

Shibir was reborn

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where they recruited people especially youths to expand their network.

In a special publication of Shibir on the occasion of its silver jubilee, a former president of Shibir said, "Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir began its journey anew at the Central Jame Masjid [mosque] of Dhaka University."

Shibir began acting with a long-term main objective to establish Islamic society countering secular spirit of the country.

Besides mosques, Shibir simultaneously strengthened its organisation at educational institutions. Especially in the 1980s, Shibir was the centre of discussion for introducing its self-styled killing missions at Chittagong University.

Shibir repeatedly came under the spotlight for killing their rivals and cutting their tendons, a unique style introduced by the Shibir unit of Chittagong University.

The main aim of cutting tendons is to ensure that the victim would be crippled forever, if one survives after the cutting.

After victory on December 16, 1971, the government's decision to ban four communal parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, resulted in the halt of Islami Chhatra Sangha operations.

The banned parties including Jamaat were given the green light in politics during the rule of late president Ziaur Rahman after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

Jamaat entered open politics in the country and formed its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir, which is little different from the original name but in short both are known as ICS.

Jamaat claims that Shibir is not their front organisation. But in Shibir's special publication former ameer of Jamaat Golam Azam said, "Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir are obviously followers of the same ideology."

Shibir never mentions that the original name of their organisation was Islami Chhatra Sangha. However, Motiur Rahman Nizami, incumbent president of Jamaat-e-Islami, was president of central Islami Chhatra Sangha and incumbent Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed was the president of East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Sangha in 1971.

War records show Jamaat formed Razakar and Al-Badr forces to counter freedom fighters. Former secretary general of Jamaat Maulana Abul Kalam Mohammad Yousuf established Razakar. Al Badr included the Islami

Chhatra Sangha members.

Anticipating defeat, the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators--Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams (led by mostly leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Sangha)--picked up the situation in East Pakistan. In line with an official procedure, the then East Pakistan home ministry regularly dispatched the report to General Yahya Khan, the head of government.

At a rally to mark what was then known as Badr Day on November 7, 1971, Mojaheed came up with a four-point programme to "wipe Hindustan off the face of the earth".

"Move forward with your head held high and with the Quran in heart to materialise the programme. If necessary we will march up to New Delhi and fly the flag of greater Pakistan," he told the 1971 rally.

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Buet BCL

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identity card back to Rakib at Nilkhet last night.

The other two harassed DU correspondents are Nur-e-Alam Durjoy of Kaler Kantho and Huzafa Muhammad of Sangbad.

Durjoy told The Daily Star that they went to Buet on information that Chhatra League activists vandalised rooms and belongings of Shibir activists.

At one stage, Chhatra League General Secretary of Suhrawardi Hall unit Ferdous barred the journalists and asked what they would report on the incident.

Durjoy said, "Ferdous confronted us and said if we didn't say what we would write they would not let us go. Then he [Ferdous] snatched Rakib's identity card and hung it around his neck. He intimidated us not to mention any of the Chhatra League men."

Earlier, despite repeated phone calls and requests from the president and general secretary of Chhatra League Central Committee Mahmud Hasan Ripon and Mahfuz Haider Chowdhury Roton, Ferdous refused to return the card.

Property

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the upcoming DCC election could also be the reasons behind the murder, said local sources.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka told The Daily Star, "Ahmad Hossain had been protesting extortion and trying to protect the businessmen. And it might be the reason behind his death."

Khoka, also president of Dhaka city BNP ruled out the possibility that enmity with the ruling party was the reason behind the killing.

Locals, however, claimed that Hossain and Dakat Shahid were close friends. During the last caretaker government's rule Hossain went into hiding in India and Shahid arranged his stay there.

A local source claimed that Hossain returned home almost at the end of the caretaker government's rule. But in recent times, Hossain and Shahid had a feud over share of extortion money taken from businessmen in Bangshal area.

Ahmad Hossain also had enmity with a local BNP leader, who is also the owner of a famous hotel in the city, over the control of Phulbaria Bus Stand and extortion money from illicit trades at hotels, sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, DC Anwar Hossain said Ahmad Hossain was accused in at least eight cases filed with Kotwali Police Station in connection with crimes related to explosives, firearms and riots.

Since the DCC election was held on April 25, 2002, at least nine councillors were killed while at least 20 others are put in jail for their involvement in criminal acts including murders, extortion, corruption and land grabbing.

Meanwhile, facts regarding the murder of rice trader Afil Uddin Miah are also shrouded in mist. Afil was gunned down at Babubazar rice market Tuesday afternoon.

