

10 hurt in clash at Dhaka polytech instt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were injured and 10 rooms ransacked when two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League workers clashed in Dhaka Polytechnic Institute at Tejgaon Industrial Area in the city yesterday morning.

Campus sources said the clash occurred between Joy Group and Shahin Group of the student organisation. Police held five students of the institute in this connection.

Around four groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League are in conflict at the institute for quite some time, which flared up in yesterday's incident.

A first year student Jubair of Joy Group smoked cigarette on the campus in front of Pappu, a third semester student of Shahin Group. Pappu took it as a show of disrespect and beat him.

Later the Joy Group members went to Latif Hostel and attacked those of Shahin group with sticks and other weapons causing the latter to retaliate.

At least 10 of their rooms were ransacked along with around 10 students injured in the hour-long chase and counter chase.

Police went to the spot and charged baton to bring the situation under control.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Omar Faruque of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station told The Daily Star that no case has yet been filed till 7:00pm yesterday in connection with the incident and police are investigating into the incident.

Trader shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers shot dead a gold shop owner at old Dhaka's Tantibazar yesterday afternoon.

Deceased Abul Kalam, 28, son of Harunur Rashid, ran Harun Bullion Store at Rakhal Chandra Basak Lane.

Witness Alauddin, an employee of the shop, told journalists that three youths with firearms entered the shop and ordered Abul, sitting at the cash counter, and his two employees to give whatever they had.

Abul quickly locked the cash box and raised an alarm. One of the criminals shot him on the chest. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, he said.

Bazlu, another employee, said when people from nearby area came to their help, the miscreants exploded three cocktails and fled.

After the incident, local traders shut their shops alleging that notorious miscreant Dakat Shahid and Bhutto Group of Old Dhaka, who had been demanding and realising large amounts of toll from the gold traders of the area, are behind the murder.



Teachers of Ideal Government Primary School at Segunbagicha in the city yesterday stamp the school's name on the textbooks, which reached there yesterday for free distribution from first of January new year.

BSMMU ICU corridor used as 'temporary home'

Relatives of patients do nurses' job

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

In the corridor just outside the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Nazmun Nahar carefully prepares the medicine, as instructed by the nurse, for her daughter lying in a coma inside.

Next to her lies asleep on a mat her three and a half months old son.

Ever since her 20-year-old daughter went into a coma following a road accident three months ago, Nahar has been staying here "assisting" the ICU staff with preparation of medicines or buying them as prescribed.

"My son stays here, and plays and eats with me, this is like our new home," said Nahar.

Like Nahar, some 30 members of 16 other families have made their "temporary home" in the corridor of the ICU, not knowing when their waiting will end.

The system at the BSMMU's ICU section is strange. The relatives are "in-charge" of preparing or buying medicine and reminding the staff when to administer those to the patients.

With their bags, mattresses, utensils and other necessities are neatly packed, relatives of patients sit on the vinyl round the clock. They do what ICU staff are required to do.

Defying medical norms, nurses open the ICU door to ask medicines or food from the patients' relatives. Crammed in the 15 by 16 feet passage, the relatives patiently do the job.

Shuvo quit his garment factory job to attend his father Litu Munshi, admitted to the ICU four months ago. Shuvo said two persons are required for the job of attending a patient.

"When I am desperately looking for a life-saving medicine in the market, the nurses ask for something else. If there is a second person with me, he can answer to

ensure that my father does not go unattended," he told The Daily Star.

As evening falls, the corridor wears a different look as attendants go about arranging space to sleep. With mats, pillows and curtains, the area becomes a weary dormitory for some, while others keep awake.

Sayeda Akhter, 40, wife of ICU patient Mofazzal Hossain, said it is impossible to get proper sleep here. Mofazzal was admitted to the BSMMU three months ago.

"Wailing of relatives hearing news of death, nurses' repeated calls for medicine or food for the patient or the news of further health complications keep us from sleeping," Sayeda said.

"There are worries too," she continued, "treatment at the ICU is so expensive

that a family can never get back its financial strength if a member has to be kept at the ICU for long."

BSMMU Director Brig Gen Abdul Majid Bhuiyan said the hospital does not require assistance from the relatives of the patients. He said relatives of the patients defy repeated requests by the hospital authorities and insist on staying close to their near ones.

"We provide food and some medicine for the 16-bed ICU patients. But when the relatives say that they want to prepare chicken soup for the patients, how can we stop them?" he asked.

At the corridor, the waiting relatives share the same concern and uncertainty about their patients. They also form ties and console one another.



Relatives of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patients with belongings stay in the corridor of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University's (BSMMU) ICU until their near and dear ones are released. This photo has been taken recently.

Govt digitising cases on land disputes: Hira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira yesterday said the government is working for digitising all the civil cases related to land disputes for their quick disposal.

Around 80 percent people in the country are involved in cases related to land dispute, he said.

