

Nur, others hurt in DU clash

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 people, including Ducus Vice-President Nurul Haque Nur, were injured in a clash between the activists of Muktijuddho Moncho and Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The clash ensued after some activists of Muktijuddho Moncho -- a platform comprising descendants of freedom fighters -- swooped on the Parishad members when the latter gathered at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture for a rally protesting the Citizenship Amendment Act of India.

Witnesses said Nur and other activists of his organisation started gathering there around 4:00pm and were about to start the protest rally as per their earlier announcement.

Around 15 to 20 activists of Muktijuddho Moncho, led by its President Aminul Islam Bulbul and General Secretary Al Mamun, also took position at the venue around the same time and asked the protesters to call off their programme.

As the Parishad activists denied to do so, an altercation ensued between the two groups. At one stage, Bulbul started beating Nur and his followers.

Moments later, Parishad's activists counter-attacked and chased the Moncho activists away.

All the injured took primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nur alleged that the Moncho activists had assaulted them for raising voice against the aggression of the Indian government on their citizens.

He also said a finger of his left hand was broken in the attack.

Contacted, Al Mamun, general secretary of the Muktijuddho Moncho, said, "We only resisted the group led by Nur when they came to attack us."

"Citizenship Amendment Bill is an internal issue of India and the Ducus VP has no right to protest the decision," Mamun said.

Moon Cinema

FROM PAGE 2

On February 2, 2010 the apex court in another verdict had upheld the HC verdict that declared the fifth amendment illegal.

Yesterday, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam handed over a cheque of Tk 99.21 crore on behalf of the Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust (FFWT) to Maqsoodul Alam, current managing director of BIMWL Bangladesh Italian.

Maqsoodul's lawyer Barrister Ajmalul Hossain received the cheque at the apex court and then gave it to his client (Maqsoodul).

A four-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, however, directed Maqsoodul to register the land of Moon Cinema Hall to FFWT immediately.

The top court passed the order during hearing a contempt of court petition filed by Maqsoodul.

The SC also fixed January 5 for passing further orders over the issue.

During the proceedings, Maqsoodul informed the apex court that he lives in the capital's Banani area, has three children who are now abroad. He now runs businesses.

Replying to a question, Maqsoodul also said that he would invest the money in business.

On January 18, 2018 the SC directed the FFWT to give Tk 99.21 crore to the owner of the then Moon Cinema Hall in Waiz Ghat area of Old Dhaka by July 30 of that year.

Later, the apex court asked the FFWT to pay the money to the owner of the then cinema hall several times.

Maqsoodul had filed the contempt of court petition in January, 2013 saying that the officials concerned of the government and the FFWT have not taken any step to hand over the ownership of the then Moon Cinema Hall to the company although the apex court had directed for doing so.

During the hearing of the petition, the SC had directed Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury to assess the cost of properties of the cinema hall which has already been turned into a development structure.

Recently, Jamilur submitted a report to the SC assessing the cost of the cinema hall's properties, including the structures, to be Tk 99.21 crore.

On this day

FROM PAGE 16

he and 150 World War II veterans were ready to fight for Bangladesh three months before its independence.

Four Soviet-made tanks have been deployed in front of Hotel Intercontinental, a neutral zone, to resist any attempts of the freedom fighters to snatch former governor Dr Malik.

Indian PM Indira Gandhi tells Sunday Times that Pakistan must release Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Independence opened the closed door, but the actual work is yet to be done, she adds.



People hold placards and wave flags of different French national trade unions as they take part in a demonstration in Caen, yesterday to protest against French government's plan to overhaul the country's retirement system, as part of a national general strike.

PHOTO: AFP

49 journos murdered in 2019: RSF

FROM PAGE 16

number mostly died covering conflicts in Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, the Paris-based watchdog said, which warned that "journalism remains a dangerous profession".

Some 80 journalists a year have lost their lives on average over the last two decades, said the organisation, which is known by its French initials RSF.

