

JCD rebels blast bombs in Dhaka, set fire to BNP office in Ctg

Staff Correspondent

REBEL groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, staged violent protests in the capital and Chittagong on Wednesday against the new central committee of JCD.

In Chittagong, the rebels set fire to the city BNP office at Nasiman Bhavan during the protests.

In Dhaka, a group of JCD leaders and activists who were left out of the new central committee exploded crude bombs in front of the BNP central office at Naya Paltan about 11:30am when a meeting of the BUET unit of JCD was in progress there, according to BNP sources.

The bombs were hurled apparently in a bid to foil the meeting, the sources added.

JCD general secretary Habibur Rashid Habib told New Age that he had heard about the incident and they were inquiring into it.

In reply to a question, Habib said that there was a process for distributing posts and none should try to get posts by tarnishing image of the party.

The JCD leaders and activists who did not get posts in the new committee earlier had staged demonstrations and exploded cocktails at different times and at different places, including outside the BNP chairperson's office at Gulshan demanding cancellation of the new central committee.

A full-fledged 291-member JCD committee with Abdul Quader Bhuiyan Jewel as president and Habibur Rashid Habib as general secretary was announced on April 15 after it was approved by BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia.

In Chittagong, a faction of JCD's city unit set fire to the city BNP office at Nasi-

man Bhavan at Kazir Dewri around noon, demanding cancellation of the newly formed committee of city JCD.

The rebels exploded crude bombs in front of the office. Police detained seven people in connection with the incident.

The police and witnesses said a group of JCD activists who did not get any posts in the new committee started staging protest in front of Nasiman Bhavan around 2:30pm. They shouted slogans against the new committee. At one point, the activists vandalised the office, and set the first floor of the building on fire before leaving the place by exploding crude bombs.

A fire engine from Nandankanan came and put out the flames. Nandankanan fire station officer Sharful Ahsan said some office furniture were damaged.

Kotwali police arrested seven people in the Nasiman Bhavan area after the violence. Kotwali police officer-in-charge Mohiuddin Selim said they had detained seven JCD activists suspecting their involvement in the incident.

After the incident, a rally was held in front of Nasiman Bhavan. Speaking at the rally, Chittagong city BNP secretary general Shahadat Hossain blamed 'unknown miscreants' for the violence. He said that those involved in the violence were not party activists. 'If any party men are found involved, they would be punished,' he said.

Earlier on Monday the JCD rebels exploded three crude bombs in front of Nasiman Bhavan.

An 11-member executive committee of Chittagong city unit of Chhatra Dal was announced on Sunday with Gazi Md Siraj Ullah as president and Belayet Hossain Bulu as general secretary.