

# DU students hold counter programmes

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka University's mass communication and journalism department yesterday formed a human chain on the campus, protesting Tuesday's attack on some agitating students by Chhatra League activists.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of the pro-ruling party student body formed another human chain in the TSC area of the university, demanding punishment to those who "attacked" the vice chancellor and damaged university properties. They also wanted the "attackers" to be expelled from the university.

Covering their mouths with black cloth, around 80 students of the journalism department joined the human chain in front of Aparajeyo Bangla.

After the demonstration, Fahmidul

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Covering their mouths with black cloth, students of Dhaka University's Department of Mass Communication and Journalism form a human chain in front of Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus yesterday, protesting Chhatra League's attack on some agitating students on Tuesday. Right, BCL activists under the banner of Dhaka Bishwabidyalay Sachetan Shikharthibinda form another human chain in TSC area, demanding punishment to those who "attacked" the vice-chancellor and damaged university's properties.



PHOTO: STAR

# Abduction bid by fake DB men foiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A crowd yesterday foiled an attempted abduction by four people who identified themselves as detectives and tried to whisk a man in a microbus at Moghbazar in the capital.

The criminals equipped with handcuffs and a walkie-talkie forced a man into the vehicle around 10:30am near Moghbazar intersection, soon after he had come out of a bank withdrawing around Tk 7 lakh, police said, quoting witnesses.

As the victim cried for help and started kicking on the window glasses of the vehicle in a desperate effort to get free, locals started chasing the microbus, which got stuck in traffic several hundred metres away.

All the four criminals managed to flee before the locals rescued the victim and smashed the microbus with BRTA registration number -- Dhaka Metro Cha-139551.

Law enforcers also could not identify the abductors and the owner of the vehicle immediately. "We will try to

find out the owner taking information from the BRTA," said Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (Ramna division) of police.

Some documents, handcuffs and the walkie-talkie were recovered from the microbus, said police, adding that the criminals impersonating members of Detective Branch (DB) of police were abducting the victim.

"It seemed like a scene from a movie. Some people were whisking a man who kept on shouting asking for help," said Motaleb Hossain, a witness who is a roadside fruit vendor.

The way the man was picked up resembles many mugging incidents carried out by criminals posing as detectives and in some cases by law enforcers themselves.

An assistant sub-inspector of police and one of his accomplices were caught red-handed while trying to "mug" a trader in Dhaka's Khamarbari area on October 17 last year.

On November 10 last year, some policemen led by a sub-inspector of

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## Suu Kyi

FROM PAGE 1

A Myanmar government spokesman hit back yesterday, accusing the former New Mexico Governor Richardson of overstepping the mark in his stinging resignation letter.

"He should review himself over his personal attack against our State Counsellor," government spokesman Zaw Htay told AFP, referring to Suu Kyi's official title.

"We understand his emotion about the two Reuters correspondents. However, he needs to understand, rather than blame the Myanmar nation and the State Counsellor."

Zaw Htay said the issue of the arrests was beyond Richardson's mandate and he should not have brought it up at his meeting with Suu Kyi.

The heated discussion left Myanmar's leader "quivering" with rage, Richardson told the New York Times.

"If she had been a little closer to me, she might have hit me, she was so furious," the paper quoted Richardson as saying.

The Reuters journalists, Myanmar nationals Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, face a possible 14 years in prison under the Official Secrets Act for allegedly possessing classified documents that

they say were given to them by two policemen.

They are waiting to hear whether they will be granted bail in a protracted case that could take months to even reach trial.

They had been reporting on the crisis in Rakhine, where Myanmar troops are accused of waging a vicious ethnic cleansing campaign against the Rohingya.

Nearly 690,000 Rohingya have fled the brutal military operation for Bangladesh since last August, bringing with them consistent testimony of murder, rape and arson at the hands of troops and vigilante mobs.

