

JU suspends 4 BCL men

JU CORRESPONDENT

Authorities of Jahangirnagar University suspended four students who are activists of Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League in connection with attacking and beating up Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) and Rover Scout members on Wednesday evening.

BCL activists Ashfiq Shagor and Mohitosh Titu have been suspended for a year while Salauddin Parvez and Taimur Rasel have been suspended for six months. All are students of history department.

The authorities made the decision in an emergency disciplinary committee's meeting on Wednesday night.

On Wednesday afternoon, the results of election to History Sangsad came out which showed that BCL candidates lost the election.

Incensed about the results, the BCL men attacked the BNCC and Rover Scout members, who were on duty of overseeing the election, with sharp weapons in front of the new Arts Faculty building, said witnesses.

The injured students, all of whom are of history department, were admitted to the university's medical centre but later, they were shifted to Enam Medical College and Hospital in Savar.

However, Mahmudur Rahman, president of the university's BCL unit, denied their involvement in the attack saying it was the department's internal feud.

Students of the department yesterday submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain to press home their 4-point demand including expulsion of the culprits from the university.



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JAMAAT TERROR COUNTRYWIDE



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1) The Awami League office in Rangpur city in flames as activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir set it afire soon after a tribunal announced that their senior leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee was sentenced to death. 2) A live handmade bomb allegedly planted by Jamaat-Shibir men on Chittagong College campus during the countrywide hartal yesterday. 3) Hordes of Jamaat-Shibir pickets out on the street, clashing with police and vandalising, torching vehicles and shops in Dampara area of Chittagong city. 4) A truck set alight by hartal supporters at Kharkhari in Rajshahi. 5) Jamaat-Shibir men pelting law enforcers with brickbats in Rajshahi's Dingadoba area.

PHOTO: STAR



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Ekushey Boi Mela ends

DU CORRESPONDENT

The month-long book festival on the Bangla Academy premises, Amar Ekushey Boi Mela, came to an end yesterday.

This year the book fair became a place for protest against anti-liberation forces as readers, writers and publishers lit candles, observed silences and even kept stalls open yesterday defying a hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami.

Hundreds of book lovers thronged the academy premises yesterday despite the countrywide hartal. The concluding ceremony of the fair was held with

Cultural Minister Abul Kamal Azad present as the chief guest.

The minister assured compensation for 25 publishers who lost 37 stalls in Monday's fire incident at the book fair.

Poetry books topped the list of new books launched this year followed by novels and children's story books. Readers, however, voiced the void left by the death of litterateur Humayun Ahmed.

A total of 274 publishing houses, government institutions, and cultural organisations participated while 3,070 books hit the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela this year.

Govt to protect Islam: Matia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury told parliament yesterday that the government was determined to protect Islam against any propaganda.

She said the main opposition BNP was trying to mislead the people through evil strategies.

"You [people] do not get misled. The government is determined to protect the holy religion, Islam," said Matia, also presidium member of the ruling Awami League.

Matia called on devout Muslims to keep aware against the anti-Islam propaganda.

Adding to Matia's claim, a number of ruling AL lawmakers accused the BNP-Jamaat alliance of hatching conspiracy to destabilise the country.

"Those involved with BNP and Jamaat cannot be Muslim. No Muslim can tell lies or kill people," said AL MP Iqbalur Rahim. "I urge people to unite to save Islam."

AL lawmaker Syed Mohsin Ali said, "We have to get prepared again to protect our country. We cannot stay silent in the face of the anti-liberation forces' attacks."

They are attacking police, he said. "In such situations, other countries enforce emergency and police shoot."

Ali urged the prime minister to go tough on those who are creating anarchy. "We should take a decision in parliament on how to face them off."

He also urged the premier to send MPs to their constituencies to foil Jamaat's hartal next week.

Earlier, a number of ruling alliance MPs expressed satisfaction at the passing of death sentence on Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

The lawmaker Amir Hossain Amu said, "The country's 16 crore people wholeheartedly support the [war crime] trials."

Prisoners' ward opens at CMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A separate ward for prisoner patients was opened at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday.

Medical treatment facilities for five patients will be available at the ward, said CMCH Director Brig Gen Khondakar Shahidul Ghani.

On an average, seven to eight prisoners undergo treatment in different wards a day now, he said.

Chittagong Medical College Principal Prof Dr Selim Muhammad Jahangir and leaders of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chittagong, among others, were present at the inaugural ceremony.

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