. Nazrul Islam.

The JCD activists went to all the halls to intimidate the students. They also beat up some students, and drove some others out of the halls.

The students started gathering at the feet of Aparajejo Bangla from morning and by 11:00am the entire Arts Building area was crammed with thousands of students.

"I never participated in any procession or rally before, but I just felt like joining this one," said a female student of the Shamsunnahar Hall. Most of the participants were general students who do not belong to any political organisations.

Work stoppage

FROM PAGE 1

-including the police. They demanded dismissal of the committee to investigate the Shamsunnahar Hall incident and setting up of a probe committee with neutral senior teachers.

These demands were passed in a resolution at a DUTA meeting that was participated by over 300 teachers— who mostly are reputed to be non-partisan.

The teachers blasted the heinous attack on female students, demanding withdrawal of cases against the students, release of the students who have been arrested, and holding again the examinations which were held on July 24.

The DUTA also wanted withdrawal of unnecessary police and BDR personnel in the campus, paying compensation of the injured students and a University decision that none could search the halls without the approval of their respective provosts.

Some DUTA members said that the attack on the female students was the most shameful chapter in its history and Vice Chancellor should apologise to the students for failing to avert it.

They also demanded resignation of four university high officials including the proctor.

Among those who addressed the teachers were Mezbah Kamal Mamun, Abu Zafar, Monwaruddin Ahmed and Humayun Azad.

DU VC

FROM PAGE 1

Replying to a question he said the DU committee probing the incident at Shamsunnahar Hall is neutral. If the DU committee and the judicial committee probing the incident at Shamsunnahar Hall find the hall authorities responsible for the incident, action will be taken against them, he said.

The VC on Friday had said that he had no report of repression on female students at Shamsunnahar Hall on July 23.

The university authorities in a press release earlier claimed that all the halls were outdoor-free. But when contacted later, they admitted to the Daily Star that there were outsiders at Shamsunnahar Hall. They blamed the then provost of Shamsunnahar hall allowing outsiders at the hall.

In the press release, the DU authorities had also said that the provost of Shamsunnahar Hall sent names of three or four outsiders at the hall. "We came to know that they all were leaders and supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of ruling BNP. The provost however did not send the names of outsiders belonging to Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student front of Awami League," it had said.

The press release however said that the provost allowed the outsiders belonging to JCD to stay at the hall.

The DU authorities formed a seven-member body to investigate the Shamsunnahar Hall incident. Six of the members belong to the BNP-backed White Panel teacher group.

Proctor Prof. Nazrul Islam against whom the students are demonstrating is the member-secretary of the probe body. The first meeting of the committee was held at the VC's residence on Friday.

At the meeting, members of the probe body "approved" the police drive at Shamsunnahar Hall and the role of the hall authorities. This has raised the question of neutrality of the probe body.

Termining the probe body partial, several hundred teachers of Dhaka University have already demanded cancellation of the probe body and formation of a neutral probe body.

Meanwhile, sources said JCD outsiders Luci, Shanta and their supporters are still staying at Shamsunnahar Hall and no action has been taken against them so far.

A large number of students, who stay outside the campus, also joined the agitation programmes.

The university authorities sealed off all the entrance to the campus from early morning and stationed police, armed police and BDR personnel to bar outsiders from getting in. Movement of all sorts of vehicles on the campus was also restricted.

The students carried placards, festoons and banners protesting the police atrocities and slamming the VC and the proctor. Many were carrying a newspaper caricature comparing the VC with Pakistan's autocrat ruler Yahya Khan.

The whole campus reverberated with deafening sounds of slogans when the procession was taken out from the Aparajejo Bangla. "We don't want a VC who sponsored assault on female students," "Our only demand is the removal of the VC," and "VC Anwar is a collaborator and monster," were some of the off-repeated slogans during the demonstrations.

The procession ended in front of the VC's residence after parading the Curzon Hall and Science Annex Building.

The head of the procession was at the Curzon Hall and the tail at the Teacher Student Centre (TSC).

At the end of the procession, the students set fire to the effigies of the VC and proctor in front of the VC's residence. They also spitted on the burning effigies. At one stage, the angry students threw the burning

effigy of the VC inside his residence.

The students asked the police to keep quiet or face dire consequences.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Abdul Quiyum Chowdhury was leading the policemen on the campus.

