

## SHIBIR ATTACK Menon hints at law enforcers' weakness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday's violence carried out by Jamaat-Shibir activists indicates weaknesses of law enforcement agencies as they did not take necessary steps in advance to resist the attack, said lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon. "There is no logical ground to agree that our law enforcement agencies did not have prior information (about the attack)," he said.

Menon was addressing a discussion, "Trial of Bachchu Razakar, threat of Jamaat-Shibir and future duties", organised by Shamprodayikota-Jongibad Birodhi Mancha (anti-communal and anti-militancy platform) in the capital's Liberation War Museum.

Yesterday, hundreds of Jamaat-Shibir activists went on the rampage in four districts including the capital demanding release of Jamaat leaders now facing charges of crimes against humanity at the international crimes tribunals.

Apprehending that Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir might create more volatile situations in the political arena, he urged law enforcers to remain more active.

"During this crucial moment, BNP must clarify its stance on whether the party will work for or against war criminals. There is no opportunity for it to stay in the middle," he said.

Veteran left politician Pankaj Bhattacharya alleged that BNP was playing different tactics to protect war criminals.

The mancha Member Secretary Noor Mohammad Talukder placed several demands, including trial of Jamaat as a political party for opposing the 1971 Liberation War.

The mancha Coordinator Ahoy Roy chaired the discussion where Khandoker Ibrahim Khaled and Ramendu Majumder also spoke.



## SHIBIR FLEXES MUSCLE AGAIN

1. Jamaat-Shibir activists vandalise a BRTC double-decker bus near Dainik Bangla intersection in the capital during yesterday's rampage starting around 9:45am. 2. One of the activists carrying a bottle of flammable liquid, which he afterwards used to douse and torch a saloon car in Motijheel. 3. A microbus nearby burns after being set alight by the activists. 4. Road dividers lie scattered after the rampage by the activists near Shapla Chattar. 5. Another activist sprays flammable liquids on the saloon car. 6. Jamaat-Shibir activists march unobstructed over Abdul Gani Road, some five minutes after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina entered the adjoining Bangladesh Secretariat. 7. The activists hurling brick chips at law enforcers in Motijheel. 8. An injured policeman arriving at Chittagong Medical College Hospital after being attacked by Jamaat-Shibir activists at Banskhali in Chittagong.

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BSC IN DENTAL HEALTH

## Students demand renaming of programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of BSc in Health Technology (Dental) blocked the capital's busy Shahbagh intersection to demand that the programme be renamed "Bachelor of Dentistry" or "BSc in Dentistry".

The blockade halted traffic movement for around three hours, causing immense suffering to commuters.

Around 300 students took to the street also to demand creating job opportunities for them and introducing a four-year academic programme along with one year's internship.

BSc in Health Technology (Dental) Students' Association organised the demonstration. The dental health technology programme is run at five institutes in the capital under Dhaka University.

The association's convener, Abul Monsur, said they studied dental surgery, not dental technology. "We don't get job as the courses do not match with the programme's name." He said they said it to the government several times but to no avail.

The protesters lifted the blockade around 1:00pm giving an ultimatum until February 2 to fulfil their demands.

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