

MEMO TO RU VC
Arrest JCD men
who attacked
photojournalist

RU CORRESPONDENT
Activists of Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) yesterday submitted a 4-points memorandum to the vice-chancellor (VC) demanding arrest of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists who attacked The Daily Jugantor photojournalist Nazrul Islam Zulu and blasted crackers on the campus on Thursday.

The memorandum also called for ensuring academic atmosphere at RU. They held a protest rally in front of the central library and brought out a procession on the campus. Speakers demanded immediate publication of the investigation reports of the alleged criminal activities and bomb blasts by JCD activists. They also threatened to go for a greater movement if their demands go unheeded.

Netrakona Sadar Hospital to be upgraded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona
The 50-bed Netrakona Sadar Hospital will be upgraded to a 100-bed one. State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babor yesterday laid the foundation for the work, which will involve a cost of Tk 5 crore. The work will begin soon and will be completed by the middle of next year, according to Netrakona Civil Surgeon. Earlier on the day, the state minister opened a branch of Islami Bank at Chotto Bazar in the town. The function was presided over by Kazi Harun-ur-Rashid, Chairman, Board of Directors of Islami Bank and addressed by, among others, Mohammad Abu Abbas MP, Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Hossain Jamil and Netrakona Poursava Chairman Nazrul Islam Khan.

LP gas price in Jessore soars

Each cylinder costlier by Tk 60-100 in five days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore
Prices of LP (liquefied petroleum) gas cylinders rose by Tk 60 to Tk 100 in Jessore in five days. Taking the opportunity of lack of government control, a section of dishonest dealers have enhanced the prices ahead of the Ramadan. Sources in the district administration said there are 107 dealers of LP gas in Jessore. Of them, 35 are of Jamuna, 40 of Padma and 32 of Meghna oil companies. They have evolved a unique way to realise more money from buyers. Instead of selling cylinders directly to

buyers, they have appointed agents, who charge prices at will but are not accountable to any authorities. The dealers take a share of the enhanced price, some buyers alleged while talking to this correspondent. On the other hand, the agents tell buyers that the dealers charge more prices from them, taking the advantage of more demand and short supply. As Jessore is still out of the pipeline gas supply network, people, mostly in the town, are dependent on gas cylinders. Sources seeking anonymity said that distributors of different compa-

nies at a recent meeting formed a cartel and decided to raise the prices. Agents charge Tk 620 to Tk 640 for a cylinder of Klean company, Tk 600 to Tk 650 instead of Tk 580 for Basundhara, Tk 560 to Tk 600 against Tk 520 for Totalgaz and Tk 580 to Tk 600 for a cylinder of Jamuna. All these were sold at between Tk 520 and Tk 580 only five days back, buyers said. When asked, the distributors said the price of LP gas has been enhanced due to rise in prices of oil and gas in the international market. Some of them also blamed high price of US dollar for this.

10 get double life for double murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Ten people were convicted yesterday to double life imprisonment for a double murder in Babuganj during Union Parishad election campaign in 2003 and concealing bodies of the victims. The convicts are Kamrul Hassan Himu, former chairman of Agorpur Union Parishad in Babuganj; expatriate Iqbal Ahmed; four brothers Mustafa Dewari, Yunus Dewari, Yusuf Dewari and Amir Hossain Dewari; Md. Delwar Hossain Nantu, Kalam Dalal, Babul Mistri and Babul Sardar.

Bulbul, Delwar, Babul Mistri and Babul Sardar are in custody and the rest six are absconding. All the 10 convicts were also fined Tk 10,000, in default to serve prison term for one year more. Judge MA Matin of Barisal Speedy Trial Tribunal (STT) handed down the punishment at a crowded courtroom yesterday morning. Twenty-seven witnesses were examined during the trial, court sources said. According to the prosecution story, the ten people blasted bombs and attacked an election campaign procession brought out in favor of Khalid

Hossain Swapan, Agorpur Union Parishad chairman candidate in Babuganj upazila on February 16, 2003. They abducted Majibur Rahman, 31, and Babu, 35, two supporter of Swapan. Beheaded body of Majibur was found three days after the abduction. The boy of Babu was not found. After the incident, Babuganj thana Sub-inspector Samir Sarkar lodged a case on February 19, 2003 without mentioning the name of any accused. Sub-inspector Nur Alam submitted charge sheet against the 10 accused on August 39 last year.



The Chittagong city committee of Lions Club brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday marking its Service Week.

