

JCD cadres

FROM PAGE 1

The Duta leaders warned of tougher programmes if the authorities failed to punish those responsible for the ransacking of its president's room.

Campus and JCD sources said AZ Haider Chowdhury, general secretary of SirAF Rahman Hall unit of the JCD, led the attack. A group of 40 JCD men from different dormitories broke into the room and damaged computers, printers, ceiling fan, books, documents and other furniture.

The 'Student Organisations against Criminal Activities and Fundamentalism' held a brief rally in front of the Dhaka University Central Student Union (Ducusu) building under heavy police protection.

They alleged the authorities imposed restriction on procession and rally on the campus to save the attackers.

They threatened if the VC failed to fulfil their six-point demands within 48 hours they would launch agitation for his resignation.

The demands include expulsion of attackers from the university, resignation of the proctor and punishment for the JCD cadres, who let loose terror on the campus.

The authorities also drafted in three persons to the six-member probe body headed by Pro-vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider that is to submit report within a week.

Six opposition student bodies and a platform of left-leaning student organisations, Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), yesterday demanded cancellation of restriction on outsiders' activities on the campus.

No classes and examinations were held yesterday, the first day of the Duta-enforced 72-hour work abstention call in protest of the violence.

The authorities of DU and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) have postponed all scheduled examinations till September 14.

However, the ongoing examinations of MBBS, Masters of Medical Science and Research faculty, BSc in Physiotherapy, Home Economics for the 1st year students and BHMS will be held as per schedule.

Rallies and processions of Duta and opposition student organisations ruled the campus yesterday although a provost standing committee meeting on the Saturday night banned those activities on the campus until Thursday.

JCD men, meanwhile, ransacked four rooms of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and Sir AF Rahman Hall before driving BCL activists and leaders away.

Duta brought out a silent procession from the Aparajeyo Bangla and held a brief rally at the Central Shaheed Minar, demanding action against the culprits.

Guardians accuse Oxford school of high charges

File case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities of Oxford International School are overcharging students for fees in absence of proper rules and regulations, guardians of students alleged at a press conference in Purga Paltan yesterday.

The Oxford International School Guardians Forum has also filed a case against the authorities and submitted a memorandum to the education minister, state minister for education, education secretary and local legislator.

The forum demanded elimination of corruption from the school, terming the additional fees illegal.

The forum leaders urged the government to immediately impose proper guidelines for the English medium schools to follow. They said the authorities are hiking up fees every year but the school's environment and education standard are deteriorating day by day.

"Fees of standard one have been upped to Tk 16,200 from Tk 4,410 in the last seven years," said Belal Ahmed, president of the forum.

"Some teachers of the school have threatened to expel our children if we continue the protest," he alleged.

"They charge us Tk 275 per day for conveyance. This is far more than it should be," said Shauidur Rahman, vice-president of the forum.

"The authorities charge high, knowing we can't take our children elsewhere even if we wanted," said Afroza Parveen Lina, joint secretary of the forum.

The high fees are not reflected in the infrastructure of the school. There is no rest room for the guardians, the leaders said.

"The school acts like businesses. Apart from high fees, they also overcharge for books, stationary and dry food," said a mother asking not to be named.

Malek Raton, vice-president of the school, refuted the allegations saying he suspects if such a forum exists at all. "We raise fees following rise in electricity, essentials and stationary costs and governmental taxes," he said.

US Open

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years the top seed failed to reach the semi-final.

On the third anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon New York and Washington, there was a moment of silence before and after for those victims as well as for the people who died in the Russian school hostage tragedy.

Both players wore the same black ribbons they had on all week to honour the victims.

Dementieva, known for her punishing forehands, had trouble getting untracked against Kuznetsova, who had 23 forehand winners to Dementieva's five.

Sixth seed Dementieva made history earlier this year when she lost the French Open final to Anastasia Myskina in the first all-Russian Grand Slam final.

Namibia

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frustrated over the situation. They came to the expatriate ministry and enquired about the latest development.

