

Intra-party feud in DU JCD intensifies

DU CORRESPONDENT

Intra-party feud in Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has intensified following the announcement of a full-fledged Dhaka University (DU) unit of the student organisation and different hall units on Tuesday.

Attacks on JCD activists by their fellows at two dormitories of the university in the last two days fuelled the tension among the leaders and activists of DU and hall units and the central unit.

At least seven activists were beaten up by their rivals at Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall and Salimullah Hall in the early hours on Wednesday. The JCD activists also fired two shots at the Zia Hall, creating panic among the resident students.

The attack on the students at the Zia Hall prompted the authorities to call in the police and declare 10 students unwanted at the hall for their involvement in the attack.

For the first time in three years, the police raided the hall at midnight and arrested two JCD activists -- Shafiqul Alam Tito and Mostafa Kamal. However, they were released after giving written undertakings to the hall authorities.

Two of the injured JCD activists -- Rezwan Ahmed Zahid and Minhaz -- were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Sources said a group of JCD activists beat up five fellow workers at the Zia Hall as some JCD leaders of the hall unit did not get the desired posts in the fresh committee.

In the other incident, a group of JCD activists at Salimullah Hall assaulted two students.

JCD sources said at least five activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, have been given posts in the DU unit committees.

DU JCD President Hasan Mamun told The Daily Star that they would take action against the JCD activists involved in anti-organisational activities.

However, JCD General Secretary Shafiqul Bari Babu said a peaceful environment has been prevailing at different dormitories and there is no tension among their leaders and activists.

"We are keeping a close watch so that no anti-organisational activities take place at all dormitories," Babu said, adding that the best students of every halls have been given posts in the new committees.

Provost Prof Borhan Uddin Khan of Ziaur Rahman Hall said the authorities will form an inquiry committee and take necessary action against the students responsible for the attack.

Resist religious militants

Speakers urge pro-liberation forces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for more active role of the pro-liberation forces to resist religious militants in the country.

They also expressed their concern over the weak reaction from different quarters following the series of bomb blasts on August 17.

The roundtable was organised by South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communism at Moni Singh- Farhad Memorial Trust Bhawan in the city.

"It is true that we could not react properly after the August 17 bomb attacks, but we are actively trying to save the country from the clutch of the communal and anti-liberation forces who carried out the carnage," said Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil.

"It is also true that our civil society has also failed to show their active reaction after the August 17 incident," he added.

Jalil said the general people are afraid of joining the out-governments movement due to unabated extrajudicial killings across the country.

He announced rallies in the greater district headquarters in the first week of September and a grand rally in Dhaka in mid-September.

Shahriar Kabir, noted writer and acting president of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, in a paper mentioned the presence of 58 militant groups in the country.

"We have just witnessed the warm-up militant activities of only three to four out of total 58 groups," he added.

Leaders of every militant group have links to the Jamaat-e-Islami, said Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon.

"Presently those militant leaders and activists are being arrested who have disputes with Jamaat," he added.

Presided over by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, the roundtable was also addressed by Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manzurul Ahsan Khan, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu, Sammilita Samajik Andolon President Ajoy Roy, Air Vice-Marshal (Retd.) AK Khandakar Bir Uttam, Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Writer Syed Shamsul Haque, Prof Muntasir Mamun, Journalists Kamal Lohani and KG Mostafa.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Foundation, an organisation of freedom fighters, organised a discussion in the city yesterday to mark the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with a vow to free the country from exploitation and religious fanaticism, says a press release.

Convenor of the foundation Maj. Gen. (Retd.) KM Shafiqul Bir Uttam presided over the meeting.

