

Hostel closed as Buddhist students clash

CU CORRESPONDENT

A Buddhist hostel for Chittagong University students was closed yesterday for the next seven days following a clash among the resident students that left three of them hurt Tuesday night.

Wounded are Ajit Chakma, masters student of sociology department; Shimon Chakma, 2nd year student of communication and journalism department; and Soheli Chakma, 2nd year student of dramatics department of CU.

Shimon and Soheli are now under treatment in Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said supporters of Parbatya Chatragram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) were locked into the clash following an altercation inside the hostel. Ajit supports PCJSS while Shimon and Soheli support UPDF, they said.

Some 78 Buddhist students of Chittagong University reside in the Buddhist hostel "Gobinda-Gunalankar Buddha Chhatrabash" of Bishwa Shanti Pagoda, near the university campus.



Students of Kadam Mobarak M Y High School form a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club yesterday to mourn the loss of 44 lives in Monday's road crash in Mirsarai of the district. Inset, a wailing mother of a victim along with her relatives.

PHOTO: STAR



UK, Australia condole death of schoolboys

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday expressed its deepest condolences for the tragic loss of young lives in Mirsarai of Chittagong.

British High Commissioner Stephen Evans personally conveyed the condolences of the British people to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting yesterday, says a press release.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and all those affected," says the release.

UNB, Dhaka adds: The Australian High Commission in Dhaka also expressed its deepest condolences for the tragic loss of young lives.

Chargé d'affaires of the Australian High Commission Tim Bolotnikoff, in a message said, "The Australian High Commission extends its deepest condolences to the people of Bangladesh."

"The loss of just one promising young life is devastating, but the scale of this tragedy will deeply affect hundreds of parents, relatives and friends. Our thoughts are now with the victims and their families," he said.

US embassy closed on July 18 for Shab-e-Barat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States Embassy in Bangladesh will remain closed on July 18 in observance of Shab-e-Barat, a national holiday of Bangladesh.

This closure includes Consular Section and American Center's Archer K Blood Library and Education USA, says a press release.

The Consular Section requests all non-immigrant, immigrant and diversity visa applicants with visa interviews on that day to come on Sunday (July 17) at the same interview time.

If that is not possible, they are requested to email at DhakaIV@state.gov for immigrant visa queries or DhakaDV@state.gov for diversity visa queries. For non-immigrant visa appointments, applicants are asked to contact Saimon Overseas at 880-02-9893964.

Emergency American Citizen Services are available at all times. The embassy can be reached at (880) (2) 885-5500 during regular hours. For after-hours emergency services, callers are asked to press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

DIALOGUE WITH BANGLADESH ISLAMI FRONT Checking poll expense a big challenge

Says chief election commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The major challenge of the Election Commission lies in checking campaigning expenditure in both parliamentary and local government elections, according to the commission head.

Despite repeated attempts, the commission cannot control excessive spending for election campaigning, as it is an invisible offence, said Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda. "It is not a problem only in

our country, but in most of the democracies around the world."

Dr Huda was speaking at a dialogue with Bangladesh Islami Front at the commission's secretariat in the city as part of its ongoing dialogue with the registered political parties.

About post-poll violence, the CEC said that in most cases, defeated parties attacked the winners after announcement of result. It indicates the contenders cannot tolerate accepting defeat. This culture should end for democracy to flourish, he added.

Election Commissioner M Sakawat Hussain stressed the need for reviewing existing laws to strengthen the commission.

He also opined for a new law that would direct four ministries including the home, LGRD and cooperatives, defence, and public administration to work in consultation with the EC during election period.

A 13-member delegation of Bangladesh Islami Front led by its Chairman MA Mannan recommended at the dialogue that the electronic voting machine

(EVM) be introduced in phases in different local government elections before the parliamentary election.

The EC on June 7 launched dialogues with the political parties for their opinion on some key issues like RPO; laws on demarcation of constituencies and appointment of election commissioners; and introduction of the EVM.

The main opposition BNP and its alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami did not join the EC dialogue.

End disparity first Urges HRC chairman

RU CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman said all kinds of discrimination have to be removed first in the country to ensure human rights.

He made the remark at a seminar on Present situation of human

rights and the role of Human Rights Commission at Senate Bhaban of Rajshahi University yesterday.

