

ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS

Condemnations keep pouring in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of 350 teachers of Dhaka University yesterday protested the violent attacks on Buddhist temples and houses in different parts of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong on September 29 and 30.

Condemning the attack in a joint statement, they, under the banner of pro-liberation war and non-communal teachers, demanded exemplary punishment for the culprits and urged the government to take necessary steps to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Arefin Siddique and Pro-VC (education) Prof. Nasreen Ahmad, among others, were signatories.

In another development, a 16-member delegation of lawyers, led by noted jurist and Convener of Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parshad M Amir-UI Islam, will visit violence-stricken areas tomorrow.

The delegation will exchange their views

with victims and locals during the visit. They will hold a press conference at Cox's Bazar Press Club to reveal their findings.

The team also will prepare a probe-report on the issue following the visit, said a press release.

Bangladesh Bar Council Member Syed Rezaur Rahman, Barrister Tania Amir and Supreme Court lawyer Mansurul Haque Chowdhury, among others, will join the team.

Meanwhile, Shuddhananda Mahathero, president of Bangladesh Buddha Kristi Prachar Sangha, urged community members to keep inter-religious harmony among neighbours.

In a statement, he said the government has been with the Buddhists and the Buddhist community leaders are communicating with the high-ups of the government to resolve the issue.

Shuddhananda Mahathero, however, demanded proper compensation and strict action against the culprits of the attacks.

Caretaker govt public demand

Say Dr Kamal, Badruddoza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikolpodhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury and eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called upon the country's young people and students to become united to wage a movement against the government to build a better future for the coming generation.

They also underscored the need for creating such an environment so that the government agrees to accept people's demand for holding the next national election under a caretaker government.

The two eminent personalities were addressing a discussion meeting titled "Is it necessary to redefine 40 years of student politics?" organised by Bikolpo Chhatradhara, student front of the BDB, at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

Mentioning that former prime minister Khaleda Zia had agreed to hold polls under a caretaker government amid people's demand, Badruddoza Chowdhury said, "We will have to wage the same movement so that present Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also accepts the demand."

Gonoforum President Kamal Hossain said no autocratic government could sustain in the past amid united movement of youths, students and professionals.

2 ACC bodies to probe graft in railway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday formed two three-member committees to probe into alleged irregularities in railway department's recruitment process.

ACC Deputy Director Faiyaz Alam will lead his team comprising Assistant Director Rashedul Reza and Deputy Assistant Director Nazim Uddin.

Deputy Director Nasir Uddin will lead the other team, which also comprises Assistant Director Rashedul Reza and Deputy Assistant Director Hafiz Uddin Ahmed.

The earlier probe committee, formed for probing recruitment irregularities, was dissolved as a member of the committee went abroad for treatment, said ACC sources.

In October and November of 2010, Bangladesh Railway (east zone) ran seven advertisements for recruiting more than 3,200 employees in 25 categories. The recruiting procedure continued until April this year.

The anti-graft watchdog has so far investi-

gated the recruitment done under six categories and found three officials of the railway department involved in altering tabulation and answering sheets of the examinees, ACC Director Moniruzzaman told reporters yesterday at the commission's office in the capital.

The categories are fuel checker, tool keeper, ticket issuer, assistant chemist, assistant loco master, and trade apprentice.

On September 13, the commission filed six cases against Yusuf Ali Mridha, a former general manager who has been suspended over a Tk 30 lakh scandal in April, Hafizur Rahman, additional chief of mechanical engineering, and Golam Kibria, senior welfare officer, in connection with recruitment irregularities in the six categories.

SM Rashedul Reza, assistant director of ACC, filed the cases with Chittagong Kotwali Police Station.

The team led by Faiyaz will investigate 10 categories while the other team will investigate the remaining nine categories, said sources.



PHOTO: COURTESY

A person has his eyes checked by a doctor at an eye camp at the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday. Dhaka Urban Comprehensive Eye Care Project organised the free eye check-up to mark World Sight Day 2012. Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, MP and the project coordinator, M Nurun Nabi, among others, observed the screening programme.

DUCECP provides free eye care for slum dwellers

METRO DESK

Dhaka Urban Comprehensive Eye Care Project's (DUCECP) facilities for some five million slum dwellers of Dhaka will play a significant role in the country's overall development, said lawmaker Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday.

He was addressing the inauguration of a daylong free eye camp for slum dwellers organised by DUCECP and supported by Sightsavers and Standard Chartered Bank in the capital's Karwan Bazar.

The camp is part of a weeklong special programme organised by DUCECP to celebrate World Sight Day 2012.

Yesterday some 612 slum dwellers were examined and 58 patients referred to Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital, one of DUCECP's partner hospitals, for cataract surgeries.

US wants tighter military ties with Bangladesh

Says US Pacom Commander Samuel J Locklear

UNB, Dhaka

The Pacific Command (Pacom) of the United States wants to build closer "military-military relations" with the Bangladesh Navy to fulfil its mandate to ensure better security environment in the Asia Pacific, said visiting Commander of the US Pacom Admiral Samuel J Locklear yesterday.

Asia Pacific is the region that the US will be giving the most priority over any other in the coming days for the existence of some critical lines of communication and for the existence some of the largest economies of the world, he said.

The strategic involvement is not only about military relations, but also about the relations between governments and economies, he added.

"As I look across this part of the world... Bangladesh is a cornerstone for the future security of the world," Locklear said while responding to queries by journalists at a media roundtable organised by the US Embassy at a hotel in the capital.

Earlier, a delegation of the US Pacom led by its commander Locklear met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office and discussed various issues of mutual interests.

The Pacom commander said they have a plan to observe over the next five years what progress is made in the military-military relations between the forces of both the countries through the completion of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise.

Earlier last month, the US and Bangladesh navies jointly conducted the 2nd CARAT exercise in the Bay of Bengal for eight days from September 17 to 24.

Under the present status of the military-military relations, military officials of both the navies at the lower general levels will annually meet to figure out what kind of activities to be engaged with in the future, said Locklear.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena told the roundtable, "The US government has a mandate to broaden, deepen the relations between the countries as far as Bangladesh can take it."

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