

## BCL men ransack 15 rooms of JCD activists at DU Jagannath Hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists ransacked at least 15 rooms of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University on Friday night following a clash between the two groups in the afternoon on the same day.

BCL men also occupied a number of rooms left by the JCD activists after the afternoon event and kept a few others under lock and key, sources said.

Two BCL activists were injured in the clash erupted centring a JCD

activist's taking a girl to a hall room. The ransacked rooms are 444, 463, 367, 468 of October Memorial Building; 337 (Ka), 337 (Kha), 340, 363 (Ka), 385 (Ka) 395 and 329 of East Building; 222, 227, 252 of South Building and 141 of North Building of the hall.

Hall sources said BCL men including Hemonto Bapari, Shyamol Bapari, Shankar Talukder, Sumon Das Pancham, Palash, Devdas, Pankaj Barui and others launched the attack at around 11:30pm.

Neither the university authorities nor the police took any measures

against the action of BCL activists so far.

Sources said the authorities did not visit the vandalised rooms fearing similar protests from BCL men. A few days back some BCL activists detained a number of house tutors as they were checking identities of the resident students.

House Tutor Soumitro Shekhor admitted that BCL activists occupied some rooms breaking the locks.

He said such incidents are frequent in the hall due to police inaction. "We requested Shahbag

police several times earlier to take necessary measures against those responsible for such incidents, but to no effect," he added.

Proctor AKA Firoz Ahmed said he failed to contact the hall authorities after the occurrence.

Both BCL joint secretary and general secretary of the hall unit of BCL denied the allegation.

They said the BCL activists did not ransack any room rather they kept some of the rooms under lock and key demanding punishment of the criminals who chopped the BCL men.

## Cop suspended for aiding extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sub-inspector (SI) of Mirpur Police Station was suspended yesterday after an official investigation found him involved in aiding a gang of three youths who tried to extort money from a fruit vendor.

Mirpur police said SI Aslam Uddin was suspended as he tried to favour the three extortionists instead of arresting them.

The three identifying themselves as police informants tried to extort money from fruit vendor Monir Hossain near the roundabout at Mirpur-10 on Friday.

Police officials investigated the incident following a complaint.

However, Aslam was finally compelled to pick up the extortionists under pressure from local traders and people. But at the same time, he also took the innocent fruit vendor to the police station.

## BDR sells essentials at 17 points in city

BSS, Dhaka

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) are selling essential commodities at 17 points in the city, said a BDR press release yesterday.

The sale centres are located at Nurani Islamia Madrasa at Mirpur-10, Pallabi Community Centre at Mirpur-12, Shere-Banglanagar Community Centre at Agargaon, Mohammadpur Krish Super Market at Mohammadpur, Salimullah Road Kira Complex at Mohammadpur, Pallima School at Khilgaon, Gulshan Community Centre at Gulshan, Uttara High School at Road-7 of Uttara, Titumir College at Gulshan, Cantonment Model School at Kachukhet, Titipara at Kamalapur, T&T ground at Sangsad Bhaban area, Dhanmondi Club ground at Dhanmondi, Azimpura Colony Community Centre at Azimpura, Alia Madrasa at Bakhshi Bazar and Gazamahal Shishu Park at Hazaribag.



PHOTO: STAR

Hindu devotees worship the sun at Kattali sea beach in Chittagong after having a dip during 'Baruni Festival' yesterday.



A seven-day Aktel International Inter-University Photography Exhibition began at the National Art Gallery at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. Organised by North South University Photography Club, the exhibition will remain open from 10:00am to 7:00pm daily up to March 23.

## 'Establish strong base for rural dev'

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperative Adviser Md Anwarul Iqbal yesterday emphasised the need for establishing a strong and effective base for rural development as well as local authority to create a conducive environment of good governance, accountability and transparency at all levels.

He said the participation of local people and all stakeholders particularly the service deliverers is the cornerstone for enhancing the pace of rural development.

The adviser said this while inaugurating a seminar on "Coordination of Selected Integrated Rural Development Projects of Bangladesh" implemented under the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives.

The Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap) organised the seminar at its auditorium in the city. Director General of the Cirdap Dr Durga Prasad Paudyal chaired the inaugural session.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Masayuki Inoue and Local Government Division (LGD) Secretary Safar Raj Hossain and Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDCD) Secretary Nazrul Islam attended the function as special guests.

Referring to the continued supports over last decade from the development partners like World Bank, United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), the adviser said various pilot projects have been undertaken to accelerate and strengthen the system of rural development and local government at grassroots level.

The adviser underscored the need for establishing coordination among all projects and partners as they all have similar and close aims and objectives. He expected that the Cirdap initiatives to coordinate these projects would facilitate the replication of each others' best practices.

Japanese ambassador referred to the various development projects funded by Japan and said his government has been extending assistance to these projects considering the top priority to the rural development in Bangladesh.

As Bangladesh's economy is agriculture-based, almost all development plans have been given enormous emphasis on rural development through reducing widespread rural poverty by increasing food production, generating large scale employment and creating physical social infrastructure, he added.