PHOTO: STAR

A banner titled 'Temporary office: Khalishpur Thana Awami League' hangs on the office building of Peoples Jute Mills Employees Union as local AL men occupied the house in Khulna city two weeks ago.

AL men occupy jute employees' office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Khalishpur unit of the ruling Awami League has occupied People's Jute Mills Employees' Union office at Khalishpur in Khulna city and made it a temporary office of the party.

Employees and workers of all jute mills in Khalishpur industrial belt have strongly protested the incident and appealed to the authorities concerned to free the two-storey union office from AL occupation.

Md Nurul Islam Molla, Convenor of the People's Jute Mills Property Protection Committee, said a group of leaders and activists of Awami League entered the union office at around 11:00pm on July 16 in the name of holding a party meeting. They hung a party signboard and left the building, keeping it under lock and key.

Molla, also the president of Khulna city unit of Freedom Fighters' Coordination Committee, said he had sent letters to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, State minister for Labour and Employment Begum Munnujan Sufian and KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque on Thursday, urging them to free the employees union office from forcible occupation by Khalishpur AL. "We are yet to get any positive response from them," Molla said.

When asked, President of Khalishpur AL unit Sanaullah Nannu said the building is being used as temporary office of the party. He denied allegation of forcible occupation of the union office.

"We will leave the building after reopening of the People's Jute Mills. My party does not believe in politics of illegal occupation of any building and business firm," he said.

Contacted, KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, also the president of AL Khulna city unit, said he will try to resolve the problem. "I do not support any illegal activities of leaders and activists of any political party."

The two-storey building of the union office was built in 1973 with money donated by the employees of the People's Jute Mill.

Classes stop as clouds gather in sky

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

"Our classes are closed when clouds gather in the sky. There is no roof on the damaged corrugated iron sheet-made house of our school," Aklima, a class five student of Jidaha Khas Government Primary School at Kalai village in Kalihati upazila of Tangail.

"It is hard for us to sit on the classrooms amid scorching heat of the sun as a recent storm blew off the roof of the school," Taslima, another student of class five, said as this correspondent visited the school recently.

Several other students of the school also told about various problems that they have been facing for long.

Jidaha Khas village is one of the small villages set up on the char (newly emerged landmass) areas on the Jamuna riverbed.

The area is vulnerable to erosion by the river that devoured houses of the school, including a brick-built one, for seven times, forcing the authorities to shift the school to newly constructed houses and sheds at different places of the village.

After the Jamuna devoured the whole of Jidaha Khas village two years ago, the school was reconstructed on an agricultural land at adjacent Kalai village through the united efforts of the schoolteachers and locals.

The corrugated iron sheet-made structure of the school surrounded by croplands give a deserted look as there is no tree or shed around it.

A few weeks ago, a storm blew off its roof, making it impossible to conduct classes during rain while on other days, teachers and students attend classes amid scorching heat of the sun.

Currently 260 students are enrolled in the primary school where regular attendance is around 200.

"We cannot provide proper education to the students due to various problems including lack of necessary classrooms and teachers. The roof of the school could not be repaired due to lack of fund. And so, we have to close the classes when there is black clouds in the sky," said Mohammad Ikbal Hossain, a teacher of the primary school.

During the rainy season, the school playground can hardly be used for play as only a little shower gives the ground the look of a water body.

Its level could not be raised due to lack of fund.

PHOTO: STAR

Classes are hampered as a storm blew off the roof of the corrugated iron sheet-made house of Jidaha Khas Government Primary School in Kalihati upazila of Tangail district a few weeks ago.

3 Shibir activists held in Kishoreganj

UNB, *Kishoreganj*

Three activists of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested at Satiadi village in Pakundia upazila on various charges on Sunday and Saturday.

The arrestees were identified as Mohammad Omar Faruk, 25, magazine secretary, district unit, Ershad Ullah, Pakundia upazila unit president and M Rafiqul Islam, 23, Patuabhanga union unit secretary.

Acting on a secret information, a team from Pakundia police station raided the house of Ershad Ullah at the village and arrested him on Sunday afternoon.

Earlier, the two other activists were arrested while they along with other activists were holding a clandestine meeting at the village on Saturday night. Sensing the presence of the law enforcers the other activists managed to escape.

Police also recovered some books and leaflets from their possession.

Bomb-like objects found again in Gopalganj

Rab recovers arms, bombs in dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police yesterday recovered two bomb-like objects from District and Sessions Judge Court premises in Gopalganj while Rab seized firearms and gunpowder from a passenger bus in Meherpur.

On Saturday, Rab recovered firearms, bombs and bullets from Jhenidah and Chuadanga districts.

Our Gopalganj correspondent reports: Police recovered two bomb-like objects from District and Sessions Judge Court premises yesterday morning.

Police said some people saw the bombs at the main gate of the court and informed the court officials and police at about 9:30am.

DB police rushed to the spot and recovered the two containers.

Later they detected those as fake bombs. Opening the containers wrapped with red tapes they found only sand, small nails in them, police said.

Earlier, police recovered three bomb-like objects from the premises of local press club and Govt Bangabandhu University adjacent to the judge court on July 23.

According to our Kushtia correspondent: Rab yesterday recovered firearms and gunpowder from a passenger bus at Gangni in Meherpur district.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab-6 from Meherpur stopped a Meherpur-bound passenger bus from Kushtia at Gangni bus stand at about 12:30pm and seized two shutter guns and 400gm gunpowder from under a seat of the bus.

However, none could be arrested in this connection.

In Jhenidah, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel in a drive seized five firearms, four bombs and seven bullets at Mahishkundu village in Sadar upazila on Saturday, reports our correspondent.

