

COACHING CENTRES

Students vow to boycott 'Jamaat-Shibir backed' instts

DU CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of students not only demanded death sentence for war criminals but also vowed from the capital's Shahbagh to boycott all coaching centres and academic institutions known as affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student body Islami Chhatra Shibir. They also urged the government to ban Jamaat-Shibir for war crimes.

"I will neither take admission to Retina nor to Focus or any coaching centres belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami, simply because these belong to war criminals," said Imran Arefin, a student of Dhaka City College, who will appear at this year's HSC exams due by April.

Imran bearing a placard inscribed with "Say no to Jamaat-Shibir" has been taking part in the Shahbagh movement since February 6.

Another HSC examinee, Deepannita Reeti, said, "Thirty million people sacrificed their lives only to ensure that their next generations could speak in Bangla and bear the identity of Bangalee. But now it's up to us who need to come forward and prove that this generation can carry out its responsibility."

"It is a shame to see Jamaat-backed coaching [centres] like Retina, Focus exist in our country. As the government has not banned these yet, now we must stop ourselves from going to these coaching institutions and any Jamaat-backed organisations for the rest of our lives."

Deepannita will sit for HSC exams from Viqarunnisa Noon School and College.

The movement at Shahbagh was launched on February 5 to demand death penalty for jailed Jamaat leader and war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah.



7TH DAY OF ANTI-WAR CRIMINAL MOVEMENT



1) School and college students join Shahbagh gathering in masses yesterday to show solidarity with the demand for death penalty for all war criminals, including Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah, who was jailed for life. 2) A group of protesters in front of a massive portrait of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam, the woman who pioneered the movement against war criminals. 3) A student shouts slogans holding up a placard, showing a caricature of a war criminal and gallows which reads "Hang". 4) A youth voluntarily distributes snacks among demonstrators. 5) Bangladeshis in US gather in solidarity with the Shahbagh mass movement, which is rippling around the country as well as among the diaspora.



PHOTO: STAR

CU student stabbed in classroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Some unidentified criminals stabbed a student of Chittagong University (CU) in his classroom yesterday.

The victim is Polash Kumar Roy, a masters student of political science department.

A gang of around eight criminals started beating Polash's classmate Yakub while he was chatting to his friends in Room No-205 of the department around 10:30am, said Khurshed Alam, another classmate of Polash.

Polash tried to save Yakub when the criminals attempted to stab him. Later, he sustained the stab injuries.

The criminals might have been hired from outside the campus, said Proctor Khan Towhid Osman.

Polash was undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Army was about to attack Pilkhana twice

Say army witnesses in BDR carnage case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army troops with heavy arms and ammunition had been ordered twice to drive into Pilkhana headquarters to quell the mutinying BDR soldiers but the decisions were cancelled for the sake of negotiation with the rebels, according to three army officers who testified in a court yesterday.

The army commandos of 46 Independent Infantry Brigade stood ready in Dhanmondi with tanks and armoured personnel carriers in a distance on February 25 evening, they said. The next day, they were ordered twice to launch attacks, but the plan was cancelled, they added.

"In the first place, 17 East Bengal Company took position in front of Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital around 10:15am with 106mm Recoilless Rifles, machineguns, light machineguns, 60mm

mortars, GF rifles and rocket launchers," said Col Mohammad Abdul Alim Tarafder.

Two companies joined them within hours, but they were ordered to hold back fire, he said. The troops retreated to Abahani Math around 9:30pm after politicians started trying to negotiate and finally made the mutineers surrender on the same night later, he added.

Col Tarafder, who was the then chief of 17 East Bengal Company, testified in the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, dealing with the Pilkhana carnage case, alongside Big Gen Md Abdul Hakim Aziz and Lt Col Waker-uz-Zaman of 46 Independent Infantry Brigade.

A total of 74 people, including 57 army officers, were killed by the mutinous soldiers of defunct BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) on February 25-26, 2009.

State must defend rights of disabled

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The state must serve a role to protect the disabled people against any form of discrimination, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain said yesterday.

"It is the responsibility of the state to defend the rights of the people who are suffering from physical or mental disabilities, as the basis of justice and independence is to ensure equality for all," he told a views exchange meeting in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

As the constitution plays the supreme role to protect citizens from discrimination, it is also the duty of the judiciary to protect disabled people's rights, he said.

The chief justice thanked the cabinet as it approved the proposed draft of "the protection and rights of the disabled people act 2013".

As Bangladesh ratified the related UN convention and protocol, the country is pledge-bound to frame a law to protect the disabled, he observed.

National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled and Parliamentarians' Caucus on Disability jointly organised the discussion.

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HALL-MARK HC directs govt to bar chairman from going abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately take steps for barring Jasmine Islam, chairman of Hall-Mark Group, from going abroad.

Responding to a petition filed by journalist Nazim Ahmed, the court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain in seven days why the lower court order that granted bail to Jasmine should not be cancelled.

Earlier, Judge Md Zahirul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court granted bail to Jasmin in 11 corruption cases on the condition that Jasmine and the Hall-Mark Group will repay Tk 2,600 crore, which the company swindled out, to Sonali Bank.

Contacted, Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukdar said Jasmine was released from jail following the bail order.

The HC directed Judge Zahirul Haque to send all records of the corruption cases against Jasmine to the HC by February 14 for examination.

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