

20 injured as BCL rivals clash at JnU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University (JnU) virtually turned into a battlefield yesterday when two rival groups of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) locked in fierce clashes, leaving around 20 people, including five students, injured.

Five were admitted to Mitford Medical College Hospital and nearby Sumona Medical with critical injuries.

Equipped with firearms, homemade bombs, machetes and axes, supporters of JnU unit BCL President Shariful Islam clashed with supporters of General Secretary Sirajul Islam around 11:00am reportedly over establishing supremacy.

The clashes started through explosions of the bombs while several gunshots were heard for over one hour, causing severe panic among the students and locals.

On information, police rushed to the spot and fired nine rounds of tear gas shells and two gunshots to bring the situation under control.

Officer-in-Charge Abu Bakkar Siddique of Kotwali Police Station said none was arrested and no case was filed in this connection.

JnU Proctor Dr Ashok Kumar Saha said, "Additional law enforcers have been deployed to avoid further clashes."

BCL Central Committee issued show causes notices to the president and general secretary asking to reply in three days why they should not be suspended from BCL.

Both Shariful and Sirajul, in a joint statement, claimed that the clash was not among their groups but rather it was an untoward incident resulting from a misunderstanding between two groups. The duo claimed that they had jointly brought the situation under control.



A group of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Jagannath University unit charge towards their rival BCL group on the campus yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 18th death anniversary of ATM Wali Ashraf, a

freedom fighter and former lawmaker.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his Mayakanon residence in Kamalapur area of the capital, says a press release.

His family members have requested his relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Wali Ashraf was a dedicated social worker and also a journalist who was the founder editor of the Janomot.

Single authority to monitor food adulteration demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday demanded a single authority to control food adulteration which causes cancer and damages vital human organs including kidney, liver and heart.

They also demanded trying persons who are involved in adulterating food under Special Power's Act, 1974, which includes a provision for giving death penalty or life term imprisonment for committing such an offence.

Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and Dushtha Shashtha Kendra jointly organised the roundtable on "Formulation of a time befitting pure food law and a proper agency is necessary to implement the law" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

"There are 15 industries which are working to monitor food adulteration but none are taking their responsibility seriously," said Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Poba.

When only one authority becomes responsible, it is easier to hold them

accountable, he said.

Due to use of formalin in fishes, fruits, meat and milk, people are being affected by different diseases like cancer, asthma and skin diseases, said Engineer Abdus Sobhan, former additional secretary general of Department of Environment, who presented the keynote paper.

He said formalin also affects vital organs like kidney, liver and heart.

Harmful colour agents like auramine and rhodamine b facilitate cancer development in the stomach and prostate gland, he said.

Colour agents like chrome, tartazine and erythrosine which are used in spice, sauce, fruit juice, pulse and oil are also developing diseases like cancer and can cause allergies, he said.

Suggesting that vegetables should not be eaten within 10 days of being sprayed with pesticides, Dr Lelin Chowdhry said fruits and vegetable are sold in the country just after they are sprayed with pesticide.

KHAGRACHHARI

BRDB official shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Criminals shot dead an official of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) in Manikchhari of Khagrachhari yesterday.

Alo Baran Chakma, 35, of Manikchhari Bazar area, the field inspector of Laxmichhari upazila BRDB office, died instantly. His wife Sujata Chakma, field assistant at the office, was referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital from Manikchhari Upazila Health Complex with bullet wounds.

About eight to ten criminals sprayed bullets on the couple in Rangapani Adarshagram area in the morning while going to their workplace, said Officer-in-

Charge Kesab Chakraborty of Manikchhari Police Station.

ASP (Ramgarh Circle) Mohammad Shajahan said the reason behind the attack could not be known immediately.

Police suspect that Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) or United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) might be involved in the incident.

Contacted, Dhiman Chakma, convener of PCJSS Laxmichhari upazila unit, blamed the armed cadres of UPDF for launching the preplanned attack while Niron Chakma, press and information secretary of the UPDF, blamed the PCJSS for the killing.

KHALAF MURDER CASE

Two confess to killing

Judge of previous court tells tribunal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A metropolitan magistrate told a speedy trial tribunal yesterday that two of the five accused in the killing of Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali confessed before him their involvement in the murder.

Shahriar Mahmud Adnan, a magistrate of Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, said this while giving his deposition before Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka.

During the investigative stage, accused Mohammad Al Amin, and Akbar Ali Lahu, had given their confessional statements on July 30 and August 1 respectively in Adnan's court.