Traders at about 12 rice markets including Babubazar, Badamtali, Mirpur and Malibagh in Dhaka and in Kushtia and Jessore observed daylong strike keeping their stores closed in protest of the killing. They also staged demonstration and brought out processions.

In another incident, Masud was hacked to death by some unidentified criminals at Kaliganj yesterday noon. He was known as a drug addict in the area.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent them to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

5 dual-fuel

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companies as the lowest responsive bidders, none of these power projects has been approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecnc). The power ministry sought the cabinet committee's approval to save time for faster implementation of the projects.

"The approval will be considered effective only after the projects are approved by the Ecnc," said Deputy Secretary of the power ministry Nur ur Rahman.

Power from these projects would be two times costly compared to that from the Meghnaghat 450 MW private power plant. The average tariff of these projects would be around Tk5 per kilowatt hour.

This cost hike is partly attributed to the fact that the plants will be installed with dual fuel capacity so that they can operate with both oil and natural gas whichever is available. Installation of a dual fuel plant requires 15 to 20 percent extra cost compared to a gas fired one.

The Hathazari 100 MW plant will cost the PDB Tk 908 crore. Surprisingly, the Dohazari 100 MW plant to be built by the same company would cost Tk 971 crore. The Baghabari 50 MW plant will cost Tk 502 crore but the Daudkandi 50 MW plant will cost Tk 574 crore.

The Faridpur 50 MW plant will cost the lowest -- Tk 384 crore.

These five projects are among the 10 having a total production capacity of 820 MW for which the PDB floated tender in September last year.

The cabinet committee also approved procurement of 1,20,000 tonnes of petroleum product from the Maldives National Oil company at a cost of Tk 496 crore. Purchase from the Maldives will be comparatively less costly as it charges Bangladesh lower premium -- 3.90 dollars per barrel.

It also approved purchase of two crore pieces of sacks worth Tk 131.87 crore from Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

Besides, the meeting approved purchase of power metres at a cost of Tk 8.71 crore for the Rural Electrification Board.

CNG-run

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Injured Delwar at the hospital told The Daily Star that they -- total 13 persons -- hired a microbus to visit the Maizbhandar Sharif at Fatikhari in Chittagong on Tuesday.

"We started return journey for Cox's Bazar at around 5:30am today (Wednesday). When the microbus reached near the Rasulabad Mouli Doka area at around 6:30am, the failing of break of the microbus prompted the driver to hit a roadside tree. Immediately the CNG-cylinder blasted and the microbus caught fire," said Delwar.

2 language

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Nevertheless, book-sale is rising since last weekend as crowd at the fair is increasing day by day.

"As always, novels and short stories are at the top of selling list," said a bookseller.

They said books on Liberation War, poem, children's book and foreign stories and science fictions are also having good sale.

Publishers hoped that stalls would see more sales by next week.

Crowd was seen at the stalls that have brought new novels and short stories of popular writers. The children also thronged the corner dedicated for them with their parents.

Noted science fiction writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal visited the fair yesterday. His fans, especially children and teenagers were busy to take autographs standing in long queues on his new book *Robo Nishi*, a science fiction.

The new titles that hit the fair included -- Nirghum Shapner Desh by Minar Mahmud, Ek Bag Mozar Project by Bhabesh Roy, London Shore by Abu Sufiyan, Sabuj Pata Rangin Ful by Ali Imam, News Presenter by Tusher Abdullah, Muktiuddher Kishor Galpo by Aslam Sunny, Britter Charpashe by Koushik Zaman.

As per schedule, a cultural session was held in the evening at the fair.

Moni, Mukta

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Parents of the babies are overjoyed to see them getting better.

"As they are kept at the ICU, only their mother and grandmother can have a look at them twice or thrice a day," said Joyprakash Pal, father of Moni and Mukta, asking for prayer for their complete recovery soon.

The identical twins were born on August 22 last year at Birganj upazila in Dinajpur. They were joined in the abdomen and liver. Following a long two-hour surgical operation they were separated at the Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

The hospital authorities at their expense carried out the operation.

Shibir grows

FROM PAGE 1
This administration, which includes the VC, the proctorial body and pro-Jamaat teachers, always works for Shibir men, a teacher of the university said, wishing anonymity.

Only the administration of former VC Abdul Khaleque could control Shibir with a strong hand, but others have actually worked to help the student body establish its supremacy on the campus during the tenures of both Awami League and BNP, the teacher said.

Proctor Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria comes from a family with BNP background and Assistant Proctor Mustak Ahmed comes from a family with Jamaat background while Students' Adviser Golam Sabbir Sattar Tapu took part in an election at the university from pro-Jamaat panel, an RU teacher said.

