

JCD activists beat DU student

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, severely beat a Dhaka University (DU) student who is a trainee-reporter of a national daily on Thursday.

With serious injuries in head and hands Palash Sarker, a third year student of mass communication and journalism department, was rushed to the Orthopedics Hospital.

Campus sources said Salimullah Hall unit JCD activists Razon, a second year student of Geography, Ashique, a second year student of Islamic History, Mustak, a third year student of Philosophy and Ferdous beat Palash in front of Dhaka University Snacks (DUS).

Babu alias Snake Babu led the attack, sources added.

Palash is a trainee-reporter of Dainik Amader Samay.

JCD DU unit Joint Convenor Saiful Islam Firoz told The Daily Star that they have heard the news and would take action against the persons responsible.

Forged notes, stamps worth Tk 7 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of detective police seized forged notes and stamps worth about Tk 7.05 lakh in Banani and Pallabi areas of the city during a drive yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the Cobra team led by Inspector Moktubar Rahman, conducted the drive at Kakoli in Banani, seized 92 fake 100-taka notes on the possession of one Mizanur Rahman and arrested him, said a DMP press release.

Later, acting on the statement of the arrestee, the team also recovered forged stamps of various denominations, including 500-taka and 100-taka, from his rented house at Pallabi.

Mizanur Rahman is a member of a gang of inter-district fake note and stamps supplier, the press release added.

AL programmes on Mujibnagar Day

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition Awami League will observe the historic 'Mujibnagar Day' tomorrow with elaborate programmes.

To mark the day, national and party flags will be hoisted atop the party's central office in Dhaka and local offices across the country at 6.00am and wreaths will be placed at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Museum in the city at 7.30am.

The Awami League will also arrange a public meeting and cultural programme at 3.00pm at Paltan Maidan. AL President Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting.

A delegation of the party central leaders will visit Mujibnagar in Meherpur and place wreaths at the Mujibnagar Memorial at 9.00am on the day.

They will also arrange a public meeting and cultural programme near there.

AL general secretary Abdul Jalil has urged the party workers and the people from all walks of life to make the programmes a success.



Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year, was celebrated in the city amid festivity and gaiety on Thursday. (Left) Children enjoy a ride at a Baishakhi fair at the National Press Club; (middle) two women have 'Panta Bhat', a traditional breakfast, at a stall at the Ramna Park and (right) a member of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) keeps a vigil at the Ramna Park to ensure security during the celebrations.

DELAY IN FORMING FRESH JCD COMMITTEES Frustration grips leaders, activists

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Frustration plagues the leaders and activists alike of the ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) as the party high command delays in forming fresh committees for central as well as Dhaka University (DU) units.

Delay in announcing the committees is crippling the organisation and making the JCD leaders and activists lethargic, a number of JCD activists told The Daily Star recently. Azzul Baree Helal and Shafiq Bari Babu were made president and general secretary of the central committee on January 1. The BNP high-ups asked them to form fully-fledged central and DU committees within 10 days, but to no effect.

According to the JCD constitution, the central and the DU unit committees have to be formed through councils. But showing a total disregard for the constitutional obligation, the BNP high-ups have been forming the committees with

their chosen leaders since 1992. Forming committees on the basis of party bigwigs' choice is the main reason for factional rivalries, which often result in fierce violence in educational institutes, a JCD activist seeking anonymity observed.

JCD sources said that as the committees are not being formed, many mid-level leaders as well as the rank and file of the organisation remain distanced from politics. Dejected and down, most of them are now minding their own businesses.

Regular students and young leaders are afraid that they might get ignored as non-students and relatively aged leaders are lobbying hard for influential posts in the new committees, added the sources.

Sources inside BNP said that the party high command is thinking of fresh leaderships who do not have any criminal records. But many leaders of the previous committees, who are not students anymore and involved in lobbying in different

ministries and government offices, nepotism, tender snatching, and other underhand dealings, are busy to be on the committees.

Though the BNP high command always speaks for fresh leadership, the past committees never reflected their views, said another JCD man requesting anonymity.

Many a JCD leader told The Daily Star that if the BNP leaders sincerely implement what they profess in public, general students will be attracted to JCD and thus help restore healthy politics in the educational institutions.

JCD insiders said that the BNP First Joint-Secretary General Tareque Rahman has been looking after the JCD leadership. The committees could not be formed because he has been busy with union councils for the last three months, they added.

Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel, Amirul Islam Khan Alim, Jawanta Kumar Kundu, Asaduzzaman Asad, Saiful Islam

Firoz and Ekramul Islam Biplob are running for the posts of senior vice presidents, organising secretary and joint secretary.

Names that are being widely discussed as prospective president, general secretary and organising secretary of the DU unit committee are Hasan Mamun, Saiful Islam Firoz, Amiruzzaman Khan Shimul, Shafiq Ahmed, Dulal Hossain, Abdul Halim Khokon, Atiqur Rahman Atique and Obaidul Haque Nasir.