Acting on a tip-off that a gang of criminals were holding a secret meeting at a banana orchard of the village to commit a crime, a team of the elite force led by Squadron Leader M Alvi Ferdous Khan raided the area around midnight.

But sensing their presence the gang fled the scene leaving behind a bag containing the arms and ammunition.

Later, the Rab team recovered two shutter guns, one gun, two 9mm pistols, four bombs and five bullets from the bag.

In Chuadanga, Rab in a drive recovered four firearms and four bullets from Monohorpur Mathpara in Jibonnagar upazila early Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-6 team raided the area at about 3am and challenged a gang numbering 10/12.

At this, the criminals fled the scene leaving behind the arms and ammunition.

Later, the team recovered two pistols, one shutter gun, one pipe gun and four rounds of bullet from the spot.

CU STUDENTS CLASH WITH COPS, GO ON RAMPAGE

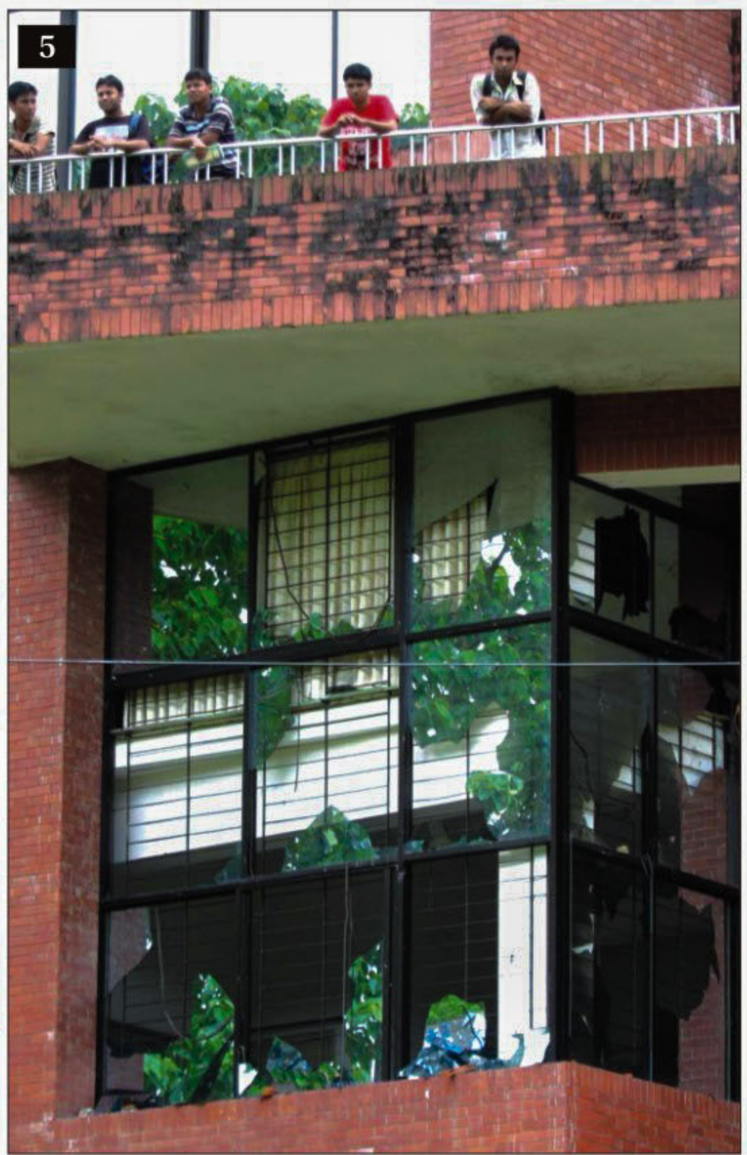

PHOTO: STAR

Violent incidents during yesterday's student agitation on Chittagong University campus protesting fee hike. Photos show. 1) Police clubbing a female student in front of the Shaheed Minar. 2) A woman giving a frustrated look sitting inside her damaged car. 3) Female students running helter-skelter during police attack. 4) Demonstration protesting fee hike. 5) IT Bhaban vandalised by the agitating students.

Fake fertiliser factories unearthed in 2 dists

STAFF NATIONAL DESK

Two fake fertiliser factories were unearthed in Jessore and Gaibandha districts on Sunday.

At least 400 sacks of adulterated fertilisers were seized from the two factories and ten people arrested during the drives.

In Jessore, a task force on Sunday noon raided a fake fertiliser factory and seized 250 sacks of adulterated fertiliser. During the drive, 10 workers of the factory were arrested and fake fertiliser-making material seized, reports a correspondent.

The task force led by deputy director of Agriculture Extension Department (AED) Jessore Biplob Kumar raided Mukta Plus Fertiliser Factory in Krisnabati village in Sadar upazila.

The team aided by administration officials, Rab and police seized 250 fake TSP, 20 bags of date expired cement and fake fertiliser-making materials from the spat.

The team also arrested 10 workers while the owner managed to escape. The arrestees are Saiful, Hakim, Jabbar, Siddiq, Jahangir, Rajib, Almas, Kadir, Rajan and Polash.

In Gaibandha, police unearthed a fake fertiliser factory at Gobindapur Gohatipara under Gobindganj municipality area early Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said, on a tip-off, they raided the house of Arif Mia, son of Badiuzzaman at about 3am and found the fake factory.

Police later seized 150 sacks of adulterated MOP fertiliser, two sacks of salt, six sacks of Indian low-quality fertiliser, a number of empty sacks, brick powder, packing and sewing machines from the spot.

But sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the factory owner and his workers managed to flee.

Locals alleged that Arif Mia since long had been selling adulterated fertiliser, mixing brick powder with low-quality Indian MOP fertiliser causing damage to standing crops.