

Internal feuds grip JCD, BCL

HASAN JAHI TUSHER

Both Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student front of the main opposition Awami League (AL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, are currently beset with internal conflict and inertia in organisational activities.

Sources said the BCL central as well as DU units are now divided into two major groups led by President Liaqat Sikder and General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu respectively.

Chaos and confrontation are also rife at DU unit of the BCL resulting in at least ten major clashes on the campus in recent months.

DU Unit President Delwar Hossain and General Secretary Hemayet Uddin Khan led two separate factions.

Conflicts at DU unit and different hall units, that play vital role in campus politics, have emerged in the

wake of the expiry of the tenure of existing committees. The one-year tenure expired in July last.

Liaqat said there is no internal clashes within the ranks of the party except the contests for leadership.

But, sources within the party said the recent attack on Abdul Hadi, organising secretary of Salmullah Hall unit of BCL, took place following a series of earlier clashes among the two rival factions at DU unit.

Hadi, who belongs to Delwar Hossain faction, earlier beat Saiful severely inside the Madhus' canteen.

Being annoyed with the poor organisational activities of the BCL, AL President Sheikh Hasina earlier dissolved the central committee and formed a 41-member steering committee with Liaqat Sikder as convener to make the party more dynamic.

Sources said most of the members of the central executive committee had virtually distanced themselves from organisational activities

and became busy with their personal business or interest.

Meanwhile, supremacy on the campus and distribution of seats at residential halls are the main reasons behind the internal feud at the JCD. The infighting have been geared up due to division among the top JCD leaders.

The hall unit committees play vital role on the campus politics but many of the hall unit leaders are now involved in intra-party clashes on the campus and dormitories.

As a result, the JCD DU unit had to expel about 100 leaders and workers from different hall units since the formation of the committees last year. The one-year tenure of these committees has also expired.

JCD sources said Central Organising Secretary Saiful Bari Babu led 'Babu' faction, International Affairs Secretary Sayeed Iqbal Mahmud Tito led 'Tito' faction and DU unit President

Amirul Islam Khan Alim led 'Alim' faction.

The infighting began last year after the formation of the committees where Tito-led faction got vital posts and virtually took over the control of campus politics.

There is no factional fighting inside the JCD but there is contest for leadership at the JCD's grassroots level, JCD General Secretary Azizul Bari Hela said, adding that clashes occur due to young blood, ego problems, personal liking and disliking and individual dominance at the hall units.

But, four leaders of the Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall unit of the JCD were beaten up due to internal clashes on March 17. JCD President Shahabuddin Latu asked its eight leaders and activists to leave the hall.

An enquiry committee has been constituted by the provost of the hall in this connection.

Threat on Mortaza's life condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 20 journalists, writers and cultural activists yesterday condemned the threat on the life of Golam Mortaza, chief reporter of the weekly Saptahik 2000.

In a joint statement, they demanded immediate arrest of the culprits and their punishment.

They also demanded deployment of security personnel to ensure the safety of Golam Mortaza.

Unknown miscreants have threatened to kill Mortaza for his reports on religious fundamentalism and underworld criminals that were published in the weekly recently, said a press release.

On March 13, Mortaza received a package containing a burial shroud and a letter threatening to kill him. The letter was signed by one Farhad Hossain of Mirpur in the city.

"The shroud is your reward for writing about us in your weekly" the letters said.

On the same day he received an anonymous phone call which said, "The letter is not just to scare you but to give you tidings of your imminent death. The angel of death would visit you within a few days."

3rd Nat'l Debate Competition from Mar 27

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Debating Society (Duds) will organise a three-day Third National Debate Competition at the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University on March 27-29.

Duds leaders at a press conference on Saturday at the TSC said, they would hold 14 model debates, a workshop and two seminars to create awareness against drugs and unfair means in the examinations. They said that they would also hold a procession demanding electoral debate before the national election, screen film, organise cultural function and meet the personalities for the debaters across the country.

About 1,000 debaters will take part in the competition, they added.

Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, chairman of the competition committee, read out the written statement.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider also spoke at the press conference. Treasurer Prof. Syed Rashidul Hasan, Prof. Hasan Tawfique, Registrar of Stamford University, Khademul Karim Iqbal, AKM Shohab, Mahmud Alam Bappi and Sanjib Saha were present.

7-day ultimatum to JU English deptt chairman

JU CORRESPONDENT

Students of English department of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday gave a seven-day ultimatum to the chairman to press home their 6-point demand that include immediate formulation of an academic calendar to hold classes and examinations regularly.

Their other demands include completion of courses within the scheduled time as well as publishing of results within two to three months of the examination, and recruitment of more teachers at the department.

The students submitted their demands in a memorandum to the chairman at around 12:30pm urging all teachers to meet their demands within March 28. About 350 students signed the memorandum.

They also vowed for a tough programme if their demands are not met within the deadline.

