

## Rampage at RU

**FROM PAGE 1** Students said the clashes erupted when BCL activist Asaduzzaman tried to enter his room at Shibir-dominated Bangabandhu Hall. Khalid, secretary of hall unit Shibir, barred Asad from entering his room around 8:00pm Monday and allegedly beat up him and another BCL activist Muhammad Kawser.

On information, police raided Bangabandhu and Latif halls and arrested 13 Shibir activists.

As the law enforcers left the dormitories, BCL activists attacked a Shibir worker at the TV room of Shah Mokhdum Hall. Shibir men equipped with firearms and sharp weapons reiterated, triggering a firefight on the campus.

Police fired about 500 blank shots, rubber bullets and tear-gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Armed Shibir cadres sporadically clashed and exchanged gunshots with the police turning the campus into a battlefield. They also torched two rooms and damaged 30 others at the Suhrawardi Hall.

Faruk, son of Fazlur Rahman, hailed from Khoddorsoga village in Joypurhat sadar and was a resident student of Shah Mokhdum Hall. His body was sent to his village home after namaj-e-janaza at the university central mosque.

Among the injured, 19 BCL workers were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Of them, condition of Shaifur Rahman Badsha, Ruhul Amin, Feroz Mahmud and Shahidul Islam Johnny is stated to be critical as their tendons of hands and legs were severed.

**SMHALLATTACK** Over 30 Shibir cadres equipped with Chinese axes, hammers, rods, machetes and dagger entered the hall by Ahad, hall unit Shibir general secretary, and Anis, former hall president, around 1:40am, said Shafiqullah at RMCH.

"They first knocked Tawfik down. Anis caught me near the staircase and hit my back with a Chinese axe. I ran toward the main gate where several Shibir cadres started hitting me indiscriminately. At this stage, I ran towards the policemen at the gate who kicked me and went aside," Shafiqullah added.

**AUTHORITIES VERSIONS** RU Proctor Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria blamed on duty police for not playing proper role to maintain law and order. The hall provost Dulal Chandra Roy gave a similar statement.

Asked about the students' protests for taking them outside the campus, the proctor said, "Violence erupted everywhere on the campus, how could we take them outside?"

RU Vice-chancellor Prof Abdus Subhan was not available for comment.

Nawsher Ali, commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star the police were helpless in the face of Shibir cadres' "planned and organised" attacks.

He claims 20 policemen were hurt in the clashes and the police fired 400 teargas shells and gunshots to quell the situation.

**PROTESTS** Angry BCL workers in Charchat upazila torched and damaged the upazila office of Jamaat-Islami around 12noon yesterday.

The BCL in a protest procession marched the main city thoroughfares and called for a rally in the afternoon today.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzaman Liton attended the namaj-e-janaza of Faruk in Shaheb Bazar. Addressing the gathering, he said, the murder

## Intelligence

**FROM PAGE 1** confessional statement of Hafizur Rahman, an accused in the case," Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque said in a press briefing on behalf of the BNP Parliamentary Party.

A number of dailies reported that Hafizur, prime accused in the 10-truck arms haul case, in a confessional statement said Tarique Rahman had held a meeting with India's United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa) leader Paresh Barua at Hawa Bhaban.

Flanked by seven BNP lawmakers, the opposition chief whip at the briefing at the Parliament Media Centre alleged that intelligence agency forced Hafizur to give statement implicating Tarique Rahman in the case.

He asked the intelligence agency not to assist the government in plotting any conspiracy to tarnish image of the Zia family.

"When we decided to join the parliament, the government is creating fresh obstacles for BNP," he said.

The opposition chief whip also protested involving former BNP state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar in the former finance minister Shah AMK Kibria murder case.

"Babar was forced to confess his involvement in the Kibria killing case as they threatened him with crossfire," he claimed.

was "politically planned by Jamaat" and would be answered politically.

RU unit BCL president Awal Kabir Joy said the attack was planned to avenge the killing of RU Shibir general secretary Sharifuzzaman Noman early last year. "Noman was killed accidentally during clashes, but they murdered Faruk in a planned way."

Home Minister Sahara Khatun ordered the police to arrest the killers of Faruk within 24 hours, reports UNB.

Talking to reporters at Civil Aviation High School ground in Kaola in the capital, Sahara said the police are instructed to arrest those responsible for the violence irrespective of their political identities.

