

4 JCD leaders beaten up at DU hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

Four JCD leaders were beaten up and injured seriously in an attack by the members of their rival faction at Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University on Wednesday night.

The four leaders of the hall unit of JCD -- Iqbal Hossain, Rana, Romel and Kabir -- are now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They belong to a faction led by JCD leader.

A group of JCD men aligned to DU JCD President Amirul Islam Khan Alam attacked them with iron rods and hockey sticks at the hall as they raised an objection to the

group changing the television channels at the hall's TV room at midnight.

Sources said JCD leaders Sagar, Bachchu, Bappi, Bulbul and Sujan led the attack. General Secretary of the hall unit Mamunur Rashid Mamun who belongs to another faction led by central organising secretary Shaful Bari Babu also joined in the attack.

The hall unit President Ferdous Ahmed Munna blamed Mamun for leading the attack but Mamun denied his involvement.

Tensions ran high on the campus yesterday as the three factions of the JCD stepped up their vigilance following the incident.

In another incident, Bellal, a third year student of Islamic history, was admitted to the DMCH as one of his friends beat him up at his room at the Bangabandhu Hall during an altercation with them.

The students of Salimulla Hall also beat up an outsider suspecting him to be a thief at about 7:30pm yesterday.

The outsider Nazimuddin was admitted to the DMCH with serious injuries in his head.

Meanwhile, the DU JCD relieved SM Hall unit General Secretary Moniruzzaman Sohag from his post, charging him with involvement in anti-organisational activities.

Janajuddha man held, succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Outlawed Janajuddha activist Mahub Hossain arrested by the joint forces at 10:30 am yesterday at Khalishpur Industrial area succumbed to his fatal injuries at 12:00 noon at the Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) prison cell.

He fell sick during interrogation in the joint forces camp, it is learnt.

Son of Sultan Hossain, Mahub was an activist of Janajuddha faction of the outlawed Purbanga Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), police said.

2 shops gutted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two shops were gutted by fire at Uttara in the early hours of Wednesday.

Originating from a short circuit at a tailoring shop at Chand Mian Plaza, the fire also gutted an adjacent computer training centre at around 2:45am.

Fire fighters from Tongi unit brought the fire under control within 15 minutes.

The fire damaged clothes, computers and other valuables worth around Tk 2 lakh.



JS women reserved seats Cancellation of bill demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday protested the bill that proposes 45 reserved seats for women in parliament ignoring the demand for holding direct election to those seats.

They also reacted sharply against the remark made by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed while placing the bill in parliament on Wednesday.

Moudud said representatives of different women bodies gave an idea about the number of women seats but could not give any definite proposal about the direct election in those seats.

The organisations, in separate statements, blamed the law minister for giving a misleading statement in the House and said it is an indication of highest level of irresponsibility.

They also demanded cancellation of the bill. The organisations are Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Samajik Protirodh Committee and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

Meanwhile, Women Secretary of Awami League Ivy Rahman has expressed grave concern at the placing of the bill which, she said, has neglected the demand of the women folk.

Preliminary test for posts of UEO today

SC stays HC interim order

UNB, Dhaka

The preliminary test for the posts of Upazila Education Officer (UEO) under the Public Service Commission (PSC) begins today as the Supreme Court yesterday stayed Wednesday's High Court interim order barring the PSC from

Day-labourer dies in rooftop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day-labourer died falling down from the rooftop of a six-storey under-construction building at Naya Paltan in Motijheel yesterday.

The victim Tulu Miah, 27, fell to the ground while working at the edge of the under-construction building at 76, Naya Paltan at about 10:00 am. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

taking the exam.

The Supreme Court order came upon a government petition moved by Attorney General AF Hassan Arif, seeking stay on the High Court order.

Sources in the PSC said the test will begin at 3-30 pm at different centres in divisional headquarters.

Some 36,000 candidates across the country will appear at the test, sources said.

The High Court on Wednesday passed an interim order barring the PSC from taking the exam upon a writ filed by Zahid Hossain Khan, assistant upazila education officer.

The High Court had also issued rule upon the PSC and others to explain why the gazetted & non-gazetted employees recruitment rules 1985 under the Primary Education Directorate and its subsequent amendments made in 1994, curtailing their quota in the new recruitment policy should not be declared illegal.



Death anniversary of Abu Zafar Obaidullah today

Today is the third death anniversary of legendary poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah, says a press release.

Abu Zafar Obaidullah whose name has been permanently etched in Bengali literature was born on February 8, 1934 in Barisal. Justice Abdul Jabbar Khan's second son Obaidullah joined the English department at Dhaka University after completing his masters.

Later, having stood second in the Pakistan Civil Service examination, he served the government in administration throughout his career.

Obaidullah also worked as an advisor to the government and a minister for agriculture, forests and fisheries.

He was also an ambassador to the US and assistant director general of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

A fellow of the Centre for International Affairs of Harvard University, Obaidullah also served as chairman of the Centre of Advanced Studies.

Poet Obaidullah's 'kingbodontir kotha bolchi' is considered to be one of the veritable cornerstones of his writings as well as that of Bengali literature.

A recipient of Ekushey Padak and Bangla Academy Padak, he has published several essays and books on agriculture, nature and environment.

'Give children enough space in media to express views'

UNB, Dhaka

A two-day national consultation on "Children's Participation in Media" ended here yesterday with a framework to pave the way for effective partnership among television channels, development partners, government, NGOs and children.

Organised by UNICEF, the consultation brought together key decision-makers from media in a face to face discussion with potential partners.

The group discussion, to give practical suggestions for enhancing the role of all the partners, was preceded by a succinct summary of the positive examples of children's active participation in television programmes.

Speaking at the concluding session Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui urged the media to come forward in making children's participation in the media meaningful.

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"In finding a route to participation through freedom of expression and access to the media will encourage children to assume increasing responsibilities as active, tolerant and democratic citizens", he said.

UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Morten Giering appreciated the television channels pioneering efforts in creating space for children.

"Peace and friendship within and between families, societies and nations, including the concepts of non-discrimination, non-violence and tolerance can only be achieved if children are given enough space to express their views", Morten said.

He also urged the government to explore the possibility of setting up a radio channel for children so that children can talk to each other on their own premises.

The participants agreed on a framework of co-operation that

outlined a number of practical strategies to strengthen the idea of children's participation in the media that includes setting up children's media network, use of information technology and broadcast of issue-based programmes at a time appropriate

to children.

UNICEF organised the national consultation on the backdrop of 4th World Summit on Media for Children and Adolescents, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from April 19 to 23.



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JCD leader falls sick during interrogation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

City Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Abdullah-el-Kafi alias Shakha has been admitted to 'Gerib Newaz Clinic' in the city as he fell sick during interrogation in DB office here.

Shakha, joint secretary of the JCD, was arrested at 11:30 am yesterday at Royal Hotel Square under Khulna thana.

He has sustained severe injuries due to beating, attending doctor said.

The JCD leader has a link with an underground organisation, DB sources said. He is yet to be shown arrested in any case.