



A group of youths, allegedly from the Bangladesh Chhatra League, beats up a student who fell down on the ground in the capital's Jhigatola area during yesterday's clash.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

Teacher hurls

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Abdul Kaiyum said he mistook the acid, kept in a glass, for water and threw it on a 15-year-old student to make him stop chanting "we want justice" in the classroom.

The injured, Moinuddin Ahmed, however, told reporters that his teacher was really angry and intentionally threw the acid on him.

The resident of Barobhula area of Habiganj was taken to Habiganj Sadar Hospital by his fellow students. He has been admitted there with burn injuries to his chest and back, said Rezaul Karim, a physician of the hospital.

Soon after the incident around 11:00am, other students blocked the street in front of the school in Habiganj town and demanded exemplary punishment of the teacher.

A team of police went to the scene cleared the road several hours later and arrested Abdul Kaiyum, said Yasinul Huq, officer-in-charge of Habiganj Police Station.

Moinuddin's father, Phul Mia, said he would file a case.

Evil political

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unstable situation in the country as they have failed to wage a movement on their own."

Urging the students to return to classes, he said the government has taken initiatives to implement their nine-point demand.

The students raised the demands after two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College were killed in a road crash in the capital on Sunday.

Quader again briefed reporters in the evening at the party president's Dhanmondi office after it came under attack.

Pointing the finger at the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, he said miscreants in the guise of students attacked the AL chief's Dhanmondi office.

He said it was a planned attack. Some attackers were seen carrying firearms, and they are now out to shift the blame onto the students, reports BSS.

The AL leaders alleged that the BNP-Jamaat men carried out the attack to make the students' non-political movement violent.

He claimed that 17 AL leaders and workers were injured in the attack.

The AL general secretary also voiced concern over the safety of the agitating students.

DUTA'S STATEMENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday urged the agitating students to end the ongoing agitation and return to classrooms, saying the government has accepted their demands and announced a specific roadmap to fulfil those.

"People were expecting that the students would end protests after the assurance. But we are observing that the students have been continuing protests though seven days have gone by since the agitation began," read a Duta press release issued last night.

People are suffering immensely due to the student protest and an undeclared strike by transport owners and workers.

The association urged the government to implement the roadmap immediately to end anarchy in the transport sector.

It also called upon transport operators not to aggravate public sufferings by enforcing undeclared strikes.

4 Daily Star journalists

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pictures of yesterday's clash at Jhigatola.

Policemen, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that Shaer was handed to them by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists.

Sushmita S Preetha, editor of this newspaper's Star Weekend magazine, said that she was molested allegedly by some ruling party men on Mirpur Road at Science Lab intersection around 5:30pm.

They were in a procession, chanting "Joy Bangla" slogan and carrying sticks on the road. As she was filming the procession from the footbridge, they climbed up stairs of the footbridge, shouting, "Catch her".

Preetha tried to get down from the bridge but two BCL men got hold of her and began dragging her to the other side of the road.

She requested them to leave her alone, saying "If you people have objections to video footage, I will delete it."

Preetha eventually deleted the



Injury marks on Shaer Reaz's back.

video but the BCL men were not yet ready to set her free. Amid the chaos, they touched and groped her and were hurling abuse at her, she said.

They let her go only after being convinced that she had deleted the video of the procession.

Another journalist, Rafiul Islam came under attack by a BCL man while covering the clashes between students and ruling party men at Jhigatola around 2:00pm.

Rafiul Islam said two to three more journalists had come under attack for trying to get video clips of the events and 10 others harassed.

He was hit in the head with a piece of wood even after showing his press ID. Other BCL men then stopped the attacker from hitting him further, he said.

In the same area close to a ruling party office, journalist Faisal Hossain from Channel 24 along with camera person Krishna Sarker was beaten up around 7:00pm while doing live broadcast of the situation.

Bin Laden's mother breaks long silence

CNN ONLINE

For the first time, Osama bin Laden's mother, Alia Ghanem, has given an interview. Conducted in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, by Martin Chulov of The Guardian, the interview is noteworthy because bin Laden, the architect of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and his mother were exceptionally close.

What Ghanem says in the interview is largely credible and tracks with the little that is publicly known about her relationship with her son. Ghanem recalls bin Laden as "a very good kid and he loved me so much."

According to Ghanem, who is now in her mid-70s, she was divorced from Mohammed bin Laden, the enormously wealthy bin Laden family patriarch, when Osama was three. Osama was the only child of their union.

Mohammed bin Laden had 53 other children with some 20 wives. He died in a plane crash when Osama was 10.

After his parents' divorce, Ghanem's second husband, Mohammed al-Attas, raised Osama.

