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JAGANNATH UNIVERSITY

100 hurt as BCL, JCD jointly fight Shibir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

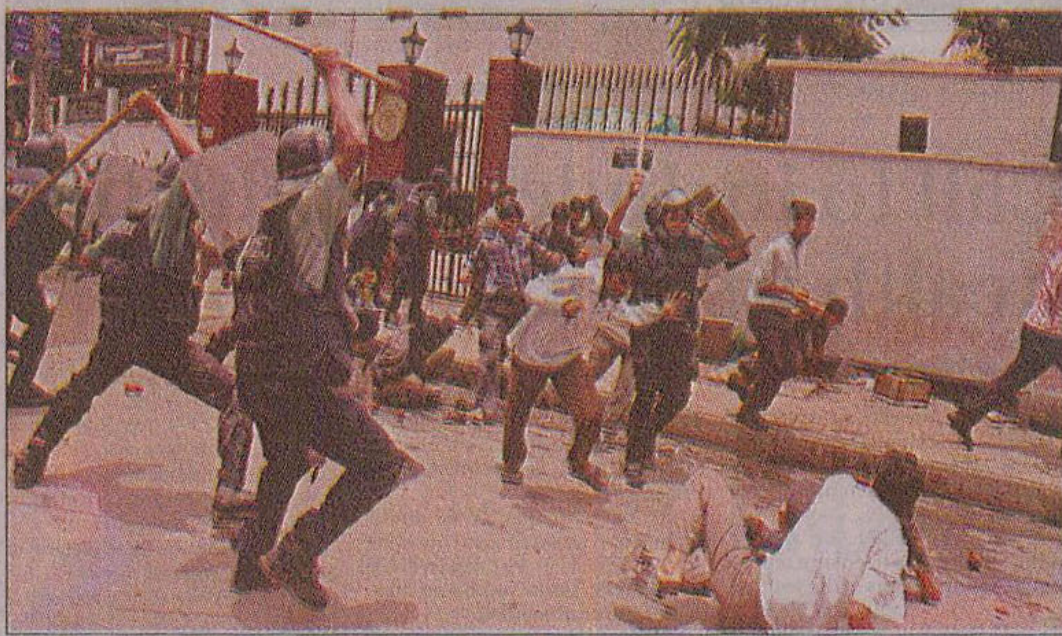
At least 100 students and several policemen were injured when Shibir cadres clashed with the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and some left-leaning student organisations at Jagannath University yesterday.

Following clashes between the rival student bodies for the last two days, the university authorities last night suspended classes till July 20 and formed a seven-member committee to probe the incidents.

Earlier on Saturday, activists of the student organisations belonging to the ruling BNP, opposition Awami League (AL) and left parties fought in unison against the cadres of Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, leaving 15 students injured.

Around 50 of the injured were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the city. Of them, condition of 10 was stated to be critical.

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Police charge baton on Islami Chhatra Shibir activists after the Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League workers locked in violent clashes at Jagannath University in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Israel's no to int'l force for Lebanon

37 more killed in airstrikes, ground troops enter territory

REUTERS, AP, Beirut

Israeli airstrikes killed 37 people in Lebanon yesterday and Israel dismissed as premature a proposal for an international military force to help end Hezbollah rocket attacks into the Jewish state.

At least 25 people, including Lebanese soldiers, were killed on Monday alone as fighter jets slammed missiles into the port of Beirut, a military base in the northern city of Tripoli, and Baalbek, a Hezbollah stronghold in the east.

Raids destroyed two army posts on the northern Lebanese coast, killing at least six Lebanese soldiers, and damaged the homes of Hezbollah officials in eastern Lebanon, killing 11 people in over 60 strikes on the sixth day of violence.

Four more people died in strikes south of Beirut. Several thunderous

blasts echoed over the capital and black smoke rose from a blazing fuel storage depot in the Christian suburb of Dora.

Twelve Lebanese civilians were killed yesterday when an Israeli missile hit their minibus, police said, bringing the civilian toll from six days of Israeli bombardment to at least 182 dead.

The vehicle, transporting two families, came under attack in the seaside town of Rmeileh, south of Beirut, as it was racing north to the capital to flee raids in the area.

Those killed included two women and three children.

The Lebanese death toll from the Israeli bombardment launched last Wednesday following the capture of two soldiers by Hezbollah militants now totals 182 civilians and 12 soldiers.

On the Israeli side, 12 civilians

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MACHINE-READABLE PASSPORT

Cabinet purchase body rejects proposal, asks for fresh tender

STAR REPORT

The cabinet purchase committee yesterday rejected a home ministry proposal seeking approval of a Tk 1,561 crore procurement of machine-readable passport (MRP), visa and national identity (NID) card and asked the ministry to float a fresh tender for MRP and visa only.

"National identity card is a massive issue. It has serious implication all over," Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman told the press emerging from the purchase committee meeting he chaired.

The home ministry also placed at the meeting a hurriedly framed draft law that proposes making NID mandatory for every citizen. The draft was made as a supporting legal document for the massive MRP and NID programme.

But the purchase body rejected the draft law saying that sending

the draft to it is not relevant.

