

Students of three colleges engage in clashes in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of three colleges of the capital have been engaging in sporadic clashes in different areas for the last three days, hampering academic activities in the educational institutions and creating panic among the city dwellers.

The clashes left some 13 students injured and police detained 12 students from different areas in this connection yesterday. However, the specific reason behind the clashes could not be identified yet.

The colleges are Dhaka City College in Dhanmondi Road 2 and Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College and Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College inside Pilkhana of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) headquarters.

Principals of five colleges held a meeting in Dhaka College yesterday to form 10-member teams from each college to monitor activities in areas adjoining the colleges.

Dhaka City College Principal Prof Md Shahjahan Khan told The Daily Star that he suspected the clashes to have originated on September 9 from a dispute over sharing of money of a snatched cellphone.

The dispute was between a few students of Dhaka City College and the Noor Mohammad college. The latter were joined by the Munshi Abdur Rouf college students, he said.

The students of the three institutions called over their friends in different educational institutions in nearby areas to join them, he said, adding, "We suspect that a gang of criminals as well as students of other colleges are involved."

Dhanmondi Police Station Sub-Inspector Shariful Islam suspected that the clashes originated over getting bus seats.

Police and Dhaka City College sources said some students from the Noor Mohammad college hacked the gate of Dhaka City College with sharp weapons on September 10.

Five of them were caught and assaulted by Dhaka City College students and staff, said the sources.

In the following two days, students of Dhaka City College started assaulting students of the two Pilkhana colleges and vice versa in different areas including Jigatola Bus Stand, in front of the BGB gate and Dhaka City College and Dhanmondi 15.

The students mainly targeted their opponents in buses, dragging them down and giving them a beating before disappearing suddenly just as they came, said witnesses.

Yesterday the students of the Pilkhana colleges assaulted four Dhaka City College students in Elephant Road, Jigatola Bus Stand, Dhanmondi 15 and in front of the BGB gate.

In response, Dhaka City College students assaulted two students of the Munshi Abdur Rouf college.

Dhanmondi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Anwar Hossain said additional police were deployed in different areas to avert further clashes.

The area monitoring teams would come from Dhaka City College, the Pilkhana colleges, Dhaka College and Ideal College.



Causing sufferings to patients, interns of Chittagong Medical College Hospital continue their indefinite strike for the second consecutive day yesterday. They were protesting Tuesday's attack on one of their colleagues by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists. Inset, lack of staff forces a relative of a sick girl to carry her into the hospital.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Youths urged to help globalise Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The youths should come forward to internationalise Bangla language using updated information technology, speakers said at a programme yesterday.

Internationalisation of the language will require huge money but it can be possible if the youths contribute through using Internet and inventing software for translation of Bangla, they said.

The observations came at the 22nd Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury Memorial Lecture at the Institute of Modern Language (IML), Dhaka University.

DU Professor Abul Mansur Muhammad Musa, popularly known as Mansur Musa, delivered the lecture titled "Internationali-

sation of Bangla Language: Problems and Prospects".

An eminent academician, Dr Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury was a teacher of the IML and wife of noted educationalist Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury. She passed away on September 12, 1989.

In his speech, Prof Musa said economic crisis was a major hurdle for Bangla in obtaining recognition as one of the official languages of the UN.

Bangladesh will have to spend around Tk 440 crore annually if Bangla becomes a UN official language, he said.

The memorial programme was presided over by DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAM S Arefin Siddique, while IML Director Prof Sultan Ahmed, among others, spoke.

Rohingya refugees demand third country to live

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Rohingya refugees of Kutupalong camp in Ukhaia upazila yesterday told a US team that they wanted to permanently live in a third country.

They also demanded their recognition as Myanmar citizens and a stop to persecution of Rohingyas and pushback of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh.

Rozina Begum, 45, a Rohingya woman, said they were unable to live in peace in their motherland Myanmar for being Muslims and fled to Bangladesh.

She said they were not living normal lives here either.

A three-member team of US officials, including US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan W Mozena, visited the camp yesterday.

The US team did not make any reply to the refugees' demands.

Mozena told journalists that he would hold a press briefing in Dhaka today (Thursday) about the team's visit.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajia (second from left) shows her ability to write with the help of a prosthetic hand at a press conference in the administrative building of Dhaka University yesterday. DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique was present there.

DU teacher's invention brings hope to amputee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University teacher yesterday fitted a prosthetic hand he had invented to a young woman who lost her right hand in a bomb explosion some seven years ago.

The woman, Rajia, around 20 years old, will now be able to perform everyday tasks like writing and getting dressed, said the teacher, Prof Khondakar Siddique-e-Rabbani, chair-

man of the biomedical physics and technology department.

The DU authorities organised a press briefing at the DU administrative building yesterday to reveal the invention.

Prof Khondakar said he led a team of researchers in a project, sponsored by Akiz Food and Beverage Limited, for several years before being able to produce the prosthetic hand, costing only Tk2,000, from a mannequin.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aapon Mahmud, a poet and senior sub-editor of the daily Kaler Kantha, passed away from heart disease at Apollo Hospitals in the capital at 6:00am yesterday. He was 36, says a press release.

Dhaka Sub-Editors' Council expressed deep shock at his death.

Doa mahfil

METRO DESK

A doa mahfil of Abdur Rahim Bhuiyan, deputy attorney general of the Supreme Court, will be held at his residence in the capital's Rampura after Asar prayers tomorrow (Friday).

Abdur Rahim died of cardiac arrest at the age of 64.

Qulkhawani

METRO DESK



Qulkhawani of Md Wasequzzaman Khan, freedom fighter and former IGP will be held at his residence in Dhaka at 5:00pm tomorrow.

He died on September 10.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Mahboob-ul-Huq Payera, national sports award winner and journalist. On the occasion, various programmes will be held today.

ASK condemns BCL attacks on JCD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a rights organisation, yesterday expressed deep concern over the recent attacks on the activists of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) by those of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities.

It also condemned the indolence of the university authorities regarding the incidents, says a press release.

In a statement, ASK said BCL, the pro-Awami League student organisation, has been acting aggressive and their activities has been creating instability in different educational institutions and hampering educational atmosphere.

ASK hopes that the government and university authorities will probe into the allegations against BCL and take punitive actions against those guilty in the recent attacks.