**ARRESTS** The police held 16 suspected Shibir cadres from different Chapainawabganj-bound buses in Godagari upazila between 2:00pm and 5:00pm.

**Officer-in-Charge** of Godagari police Zakirul Islam said the arrestees are mostly students of RU and Rajshahi College.

**JAMAAT STATEMENT** Rajshahi city Jamaat Amir Aatur Rahman denied involvement of Shibir in the murder. "The incident occurred at night; who saw Shibir men committing the murder? It may be the result of Chhatra League's internal feud."

Meanwhile, in Pabna, two private hostels in Edward College area were torched around 9:30pm. Local Shibir leaders blamed Chhatra League for the arson.

**BACKLASH AGAINST SHIBIR ATBUET**

Our DU correspondent reports: In a backlash against the killing at RU, Chhatra League activists last night vandalised several rooms of Shibir men at four dormitories of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

The ransacking was going on till filing of this report at 1:15am.

No one however was reported hurt as Shibir activists had already left the halls for fear of reprisals.

Meanwhile, Juba League Chairman and State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak and AL Organising Secretary BM Mozammel Haque last night sat with BCL leaders to discuss the recent spate of violence in different educational institutions.

## Opposition

**FROM PAGE 1** including deals with India, proposed Tipaimukh Dam, tender manipulation and campus violence by ruling party men, party insiders said.

They also asked lawmakers to take preparation for speaking in parliament on various issues, including strengthening security of the BNP chairperson, withdrawal of "politically motivated" cases filed against her during the last caretaker government's rule, price hike of essentials and law and order situation.

The opposition lawmakers have been boycotting the House proceedings since the second session of parliament--the budget session--in last June, demanding more seats in the front row for opposition MPs.

Later, they added several other demands and asked the speaker and the ruling party to meet the demands for their return to parliament.

## Hopes dashed

**FROM PAGE 1** achievement of their only son.

Faruk, born in 1984 in Khord-Shaguna village under Joypurhat Sadar upazila, was a final year student of RU's Mathematics Department.

He was hacked to death by the armed activists of Islamic Chhatra Shibir early hours yesterday.

Faruk's father Fazlur Rahman is a farmer by profession who owns only half an acre of land. He mortgaged the land to bear his son's educational expenses with a hope that it would help his family get rid of poverty someday.

Faruk's mother Hasina Khatun, a member of Grameen Bank of the village, also took loans from the bank to meet her son's educational expenses, but her dreams were shattered with the gruesome killing of her only son.

Kamal Chandra Hasra, manager of Khord-Shaguna branch of the bank, said Faruk recently has applied for a fresh loan of Tk 5,000 to bear his educational expenses for his master's course.

He termed Faruk's premature death an unforgettable shock for the villagers and also for the local Grameen Bank staffs.

Redwanul Rahman, a schoolteacher of Faruk, said that he always stood first in every high school exams.

Faruk also secured GPA-5 in his SSC examination in 2002, the teachers said.

## 'AL' men

**FROM PAGE 16** taking and tearing bid documents when found.

A number of the intending bidders were of Dumki upazila Awami League unit.

University VC Prof Sakawat Hussain and Dumki upazila Chairman Harun-Or-Rashid Howlader went to the spot and prevented a clash between the two groups.

Abdur Rashid Chunnun Mia, a BNP leader and a contractor, claimed he sent his representative Taiyub Ali to submit bid for category-1 and -3 but ruling party cadres looted the bank demand draft worth Tk 21 lakh and bid documents.

Asad Khan, secretary of Krishak League of Bakhergonj upazila unit and a contractor, claimed he went there to submit his bid for category-2 but ruling party cadres from Patuakhali town snatched the documents and bank demand draft worth Tk 9 lakh.

He said he filed a complaint with the registrar of the university in this regard.

Ziaul Haque, officer-in-charge of Dumki Police Station, said nobody was assaulted but there was tension between two groups of contractors.

VC Sakawat Hussain told The Daily Star that nobody filed any complaint with him in this regard.

## PM

**FROM PAGE 1** expatriates at Bayan Palace in Kuwait in the afternoon.

In Dhaka, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday said the killing of a student and the Shibir attack at Rajshahi University were part of their activities.

