

LOCAL GOVT POLLS

The people are asserting themselves

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CITIZEN'S CHARTER

Why its implementation is failing in Bangladesh

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DOOMSDAY CLOCK

The indicator shows the world is one degree closer to nuke annihilation

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Universities in turmoil

JU teachers' body leader 'assaulted' by proctor; protests against high fees at Jagannath; No classes at Sust after BCL-Shibir clash; UGC worried

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission (UGC) yesterday expressed deep concern over the continuing violence at different universities.

At a full commission meeting, the UGC also condemned what it said were attempts by some quarters to destabilise the academic atmosphere in the universities. It urged everyone to act responsibly to maintain conditions conducive to higher education, said a press release by the commission.

The UGC statement comes in the wake of a suspension of academic activities at Jahangirnagar, Jagannath and Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

The situation at Jahangirnagar University has been tense since a student was killed by a Chhatra League faction, known as "VC group". To make matters worse, the proctor yesterday assaulted the president of the JU teachers association.

At Jagannath University, students have been agitating against a fee hike, thereby incurring the wrath of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student body associated with the ruling Awami League.

In Sylhet, classes at Shahjalal University were suspended yesterday following overnight clashes between activists of the BCL and Islami Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat student organisation.



Family members in tears wait for the bodies in front of Chittagong Medical College morgue yesterday after a freak fire claimed the lives of five people in a house in the city's Chandgaon yesterday. *Inset*, the wreckage of a microbus in the building's garage. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

JAGANNATH UNIV BCL men beat up protesters

KAILASH SARKAR

Bangladesh Chhatra League activists at Jagannath University yesterday allegedly assaulted students campaigning for a class boycott called to protest additional fees charged by the authorities.

At around 11:00am, as some 10 protesters went to JnU political science department and asked the

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ASSAULT ON PROFESSOR JU teachers to boycott classes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of teachers of Jahangirnagar University, announcing a boycott of all academic activities, has demanded the removal of the university's proctor, who allegedly assaulted a colleague of his yesterday.

Witnesses said Proctor Prof Arzu Miah grabbed the collar of Prof AA Mamun, president of Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association,



Prof AA Mamun

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SHAHJALAL UNIV Academic activities suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academic activities at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) were suspended yesterday following Wednesday's Chhatra League-Shibir clash that left 23 injured.

Sust Registrar Ishfaqul Hossain said, after an emergency meeting on the night of the incident,

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Five killed in Ctg building fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four of a family and a domestic help suffocated to death early yesterday after a fire broke out in a building in Chittagong's Chandgaon area.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at a department store on the ground floor of the four-storey building at about 2:45am, said fire fighters.

Plumes of smoke engulfed the entire building after a CNG-run microbus caught fire inside the building's garage

next to Bhai Bhai Department Store.

The victims are Jaber Mohammad Iqbal, 32, executive officer at Standard Bank's Chowdhuryhat brach, Iqbal's wife Tamanna Siddique, 25, his brother Modasser Iqbal, 20, nephew Shaon, 8, and domestic help Rumi, 28. They are from Kolaujan village in Chittagong.

The cause of their death was inhalation of thick smoke that spread fast to the top floor, said Jasim Uddin, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence

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Ghulam Azam still kept at prison cell

Medical board formed

KAILASH SARKAR

Ghulam Azam is unlikely to be moved any time soon to Dhaka Central Jail from the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. Former ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Ghulam Azam, 89, was arrested Wednesday at the International Crimes

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Supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami vandalise a police vehicle and a rickshaw near Dainik Bangla intersection in the capital yesterday, a day after former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam was arrested on charges of committing crimes against humanity. *Inset*, a policeman injured during the incident.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Jamaat men attack cops, vandalise vehicle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-Shibir activists, who were holding procession in the city's Motijheel area yesterday to protest the arrest of Ghulam Azam, in separate attacks injured at least five policemen and torched a police jeep.

Witnesses said the Jamaat-Shibir men staged the procession towards Baitul Mukarram from Shapla Chattar. Around 4:45pm, they pelted passing vehicles with brickbats near Fakirapool Petrol Pump.

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EC FORMATION

Zillur to take initiative on law making

RASHIDUL HASAN

President Zillur Rahman yesterday proposed to initiate enactment of a law in line with the constitution to form an election commission.

The offer came at his talks with the ruling Awami League on the last day of the dialogue with political parties on the formation of the next election commission.

The AL accepted the presidential proposal, party General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said.

Led by AL presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, a 15-member delegation took part in the talks held at the Bangabhaban.

Briefing journalists at the AL chief's Dhanmondi

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PM receives D Litt from Tripura University

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Agartala, Tripura

Tripura University yesterday conferred honorary D. Litt degree to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in recognition of her role in establishing multicultural democracy and peace in Bangladesh and in the region, and for her statesmanship and visionary leadership.

Indian Vice-President M Hamid Ansari, on behalf of the university,

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PHOTO ON PAGE 20

CIVIC RECEPTION AT AGARTALA

Hasina for joint venture power plant in Tripura

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Agartala, Tripura

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday proposed that India set up joint venture power plants in its northeastern state of Tripura with Bangladesh in the interest of both Delhi and Dhaka.

"The honourable chief minister has said he will give 100MW electricity to Bangladesh. I want to say, let's produce more electricity jointly at Palatana Power Plant in Tripura, through which both Bangladesh and India can be benefited," she said while addressing a civic reception at the Assam Rifles Ground here in Agartala.

Tens of thousands of people from all strata of life joined the reception hosted

by Agartala Municipal Council on behalf of the people of Tripura.

People carrying flags of Bangladesh and portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Sheikh Hasina stood in long queues along a 15 kilometre road from the state guest house to Assam Rifles Ground.

By around 2:00pm, the entire field turned into a human sea.

As Hasina stepped up to the dais within an hour, people gave her a warm welcome by applauding and waving the national flags of Bangladesh and India. In return, the prime minister waved at and saluted the crowd.

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War crimes prosecution falters again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The registrar of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday refused to receive the formal charges against Jamaat leader Kamaruzzaman when the prosecution showed up at the registrar's office with the charges an hour after working-hours ended.

Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman is accused of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

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