

## 200 hurt in RU clash

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for an indefinite period, Students' Advisor Prof Zahid Hasan Milky told The Daily Star. Vice Chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki chaired the meeting.

Some 70 of the seriously injured, mostly general students, teachers, journalists and policemen, were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) and clinics.

Condition of Moly, a law department student, was stated to be most critical. Science Faculty Dean Prof Nurul Absar hit her head with a stone, witnesses alleged.

The police lobbed several hundred tear gas shells, fired 50 shots and charged baton to disperse the angry students who hurled bricks and stones at the police and the pro-government student activists and university staff, they said.

The protestors also damaged some 40 university buses, ransacked a dozen buildings including administration building, deans' complex, Agrani Bank, Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium and Golden Jubilee tower.

The students also barricaded the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway for an hour and damaged a police motorcycle and some rickshaws. They also damaged a police camp at the RU main gate during the melee, witnesses said.

The police, pro-BNP teachers and employees assaulted Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) president Khalequzzaman, Mass Communication department Chairman Dulal Chandra Biswas, teachers Mustaque Ahmed Shuvo, Anada Kumar Saha (Zoology), Sheikh Nurullah (Marketing) and Rabiul Islam (Social work).

They also beat up Pradip Kumar Pande, a teacher of Mass Communication department for supporting the students in their agitation in front of the VC's residence.

Proctor Prof Shamsul Alam Sarkar told reporters that police and BDR were deployed as the situation went beyond control. "The law enforcing agencies did what they thought right to do against agitating students who caused serious damage to property."

Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Rawshan Ara told The Daily Star that police acted on the order of the RU administration. "Police won't enter the RU until the authorities ask for it", she said.

**RABEYAHALL INCIDENT**  
The students of Tapashi Rabeya Hall burst into protest when they found three youths inside the female dormitory at about 1:00am. The youths ran away when the students screamed but the girls started agitating on the hall compound.

The angry students kept hall Provost Prof Shahriya Inam, house tutors Selina Sultana, Murshida Binte Habib, hall Super China Begum and resident teachers Mahbuba Begum and Monwara Begum confined in the provost's room until 4:00pm.

Kanchan, a student of the hall, said the students confined the provost and house tutors as the proctor refused to come to the hall to hear the students, rather threatened the agitating students of dire consequences if they continued demonstrating.

As the news spread, female students of three other halls rushed to Tapashi Rabeya Hall and then marched to the VC's residence in procession with shoes and brooms in their hands at 5am demanding removal of the proctor and hall provost.

### ERUPTION OF VIOLENCE

The VC, Prof Faisal Islam Faruki, who was scheduled to leave Rajshahi in the morning for Paris, called on the agitating students at 7.30am. As he was assuring the students of proper action, pro-Jamaat teachers Tarek Faisal and Nurul Amin hurled abuses at the girls.

Chairman of ICT (information and communication technology) department Aurangajeb Abdur Rahman slapped a student, Nupur, infuriating the other female students.

"Stealing at your rooms are normal as you (girls) generally stay out during nights", Luna, an agitating student quoted Institute of Education Research (IER) Director Prof Nazrul Islam as scolding the protesting female students.

As the students continued staging the sit-in in front of the VC's residence, BNP-Jamaat supporter teachers asked journalists and photographers to leave the campus.

At one stage, Science Faculty Dean Prof Nurul Absar and IER Director Prof Nazrul Islam assaulted Prothom Alo photographer Azhar Uddin, Asaduzzaman of Amar Desh and Sujauddin Chhoton of ATN Bangla. They also damaged a camera of Prothom Alo and video cameras of ATN Bangla and ntv.

Soon after the incident, the controversially recruited employees led by Rafiqul Islam Sadar, Raihanul Islam Raju, Masudul Karim, Mantu, Anarul, Mamun, Masud Rana, Biddyt equipped with sticks came out of the VC's residence and took position in front of the house along with JCD and ICS cadres.

The violence erupted at around 11:00am when Dean Prof Dr Nurul Absar ordered attacks on general students staging sit-in before the VC's residence since 5:00am demanding security in four female dormitories of the university.

Additional police forces and two platoons of paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) joined the attackers at 1:00pm and charged baton on teachers and students inside Rabindra Arts Building at around 2:00pm leaving nearly 50 injured.

Witnesses said the police dragged profusely bleeding students to police vans. The police arrested some 70 people from the campus.