He made the remark after a meeting with Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad and Director General of Rapid Action Battalion Hasan Mahmud Khandaker at his Secretariat office.

He directed the IGP to go to Rajshahi and take measures in consultation with law enforcers there.

Tuku said Shibir activists hired people from nearby villages and attacked students at different residential halls.

The Shibir men and their goons went on the rampage Monday night, he added.

"Actions are being taken to arrest the culprits," the minister told the reporters.

The government is looking into the matter seriously, he said.

He mentioned that one student died and another remained missing after the incident, and around 18 students injured in the attack were undergoing treatment.

The minister condemned the killing and the attack on Chhatra League by Shibir activists.

## Rejoinder

**FROM PAGE 1** securing 524th position on the merit list in business studies mentioned in the report did not appear before the interview board.

Besides, the rejoinder mentioned that the student securing 524th position in humanities group had been given "History" and he did not qualify for any subject in business studies as he got "D" in English in HSC.

Our Reply

We regret the errors and stand corrected.

## Focus

**FROM PAGE 16** "Before taking any precaution or preventive measure against climate change, we have to go for scientific assessment of the situation," said Saber, chairman of the all-party parliamentarians group on climate change.

"The actual situation is far worse than what we are thinking about the impact of global warming," he noted.

Citing a report of UK met office, Saber noted that even if emission of carbon stops today, global temperature will increase by 3.8 degrees Celsius over its pre-industrial level. And the impact of this will be frightening for Bangladesh.

Atiq Rahman, executive director of the BCAS, said traditional knowledge of people about weather and ecological behaviour, and scientists' findings about climate change have to be utilised effectively. "For this, we have to ensure that scientists and general people can communicate with each other," he said.

Milko Van Gool, consular and head of operations of European Commission, said Bangladesh is on the right track in tackling climate change.

He also described how the EC has taken steps to reduce carbon emission.

## 350MW power

**FROM PAGE 16** and ask second lowest bidders in three other tenders to match the price offer of Energypac.

As this process is yet to be completed, the power ministry forwarded five proposals to the cabinet committee for its approval.

Power purchase from these dual fuel projects would be 15 to 20 percent costlier than that from conventional gas-fired power plants. As a result, the PDB would require monthly subsidy from the government.

For instance, the Hathazari 100 MW project is being awarded to Chinese company Guangdong Power Engineering Corporation for a cost of Tk 908 crore (combining local and foreign currency costs).

Consequently, per kilowatt power generation cost would be 1,364 dollars. But cost of power generation in single fuel Gopalganj project would be 915 dollars per kilowatt hour.

This cost is very high because of the plant's dual fuel capacity as it would run both on furnace oil or gas, depending on the availability of the fuel.

Hathazari project alone would require around Tk 13 crore subsidy per month as per the proposal of the power ministry.

Energypac, which gathered experience in building small power projects for other entrepreneurs in the country in recent years, was found to be the lowest bidder in the projects such as Katakhalhi 50 MW, Shantahar 50 MW, Bera 70 MW, Gopalganj 100 MW and Faridpur 50 MW. Energypac has been offered deals for two projects, and it selected Faridpur 50 MW and Gopalganj 100 MW projects. Of them, the ministry has forwarded the bid for Faridpur project to the cabinet committee for its approval.

Sources said an influential lobby is trying to take the Gopalganj project by sidelining Energypac.

The PDB offered Katakhalhi, Shantahar and Bera projects to the second and third lowest bidders, who are behind Energypac in terms of price offer. However no bidder in Katakhalhi and Shantahar projects agreed to match the price of Energypac. Since they could not match the price, the tenders will once again be offered to Energypac.

"If Energypac refuses to take these projects at this point, it is not clear what PDB will do with these tenders. Will they offer these tenders to the second

lowest bidder or will they go for fresh tender, which is a time consuming affair," noted one source.

A top PDB official said it would seek the power ministry's advice in such a case.

Korean company Hyundai however agreed to match the cost offer of Energypac in the Bera power project. It has slashed its project cost by Tk 106 crore.

Dohazari 100MW project will be again awarded to Guangdong that offered a cost of around 110 million dollars.

Deals for both Baghabari 50 MW and Daudkandi 50 MW projects will be awarded to China National Electric Wire & Cable Import and Export Corporation, China, that offered a cost of around 112 million dollars for each plant. Both are single bids and the cost is very high.