The objectives of the foundation are to coordinate the activities of freedom fighters' organisations for the welfare of the war veterans, revive the spirit of the War of Liberation and to establish a 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt of by Bangabandhu.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Air Vice-Marshal (Retd.) AK Khondoker, Major General (Retd.) CR Dutta, Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak, Muktijoddha Sanghati Parishad Chairman Colonel (Retd.) Shawkat Ali, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, Chairman of Muktijoddha Sangsad Dr ABM Zafarullah, Muktijoddha Samannoy Parishad Chairman Abir Ahad, Vice-Chairman of Muktijoddha Sangsad Harunur Rashid, Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad General Secretary Shahjahan Kabir, President of Muktijoddha Sangram Parishad Habibur Rahman Shawkat and Member Secretary of the Foundation Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmik took part in the discussion.

WEATHER

TODAY

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Jessore and Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:38am tomorrow.

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 | 30.4 | 25.2 | 86 | 83 |
| Chittagong | 29.5 | 24.8 | 96 | 83 |
| Rajshahi | 34.4 | 25.4 | 86 | 73 |
| Khulna | 32.2 | 25.0 | 90 | 80 |
| Barisal | 31.6 | 26.0 | 97 | 92 |
| Sylhet | 30.0 | 25.3 | 92 | 89 |
| Cox's Bazar | 28.5 | 24.5 | 99 | 96 |



Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) observes a token hunger strike at its office at Segun Bagicha in the city yesterday protesting August 17 serial bomb blasts across the country.

47 lakh coastal people under direct threat of tsunami

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for an integrated policy to eradicate poverty and ensure human resources development in the coastal areas.

Fifty-two percent of the people living in coastal areas are poor and 24 percent of them are extreme poor, they said.

The coastal areas will submerge with the rise of sea level due to global warming and around 47 lakh people are under the direct threat of tsunami, they added.

The 19 coastal districts have been facing natural calamities such as storms, tidal surge and river erosion, they said, adding that lack of drinking water and electricity and waterlogging problem have added to the suffering of coastal population.

The Water Resource Planning Organisation (Warpo), Coastal Area Resources Development and Management Association (CARDMA) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) organised the discussion at the Biam Auditorium in the city yesterday.

The speakers suggested some steps to cut poverty in the coastal areas -- the best use of marine resources, distribution of Char lands among landless people, eco-friendly shrimp cultivation, afforestation and tourism development.

Three crore people of coastal areas are vulnerable to various natural disasters, said SM Jahurul Islam, secretary of the ministry of water resource.

A Coastal Area Policy 2005 has been formulated under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project and the government has approved it, he added.

Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, vice-president of CARDMA, Md Shahjahan, chief scientific officer of Warpo, and Mohiuddin Ahmed, acting team leader of ICZMP, also spoke at the discussion chaired by HS Mozadded Faruk, director general of Warpo.

'Adopt holistic approach to improve quality of edn'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for a holistic approach to improving the quality of education for the betterment of the nation.

The Bangladesh National Unesco Club Association organised the seminar on 'Dissemination of Bangla version of summary of Education for All Global Monitoring Report-2005'.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Dr M Asaduzzaman attended the function as the chief guest and Chief Editor and Managing Director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Gazilul Haque were present as special guest.

Dr Asaduzzaman emphasised the importance of quality education, saying that "What children learn and how they learn can make or break their school experience and their subsequent opportunities in life."

The survey, released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), ranks Bangladesh 107th out of 127 countries in terms of achieving the goal of Education for All (EFA) by 2015, a target set by the Unesco.

The three high population countries -- Bangladesh, India and Pakistan -- are "very far from achieving the goals" with "multiple challenges to tackle simultaneously if the EFA is to be assured," the report said.

The survey ranked Pakistan the lowest among South Asian nations while India ranked 106th.

The report, however, lauded the role of Bangladesh for brining reforms to the education sector.

It says Bangladesh, which spends 2.2 percent of GDP on education, has made impressive progress in providing access and achieving gender parity in primary education despite its limited resources.

It also commends the government's commitment to introducing reforms in education, although it faces a huge challenge in high teacher absenteeism and low number of learning hours.

