JU restive

FROM PAGE 20

allegations against the VC following Tuesday's violence on the campus after the death of a student.

University sources said soon after Prof Anwar's announcement to quit, several student organisations, including Bangladesh Chhatra League, Chhatra Union, Chhatra Front, and Jahangirnagar Sangskritik Jote, requested him not to resign considering students' interest.

The VC is likely to sit with the teachers' association today to find a solution to the ongoing crisis, said university sources.

Earlier yesterday, during a meeting with the representatives of the teachers' association at JU Senate Hall, Prof Anwar had claimed that Tuesday's violence on the campus was committed by Islami Chhatra Shibir, pro-Jamaat student body.

the VC's decision to resign, the JU unit Chhatra League, a pro-Awami League student body, staged demonstration on the campus and blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway for about 15 minutes.

Tuesday's violence on campus erupted following

death of fourth-year statistics student Md Malek. Feeling bad, he had gone to the medical centre of the university where he had to wait for at least an hour for an ambulance.

When he was finally rushed to nearby Enam Medical College and Hospital in Ganda area of Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, he was already dead. Doctors suspect cardiac arrest might have been the cause.

Malek, son of Momtaz Uddin, was from Mirpur of Gabtoli upazila in Bogra district. He was a resident of Maulana Bhashani Hall of the university.

Following the death, agitated students vandalised the residents of the VC, treasurer and some teachers, and the JU central gate and the Registrar building. At least five vehicles, including one parked in front of the Meanwhile, agitated by VC's house, were also vanda-

The very night the students blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway for some time but Chhatra League activists claiming presence of Shibir men in the blockade forced the agitators to disperse leaving some students injured. Two of the injured were admitted to Enam hospital.

Presently, the JU medical centre has three ambulances, one of which is reserved for the VC while the other two are out of order.

It has been a longstanding demand of the students that a fully-fledged medical centre be set up on the campus. But so far, apart from some assurances, nothing has been done. Moitri Burman, convener

of JU unit Student Front, said Tuesday's violence on the campus was an outburst of the students against the authorities' negligence towards the medical centre.

Yesterday morning, an emergency syndicate meeting decided to ask the government to allocate Tk 10 crore for the development of the medical centre. The meeting decided to set up an emergency unit and increase the number of ambulance.

The emergency syndicate meeting formed an eightmember probe body headed by JU Pro-VC Prof Farhad Hossain to investigate Tuesday's violence. It was asked to submit its report within two weeks.

possible abuse of the provi-

Bill on appeal tabled

The law, however, gives the

convict the right to appeal against any conviction. Law Minister Shafique

Ahmed last night said, as per the committee's final changes to the act, the government or the informant or the complainant might file an appeal against a judgment of a war crimes tribu-

If passed, the proposed changes to the act would be considered effective from July 14, 2009.

The committee members feared that the proposed provision in the bill to allow aggrieved people to file an appeal could create obstacle to smooth completion of

They were of the opinion that many people aggrieved by a verdict could file a huge number of appeals against war crimes tribunals' verdicts slowing down the

delivery of justice. The law minister and State Minister of Law Qamrul Islam agreed with the senti-

bers at the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said the committee

would place its scrutiny report in parliament today and the House would pass the bill on Sunday, bringing necessary changes to act.

The government moved to bring changes to the law in the wake of the ongoing mass movement at Shahbagh in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

People burst into protest on February 5 when a verdict delivered by a war crimes tribunal sentenced Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah to life in prison. The protesters feel Mollah was handed

that he should be awarded the death penalty.

Just hours before the meeting of parliamentary standing committee, the law minister had placed the bill in parliament proposing changes to the act to empower the government and people unhappy with any judgment of a war crimes tribunal to appeal. The bill was sent to the

committee for scrutiny and it was asked to report to the House in a day. The committee sat in the evening to scrutinise. At the meeting, the com-

mittee members objected to the phrase "aggrieved persons" and suggested that it be changed. "The government or any

person aggrieved by a judgment, order of acquittal, or inadequate sentence of a Tribunal may appeal to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh as of right against such judgment, order of acquittal or inadequate sentence," said the ment of the committee mem- provision of the bill placed by the law minister.