Some 300 more families have crossed the border in recent days after several houses were burned down in Buthidaung township, said Chris Lewa from the Arakan Project, a monitoring group that closely tracks Rakhine.

Richardson also has harsh words for the head of the panel, former Thai deputy prime minister Surakiart Sathirathai.

The board chairman, he said, was not "genuinely committed" to implementing recommendations regarding the issues of Rohingya safety, citizenship, peace, stability and development.

## No marketing

FROM PAGE 1

Atomic Energy Centre and the Institute of Public Health (IPH) in the capital over the last one month.

Seven of those were local firms and the rest foreign companies, he said.

"Lead was found in milk powder of the foreign companies as well but within the permissible level," Mahbub said.

He, however, declined to name the brands whose products contained excessive lead, arguing that disclosure of their names may create panic among people.

"We will soon sit with the six companies and see how to address the problem."

The official further said the BFSA is taking the contamination of milk powder seriously against the backdrop of a recent scandal involving French company Lactalis. Salmonella, a type of bacteria, has been found in baby formula manufactured by Lactalis which has ordered recall of its products from Bangladesh and 82 other countries.

In a letter to the customs authorities yesterday, BFSA Secretary Dr Md Khaled Hussain asked the commissioners of all customs houses under the National Board of Revenue to ensure that all types of imported milk powder are checked at the import level.

"Upon release from ports, every batch

# Tigers crumble to 10-wkt loss

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh batsman, hit a slog sweep off Lakshan Sandakan straight into the safe hands of Upul Tharanga at long on to confirm Bangladesh's ninth-lowest ODI total.

There was a reason for the former Tigers mentor to be delighted with the big win after an embarrassing 163-run loss against the home side, especially as it took them to the final, but it would not be wise for Bangladesh to identify the demon solely in Hathurusingha's inside knowledge of his former charges, or his qualities as a good tactician, as evidenced by the bouncer ploy that dispatched Mahmudullah Riyad yesterday.

There was also no scope to raise the finger towards a pitch that produced variable bounce and pace, but examining the manner of the dismissals of the batsmen will reveal the main reason behind that batting blues and the middle-order's inability to show character after the failure to deliver of the two stalwarts Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan.

The previous match against Zimbabwe, when Bangladesh lost their last eight wickets for 114 runs, was a portent of the middle-order blues but

the fatal crack was found in yesterday's match.

It is not certain whether the home team was complacent after their place in the final was secured, but the application of the batsmen was pathetic and that was only exacerbated by the fact that Suranga Lakmal, who tormented the Bangladesh top order with three wickets, Thisara Perera and Dushantha Chameera were sharp and intense in their efforts while executing the plans formed by the shrewd Hathurusingha.

Anamul Haque got an inside edge off Lakmal into his stumps in the third over, which once again put the onus on Tamim and Shakib but an electric piece of fielding from Danushka Gunathilaka saw Shakib several feet short of the crease after Tamim pushed a ball square on the off side, and that was when the mayhem began.

Tamim was soon to follow his partner when he was unable to manage a bouncer from Lakmal as he fended the ball behind square on the off side and it was another spectacular effort from Gunathilaka to dive and complete a catch that he tracked down from backward point.

The Shakib-Tamim departure set a

platform for the rest to prove that the team were not heavily dependent on them and that they have the depth to make up for their loss, but Lakmal bounced out Mahmudullah as the right-hander picked out Chameera at fine leg, the only man on the leg side. Sabir Rahman irresponsibly hoisted Thisara to mid-on. Abul Hasan, who came into the team in place of Sunzamul Islam, then edged Thisara to the wicketkeeper before Mushfiqur Rahim, the highest scorer with 26 runs, bunted a slower from Chameera to short midwicket. The struggling Nasir Hossain chased a short and wide delivery from Chameera to be caught behind.

One cannot take anything away from the good bowling effort of Sri Lanka, especially the way they executed their dressing room plans, but the Tigers had their own problems that contributed to the debacle.