"Except for the pro-VC, all key position holders are loyal to Jamaat, so, why will they control the cadre-based politics of Shibir?" he said.

When contacted, the RUVC did not agree to speak to The Daily Star.

Tapu claimed that he contested the RU Syndicate election from the group of Quader Bhuiyan. "Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria was also in that group along with other progressive teachers. But I left the group when it went political," Tapu told The Daily Star.

Proctor Chowdhury Zakaria told The Daily Star that none of his family members except a maternal uncle, who died, is involved in BNP politics. "My family has a number of Awami League leaders also. Why don't you write about it?" he said.

When contacted, Assistant Proctor Mustak Ahmed said, "It would be very difficult to find someone in my family who is involved with Jamaat-Shibir. None of my brothers and sisters and my father are involved with Jamaat-Shibir."

According to the university administration sources, there are around 1,100 teachers at RU of whom around 325 belong to the progressive parties, 300 are loyal to BNP and 400 to Jamaat.

To maintain its supremacy on the campus, Shibir keeps pressuring the university people by issuing threats directly and indirectly, sources said.

Around 60 incidents of clashes among the student wings of different political parties have taken place on RU campus since 1971, which left 28 people killed and over 2,100 injured, sources in the RU administration said.

The university remained closed for over 600 days because of the clashes.

Shibir has been involved in most of the clashes since 1980s after it started its activities on the campus in 1980. Towards the end of the '80s, left-leaning student wings including Chhatra Moitree became weak organisationally, which helped Shibir establish its supremacy.

In the latest incident on Tuesday, Shibir men hacked to death Faruk Hossain, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League, in Shah Mokhdum Hall. Around 100 people were injured in the overnight clashes between the activists of BCL and Shibir following the death.

Sources said Shibir killed Faruk as a revenge for the killing of RU unit Shibir general secretary Sharifuzzaman Nomani on March 13 last year.

A leader of the RU Officers' Association said, "Shibir men used to build a relatives base

Law, order

FROM PAGE 1
maintain that also in future," she said, urging cooperation of all in this regard.

The home minister warned that action would be taken against the law enforcers if they are found guilty of negligence during the Monday night's clashes at Rajshahi University, which left one student killed.

A student of Dhaka University was killed on February 3 in an internal clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of ruling Awami League.

"The members of law enforcement agencies will have to face serious consequences if they don't carry out orders and fail to play their due role," she warned.

Asked whether the killers were identified, the home minister said investigation is underway which will reveal everything.

"The police chief is in Rajshahi while state minister for home is also going there," she informed the journalists.

Sahara said 42 people were arrested so far in connection with the RU violence and the killing.

through marriage in the university area. Later, they started storing arms and sharp weapons in the houses of their new relatives and used to stage showdowns on the campus."

Shibir collects tolls from students and businessmen in the name of various programmes and publications to run its cadre-based politics.

"We are forced to buy their publications, no matter we support it or not," an RU student said.

"Shibir generally targets the poor students of the university and tactfully involves them in its politics by giving them financial help and seats in the halls," a teacher told The Daily Star.

Shibir has a strong base not only in and around the RU campus but also at other intuitions in Rajshahi city. The RU unit Shibir has been controlling the university campus with the help of its city unit.

Even Shibir cadres from other educational institutions join the RU unit during any clash at RU.

The pro-Jamaat teachers also give strong backup to Shibir through ideas, planning, financial help and various administrative facilities, including seat allotment at halls, sources said.

THE CULTURE OF TENDON CUTTING
Shibir at Rajshahi University uses various methods and devices for torturing its targets both mentally and physically, including killing, maiming, beating and cutting tendons.

Political rivals, students, even teachers and journalists have fallen victim to such tortures over the years.

In the '80s, Shibir was known as the rog-kata (tendon-cutting) party, a reference to its favourite tactic of maiming opponents by slicing their tendons. Shibir men would also often cut off the wrists of their opponents.

The practice severely damaged its image as a party, which forced them to change their methods of torture.

Shibir cadres visit target students in different rooms in university dormitories every day to get them involved in their political activities like group meetings, rallies and processions, keeping mental pressure on them, sources said.

They said the Shibir cadres take their targets on a "re-mand" confining in a room and give them the last warning for acting as per their direction. They threaten them with dire consequences if they fail to do so.

Shibir men would take students who go against their directives or fail to give tolls and beat them up mercilessly with iron rods and hammers wrapped in cloth. The method has seldom led to their victims' death but has caused permanent disability to many, sources said.

