

## BCL activists swoop on JCD men at RU

10 injured

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 JCD activists were injured in an attack by some BCL men at Rajshahi University yesterday when the JCD men tried to bring out a procession on the campus.

Enraged by the assault, activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) vandalised five vehicles on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway, triggering traffic misery for an hour, said Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station.

Of the injured, RU unit JCD convener Arafat Reza Ashiq, joint-convener Delwar Hossain and activist Papon Ahmed were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with stab injuries. The others received primary treatment at different clinics in the city.

Witnesses said armed with sharp weapons, a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men led by its RU unit vice-president Akheruzzaman Takim and organising secretary Touhidul-Tuhin pounced on the JCD activists when they were preparing to bring out a procession at the main gate of the university around 11:00am.

The pro-BNP student body had planned the procession to celebrate the fourth anniversary of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's release from jail. The incident occurred a day after at least 10 JCD men sustained injuries in an attack by some BCL activists at Dhaka University.

Contacted, JCD leader Arafat complained that the BCL men assaulted them in the presence of police.

He demanded resignation of RU Proctor Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria for his alleged inaction during the attack.

However, Abu Saleh Muhammad Shah Golam Mahmud, deputy commissioner of police (Rajshahi East), claimed that the law enforcers saved the JCD men from the BCL assault.

Talking to The Daily Star, BCL president Ahmed Ali denied the allegations of the student front's involvement in the attack.

Additional police force was deployed on the campus to avoid a law and order situation.

## Sugar export

FROM PAGE 1

At a meeting in the secretariat, the cabinet committee on economic affairs approved a proposal from the commerce ministry to end the embargo.

"We have decided to start exporting sugar as its supply has exceeded the demand," Commerce Minister Ghulam Muhammad Quader told The Daily Star.

The government is permitting refiners to export sugar after the private companies have almost doubled their production capacities, he said, adding state-run millers also have enough sugar in stock.

Permits would be issued on a case-by-case basis, the ministers said.

Exporters will have to take permission from the commerce ministry for each consignment meant for export.

Bangladesh that imports raw sugar to run its refineries may have a surplus of about 2 million tonnes to export, according to sources in the industry.

The country consumes 1.4 million tonnes of sugar annually, while six refineries have the capacity to process 3.58 million tonnes, according to Bangladesh Sugar Refiners' Association.

The refiners have expanded their capacity in the last couple of years to catch the export market.

Refiners say they are increasingly facing losses due to recent currency depreciation, a rise in energy prices and high bank interest rates. Besides, the sugar price in Bangladesh is lower compared to that in other South Asian countries, they say.

They [refiners] were facing problems due to the ban on export, said the minister.

He, however, said the government would again impose the ban if the sugar price in the local markets went up abnormally.

The government banned sugar export in February 2010 to curb a surge in the price and to improve domestic supplies.



An attempt to knock down Pakshi Resort, built occupying a piece of railway land in Pabna, yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

## Minister orders

FROM PAGE 20

Officer of Pakshey and Railway Magistrate Kiron Chandra Roy yesterday began demolishing the resort around 11:00am by deploying 100 day labourers and a bulldozer.

While the demolition was in progress, the authorities of Pakshey Resort showed an advocate certificate of the HC stay order collected from their lawyers, who had moved the petition. They asked the railway team to refrain from evicting them from the land for six months.

The railway team, however, decided to go on with the demolition as they had not received any copy of the court order.

The drive stopped around 11:50am when Railways Secretary Mahub-ur-Rahman called over the phone and asked the railway magistrate to postpone the demolition. By then, the main entrance, office room and lobby of the resort had been demolished.

"We began the drive as per an eviction notice served to the resort authorities on September 3. But the railways secretary asked me to stop it referring to a High Court order. The secretary said he had not received any copy of the order, but he had come to know about it from the deputy commissioner (DC) of Pabna," said the railway magistrate.

"The secretary said the decision in this regard would be taken after verifying the court order," added the magistrate.

Railway officials in Pabna and at the Rail Bhavan in Dhaka expressed surprise over the railway secretary's and the DC's roles that went in favour of the land grabber.