But its head Christophe Deloire warned that the number of journalists murdered in countries supposedly at peace was still alarmingly high, with 10 dying in Mexico alone.

"Latin America, with a total of 14

reporters killed across the continent, has become as deadly as the Middle East," he added.

While he said that the fall in the number of fatalities in conflict zones was something to celebrate, "more and more journalists are being assassinated for their work in democratic countries, which is a real challenge to democracy."

While fewer journalists are dying, more are ending up behind bars, according to RSF.

Some 389 were locked up in 2019, up 12 percent on last year.

Nearly half were imprisoned in three countries -- China, Egypt and

Saudi Arabia, which was blamed for the gruesome murder of columnist Jamal Khashoggi at its embassy in Istanbul last year.

"China, which has intensified its repression of the (mostly Muslim) Uighur minority, alone holds a third of the journalists locked up in the world," RSF said.

Meanwhile, 57 journalists are being held hostage across the globe, mostly in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Ukraine.

"There has been no notable freeing of hostages this year despite major developments in Syria," the RSF said, which has led it to fear for the worst for many of those abducted.

No 'ethical practice' in recruitment

FROM PAGE 16

since late 2012, reportedly for anomalies in recruitment process.

Illegal manpower brokers have been dominating the sector and there is no government mechanism to eliminate them or hold them accountable. They are the major reason for high recruitment cost, migration researchers said.

"There are 1,300 recruiting agencies but not one is ethical," said Ishita Shrutti, head of mission support & innovation division at the International Organisation for Migration Bangladesh.

She said they have anecdotal evidence showing Bangladeshis pay a lot more money compared to those from the Philippines, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Bangladeshis also take large loans to migrate, she said.

It is interesting to see how much of the remittance they send go towards repaying the loans, she told The Daily Star in an interview ahead of the International Migrants Day being observed today.

"When we talk about migration and development, we always talk about just the remittance, and we don't talk about the cost," Ishita said.

There are some 10 million Bangladeshis working abroad, and on

average some six lakh Bangladeshis go abroad for jobs each year. The remittance they sent last year was \$15.54 billion, up by more than \$2 billion from the previous year.

Even though remittance is rising, there is no available data to ascertain if the per capita wage or remittance of Bangladeshis was increasing or decreasing.

There are frequent reports of fraudulence, labour exploitation, forced labour, and debt bondage.

Against this backdrop, the IOM took up the global initiative International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) in 2015 to ensure ethical recruitment, transparency and due diligence throughout the recruitment process. It is being piloted in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Nepal.

Through the initiative, the IOM audits recruiting agencies and issues certificates if an agency asks for it after meeting IRIS standards.

"It's a kind of certification where we are promoting the 'employer pays model'. The cost should be borne by the employer," said Pravina Gurung, the IOM Bangladesh head of migration & development.

For instance, she said, "If I am recruited by the IOM in some other country, I don't need to pay for the migration cost, like visa cost, travel

cost, and the fees.

"We are promoting this among the global brands. If they follow IRIS standards in recruitment, they will have better business. It's true for the employers and recruiting agencies," Gurung said.

If the agencies dupe the migrants, they would not have business in the future, she added.

The Philippines has already begun implementing the ethical recruitment model, with at least one recruiting agency managing job placement in Canada, Pravina said.

In Nepal, a good number of agencies are already following ethical recruitment practices. The IOM is likely to certify a Nepali agency next year, while two others are being assessed, she said.

In Bangladesh, two recruiting agencies showed interest in IRIS certification, Pravina said.

IOM Bangladesh Chief of Mission Giorgi Gigauri said the eco-friendly coffee shops across Europe can be an example. The shops that use organic coffee produced without child labour and maintains transparency in the business were doing well.

He said the IOM was working with the Bangladesh government with a two-pronged approach, one to eliminate migration cost and the other to train migrants.

Where were AL leaders?

FROM PAGE 16

step against the killing!

"That dead body was lying on the floor of the house on [Dhanmondi] Road-32, why? I didn't get that answer even today," she said.