However, RU Shibir has apparently returned to their earlier method of cutting tendons as their cadres cut off the tendons of at least four BCL men and hacked another to death.

Shibir men have always had a psychological pressure on the university students, teachers, officers and employees, journalists and even high officials of the university. This has prevented the RU people from expressing their voices freely.

Dhaka flood

FROM PAGE 16
Later Tk 730.93 crore was approved in 2000 for Water Development Board's part in the multipurpose project, she added.

"The project was suspended in 2003 after requisition of 70 hectares of land. Later, Halcrow Group Ltd of UK and its associates began an updated study on the project on July 12, 2005 and they submitted their final report on July 20, 2006," the premier said.

On other queries, which were not discussed in the House but put on table, the premier said her government has drafted national contingency plan to tackle risks of possible earthquake.

"In light of the plan, different organisations are finalising their own contingency strategies," she said.

The premier said the government has trained 600 volunteers in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet city to conduct rescue programmes after earthquakes. The number of the volunteers would be increased to 62,000 in the next three years.

She also described various efforts of her government including updating National Child Policy 1994.

Ctg trader robbed of Tk 15 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A gang of criminals looted around Tk 15 lakh from a cloth trader in the port city yesterday afternoon.

Sources said Habibur Rahman, 75, owner of Gausia Traders at the city's Reazuddin Bazar, was going to his village home in Comilla to buy a piece of land.

Habibur accompanied by two staff -- Dulal and Kamal -- started for bus terminal around 1:00pm from his trade centre by a city service bus.

As they reached the AK Khan Gate, Kamal went searching a Comilla-bound bus keeping the other two waiting.

A microbus carrying a band of seven to eight persons turned up.

The gang introducing themselves as members of Rapid Action Battalion took Habibur and Dulal into the vehicle.

They dropped Habibur in city's Sholoshohar area after taking the money from his possession while Dulal in Bayzid area.

Habibur filed a case with Pahartoli Police Station in this connection.

Officer-in-Charge Bashir Khan of the police station said they had seized the microbus from city's Khulshi area but could not nab the culprits.

Farmers

FROM PAGE 1
farmers. Middlemen or non-farmers embezzled a significant portion of the government assistance.

The Agriculture Input Assistance Card will contain all the information about card holders the amount of total land, under-cultivation land, crops they produce during different seasons and seeds and fertilisers they need, he said.

"This season the farmers are getting diesel subsidy and later the subsidy might be given for other inputs too," Agriculture Secretary Mustaq Ahmed said, adding that a database of the farmers has been prepared.

The database will be made interactive gradually, which will help the government make detailed analysis of the crops the farmers produce and seeds and other inputs they need, he said.

"We can then make efficient planning for agriculture," said Mustaq. The farmers who have never been linked to the banks will be money literate once they start going to the banks.

They will then begin to take loan from the banks instead of rural moneylenders who take high interest from farmers, he said, adding that such system will make the farmers more aware of the modern agriculture technologies and responsible as well.

"In a word, this is expected to bring a revolutionary change in the agriculture sector," he said with a bold assertion.

SSC exams

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This year the number of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinees is around 1.40 lakh more than last year.

Last year, 1,063,848 students took part in exams.

Some 627,672 male and 578,347 female students will sit the examinations at 2,044 centres under 10 education boards this year.

Around 36 percent of the registered students are not taking the 2010 exams.

However the dropout rate came down this year -- in 2009 it was 42.15 percent and in 2008 it was 48 percent.

According to statistics from the education board computer centre, more than 13.61 lakh students were registered in class IX as regular students during the 2008/09 year.

Around 8.70 lakh regular students and 3.35 lakh failed students from previous years will take part in the SSC exams.

A total of 272,183 students will sit the exams under Dhaka Board; 134,644 under Rajshahi Board; 102,285 under Comilla Board; 123,541 under Jessore Board; 68,510 under Chittagong Board; 55,627 under Barisal Board; 41,295 under Sylhet Board; 118,095 under Dinajpur Board; 211,860 under Madrasa Board; 77,979 under Technical Board.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid is likely to visit some of the exam centres in Dhaka as well as a few outside the city, said sources.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police will impose restrictions on the movement of people within 200 yards of examination centres so that students can reach the centres unhindered.

Changes to clip

FROM PAGE 1
Tariqul Islam, also chief of the cabinet committee, said they prepared the proposals upon instruction from the cabinet and would present a report at the next cabinet meeting.

The ACC submitted its opinion on 23 amendment proposals yesterday at a meeting of the cabinet committee where representatives of other government bodies concerned were present.

The committee was formed in March last year to review the ACC Act and sent the proposals for opinion in October.

