

**RAMNA BATAMUL BLAST**  
Hearing on charge framing against Huji chief, 13 others Jan 20

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed January 20 as the date for hearing on framing of charges against Harkatul Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and 13 others in Ramna Batamul blast case filed against them for killing 10 people.

Judge ANM Basir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set the date after scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents.

The court also directed the jail authorities to produce Mufti Hannan and five others, who are now in jail custody, before it on the day.

The five others are Arif Hasan Suman alias Abdur Razzak, Maulana Akbar Hossain alias Helaluddin, Shahadat Ullah alias Jewel, Maulana Abu Taher and Maulana Abdur Rauf.

Meanwhile, another Ramna Batamul Blast case filed against them under the Explosive Substances Act on the same date for exploding grenades has remained pending with the same court.

The bloodbath that took place during Pahela Baishakh celebrations on April 14, 2001 left 10 people dead and scores injured.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Abu Hena Mohammad Yusuf, also the investigation officer (IO) of the cases, submitted the charge sheets to the CMM's Court of Dhaka on November 29 last year.

The 10 included names of Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and 13 others in the charge sheets of the cases.

The other accused -- Maulana Mohammad Tajuddin, brother of former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, Maulana Abdul Hannan Sabbir, Maulana Shawkat Osman alias Sheikh Farid, Hafez Jahangir Alam Badar, Maulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Hawlader, Mufti Shafiqur Rahman, Maulana Yahya and Mufti Abdul Hye -- have been on the run since the cases were filed.

The court had earlier issued arrest warrants against them and an order to attach their properties.

## Writ to form food safety council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A human rights organisation filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) yesterday seeking directions for the government to constitute National Food Safety Advisory Council in line with the law concerned to check food adulteration.

Advocate Manzil Murshid filed the petition as public interest litigation (PIL) on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) seeking direction for formation of the council that will prepare necessary policies in order to ensure safety, purity and proper nutrition values of foods.

Advocate Murshid told The

Daily Star yesterday that the High Court bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abdul Hye may hear the petition on Sunday.

He stated in his petition that some dishonest businessmen are producing adulterated foods and marketing those across the country due to absence of a monitoring system.

He also said the unscrupulous businessmen mix harmful substances such as colour, urea and formalin with foods.

There is a provision of constituting National Food Safety Advisory Council in the Pure Food Ordinance, 1959, but the government has not yet formed the council, he added.

## Genocide in Gaza protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of students from different schools staged a protest rally in the city yesterday to condemn the Israeli genocide, especially the killings of thousands of women and children in Gaza.

Shishu Kishore Mela organised the protest programme at Muktangan in the city demanding steps to stop the massacre of innocent civilians in the holy Arab land.

Central leader of the organisation Pranabendu Dev Roy presided over the programme where organisers Rahat Ahmed, Shampa Basu and Faisal Ahmed took part.

The children at the rally said, "When we are going to start new classes at the beginning of the new year, our brothers and sisters in Palestine are trying to escape from the Israeli attacks with heavy shelling, tanks and warplanes."

Their bodies are burning with phosphorus bombs and being killed with bayonet attacks, they said, adding that around 300 children have been killed so far and around a thousand children lost different body parts in the barbaric attacks.

They further said, "We strongly hate them who are killing the innocent Gazans. We called on all to come forward to stop such Israeli brutalities."

Later, they took out a procession carrying gruesome pictures of the massacre of Gazans, placards and cartoons of US and Israeli warmongers.

The students from Khilgaon Govt High School, Barnamala High School, Adarsha Balika High School, AK High School, University Laboratory High School, New Paltan High School, Pogose High School, Monu Mia High School, Nakhla Para High School, Udayan High School and Nikhet High School took part in the programme.

Meanwhile, Islami Andolon Bangladesh in a statement said although thousands of Muslims are losing their lives by Israeli attacks in Palestine but America does not describe Israel as terrorist state.

Secretary General Maulana Yunus Ahmed and Assistant Secretary General of the party Maulana Gazi Ataur Rahman called on the party activists to gather at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque today to participate in a protest rally organised by Sammilita Nagorik Forum.



Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Armed Forces Division (AFD) office at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

## Hasina attends office at Armed Forces Division

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday attended her office at the Armed Forces Division at Dhaka Cantonment.

She was received at the Armed Forces Division by Principal Staff Officer Lt Gen Abdul Mobin at 10:00am.

Later, Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed, Naval Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam and Air Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman called on the prime minister.

The three services chiefs apprised the prime minister of the activities of their respective forces.

Prime Minister's Adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique was present.

## Ex-lawmakers Ibrahim, Moni granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to former BNP lawmakers Hafiz Ibrahim and Nurul Islam Moni in five cases.

After hearing separate bail petitions filed by them, an HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice M Azizul Haque granted them bail.

Sources said Hafiz Ibrahim was granted bail for four months in four extortion cases and Nurul Islam Moni got bail for three months in a relief scam case.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq appeared for the petitioners.

## JCD demands congenial atmosphere on campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, on the Dhaka University campus yesterday placed its five-point demand, including coexistence in the dormitories and congenial atmosphere in all education institutions across the country.

JCD men threatened to take the struggle onto the streets from January 18 if their demands go unheeded.

The demands include postponing all examinations until their security and coexistence is ensured at the halls, exemplary punishment to the culprits who beat up JCD men and harassed teachers and journalists at different institutions since the general elections and compensation for the repressed students.

JCD General Secretary Safiul Barea Babu placed the demands and announced their three days' demonstration programme at a press conference at Madhu's

Canteen on the campus.

They would submit a memorandum to Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz on January 18, stage demonstrations on the campus as well as in front of the VC office on January 21 and 25.

Earlier on January 11, JCD leaders threatened to call an indefinite strike on the campus by giving an ultimatum of 48 hours demanding coexistence at the halls.

The leaders alleged that after the political change-over, JCD men and general students are being beaten up and repressed by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders and activists in different institutions.

Babu alleged that hundreds of their leaders and activists are still staying out of the DU campus and cannot attend their classes and participate in the examinations fearing attacks by the BCL men.

Sensing the absolute victory by Awami League-led

grand alliance, leaders and activists of JCD and Islami Chhatra Shibir left the campus on the election day. BCL men took over control at all DU dorms.

JCD President Azizul Barea Helal, Organising Secretary Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel, DU unit President Hasan Mamun, General Secretary Saiful Islam Feroz and Organising Secretary Obaidul Haq Nasir were present at the programme.



Shishu Kishore Mela, a child rights organisation, stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting Israeli air strikes on Gaza Strip.

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