Our workers should not have gone for agitation in the foreign land on pretty grounds as it tarnishes the image of the country, said a recruiting agent requesting anonymity, Namibia may impose a ban on workers from Bangladesh, if such incidents take place regularly, he feared.

The southern African country started recruiting workers in large scale from Bangladesh in their thriving garments sector since May this year. Government of Bangladesh also started receiving reports of agitation by Bangladeshi workers since then.

Namibia government has already given notice to those workers several times for their undisciplined behaviour, the source said.

Rally attack

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chargesheeted accused in grenade, firearms and time bomb haul in Badda in November 2003, sources added.

An investigator commented they might get a lead to the grenade attack once Mukul, who tops the grenade attack suspects' list, was captured.

Wallich wants

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Gulshan residence Tuesday marking her as the next target of bomb attacks that prompted her to leave Dhaka the same night. She is the first foreigner known to have received a death threat since the August 21 grenade attack on Sheikh Hasina.

"We are also receiving similar threats," Saifur said. "I had received telephone threats. A certain quarter has been doing this to destabilise the country. But it was not right for her to leave the country because of such a threat."

He said the government knew that Wallich was leaving because of the threat.

"Those who were supposed to know about her leaving, they knew about her departure," said Saifur. "I knew it, the prime minister knew it and the home minister was in the know of it too. Since it is a sensitive thing, we did not circulate the information."

However, Prime Minister's Political Secretary M Harris Chowdhury earlier told the BBC Radio that he did not know about her departure.

Saifur said after getting the death threat Wallich came to his residence and briefed him about her sense of insecurity.

"I requested her not to leave the country and promised her all out safety measures," said the finance minister. "I also talked to World Bank's Vice-president for South Asia Praful C Patel about her security. Patel was also convinced that we would provide full security to her. But then consented to her departure as Wallich was feeling insecure."

Asked if the recent spate of terrorist attacks would have any impact on flow of foreign direct investment, Saifur said such events are happening in almost every country and so there is nothing to fear about losing investment.

JRC meets

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The JRC, told The Daily Star.

India agreed to sit in the secretary level meeting after a couple of deferment from its part. The meeting will discuss how to develop a strategy to share the water of Teesta and six other rivers. Besides, erection of dam across the Indian part of Muhuri river will also be on the agenda.

The JCE headed by the water resources secretaries of the two countries has been working since its inception in 1997 to work out a permanent and mutually acceptable formula for bilateral water sharing of seven important rivers. The rivers include Teesta, Dharala, Dudhkumar, Monu, Khowai, Gomti and Muhuri.

The last JRC meeting took place in August 2003 in New Delhi, though the 1972 Ganges Water Sharing Treaty dictates four JRC meetings to be held every year.

A ministerial level meeting will follow the JCE meeting. Date of that meeting, however, is yet to be fixed.

As the water flow in the Teesta, one of the major common rivers, in the lean season (November to May) has dwindled from 5,000 cusecs to around 400 cusecs in recent years, Bangladesh wants an immediate agreement to save its ecological balance and get the due share.

Mr Duggal, the leader of the Indian team, is not a stranger to Bangladesh, press statement from Indian High Commission said yesterday. He joined the Indian Army in 1965 and took part in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

MK Sharma, member of (RM) Central Water Commission, ML Goyal, commissioner (ER) and member (JRC), water resources ministry, Neelam Deo, joint secretary (BSM), external affairs ministry, will be in the Indian delegation.

The delegation will fly off to India on September 16.

Judges, lawyers

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The study covered the speedy trial tribunals of 13 or 20 percent of the 64 districts selected by simple random sampling.

According to the findings, 50 percent of the cases were on extortion and mugging, with extortion accounting for 32.5 percent.

Some 42.2 percent of the magistrates, lawyers, court clerks, police and investigating officers were found of the opinion that the law was enacted mainly from political motives, while 57.2 percent of the general people had no idea about the law.

According to lawyers 50 percent of the speedy trial cases were not investigated properly and impartially, while 83.2 percent lawyers maintained these cases influenced and delayed settlement of other lawsuits.

