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JAGANNATH UNIV

50 hurt in cop action

Protest continues against grabbing of hall by AL leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 50 people, including teachers and students, were injured as police charged truncheons and fired rubber bullets to disperse a demonstration of Jagannath University students in Old Dhaka yesterday.

Around 10:45 am, a clash ensued between police and students when law enforcers resisted their attempt to recover Tibet Hall, which is allegedly occupied by lawmaker and Awami League leader Haji Mohammad Selim.

Vehicular movement on the roads in front of the campus was disrupted as the clash continued till 2:30pm.

Students, however, claimed that over 150 of them sustained injuries in the incident.

The students have been staging demonstrations since February 12, demanding "recovery" of their 11 dormitories, including Tibet Hall, at different parts in Old Dhaka from illegal occupation.

A section of the hall premises had been used to build Gulshan Ara City Shopping Complex in the area, students said.

Around 8:30am yesterday, students took to the street and started demonstrating at the main gate of the campus. They marched through Roy Shaheb Bazar and Tantibazar areas and made for Tibet Hall at Wiseghat.

As the students reached near Moon Complex, some 30 yards from the hall, they were obstructed by police who took position there earlier.

"As we began chanting slogans against the illegal occupation, police, without any instigation, started firing tear gas canisters and rubber bullets on us, leaving many of us injured," said Jamal Hossain, a student.

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Police beat up Jagannath University students who went to retrieve a dormitory, allegedly occupied by Awami League leader Haji Mohammad Selim, at Patuatuli in Old Dhaka yesterday. *Bottom right*, a man with a little schoolgirl running to safety after police lobbed tear gas shells.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Justice Rahim appointed chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed Justice M Enayetur Rahim, a High Court judge, as chairman of the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

The law ministry has issued a gazette notification on this appointment, says a ministry press release.

ARREST OF TRAFFICKERS IN KL

Bangladeshi student made it possible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi studying in Malaysia helped the local police arrest three fellow Bangladeshi nationals for their alleged involvement in human trafficking.

Malaysian police last week detained the three Bangladeshis in connection with trafficking their 11 compatriots into the country. The 11 were rescued from confinement at an apartment in Penang.

An unofficial source in Malaysia confirmed the identities of both the traffickers and the victims, but Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur said they were still unaware of them.

Police first detained trafficker Asaduzzaman on February 18. Based on his statement, victims Ataur and Hasan of Rajshahi; Imran, Uzzal and Montu of Sirajganj; Hafizur, Shamsul and Shakaet of Natore; Shahin Milon and Akkas Ali of Naogaon; and Shafique of Jessore were rescued on February 19.

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WB SURVEY ON PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Most of equipment inoperative, idle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than half of the medical equipment in public hospitals remains dysfunctional, unused or underused, according to a World Bank survey.

The international financial institution found 11 percent equipment damaged and 11 percent functional but unutilised in 50 public health facilities in Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions, said Iffat Mahmud, a WB official, at a consultation with civil surgeons at the Cirdap auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Only 49 percent of the medical equipment in these hospitals is being properly used, reveals the survey titled "Medical Equipment Survey 2012".

Patients are often referred to private hospitals for medical tests, which increases healthcare expenditure and also makes health services beyond the reach of many, health experts said.

While presenting the survey, Iffat said 10 percent of the installed equipment had been found unused and another 20 percent had never been installed.

"The survey found many pieces of equipment packed intact, because those were not necessary at that moment," she said. There is a lack of maintenance budget for such equipment.

The WB suggested establishing a medical equipment department, a national policy and a central database to ensure best use of public goods.

"It takes a lot of time to repair the equipment. The procedure of fund disbursement should be expedited," said Abdul Malek Mridha, civil surgeon of Dhaka.

Citing the causes of dissatisfaction among doctors, for which they do not want to work in rural hospitals, civil surgeons at the discussion also pointed to doctors' negligence in their duties.

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Amber, the wonder-dog

MAIL ONLINE

Just two years ago, Helen Bree was at her lowest point and facing a bleak future.

Having been born with cerebral palsy and then diagnosed with progressive multiple sclerosis, poor health had finally forced her to retire from the job she loved after almost 30 years.

The independence she had relished suddenly

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Healthcare hampered to greet Nasim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activists of the ruling Awami League created a public nuisance at a government hospital over the last two days in making preparation to welcome a minister. He, however, never showed up.

The office of Health Minister Mohammad Nasim had sent invitations to the media to cover an event that the minister was scheduled to attend on Saturday. He skipped his visit to Mugda General Hospital that day and rescheduled it for the next day.

Nasim yesterday attended the local Awami League's triennial council in the area but again

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Bright lights illuminate a corridor of Al-Helal Specialised Hospital Ltd in Mirpur and film crew members go about their shooting while patients are stranded inside their cabins.

PHOTO: STAR

FILMING AT HOSPITAL

Patients left in chaos

AKRAM HOSEN and WASIM BIN HABIB

Patients of a hospital in Mirpur had to hear "light", "camera", "action" and loud cheesy dialogues for two days as the authorities let a film crew use the hospital as a set from morning to midnight to earn some money.

The shooting in the corridor of Al-Helal Specialised Hospital Ltd left many patients in utter astonishment. A place meant for providing them with relief was causing them more trouble.

Patients of the cabins on the eighth floor of the 13-storey hospital were literally stranded inside their cabins as the film crew occupied the corridor. Neither the attendants nor the hospital staffs were allowed to go in or out of the cabin until the shooting was done, said the patients.

The film crew even set up a camera trolley rails along the length of the corridor, preventing patients and attendants from using it.

A number of patients told The Daily Star correspondents that they could not sleep at night as the crew were dragging their equipment, yelling instruction to performers and actors were saying their lines loudly.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL
Do you think Shakib Al Hasan's 3-match suspension and Taka 3 lakh fine for his inappropriate gesture on live television are adequate?

Yes

59%

No

41%

TOTAL VOTES: 396

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think the government of Bangladesh is well prepared to face the religious extremism in the country?

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PRAYER TIMING

February 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation