

**BCL FACTIONAL CLASH  
TTC closed  
for three days  
10 injured**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers' Training College in the city was announced closed for three days after a clash between two rival factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) that left 10 students hurt yesterday.

Six of the injured students were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and the others took treatment at different clinics in the city.

The college authority also closed all the two students' hostels for five days, asking the male students to vacate the dormitories by 7:00pm yesterday and the female ones by 8:00am today.

Witnesses said the clash erupted as a student named Kabir, who was a BCL activist of the faction loyal to Sabuj, was beaten up by the rivals over a sports' event of the on-going annual sports on the campus.

On information, activists of Sabuj group equipped with iron rods and sharp weapons attacked on the activists of Jewel loyal group and their rooms at the student hostel at 1:00pm.

Chase and counter-chase for two hours took place on the campus leaving the students of the both factions wounded. At least 20 rooms were ransacked and looted during the clash.

Police brought the situation under control at 2:30pm and detained four of the students involved in the clash.

According to the college authority, it is the fourth clash between the BCL rival factions occurred on the campus over the last fortnight.

**Chief Justice's  
health condition  
improves**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condition of Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, who was admitted to the hospital with high blood pressure on Sunday midnight, improved yesterday.

Justice Khairul told The Daily Star last night over cell phone that he felt much better, and he expected that he would be released from the hospital toady.

The chief justice was also suffering from heart and diabetes problems.

He could not join the office yesterday due to his illness.

**Marginalised  
people demand  
involvement  
in development**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives of marginalised communities yesterday demanded the government to involve them in the country's development activities by separately identifying them.

The representatives from communities including Dalit, indigenous people, Harijan, snake charmers, sex workers and fishermen made the demand at a human chain held in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Except for a few communities, the remaining ones have no provision to separately count them in the upcoming census, beginning March 15. For example, questions on the census about indigenous people involve only 27 out of the 45 communities present, they said.

Dhaka University Prof Mejbah Kamal; Harijan Oikya Parishad President Krishna Lal; sex workers' representative Razia Sultana; representative of fishermen Bholu Nath Chandra Barman; human rights activists Dewan Akhtaruzzaman and Sharmin Morshed; Mahuwa Leya Faliya of Manusher Jonno Foundation; and representative of indigenous people Sanjib Drong were present.



Participants in a discussion titled "Encouraging women to embrace technology" jointly organised by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Women in Technology (BWIT) at The Daily Star Auditorium in the city yesterday marking the International Women's Day.

PHOTO: STAR

**DAILY STAR- BWIT DISCUSSION  
Women's involvement in  
technology stressed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country cannot move forward without assisting and encouraging women to study and professionals in the fields of science and technology as this involvement is one of the major ways towards development, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Though women have been playing a crucial role in national economic growth, they still find difficulties in building a career in the field of technology due to social stereotype towards them, they said.

Parents should give their daughters the opportunity and support to study subjects that interest them, as young girls can achieve anything if given the opportunity, they added.

The discussion titled "Encouraging women to embrace technology" was jointly organised by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Women in Technology (BWIT) at The Daily Star Auditorium in the city marking International Women's Day.

Women entrepreneurs, corporate executives, computer science professionals, and students and teachers of different schools, colleges and universities participated in the discussion.

Speakers said the country's future could dramatically change for the better if women are given more exposure and opportunities.

Dr Suraiya Parvin, chairperson of Department of Computer Science and Technology of Dhaka University (DU), said women's advancement is facing a setback due to stereotypical notions of

society. "From their childhood, girls are taught that they are not meant for tough tasks or challenging jobs. It is even said they are not good at the subjects like science, mathematics or technology," said Dr Suraiya, also vice president of BWIT.

This creates a typical mindset about women and as a consequence, many girls pursuing higher education consider technological subjects as not for them, she said.

"Guardians, teachers and women who moved ahead despite the challenges will have to take the lead to change the mindset," Dr Suraiya said.

Prottasha, a student of the DU computer science department, said most girls could not reach higher education due to many social reasons.

She suggested starting science studies from primary level so that every girl can attain that education from root level.

A student of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College suggested introduction of job counselling in schools so that students can have a clear aim of their professional career.

Enrolment of girls at primary and secondary levels increased and they are performing remarkably at higher education levels. But they are not pursuing their professional career which is regrettable, said BWIT President Luna Shamsuddoha. Girls are not encouraged and informed about the prospect of the subjects, she said, adding that it is necessary to assist them in taking up

information technology as a career.

Luna, also chairman of Dohatec New Media, said girls should be encouraged to study mathematics, science and engineering subjects to become professionally fit for the global challenge.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said technology envelops us and there is no question that we need to embrace technology as well as its basis, science.

In a male dominated society, it is difficult to suppress a woman educated in both science and technology, he said.

"Traditionally when we think of women in profession, we think of her as a teacher or as an artist. We have to break that mindset," he said.

The country has many women who are economists, entrepreneurs, political analysts and linguists, but in the area of science, a huge gap remains, he added.

He said, "Our lives are totally dependent on technology and in that technology, the role of women has to be enhanced."

