

BCL returns to DU after 24 days

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men yesterday returned to Dhaka University (DU) after 24 days since rival Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) declared to resist them entering the campus following a bomb blast on May 31.

Leaders and activists of BCL, the student wing of the main opposition Awami League (AL), started gathering at Madhu's Canteen at around 9:30am. They appeared to be in jovial mood as they hugged each other and exchanged courtesies at the Madhu's.

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Series of talks soon to resolve disputes

Indo-Bangla thorny issues left unsolved as Delhi meet ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A series of Indo-Bangla talks will start soon as the foreign secretary level consultation between Bangladesh and India, which concluded in New Delhi Wednesday, apparently failed to bring any tangible development in resolving the differences and irritants.

Issues like barbed wire fencing within 150 yards of the border, sky-high trade gap, removal of tariff barriers, water sharing, steps regarding Bangladeshi miscreants being provided consular access in India, push-in of Bangla speaking Indian nationals etc were not resolved in the two-day talks. On most long-standing issues,

India stuck to its earlier position and just assured to look into the matters. The Indian side did not consider Bangladesh's argument to follow the 1975 border guidelines, which prohibited construction of any installation within 150 yards of the frontier, and emphasised the need for border fencing within and up to

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MONEY-LAUNDERING Bidisha asked about 'money source, India contacts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The charge of investigation into the money laundering case against Bidisha, the estranged wife of military ruler HM Ershad, has been handed over to Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The case was handed over to the CID on Wednesday, previous investigation officer (IO) of the case Kazi Nure Alam, also officer-in-charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station, informed yesterday.

Sources said members of the task

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2 JCD cadres killed in city 'crossfire'

More arms recovered from the gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men, one allegedly a close aide to dreaded criminal Emon, died in Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) action in Savar early yesterday.

The two—Khan Ahmed Wasib Tapu, 25, former general secretary of Mohammadpur Thana JCD, and Rajib Hossain Faruk, 28, a member of the same unit—were held by the crime-busting force in city's Pallabi

area on Wednesday.

The same day the Rab men also arrested seven others of the same gang. In the operation, which continued for two days in city's Pallabi, Rayerbazar, and outside in Savar, Rab teams recovered nine firearms including an AK-47 rifle, hand-made bombs, walkie-talkies, fake passports, and 40 bottles of phensidyle.

The other arrestees are Saiful Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Zahid Hossain, Mohammad Rana,

Masudur Rahman, Saidur Rahman Naim, and Mohammad Khorshed.

A Rab press release yesterday said Rab-4 had long been keeping a close watch on the arrestees, and recently planned a series of actions to nab the gang.

According to the plans, two teams of Rab-4 raided a house in Pallabi area at about 4:00am Wednesday, and arrested Tapu and his accomplices Zahid, Rajib, Saiful,

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PHOTO: STAR

Awami League leaders and activists march in a huge colourful rally in the capital yesterday to celebrate the party's 56th founding anniversary.

AL celebrates 56th founding anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday celebrated its 56th founding anniversary with a call to strengthen the party's integrity to remove injustice and repression on people and build a happy and peaceful nation.

Thousands of AL leaders and workers from the city and its peripheries gathered in front of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital. They marched the city streets with colourful banners, festoons and placards, chanting slogans with the rhythm of drumbeats.

The AL was founded on June 23,

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Political, religious violence raised in House of Lords

UK govt to be asked to put pressure on Bangladesh, says Lord Avebury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The House of Lords, the upper house of the British parliament, yesterday discussed the state of political and religious violence in Bangladesh, hot on the heels of the London human rights conference on Bangladesh.

Lord Avebury, a member of the

opposition Liberal Democratic Party, raised the Bangladesh issue in the House and described the human rights situation in the country.

He said they would urge the British government and other countries to exert pressure on Bangladesh government to improve its human rights situation.

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Power minister's power curtailed

Principal secy asked to play role in making decisions

SHARIEF KHAN

The government has virtually curtailed the powers of State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud and assigned Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Kamal Uddin Siddiqui to spearhead various decisions of the power division of the energy ministry.

A top official of the ministry said the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) took a stance a few months ago,

blaming Iqbal for poor performance including failure to implement various power projects in time.

A committee headed by Kamal in its report on the energy ministry recently came down heavily on the state minister for his 'failure'. The report also outlined a plan to generate another 430 megawatt power within a year on an urgent basis.

At the same time, Kamal went on

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