Later at a rally at the Aparajejo Bangla, the students demanded that the VC and the proctor resign or be removed by yesterday. Otherwise, they warned, there will be tougher agitation programmes on the campus from today. These include a sit-in in front of the VC's office this morning and putting the office under lock and key.

The students also warned that they would declare the VC and the proctor 'unwanted' on the campus if they were not removed after the unprecedented incident at the Shamsunnahar Hall.

The students alleged that the authorities were plotting to frustrate the movement and apprehended that they might be asked to vacate residential halls. "You will not leave halls under any circumstances," a female student said over loud-speaker drawing thunderous applause from the gathering.

Mesbah Kamal, a teacher of the Department of History of DU, said at the gathering, "We are the guardians of the female students. But now we feel ashamed of identifying ourselves as teachers." He said an administration that fails to ensure the security of the female students has no right to stay in office any-

more.

Meher Nigar of the Department of Bangla said no-one, be it police, has the right to enter the female hall at night. She bitterly criticised the DU authorities for the events at the hall and its subsequent incidents.

Prof. HKS Arefin of the Department of Anthropology said he is ashamed of the fact that the VC is a colleague of his.

PM asks WASA

FROM PAGE 12

The total project cost amounted to Tk 584 crore of which the World Bank provided Tk 245 crore as loan, French government Tk 138 crore in grants and Bangladesh government Tk 198 crore.

Japanese government gave Tk 3 crore for carrying out feasibility study on the major clean-water project.

The scheme completed six months ahead of the schedule. Construction work in a second phase at the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant would start soon with a target to finish by year 2005.

On commissioning of the second plant, another 22.5 crore liters of water will be added per day to the WASA supply line.

The government has taken up a project to install another water treatment plant with a capacity of purifying 45 crore litres of water daily at Pagla in Narayanganj.

Anything but a park

FROM PAGE 12

The park happened to be a playground for children even during the mid-1980s. "We used to go there to play cricket in our teens," said a nostalgic Aminul Islam, a businessman. These days, children are hardly seen playing in the park. Rather, a group of truants can be seen most of the time.

"Few cups of tea are sold everywhere since only a small number of people come to the park," said Abdullah, a tea seller. "Only college students come for a brief time," he added.

The park has become a warehouse with ample room for goods. Stockpiles of sugarcane, pineapples, vegetables and other wares are always seen on its surroundings. Hawkers sit on the entrances of the park with their shoddy goods.

The dense shrubbery, have now turned into 'public toilets'.

The ruined structure that was 'made to be a fountain' never spouted a drop of water. The accu-

mulated rainwater in it is now full of garbage and algae.

Floating people have occupied areas in the park. Some of them have built makeshift houses with plastic covers. But mostly the park umbrellas have proven to be a better roof for them. "I've been living under this umbrella for one and a half years and certainly don't find it inconvenient," said Safia, a woman in her sixties, as she cooked her afternoon meal.

These people do not need to pay money for living in the park. However, the police occasionally come to evict them when they receive orders from the highest authority. "In that case we roam throughout the day and come back again in the evening," said Reshmi who lives in the park with her sister.

As dusk descends, Shaheed Anwara Park gets abuzz with anti-social activities. People do not dare to enter running the risk of being mugged. Selling and doing drugs inside the park are the usual busi-

ness, according to the local people.

The park is a hangout for pimps and sex workers who run their business freely. "I feel I was destined to be in this profession," said Jarina a female sex worker, speaking about her pangs of being forced into the trade by her husband who had left her at the park.

It is also the hangout for male sex workers who run their network from the premises, local sources said. Only three guards are there to take care of the entire park, making it a security-failure. Even the guards at times are beaten up by the criminals and mugged, sources said.

Executive Engineer of Division 1 of the Public Works Department (PWD) Zahiruddin Chaudhury, told The Daily Star that they are aware of the prevailing situation. "We hope to finalise the renovation scheme for the park within a month and start work by December," he said. "We want to secure it for the common masses," he added.

Session jam crams halls

FROM PAGE 1

officers and employees who are ineligible for living in resident halls. Apart from the five existing men's dormitories, the under-construction Bangabandhu Hall will accommodate 300 male students in the first phase. But, work on the new hall will take another two months to complete.

On the other hand, accommodation problem of female students is not likely to improve any time soon, as authorities have no immediate plan to build any new dormitory for them. Although former education minister ASHK Sadek laid the foundation stone of a women's dormitory beside Nawab Faizunnesa Hall in August last year, the then Awami league government however, for one reason or another, did not allocate any fund for it.