"If you devote your time and energy into science studies and as a consequence, evolve your scientific skills, you have a far better chance in evolving Bangladesh."

Farhana Rahman, chairperson of UY Systems Ltd; Sonia Bashir Kabir, director of business development (South East Asia) for Microsoft; Rumasa Hossain, channel manager of Dell Bangladesh; and Emran Rahman, vice chancellor of University of Liberal Arts of Bangladesh; also spoke.

**Swadhinata Stambha  
partly opens to public**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government formally opened the completed part of Swadhinata Stambha (independence memorial) complex to public at the historic Suhrawardy Uddyan in the capital yesterday.

The Stambha is built to commemorate the historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Bangladesh's independence in 1971.

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, deputy leader of the House, opened the underground museum and fountain, terracotta mural depicting heroes and events of liberation war, auditorium, audio-visual room, and open-air theatre as the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony organised by the liberation war affairs ministry.

The terracotta work in the memorial complex depicts the nation's successive episodes on political struggles and the final victory.

The glass tower (Tower of Light), the main attraction of the memorial, is scheduled to be completed by July next year.

The speech of Bangabandhu not only upheld the people's aspiration for liberation but contained comprehensive directions on the war strategy towards the final victory, said a dozen secretaries and members of parliament on the occasion.

It upheld the people's emotion and political dream and inspired the whole nation for liberation, said Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, secretary to the education ministry.

**CONTRIBUTION IN 1971  
50 foreign nationals,  
orgs to be honoured**

UNB, Dhaka

The government will accord honour to 50 distinguished foreign nationals including heads of states and governments and five international organisations on the 40th anniversary of Independence on March 26.

The government has decided to honour the personalities and organisations in recognition of their contribution in Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

With Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the cabinet yesterday approved the proposal, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad informed the reporters after the cabi-

net meeting at the Secretariat.

Earlier, a national committee, headed by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, finalised the draft list of the nominees which was placed at the cabinet meeting for approval.

The prime minister is expected to distribute certificates and crests among them in the programme.

The foreign friends who were enlisted for according honour include 17 from India, nine from the US, seven from Britain, four Russians, three Japanese and one each from Australia, Bhutan, Germany, Ireland, France, Nepal, the Netherlands and Sweden, sources said.

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People crowd the completed part of Swadhinata Stambha (independence memorial) at Suhrawardy Uddyan in the city yesterday after its formal opening.

PHOTO: STAR



Bangladesh Harizan Oikya Parishad forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city protesting exclusion of people belonging to marginalised communities from the national census 2011.

PHOTO: STAR

**PM advices cricket fans  
not to be over excited**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to exercise utmost tolerance in all spheres of life and refrain from getting over excited in anything, especially in cricket matches.

Addressing a discussion on the historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the International Conference Centre she noted with regret at the sad incidents that manifested intolerance among a section of cricket fans. "We have to remember that win and loss is the part of the game."

Referring to pelting stones on the bus carrying West Indies players after they defeated Bangladesh team she said it was neither desirable nor acceptable.

"It is not a good gesture," she said adding that the foreign players are the guests of the nation and people are to show optimum respect to them.

She said that Bangladesh got the rare chance to host the opening ceremony of the cricket world cup and also host eight matches.

Hasina warned against such kind of intolerant attitude of the cricket fans and said that this would not be accepted by the government.

Referring to the death of a Dhaka University student she said that it was obviously shocking for all but why this should evoke vandalising vehicles on the street.

Taking to the street and agitating on every matter is not a good sign and the government would not tolerate such kind of attitude," she said.

**HC lifts order  
against Moksud**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday withdrew its order issuing a contempt of court rule against columnist Syed Abul Moksud, as he yesterday apologised to the court for making comment on one of its orders.

Appearing before an HC bench voluntarily, Abul Moksud on March 2 said flames would rage throughout the country if an initiative is taken to construct a new mosque demolishing an old one near Mahasthangarh following an HC order.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain on March 3 issued a rule asking the veteran journalist to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against him and why he should not be penalised for making the statement.

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[ Appointment: (02)-8845242, 01841 APOLLO, 01729 APOLLO, 01195 APOLLO, 01612 APOLLO, 01971 APOLLO; APOLLO Signifies: 276556 ]

Prof. (Dr.) Mohammed Istiaque Hossain graduated from Dhaka Medical College in 1979. He obtained MRCP from UK and subsequently FRCP from the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh in 2003. He received special training for sick children from the Royal Hospital, Edinburgh and Royal Hospital of Glasgow. Prof. Istiaque has a long experience of over 30 years in Paediatrics and Neonatology. He is the pioneer of mobile blood transfusion system and breast milk bank in Bangladesh. Other than being a Paediatrician, he is an expert in the field of Neonatology having vast experience of managing sick newborn. He attended and presented papers in several national and international conferences and has many publications in national and international reputed journals. Recently he has joined in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka as Senior Consultant-Paediatrics & Neonatology. Before Joining Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, He worked as Professor and Head of the Department of Paediatrics & Neonatology in Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital, Dhaka.

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