Ghanem and her family live in a well-to-do section of Jeddah, a testament to the fact that the bin Laden construction business is one of the largest in the Middle East.

According to The Guardian, Ghanem is speaking out for the first time because the Saudi government, led by the 32-year-old Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman, allowed the interview. The Saudi interest in permitting the interview is clear: They want to make the argument that bin Laden received no Saudi state support, despite the claims in an ongoing lawsuit by some of the families of the 9/11 victims. And, the newspaper noted, a Saudi government minder sat in during the interview.

The case remains unresolved, but there is little hard evidence that the Saudi state supported bin Laden. After all, bin Laden's principal goal was overthrowing the Saudi monarchy.

In the interview with The Guardian, bin Laden's mother blames outsiders such as bin Laden's Palestinian men-

tor, Abdullah Azzam, who purportedly "brainwashed" her son and converted him to jihadism when bin Laden was a young man in his 20s fighting in the "holy war" in Afghanistan against the Soviets in the mid-1980s.

Azzam was killed by an assassin in Pakistan in 1989. While he was certainly bin Laden's mentor, he was not focused on attacking the United States.

Bin Laden's mother confirmed to The Guardian that she is an Alawite from Syria. Alawism is a branch of Shia Islam. This had long been suspected, but this helps fill in a key aspect of bin Laden's background. The fact that bin Laden's beloved mother is an Alawite may help explain why bin Laden never advocated for or fought wars against the Shia, as have other Sunni jihadist groups, such as ISIS.

Ghanem says that within the first 48 hours of the 9/11 attacks, she learned her son Osama was responsible, and said she was "shocked. ... We all felt ashamed of him. We knew all of us were going to face horrible consequences." The bin Ladens were questioned by Saudi authorities and for a period could not leave the country.

Ghanem is in regular touch with the three widows of bin Laden who survived the 2011 US Navy SEAL operation that killed al Qaeda's leader in Abbottabad, Pakistan. They are now living in Saudi Arabia but cannot leave the country.

Bin Laden's mother allowed herself to be photographed for The Guardian story, which is surprising because the photography of women's faces in Saudi Arabia is still not common.

The last time that Ghanem said she saw her son was in the city of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan in 1999, the year after al Qaeda's attacks on two US embassies in Africa that killed more than 200 people.

Unmentioned in the Guardian interview is that, according to bin Laden's chief bodyguard, Abu Jandal, bin Laden's mother went to Kandahar at the behest of the Saudi government in an effort to persuade her son to abandon his life of terrorism.

Rumour

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instigating students during the ongoing street protests.

Assistant sub-inspector of the cybercrime unit of DMP, Yeasin Meah, filed the case under section 57 of ICT Act on Thursday, said Deputy Commissioner (Media) Masudur Rahman.

According to the first information report (FIR) of the case, the plaintiff alleged that provocative posts, writings and videos were uploaded on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and online news portals and blogs, aiming at deteriorating law and order.

In another development, the Rapid Action Battalion picked up actress Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed from Uttara last night on the allegation of spreading rumours on Facebook regarding attacks on agitating students.

She was later taken to Rab-1 office for interrogation, said a text message from the elite force.

Going live on Facebook yesterday afternoon, Nawshaba urged people to "save the students from attacks" and claimed two students were killed. She also claimed that the attackers gouged out a student's eyes.

In Chittagong, BNP leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury was sued under section 57 by Chittagong city BCL acting general secretary Zakaria Dastagiri.

UNB reports that a reported audio clip of telephonic conversation between the BNP standing committee member and an unknown boy over intensifying the ongoing student movement went viral on Facebook and YouTube yesterday.

Khosru, however, termed the audio clip false and fabricated, and said it was circulated to thwart the student movement.

In the clip, it is heard that a boy phoned Khosru calling him uncle. The BNP leader asked the boy whether he has got involved in the student agitation, UNB adds.

Contacted, Khosru said, "It's just a cooked up audio clip and a false campaign. The government agencies made the audio faking my voice to frustrate the student movement."

Mobile net

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said the executive requesting anonymity.

In its order, BTRC asked the operators to bring down the mobile internet speed to 2G level.

"As the internet speed was brought down, it will take a huge time to upload a picture, let alone a video file," said the executive.

No BTRC officials were available for comment on the issue.

However, mobile internet users complained that they faced internet outage at different places of the country.

Tushin Ahmed, a private university student from Mirpur in the capital, said his mobile phone internet had been down since 8:00pm.

According to the BTRC, there were 8.78 crore active internet connections in the country as of June this year and mobile phone connections accounted for 93.43 percent.