One of the proposals suggests that the graft busters should be obliged to take permission from the government to begin proceedings in certain circumstances and against public officials, policymakers, lawmakers and local body representatives, whose offences are believed to have been "committed in good faith".

ACC opined that the amendment would make the Act discriminatory. It would encourage high-officials in the said offices to get involved in rampant corruption, insiders explain.

"I think the provision would be discriminatory and would not help resist corruption," Ghulam Rahman observed.

Currently, the Anti-Corruption Act allows ACC to initiate probe and file cases if the offence is included in its schedule.

Another proposed amendment is specifying in the law that the anti-graft body must be accountable to the president to increase its accountability.

The commission in its opinion said this amendment would make the anti-graft body controlled by the executive branch of the government.

In accordance with the Constitution the president cannot take any decision without having advice from the prime minister, except for appointing the chief justice and the prime minister, it explained.

The insiders said the commission would lose independence if the amendment proposals were passed. Currently, the commission only has to submit its annual report to the president.

The ACC Act has sufficient provision to ensure its accountability as formulation of organogram, rules of the body and its budget are controlled by the government, the sources elaborated.

The other amendment proposals include assigning the ACC secretary with the responsibilities of the commission's principal accountant.

The ACC in its reply said this change would affect good-governance of the commission as it would shoulder some responsibility on the ACC secretary, whereas the commission chairman is the chief executive of all its functioning.

One of the proposals also suggests ACC be stripped off the status of being self-

governed. The ACC observed if its status is not defined, the commission staffs would face problems as the commission has its own service rules.

The ACC also wanted to make all the ACC cases cognisable and non-bailable which the cabinet committee opposed. The ACC also opined to make its Act supreme over any other laws.

However, the anti-graft watchdog gave its consent on some amendment proposals.

The proposals include enabling the commission to engage any agency in its investigation, if it wishes, and take support from experts of other agencies, if necessary.

Presently, only the commission alone can investigate its cases.

6 killed

FROM PAGE 1
Faruk Hossain, 35, a survivor, told The Daily Star that the Boalmari-bound bus from Gabtoli of Dhaka fell into the ditch at Tetultala, Kanaipur as the driver lost control over the steering.

Rescue operation by locals, fire fighters, district administration, police and Rab personnel, was going on till 5:50pm.

Local-made

FROM PAGE 16
The CPA signed contract with the Lamor Corporation AB of Finland, one of the manufacturers of spill response systems and products, for building the oily waste reception vessel. The Lamor later teamed up with Western Marine to build the vessel at the latter's shipyard.

Western Marine Chairman Saiful Islam said the vessel, with a dimension of 25m length, 6.80m width and 4.10m depth, would have a capacity of storing 150cbm oily wastes, 30cbm fresh water, 40cbm fuel oil and 3cbm lube oil.

Activities of Bay Cleaner-2 will include reception of oily wastes from ships, tankers and other vessels docked at Chittagong Port, transferring wastes to treatment sites on the shore, and collection of oily wastes over a 2km area within the CPA zone, said Saiful.

Western Marine Managing Director Sakhawat Hossain said Lamor got the order for building the vessel at a cost of Tk 25 crore.

He expressed hope that there will be policy supports like declaring the south bank of the Karnaphuli and banks of the Meghna and the Pashur at Mongla Port as shipyard zones, delivery of imported shipbuilding materials on priority basis, single digit rate of bank interest and 15 percent cash incentive for the shipbuilding industry to help this booming sector flourish further.

Sri Lanka goes

FROM PAGE 16
Fonseka, who was arrested by troops at his office in Colombo on Monday night, will face a court martial on charges of conspiring against the government.

Opposition parties, which had backed Fonseka's failed bid for the presidency demanded Wednesday the former army chief's immediate release, saying they feared for his life.

"We have good reason to believe that the extra-judicial arrest of General Fonseka may be followed up with assassination while in custody," they said in a joint statement.

Government supporters hurled stones at thousands of opposition activists demonstrating against the arrest of their defeated presidential candidate in Sri Lanka's capital yesterday.

Clashes began outside the country's Supreme Court, where opposition supporters gathered to protest the arrest of former army chief Sarath Fonseka, who was taken into custody by military police Monday on sedition charges.

The opposition says the detention is illegal and an attempt to harass them ahead of new parliamentary elections scheduled for April 8.

Fonseka's wife, Anoma, and a lawyer were allowed to visit him in detention at the naval headquarters in Colombo, a family member said.

The government has yet to spell out specific charges against Fonseka, but defence ministry spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters that he had been colluding with opposition politicians last year while still head of the army.