The Unesco says most Asian countries are bogged down by factors that hamper the quality of education such as lack of financial resources and facilities and adequately trained teachers.

Prof Aminul Islam of Dhaka University and Faruque Alamgir, former deputy director general of BTv, also spoke on the occasion.

Govt finally admits JMB behind blasts

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dealt as per law.

On a remark that the police have failed to arrest the suspects, he said, "How will police arrest them if they are not available?"

According to the home ministry, 155 people have been arrested so far in connection with the country-wide bomb blasts. The joint secretary, however, could not specify how many were arrested on suspicion.

On the government's findings about the attack, he said, "The government is not blaming any individual or any group for the incident at this moment of investigation as it should not say anything unless it is proved totally."

"But the confessions of four JMB followers say it was JMB," he added.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday sent five arrestees nabbed on August 17 from Zia to Dhaka Central Jail on completion of their second-phase remand.

The investigation officer (IO) submitted a forwarding report, saying that the information derived from them during their remand is being verified.

SATKHIRA Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Munshi Atiqur Rahman of CID (Criminal Investigation Department) was given the charge of the five cases lodged with the sadar thana for the five bombing incidents in the town.

ASP Rahman placed a petition to a Satkhira court yesterday to include JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman as an accused in all the five cases, which the court granted and issued warrant against him.

Meanwhile, two others--Anisur Rahman and Ujjal--arrested from the district, admitted to police that they are trainers of the JMB. The former is an arms instructor while the other is a physical instructor, ASP Rahman told The Daily Star.

The two named one Wahed Malik of Satani village under sadar upazila, and Noor Ali of Kulla village under Assassuni upazila as JMB cadres. They said the JMB members took their training at the houses of these two.

The arrestees also named one Fakar Uddin Raju of Patharghata village under sadar upazila as their regional commander.

Anisur told police that the attacks were planned in a meeting at his house on August 16.

Police claimed to have begun a massive hunt for the named culprits.

BARISAL Three JMB men, who worked under the banner of Al-Iqram Social Welfare Organisation in the town, yesterday confessed before a magistrate of their involvement in the bombing.

Police and detectives arrested four Al-Iqram members--Abu Solaiman, Golam Morshed Chowdhury, Jalal Arefin and Arifur Rahman Swapan--on Wednesday. The director of the outfit, Ziaur Rahman, however, could not be arrested.

KHULNA Bagerhat DB police on Wednesday arrested director of Al Markajul Islamic Madrasa and Orphanage Barkatullah Morshed from a madrasa at Kadia village under Bagerhat sadar upazila, suspecting his alleged involvement in the countrywide blasts.

Barkatullah is younger brother to Akramuzzaman Bin Abdus Salam, director of Revival of Islamic Heritage Society, an organisation aided by Kuwait.

Police said another of his brother Mozammel Huq is chief organiser of the district JMB unit.

SP Mostafa Kamal of Bagerhat yesterday told reporters that a special police team is quizzing Barkatullah.

Intelligence sources said AL Markajul trained more than 100 students for destructive activities.

JOYPURHAT Police arrested Mahmuda Begum and Roma Begum, daughter and daughter-in-law of alleged JMB commander of Joypurhat Montaj on Wednesday from Moheshpur village under Khetlal upazila.

Police sources said the two provided significant information on the JMB during interrogation.

The court sent them to jail custody yesterday.

KHAGRACHHARI The army yesterday nabbed two regional leaders of JMB--Emdadul Islam and Ruhul Amin--from Nilidighi upazila. The two admitted to their involvement in the blasts in the district.

NILPHAMARI Police yesterday took JMB regional leader Golam Mostafa on a fresh three-day remand after the completion of the five-day remand saying he did not provide adequate information about his activities.

GOVT ON ARREST The government yesterday refuted the allegation of indiscriminate arrest and nabbing of innocent ones. It also denied having targeted people with beard.