Earlier on the day when the demolition started, the resort authorities took the advocate certificate of the

court order to the Pabna DC and requested him to do something to save the resort, a railway official in Pabna told The Daily Star.

"The DC immediately called the railway secretary and informed him of the stay order. This move has saved the illegal structure yet again," added the official.

He said the railway had previously made several attempts to demolish the resort but failed due to the intervention of influential people.

Railway Magistrate Kiron Chandra Roy said that following the directive from the railways minister the authorities had served a notice on the resort administration last week asking them to remove the structure by September 11.

Resort owner Shanzu, however, denied receiving any notice. But railway sources claimed that resort manager Abul Kalam had received it.

Meanwhile, Hamidur Rahman, counsel for Shanzu, served a legal notice on the general manager of the BR west zone on September 5 asking him to stop the demolition. In the notice, the counsel claimed that the resort was built on private property.

"Someone misled the minister about the structure during his visit. It is not an illegal structure. This is not an original piece of land of the railway. My client established the resort on the property of Abdul Mannan as he [Mannan] permitted Shanzu to build it," said the legal notice.

About 5,000 acres of railway land has long been occupied by various influential persons all over the country. Bangladesh Railway has taken several attempts over the years but failed to recover any land.

## JS body to probe

FROM PAGE 20

parliament yesterday. "Therefore, we want to examine the allegation of irregularities in [fertiliser import] at a meeting on September 16."

Tofail also asked the industries minister not to offload the fertiliser from Chittagong Sea Port until the committee holds its meeting.

The fertiliser was brought from Vietnam, although as per conditions stipulated in the tender it was supposed to be imported from China, he said.

In the face of criticism, Industries Minister Dilip Barua told the House that his ministry would not give permission for offloading and use the fertiliser if it proved to be substandard or contaminated.

During the questioning session, AL lawmaker Abdul Mannan enquired the of the industries minister about a newspaper report on the scam centring on the fertiliser import.

Mannan said an Indian company had obtained the work order for supplying over 43,000 tonnes of fertiliser to Bangladesh.

"But the company supplied the fertiliser which the Vietnam government had rejected, citing its poor quality. With the association of some rogue officials of the industries ministry, the Indian company supplied the contaminated fertiliser to Bangladesh," he alleged.

The alleged corruption came to the fore after a newspaper published a report on it this week, Mannan said, demanding the government refuse to receive the fertiliser.

"The imported fertiliser

was stored in the Chittagong Sea Port area for over seven months and maximum portion of it has turned into solid-like object," he said.

In response, Industries Minister Dilip Barua said following the newspaper report, his ministry had formed a five-member expert team to examine the quality of the fertiliser. "The team in its report recommended that the fertiliser can be used."

Tofail, a veteran politician, asked the minister to ensure the presence of the five at the September 16 meeting.

The expert body is comprised of a Buet teacher, a joint secretary and three officials of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI).

## BD women

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh women's team after they had defeated Ireland last month.

Salma smashed four boundaries and one six during her unbeaten 14-ball 27 as the home side romped to 75 for three, eclipsing the revised target with five balls to spare. The target was revised to 73 runs in 13 overs due to rain after the visitors scored 105 for six in their share of 20 overs.

Captain Salma also shone with the leather as she picked up two wickets for 21 runs in her four-over spell.

Susan Benade was top-scorer for South Africa with a 30-ball 37 that contained two fours and three sixes.

Bangladesh, who lost the one-day series 2-1, play their second T20 International today at the same venue.

## Gas export

FROM PAGE 1

The PSC for offshore block bidding round 2012 was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs yesterday at a meeting chaired by planning minister AK Khandker.

"Now that the PSC has been approved, we hope to finalise documents and float an offshore block bidding by October," said a top official of Petrobangla.

He mentioned that Petrobangla has already drafted an acreage map of 12 offshore blocks including three deep sea ones opposite the Myanmar maritime boundary.

As part of the bid, Petrobangla plans to hold a pre-bid meeting in Dhaka inviting interested oil and gas companies.

