

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 Muktiyoddha 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.

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 con-

Vow to free country from fanaticism

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 Shafquat Ali 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 dream 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 president member Abdur Razzaq, Muktijoddha Sanghati Parishad, Chairman Colonel (Retd.) Shawkat Ali, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, Chairman of Muktijoddha Sangsad Dr ABM Zafarullah, Muktijoddha Samanoy Parishad Chairman Abir Ahmad, 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.



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.

'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

47 lakh coastal people under direct threat of tsunami

Speakers tell discussion

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 Bhami 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 waterresource.

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 Warpco, and Mohiuddin Ahmed, acting team leader of ICZMP, also spoke at the discussion chaired by HS Mozadded Faruk, director general of Warpco.

'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) Gaziul 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 bringing 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 Mallik 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 Patharghat 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 Islam Madrasa and Orphanage Barkatullah Morshed from a madrasa at Kadia village under Bagerhat sadar upazila, suspecting his alleged involvement in the country-wide 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, Moazzamul 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.

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

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

The court sent them to jail yesterday.

KHAGRACHARI

The army yesterday nabbed two regional leaders of JMB — Emdadul Islam and Ruhul Amin — from Nildighi 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.

Terminating 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.

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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.

Roshwan 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 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 Shahrir Akhter Bulu, Khaleda Panna, Khaleda Rabbani, Yasmin Ara Haq, Bilkis Islam, Rowshan Ara Farid, Shahana Rahman Rani, Noor-E-Zehra Khan, Rosy Kabir, Noore-Ara-Safa, Syeda Nargis Ali, Chaman Ara, Abeda Chowdhury, Raihan Akhter Banu, Ferdous Akhter Wahida, Bilkis Jahan Shirin, Rina Parveen, Shahidur Nahar Kazi

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 candidates is September 1.

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

Hasina Khatun

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

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

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

Chehulum

Chehulum 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