"The government is not indignant at any specific party or quarter. Only suspicious people are being arrested and those not found suspicious are being released," said a home ministry press release.

"There are enough evidence and witness accounts against those who have been detained. There is no question of harassing any innocent ones," the release said, asking for not spreading panic, confusion which may obstruct the probe.

Terming those involved in the bombing enemies of the state, citizens and democracy, the government sought co-operation from all in tracking down the mastermind and the operatives of the bomb blasts.

'Implement taskforce decisions to save Buriganga, Turag, Balu'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists at a meeting yesterday demanded quick implementation of the decisions taken by a high-powered taskforce to save the rivers Buriganga, Turag and Balu, the lifeline of the capital city.

The meeting was organised by Paribesh Bachao Andolon (save environment movement) to review the progress on the implementation of the decisions of the taskforce formed in 2002 involving five ministries, concerned government bodies and civil society representatives.

The taskforce took a total of 31 decisions which were approved by the cabinet to save the rivers.

Speakers at the meeting demanded of the government to conduct immediate survey to make a list of all illegal establishments on the bank of the rivers, and snap all utility services including power, water and gas of illegal establishments.

They also urged the authorities concerned to stop water pollution of the rivers with the sewage of Wasa and the wastes of factories and tanneries.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, a noted environmentalist, said the progress of work is so slow that the decisions would not be implemented even after 100 years.

He called for monthly meeting of the taskforce so that the pace of work gets momentum.

"Dhaka developed in the lap of the river Buriganga. If the river dies the city would not be able to survive," he added.

Prof Sayeed said there is a huge prospect for developing tourism centring the circular water ways around the capital.

Mohammad Inamul Haque, director general of Bangladesh Haor and Wetlands Development Board, said road network along the circular waterways could be very attractive.

He said filling up of the wetlands by the housing companies around the city has to be stopped.

Motahar Hossain, director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, said laws to be enacted to protect the land recovered from the grabbers.

Convenor of Paribesh Bachao Andolon Abu Naser Khan and Shahjahan Mircha Benu also spoke.

Publication ceremony

Sonarong, a literary magazine, organises a publication ceremony of a book titled 'Mrittuhin pran Quazi Hasan Habib' with Eminent Artist Hashem Khan in the chair. Venue: Gallery chitrok, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:00pm.

World Cyber Games

An inaugural ceremony of World Cyber Games sponsored by GramenPhone will be held. Venue: Bashundhara City Shopping Complex. Time: 11:00am.

DUAA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Dhaka University Alumni Association will be held. It will be followed by musical soiree. Venue: TSC auditorium, DU. Time: 4:00pm.

Film show

Dhaka University Film Society organises a discussion and a film show to celebrate 50th anniversary of 'Pothor Panchal's first screening. Venue: TSC (Munir Chowdhury conference room), DU. Time: 4:00pm.

50 years of Bangla film

Concord Entertainment organises a cultural show to celebrate 50 years of Bangla film. Venue: Fantasy Kingdom. Time: 4:30pm.

Citizens' gathering

A citizens' gathering will be held protesting deforestation in the country. Venue: Shahbagh. Time: 11:00am.



Paula Bennett, director, Community Relations, Citigroup Asia Pacific, hands over the first contribution cheque of its six-month fund raising campaign to Dr Sarwar Ali, trustee and member secretary of the Liberation War Museum, in the city yesterday.

Old woman killed by grandson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly woman was murdered allegedly by her grandson at Uttor Ibrahimpur and another elderly man was shot dead at Sutrapur in the capital yesterday.

Mosiron Begum, 70, was found dead by the neighbours when they rushed to the spot hearing screams. The body bore injury marks of sharp weapon.

They also saw Mosiron's grandson Kabir and one of his friends going away from the house earlier.

Mosiron had been staying at his son Kamal Hossain Mollah's house for two weeks, though she lived at Moksudpur in Gopalganj.