The PM said the failure to protect Bangabandhu forced the nation to pay for the next decades. "Because there were repeated coups, there were 18-19 coups in this country after the assassination of the Father of the Nation ... there had been oppression and torture on party leaders and activists."

"Had anyone come forward with courage, then these oppression and torture might not have taken place, and there might not be repeated coups in the country ... these repeated coups pushed the country towards destruction," Hasina said.

After the country's independence,

she said Bangladesh got Bangabandhu to build the country, but there were some conspirators who with the help of Pakistan tried to make the country a failed one. "There were also some people who did not even think about protecting the Father of the Nation but took benefits from him."

As a result, August 15 fell upon the whole nation as an era of darkness, Hasina said.

The PM said there were still some people who have affection for Pakistan, and their dream was to make Bangladesh a failed state.

"We liberated our country from Pakistan, and Bangladesh will always remain above Pakistan economically, politically, socially, culturally, and all other positive indices. The reality today is that we're ahead of them," she said, adding that this has to be

maintained.

Hasina said the conspiracy by the admirers of Pakistan against Bangladesh would continue, no matter wherever they were -- abroad or in jail. "We have to thwart that conspiracy and we've to take our country forward."

The AL government always engages in materialising the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and that is to make the country a developed and prosperous one which will be free from hunger and poverty, she added.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader delivered the welcome address at the discussion which was addressed, among others, by AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, and Jahangir Kabir Nanak.

2 jailed

FROM PAGE 16

Aussie tourist at night.

As they tried to rape the woman, she resisted and shouted, he said, adding that the youths fled the scene sensing trouble. The victim suffered some injuries.

The woman immediately informed Australian High Commission in Bangladesh about the incident.

On information, police went there and took her to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, and later took her back to the hotel under their protection, the OC said.

The law enforcers held five people, including a brother of the hotel owner, in the night. During interrogation, two of them confessed to attempting to rape the woman.

They were shown arrest in a case filed with the incident. The rest were released, said police.

Fifth grader left to die for Tk 2,500

Victim in critical condition; 3 schoolmates confess to involvement

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

"Please give me a pillow, I want to sleep with my parents," 12-year-old Arafat moaned in pain when police rescued him from a sugarcane field in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila early Monday. He had been lying there with a severe head injury for about 12 hours.

Influenced by an Indian crime show, three of his schoolmates tortured and tried to kill him for Tk 2,500. The attackers had promised the victim the money in exchange for a pair of roller skates, said police, quoting the three who have been arrested.

Arafat Hossain, a PSC examinee from Char Gargari village in the upazila, was in critical condition and undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Doctors were planning to shift him to Dhaka's Combined Military Hospital (CMH) for a surgery on his head. He suffered excessive blood loss and skull damage, said the physicians.

Around 1:30am on Monday, a team from Ishwardi Police Station rescued Arafat from the sugarcane field, around 1km from his home. He had been there since about 2:00pm on Sunday, said Inspector (OC) Arbinda Sarkar of the police station.

Arafat, a fifth grader, was seen playing in front of his home before he went missing on Sunday afternoon. As he didn't return home, his family members searched the entire village in vain. They then contacted the police.

Later that night, the law enforcers

came to know the victim was attacked by the three school students -- two aged 13 and the other 14, said Arbinda.

During primary interrogation, the three, all class-VII students, confessed that they attempted to kill Arafat for a pair of roller skates, he said.

Based on information gleaned from them, police rescued Arafat and sent him to hospital.

"The arrestees hit the victim on the head with an iron rod and left him there thinking he was dead. The victim lay there for 12 hours with a severe head injury, fighting to survive," said Arbinda.

Talking to The Daily Star, Arafat's father Akmal Hossain, a local trader, said his son has two pairs of roller skates. Recently, one of the three boys took a pair, promising to pay Arafat Tk 2,500.

"Instead of paying the money, he planned to kill my son," he said, demanding punishment for the arrestees.