"We had a lack of serious participants in the 2008 offshore block bidding. Most of the bidders lacked confidence because of the maritime boundary dispute with Myanmar and India. Now that we have resolved the Myanmar boundary issue, we are cautiously optimistic about a good participation this time," said the Petrobangla official.

The model was modified in the light of the experience of 2008 offshore block bidding as well as the present international trend, and protection of environment.

In the new PSC, some major changes from the 2008 model PSC include fixing the floor price of high sulphur fuel oil (HSFO) at \$100 a barrel as against \$70 previously, and ceiling price at \$200 from \$180, considering the international oil price trend.

The new PSC also includes an offshore gas structure of Kutubdia discovered earlier but left out of the previous offshore bidding. Kutubdia structure is complex and segmented,

making it a risky and costly exploration or development zone.

Considering the high oil price in the world market, the new PSC asks the contractors to pay Petrobangla's PSC Research Fund US 10 cents per barrel instead of three cents previously on the contractor's share of profit gas and condensate every year.

The operating contractor will have to follow a certain direction to change ownership of a block. There is no specific guideline now.

To finalise this model, two inter-ministerial meetings were held at the energy ministry in February and April. The draft was then vetted by the law ministry.

Following the 2008 block bidding, the government could sign just one PSC with US Company Conoco Phillips to explore two deep sea blocks -- 280 km off Chittagong.

Petrobangla sees its next bid as a test case. "Based on the response that we get from the upcoming bid, we can tell the government whether our model PSC is competitive and attractive enough and whether we need to put some more incentives to attract oil companies," said a Petrobangla source.

He notes that banning gas export will not be a disincentive. "The present PSC has the provision of exporting gas in the form of liquefied petroleum gas (LNG). To export LNG, the bidder needs to find a massive field and invest several billions of dollars.

That provision is almost as good as a total ban," the source said, adding, "On the other hand, the oil companies are getting a better sale price offer under the new PSC, which is a big incentive."

## HC directive

FROM PAGE 1

jointly filed the petition on Monday with the HC as public interest litigation. They also demanded reformation of the finance and banking system to protect public money.

Bangladesh Bank in a recent investigation found that the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch of Sonali Bank had lent the Hall-Mark Group and five other companies more than Tk 3,500 crore between 2010 and May this year on forged documents. Of the amount, Hall-Mark alone had taken away Tk 2,667 crore.

The lawyers sought a court order to set special duties and responsibilities for the banking division of the finance ministry and the board of directors of all banks, including Bangladesh Bank, and to make them accountable for their deeds.

Besides Sonali Bank, irregularities and corruption also took place at 25 other banks, which have shaken public confidence in the banking system, the trio said.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith had said his ministry was not responsible for the loan scam and the Sonali Bank board of directors had also refused to take the responsibility.

So, a judicial commission should be constituted to dig up the facts behind the scam, the petitioners said.

Secretary to the banking division of the finance ministry, Bangladesh Bank governor, chairman of the board

of directors of Sonali Bank and its managing director have been made respondents to the petition.

Petitioners' lawyer Belal Husain Joy told reporters that they would move the petition for hearing before the HC as it reopens on September 30 after the ongoing annual vacation.

## Mourning

FROM PAGE 20

to cancer-affected children and their families in the country.

Thus was ASHIC (A Shelter for Helpless Ill Children) born. For her, it was an opportunity to keep Ashiq alive in the memory, indeed in the imagination. Salma was on her way to transforming her personal tragedy into an exercise aimed at promoting the public weal.

ASHIC provides counselling, accommodation and temporary finances for treatment to children waging a battle against cancer. These photos, taken at a shelter home of the foundation at House 54 on Dhanmondi's Central Road, show the birthday celebrations of one of the children; a volunteer playing with a kid; and a ceremony to honour the donors of ASHIC.

But for Salma, there is yet a steep hill to climb. As she told this photographer, she needs much more assistance to go on with her mission, to carry it forward and so touch the future through touching the lives of the very young and the very innocent.

