

BCL pounces on JCD, again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 50 people, including a journalist and a lawyer, were reportedly injured as armed members of BCL swooped on JCD leaders and activists in the High Court area yesterday, just two days after violence rocked the Dhaka University campus.

The central committee of JCD had called for processions at educational institutions across the country yesterday to protest Tuesday's attack on its members.

BCL groups had taken positions at different points of DU and its adjoining areas since yesterday morning to resist the opposition men from entering the campus.

A running battle ensued when they obstructed a JCD procession near Doyel Chattar and at one stage chased some members of their rival student body inside the HC compound.

Ijabul Mallik, a former assistant secretary of Dhaka College unit of JCD, fell to the ground in front of Mazar Gate. Around 50 BCL activists – many wearing helmets and carrying sticks, cricket stumps, iron rods and machetes – thrashed him.

Witnesses said the BCL activists were so furious that they kept hitting Ijabul for nearly 10 minutes even though he was lying motionless.

Tilottama Sikder, a vice president of BCL central committee, was also seen beating up Ijabul with a stick.

Ijabul was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on a rickshaw.

Another JCD activist was severely beaten up in the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) office area. He had to be taken to a hospital in an ambulance.

A lawyer, who was filming the clash on his mobile phone, was attacked and left injured, according to witnesses.

BCL men also beat up a journalist.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the pro-BNP student body, claimed that at least 47 of its members were injured yesterday – eight of them seriously.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, the pro-AL organisation, also said 10 “general students” were hurt in the incident.

Over the last several days, BNP leaders and activists came under attacks by ruling party men while holding demonstrations – despite assurance from the AL top brass that political programmes by the opposition party would not be obstructed.

On Tuesday, some 30 JCD members, including a few female activists, were injured as BCL men swooped on them with sticks, iron rods and machetes on the DU campus.

“I told Munim and his followers not to hit him [Ijabul] on his head.”

Tilottama Sikder, a vice president of central BCL



BCL men, many wearing helmets and wielding sticks, charging during an attack on Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists near Doyel Chattar in the capital yesterday. At least 50 people, including a journalist and a lawyer, were injured in the violence.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

GOVT HAJJ PACKAGE

Last-minute hike puts many on edge

RASHIDUL HASAN

The religious affairs ministry dropped a bombshell on potential hajj pilgrims yesterday telling them that they would have to pay Tk 59,000 by Monday on top of the already hiked hajj package costs.

The sudden last moment announcement has sent many likely

pilgrims scrambling to manage the money. Some would fail to gather the cash and not perform hajj this year, several aspirant hajjis and leaders of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab) have said.

Briefing reporters after a meeting of the executive committee on hajj management, State Minister for Religious Affairs Ministry Faridul

Haque Khan said they had to do this at the eleventh hour as the Saudi authorities only on Wednesday informed them about increased moallem (a guide and team leader) fees and other expenses.

Now a pilgrim has to pay at least Tk 5,22,744 to perform hajj under private management this year, up by

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

‘INSUFFICIENT’

UN body on govt explanations for cases of enforced disappearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has finally responded to the Human Rights Council's Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for the first time in 26 years.

The group, however, deems its explanations about enforced disappearances cases “insufficient”.

The United Nations body had communicated with the government about at least 76 cases of enforced disappearances over the decades, requesting information and explanations.

On January 10 and February 5 this year, the government finally replied.

The information transmitted on 66 of the concerned cases were insufficient for any clarification, the group said in its post-session report of the group's 126th session published on April 22.

“The Working Group appreciates the engagement of the government of Bangladesh, notably the information received in relation to many outstanding cases.

“However, the Working Group requests that the Bangladeshi authorities take decisive steps to initiate the search for disappeared persons or their remains,” said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



This road in Shamlapur of Savar is hard to navigate, as the swollen Turag has been eating it away. Locals say such erosion occurs every monsoon, causing immense sufferings to them. They have long been demanding a permanent solution but to no avail. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

All unregistered hospitals to be shut in 72 hrs

DGHS issues directive

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The health directorate has ordered closure of all unregistered private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres by tomorrow afternoon.

The decision was taken at a Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) meeting on the supervision and monitoring of the country's private health organisations.

The 72-hour countdown for the implementation of the decision started following the meeting held virtually around 3:00pm on Wednesday, according to Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general of the DGHS, who presided over the meeting.

The decision applies to all unregistered health organisations – those that are yet to apply for licences, those that have applied for licences but are operating without it, and those whose licences have expired and are yet to apply for renewal.

If the renewal application is not

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BIMAN DHAKA-TORONTO FLIGHT

A farce from the word go

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman's struggle to decide where to make a stopover for its ambitious Dhaka-Toronto route demonstrates its inefficiency and lack of professionalism, aviation experts said.

Biman is now considering whether to make a technical landing in Istanbul or another convenient place as the officials have changed their decision of stopping over in Manchester, Biman Managing Director and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal told The Daily Star on Monday.

But experts said Biman's high-ups were incapable of properly launching such a long-haul flight.

In late March, Biman officials said they formed a four-member committee to study and to assess the pros and cons of operating flights between Dhaka and Toronto.

Biman Director (flight operations) Capt ABM Ismail was the chief of the committee.

On March 26, a Boeing 787 of Biman with 35 officials of the civil aviation ministry, Biman, and the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh flew directly to Toronto from Dhaka, which Biman claimed was a non-stop experimental commercial flight.

They spent Tk 4 crore for the flight only to reach the conclusion that a direct flight was not commercially viable.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

The Daily Star IPDC Present

**HONOURING THE WOMEN
MAKING A DIFFERENCE FROM
THE GRASSROOTS OF BANGLADESH
TODAY
6:00 PM
INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY BANGLADESH**

দুর্জয় পথে
অদম্য নারী
উচ্ছ্বাসে
আগামী গড়ি

**UNsung WOMEN
NATION BUILDERS
AWARDS 2022**
In search of the unsung indomitable women

The Daily Star IPDC FINANCE

Venue Partner:
IUB
Independent University,
Bangladesh

*Participation is by invitation only