

JCD, Shibir clash at Ruet: 3 injured

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least one Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) leader and two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were injured in separate clashes on Rajshahi University Engineering and Technology (Ruet) campus on Monday.

They were identified as Rakib, Sharif and Lemon, all of them are third year students of electronics department.

Sources said a group of ICS cadres led by Rakib went to Ruet Shahidullah hall in the evening, and beat JCD activists Lemon and Sharif severely for their alleged misbehaviour.

They were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) for treatment.

In retaliation, Lemon's brother Shamim, along with his JCD friends, went to Abdul Hamid Hall and beat Rakib with iron rods. He was also rushed to RMCH.

Tension was prevailing on the Ruet campus following the clashes.

Additional police have been deployed in front of every hall to avert any further untoward incident.

Children for adequate arrangements for edn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Underprivileged children yesterday urged the lawmakers of both the ruling and opposition parties to ensure adequate arrangements for their education.

It was a rare opportunity for them to ask questions to lawmakers about the government steps for education of all children.

About 100 children, who are receiving general and vocational education under 16 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), came to the Jatiya Sangsad premises and placed their grievances before the lawmakers.

Peoples Empowerment Trust (Pet), an NGO, organised the programme titled 'Meet the lawmakers' as part of the Global Action Week-2005, which is observed every year to ensure education for all children in all countries.

Mohammad Jashim, a student of Dhaka Ahsania Mission School, said the government should distribute textbooks free of cost up to the secondary level.

"Poor students like us cannot continue studies after primary level as they cannot afford to buy textbooks for the secondary level," said Jashim.

Jahidur Rahman, a student under Ucep Bangladesh, also echoed his views and said thousands of poor children will be able to receive secondary education if the government distributes free textbooks.

Rubi Akhter, another Ucep student, said the government should take steps for vocational education side by side with general education.

Nasima Sultana from a Brac-run school said many primary schools in the rural areas are facing a crisis of teachers, and the government should resolve this immediately.

Sathi Akhter, student of a Proshika-run school, said introduction of voca-

tional training along with general education will greatly benefit students belonging to poor families.

Admitting the crisis of teachers in primary schools, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Shahjahan Omar said the government is trying to meet the crisis.

Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid said all the successive governments tried their best to ensure

education for all children.

"There is no difference of opinion among lawmakers of the ruling and opposition parties on education for all children in the country," he added.

Awami League (AL) lawmaker Faruk Khan said the legislators should enact a law to introduce a system in which working children would get more scope for education at their work places.

Alauddin Ahmed, another AL legislator, said the nation would benefit if the government could introduce vocational training along with general education.

On free textbooks up to secondary level, the lawmaker said they would place a bill for this in parliament shortly.

MM Akash, chairman of Pet, proposed the government should introduce an 'education bank' to provide loan to poor students for their education.

Qazi Rafiqul Alam of Ahsania Mission, Shafiqul Islam of Brac, Tasnim Athhar of Campaign for Popular Education and Shishir Shil of Pet replied to questions from the children.



PHOTO: STAR

A child speaks at a programme titled "Meet the Lawmakers" at the MP Hostel at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

CO-VILLAGER MURDER One to die, three others get life

UNB, Gaibandha

A 50-year old farmer was sentenced to death and three others to life imprisonment yesterday for killing a co-villager over land dispute nine years ago.

District and Sessions Judge Mohsin Molla handed down the death penalty to Hamiruddin at a crowded court for killing Akibur. The lifers with a fine of Tk 5,000 each are Shamsul Islam, 50, Abdus Samad, 47, and Abu Bakkar, 45. All the convicts hail from Padumshahar village of Saghata upazila.

The prosecution said on January 26, 1996 Khaja Mia, brother of the Akibur, was ploughing his land. Shamsul Islam raised objection leading to the quarrel. At one stage Hamiruddin hacked Akibur on his head with a sharp weapon. Fatally wounded Akibur died in Gaibahda Sadar hospital.