Mizanur said the state should avoid controversial behaviour with the people to ensure equal rights.

"The higher class people would not get punishment by mobile courts [but]

it always punishes lower class people," he alleged.

Law Faculty teacher Prof AB Siddik, Prof Habibur Rahlman, Dean Prof Anisur Rahman, among others, addressed the seminar organised by Law and Justice department of the university.



PHOTO: STAR

Two trucks turn upside down at Nayabazar of Gurudaspur upazila in Natore yesterday that killed three people.

Slovak entrepreneurs urged to invest in Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

Newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Slovak Republic Mosud Mannan presented his credential to President Ivan Gasparovic.

It said Mannan presented his credential on Tuesday when he held a 35-minute meeting with the Slovak president who expressed his satisfaction over the existing bilateral ties, says a press release yesterday.

The ambassador reminisced with respect the role of the people of Slovakia, the break away republic of formerly Czechoslovakia, during and after the War of Liberation of Bangladesh in 1971.

The Slovak president opined that exchange of visits at the highest level could help strengthening the relations.

Gasparovic agreed to support a proposal of the ambassador to provide scholarships for Bangladeshi students in different universities in Slovakia and fresh agreements on trade, education,

culture, science and technology and other areas of cooperation in line with the old pacts between Bangladesh and Czechoslovakia.

As the President Gasparovic pointed out his country's capacity in building different kind of machineries specially its long involvement in automobile assembling, the ambassador suggested involving the private sector and trade bodies to look into possibilities of having business in various fields.

He also urged the Slovak entrepreneurs to take advantage of the current liberal investment policy in Bangladesh.

The ambassador also urged the Slovak president for his country's support to Bangladesh candidature for the non-permanent seat in UN Security Council and on the issues of Climate Change.

Before presentation of the credential, a smartly turned-out contingent of the Slovak Army offered a guard of honour to the new Bangladesh envoy.

Road crashes kill 7

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Satkhira, Natore and Narsingdi yesterday.

A correspondent from Sirajganj reports: A motorcyclist was killed on the spot as the motorcycle hit the railing of Dabirganj Bridge on the Hatikumrul-Bonpara highway of Solenga upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Mohsin Hossain, 35, of Changta village under Ullahpara upazila.

Police sent the body to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy. Our Satkhira correspondent says: One young man was killed on the spot as a truck dashed him with a wall while it was parking in a bid to load rice from a rice mill at Patkelghata bazar in Tala upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Tuhin Sana, 24, son of Md Waliur Rahman Sana, of village Barobila of Tala upazila.

Our Natore correspondent adds: Three people were killed on the spot and another was injured in a head-on collision between a Dhaka-bound mango-laden truck from Chapainawabganj and a Natore-bound truck from Dhaka at Nayabazar in Gurudaspur upazila yesterday.

The deceased are driver of the Dhaka-bound truck Amin Hossain Manik, 25, helper Mizanur Rahman, 32, of Rahshahi and Abdul Mannan, 30, of Manikganj.

The injured was admitted to a local hospital. Our Narsingdi correspondent says: Two people were killed on the spot and two injured after a Sylhet-bound bus rammed a pick-up van on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Belabo upazila.

The deceased are Musalin, 27 and Belayet Hossain, 25. The injured were admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

Judicial service body decision protested

CU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Department of Law of Chittagong University (CU) formed a human chain in the university railway station area of the port city yesterday.

They organised the programme protesting the proposed decision of the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission that the candidates of the Bangladesh Judicial Service (BJS) examination must have enrolment in the Bangladesh Bar Council for two years.

They demanded the removal of the proposed decision.

Criticising the decision, they said it will be a bar to the many eligible Law students to be appointed in the judiciary.



PHOTO: STAR

The road between Matsya Bhaban and Shahbagh was choked up with traffic as the opposition BNP staged a hunger strike in front of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain
National Girl Child Advocacy Forum will organise a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will organise a seminar; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion
Thikana Bangladesh will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Memorial programme
Bangladesh Shipkaka Academy will organise a memorial programme; Venue: the academy; Time: 5:00pm.

Condolence programme
Padakkhep Bangladesh will hold a condolence programme; Venue: Liberation War Museum; Time: 5:00pm.

General meeting
Bangladesh Scouts will organise its general meeting; Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium; Time: 10:30am.