

15 injured in BCL-Shibir clash in Khulna

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Some 15 people were injured yesterday after pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Islami Chhatra Shibir activists of Khulna Alia Madrasa unit clashed on the campus in Khulna city.

Students were asked to vacate the institution's two halls and exams were suspended till further notice while police were deployed on the campus, said the madrasa Principal Mowlana Abul Khaer Md Zakaria.

A BCL activist, Fahaduzzaman, a student of class nine, said the madrasa unit Shibir President Rahmatullah, with his followers, attacked him and his friends while the latter were drinking water from a water dispenser of a hall.

Refuting the allegation, Rahmatullah said BCL activists swooped on Shibir activists following an altercation over drinking water from the dispenser.

Witnesses said the BCL and Shibir activists, armed with iron rods and sticks, attacked each other around 1:00pm.

The BCL men also vandalised some rooms belonging to Shibir activists and broke the window panes and gates of a hall. Some teachers were also injured when they tried to bring the situation under control, they added.

The madrasa teachers and governing body called an emergency meeting and a seven-member probe committee was formed led by Sheikh Md Abdullah to submit a report on the clash in three days.

VISA FOR INDONESIA

Process eased for Bangladeshis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indonesia has decided to exclude Bangladesh from the list of countries requiring background check and prior approval before providing visa.

Outgoing Indonesian Ambassador Zet Mirzal Zainuddin informed Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday that earlier Bangladeshi nationals had to go through a background check by the Indonesian immigration and obtain prior approval before issuance of visa from the embassy in Dhaka.

Considering Bangladesh-Indonesia relations and good track record of Bangladeshi nationals abroad, Indonesia eased visa processing for them, he said during his farewell call on the foreign minister.

The ambassador said Indonesia has decided to offer scholarships to Bangladeshi students for diploma, undergraduate and master's programmes.

Dipu Moni requested the ambassador to encourage Indonesian businessmen to import more products from Bangladesh.

Dr Kamal for removal of Buet VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday demanded that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina moves to remove the Buet vice chancellor immediately.

"People will not forgive you [Hasina] if you damage this institution [Buet]. Wherever you stay, people will find out and they will try you," he told a discussion organised by Bicolpo Jubodhara, youth wing of Bicolpodhara Bangladesh (BDB), in the capital.

Kamal Hossain said he would demonstrate in front of the prime minister's residence to press home his one-point demand for the Buet VC's removal.

Former president Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, also president of BDB, and noted

freedom fighter Kader Siddique supported Dr Kamal's demand and called for waging a tough and united movement against the government's "misdeeds".

They also termed "vulgar" the prime minister's remarks about Buet teachers and students' protest-collecting and pouring blood.

On Saturday, the prime minister commented that such a protest [a man collecting blood from a woman] was nothing but distasteful.

Classes have been suspended for about two months at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) after the teachers and students launched a protest demanding removal of VC Prof Nazrul Islam and Pro-VC M Habibur Rahman.

Classes at Buet may resume on Saturday,

WB concerned over deforestation in Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) has expressed deep concern as deforestation is alarmingly increasing in the country.

The country has only 17.8 percent or 2.56 million hectares of forest at present and such rapid reduction of forests lead to soil erosion, serious landslides and loss of biodiversity.

The issue has come to light during a meeting with the forest department officials concerned at the WB Dhaka office last week.

Conversion of forest lands for settlement, agriculture and commercial purposes have alarmingly increased deforestation and such decline and deterioration of forests significantly reduces the opportunity to mitigate climate change, said the WB.

If total forest-cover continues to decline in Bangladesh, the potential for forests' carbon sequestration will be reduced in coming years, it fears.

To face the catastrophe, the WB also has suggested undertaking afforestation and reforestation drive to improve forest management and development of alternative livelihoods of forest dependent communities to address the challenges of vulnerability to climate change in Bangladesh.