Later, the police swooped on journalists and beat up Jahangir Alam Akash of Sangbad, Anisuzzaman of Janakantha, Nazrul Islam of Dinkal, Zamiul Ahsan of Manavzamin, Abu Kalam Ratan of The Daily Star and Mansur Alam of local daily Upachar.

Ruta and the RU unit BCL condemned the incident while RU journalists brought out a procession protesting the attacks.

The university earlier witnessed protest by progressive teachers and students as the syndicate recently approved controversial recruitment of more than 500 staff and teachers, mostly BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami supporters.

Many of them are relatives of teachers and a few even implicated in criminal cases, alleged the progressive teachers and students.

**INJURED ADMITTED TO RMCH**  
RU teachers Qudrat and Mahbubur Rahman of Chemistry department, Abdul Matin Talukdar, chairman of Music and Dramatics department, Shah M Nister Jahan and Abdullah Al Mamoon of Mass Communication department, police constable Mantu and journalist Jahangir Alam Akash were admitted to the RMCH.

## WFP president

**FROM PAGE 12**  
in Dhaka, Sylhet and Moulvibazar.

Each year, the WFP reaches over three million beneficiaries, including 5 lakh ultra-poor women and 1.2 million schoolchildren.

In addition to food assistance, the UN food-aid agency also provides the target-group people with awareness and skill training and access to cash credits, the release said.

## Kidnappers keep mum

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The minister said if necessary he himself would go to Baghdad to arrange for Faruk's release.

Morshed was of the opinion that as Bangladesh is opposed to the US-led invasion of Iraq the abduction of Faruk must be a case of mistaken identity on the part of the abductors.

Asked if the abductors, identified by Al Jazeera television at early morning Friday as the IAI, had asked for a ransom for Faruk, Morshed said, "We've not received any claims whatsoever from any abductors." They have not made any communication with the Bangladesh government through its missions in Jordan or Kuwait, he added.

Repeating his appeal to the abductors, the foreign minister said, "Considering that Bangladesh is in no way involved in the Iraq conflict and on behalf of his (Faruk's) family and the 140 million Bangladeshi Muslims, I appeal to those who have abducted the poor truck driver in the holy month of Ramadan to release him soon."

"Bangladesh will always be on the side of justice for Iraq and for peace to return to its people," he added.

Morshed said Dhaka would take all necessary steps to free Faruk and has already instructed its ambassadors in Kuwait, Qatar and Jordan to establish contact with the abductors and arrange for his release. He said, if such a necessity arises, he would fly straight from Delhi to Baghdad, but adding all the

## Forests staff

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Hospital (CMCH). Nine others were taken to the CMCH and Hathazari Health Complex.

In another incident on Friday, an angry mob lynched mugger Noor Mohammad at Shikalbaha Crossing (College Bazar) on the south bank of river Karnaphuli at around 8:00pm.

Sources said, four muggers went there by a CNG auto-rickshaw for mugging only to fall prey to mob beating. Noor's three other accomplices managed to flee the scene.

## 18 Indians

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women and three children-- were pushed in close to Nabnagar border outpost (BOP) near border pillar number 882 in Nilphamari on the day. They got stranded on no man's land as Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) thwarted the BSF bid, reports received in Dhaka said.

In Panchagarh, eight Indian nationals, including two men, two women and four children, were pushed in at around 4:30am near border pillar number 441 under Shariyal Joth BOP. But the BDR, assisted by locals, pushed them back to be stranded on no man's land.

At about 2:00pm, six more Indian nationals-- a man, a woman and four children-- were pushed in near border pillar number 442 under the same BOP, BDR sources said.

Tension runs high in the areas in wake of such push-in attempts by the BSF.

Between January and April this year, the BSF made nine attempts to push in 60 Bangla-speaking Indian nationals and three more on July 19. The BDR pushed back all the 63 to the Indian side within a day of the incidents, sources mentioned.

## Morshed

**FROM PAGE 12**  
whole gamut of bilateral affairs.

An official announcement yesterday said the foreign minister will also have a meeting with his counterpart K Natwar Singh. He will brief the Indian external affairs minister on the preparations for the summit scheduled for January 9-11.

He is also likely to meet Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath.

This is Morshed's second visit to Delhi as a special envoy of the prime minister after Congress came to power in May and the first after the row over his criticism of Indian policy on Bangladesh last month.

The foreign minister will return home on November 2.

## Recruitment

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Highly placed sources said the government recently initiated recruitment of some 20,000 class three and four employees against as many vacant posts. But the process was suspended at the directive of the Prime Minister's Office in the teeth of reports of political influence and corruption in the process.