Earlier on Thursday, top police officials at a high-level meeting at their headquarters recommended bringing down mobile internet speed to 2G on a temporary basis.

In November 2015, the government shut down internet for the first time for a few hours after the Supreme Court had delivered verdicts upholding the death penalties of war criminals Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

At that time, the government also blocked Facebook and a couple of mobile applications for communication for a few weeks.

US impatient on denuclearisation

Says N Korea; UN says Pyongyang hasn't stooped nuclear programs

AFP, Singapore

North Korea yesterday said the US was acting with "alarming" impatience on the issue of denuclearisation, after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stressed the need to maintain full sanctions pressure on Pyongyang.

The contrasting comments at a security forum in Singapore came after a new UN report showed Pyongyang was continuing with its nuclear and missile programmes and evading sanctions through ship-to-ship oil transfers.

At historic talks with President Donald Trump in June, North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un signed up to a vague commitment to "denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" -- a far cry from longstanding US demands for complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament.

While US officials have publicly been optimistic about the agreement, Pyongyang appears to have made little substantial progress and concerns have been growing that some UN member states have been easing sanctions.

At the Asean Regional Forum, Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho insisted North Korea stood "firm in its determination and commitment" to implement the June agreement signed in Singapore.

But he criticised the US for undermining confidence in the process: "What is alarming, however, is the insistent moves manifested within the US to go back to the old, far from its leader's intention."

Since the June agreement, Pyongyang had taken "goodwill measures", including a halt on nuclear and missile tests and "dismantling a nuclear test ground", he said, according to a statement.

"However, the United States, instead of responding to these measures, is raising its voice louder for maintaining the sanctions against the DPRK," he said, using the initials of the North's official name.

Ri also accused the US of "extremely inappropriate" behaviour by putting pressure on other countries not to send high-level delega-

tions to celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of North Korea in September.

It was not the first time the North has appeared unhappy at what it sees as US impatience to push them quickly along the path of denuclearisation.

When Pompeo met with North Korean officials in Pyongyang last month to flesh out the regime's commitment, they condemned his "gangster-like" insistence that the North move towards unilateral disarmament.

Earlier at the same forum, Pompeo said he was emphasising to countries "the importance of maintaining diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea" but also said that he was "optimistic" about the prospects for progress when it came to North Korean denuclearisation.

Yesterday's forum, hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), brings together top diplomats from 26 countries and the European Union for talks on political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific.

As well as the US and North Korea, it includes foreign ministers from China, Russia, South Korea and Japan, all countries traditionally involved in efforts to curtail the North's nuclear ambition.

At the meeting, the US delegation also delivered a letter from Trump intended for Kim, by passing it to Ri, Pompeo said in a tweet. It was Trump's reply to a letter he received from Kim earlier this week, he said.

On sanctions, Pompeo singled out Russia after reports suggested Moscow breached the measures by granting work permits to North Korean workers.

During meetings with other foreign ministers in Singapore, Pompeo said he had called specifically for sanctions to be enforced through halting ship-to-ship oil transfers.

Cutting off oil and fuel to the North would require enforcement primarily by China, which supplies most of North Korea's energy needs, but also by Russia, which delivers some oil to Pyongyang.

Tough action

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guardians and teachers to take them back.

"The children have raised our morale and made us stronger.... I salute the efforts of the students. We have delayed the work that should have been done long ago. [We] failed due to several obstacles.

"We are expecting that the students will keep faith on us and let police handle the situation."

Police used to take support from girl guides and boy scouts during traffic weeks. If any student wants to volunteer, police would welcome them, he said.

Traffic offences are an old problem and police have often taken steps to stop wrong-way driving, lane violations, and three people on motorcycles, he said.

An investigation into the deaths of two college students that sparked the protests is also underway, he said.

The DMP chief further said they have intelligence that a vested quarter was trying to influence and take the demo into another direction.

"We have information that a group of people are infiltrating the student demos wearing school dresses. They are making school dresses in large numbers."

Wrestler Kane

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infamously billed as hailing from either "Hell" or "parts unknown".

The 51-year-old unseated a Democrat to become Knox County's 29th mayor, running as a libertarian and promising tax cuts along with improvements to education and infrastructure.

As of the 2010 census, the Knox County population was 432,226.

Jacobs, whose wrestling persona nickname is "The Big Red Machine" said he was met with "pretty astounding laughter" among the political establishment when he first announced his plans to run for mayor but that this "made me want even more."

The Independent has contacted the WWE to find out how the news will affect Kane's wrestling career. With President Trump having face criticism for the amount of time he spends on the golf course, Jacobs' might want to limit the amount of chokeslams he delivers outside of mayoral duties.