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JCD men maul DU students

Agitators confine VC, proctor; 55 hurt as protest rages on

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER

Pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists yesterday started where the police left off Saturday, roughing up agitating general students who confined the Dhaka University vice-chancellor (VC) and the proctor, leaving at least 50 students wounded.

The rampaging JCD activists along with four JCD leaders-turned-teachers attacked the protesters to free the VC and the proctor from confinement inside the Institute of Fine Arts.

The protesters, mostly female students, were demonstrating against the police atrocities on the students in the wake of the death of third-year student Shamme Akhter Happy who was run over by a speeding bus at Shahbagh on Saturday.

At least 100 students were

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal members, one wielding a stick, swoop on Institute of Fine Arts students yesterday after they confined the vice chancellor and the proctor of Dhaka University, protesting Saturday's police atrocities on them.

PHOTO: STAR



Political will must to fight graft

Roundtable also told existing laws inadequate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political commitment at the highest level of all parties is necessary to fight corruption in the country, speakers at a roundtable on anticorruption strategy said yesterday.

The discussants observed that existing laws are inadequate to check corruption and financial irregularities. A general political support and strong commitment of politicians are essential to establish a corruption-free society.

The observations came from leading economists, government high officials, development workers, businessmen and journalists at the roundtable, which was part of a

daylong seminar on "Corruption: Nature, Causes and Remedies."

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) organised the seminar at the Biam Auditorium in the capital which was chaired by ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and moderated by its commissioner M Maniruzzaman Miah.

Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said it is not possible to eradicate corruption if there is lack of strong political commitments. "Political parties will have to declare a war against corruption," he suggested.

On the role of the ACC in fighting corruption, he said, "This institution has to be credible enough so that people can trust it."

Rokia Afzal Rahman, former adviser to the caretaker government, also emphasised the commitments of politicians for building a corruption-free society.

"We need general political support, strong government mechanism and an active society if we really want to root out corruption," she said.

Citing the experiences of India, Pakistan, Hong Kong and some other countries, Rokia said, "We can no longer afford short-term measures against corruption, what we

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Zia's 24th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 24th death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman.

On this day in 1981, president Zia was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army personnel at Chittagong Circuit House.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Dhaka risks losing out in WTO talks

CPD suggests vigorous negotiation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should conduct vigorous negotiations in the next rounds of World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks to avert risks of being a loser in the world trade in some vital sectors including textiles, suggested the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

The civil society think-tank observed that due to the changes in the terms of trade as a result of the upcoming WTO negotiations,

Bangladesh as a least developed country may face a tough time in its export-import trade.

The sectors facing such risks are textile, leather, footwear and agro-processed products, the CPD said. On the other hand, it mentioned, the drastic reduction of farm subsidies in the developed nations may increase Bangladesh's import bill for food items.

The CPD suggested that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

As chief, I would first make ACC graft-free

Says Prof Yunus in wish list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said if he were the chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC], he would start by meeting the challenge of making the commission itself corruption-free.

"Curbing corruption is an easy task," he told the inaugural session of a one-day seminar on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Investigators work on insurgents' local links

They use callers' lists of 3 seized cell phones; arrestees to be sent to JIC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

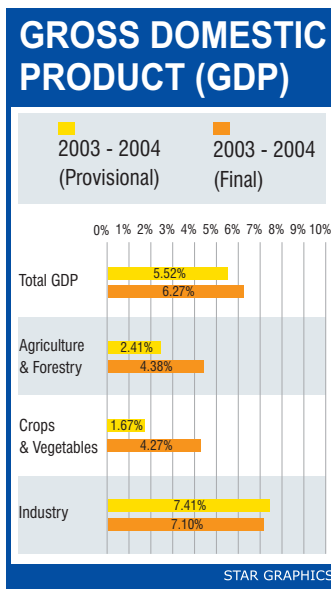
Investigators are working to trace a Bangladeshi syndicate that reportedly aided and abetted the suspected Indian insurgents, 15 of who were either killed or arrested in Friday's raids on bordering Kamalganj in Moulvibazar and elsewhere.

Two platoons of Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) men were dis-

patched to Srimanagal yesterday to continue the ongoing crackdown on cross-border gunrunners. The offensive, which was launched early Friday, has so far left six suspected Indian secessionists killed and nine others arrested.

Investigators have been holding talks with locals to identify the local acquaintances of the 15 and to gather information about the places

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



GDP clocks record growth in FY04

BBS says bumper crops did the job

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The country's GDP growth for the first time broke through the 6 percent barrier, hitting a 6.27 percent peak in fiscal year (FY) 2003-04, according to the final estimate of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The BBS in its provisional estimate earlier put the growth in gross domestic product (GDP) for the year at 5.52 percent. The planning ministry has approved the new estimate, which is expected to be made public

soon. However, the country's economists are yet not ready to make any observation on this new statistics.

In the past too, the BBS first made a provisional estimate of 6.04 percent GDP growth for FY 2000-01, the last under the immediate past Awami League government. But, soon after the change of government, the bureau in its final

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4