JCD President Helal said that they have formed the central and the DU unit committees. But they have not yet announced the committees, as there is no directive from the party high command in this regard. He said that those who have allegations of unlawful acts against them would not be given any posts in the fresh committees.

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

Police detain four for six hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police detained four people including an official of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), a journalist of a national daily and two students for more than six hours at police control room on the first day of Bangla New Year.

The detainees were Ekram Hossain, senior programme officer of TIB, Anwar Kabir, senior journalist of daily Amader Somoy, and Taslim Sakhawat and Belayet Kabir, LLB students.

They alleged that police detained them for asking Siddique, an on-duty police sub-inspector at Astachal gate of Ramna Park, to contact his superior officials for quick exit of thousands of people stuck in the jam-packed park.

The sub-inspector hit Taslim in the chest and handcuffed two others before taking them to the control room, a press release said yesterday.

Police did not let them sit, drink, contact any superior official or talk over phone.

They were, however, released at around 3:30pm following a mediation by other journalists.

The victims demanded departmental investigation into the matter and punishment to the officials concerned for their misconduct.

Ex-IGP Mohiuddin Ahmed passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Mohiuddin Ahmed, former inspector general of police (IGP), passed away due to old-age complications at a city hospital on Thursday at the age of 91.

He was also a former chairman of the Public Service Commission, secretary for the industries ministry and chairman of the EPIDC.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, three sons and a number of grandchildren.

He joined the Indian Police Service (IPS) in 1940 and as a member of the police performed many important duties.

His first namaz-e-janaza will be held at 12:15pm today at Rajarbagh Police Lines. He will be buried at Azimpur graveyard.

His qulkhani will be held at his residence on April 18, says a police release.

Abdul Baten

BSS, Dhaka

Abdul Baten, a former foreign ministry official, passed away at his village home at Ramgarh in Khagrachhari on Thursday at the age of 85.

Abdul Baten was the first Bangalee official at the then Pakistan embassy in Washington to defect during the War of Liberation, family sources said.

He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter.

Zulfikar Haider

Zulfikar Haider, additional chief engineer, Public Works Division, Chittagong, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 56, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

His qulkhani will be held at his residence at Kalabagan Staff Quarters after Maghrib prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qul.

Kabir Ahmed Master

UNB, Munshiganj

Kabir Ahmed Master, senior vice-president of Munshiganj district Awami League, passed away due to a cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 60.

He is survived by his wife, one son and four daughters.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Tetuitala village.

Mannan urges opposition to join Jatiya Sangsad

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan urged the main opposition Awami League to join the Jatiya Sangsad.

"Come to JS and make constructive criticism of the government," he said while addressing a function at the Ramna Green on Thursday, organised by Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangshtha (JASAS) to mark the first day of the Bangla New Year.

Chaired by acting president of JASAS MA Malek, the function was also addressed by JASAS General Secretary Babul Ahmed, Jubo Dal leader Khairul Kabir Khokan and Mosharruf Hossain Thakur.

Mannan Bhuiyan said the opposition party has launched a campaign to tarnish the country's image abroad and it is clear to people.

He called on the opposition to come forward to build a prosperous Bangladesh with the spirit of the Pahela Baishakh.

Five killed, two die in rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people were killed, two bullet-hit, two drowned, and two died falling from rooftop in the city in the last two days.

Unidentified miscreants gunned down one Hannan Uddin Siam, 20, a garment worker, in front of Suhrawardy Hospital gate at 3:00pm on Thursday.

With bullet-wounds in the head, chest and back, he was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead. His family members could not give any clue to the killing.

Nuruzzaman, a taxicab driver, was injured in the incident and undergoing treatment at the Orthopaedic hospital.

Police recovered the slaughtered body of one Jalal Masud, 27, from beside a mosque at Commissioner Road under Shyamapur Police Station yesterday morning.

Masud, owner of Ria Store at east Jurain, was going to his sister's house to spend the night as he had guests at his place on Thursday midnight. Since then he was missing, said police quoting his family members.

Keraniganj police recovered the body of a newly married youth Matir Rahman, resident of Dhaliganj village, from an abandoned place at Nazipur on Thursday morning.

Family members said he was killed by some locals over previous enmity.

Keraniganj police also recovered the body of an unidentified girl, aged around 10, from Haratpur area in the early hours of Thursday.

Ramna police recovered the body of an unidentified male, aged around 50 and clad in check shirt, from in front of Bangabazar market on Thursday evening.

In Badda, a gang of miscreants shot Shamim alias Shahin, 27, a contractor, at 11:30am on Thursday allegedly for extortion.

He is undergoing treatment at the DMCH with bullet wounds in the left shoulder.

Meanwhile, two teenagers Mashur Rahman, 15, and Belal, 14, drowned when they were swimming in the river Turag near Mirpur dam at about 2:00pm on Thursday.

On information, Fire Brigade and Civil Defence divers recovered the bodies and handed those over to their families.

