

2nd Anniversary of Attack on Residents of Shamsunnahar Hall

THE second anniversary of the Shamsunnahar Hall attack passed with the authorities remaining on guard to ward off any untoward incident. As no charges were ever brought against people involved in the attack, the demands for punishment remained a top priority for the protesting students of Dhaka University. While large contingents of police remained alert in the campus, the students belonging to different organisations marked the occasion with processions and demonstrations. Shamsunnahar Hall residents brought out silent processions wearing black masks and badges. At the Raju Memorial Monument, cultural organisations that took part in the mid-July movement staged functions. The Bangladesh Chhatra Federation arranged for an exhibition of the photographs and newspaper clippings of the student upsurge that led to the resignation of the then Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury and Proctor Prof Nazrul Islam. The day's programme began with a candle-light procession from the Central Shahid Minar. Bangladesh Chhatra League tried to march towards the hall but police obstructed them in front of Shibbari. Many other organisations belonging to the Progressive Student Alliance observed the day to press home their demands. Two years back, in the early hours of the morning of July 23, police stormed the hall gate and dragged about 100 female students from their rooms after breaking down the hall

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gate. The judicial probe commission headed by justice M Tafazzul Islam submitted a 500 page report to the home ministry on September 3, 2002. Unfortunately, the police personnel that the report held responsible for the atrocity were never brought to the book. On top of that, the nine suggestions of the DU inquiry committee that advised transfer of employees of the hall and action against the house tutors and a JCD activist, are yet to be taken into consideration.

Humayun Azad's son flees from Kidnappers

THE son of the noted writer Humayun Azad managed to run away from his abductors about two hours into his kidnap on Dhaka University campus on July 5. The family suspects the abductors to be the same gang that nearly killed Azad on February 27 in front of Bangla Academy. Three unknown bearded men about 30 kidnapped Anannya Azad, a class ten student, from in front of British Council at 6:15 pm on his way back to their house at Fuller Road. According to Anannya, he was stopped by the men on the pretext of having a talk with him. As he refused, two of the men grabbed him by his hands and dragged him to a dark road in SM Hall. There were five to six more guarding

the area and they asked Anannya about his father's next visit abroad but he refused to tell them. At that point they got furious and slapped Anannya, which broke his glass. They threatened that if he did not give information regarding his father they would not release him. At one point Anannya managed to flee while only one of them was holding him. "I pushed him hard, jumped over a wall and ran for my life," said the young boy to a Daily Star journalist. He also let the newsman know that men in similar garb were seen hanging around the place since the attack on his father. However, the Ramna Police Station said they did not know anything about the incident.