The bill, however, had not defined "person aggrieved". The law also does not have such definition.

Yesterday after the meeting, committee members Abdul Matin Khasru and Khan Tipu Sultan told The Daily Star that they did not agree with the proposal to allow aggrieved people to file appeal against any verdict of the tribunals.

"Who is an aggrieved person? The entire nation is aggrieved. Will all be allowed to file appeal? It will create obstacle to completing the trials," Tipu Sultan said.

Talking to The Daily Star vesterday afternoon jurist

came to Shahbagh with his

wife and son and stayed

there the whole night. He is

depriving himself of sleep in

the hope that the movement

will bring about a better

Bangladesh free of Razakars

who collaborated with the

Pakistani occupation force

in 1971 and committed

heinous crimes against

it was important for them to

instil the spirit of the

Liberation War in their son

and inspire him to follow the

footsteps of the young pro-

school in the morning, they

came to Shahbagh at night.

taries shown at the venue and

listen to the discussions of

seven of University

Laboratory School and

College in the capital, had

the national flag tied over

at night for the last three days.

"I have been coming here

testers. Since he had to go to

Children watch documen-

Nurul, a student of class

Shahadat's wife Ranu said

Bangalees.

their parents.

the head.

sion and said a huge number of appeals might be filed which could hamper smooth disposal of war crimes cases as the Appellate Division will need time to handle that many appeals if filed.

> In the evening, when his attention was drawn to the change, Malik said, "It is now all right."

The appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date of the verdict delivery. At the time of filing the appeal, the appellant would have to submit all documents relied upon by him, proposed the

The committee also decided to recommend a change in the proposal of the bill in which 45 days were given to the Supreme Court to dispose of an appeal. The committee recommended 60 days.

Earlier yesterday, ruling Awami League-led alliance MPs welcomed the bill by thumping their desks. "This is the voice of mass people which is expressed in the House," commented Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali, who was presiding over the sit-

ting at that time. Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed termed the existing provision on appeal discriminatory.

He said as per article 27 of the constitution, all citizens were entitled to equal protection of law, but this constitutional provision was not reflected in the case of filing appeal against tribunal's verdict.

"It needs to ensure equal protection of law for both sides in case of filing appeal to ensure justice," Shafique

At that time, Aguner Poroshmoni was being screened in front of the main gate of the National

Museum. Nurul said he joined the movement with his friends during day time and with his

family at night. "During day I chant slogans, hold banners but at night I watch street paintings [alpona] and documenta-

"Today's youth force [at Shahbagh] reminds me of the vigour of youths of our generation," Nurul's mother Avesha said.

Titas Nodi, who was singing Baul songs and playing Ektara, sitting in the middle of a group, said, "My job does not allow me to join the movement in day time. So, I come at night and sing such patriotic songs to encourage

the youths." He came with his wife Rina Nodi. She said she had finished her household chores early so that she could spend

the night at Shahbagh. "The enthusiasm of the youths makes me feel proud," Rina noted.

Tough contest

next round from her school.

FROM PAGE 20

Students of classes VI to X can take part in the contest by registering and playing the Spelling Bee game on champs21.com. The bulk of the qualifiers will be selected via the online game. Contestants can play the game as many times as they want and only their best score will be considered. The top scorers in the online game will qualify for the next round.

The online round ends on February 28.

The winner of the Spelling Bee gets Tk 5 lakh worth of education insurance from Metlife Alico and an all-expenses-paid trip to the USA. The second and third runners-up will get Tk3 lakh and Tk 2 lakh worth of education insurance respectively.

For more information, log on to www.champs21.com, the first e-learning portal of Bangladesh.

Kamaruzzaman

its president Kamal Uddin Sabuj.

Police arrested Mollah and Kamaruzzaman on July 13, 2010 in connection with the killings of 345 people during the Liberation War. They were shown arrested

on August 2, 2010 in a case filed for crimes against humanity committed in

On February 5 this year, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced Mollah, assistant secretary general of Jamaat, to life in prison for committing crimes against humanity during the war.