Polythene seized, 3 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives seized 84 sacks of polythene and arrested three people from Gulshan in the early hours of Sunday.

Acting on a tip off, a team of Detective Branch (DB) of police raided the adjacent areas of Mohakhali police box, seized the lot from a truck and arrested Md Habib Ullah, 25, Anukul Chandra Shaha, 25, and Sheikh Milton, 25.

'Take action against land grabbers'

BSS, Dhaka

The first meeting of the national executive committee to monitor the reception of complaints and inquiry into those complaints of grabbing land properties was held yesterday with Cabinet Secretary Dr. Sadat Hussain in the chair.

The meeting urged the district committees to take remedial measures against the land grabbers and prevent grabbing of land properties by an individual or an organisation.

It also recommended that administrative and criminal action be taken against government

14th Constitutional Amendment Bill

Hold public debate to seek people's opinion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must hold public debate to solicit the opinion of the people to bring any fundamental changes in the constitution, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The speakers also denounced the proposed 14th constitutional amendment bill as they said it would cripple the primacy of elected local government bodies at different tiers.

The roundtable on 14th constitutional amendment bill and status of the local government was co-organised by National Union Parishad Forum (NUPF) and Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) at the National Press Club in the city.

"We strongly condemn the government move to pass the amendment bill so hurriedly and call for holding meaningful talks with the people postponing the passage of the bill," said the NUPF President Golam Sarwar, also the chairman of Tebaria Union Parishad, Natore.

MAB President and Tongi Poursabha Chairman Azmat Ullah Khan said the move is against the basic spirit of the constitution and the verdict of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division in Kudrat-e-Elahi Panir versus Bangladesh Case.

"The bill proves the attitude of the government to ignore the Supreme Court judgement with regard to local government," said Amirul Islam, a senior advocate of the court, terming the move a totalitarian attitude of the government.

Reunion

DU CORRESPONDENT

A reunion of the artistes, employees and participants of Swadhin Bangladesh Betar Kendra will be held tomorrow at Central Public Library auditorium in the city, says a press release.

All the artistes, employees and participants are invited to attend the reunion along with their family members.

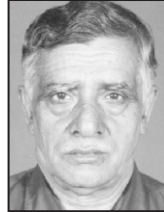
Obituary

Nazreen Haque (N i b o o), a senior teacher of South Breeze School, passed away on March 19 at the age of 43 at Suhrawardhy Hospital, says a

press release.

She is survived by her only son, two sisters and one brother.

Ajit Kumar Ghosh



Ajit Kumar Ghosh, president of the Ghoramara Shiva Temple of Rajshahi district, died of brain haemorrhage on March 14 at the age of 67, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and three daughters.

His shradddha will be held at his residence in Rajshahi on March 26.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of freedom fighter Dr Anowarul Huq will be held today after Asr prayers at the residence of his elder brother late Advocate Serajul Huq at House-2, Road-19A, Block-E, Banani, says a press release.

Dr Anowarul Huq who breathed his last in Ipswich, England on March 15, was laid to rest on Friday at his village home at Paniarup of Kasba upazila under Brahmanbaria district with state honour.

Death anniversary

The 18th death anniversary Monoare Majid Bhuiyan of village Sayestanagar of Daud kandi will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his village home after Zohr prayers.

"The constitution is a sacred document and the government must solicit public opinion before amending it," said legal expert Dr. M Zahir adding, "There is no need to hurry to make such an unnecessary amendment."

Alex Sutton, director of the US-based International Republican Institute, said, "It's surprising to see the speedy process in which an amendment is being made to the constitution."

He said out of 10,000 proposals, only 34 amendments to the US constitution has so far been incorporated.

"Such hasty change to the consti-

tution may cause civic anxiety and in some way international skepticism," Alex added.

Prof. Aminul Islam of Jahangir Nagar University said, "I do not find any merit of this amendment which is being passed in an arbitrary manner and whose intention seems to be unfair."

Advocate Shahdeen Malik, Prof. Nazrul Islam of Dhaka University, Taleya Rahman of Democracywatch, Director Owen Lippert of US-based National Democratic Institute, and William J. Cartier of Local Government Initiative spoke at the roundtable moderated by Mohammed Jahangir.



National Union Parishad Forum (NUPF) and Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) held a roundtable on '14th constitutional amendment bill and status of the local government' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Jail reforms near completion

BSS, Dhaka

Jail reforms are nearing completion as 25 recommendations including arrangement for separate habitation for women and children prisoners of the cabinet committee was implemented during the last one and a half years.

Besides, 23 more decisions of the committee are now under implementation.

The 10th meeting of the committee was held yesterday with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed in the chair.

The section 35 of the criminal procedure code was amended so that counting of the awarded terms of a convicted prisoner would begin since his or her date of imprisonment.

