

3 hurt in BCL-Shibir gunfight at RU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Three Rajshahi University students, including two Shibir activists, were injured in a daylight gunfight between Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir on the campus yesterday.

The activists of Chhatra League, pro-Awami League student body, clashed with those of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, over establishing supremacy on the campus.

Besides, the BCL men also assaulted Nazim Mridha, RU correspondent of the New Age, while he was taking photos of the incident.

However, the BCL RU unit president apologised

for the unsolicited matter.

Police and witnesses said a group of BCL activists chased a contingent of Shibir men to Shahidullah Arts Building as they were crossing the central library around 11:45am.

At one stage, both the groups exchanged several rounds of gunshots, leaving the three students injured.

Patrol police shot several rubber bullets in the air to tame the situation, said Abdus Subhan, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station.

Finally, the rowdy Shibir activists fled the building.

Mizanur Rahman Rana, BCL RU unit president, alleged that the Shibir men sprayed bullets on his party activists.

Police also arrested him.

Al Imran, general secretary of Shibir science faculty unit, was taking treatment at Islami Bank Hospital in the divisional city.

A general student named Firoz Ahmed, a fourth-year student of linguistics department, took first aid.

Saifuddin Yeahia, general secretary of RU unit Shibir, alleged that the BCL men, backed by police, opened fire on their party men when they took shelter at the building.

"We fear that a massive labour unrest will take place if the situation is not immediately brought under control," said Murschedy, also a former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

In a statement, Federation of Bangladesh

Businesses worried at violence

FROM PAGE 1
garment units, owners from Ashulia and Savar sat at the BGMEA office and called upon the government to ensure security of their factories.

"We have met Labour and Employment Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju, and will meet other ministers concerned, seeking security of the factories," said Abdus Salam Murschedy, president of Ashulia zone RMG factory owners' association.

"We fear that a massive labour unrest will take place if the situation is not immediately brought under control," said Murschedy, also a former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

In a statement, Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex trade body, urged the government to take measures to bring back normalcy in the industry.

The unrest is taking place at a time when the country is trying to get back the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) in the US market, the statement added.

The trade body says it supports a legitimate wage structure for the garment workers, as they are the key players in the sector.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shahidullah Azim, vice-president of the BGMEA, said the workers should wait until an independent wage board finalises the salary structures for them.

"Everybody should come forward to protect the garment sector," Azim

said. "Workers never vandalise factories. It is the outsiders who instigate the violence."

If the ongoing unrest continues, many units would not be able to make shipment in time. As a result, the owners would face difficulty in paying the salaries and bonuses for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, he added.

Gazipur-based garment owners had already been facing trouble for low pressure of gas over the last one week, he said, adding that the latest spell of unrest would worsen their sufferings.

Yesterday, more than 100 people, including 20 police personnel, were injured as the RMG workers clashed with the law enforcers at Pagar under Tongi Police Station in Gazipur, our district corre-

spondent reports.

The workers of Jabed & Jubayer Textiles and Hamid Garment Factory went on the rampage in and around the factories after the lunch break demanding a hike in their monthly salary, said Alamgir Hossain Gazi, sub-inspector of Tongi Police Station.

As police tried to resist them, he added, the workers threw brickbats on the law enforcers, leaving Officer-in-Charge Abul Kalam Azad and other police personnel injured.

Police fired several shots and teargas shells.

The situation, however, became normal after the agitating workers left the area around 4:30pm.

In another incident, the RMG workers went on work abstention, and

staged demonstration in the district's Kaliakair upazila in the morning for better pay.

More than 15,000 workers of different factories gathered on the Dhaka-Tangail highway around 9:30am, and vandalised 20 vehicles. Production at several garment units there was suspended.

The agitating workers also vandalised six garment units in Chandra area.

Movement of traffic on the highway resumed around 11:30am after the law enforcers with the help of industrial police flushed out the agitating workers.

Garment workers also vandalised factories in Savar, Konabari, Kashimpur, Shafipur, Ashulia and Uttara recently.

Wombs for hire

FROM PAGE 16
An Indian woman to have their children.

America.

At the centre of this £620million industry is the Akanksha Infertility Clinic, set on a dusty backstreet in Anand, a small city in rural India, some 600 miles from Delhi. It is run by Nayna Patel, a fertility specialist.

Dr Patel admits to running a "baby-making factory", charging clients from 34 countries around \$28,000 (£17,000) to match them with one of dozens of local surrogate mothers.

She pays each of the women about £5,000. Michael and Veronica flew out in March and have met their surrogate mother -- Kokilla, 28.

They were made to sign an agreement promising to collect their children even if they are born with a disability.

Next week Veronica will fly out to stay near the hospital, carrying a case laden with gifts for Kokilla, with whom she wants to keep in touch after the birth.

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(Economic Affairs)

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York

AK

Abdul

Momen

and Ambassador

in Washington

DC

Akramul

Qader

are also in the delegation.

The PM has chosen five

"eminent

personalities"

- Munni

Saha

Foundation

Chairman

Qazi

Kholiquzzaman

Ahmad

Bangladesh

Permanent

Representative

in New

York

AK

Abdul

Momen

and Ambassador

in Washington

DC

Akramul

Qader

are also in the delegation.

An 18-member security

team

nine

media

personalities

- Munni

Saha

Foundation

Chairman

Qazi

Kholiquzzaman

Ahmad

Bangladesh

Permanent

Representative

in New

York

AK

Abdul

Momen

and Ambassador

in Washington

DC

Akramul

Qader

are also in the delegation.

There are 15 delegation

members

from the foreign

ministry

and they

include

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Haque

Director

General

(UN)

Saida

Munna

and

Chidantha

Party

and Ganatantri

Party.

One upazila chairman,

one

municipality

chairman,

leaders

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