The 65-year-old has been found guilty of five wartime criminal offences.

In two of the five incidents, at least 350 Bangalees were killed and a girl was raped for each of which the threemember tribunal awarded him life sentence (30 years).

He also got 15 years' imprisonment for his complicity in each of the three other criminal offences in which six people were killed.

On June 4 last year, the tribunal indicted Kamaruzzaman, another assistant secretary general of Jamaat, with seven charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the war.

Born in Sherpur, Kamaruzzaman was president of Islami Chhatra Sangha in greater Mymensingh in 1971, according to the prosecution documents.

The pro-Jamaat student body was later renamed Islami Chhatra Shibir.

EC sits

FROM PAGE 20

The EC on Tuesday, he said, expressed its solidarity with the youths (protesting in Shahbagh) by standing up in silence for three minutes at the EC secretariat.

Experts said the aims and objectives and some other provisions in Jamaat's charter still do not conform to the country's constitution and Representation of the People Order (RPO), a legal framework for parliamen-

tary polls. Zabed said the EC has sent four letters to Jamaat to correct its charter in conformity with the RPO. But the commission did not receive satisfactory response from the Islamist party.

Jamaat's charter refuses to obey the country's existing law and judicial system, he added.

Section 90 (H) of the RPO empowers the EC to cancel the registration of any politi-

cal party. Before the 2008 parliamentary election, registration was made mandatory for the political parties to contest polls. The Jamaat along with 38 other political parties got registered with the EC pledging to bring necessary changes to their charters in line with the RPO.

But once the poll was over, Jamaat did not act to keep its pledge.

Led by a group of youths under the banner of Bloggers and Online Activists Network, thousands of protesters have been staging a sit-in at the Shahbagh intersection in the capital since February 5 demanding capital punishment to war criminals and a ban on Jamaat.



War trials face delay not produce our witnesses,"

FROM PAGE 20 February 20, while Tribunal-

2 the proceeding against Muhammad Kamaruzzaman's case until In both the tribunals, the

defence said their trial lawvers, who used to crossexamine the prosecution witnesses, could not appear before the court due to violence in the city's Paltan and Motijheel areas where they

They sought adjournment until 2:00pm so that the absent lawyers could appear before the courts. However, when the tribunals sat after 2:00pm, the lawyers did not show up, claiming the situation remained unchanged.

But at least three reporters of The Daily Star, who covered the events in those areas, said clashes stopped before 11:00am.

The situation in the entire Paltan and Motijheel areas became normal after 11:30am, Deputy Commissioner Anwar Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Motijheel division told The Daily Star.

On several occasions, the tribunals had adjourned proceedings on hartal days as senior defence lawyers usually do not appear before courts citing security reasons. For the first time vester-

day, the tribunals had to adjourn the proceedings, as a section of defence counsels did not show up citing security reasons on a regular

TRIBUNAL-1

When the tribunal set to record the crossexamination of the second prosecution witness in the case against Nizami, defence counsel Tajul Islam said Mizanul Islam, conducting lawyer of the case, could not come on security grounds.

He sought adjournment until 2:00pm even though at least eight defence counsels, including chief defence counsel Abdur Razzaq, were present at the courtroom. The tribunal asked Tajul

to begin the crossexamination saying that he could do it. But Tajul argued that since Mizanul had been conducting the crossexamination, he [Mizanul] knew the case more than he The tribunal, led by

Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, adjourned the proceeding until 2:00pm. In the afternoon session,

Mizanul was not there. This time Tajul said, "He [Mizanul] was about to set off for the afternoon session but gunfire resumed in the area and that's why he could not come." Justice Jahangir Hossain

Selim, a member of the

tribunal, said many inci-

dents may happen outside,

but for that reasons the tribunal could not adjourn its proceedings. Tajul raised question whether the tribunal wanted them to appear before it

risking their lives. "In that case, why don't you seek security from the tribunal?" said Justice Jahangir, adding that if they had sought security arrangement, the tribunal would have taken measures.

Meanwhile, the defence yesterday also failed to produce their second witness in the war crimes case against former Jamaat ameer beforeit. Ghulam Azam.

claimed that one of their witnesses fell sick, while another was "detained by law enforcement agency".