The PDB floated the tender for these 10 public sector projects in mid-September and received only 28 bids. The low turnout of bidders was attributed to the hard financial terms and lack of incentives by the PDB.

**Warrant to arrest**

**FROM PAGE 1** appearance.

Earlier, the same court directed two guarantors Abul Hasnat of Khilgaon Chowdhurypara area and advocate Khondaker Bashir Ahmed to produce three accused before the court on two consecutive dates.

All the three accused have been on bail since the High Court stayed all the proceedings of the case 13 years ago.

Although the stay was vacated two years ago, the accused did not appear before the trial court.

In 1992, the Directorate of Drug Administration had filed the case against Adflame Pharmaceuticals for producing paracetamol syrup under the name 'Flammodol' that was tested positive for the deadly chemical diethylene glycol.

The proceedings were, however, brought to a stop for 13 years when the HC issued a temporary stay order, which was never challenged.

Although two years ago, the HC vacated the stay, the Drug Court was unaware of the order until The Daily Star during its recent investigation revealed it.

Two other accused in the Adflame case, Nrigendra Nath Balala and Md Noman, have been absconding.

According to the DMP survey, buildings using parking space otherwise in Motijheel traffic zone are

Adamjee Court, Uttara Bank, Sonali Bank, Bangladesh Bank, Agrani Bank, Janata Bank, Dhaka Bank, Amin Court, Karim Chamber, Toyota Building, Stock Exchange Building, Ejaz Chamber and City Bank at Motijheel, Pubali Bank, Asia Tower, City Bank, Rupali Bank, State Bank of India and Janata Insurance Company at Dilkusha, Shatabdi Tower at Fakirapool, Jiban Bima Bhaban on Rajuk Avenue and ML Village at Shantinagar.

In Ramna traffic zone, the identified buildings are Pir Yemeni Market and Ramna Bhaban at Gulistan, Mouchak Market and Anarkoli Market at Siddheswari.

Listed buildings in Gulshan traffic zone include Gulshan Shopping Centre at Gulshan-1, Haji Super Market, ML Bhaban, Rahman Bhaban, Columbia Super Market, Square Centre and Siddique Tower (East West University) at Mohakhali.

Rajuk during its October drives in Kalabagan, Dhanmondi and Mirpur areas knocked down illegal commercial occupancy of designated car parking spaces at around 25 commercial centres.

But each and every evicted illegal occupant of car parking space came back to earlier state just within a week of demolition, rendering the scanty government efforts a futile exercise.

"Such drives seem to be just an eye-wash," said noted transport expert Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury.

## 659 more

**FROM PAGE 16** With yesterday's 659, a total of 2,893 such cases have so far been recommended for withdrawal.

At the meeting, 1,091 cases including 16 in connection with corruption were placed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) for consideration, and after discussion the inter-ministerial committee decided to send six cases back to subordinate district committees seeking clarification.

"We will send six cases to the district committees to know why they selected the cases as politically motivated," Quamrul told reporters after the meeting.

He said the inter-ministerial committee will not accept any more case from the district committees for consideration.

Defendants who will benefit from yesterday's recommendations include Agricultural Minister Matia Chowdhury, Awami League lawmakers Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Kamal Ahmed Majumder, and Lotus Kamal, Haji Selim, Editor of Dainik Janakantha Atiqullah Khan Masud, its Advisory Editor Toab Khan, and former mayor of Khulna City Corporation Aminul Islam.

None of the "politically motivated" cases recommended for withdrawal yesterday was against any BNP or Jamaat leader.

The Awami League-led grand alliance government, after assuming office, formed the inter-ministerial committee and subordinate district committees to identify such cases for withdrawal.

**River stone**

**FROM PAGE 16** Association (Bela).

Iliasur Rahman, a stone business man of Companiganj, filed the petition with the SC on Monday seeking stay on the HC verdict.

After hearing the petition, chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday refrained from passing any order on it.

Advocate Iqbal Kabir, a lawyer for Bela, told The Daily Star that following the SC decision, the HC verdict will remain upheld.

He said the chamber judge did not intervene in the HC verdict following their arguments saying that the government has decided to stop using excavators and boma machines in collecting stones from the rivers for protecting natural environment.