In this regard, Mohammed Yunus Ali, chief conservator of forest (CCF) under the Forest Department, told the news agency yesterday that Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) has recently approved the allocation of US\$35 million for the "Bangladesh Climate Resilient

ILLEGAL MEDICINE FACTORY Owner sentenced to imprisonment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sentenced the owner of Holy Drugs Laboratories in the capital to two years imprisonment for producing drugs without taking permission from the Directorate of Drug Administration.

The court also directed Gias Uddin Khan, 58, owner of the factory, to destroy different types of unauthorised medicines of the factory, said a press release.

AHM Anwar Pasha, executive magistrate of the mobile court accompanying Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), passed the order while Dr Morshed of Rab-1, and Nurul Islam, assistant director of the drug administration, were also present.

In a drive at Block No-F in Banani area, the mobile court found that the factory was producing and selling 20 types of drugs without prior permission from the drug administration.

On May 9 this year, the drug administration directed the factory to stop its production and distribution, but the company continued.

However, Parvin Begum, an employee of the company, told The Daily Star that they were authorised to produce



Pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League activists stomp on and kick a pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist in front of the Institute of Education and Research in Dhaka University yesterday. JCD activists were waiting to accompany their new central and DU unit leaders to a call on the vice-chancellor when the attack took place. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Mintu, Jahangirnagar University's assistant registrar, passed away at a Savar hospital in the capital's outskirts yesterday. He was 43.

The former cultural secretary of JU Central Students' Union left behind his wife, daughter, mother and three sisters to mourn his death. He was buried in his village residence in Rajbari district.

JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain expressed deep sorrow and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family, says a press release.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 20th death anniversary of Mushfeq us Saleheen, an eminent banker of the country.

Saleheen was the first acting governor of Bangladesh Bank after the liberation of the country.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for his departed soul.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL-1 Defence witness claims Sayedee innocent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A defence witness yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee was not involved in crimes against humanity committed in Parerhaat, Pirojpur during the Liberation War of 1971.

Nurul Haque Hawladar, the witness, also refuted the claim of freedom fighter Mahbulul Alam, a prosecution witness, that his house [Mahbulul's] was looted in Tengrakhal, Pirojpur during the war.

He said Mahbulul Alam was a nephew of one of his in-laws. "In the last 40 years, I had not heard that their house was looted." Mahbulul was about 11 years old at that time and not a freedom fighter, he added.

As the first prosecution witness, Mahbulul testified against Sayedee on December 7, 2011. The Jamaat leader is facing 20 charges of crimes against humanity.

Nurul said the peace committee and Razakar--auxiliary forces of the Pakistani occupation army--had set up two camps in Parerhaat. "I did not see Sayedee visiting the camps," he said.

Nurul, now 60, who gave his deposition and was cross-examined yesterday, used to live in Parerhaat during the Liberation War. He claimed that no incidents of rape occurred in Parerhaat at that time.

He also said Hindus went to Moulanas on their own and got converted to Islam to save their lives. After independence they went back to their religion, he added.

When the tribunal Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq asked him if he witnessed those incidents, Nurul said he was not there and that he heard it from locals.

The proceeding was adjourned till today.



BTRC chief Zia Ahmed passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Maj Gen (retd) Zia Ahmed died of cardiac arrest at United Hospital in the capital early yesterday. He was 58.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Garrison Mosque in Dhaka Cantonment and the second one at Baridhaha DOHS Mosque.

Buried at Banani Military Graveyard, Zia Ahmed left his wife, two sons and a daughter to mourn him.

Ahmed was appointed the head of the telecom regulator in February 2009. The much-hyped 2G-licence renewal of mobile operators Grameenphone, Banglalink, Robi and Citycell was completed during his tenure.

Ahmed was forced into retirement by the BNP-led government when he was a brigadier general. Later, the ruling Awami League government honoured him by raising his rank to major general in 2009. He served in Mozambique as a United Nations Peacekeeper.

Born on July 26, 1954 in Sujanagar thana of Pabna, Zia Ahmed was the son of famous litterateur Sarder Jainuddin Ahmed. He studied at Tejgaon Polytechnic High School and Notre Dame College in Dhaka.