The Courtwatch however found that the investigation reports were submitted and the cases were disposed of in due time. Two-thirds of the speedy trial cases were even settled before the stipulated 30 days and the rest one-third on deadline.

From the research findings, the TIB felt separation of the judiciary and some amendments to the law are necessary to make it effective. A clause should be incorporated in the act to stop political interference in trials. The corruption monitor also

suggested ensuring proper and neutral investigation and forming a speedy trial section in the higher courts.

The 4-party alliance government enacted the law in 2002 for two years, and then extended the term for two more years.

Prof Ahmad in his speech hoped for a social movement against corruption at district level, and said, "If we could stop wastage of money to corruption and instead spend it in development works, the country's appearance would become radically different."

In the discussion following the presentation of the study report, Manju said ruling parties promulgate such laws out of frustration and anger and to destroy their rivals.

Inu observed that the speedy trial tribunals did not bring any improvement in law and order, and emphasised separation of the judiciary for independent delivery of justice.

Referring to the recent deaths of some people in custody of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), he said the anticrime force some day would "kill and destroy the government".

"Right now, democracy is in danger, suffering from insecurity," Inu added.

New Delhi to express

FROM PAGE 1

The Indian officials at the Home Secretary level meeting would present details of the NE insurgent camps in Bangladesh, Sikri said. The extradition of jailed ULFA secretary Anoop Chetia at the end of his prison term next month in Dhaka would also be a part of the agenda, she said.

The issue of infiltration would come up at the meeting and the concerns of Assam and West Bengal would be conveyed, she added.

BSF and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) had talks for joint and simultaneous coordinated border patrolling to prevent illegal migration into India from across Bangladesh, the High Commissioner said. "This exercise was an important confidence building measure and demonstration of the commitment of the two countries to halt infiltration," she added.

Meantime, Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Saturday at "Meet the Press" programme at Kolkata Press Club that India could only request Bangladesh in resolving 'insurgent' problem. But in no way his country could create any pressure on Bangladesh, which is a sovereign country. The Statesman in a report published yesterday quoted him as saying, reports BSS.

According to another report published in The Times of India yesterday, the minister said Bangladesh and Myanmar are sovereign countries. "We cannot interfere in their affairs. We can only make requests to them as our neighbors," he said.

Meantime, our correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya from New Delhi added: Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Veena Sikri met Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi last Friday to discuss fencing off its border with Bangladesh and to intensify river patrol to effectively seal the porous border with Bangladesh.

Sikri asked Assam government to regularly provide details of the incidents and crimes and cater specific and accurate information about people who equip Ulfa (United Liberation Front of Assam) cadres with logistic and arms sup-

port, official sources said.

She also wanted Assam administration to collect information to buttress India's contention that the militants' outfit camps exist in Bangladesh, which repeatedly denied the charge.

The meeting came about a few days ahead of the home secretary-level meetings between India and Bangladesh to be held in Dhaka from September 15.

Gogoi not only assured her of keeping the Indian government updated with information of abductions and other crimes committed by Ulfa but also suggested increasing the number of border outposts along Indo-Bangladesh border and reducing the distance between the outposts, they said.

The meeting between Sikri and Gogoi assumes significance as India, during the home secretary-level meeting, is likely to ask Bangladesh of handing over some Ulfa leaders including Anup Chetia whose prison term ends next month and a Tripura insurgents' group chief.

Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee told reporters yesterday in Kolkata that India has requested Bangladesh to act against those carrying out "subversive" activities against India and it was up to Dhaka to decide whether it would conduct military operations like Bhutan had done against Ulfa.

Veena Sikri also discussed economic cooperation between traders of northeastern Indian states and their counterparts in Bangladesh iterating her keenness to enhance trade contacts between the two countries.

Indian Water Resources Secretary V K Duggal will lead another 11-member delegation to Dhaka for the seventh meeting of Joint Committee of Experts where the Joint Technical Group would discuss recommendations for sharing of Teesta waters between India and Bangladesh.

"We are going to Dhaka with a positive frame of mind and hope to work out the issue of sharing Teesta waters," Commissioner of Eastern Region in the Water Resources Ministry ML Goyal said.