## Bangladeshi shot dead in S Arabia

REUTERS, Riyadh

A Bangladeshi man was shot dead in the Awamiya district of eastern Saudi Arabia on Monday, police and activists said, amid conflicting accounts of how he was killed.

The shooting took place in an area where clashes between security forces and protesters from the country's Shia Muslim minority have caused 12 deaths since November.

Since early last year, some Saudi Shias have staged demonstrations over what they describe as persistent discrimination in a country dominated by a puritanical strain of Sunni Islam, a charge the government denies.

There have also been violent confrontations leading to deadly shootings, described by the authorities as exchanges of fire after security forces came under attack.

Activists have previously said that some of those killed were shot by police during peaceful demonstrations.

Saudi police said in a statement late on Monday that the Bangladeshi man was driving when his car was hit by bullets fired at two security patrol cars.

The police statement said the car was one of two vehicles that had been hit by bullets and that it caught fire, but that no one else had been wounded.

However, an activist in Awamiya gave a different account of the incident, saying the Bangladeshi man had been killed by gunfire when security forces stormed a house while trying to arrest a wanted man.

There are more than 8 million foreigners in Saudi Arabia, many of whom work as drivers in a country where it is illegal for women to get behind the wheel.

## Kidnapped businessman rescued in Ctg 6 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday rescued a businessman five hours into his abduction and arrested his six kidnapers from the city's North Kattoli.

Mohammad Joynal Abedin, 28, the rescued businessman owns a shop at Golam Rasul Market at Reazuddin Bazar in the city.

The miscreants entered Joynal's shop around 11:00am and took him forcibly to an embankment at North Kattoli, Nizam Uddin, sub-inspector (SI) of Kotwali Police Station, told The Daily Star.

There they beat him up and forced him to sign on a blank stamped paper. They also called his family and demanded a ransom of Tk 50 thousand, police said.

"On receiving complaint from Joynal's family, police launched a drive and rescued the victim around 4:30pm and arrested the six kidnapers", SI Nizam said.

The arrestees are Haider Ali, 29, Omar Nasim, 28, Emaz Uddin, 24, Moslem Uddin, 24, Abul Kashem, 20, and Saifur Rahman, 22.

Joynal is undergoing treatment at Chittagong General Hospital.

A case has been filed in this connection.

## Collaborators

FROM PAGE 20

had targeted people irrespective of their religious and national identity, believers of Bengali nationalism and freedom seekers, she observed.

In her hour-long deposition, she described Operation Searchlight launched by the Pakistan army on March 25, 1971 as one of the heinous massacres in the world history.

To reinforce her argument, Sultana mentioned the killings of teachers and students of Dhaka University, burning down of Iqbal Hall, attack on Ramna Kali Mandir (temple), arson attacks in Hindu majority areas, including Shakhari Bazar, Rayer Bazar, Hatkhola and Wari and attacks on police and Bangladesh Rifles at Razarbagh Police Lines and Pilkhana respectively.

"Mass killings were being committed in similar fashion throughout the country from March 25 to December 16," she said, adding that those were not stray incidents.

"Those who extended active support and assistance to the Pakistani occupation force are equally liable for the same crimes," she observed.

Newspapers and radio were the source of information, Sultana said and added, "The Jamaat's top leader and one of the top leaders of Peace Committee Ghulam Azam was the mastermind of this support and assistance [to the invaders]."

"I can recall clearly that Ghulam Azam launched a tirade against the freedom fighters and gave support to everything the Pakistani army did while he was in Lahore on August 23 and in Hyderabad on August 31, 1971. He also called upon everyone to annihilate the freedom fighters."

She told the tribunal that two members of the Jamaat were perhaps included in the cabinet of the then East Pakistan in September 1971.

"At the reception programme of the two members Ghulam Azam said the members had been included in the cabinet with the same goal as that behind the formation of the Razakar force and Peace Committee," she added.

Raising a question herself whether the peace committee took part in armed operations she said they had sometimes done so.

"It is known to everybody that Razakars possessed weapons," she said.