The poor showing also handed all the momentum to Sri Lanka who, unlike Bangladesh, have the experience of winning tournament finals. The onus now is on Bangladesh to prove that it was just a bad day, but they will not be able to do that without solving a growing crisis in the middle order.

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just one. Oil price has already been climbing steadily and reached \$70 a barrel. Cotton price has started rising from last week too and India has already cancelled some big contracts.

So the pressure on dollar has increased, and following the simple economic thumb rule dollar has become pricier. This means importers now need more cash to buy dollar for the same amount of commodity. Since banks are their source of money, the banks are also under pressure to supply more money.

The mega projects are also adding more pressure on dollar as their import components are huge. Capital machinery import has increased by about 37 percent. Sugar, rice, wheat and cotton imports have risen also quite significantly.

All this have led to a new stress on the banking system that would ultimately roll into the economy as well.

AK Azad, former FBCCI president, expressed the fear that higher lending rate might interrupt investment and harm employment. He thinks the high irregularities in the banks have led to the current situation where genuine businessmen will be punished.

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## Khaleda's first graft trial ends

FROM PAGE 1

as per the constitution Khaleda would be disqualified from contesting any election if she is sentenced to a minimum of three years' imprisonment.

Talking to The Daily Star, Khaleda's lawyer Zainul Abedin said, "This is what the government wants [disqualifying the BNP chief from contesting polls]. There is no ingredient in the case to convict her of graft."

THE CASE

The Anti-Corruption Commission had filed the graft case with Ramna Police Station in July 2008, accusing Khaleda and five others of misappropriating over Tk 2.1 crore that had come from a foreign bank as grants for orphans.

According to the case document, then (1991-1996) prime minister Khaleda Zia opened an account named "Prime Minister's Orphanage Trust" with the Ramna branch of Sonali Bank.

On June 9, 1991, \$126,000 (Tk 4,44,81,216) was deposited in the account from United Saudi Commercial Bank, but the money was not spent for any orphanage between June 9 and September 5 of the same year, it said.

The Zia Orphanage Trust was set up by Khaleda's two sons and a nephew. It was registered on September 5, 1993.

A total of Tk 2,33,33,500 was given to the trust on November 13, 1993, to establish an orphanage in Bogra, reads the FIR.

The money was deposited in the Trust account on November 15 that year and Tk 4 lakh was withdrawn from it on December 4, the FIR stated.

Later, the money was transferred to the accounts of two other accused -- then BNP lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haque and businessman Sharfuddin.

According to the prosecution, the amir of Kuwait in 1991 had sent the money to prime minister's orphanage fund, which is a public fund.

But the money was transferred to Zia Orphanage Trust, a private fund, and the accused misappropriated the money by transferring the amount from a public fund to a private one, it said.

The defence counsels, however, said Kuwait had sent \$126,000 to a private fund to build an orphanage in memory of late president Ziaur Rahman.

But the prosecution submitted "forged documents" to make the private fund appear as a public fund under the Prime Minister's Office only to implicate and harass Khaleda for "political purposes", they told the court.

Of the accused, Khaleda is now on bail while Salimul Haque and Sharfuddin are behind bars. Tarique, also the senior vice-chairman of BNP, Ziaur Rahman's nephew Mominur

Rahman and former principal secretary Kamal Uddin Siddique have been absconding.

The court received the case in July 2008 and completed the proceedings in 236 working days, according to the prosecution.

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS

As the court began the proceedings around 11:07am, Ahsan Ullah, a defence counsel for Sharfuddin and Saleemul Huq, placed his arguments on legal points citing several decisions of High Court and Supreme Court.

Syed Mizanur Rahman, another counsel for Saleemul, placed his arguments on legal points for over an hour.

He said the prosecution alleged that the accused had destroyed/hid some original documents regarding money

upon release from ports, every batch

they say were given to them by two policemen.

They are waiting to hear whether they will be granted bail in a protracted case that could take months to even reach trial.

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