Police recovered the dead body and sent it to the morgue for autopsy.

They picked up Nasrin Akhter Shathi, 16, daughter of another son of Mosiron, for interrogation forshe had also been living there for a few days. She denied knowing anything about the murder.

Sources said that Kabir had a love affair with Shathi to which Mosiron objected. As a result the boy became angry and killed his grandmother.

Rowshan Munshi, cousin of dead Mosiron, however said the killing might be aimed for capturing the village land of her husband.

The victim's son Kamal Hossain Mollah without mentioning any names alleged that several criminals killed his mother in a case filed with the Kafrul police.

Police could not arrest anyone till late in the evening.

In the other incident, unknown assailants gunned down Phulchand Miah, a mason, at RK Roy Lane in Sutrapur at around 4:00pm yesterday.

He was chatting with the other construction labourers when some youths fired some shots indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot.

BNP picks 30

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Besides, Rokeya Ahmed Lucky, the widow of former BNP lawmaker from Narsingdi Shamsuddin Ahmed Ishaq, was selected on the ruling party ticket.

The other candidates are Shahriar Akhter Bulu, Khaleda Panna, Khaleda Rabbani, Yasmin Ara Haq, Bilkis Islam, Rowshan Ara Farid, Shahana Rahman Rani, Helen Zerir Khan, Rosy Kabir, Noore-Ara-Safa, Syeda Nargis Ali, Chaman Ara, Abeda Chowdhury, Raihan Akhter Banu, Ferdous Akhter Wahida, Bilkis Jahan Shirin, Rina Parveen, Shahidun Nahar Kazi

Hena, Noor Afroz Jyoti, Hosne Ara Gias, Tasmin Rana, Shammii Sher, Sultana Ahmed, Noorjahan Yasmin and Rehana Akhter Rahman.

According to the election schedule, tomorrow is the date for submission of nomination papers. The scrutiny will take place the following day while the date for withdrawal of candidature is September 1.

BNP Parliamentary Board on Wednesday and yesterday interviewed the aspirants to 30 reserved seats allocated in favour of the party.

25 injured as JCD, BCL clash in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 25 students were injured in a clash between the two groups of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at the local degree college in Belkuchi upazila of the district yesterday.

Of the injured, 17 were treated at Belkuchi health complex while Bakkar, Sohel and Arman were admitted to Sadar hospital in critical condition.

Police arrested two Chhatra League activists from the college area.

The clash erupted over the teasing of some girl students on the campus at 10:00am, sources said.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

A case was filed with Belkuchi Police Station in this regard.

Obituary

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Syeda Mahmuda Begum, mother of poet Asad Chowdhury, died at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 94.

She left behind her a son and two daughters to mourn her death.

Death anniversary

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Prof S G M Chowdhury, an eminent physician, says a press release.

A milad mahfil and doa will be held at Samoria Hospital Mosque after Maghrib prayers and a milad mahfil at Hypertension Centre, 64/E Green Road at 10:00am.

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

Hasina Khatun

Today in the seventh death anniversary of Hasina Khatun, former director, Department of Social Service, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Baracher Central Mosque at Palash in Narsingdi after Juma prayers.

Relatives, friends, and admirers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for the peace of her departed soul.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Prof ABM Khalid, a senior teacher of Dhaka University, will be held at the DU South Fuller Road Staff Quarters after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

He died at the Apollo Hospital on July 17.

Prof Khalid, who joined the accounting department of Dhaka University in 1970, was the director of the MBA programme of the department of accounting and information systems.

During his long career, he also served in various key positions, including chairman of the department of accounting and information systems, dean of the business studies faculty and provost of the Zahurul Haque Hall.

Siddique Ali

Chehlum of Siddique Ali, a businessman and social worker, will be held at his residence, Hafiz Manjil, at Brahmapalli Road in Mymensingh after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil and distribution of food among the poor have been arranged.

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