The establishment ministry in a letter signed by the deputy secretary (Administration-1) directed all divisional and deputy commissioners on Thursday to suspend the recruitment of the employees until further notice.

Copies of the letter have been sent to the cabinet secretary and secretaries of all ministries and divisions.

However, the letter does not cite reasons for the suspension. When contacted, a deputy commissioner asking not to be named admitted the urgent letter was faxed to all divisional and deputy commissioners.

Sources said the PMO received reports that the recruitment at the lower level of the administration is being taken place in line with the lists of local ministers, MPs and other influential ruling coalition leaders.

Allegation were also there that some dishonest officials at the district level in connivance with local political leaders started recruitment of the employees in exchange for bribes of Tk 1 to 2 lakh against each post.

## AL to press

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said, "If the discussion is held after the Eid break, then what will be the result of such discussion?"

The AL will sit today before the resumption of the session to discuss its strategy.

### JS BODY MEET

AL lawmakers at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry demanded discussion on the activities of Rab, the August 21 grenade attack and the report of one-member judicial inquiry committee on the grisly attack.

Committee Chairman Prof Shajahan Mia, however, assured AL lawmakers Mohammad Nasim and Sheikh Helal Uddin, who attended the meeting, of holding discussion on Rab and grenade attack in future at the committee.

"I am not sure about the status of the probe report on the grenade attack. So I could not assure them of holding discussion on it. We can discuss the report at the committee if it is available," the chairman told The Daily Star.

Senior officials of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) informed the meeting about different initiatives taken to improve law and order in the capital city.

## Ministries hobble

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"We will stop releasing local components if they (ministries) do not spend the foreign components (funds)," he said.

According to statistics presented at the meeting at the planning ministry, only 10 percent of the total foreign components were released in the first quarter, with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication failing to spend anything.

The Ministry of Industries could spend as low as less than 1 percent of the foreign component, the Ministry of Health 1 percent, the Ministry of Education 2 percent, the Ministry of Rural Development and Co-operatives 5 percent and the Ministry of Communications 8 percent.

Bangladesh saw a dip in foreign aid by 52 percent in the last fiscal year compared to the previous year because of poor capacity to utilise foreign aid.

"Many ministries exhaust local resources but fail to spend foreign aid as they are reluctant to fulfil conditions attached by donor agencies before releasing foreign aid," Saifur said.

"This does no good to the country given the trouble we have to take to get foreign aid, which gets lapsed on non-utilisation."

Saifur has asked the line ministries to come up with figures on their utilisation of foreign aid in the second quarter at the next meeting.

Yesterday's review meeting on the ADP implementation status in the first quarter of the current fiscal found that 15 ministries have been allocated Tk 18,181 crore in the Tk 22,000-crore ADP. The finance ministry has released some Tk 2,658 crore or 24 percent of the local component (11,154 crore) for the ministries.

The 15 ministries have utilised Tk 2,101 crore or only 12 percent of the total allocation between July and September this fiscal year. They spent Tk 1,417 crore or 13 percent of the domestic resources and Tk 684 crore or 10 percent of the foreign component.

On allegations that non-release of funds by the finance ministry has slowed down the rate of ADP implementation, the finance minister said no project implementation work has been stalled because of funds being unavailable. "We have released 24 percent (of local) funds but the ministries have utilised just 13 percent," he said.

## SC Bar asks HC judge

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that touched off scathing criticism from the lawyers in general and the Bar.

Two major dailies reported that Faizee, one of the 19 additional judges appointed on August 23, had tampered with his mark sheet in Muslim Law examinations he sat from Chittagong Law College in 1989. An inquiry committee of the Chittagong University revealed the fraud.

The executive committee of the Bar held an emergency meeting in the afternoon and unanimously decided to boycott the bench of Justice Faizee should he not be withdrawn. Thirteen executive committee members of the 14 were present at the meeting.

Bar President Rokanuddin Mahmud later told reporters that the appointment of Faizee as additional judge had undermined the image of the judiciary. The authorities who are necessary to look into the legal sides of the matter where an examinee's results were withheld after publication. "I have completely been taken aback (by the issue)," he said reacting to the press reports.

Advocate Joyrial Abedin, law affairs secretary of the ruling BNP, would not comment on the matter. He only said that it is necessary to examine whether the allegations brought by the newspapers are genuine.