In Adnan's statement, he told the court that both the accused had given their confessional statements willingly where they said that they along with the other three killed Khalaf as he refused to give them the dollars he had.

Meanwhile, witness Abul Hossain, an owner of Seba Clinic at Uttara, yesterday identified a revolver used to kill the victim and seized from the accused.

Abul said the accused had taken the revolver from him during a robbery at Uttara residence last November.

Later, defence lawyers cross-examined witnesses and the court fixed today for next hearing of the case.

Other accused are Saiful Islam Mamun, Rafiqul Islam Khokon and Selim Chowdhury. Selim is at large.

Dhaka shocked by Suu Kyi's

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her country's Rakhine state terming them illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

In a press statement yesterday, the foreign ministry said such comments were clearly inconsistent with the position of the Myanmar government, and the action taken by them to resolve the issue over the past several years.

Suu Kyi on November 13 in India described the recent violence in west Myanmar between Buddhists and Muslims as a "huge international tragedy", saying illegal immigration from Bangladesh had to be stopped.

Giving a long historical background, the foreign ministry particularly mentioned that the Myanmar government had accepted 236,599 Myanmar refugees of Rohingya ethnicity after their own process of verification.

"There is, therefore, no question that these people

had moved from Myanmar into Bangladesh.

"It is the sincere expectation of the Bangladesh government that all concerned will refrain from making statements that are without any basis in fact," the statement said.

Bangladesh will remain engaged with Myanmar for a durable solution to this outstanding issue in the spirit of good neighbourliness, it added.

The foreign ministry also said historic evidence shows that people of Rohingya ethnicity have been living in the Rakhine state for centuries, whereas Bangladesh came into existence only in 1971.

Therefore, there was no reason to ascribe Bangladesh nationality to these people living in the Rakhine state long before 16th December 1971.

Subsequent to Bangladesh's emergence as an independent state, there had been occasional

influxes of Myanmar nationals of Rohingya ethnicity from Myanmar to Bangladesh due to internal situations in their homeland, the statement read.

The last such major influx took place in 1991-92 when 250,877 Myanmar nationals of Rohingya ethnicity took refuge in Bangladesh.

Of these, the Myanmar government took back 236,599 refugees through a tripartite agreement between Bangladesh, Myanmar and UNHCR after verification of their antecedents as people of Myanmar origin.

The remaining Myanmar refugees, along with their offsprings, were staying in two refugee camps in Bangladesh.

A quarter of these residual refugees were verified and confirmed by the Myanmar government as their nationals.

In addition to the above caseload of refugees, a large

number of Myanmar nationals, again of Rohingya ethnicity, had subsequently crossed the border and illegally entered Bangladesh.

In numerous interactions at various levels, including during the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Myanmar in December 2011, the Myanmar government had assured Bangladesh to take back these undocumented Myanmar nationals after verification of their origin.

"Bangladesh has noted with appreciation the recent decision of the Myanmar government to review their citizenship laws to ensure inclusive nationality for all members of Myanmar society," the statement said.

Bangladesh also expects that this review would uphold accepted international standards in determining the nationality of all people living in Myanmar, it added.

'Fugitive' speaks to journalists

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on November 11, held the press conference at the Jatiya Press Club at noon.

Jewel said he had never gone into hiding and had always been staying at his locality.

Talking to The Daily Star, Sakawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of South Keraniganj Police Station,

yesterday expressed surprise over Jewel's holding a press conference. The OC claimed that he was unaware of it.

"We have been looking

for him as many reports in the media have mentioned his links with the abduction. Some of the arrestees also said so," the OC said.

At the press meet, Jewel claimed that he was in no way involved in the abduction and that he had a "good relationship with Parag's father Bimol Mondol".

Bimol is a businessman at Paschim Para in Shuvadya union of Keraniganj on the outskirts of the city. Jewel hails from the same area.

Jewel, who is an accused

in many cases, including for killing and extortion, claimed that vested quarters had been trying to implicate him falsely with a view to furthering their own interests.

His lawyer Mohammad Russel and Keraniganj Muktiyoddha Command Council President Mohammad Shahjahan were also present at the conference.

Armed criminals snatched Parag away from shooting his mother, sister

and their driver in the morning on November 11 from near their house while they were about to get into their car for going to school.

Three days after the abduction, the child was left abandoned in the area reportedly against a ransom of Tk50 lakh.

After the incident, Rab arrested six persons while another was arrested by police in this connection. But the gang leader and other key persons in the incident are still at large.

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