

JU restive

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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.

Meanwhile, agitated by 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 VC's house, were also vandalised.

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 stu-

dents 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 eight-member 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.

Tough contest

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next round from her school.

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 Tk 3 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

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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 1971.

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 three-member 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

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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 parliamentary 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, headed.

Section 90 (H) of the RPO empowers the EC to cancel the registration of any political 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.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Scholastica, who moved to the next round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee contest.

War trials face delay

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February 20, while Tribunal-2 the proceeding against Muhammad Kamaruzzaman's case until today.

In both the tribunals, the defence said their trial lawyers, who used to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses, could not appear before the court due to violence in the city's Paltan and Motijheel areas where they live.

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

TRIBUNAL-1
When the tribunal set to record the cross-examination 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 cross-examination saying that he could do it. But Tajul argued that since Mizanul had been conducting the cross-examination, he [Mizanul] knew the case more than he did.

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 incidents 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 Ghulam Azam.

Defence counsel Tajul 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-

not produce our witnesses," headed.

The tribunal adjourned the proceeding until today.

TRIBUNAL-2
The International Crimes Tribunal-2, led by Justice Obaidul Hassan, yesterday completed recording cross-examination 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 cross-examination 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 area.

When the tribunal again started its proceeding 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 before it.

"It has become their [the defence's] daily fashion. The tribunal should take it seriously," he added.

The tribunal said, "We have allowed it [the adjournment plea] today [Wednesday]. We will consider it seriously in future."

The tribunal then adjourned the proceeding until today.

TEACHER MURDER

One suspect arrested

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 10-day 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 doctors 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 correspondent.

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 (Lekhakar 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.

A place to learn history

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they have office or other work to join the next morning. But nothing can stop them now.

"The nation has woken up forty-two years into the independence," said Sufia Haider, former vice-principal of Kobi Nazrul Govt College and sister of Humayun Ahmed, the late 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 our liberation war before our new generations."

It is against distortion of information about Bangalees' struggle for independence 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."

It was the third time that he

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 Bangalees.

Shahadat's wife Ranu said 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 protesters. Since he had to go to school in the morning, they came to Shahbagh at night.

Children watch documentaries shown at the venue and listen to the discussions of their parents.

Nurul, a student of class seven of University Laboratory School and College in the capital, had the national flag tied over the head.

"I have been coming here at night for the last three days. I watch documentaries to know the history of the war," he said around 1:00am.

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 documentaries."

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