Earlier, the Bar started boycotting the chief justice's court in protest at the appointment of 19 additional judges to the High Court, terming it 'political appointment.' The boycott started on August 30, two days before the Supreme Court went on summer vacation.

The Supreme Court reopened on October 24 after the 50-day vacation and the Bar postponed the chief justice's court boycott programme until Eid vacation beginning from November 11.

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Saifur said that as many as 775 of the 869 projects taken in the ADP have been approved and the ministries can spend 89 percent of the allocation without approval of the finance ministry.

The finance minister expressed dissatisfaction at the poor rate of project implementation in the first quarter by the ministries including communication and health, meeting sources said.

"You go around saying that you cannot spend money as the finance ministry does not release funds. (But) we have released about Tk 500 crore, you have spent only about Tk 200 crore," the sources quoted Saifur as telling the officials of the communications ministry.

"The implementation capacity of our line ministries has been poor since the Pakistan period, which needs to be raised," he told reporters. Asked why the capacity has not been improved despite a raft of measures taken by the government, he said, "You better ask the prime minister about that."

Meeting sources said the ministries blamed the July-August floods on the below-par project implementation rate when the finance minister asked them about it.

The health ministry was allocated Tk 1,954 crore in local and foreign components and the finance ministry released Tk 206 crore or 27 percent in local components. The ministry has spent about Tk 26 crore or 3 percent of the domestic resources and Tk 14.91 crore or 1 percent of the foreign funds in the first quarter.

The communications ministry received an allocation of Tk 2,967 crore in local and foreign components and the finance ministry released Tk 487 crore in local components. But it has spent Tk 191 crore of the local component and Tk 97 crore of the foreign funds.

The post and telecommunication ministry spent Tk 13 against a local component allocation of Tk 520 crore.

## The Daily Star

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The Daily Star received the e-mail from (shahid ahamed) s.ahamet@yahoo.com at 3:44pm.

Earlier on August 24, three days after the grisly grenade attacks on an AL rally, the daily Prothom Alo received an e-mail that threatened to kill Hasina, claiming responsibility for the attacks.

## India calls

**FROM PAGE 1**  
does not arise," it said.

The release further said the BSF has neither in the past and nor recently forced any Indians into Bangladesh. "Therefore, there is no question of taking any measures to put an end to a phenomenon that does not exist."

India made the remarks two days after Bangladesh sent an aide-memoire to New Delhi, expressing concern over the push-in bid by the Indian border guards.

The release said the reports on BSF "push-in" bids have been investigated and found to be "entirely incorrect and baseless."

It said: "In fact, BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) has informed BSF that their personnel fired about 340 bullets from about one kilometer inside Bangladeshi territory in Rangpur sector. Some of these bullets strayed into Indian territory. BSF, however, has shown the utmost restraint and not fired even a single round."

In the light of these news reports, the release said the BSF had in fact proposed to BDR that if any person was stranded at the frontier for any reason the nationality of such person could be jointly verified at border talks. BDR, however, refused emphatically to accept this proposal.

The allegation of gang-rape by BSF and Indian police that have appeared in certain Bangladeshi newspapers are rejected as being malicious, motivated and entirely untrue, the release said.

It said peaceful management of the border is important for maintaining cordial relations between India and Bangladesh. Better and effective guarding of the border is necessary to prevent trafficking and cross-border movement without proper and legal documents.

India has always made every effort to maintain peace on the border and implement the letter and spirit of the agreed 1991 guidelines for border management.

It urges Bangladesh also to fulfil its obligations in the spirit of cooperation reaffirmed during the BDR-BSF conference held in New Delhi in the first week of October, the release added.

## 2 get 5 years

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each, in default of which they will have to serve another 30 days' Rl.

The court said the accused were sentenced as the charges brought against them were proved beyond doubt.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of seven out of nine prosecution witnesses.

Hearing the judgement, Dipu broke into tears and shouted at the magistrate saying that he was falsely implicated in the case and convicted.

"I reject the verdict and I will be acquitted of charges from the Higher Courts" said Dipu.

Sohel remained calm and did not say anything.

The two emailed the offices of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on August 25, threatening to raze the PMO to the ground if the IGP did not pay Tk 3 crore to one Ahsan Habib Selim Reza of Tallabagh in Dhanmondi in a week, police said.

Tracking down Dipu through the email, police arrested him from his house at New Elephant Road, Dhaka on August 31 and seized his personal computer, which, police claimed, carried marks of his link to the crime.