Advocate TH Khan appeared for Iliasur Rahman, while advocate Prabir Neogi and advocate Iqbal Kabir argued for Bela.

6 RU-bound

**FROM PAGE 1** Battalion (APBn), Bogra, told The Daily Star that the van of APBn carrying 40 personnel was rushing to Rajshahi University on an urgent call following an overnight clash at the institution.

The accident occurred around 4:30pm in Toukia Dhalan area of the upazila when the police van collided with the bus coming from the opposite direction, leaving five people dead on the spot.

Another succumbed to his injuries after being taken to Putia Upazila Health Complex.

Of the injured, condition of 12 was stated to be critical. They were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and the health complex.

The dead were identified as habilder Firoj, Anisur and Shahidul, constable Najmul and Shahin and electrician Hafizur.

**Autopsy done**

**FROM PAGE 16** autopsy could not be performed in the last three days, as no doctor was available.

The Daily Star yesterday published a report in this regard.

Sources said the same problem arises if bodies are brought to the hospital morgue for autopsy, as five out of six posts in forensic department have been vacant for last couple of years. Rezaul Haque, the only doctor in the department, is on leave.

Rafiqul Akhtar said he had received a phone call from the office of the Director General of Health following the report and he requested Khabirul to do the autopsy on humanitarian ground.

Meanwhile, the body of Karim Hossain, of College Para under Bhanga upazila, was buried at his village yesterday after autopsy.

"I was tired after passing days at the morgue for getting my brother's body," said Firoz Hossain.

The action did not sustain for even a month.

## 14-party stung

**FROM PAGE 1** 14-party coordinator, chaired the meeting that discussed among other issues the upcoming election to Dhaka City Corporation.

Briefing newsmen afterwards, AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said the Islamic Chhatra Shibir men infiltrating Bangladesh Chhatra League were responsible for the recent spate of violence in educational institutions including Dhaka University.

Some "identified pro-Shibir men" had been given "important positions" in four hall unit BCL committees at DU, alleged Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperatives minister.

Queried about the source of the information, he said they found it through their own investigation.

"Some people always become the ruling party men and get involved in illegal activities," he said.

Asked if they would compel BCL to expel the Shibir men, the AL leader said Chhatra League is no more a wing of the ruling party. So they would request rather than force it to purge itself of Jamaat-Shibir elements.

Talking to The Daily Star, BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon said they would investigate the claim. If anyone is found to have been involved with Shibir, he would be ousted from BCL.

Referring to the killing of a Chhatra League worker at Rajshahi University, Syed Ashraf said it was a premeditated murder by Jamaat-Shibir.

The LGRD minister reiterated that the government would not tolerate crimes in the name of student politics.

## Massive plan

**FROM PAGE 16** reporters after a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He said the government will provide land and the private companies will invest money for the housing projects.

"All measures will be taken to ensure protection of river, canals, and other water bodies and arable lands," he said.

Mannan said his ministry already has primarily selected four sites to build satellite city in each of the areas for expanding Dhaka city.

The ministry is also working to divide the city areas into different zones, he said.

The committee discussed elaborately the way to reduce city tailback immediately, the state minister said.

Speaking at the press briefing ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, chief of the parliamentary body, said the expressway will be constructed from city's zero point to Mawa. It will connect the Jhilmil housing project of Rajuk, he added.

## Robber loot

**FROM PAGE 16** back with ropes.

Besides, she said, as Rezia cried out for help, the robbers strangled her to death.

Officer-in-Charge Nazim Uddin of Khilgaon Police Station said the arrestee, Delwar Hossain, admitted to his involvement in the robbery and disclosed the names of his associates.

**Criminals**

**FROM PAGE 1** took to the streets in protest.

Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner of police (Lalbagh zone), told The Daily Star, "As soon as the councillor came out of the mosque after Esha prayers, two criminals fired three bullets at him and sped away on a motorbike."

The councillor received two bullets in his throat. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A h a m a d ' s daughter Sharmin told The Daily Star over telephone that her father was later moved to Square Hospital.

He died there around 10:00pm.

DC Anwar said, "The reason behind the attack and the criminals' identities could not be ascertained immediately."

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia visited the city's Square Hospital last night to see the body of slain Juba Dal leader.

She was accompanied by her party colleagues.

Talking to reporters at the private hospital, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said the Juba Dal leader's political rivals might have been involved in his murder.