

2 hurt as JCD, BCL clash at DU hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists were injured in a clash with Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University (DU) reportedly centring a JCD activist's taking a girl to a hall room yesterday afternoon.

The clash between the BCL and JCD--student wings of Awami League and BNP--was the first such incident on DU campus since the state of emergency was declared on January 11.

A number of residents of Jagannath Hall said the incident was an outburst of BCL's resentment gathered during the last five years against JCD's dominance in the hall.

Witnesses said the clash took place when JCD activist and marketing 2nd year student Sumit took a female student of a private university to his room No. 252 around 4:00pm.

A number of BCL activists went to the room and protested the girl's "long" presence in the room. They asked Sumit to take the girl out of the room.

At one stage, a few JCD men including Sumit's friends Subrata, Suvro, Niloy, Partho and two others armed with two machetes attacked BCL men Banti and Dip, first year students of public administration and mathematics.

The BCL activists also attacked the JCD men and forced them out of the hall.

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Rab SI killed in road accident

UNB, Kushtia

A Sub-Inspector (SI) of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) died in a road accident in the district town yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rezaul Islam, 30, sub inspector of Rab-6 in Khulna. He hailed from Amjadi village of Gaibandha district.

Police said a speeding truck ran over Rezaul as he fell from his motorbike near Majampur gate at noon.

Rab personnel seized the killer Truck, but its driver managed to flee.

BNP must undergo leadership changes for its survival

Many leaders, workers now believe

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Many leaders and workers of the BNP believe that the party can survive the present radical shake-ups in the political landscape only through a change in its leadership.

They said no way will the organisation be able to retain its popular support if it remains under the leadership of Tarique Rahman and the other big names now detained for alleged graft.

Some of them think that it might even face political extinction with Chairperson Khaleda Zia or her son Tarique at the helm as their image has suffered an irreparable damage due to "corruption to an unbelievable extent".

According to a BNP insider, a group of leaders want to reorganise the party under the guidance of Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. But Bhuiyan neither welcomed nor dismissed the idea.

In last two weeks, leaders from different levels met and expressed support for him to take up the leadership and steer the immediate past ruling party out of troubled waters.

Things have become even more adverse for BNP with Tarique Rahman, senior joint secretary general and son of Khaleda Zia, becoming known to have multiple foreign accounts. Allegations of graft are rife against most other senior leaders and key persons.

"You just name one who should

run the party. We want to do politics but who will be our leader. They all are corrupt and they have no right to lead the party or the country," a former BNP lawmaker told The Daily Star recently, talking about arrests of Tarique and a number of ex-ministers and lawmakers.

A leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, said, "A popular party like ours cannot remain under the leadership of a group of thieves. Now we simply cannot do without self-correction."

"They (corrupt leaders) did not do anything for the party or the partymen. All they did was

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SACKING OF TOP JUDGE

Police fire rubber bullets, arrest Pak protesters

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan riot police fired rubber bullets at protesters yesterday and arrested dozens of people as they tried to contain an angry protest over the sacking of the nation's top judge.

Hundreds of demonstrators hurled rocks and bottles at paramilitary troops and police outside the Supreme Court, where Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry was due to attend a hearing into misconduct charges.

Violent clashes also broke out in the eastern city of Lahore despite overnight raids by police across the country that seized lawyers, opposition party activists and Muslim

hardliners.

Military ruler President Pervez Musharraf drew international condemnation when he sacked Chaudhry last week, a move that also set off days of rallies and intensified Islamist and secular opposition anger over his leadership.

The opposition says Musharraf is trying to intimidate the judiciary before they hear key issues -- including his planned re-election by parliament and his dual role as president and army chief -- later this year.

The United States, the military ruler's close ally in the "war on terror", said the judicial dispute was a "matter of deep concern" while rights groups have warned of a

constitutional crisis in Pakistan.

"This is the beginning of the end of president Musharraf, his cronies and collaborators," said Khwaja Asif, a senior leader of former premier Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League party at the protest in Islamabad.

In Islamabad police seized Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the president of Pakistan's main alliance of religious parties, the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) or United Action Front, when he tried to break through a cordon, AFP reporters said.

Security forces erected barbed wire and concrete barricades to seal off the Supreme Court but

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Saarc car rally arrives in capital

UNB, Dhaka

The Saarc car rally, arranged on the occasion of Green South Asia 2007, arrived in the capital from Cox's Bazar yesterday afternoon.

Different organisations, including Environment and Forest Department, Dhaka City Corporation and the district administration, welcomed the rally in front of Dania University College.

An exhibition highlighting the country's culture, social life and environment conservation activities will be held at Manik Mia Avenue with the participation of students as the car rally makes a round of the capital at 7:00am today.

The rally will leave for its next destination via National Memorial at Savar in the afternoon.

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Masud, Babul held on business-linked charges, clarifies home ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry in a clarification yesterday said the daily Janakantha Editor Atiqullah Khan Masud and owner of the daily Jugantor Nurul Islam Babul were arrested on the basis of specific allegations related to their business.

"The caretaker government is conducting drives to bring under law the corrupt, criminals and black money owners and Atiqullah Khan Masud and Nurul Islam Babul were arrested as part of the drives. Investigation is being held

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PHOTO: STAR

The Saarc Car Rally that started from Cox's Bazar on Thursday enters the capital through Jatrabari yesterday afternoon.

Two outlaws killed in 'shootout' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two alleged underground operatives were killed in an encounter with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Ranigram village under Ataikula Police Station yesterday.

The dead were identified as Nazrul Islam, 38, son of Azahar Ali of Sreepur village and Ansar Ali, 36, son of Abed Ali of Ranigram village of the upazila. Both belonged to the outlawed Sarbahara Party.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-12, Pabna, raided Mathura Battala at Ranigram at about 3:00pm where

some members of the underground outfit were holding a meeting.

Sensing the presence of the Rab men, the outlaws opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate.

Rab sources said Nazrul and Ansar received bullets during the "shootout" and died on the spot, while their accomplices managed to flee.

Police said the two outlaws were wanted in 12 cases including seven for murder. Rab recovered two shutter guns and two bullets from the scene.

More arrests, recovery of arms, bombs

STAR REPORT

The joint forces arrested 1,525 people on various charges and recovered 20 homemade bombs and seven weapons in the 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

They also seized 42 illegal motorcycles and lodged 245 cases under motor vehicles laws, a press release of the police said.

Rab-3 said they arrested two people, Uzsal, 18, and Kausar, 20, with 18 crackers in their possession at Deobhog village of Fatullah in Narayanganj early yesterday.

Our Tangail correspondent adds: Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) picked up HM Billal

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Prayer Timing		
March 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-18
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		