

JCD cadres stab fellow activist at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres stabbed a fellow activist on the Shahidullah Arts building premises of Rajshahi University leaving yesterday.

The JCD activist identified as Abdullah Al Mamun was rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) for treatment.

The cadres led by Mamun and Shohel stabbed Mamun, a first year student of Political Science department and resident of Shaheed Habibur Rahman hall, following during an altercation, sources said.

Mamun and Shohel are leaders of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman hall and threatened Mamun not to join the processions and rallies of their rival Aslam Reza group.

A tense situation has been prevailing on the campus following the incident and huge number of police was deployed at different point of the campus to avert any incident.



A team of Rapid Action Battalion recovered an antique sculptured Shiva Linga weighing about 70 kg from Shibhalaya in Manikganj yesterday and brought it to Mirpur Rab office in the city.

Anti-terrorism convention begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day anti-terrorism convention begins in the city tomorrow, aiming to forge a national consensus to combat terrorism.

The inaugural ceremony of the 'Unity against Terrorism Convention 2005, Dhaka' will be held at the Engineers' Institute auditorium at 10:00am.

Democratic and non-communal political parties, members of the civil society and representatives of different professional groups will join the convention, said Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, convenor of the convention, at a press conference yesterday.

On behalf of the families of victims of terrorism, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will deliver a speech at the inaugural session.

The closing session will be held at the same venue at 3:00pm on August 31 where leaders of different political parties will be present.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has been invited to the closing session, said Rokanuddin Mahmud.

But no leaders from the Jamaat-e-Islami have been invited, he added.

Rokanuddin also said some foreign guests are likely to attend the convention.

A total of six seminars will be held during the convention at the Engineers' Institute and the Diploma Engineers' Institute. The titles of the seminars are 'Terrorism: An environment without justice', 'State-sponsored terrorism versus rule of law', 'Minorities of Bangladesh: Intolerance and the denial of rights', 'Repression of women', 'A blow to free thinking', and 'Extremism and militancy: Remedies'.

Awami League leader Abul Mal Abdul Muhit and theatre personality Ramendu Majumder were present at the press conference held at the National Press Club.



PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court seized a plastic container of Nilgiri bottled water at Rajarbagh in the city yesterday on an allegation that the company is selling substandard water.

HOLY HAJJ ON JAN 9 LIKELY 60,000 Bangladeshis to perform Hajj

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Holy Hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam, will be held on January 9 next year subject to the sighting of the moon.

Like previous years, the intending Hajj pilgrims in the country will be able to perform Hajj under the government management and the private management through the agencies approved by the religious affairs ministry.

A total of 60,000 Bangladeshis are likely to perform Hajj under the two systems during the Hajj season in 2006.

Of them 4,000 pilgrims will perform Hajj under government management while 56,000 under private management.

Pilgrim pass, visa, plane tickets, foreign currency and housing facilities in Makkah and Madina will be provided through the Hajj office in Dhaka under government management.

All the pilgrims will be sent to

Jeddah and brought back to Dhaka by Biman Bangladesh Airlines under government management.

Under private management, the pilgrims will perform Hajj collecting visa from the Saudi authorities with pilgrim pass of the Dhaka Hajj Office through the Hajj agencies approved by the religious affairs ministry.

The agencies will provide housing, transport and other facilities to the Hajj pilgrims and bring them back under a package programme.

The Hajj pilgrims will be sent in 'green' and 'blue' housing category under government management.

Under the 'green' housing category a Hajj pilgrim has to pay Tk 1,58,172, which include plane fare, house rent and other expenditures while a Hajj pilgrim has to spend Tk 1,40,172 under 'blue' housing category.

This housing category will only be applicable for Makkah, not for Madina.

'69 MASS UPSURGE MEMORIAL MUSEUM Inter-ministerial meet ends without any decision

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The inter-ministerial meeting on setting up a 1969 mass upsurge memorial museum, proposed by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), ended without any decision due to objection from the Housing and Public Works Minister.

A committee was formed at the meeting to complete the examination, inclusion and amendment to the plan and proposed design in one month.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan presided over the meeting at the secretariat yesterday.

Buet chief architect, Rajuk chief city planner, chief engineer of the department of housing and chief engineer of DCC are members of the committee led by joint secretary Shafiqul Islam.

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Housing and Public Works minister Mirza Abbas, DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and other concerned high officials were present.

Dr Nizamuddin, teacher of BUET,

presented the design and plan of the proposed museum at Asad Gate in the city.

The meeting was told that the proposed 'three-storey '69 Building' would be set up at the Mirpur Road and Asad Avenue intersection. Its main infrastructure covering an area of about 3072 square metres (about 46 katha) would be about 6 metres high from the ground.

Three sides of the three floors of the main building would be open and the circular room on the other side would be used as museum. The expenditure for the construction of the main infrastructure has been estimated at Tk 3: 51 lakh. The construction work will be completed in 15 months.

Khoka said it will not require any government grant to construct the proposed building to preserve the memories of the historic 1969 mass upsurge. The construction work will be carried out from the fund of DCC if required lands are arranged.

MP's interference turns local govt into failed body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers' interference has turned the local government into an ineffective organisation, said the speakers at a workshop yesterday.

They said different laws, government circulars and administrative embargoes are making it a failed organisation.

The two-day workshop titled 'Local Government and Rural Labourers' was organised by Bangladesh Sramajibi Kendra (BSK), a labour organisation, at

the Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the city.

The speakers comprising union parishad chairmen and members, field level workers from different non-governmental organisations, and rural leaders from different areas said because of poor budgetary allocation, local government bodies cannot implement any development project.

They said in the last national budget the government allocated only Tk 270 crore for upazila and union parishad's development which is only 1.10 percent

of the total budget.

The speakers stressed the need for strengthening the local government to ensure development at grassroots level.

BSK President Nurul Anwar said, "We only think of industrial workers who constitute only 17 percent of the total labour force but ignore the rights of agriculture labourers who are around five crore in the country."

He said the union parishad should be authorised to allocate Khas land among the landless people.