Aiming at modernisation of land management system and quick disposal of cases, the government is working cordially for the digitisation, he added.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a training programme on PIP (Performance Improvement Project) software under MAAT (Management At The Top)-2 project at the ministry's conference room, said a press release.

MATT project successfully conducted a pilot project on modernisation of land management system.

With PIP software database of cases will be digitised and the project will be implemented at the land administration offices and other offices concerned.

Nikhil Ranjan Mandal, joint secretary (law) of the land ministry, presided over the function attended by National Museum Director General Prokash Chandra Das and Deputy Secretary Parveen Akhter among others.

ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY SC to hear petition Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Regular bench of the appellate division of the Supreme Court will hear the government's petition for a stay order regarding the proposed elevated expressway on Sunday.

The vacation judge of the appellate division yesterday sent the matter to the regular full bench presided by the chief justice, said the court sources.

Attorney general's office filed a petition on December 27 seeking stay of a High Court (HC) order that directed for opening of the technically non-responsive bidder's financial offer for the expressway.

Sikder-KCC JV, rated as technically non-responsive in the final bidding for the project against Ital-Thai Development Company that won the bidding according to Bangladesh Bridges Authority (BBA), filed a petition with the High Court.

BBA Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said, "We are awaiting the court's decision." BBA intended to sign the concession agreement with the winning bidder by the first week of January for the 26-kilometre Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE).

Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and Dr M Zahir, among others, are fighting the legal battle for Sikder-KCC.



Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedi is produced before the International Crimes Tribunal in the city yesterday.

Full text of HC verdict on 7th amendment historic

Says Mahbubey Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday has termed the release of the full text of the High Court (HC) judgment on the 7th amendment, declaring HM Ershad's military rule illegal, a historic incident.

Briefing reporters at his office after receiving a copy of the full text, released by HC yesterday, he said the court in the verdict on August 26 declared illegal the seventh amendment of the constitution that legitimised Ershad's military rule.

It also urged the national parliament to take measures so that martial law can never be declared in this country, he said.

In the verdict, HC cancelled all clauses under paragraph 19 of the fourth schedule of the constitution and directed authorities concerned to reprint the constitution as per directives given in the judgment, he said.

Alam said HC left the issue of taking action against HM Ershad for his wrongdoings to the parliament and government.

He said HC in the judgment shows how former president and founder of BNP Ziaur Rahman destroyed the basic pillars of the constitution and ruined the national values.

The verdict termed Ershad's take over of the state power as a heinous crime, which is never forgivable, he added.

People who committed injustices like Ershad at different points on earth have been tried or are facing trial, he said, quoting the verdict.

The HC in the verdict hopes that the slogan of Bangalees -- Joy Bangla -- will be reestablished in the country.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza and MK Rahman also spoke, among others.

Change proposed wildlife law

Environmentalists urge govt

UNB, Dhaka

Environmentalists at a seminar yesterday urged the government to bring some changes in the proposed wildlife act and recognise biodiversity conservation as the top priority issue.

They said the forest department should not be authorised to conserve the wildlife and biodiversity by the act, as the department has already failed to preserve the wildlife species over the years.

"Some 16 species of animals in the country have already been extinct under supervision of the Department of Forest," said Dr Reza Khan, an internationally recognised zoologist and former teacher of Dhaka University.

Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) organised the seminar on "Proposed forest and wildlife conservation act: Future of forest, wildlife and forest inhabitants" at the National Press Club in the city.

Noted zoologists, lawyers, and botanists were among the environmentalists attending the programme.

Dr Khan said the government should immediately consult teachers, students, environmentalists, lawyers, journalists, and concerned specialists before enactment of the

Bangladesh Wildlife Act-2010 if the law is to be modernised.

He noted the proposed act has given responsibility to the forest department to conserve wildlife or biodiversity although it has failed to protect single species of wildlife over 200 years.

Dr Khan suggested the government create a separate directorate or department of wildlife and biodiversity for sustainable management to conserve all the wildlife and the biodiversity.

Presiding over the seminar, Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan said the forests, once available in various parts of the country, have been disappearing due to manmade causes. "It's really a matter of doubt that the country has 9 percent of forests."

He emphasised protection of forests and wildlife through concerted efforts of all. "Wildlife goes extinct with destruction of forests," he said.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, lawyer and executive director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA); Advocate Subrata Chowdhury; and environmentalist Dr Anisuzaman Khan also addressed the seminar.

OFFICE RELOCATION

RACE Management PCL

RACE Management PCL announces the relocation of its Registered Office to the following, effective from January 1, 2011.

<p>Previous Address</p> <p>RACE Management PCL</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Akram Tower, Suite - 3, 7th Floor 199 Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Sarani, Purana Paltan, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh Tel: 88-02-93380024, 9346005, 8391464-65 Fax: 88-02-9338757</p>	<p>New Address</p> <p>RACE Management PCL</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Al-Razi Complex (3rd Floor) 166-167, Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Sarani (Old Bijoy Nagar), Purana Paltan Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh Tel: 88-02-9555105-6, 9559722 Fax: 88-02-9513138</p>
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