Instructed by police, Dipu asked his accomplice Wahid to go to Sat Masjid Road where they arrested him.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Shahadat Hossain of Dhanmondi Police Station filed a case against them under the Speedy Trial Act (Law and Order Disruption) the same day.

The court framed charges against the two on September 11. Expressing concern over the verdict, advocates Arshadul Haq and Faruq Ahmed Bhuiyan, said the prosecution totally failed to prove the charges brought against the two in the FIR (first information report) and in the charge sheet.

The messages threatening to blow up the PMO, sent by email were not exhibited during the trial of the case, they added.

They will appeal to the higher court against the verdict, they said.

## Dhaka, Kathmandu

**FROM PAGE 12**  
and meteorology of Nepal, who led his side at the talks, said they know how floods are affecting Bangladesh and it is their duty to cooperate by providing flood information. "We had fruitful discussions on different points," said Madan Lal.

Asked if the two countries are going to form a bilateral river commission, the technical experts said it is a 'far-phased issue' until now.

Both the sides agreed on joint studies about the type, duration and causes of flood and its possible mitigation, the experts said.

The two-day meeting also discussed the possibility of arresting, delaying and diverting the floods, they mentioned.

The experts also deliberated over building some water reservoirs in Nepal that will provide water to the Ganges during the lean period and also generate hydropower.

"If we can build reservoirs in the upper catchment of the Ganges river system, we will be able to delay and divert floods," said Tauhidul.

The technical committee will sit again towards the end of next year.

The six-member Nepalese team arrived in the capital on Thursday to attend the third meeting of the committee.

Meanwhile, after the devastating floods in 1988, the then king of Nepal and Bangladesh government agreed to work together on flood mitigation. Initially, the two countries formed a study team comprising experts from both the sides and a joint technical committee in 1989.

## Janatar mancha case

**FROM PAGE 12**  
rule upon the government asking it why the proceedings of the case would not be stayed. The HC fixed yesterday for hearing on the petition filed for staying the proceedings of the case.

Former assistant secretary in the establishment ministry Rabiul Alam Obaidul Muktar Chowdhury had also filed a criminal revision with the HC challenging the legality of the order of charge-framing against the accused. But the trial court did not take the HC orders into cognisance.

Defence lawyers, meanwhile, submitted two petitions for adjournment of the hearing as Mohammad Saifur Rahman, the then officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station and the complainant of the case, appeared before court yesterday to testify as the first prosecution witness. But the trial court rejected the petitions.

Later, the lawyers submitted

## UZ polls

**FROM PAGE 12**  
national development will be stopped."

The prime minister noted that the people of Bangladesh 'want peace and development ... they do not want godfathers, to be subservient and to stay economically backward'.

She asked her party men to tell the people about the progress made in various sectors, including education, infrastructure development and economic growth.

BNP's Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Prime minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury also spoke at the function. Standing Committee members KM Obaidur Rahman and Tanveer Ahmed Siddiqui, minister without portfolio Abdul Matin Chowdhury and State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Amanullah Aman were present on the dais.

A total of 27 union and upazila-level leaders addressed the meeting.

The speakers pointed out a distance between the ministers and the local leaders and suggested forming a monitoring cell to evaluate the role of ministers, party MPs and other leaders.

They mentioned the importance of creating more employment opportunities, repair and maintenance of roads, resolving intra-party conflict in some areas, and steps to check river erosion.

The field level BNP leaders appreciated the efficient handling of the recent floods by the government, rehabilitation programmes and the able leadership of the party's Senior Secretary General Tanique Rahman in infusing fresh zeal in the grassroots workers.

It pointed out that some private universities are conferring MBBS degree in violation of rules.

The ministry proposed a deposit of Tk 5 crore to establish a private university in the capital and Tk 3 crore elsewhere.

The proposal says a private university could be established on a temporary basis on condition it will have proper infrastructure on two acres of land if located in the capital and on five acres if established outside it. All private universities must move to permanent campus within three years.

The vice-chancellor of a private university should have 20 years' experience in related fields, it stresses.

The proposed amendment also seeks to separate the board of trustees from academic council of a private university to end conflict of interest between the two decision-making bodies.

It also seeks stipends for 10 per cent of meritorious students instead of five per cent now.

The 1992 act stipulates that every private university should have five acres of land and a permanent campus within five years of operation. But not a single university is yet operating on its own campus.

The UGC, the watchdog for higher education, is considering imposition of a moratorium on approval of new universities in private sector until the amended act comes into force, UGC sources said.

At least 10 proposals for establishing private universities are now pending with the UGC.