

Break law, get punished

PM warns 'students and others' over violence, extortion at BCL's reunion rally; blames a section of media for criticising govt too early

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned 'students and others' of stern punitive actions, if they break the law, and get involved in violence and extortion.

"I want to make one thing clear, if any student or anybody else break the law and get involved in any internal conflict, violence, and extortion, the individual will be arrested right away and punished," Hasina, who is also the president of Awami League, said at a reunion rally of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the

student wing of her party.

She however promptly added, if any other organisation tries to take advantage of BCL's self control on her command, that also will not be tolerated. "I want to make that clear too," she did not leave any room for confusion.

"The trouble makers will be dealt with total expulsion from the organisation," she seemed to be warning her own student activists.

The prime minister's stern warnings came on the heels of media reports about quite a robust return of violence on cam-

puses of educational institutions all over the country, a large number of which were either initiated by BCL or happened among its own factions.

The reunion rally was held at the historic Paltan Maidan in the capital on the occasion of the 61st founding anniversary of BCL.

The programme itself also could not escape sporadic clashes among different units of BCL, over who will get what spot at the venue, leaving around 20 injured, while chairs were flying in the air.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