One Habibur Rahman Habib, 18, of Sepahibagh under Khilgaon Police Station, died falling from the roof of his house while flying kite on Thursday morning.

In Shyampur, Shafiqul Anwar, 45, a construction worker, also died falling from an under-construction building at Muradnagar while working on Thursday evening.

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Death anniversary



The second death anniversary of KM Atau Huq, former general manager of Jiban Bima Corporation, will be observed today, says a press release.

He was the eldest son of late AKM Fazlul Huq Mowla, a pioneer of insurance industry.

Qurankhani and milad mahfil have been arranged on the occasion.



Renowned Chef Tommy Miah conducted a Children's Cookery Workshop organised by the British Council in the city yesterday.

Unite against crimes, corruption: Dr Kamal

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Kamal Hossain, convenor of Jatiya Oikya Mancha, yesterday called for a greater national unity to fight terrorism, corruption and communalism.

"We don't want terrorism, we don't want import of illegal weapons, we don't want corruption -- we want a meaningful change in the country," he said.

Talking to reporters at his Bailey Road residence after visiting the collapsed garment factory at Savar, he said the multistoried factory that reduced to rubble is "a symbol of corruption."

"After watching such a terrible crash, any layman can understand that the building was constructed on a low paddy land by means of corruption at a certain level, risking the lives of innocent people," he said.

Dr Kamal said the collapsed factory should be sealed to preserve the evidence to conduct proper inquiry into the incident and its design and construction. "The authorities could not rescue all the people even after four days of the unfortunate incident," he wondered.

He said the prime minister visited the spot and, perhaps, ordered the administration to make all out efforts to rescue the people. "But we haven't seen any reflection of that. It seems that either the prime minister's orders were not followed or there was no necessary equipment to deal with this situation," he said.

Deploing the authorities' reluctance to a "national disaster", Dr Kamal said this time the government could not save the people, "and future governments should take lessons from it and have adequate preparations to save the people quickly if similar incidents happen."

He said the government should declare a mourning day and keep national flag at half-mast to show respect to the workers killed in the factory collapse.

Asked how does he want to change the present situation, Dr Kamal, also president of the Gono Forum, said they would go from door to door to mobilise public opinion to establish their rights as they did in the 1960s and the '70s, and through movements.

He said the present government has to quit power in next 20 months and arrange fresh election. He said he has already made a proposal for a roundtable between the government and all other parties on appointment of chief adviser and chief election commissioner and he is waiting for government response.

In reply to a question, he said all political parties could submit a list of persons for these posts and acceptable ones could be picked up from the lists on the basis of a consensus.

Outlaw held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested a notorious outlaw from the toilet of Digholia upazila parishad office on Thursday.

Shahidul Islam alias Keherman, 36, a member of Senhati union parishad and an activist of Awami League, was wanted in several criminal cases including murders and looting of firearms.

According to police, Shahidul belongs to Janajuddho faction of the outlawed PBCP.



Bangladesh Grameen O Nagar Daridra Federation held a rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday to protest the eviction of hawkers, rickshaw-pullers and slum dwellers.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind are likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushia and Comilla in the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country with partly cloudy sky, Met office said, predicting slight rise in day temperature.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the region of Rajshahi. It may spread over the regions of Pabna and Faridpur, Met Office added.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 38.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 21.5 degrees at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:21pm today and rises at 5:35am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.5	25.7	72	48
Chittagong	33.6	24.5	78	68
Rajshahi	38.4	22.6	76	39
Khulna	36.5	25.5	82	62
Barisal	35.0	25.0	80	70
Sylhet	33.2	23.7	81	65
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.0	77	74

DHAKA TODAY

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of a DVD of the award-winning film 'Matir Moira' (The Clay Bird) by Tareque Masud will be held. Venue: British Council Auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 4.45pm.

Parishad discussion

Muktijuddho Smitirakkha Parishad will hold a discussion to mark the Mujib Nagar Day. Venue: Shaheed Tajul Auditorium, 21/2 Purana Paltan. Time: 4.00pm.

Workshop

The inaugural ceremony of a two-day international workshop on Micro-Science Experiments will be held with Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz as chief guest. Venue: BNCU Conference Hall, BANBEIS Bhaban, Palashy. Time: 9.30am.

ICC workshop

The opening ceremony of a two-day workshop on Moving into the new UCP, organised by the International Chamber of Commerce, will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.30am.

Charukala

Baishakhi Udjapon Parishad of

Charukala Institute will stage a jatra (folk theatre) titled 'Sohrab Rustom'. Venue: Institute premises. Time: 7.00pm.

Jatra

On the concluding day of its three-day Baishakhi festival, Bengal Foundation will stage a jatra (folk theatre) titled 'Anarkali'. Venue: Gulshan Park.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of an exhibition on Quranic calligraphy and art works will be held with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shikpaka Academy. Time: 5.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till April 21 from 11.00am to 7.00pm daily.

Session

The fourth 'Child Parliament Session', organised by Save the Children, will be held. Venue: Biam Auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 10.00am.