Tigers thrashed

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through mid-wicket. Opener Herschelle Gibbs was the lone man out to paceman Tapash Baisya for four.

The southpaw was unbeaten on 42 off 52 balls featuring seven fours while Jacques Kallis remained 40 not out facing 44 studded with eight boundaries.

The atmosphere was perfect for an impressive start but Bangladesh top order cut another sorry figure against South Africa who put an end to a 10-match losing streak with this victory.

The Proteas came to the tournament after losing five matches in a row in New Zealand followed by their 5-0 whitewash at the hands of Sri Lanka.

Coach Dav Whatmore had earlier set an ambitious target of 250 for his charges but they could not even go beyond 108, their previous lowest total against the same opposition at Bloemfontein in 2003.

Under warm sunshine, Bangladesh captain Rajin Saleh won the toss and decided to bat first in front of an encouraging group of expatriate supporters, who came from different parts of the country to cheer the Tigers.

But South African right-arm pacer Charl Langeveldt, who replaced injured Andre Nel, got the Bangladesh top batters into trouble on a pitch where the ball moved sharply. The right-arm swing bowler, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match, picked up three early wickets during his seven-over spell conceding 17 runs while Makhaya Ntini (3-19) and Nicky Boje (2-23) carried the initial carnage

BCL leader killed

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alcohol and illegal activities in a case.

Locals said Mahbub along with others was roaming about there then. Police caught him but others managed to escape.

The constables said Mahbub was seriously injured when he was handed over to them. They took Mahbub to Shibganj Thana Health Complex next morning where the duty doctor Rafiqul Islam declared him dead.

The doctor said Mahbub had injuries to all over his body and blood came out of his nostrils and mouth. He died of heart failure.

SI Zahir said Mahbub was drunk and might be injured due to scuffle with the constables.

As the death news spread out, some four thousand agitated people thronged in the health complex and ransacked it. They also hemmed in the police station for a few hours and barricaded the Shibganj-Pirap road till 2:00pm yesterday.

They withdrew the barricade when police assured them of a probe and punishment of the guilty.

SI Zahir and the two constables were closed in this incident.

7 drown

FROM PAGE 1
Rawshan Ara, 50, were found seven km west of the Jamuna after the boat capsized.

The missing included Sub-Inspector Iman Ali of Natoarpara police.

Nine were admitted to Sirajganj Health Complex and their condition is improving.

Quoting Abul Bashar, president of Fishing Boat Owners' Association of Saint Martin's Island, UNB news agency said 35 fishing trawlers, of about 50, went to the sea and were caught by the storm at noon. Of them, 30 trawlers returned to the shore in the evening.

LAND DEPRESSION
Weathermen at the Meteorological Department said the rough weather would also continue today as the land depression will move inland in the north-northwest direction before dying out later in the night.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls in places across Bangladesh will mark the advance of the low, said Arjumand Habib, deputy director of the meteorological office.

The maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla were asked to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number three as the sea was very rough. The river ports of Barisal and Patuakhali were also asked to raise cautionary signal number two.

All fishing boats and trawlers at sea were advised to remain close to the coast until further notice.

Yesterday's highest rainfall was recorded at 134 mm in Teknaf, followed by 61 mm in Cox's Bazar, 47 mm in Patuakhali, 53 mm in Khepupara, 29 mm in Khulna and 25 mm in Ishwardi.

In Dhaka, 32 mm of unbroken rainfall made life miserable, disrupting commutes.

8,000 pilgrims

FROM PAGE 12
Assistant Superintendent Syed Tarekul Hasan, with another fellow officer, went to Science Laboratory area at 12:15pm following an emergency call from a building contractor. The contractor was forced to stop work for last three days in the face of threats by a local extortionist ring, Rab officials said.

Ghani, leader of the gang, is also known to be involved in tender manipulation.

"Two of our officers went there in plainclothes to recon the construction site," Senior Assistant Superintendent of Rab Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Ghani had already realised a large amount of money from the contractor. Still he wanted more and halted the construction work when the contractor refused to comply with his orders, said the Rab official.