Tajul also said their witnesses were scared of going to the tribunal against the backdrop of the Shahbagh demonstration. "Until the situation changes, we can-

attacks on police. They took

shelter in nearby alleyways

and attacked the law enforc-

In retaliation, the law

In Paltan, about 25

enforces fired rubber bullets

Jamaat-Shibir men brought

out a procession, but fled the

scene quickly after police

brought out a procession at

Fakirapool, and vandalised a

similar attacks at Jatrabari.

They swooped on law

enforcers and vandalised

several vehicles there. Police

arrested seven Jamaat-

Shibir activists from the

out a procession in

detained 34 suspected

Jamaat-Shibir men from

Sadarghat launch terminal

in the morning on informa-

tion that Jamaat was bring-

ing men from southern

districts to create anarchy in

Agargaon.

the capital.

Jamaat men also brought

Kotwali police said they

Jamaat-Shibir men also

They also carried out

fired several blank shots.

car and set it ablaze.

and blank shots.

he added. The tribunal adjourned

the proceeding until today. TRIBUNAL-2

The International Crimes Tribunal-2, led by Justice Obaidul Hassan, yesterday completed recording crossexamination of Abu Sayeed Joarder, the 10th prosecution witness in the case against former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim.

Defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena cross-examined Sayeed in presence of his client before the tribunal adjourned the case until February 17.

Around 12:25pm, when the tribunal was moving for recording the crossexamination of investigation officer of the case against Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, defence counsel Tajul Islam sought time until 2:00pm.

Tajul said defence counsel Kafil Uddin Chowdhury who used to cross-examine witnesses, lives in Paltan and could not appear before the court due to violence in the

around 2:25pm, Tajul said Kafil could not come as the situation did not improve and sought adjournment again. Prosecutor Mohammad Ali said this matter could not be an excuse for absence,

because if one counsel failed

to appear before the court,

another might appear

When the tribunal again

started its proceeding

"It has become their [the Defence counsel Tajul defence's] daily fashion. The tribunal should take it seri-

ously," he added. The tribunal said, "We have allowed it [the adjournment plea] today [Wednesday]. We will consider it

The tribunal then adjourned the proceeding until today.

seriously in future."

Jamaat rampage

FROM PAGE 1

Police fired more than 800 rubber bullets and blank shots to disperse the Jamaat-Shibir men.

Law enforcers detained 415 people in Dhaka, Chittagong and Rangpur in connection with the vandalism and attacks on police.

Jamaat-Shibir activists attacked police in Agargaon, Paltan, Dainik Bangla intersection, Baitul Mukarram, Rajuk Bhaban and Ramna areas in the capital.

A clash between police and activists of Jamaat and Olama Mashayekh Parishad broke out at Motijheel at about 6:30am when they under the banner of Olama Ekram Pir Mashayekh Janata Mancha tried to hold an unscheduled rally at Paltan Maidan to counter the Shahbagh demonstration, said DMP Deputy Commissioner Anwar Hossain, referring to the statements of the detainees.

Moulana Abdus Sabur Matabbar, convener of Olama Ekram Pir Mashayekh Janata Mancha, was arrested following the incident. The angry demonstrators

pelted police with brick chips, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate by firing rubber bullets and teargas canisters. In another incident, when police prevented

holding a rally at Paltan, the

protesters in several groups

launched hit-and-run

they clashed with law enforcers in the Ramna area. In a statement in the Jamaat-Shibir men from

evening, Jamaat sharply criticised "the police action" on its activists, saying "the government is out to eliminate the Islamic force from the country."

State Minister for Home upazila after the clash.

law enforcers are trying to recover the firearms used by Jamaat-Shibir cadres on Tuesday and yesterday in and outside the capital.

Shamsul Haque Tuku said

He was talking to reporters at his secretariat office in the capital. In the meantime, a Dhaka

court placed 68 Jamaat-Shibir men on remand for different terms. It also sent five Jamaat activists to jail in eight cases filed over Tuesday's violence in the capital.