In spite of the acute housing problem, university authorities have admitted the highest number of students so far under the 2001-2002 academic session -- 1229 students excluding wards of university teachers, officers and employees. These

new students began their classes on May 15, which has further exacerbated the accommodation crisis.

Many senior teachers opined that the university must introduce a well-planned academic calendar and follow it rigorously to ensure that all the batches complete their studies in due time. Each department must hold their examinations according to the schedule, they said, adding that delay in holding examinations is the main cause behind session jams in the university and that teachers should take extra classes to reduce the existing session jams.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) plays a major role in hall seat distribution among freshers. It is quite difficult for any fresher to secure a seat in any dormitory without contacting JCD leaders and signing up as a JCD activist.

Whenever a seat falls vacant, JCD leaders take possession of it and give it to party-affiliated students.

Reign of real estate terror

FROM PAGE 1

are unable to protect our own property." Rahman Ali, Alauddin, Yusuf and hundreds of others like them are facing the same fate. Many residents covered under threat and simply sold their property to the developer at a cheap price fixed by the developer. Rahman Ali said the wall of his house collapsed as mountains of earth were staked against it.

"My house is constantly water logged and I am living in fear with my family," he said. Local people said most of the land on which the mega-project is being built was grabbed through fraudulent practices. Some local middlemen, working for the developer, produced forged documents and evicted the genuine landowners.

Those who refused to sell their land to the developer came under threat from the hoodlums. Local people have narrated how bulldozers engaged by the developer heaped mountains of earth near the houses of landowners, and then let the earth slide onto the houses. The residents then had no other choice but to sell their land to the developer.

Haji Abdul Mazid, a landowner, said two bulldozers suddenly started rolled over his house on May 20 to evict him.

"I will never sell my forefather's land to Babul (the owner of the project) no matter how much threat he gives me through his mastaans," he said.

Mazid said police and the local administration are siding with the developer. "We have been living here for generations and now we

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DU Hall attack

FROM PAGE 12

The Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, a platform of the country's women organisations, termed Wednesday's attack on the female students as barbaric, unprecedented and a threat to women's dignity.

The General Secretary of the organisation Aysha Khanon said the attack was unprecedented in the university's 80-year history with the black night of March 25 of 1971 as the only exception. "The police excess is not only a sad part of the history but also a threat to the dignity of women," she added.

"We have no words to express our anger on the incident. Female dormitories are supposed to be a secure place for the students," said Prof. Jahanara Huq of the Women for Women organisation.

The Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya demanded the immediate removal of the university vice-chancellor (VC) and proctor for their failure to maintain law and order on the campus.

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally demanding the immediate resignation of the VC. Speakers at the rally said they would continue their protests until the vice-chancellor resigns.

The Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, the Bangladesh Chhatra Federation and the Mohila Awami League will bring out processions and hold a rally to protest the police atrocities on the Shamsunnahar Hall resi-

dents. The rally will be organised at 4:00pm today at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue premises.

The Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will also hold a protest rally today at 5:00pm at the Central Shaheed Minar to protest the Hall incident as well as the Trisha killing incident and other incidents of women repression.

The Nari Unnyan Shakti (NUS), a women's organisation, also condemned the Shamsunnahar Hall incident. Executive Director of the NUS Afroja Parvin, in a statement demanded a fair probe into the incident and punishment for the people responsible.

BCL hartal

FROM PAGE 1

University. The BCL expressed its solidarity with the Dhaka University students' agitation.

In a press conference held at the Reporters Unity office yesterday, the BCL leaders Marufa Akhtar Poppy and Saifuzzaman Shikhor said a 'shame day' would be observed today, protesting the police attack on female students at the hall.

They demanded compensation for the students injured by the police and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) -- the student wing of the ruling BNP -- and the withdrawal of cases against the students of the Shamsunnahar Hall and its provost Dr. Sultana Shafi.

65 drown in Kerala

FROM PAGE 12

capsized after about 35 minutes into the trip, the official said.

"The boat tilted to a side suddenly and passengers panicked, running around," one panic-struck survivor said.

"The passengers rushing around resulted in the driver of the boat losing control and it turned turtle within five minutes," the survivor said, adding that the ferry was in the middle of the lake when it sank.

"Some of the passengers who jumped into the lake were rescued by fishermen returning from their morning catch," another passenger said.

The boat's morning run to Kumarakom, where Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee spent a holiday two years ago, carries mainly fishermen headed for