"The ID card issue was not there in the proposal to the prime minister (which was approved on October 16, 2004 and served as the basis of the home ministry move on MRP). I told them (home ministry officials at the meeting) it cannot be done in this manner. They said they have also brought the relevant draft law. But I said we must first read this law and then take opinions on it. This is why we have closed this chapter," Saifur said.

The home ministry last year floated a tender in which 34 companies showed interest but only four got short-listed. The ministry selected German company Giesecke and Devrient (G&D) GmbH without getting the bid evaluated by any internationally reputed consultant in the field.

The finance minister was not happy with the selection process.

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Boundary talks with India end without results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day deliberations by Bangladesh and India Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) in Dhaka ended yesterday without resolving the longstanding issues of border demarcation and exchange of enclaves and territories now under adverse possession.

The Indian side placed a package formula for demarcating 6.5 kilometres of undemarcated border mostly in their favour prior to resolving the other issues. But the Bangladesh side did not accept it and asked for a comprehensive solution to all the issues, highly placed sources said.

At a press briefing, the JBWG members however claimed to have a positive discussion, saying they

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VOTER LISTING EC relaxes recruitment criteria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has relaxed its criteria for recruiting over one lakh manpower for updating the voter list and directed the field level officials tasked with recruiting the manpower to make massive changes into the policy, if necessary.

In an apparent move for accelerating the task for recruiting the manpower in time to update the voter list through door to door visits, the EC relaxed its policy as the field level officials were facing difficulties to recruit the manpower following the previous criteria.

As per the new decision, the

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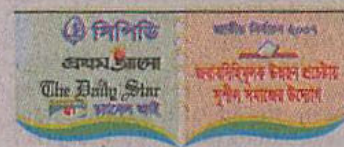
Citizens' body wants CEC, commissioners to quit now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Citizens' Committee 2006, a platform of civil society members, yesterday said immediate resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and other commissioners can help remove uncertainty over the next general election.

So, they should stand down in the interest of the nation, it observed.

"Election Commission (EC) is a constitutional body and the CEC should be a person respected by all. But activities of the present commission have rather been suspicious. So, it'd be better for them to go and help remove uncertainty and restore public confidence in



the commission," M Mujibul Huq, former cabinet secretary and a member of the committee, told a press briefing at the Jatiya Press Club.

It has to be ensured that the EC can work independently, transparently, reliably and with neutrality, the committee said adding that the EC should have a secretariat of its own, which would be independent of the Prime Minister's Office.

Speaking at the briefing, ASM Shahjahan, former adviser to the

caretaker government, said there had been widespread public concern over some moves by the EC, which in some cases had to make a U-turn. "There exists a complete lack of confidence in the Election Commission and it needs to be changed," he noted.

Devoted, determined, qualified and upright persons should be appointed as CEC and election commissioners so that they could remain above controversy and command respect and confidence of the people, observed M Syeduzzaman, former finance minister.

Professor Anisuzzaman said the role and activities of the EC figured prominently in the regional

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JCD man killed, 40 hurt in Sylhet BNP factional clash

STAR REPORT

A Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was shot dead and at least 40 people including a reporter of the daily Prothom Alo were injured in clashes between the supporters of Makbul Hossain MP and the Privatisation Commission Chairman Inam Ahmed Chowdhury at Golapganj in Sylhet district yesterday.

Golapganj upazila unit of JCD has called a half-day hartal today protesting the killing.

The deceased, Inam Ahmed, 30, president of Dhakadakhin union unit of JCD, was a supporter

of Makbul Hossain.

The supporters of Makbul Hossain and Inam Ahmed took position from Saturday night over the inauguration of the development work of Golapganj Health Complex that led to daylong clashes on Sunday.

After the health complex administration failed to negotiate a settlement between the two groups, police was deployed in and outside the complex.

Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, who was scheduled to lay the foundation stone of the health complex at 11:30am yesterday, went there at

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Petition filed for withdrawal of murder case against Abbas

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A petition was submitted yesterday to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka to withdraw constable Abu Naser murder case filed against Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas and three others in 2001.

PP Abdullah Mahmud Hassan submitted the petition along with a home ministry letter that recommended withdrawal of the case saying it was a "politically motivated" case.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah fixed August 29 for hearing the matter.

The petition also sought withdrawal of the charge against three

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6 JMB men get life in Aug 17 blasts case

UNB, Feni

A special court here yesterday sentenced six members of the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to life imprisonment for the August 17 bombings in the town.

The court also fined the convicts Tk 5,000 each, in default, they are to suffer six more months in jail.

The convicts are Mahfuzur Rahman alias Faruk, 22, and Kamal Hossain alias Duke alias M Gofran, 22, of Chandpur, Shamim Hossain alias Galib alias Saiful Islam, 24, of Sathkira, M Redwan, 24, of Pirojpur, Rafiqul Islam alias Javed alias Nurul Islam alias Roman, 28,

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Barisal criminal killed in Rab 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A top criminal of the city was killed during a "shootout" between the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his cohorts at C & B road early morning.

The deceased, Ratan Mridha, 40, was the second-in-command of notorious "Tera Shajahan" gang. He was wanted in nine cases including two for murder.

Rab sources said they arrested Ratan and two other criminals--Ripon and Dulal--at Hotel Metropolitan at Gulistan in the capital on Saturday and took them to Barisal the following day for quizzing.

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