On Monday night, Arafat's uncle Abu Taher Mallik filed a case against several people, including the three, with the police station.

Yesterday, the three students gave confessional statements before a magistrate, said police and court sources.

The inspector said, "During interrogation, the three confessed that one of them made the plan to kill Arafat instead of giving him the money. The arrestees were inspired by a crime show they watched on TV."

The arrestees would be sent to a juvenile correction centre, he added.

POTENTIAL TERROR THREAT

Indonesia boosts Christmas security

AFP, Jakarta

Muslim-majority Indonesia will deploy nearly 200,000 security personnel nationwide ahead of Christmas to guard against potential terror attacks, police said yesterday.

The Southeast Asian archipelago of 260 million has significant numbers of Christians, Hindus and Buddhists who have been targeted by radical Islamist groups.

Yesterday, authorities said some 192,000 police and military personnel would be deployed to secure Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations across the country -- including in easternmost Papua, a predominantly Christian region.

The deployment, which comes after a recent spate of attacks, is more than the 167,000 personnel deployed last year.

"As many as 10,000 personnel will be deployed in Jakarta" alone, said National Police spokesman Argo Yuwono

"Based on intelligence data, there are potential risks... so we're taking

preventive measures but we are also ready to take proactive action," he added.

Many past attacks in Indonesia, which has dozens of groups loyal to Islamic State's violent ideology, have been against police and other state symbols.

Authorities routinely arrest suspected IS-linked militants ahead of alleged planned attacks.

In October Indonesian President Joko Widodo ordered beefed-up security after two militants from an IS-linked terror group stabbed his chief security minister. He survived the assassination attempt.

Last month a suicide bomber blew himself up at a police station in Sumatra, killing himself and wounding six civilians.

Hundreds of suspects were rounded up after the attacks, which came more than a year after a suicide bomber family killed a dozen congregants in attacks at churches in Indonesia's second-biggest city, Surabaya.

Protests spiral

FROM PAGE 2

unit of the Awami League's Patharghata unit for 40 years.

In Rajshahi, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote formed a human chain at Shaheb Bazar area demanding punishment of people who prepared the controversial list and called for steps to correct the list.

Chief Prosecutor Office of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday held a press briefing at its office to protest the inclusion of Ghulam Arief Tipoo's name in the Razakar List.

Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon read out a written statement by Tipoo, where he said, "I am astonished, surprised, disheartened and humiliated by it [the list]."

The Liberation War Affairs Ministry has shown utter neglect by releasing and publishing the Razakar list without doing the necessary examinations and scrutiny, he said.

Tipoo is a gazetted freedom fighter and is now receiving the monthly government allowance for freedom fighter.

"I sincerely hope that they [Liberation War Ministry] will understand their fault and publish a gazette correcting the errors

immediately and publicise it through media," he said.

Tipoo also said he thought anti-liberation forces at the liberation war affairs ministry did it intentionally.

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum said on different occasions the Chief Prosecutor Office and investigation agency of the tribunal sought information about anti-liberation elements from the home ministry but to no avail.

Meanwhile, the Chief Prosecutor Office yesterday sent a letter to the Home Minister seeking information about the basis of the Razakar list, a prosecutor said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi in a statement demanded the removal of the liberation war affairs minister and secretary for publishing a flawed list. While Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Ratan) in another statement said the name of Tipoo in the list was part of a conspiracy.

Children of Liberation War martyrs expressed deep concern over the confusions and complexities that arose over the list, said a press release of Projonmo 71.

(Our Barisal, Patuakhali, Bogura, Sylhet, Cumilla and Rajshahi correspondents contributed to this report.)

At a snail's pace

FROM PAGE 16

price dropped in the market but it went up immediately. "We want the farmers to get better price," he said.

Now, the paddy procurement programme has been operating in full swing all over Rangpur region, he added.

Ministry of Food announced to procure six lakh tonnes of paddy across the country at a price of Tk 26 per kilogramme in this harvesting season. The announcement was made to help farmers recoup their losses in the previous season and keep the market alive.