In a condolence message, President Zillur Rahman said Ahmed played a remarkable role in making the country's mobile phone companies people-oriented as well as increasing revenue from the telecom sector.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other ministers expressed deep shock at his death.

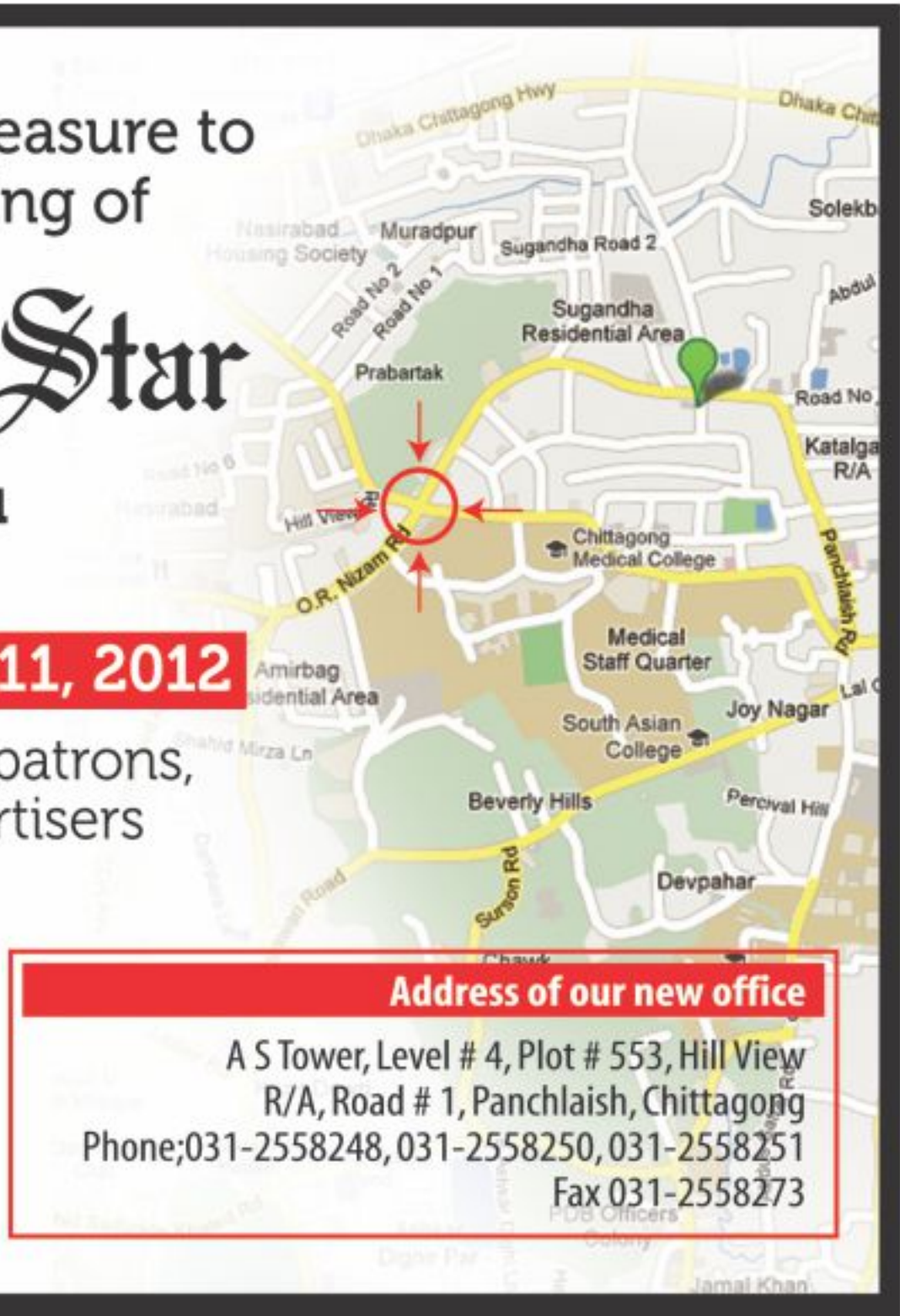
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