As the Rab officials, along with the contractor (name withdrawn for security reason), reached Glass Ceramic Building, Ghani and his accomplices took the three hostage at gunpoint.

"Ghani took the contractor to an unknown place while his three operatives -- Hozza, Moshad and Khokon -- kept our two officers confined in a room of the building," said Mizanur.

2 hurt in Rab

FROM PAGE 12
Ajmal, Zahidul and bullet-hit Nauroz, sources said.

All the three arrestees are armed cadres of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) headed by Gazi Kamrul who is now in Khulna District Jail following his surrender to court early this year, police claimed.

A group of police officials favourably inclined to Gazi Kamrul are aware of the freelance drug peddling by BCP's armed cadres, local people alleged.

Govt spends

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future projects must be completed on time and project proposals must be accompanied by action plans'.

The purchase committee yesterday also approved three proposals for establishment of new telephone lines, a power plant and fertiliser procurement.

A 150mw power plant would be constructed in Sylhet at a cost of Tk 407 crore of which Indian Heavy Electrical Ltd would provide Tk 225 crore in supplier's credit.

The purchase committee yesterday also approved purchase of one lakh tonne of fertiliser and the Dhaka-Bogra alternative fibre optic transmission link.

Aug 21 dead condoled

FROM PAGE 1

tradition. Parliament usually adopts the obituary reference after paying respect to a late lawmaker in the short discussion.

Earlier, the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad at a meeting yesterday decided to discuss the grenade attacks and post flood rehabilitation in current session that will see five workdays before September 16 prorogation.

"We demanded ten workdays and discussion on at least ten issues," Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid told reporters after the meeting.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar will fix the date and duration of the discussions in consultation with the ruling and the opposition leaders, the committee decided.

At the beginning of the session, AL lawmaker Mohammad Nasim urged the speaker to include the names of 20 people killed in the grenade attack in the obituary reference. He alleged the daylight attack came because of the free fall of law and order under Khaleda Zia, who even did not hesitate to deride at a death threat to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

By the derision, the prime minister herself encouraged the criminals to carry out the grenade attacks, he alleged.

But the din of treasury bench protests drowned Nasim's voice and the speaker switched off his microphone to give the floor to Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

The speaker's action sparked angry protests from AL lawmakers, who jumped to their feet and shouted at the top of their voice.

The speaker assured the opposition of inclusion of the names, if any one was dropped.

The uproar continued until Bhuiyan took floor and urged the speaker to run the House in line with the rules of procedure. He also asked him to expunge Nasim's speech.

Soon after Bhuiyan's speech,

the speaker hurriedly rushed to the next step of the obituary reference.

He asked the lawmakers to keep a one-minute silence, paying respect to the people on the obituary reference list denying any discussion on the reference.

AL lawmakers demanded a discussion on the late Momin. But the speaker said there was no scope for a discussion as two lawmakers from both sides already spoke.

Leader of the House Khaleda and other treasury bench lawmakers stood up for paying the respect, but AL lawmakers protested the chair's decision and demanded the discussion.

As the speaker gave floor, Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid said there should be a discussion in line with parliamentary convention on the demise of a sitting lawmaker.

He said his party also sent a list of participants for the discussion.

Taking floor next, Khaleda urged the speaker to conduct a munajat first and then proceed to deride at a death threat to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

By the derision, the prime minister herself encouraged the criminals to carry out the grenade attacks, he alleged.

After the munajat, the House held the half an hour discussion when Hamid said there were no scope for natural death in Bangladesh.

He said the late Momin was lucky, as he could die a natural death in a country lacking its guarantee.

The session was adjourned until 5:00pm today after the discussion, postponing other business in the day's order.

Meanwhile, the Awami League Parliamentary Party decided to meet at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban tomorrow, a day after the BNP parliamentary party meets at 3:30pm today.

Rab, extortionists

FROM PAGE 12

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Oppositions march

FROM PAGE 1
firearms and explosives in and around the Bhaban from Saturday midnight.

Police also prevented all types of vehicles from plying on Panthapath and Mirpur Road from Kalabagan bus stand to Dhanmondi