Sylhet AL holds council today after 15 years

IQBAL SUDDIQUEE, Sylhet
The Sylhet district Awami league will hold its council today after about 15 years. The last council was held in 1990. Party sources said a great enthusiasm is seen among the party rank and file centering the council. Though councils in all the 13 upazilas have been completed, the enthusiasm is shadowed by intra-party rivalry at places. Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Sylhet AL President ANM Shafique however laughed away reports of internal feud. "Such groupings are not that much unusual in a big party like Awami League. Things will be alright after the conference", he said. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil will open the council on Hafiz Complex premises in the city at 11 am. Former water resources minister Abdur Razaque MP, AL Presidium members Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta MP, Dewan Farid Gazi MP, AMA Muhi, Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, former chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah will be special guests at the inaugural session. A small faction in Jakiganj upazila has already announced boycott of today's conference. They include Jakiganj upazila AL Vice President Shafiqur Rahman. The group led by him also met party chief Sheikh Hasina and General Secretary Abdul Jalil and complained against its president and the secretary. Party leaders are now engaged in last minute lobbying and keeping close contact with 292 councilors from 13 upazilas for posts in the district committee.

Arrangement has been made for election of the district committee but many senior leaders said the central leaders may opt for retaining the present committee as any change may harm the party ahead of the general election. Syed Abu Nosor and ANM Shafiqur Haque were elected president and General secretary respectively in the last election held in 1990. The sources said the need for council and formation of a new district committee was felt strongly after the party's debacle in 2001 general elections when all the six parliamentary seats went to BNP-Jamaat alliance and independent candidates. Following that, party chief Sheikh Hasina dissolved that committee at a meeting in November 2001 and formed an 88-member convening committee, asking it to hold a council in six months. Later, in August 2002, ANM Shafique and Iftekhar Hossain Shamim took over as president and general secretary. Party sources said ANM Shafique and Vice-president Jahir Chowdhury Sufian would contest for the post of district AL president. An elderly leader from Biswanath upazila- Monu Mia-- at a recent press conference also announced his candidature for the post. Incumbent secretary Iftekhar Hossain Shamim and Joint Secretary Abdul Khaliq Mayon may be in the race for the post of secretary while six leaders would be vying for the three posts of joint secretary.

AL body formed in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
A full fledged committee of Satkhira district Awami League (AL) has been formed five months after its triennial council, held on April 8. The AL central committee has approved the 71-member committee headed by Sheikh Mujibar Rahman and Md Nazrul Islam as president and general secretary respectively, according to a letter from the AL central office. Other members of the committee include Senior Vice president Prof. AFM Ruhul Haque; joint secretaries A Ahmed and Syed Firoz Kamal Shuvra and organising secretaries Firoz Ahmed, Anowarul Islam and Abdul Hamid. The April 8 council was formed after nine years. It was attended by central AL leaders including General Secretary Abdul Jalil and Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan.



BRIGHT FACES: GPA-5 scorers in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination along with their proud teachers flash victory sign. Form left: Chittagong College, Amrita Lal College in Barisal and Jessore Cantonment College.

Massive pest attack on amon fields in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona
Massive pest attack on transplanted amon seedlings in ten upazilas in Netrakona district has worried farmers as well as agriculture officials. The worst affected upazilas are Netrakona Sadar, Kendua, Atpara, Barhatta and Purbadhala. Pests are eating up seedlings of transplanted Amon on thousands of hectares. According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, about 1,28,640 hectares of land were brought under Amon cultivation in the district with a production target of 2,52,947 metric tons of paddy this season. At least 20,000 hectares have been damaged by pest attack, which is spreading.



An amon field attacked by pests in Netrakona.

None crossed class V at a govt primary school in 36 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban
No student crossed class five at a government primary school in the last 36 years in Bandarban Sadar upazila. Despite this awfully poor performance, no official from the district education department ever visited the Bhattapara Government Primary School since it was set up 36 years ago, Sadar Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Dipak Chakrabarti said while talking to this correspondent recently. Since its establishment, there was only one teacher in the school till another was appointed last year, they said. The school was recently shifted to Y Junction, a reasonably populated area, to attract students. There are three teachers in the

Gaibandha JP faces split

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
Jatiya Party (Ershad) in Gaibandha is facing a split because of intra-party feud over formation of committees in upazilas and at the district headquarters. The rival feuding groups are led by Gaibandha JP president Abdur Rashid Sarker and general secretary Sarwar Hossain Shaheen, who enjoys the blessing of local lawmaker and party Presidium member TIM Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury. The feud intensified as Sarker and Shaheen are trying to have their men in the committees. The feud surfaced when Shaheen, allegedly on advice of Rabbi, formed a 51-member committee of Sadullapur upazila unit recently with Azizul Islam Bsc as its convener without consulting Sarker, party sources said. Soon after, Sarker formed another committee in Sadullapur with Abdul Kader Mia as its convener. The rival committees held separate press conferences, where Azizul Islam and Abdul Kader Mia claimed to be convener of Sadullapur JP unit. The same thing also happened in Gaibandha Sadar where Shaheen formed a committee with Mezbahul Islam Lablu as convener. To counter this, Sarker also formed another committee with Shajahan Khan Abu as its convener. As the difference between the district president and secretary widened, party central secretary ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader issued a show cause notice on Shaheen and restrained him from party activities. This will further widen the rift, party sources told this correspondent.

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