Shibir activists vandalised at least eight minibuses and two covered vans in the port Police picked up nine

CLASHES IN CHITTAGONG

Syed Abdur Rouf, officerin-charge of Pahartali Police Station, said Shibir men suddenly took to the streets and vandalised minibuses in

persons following the inci-

the Colonel Haat area. Police and locals chased off the Shibir men. Law enforcers picked up six persons from the spot.

CLASHES IN RANGPUR A clash between Jamaat-

Police also detained 30 Jamaat-Shibir men after Shibir activists and police erupted after the protesters put a barricade on Rangpur-Dhaka highway at Boiragiganj demanding cancellation of war crimes trial and release of their leaders.

Police arrested 13 Shibii activists from Mithapukur

One suspect arrested

TEACHER MURDER

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested the SSC examinee who allegedly stabbed dead a schoolteacher in South Keraniganj on Monday for obstructing him from copying during examination on the previous day.

Sakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of South Keraniganj Police Station, told this correspondent, "Acting on a tip off, we arrested Riyad [the accused] from the house of one of his relatives at Kadamtoli at 1:00am yesterday." A Dhaka court placed

him on a seven-day police remand when he was produced before it with a 10day remand prayer. The OC said that during primary interrogation, Riyad confessed killing

Mostafa Bhuiyan, 35, English teacher at Chunkutia Girls' High School in South Keraniganj. He was stabbed there. Bhuiyan prevented Riyad, a student of Oriental Textile Mills High School at

Subhadda in South

Keraniganj, from copying

during mathematics examination on Sunday. Around 7:30 am the next day, he knocked the door at Mostafa's flat at east Chunkutia and asked him to come out. As he came out, Riyad stabbed him and ran away, according to

police.

Mostafa was rushed to Mitford Hospital in Old Dhaka where dotors declared him dead.

Meanwhile, Mostafa's colleagues held a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding trial and punishment of his killer.

LIMON CASE PROBE

Court rejects no-confidence petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jhalakathi court yesterday rejected a no-confidence petition against a police probe filed by Henoara Begum, mother of Limon Hossain who was shot and maimed allegedly by Rab in

2011. Henoara submitted the petition before the court on August 30, 2012, challenging a police probe report that found no evidence against the elite force in shooting and maiming Limon, reports our Jhalakathi corre-

spondent. Henoara on April 10, 2011, had filed a case with Rajapur Police Station against six Rapid Action

Battalion personnel. In the case statement, she said the accused without verifying Limon's identity shot him in the left leg on March 23, 2011, when he was

bringing cattle home. Later, his leg had to be

amputated from the thigh.

War hero's home attacked in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Alleged Jamaat-Shibir men last night blasted cocktails [homemade bombs] at the house of eminent freedom fighter and writer Ruhul Amin Pramanik at Masterpara area in Rajshahi city.

Pramanik, president of Rajshahi Writers' Council (Lekhak Parishad) said three men riding on a motorcycle hurled the bombs at his house around 9:00pm. None was injured, as the bombs landed on the roof.

He filed a general diary with Boalia Police Station in this connection. Officer-in-Charge of the

police station Ziaur Rahman said, Pramanik's family members had told police that Jamaat-Shibir men had been threatening him for the last several days for his public speeches

against war criminals.

down a lenient sentence and Shahdeen Malik feared of a A place to learn history

they have office or other work

nothing can stop them now. "The nation has woken up forty-two years into the independence," said Sufia Haider, former viceprincipal of Kobi Nazrul Govt College and sister of Humayun Ahmed, the late

to join the next morning. But

lamented novelist. Sufia came to the rally around 10:30pm yesterday with her daughter and stayed there until around 7:00am. Her father was among the three million martyrs in the 1971 Liberation War.

"This movement has brought up the real history of new generations."

and anti-liberation forces, Sufia added. Shadat Hossain, who joined the demonstration at around 1:00am, said, "It is not possible for me to participate in the rally before night as I have to look after my

business."

watch documentaries to know the history of the war," It was the third time that he he said around 1:00am.

our liberation war before our It is against distortion of information about Bangalees' struggle for independence