

Blast at RU hall sparks panic

Police recover machete, iron rods from Shibir workers' rooms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A powerful bomb went off at Nawab Abdul Latif hall of Rajshahi University (RU), sparking a panic among the students yesterday morning.

No-one was injured in the blast that prompted the police to raid the hall. They recovered a chappati (machete), iron rods, pipes and a hacksaw blade from two rooms belonging to Islamic Chhatra Shibir activists.

Mohammad Nazim, general secretary of the hall unit of Shibir, resides in one of the rooms, sources said.

At around 10.15am, Ganesh, a cleaner, found a packet at the store-room on the second floor of the hall. Thinking it a packet of books, he threw the packet towards a window of the room but it exploded halfway.

Rafique, another cleaner of the hall, said that he heard sounds of two blasts.

Police locked the main gate of the

LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM

Founding anniversary celebrations begin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Within half an hour of the incident, panic gripped the students. Some 200 policemen, led by the RU authorities and police, conducted a raid on the hall for two and a half hours.

The raid was launched to ensure safety for the students, said hall Provost Prof. Amjad Hossain.

Students said that the raid did not pay off as most outsiders aligned to Shibir managed to flee before the police stepped in.

They also alleged that some pro-government student leaders' rooms were not checked.

Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Rashed Ara, however, denied the allegation.

RU authorities formed a three-member committee headed by Latif Hall provost Prof. Amjad Hossain to investigate the blast.

None was arrested till the writing of the report, but Ganesh was picked up for interrogation.

DHAKA
TODAY

Jote programme

The opening ceremony of a four-day programme, sponsored by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote to mark the Independence Day, will be held with eminent educationist Mustafa Nurul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.30pm.

Recitation

Liberation War Museum organises a session of recitation as part of its programme to celebrate the Independence Day. Venue: Cafe theatre of the museum. Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.30pm.

IFB discussion

In celebration of the Independence Day, Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh (IFB) will hold a discussion with Agriculture Minister M K Anwar as chief guest. Venue: Foundation auditorium, Baitul Mokarram. Time: 10.30am.

Reunion

A reunion of the artistes, employees and participants of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra will be held. Venue: Central Public Library auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 10.30am.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Bhramar Alape Fotai Golap Koli' by poet Chowdhury Nurul Huda, will be held. Venue: Bishwasothiya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.30pm.

European film session

Jahangirnagar Film Society, in

A weeklong cultural programme was inaugurated at the Liberation War Museum to mark its eighth founding anniversary yesterday.

A weeklong book fair on the War of Liberation was also launched at the museum auditorium.

The inaugural programme yesterday featured the screening of the film 'Shadhinata' directed by Yasmeen Kabir and a documentary on International Coalition of Historical Site Museum of Chittagong were screened.

Earlier, Professor Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University delivered a commemorative speech on 'Our Liberation War and Principles of Constitution'.

He said the constitution no longer reflected the three basic principles of democracy, secularism and socialism said to be the pillars of the Liberation War.

Referring to ethnic minorities, Professor Anisuzzaman said, "Although the war was fought on the basis of Bangladeshi nationalism, we must recognize and respect the individualism of the ethnic minorities."

He said exclusion of secularist principles from the constitution has brought about the rise of communal forces. "The exclusion of the word secularism from the constitution has pushed non-Muslim Bangladeshi far away from the mainstream, paving the way for communal politics to stage a comeback."

The non-Muslims have practically become second class citizens after the recognition of Islam as state religion," he said, adding that various sects within the Muslim community are also being subjected to harassment.

He said democracy is yet to get an institutional shape even after three general elections.

Earlier, Aly Zaker, one of the trustee board members of the Liberation War Museum, presented an overview of the museum's activities over the last one year.

He hoped the museum would be relocated to a more spacious building for better management of its activities and conservation of war artifacts.

Aly Zaker said the museum will extend its outreach programme with a view to inform the younger generation about the War of Liberation.

1839 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,839 people, including one listed criminal, during their nationwide drive in the last 24 hours ending 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered six firearms and 24 rounds of bullets and filed five cases against seven people under the Arms Act.

Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

AL meeting

A meeting of the Central Working Committee of Bangladesh Awami League will be held with party chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Venue: House-51/A, Road-3/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

On the occasion of 123rd birth anniversary of Shefauul Mulk Hakim Habibur Rahman, a discussion will be held. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Time: 4.00pm.

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