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## JCD, Shibir men trade gunfire on RU campus

50 hurt in daylong fight, rooms ransacked, classes suspended today and tomorrow

RU CORRESPONDENT

The armed cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) clashed on Rajshahi University campus yesterday, leaving nearly 50 people including several JCD leaders injured.

The authorities have suspended classes scheduled for today and tomorrow, sources said.

Among the critically injured, RU JCD President Motiar Rahman, General Secretary Aslam Reza, Organising Secretary Rafiqul Islam, Joint Organising Secretary Masudur

Rahman were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and the RU Medical Centre.

JCD activists Mamun, Farhad, Babu, Shariar, Shagar and Mizanur Rahman are also undergoing treatment at the hospitals. The campus became a battlefield

until 5:00pm with police lobbing teargas canisters and the warring groups exchanging gunshots and brickbats and exploding crackers from 1:30pm. The pitched battles followed a dispute over sale of admission forms in the black market. SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## PM to visit Indonesia, Brunei this month

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will visit Brunei and Indonesia between January 23 and January 26, foreign ministry sources said.

She is expected to be in Jakarta during January 23 and 24 to reciprocate the visit of Indonesian President Meghawati Sukarnoputri who arrived here on June 18 last year.

Official talks will centre around trade and other bilateral issues. A team from the Federation of SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## 80 outlaws to surrender to Barisal police Friday

Controversy rages as gunmen assured of security, harassment-free life

AKTER FARUK SHAHIN, Barisal

Controversy bubbles over a programme Barisal police scheduled for Friday to let about 80 underground operatives surrender without illegal firearms to get back to normal life after years of gangland violence.

The operatives, who agreed to turn themselves in to police in front of Home Minister Ataf Hossain

Chowdhury, will be sworn into normal life on assurance of help, security and non-harassment from the government.

But legal experts questioned the intent of the programme that comes after a spike in crimes in Barisal and accused law enforcers of stage-managing the surrender that they say has no legal grounds.

Police confirmed yesterday that the surrender would take place in

the Agorpur High School playground in violence-riven Babuganj upazila in the district at 11:00am.

But high officials at the home ministry told The Daily Star they did not know about the surrender of outlaws, popularly known as *sarbaharas*.

The surrender is the result of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Golam Mustafa's series of SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

As cold wave recedes, Abdur Rouf, 60, irrigates his 1.5 acres of Boro land with an ancient water-pump called *tonga* in Kondapara village of Boilarpur in Savar. With motorised pumps becoming more popular for irrigation, environment-friendly and age-old methods are gradually being wiped out.

## SYLHET SHRINE BOMBING

### Another dies, bigot link suspected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The death toll from Monday night's bomb blast at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) rose to three after one of the 37 injured in the attack succumbed to his injuries early yesterday morning.

The victim, who died at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, was identified as Gani Miah, 35, while the two earlier victims who died on the spot were identified as Shafigue Miah, 11, and Alauddin, 30.

The Awami League at a rally in the city yesterday condemned the bomb attack and announced an eight-hour hartal programme in

Sylhet district today.

Speakers at the rally said the terrorist attack in the holy shrine once again proves the government's failure to contain the slide in law and order that has gripped the country. City AL President and Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran chaired the rally.

Pointing to Jamaat MP Moulana Delwar Hossain Sayeedi's opposition to the 'mazar (shrine) culture' and the holding of Urs (religious gathering) on the shrine's premises, they said the involvement of 'fundamentalists' in the attack could not be ruled out. SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## SEPARATION OF JUDICIARY

### Dr Kamal accuses govt of contempt of court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday pleaded to the High Court to issue a contempt rule against the government for not complying with the highest court verdict issued four years ago on the separation of judiciary.

Instead of separating the judiciary, the government contemptuously has taken a move to recruit judges through the BCS Judiciary cadre violating the Supreme Court

directive, Dr Kamal told the court. The veteran lawyer made his appeal when the Appellate Division was hearing a petition for allowing it to recruit judges through the 22nd BCS cadre. The full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice KM Hasan yesterday rejected this petition.

The Appellate Division termed any such appointment 'anti-constitutional' and noted that the High Court directive on separation SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Ahmadiyya book ban wrong, unfortunate

Congressman Crowley observes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Congressman Joseph F Crowley yesterday condemned the government ban on Ahmadiyya publications saying it was "wrong, a bad precedent and unfortunate".

"The government unfortunately, I believe wrongly, prohibited dissemination of materials from that sect, that is also a bad precedent," the congressman told the Probashi Bangladesh Nagorik Committee, an organisation of expatriates in the US, at Hotel Sheraton.

"You ought to be concerned about religious harmony, though the allegations of religious intolerance are not always the reality," he said.

He said a crucial aspect of democracy is that in spite of the rule

of the majority, the interest of the minorities has to be protected.

Also speaking on the occasion, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed urged the congressman not to be misled by propaganda. He said that a certain group, which is dissatisfied after losing the previous elections, was spreading this propaganda.

In a separate programme of the BGMEA (Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association) on 'RMG Export of Bangladesh' at Sonargaon Hotel, he said Bangladesh's being the world's most corrupt nation for three consecutive years is an ominous sign and it needs to be addressed.

The lack of transparency in SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Bush unveils deeper space, nuke coop plan with India

PTI, Washington

Taking US-India ties to a new high, US President George W Bush has announced that the two countries would step up cooperation in non-military nuclear activities, civilian space programmes and high-technology trade and expand dialogue on missile defence.

In a statement released on the sidelines of the Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico, on Monday, Bush said, "Cooperation in these areas will deepen the ties of commerce and friendship between our two nations, and will increase stability in Asia and beyond."

Bush said the proposed cooperation would progress through a series

of reciprocal steps, including expanded engagement on nuclear regulatory and safety issues and missile defence, ways to enhance cooperation in peaceful uses of space technology and steps to create the appropriate environment for successful high-technology commerce.

"The expanded cooperation launched today is an important milestone in transforming the relationship between the United States and India," he said.

"The vision of US-India strategic partnership that Prime Minister (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee and I share is now becoming a reality," Bush said.

He said the two sides would SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

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