"We also observed that on December 1, 1971 when independence was imminent, even then Ghulam Azam, following a meeting with Yahya Khan, at a press conference said the freedom fighters should be brought to book and Razakars were enough for it," Sultana continued.

## Ziaul, Ishraq

FROM PAGE 20

against those involved in the failed putsch.

At the meeting, army high-ups informed the committee that they had stepped up efforts to catch Ishraq, a non-resident Bangladeshi businessman, and Major Ziaul -- two of the coup plotters.

Ishraq is now in Thailand and Ziaul on the run.

The committee urged the authorities to take immediate steps to bring Ishraq back to Bangladesh in consultation with the Thai government, the sources added.

At a press briefing on January 19, the Bangladesh Army disclosed that it had foiled an "attempt to overthrow the present democratic government."

At the instigation of some non-resident Bangladeshis, a band of religious fanatics, comprised of mid-rank officers and their retired colleagues, had been involved in the botched attempt, said the army.

A parliament secretariat press release yesterday said the committee had asked the naval headquarters to come up with a detailed proposal to form a national maritime commission for carrying out all activities in the maritime area.

The committee members, chiefs of the three services and other officials were present at the meeting.

Ghulam Azam to the Pakistan army, she pointed out.

"We witnessed the brutality of Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams through their killing of intellectuals on December 10-14 in 1971," she added.

Ghulam Azam led the philosophical and strategic planning of these forces -- Peace Committee, Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams, she mentioned.

Sultana Kamal concluded her testimony with the expectation that the war criminals would be befittingly punished through trial.

As the prosecution asked her whether Ghulam Azam was present at the tribunal, she replied in the affirmative.

Ghulam Azam, facing 62 specific charges of crimes against humanity committed during the War, was present at the tribunal for about one and a half hours.

During cross-examination Sultana said she had submitted a copy of the ordinance relating to Razakars at the building of the tribunal in 2010 when the building was used as the office for both prosecutors and investigators.

In reply to another question the witness said she had read about the formation of the Razakar force in the Purbadesh. She, however, said she did not have a copy of that issue of the newspaper.

She also said she found the name of Motiur Rahman Nizami as the chief of Al-Badr at the beginning of the 1980s.

In response to a question from defence counsel Mizanul Islam, Sultana Kamal said she knew Nizami was in a pinnacle position of the Jamaat at the time but could not mention his party post exactly.

Mizanul asked her whether religion-based political parties were for the oneness of Pakistan in 1971 for religious purposes.

"Yes," she replied, adding, the Jamaat was one of those parties.

The tribunal adjourned proceedings until today.

CORRECTION

There was an error in our report on Sultana Kamal's deposition yesterday. We mentioned her brother Shahed Kamal's name regarding an occurrence in 1971. It should have been that of another of her brothers, Dr Sajed Kamal. We regret the error.

## Interns

FROM PAGE 20

the strike to press home their five-point demand, including punishment of the BCL men who attacked two of their fellows.

"We will go back to work only when our demands are met," Golam Kibria Chowdhury, president of the interns association, told The Daily Star.

It all began around 3:00pm when some BCL men of Islamia Degree College swooped on intern doctor Mizanur Rahman in front of an operation theater of the CMCH, witnesses said.

The attackers alleged that Mizanur was "slow" in treating one of their fellow activists who had been injured in a clash with BCL activists of Government City College earlier in the day.

When the BCL's CMCH unit president Sohel Parvez Sumon went to Mizanur's rescue, the attackers beat him up as well, police said.

Mizanur said Islamia Degree College BCL activist SM Karim was admitted to the hospital around 2:30pm with some injuries.

"According to the hospital rules, only two persons are allowed to accompany a patient but there were more than 40 people with him [Karim]. When I asked them to leave the room, they first beat me and then the Chhatra League president [Sohel] of the hospital," he added.

On hearing the news of the attack, general students of the college rushed to the scene with sticks and rods and chased the attackers out of the college.

Agitated students stopped journalists from entering the CMCH building and hurled abuse at them.

Panchlaish police brought the situation under control around 4:00pm.