It was told that construction work for the part of Kashimpur jail building and extension of Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Satkhira, Rajbari, Naogaon, Moulvibazar and Chittagong jails was completed.

Besides, a daycare centre for the children of the women prisoners has been opened at the Dhaka Central Jail.

Moreover, six separate and safe habitations for women and children prisoners were constructed in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet cities, and Jessore town.

It was also informed that 10 posts of women doctors and 10 posts of nurses were created to provide better treatment for women and children prisoners.

New director PR of DU

DU CORRESPONDENT



Md. Ashraf Ali Khan, Public Relations Officer of Dhaka University, has been appointed director of the public relations department.

The DU syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, approved his appointment on March 14. Ashraf has been working as acting director of the department since January 1, 2002.

He joined the public relation department in 1973 as a reporter.

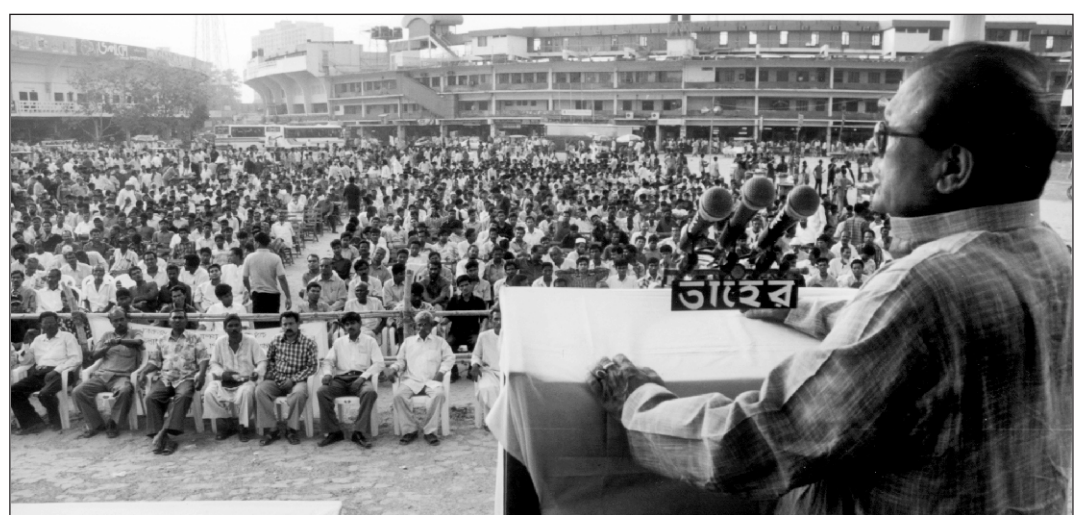


PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Nur Alam Ziku addresses a rally at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday demanding bicameral legislature, eight provinces and a federal government in the country.

Bid to improve city law, order situation

Review asks plainclothes teams to engage more informants to nab diehard criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred plainclothes teams formed to fight crime in the city have been asked to engage more informants to arrest diehard criminals.

State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar at the law and order review committee meeting at the police headquarters yesterday asked the deputy commissioners to carry out the operations centring the concerned police station.

The meeting reviewed numbers of arrestees by the plainclothes and other law enforcers during the last three days. Babar assured of providing more logistics to the plainclothes teams for curbing down the crime rate. He said the best cop of the month would be rewarded and given financial benefit.

The meeting sources said the main target of the government is now to improve the law and order situation in the city. The government will carry out operation across the country gradually.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) arrested 1014 people during the last three days. Of them, four were listed criminals. As many as 24

people were arrested in connection with criminal cases and 110 general record cases. One hundred and fifty-four people were arrested in regular cases while 666 under DMP ordinance and 52 under Section 54 of the CrPC.

Meanwhile, joint forces comprising police, paramilitary BDR and armed police detained 411 people during the time in block raids in the city. The arrestees include a listed

Rafiq new envoy to Canada

UNB, Dhaka

Consul General of Bangladesh in New York, Rafiq Ahmed Khan has been appointed High Commissioner to Canada.

Rafiq joined Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1971. He served in various capacities in the Foreign Ministry, Dhaka and Bangladesh missions in London, Yangon, Jakarta and Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York.

criminal, four convicts and 86 in regular cases.

The plainclothes teams comprising police, members of the Detective Branch, Rapid Action Battalion and Rapid Action Team arrested 338 people during the period. The arrestees include 17 listed criminals, two warranties and 268 under DMP ordinance and Section 54 of the CrPC. They also recovered two stolen CNG auto-rickshaws.

The mobile courts fined over Tk 2.71 lakh for violating laws and jailed two persons for seven days each for breaking laws.

Inspector General of Police Shahudul Haque, Rab chief Anwarul Iqbal, Rab second-in-command Colonel Millat, and DMP deputy commissioners were present.

1753 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,753 people during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered seven firearms, seven other weapons and 18 rounds of bullet and filed six cases against 14 people.