

MC COLLEGE 10 hurt in BCL infighting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

At least 10 people were injured as two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) clashed at Government MC College in Sylhet yesterday to establish supremacy in the college area.

The half-hour long violence left nine motorcycles vandalised near the college entrance. The injured, all of them BCL men, took first aids from local clinics.

Witnesses said the clash started when Debangshu Das, BCL president of Sylhet Government College, which is separated from MC College by just a wall, arrived at MC College where fresher reception was going on in different departments.

Debangshu with some MC College students were greeting the first year honours students.

Irked by his presence, MC College BCL leader Babla Das chased Debangshu and his group, initiating the clash. Both the groups carried iron rods and sharp objects.

Witnesses said they heard sounds of two gunshots. The situation calmed down around noon.

Locals said Debangshu, backed by Awami League city unit leader Azadur Rahman Azad, and Babla, backed by AL district general secretary Shofiqur Rahman Chowdhury MP, had long been in a rivalry to establish supremacy in Tilagarh area where the colleges are located.



A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists carry iron rods and sharp weapons as they clash with another faction on Government MC College campus and the adjoining Sylhet-Tamabil road yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Road crashes kill 5, injure 16

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and 16 others injured in separate road accidents in Sherpur, Narsingdi, Netrakona and Moulvibazar on Monday and yesterday.

Our Sherpur correspondent reports, two boys were killed as a tractor they were travelling in fell into a roadside ditch at Charkharhar Pashchimpara village in Sherpur sadar upazila yesterday evening.

The deceased Asad Ali, 15, son of Kabir Ali; and Shraban, 10, son of Nekbar Ali, were hailing from Char Gobindopur village of the sadar upazila.

Our Narsingdi correspondent reports, a policeman was killed and 16 others including two cops were injured as a covered van hit a standing pickup and a microbus on Bholanagar Jaikhana intersection on Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday evening.

The deceased was traffic police habildar Minhaj, 40.

The injured, including traffic sergeant Abdur Rab Sarkar, 45, and traffic constable Farid, 35, were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Our Netrakona correspondent reports, an elderly man died instantly as a truck hit him while he was crossing Netrakona-Kendua road at Sarapara village in Kendua upazila yesterday morning.

The victim was Abdul Malek, 70, of Sarapara.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reports, motorcyclist Sobuj Ali, 43, died when a pickup van hit him in front of Manik Singo Bazar in Juri upazila on Monday evening.

KHULNA-MONGLA PORT RAIL LINE Construction to start by July: Minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The government has planned to start construction of the 53-kilometre Khulna-Mongla Port rail line by July this year, said Railway Minister Md Mujibul Hoque yesterday.

Besides, modernisation works of Khulna Railway Station costing Tk 84 crore will begin soon, he said at a press briefing following a meeting in Khulna Circuit House auditorium in Khulna city.

The railway minister held the view-exchange meeting with local representatives and government officials on finalising the alignment of the rail line construction from Khulna to Mongla Port.

He said the government will purchase at least 20 new trains, alongside new engines and coaches, from China, India and Japan by June this year.

He added that more Dhaka-Khulna intercity trains will be brought in within the next six months while construction work of the Khulna-Darshana double rail line will also start depending on fund availability.

Economic Advisor to Prime Minister Dr Moshir Rahman, State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnuzan Sufian, and Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Talukder Abdul Khaleque attended the meeting.

Bangladesh possible tourist destination for Australians

Say Aussie journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh with its unique cultural wealth and local crafts can emerge as a tourism destination for Australians, said six award-winning Australian journalists, who recently concluded a five-day visit to the country.

There is no need for discotheques, pubs or star-rated hotels to attract tourists to Bangladesh, they said at a press conference hosted by Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Greg Wilcock at his residence on Monday evening.

Paul Sheehan, a journalist at The Sydney Morning Herald, said, "Bangladesh's traditional textile alone is enough to drive foreign women crazy."

The six-member celebrity journalists' team from different Australian newspapers arrived in Bangladesh on February 14

and visited Dhaka, Tangail and the Sundarbans.

Mark Dapin, also from The Sydney Morning Herald, while describing a song that a farmer sang in Tangail, said, "I saw one of the best and most fascinating cultural performances in any country of the world."

Helen Anderson, from The Australian, said, "In my writing I will be reflecting the rural life and ideas of sustainability with emphasis on colour, warmth and resilience and textile products."

Bangladesh's wonderful village life, resilient women and traditional festivals make the country a goldmine for foreign tourists, said Sarah Siddiqi, chief executive of Experience Bangladesh, a tourism management company that sponsored the tour along with other co-hosts.

Joanna Tovia, Gillian Cumming and Kelly Irving were the other journalists.

Outsourcing can help develop economy

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh has many opportunities to develop its economy by educating youths on outsourcing, said speakers at a seminar in Chittagong yesterday.

The seminar titled "Youth Leadership in the field of Freelancing" was organised by the IT Club of Asian University for Women (AUW) in the university's auditorium.

The speakers at the programme urged youths to go forward by improving their proficiency and skills in the dynamic IT sector.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr Fahima Aziz, vice-chancellor of AUW, said freelancing gives IT professionals the opportunity to get good jobs without any middleman. She expressed hopes that freelancing would empower youths in terms of both financial security and professional exposure.

As a part of the programme, a workshop was held where participants had the chance to gather knowledge about outsourcing. Syed Sajid Hussain, chief executive officer (CEO) of Chittagong Stock Exchange, and Prof Rezaul Karim of Computer Science and Engineering Department of Chittagong University (CU), among others, spoke at the programme.



Guests, including English Department Professor of Dhaka University Manjur E Mawla and fiction writer Dr Syed Monzoorul Islam, along with consultants and management high ups of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka at the launching ceremony of the hospitals' Bangla website in its auditorium in the capital yesterday. The website was launched to provide health care information to people in Bangla.

PHOTO: COUTESY

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