



The leaders and activists of Jubo league, the youth front of the ruling Awami League, held a rally at Farmgate in Dhaka yesterday. Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash, chairman of Jubo League, was present at the programme, which was held as part of the AL's "peace rally". Inset, leaders and activists of BNP's Dhaka North City unit marched towards Bosila from Shyamoli to press home their 10-point demand, including holding the next general election under a non-partisan caretaker government.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, AMRAN HOSSAIN

NRCC failing to protect wetlands

Claim speakers at seminar yesterday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agencies such as the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), Water Development Board (WDB), and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority are failing to play their roles in protecting wetlands, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

NRCC is currently protecting the interest of river grabbers, they alleged.

Speakers said Bangladesh has seen significant decline in the area of its wetlands due to various factors such as rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. These changes have put pressure on the country's water resources and have raised concerns about the future of water security in the country.

A group of environmentalists and other rights activists spoke at the discussion, jointly organised by Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), in collaboration with Water Rights Forum (WRF) in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

"Bangladesh lags behind countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan in terms of water security,"

according to WRF Secretary General Sheikh Rokon.

"Government institutes such as NRCC, WDB, BIWTA are not performing their duty properly," he added.

Addressing the seminar, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bela, said the housing projects are filling up the wetlands in Dhaka.

Bangladesh has seen significant declines in the area of its wetlands due to various factors such as rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. These changes have put pressure on the country's water resources and have raised concerns about the future of water security in the country.

"The grabbers are taking wetlands away," she said.

"Environmental organisations and activists are advocating for formulating a river protection law through NRCC.

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TELEGU COMMUNITY

Decision to evict them against democracy

Says Manusher Jonno Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday expressed grave concern and condemnation over the alleged direction of DSCC for the Telugu community to leave its colony at Dhalpur.

Evicting the Telugu-speaking community without arranging alternatives is illegal, undemocratic and whimsical, it said in a statement.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said, "MJF considers that the instructions given by Jatrabari Police Station to follow the instructions of the city corporation, and calling the community leaders to the station to warn them against carrying out protest programmes is also against democracy."

PRAYER TIMING					
FEBRUARY 13					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:25	12:45	4:30	5:57	7:15	
JAMAAT 6:00	1:15	4:45	6:01	7:45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

The DU students who mug people after sunset

MASHFIQ MIZAN and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

It was 11:00pm in Dhaka.

A married couple left their Nazimuddin Road residence to visit their uncle's home in Dhaka University area. When they arrived at DU's Shaheed Minar premises, a group of 10 to 12 men, led by DU BCL activists, intercepted them, mercilessly beat them, stole Tk 22,000 and their ATM card, and left.

The victims' uncle Md Abdul Motaleb, Principal Administrative Officer of Masterda Surja Sen Hall of DU, filed a case accusing Fahim Tajwar Joy and Sajid Ahmed and 12 unidentified youths in connection with the mugging incident.

According to the case statement, Fahim studies in the history department (session 2021-2022), and Sajid in the information science and library management department of DU.

They both are residential students of Masterda Surja Sen Hall and are activists of BCL, hall sources confirmed.

"My nephew and her husband were mugged, assaulted, and harassed on the night of February 4. The attackers stole Tk 22,000 and an ATM card. When my son and I rushed to the spot to save them, the attackers even beat us up," the statement reads.

Motaleb told The Daily Star, "I work for DU students from morning to night. But yet they didn't hesitate for a second to beat me. Since when did the students become such cold-blooded criminals?"

This isn't an isolated incident. Many such attacks were reported to Shahbagh Police Station and in the media in the last one month alone.

According to victims and DU students, it all starts with these words -- "Bhai ki kampus er?"

I work for DU students from morning to night. But yet they didn't hesitate for a second to beat me. Since when did the students become such cold-blooded criminals?

Md Abdul Motaleb
Principal administrative officer of DU's Masterda Surja Sen Hal

[Are you from the campus?].

If the person says no, all hell breaks loose. The questioners harass, attack and snatch all belongings from the victim, and drive them away from Dhaka University. Sometimes, even DU students are not spared.

Almost every DU student these correspondents talked to said they know someone who has been assaulted or mugged on the campus, while many said they were victims themselves.

Contacted, a senior officer of Shahbagh Police Station, seeking anonymity, said, "Mugging incidents on DU campus have increased significantly in the past few months. The attackers are becoming more desperate." "Most of these criminals are DU students. Even their university mates are becoming their victims," he added.

Meanwhile last Sunday, police arrested three DU students for beating and stealing Tk 15,000 from a covered-van driver near Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) area.

A Dhaka court later sent them to jail on February 6. A patrol team of Shahbagh Police Station arrested Nabid Shakil, a student of theatre and performance studies; Rahat

Rahman, 21, of management department, and Sadik Ahammed of social welfare and research department, when the driver was screaming for help.

The day these three were sent to jail, DU authorities suspended two more BCL leaders. The reason is easy to guess at this point. Tanzir Arafath Tushar and Rahul Ray were suspended after allegations of mugging surfaced against them.

Tushar, the joint secretary of Kabi Jasimuddin Hall BCL, was initially apprehended

Most of these criminals are DU students. Even their university mates are becoming their victims.

Senior Officer
Shahbagh Police Station

by police, but was released later. Rahul was a member of the last BCL central committee.

They have been accused of assaulting a woman and her husband at Suhrawardy Udyan. A case was filed against the two and five to six unidentified youths in connection with the event.

According to the case statement, the perpetrators dragged the victims off the bike they were on, beat them, harassed the woman, and fled after snatching gold ornaments.

Besides, supporters of Imdadul Hasan Shohagh, general secretary of Amar Ekushey Hall Chhatra League, allegedly vandalised a shop at Bangabazar after its owner refused to pay extortion money on January 30.

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Baira secretary general resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretary General of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman has submitted his resignation amid a row among the organisation's members.

Noman, who also served as secretary general in the previous Baira executive committee, yesterday said he submitted his resignation letter to the Baira president on Saturday night.

"There is no one to blame. I have resigned on personal ground," he told this newspaper over the phone.

However, more than one member of the Baira executive committee said Noman sought his resignation in face of protest from Baira members during its recent annual general meeting (AGM).

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College students clash in Dhanmondi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A clash broke out between students of City College and Ideal College in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area yesterday.

A total of nine students from both institutions were detained over the one-hour clash. They were released later to their guardian's custody.

Shahidullah, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division of police, said, "The clash ensued when a group of City College students went to the gate of Dhanmondi Ideal College and started calling each other names."

Ikram Ali Mia, officer-in-charge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station, said clashes between students of the colleges are not uncommon.

Eventually, the effects of the hour-long clash caused gridlock in nearby areas of Dhanmondi-4, he added.

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DTG The 17th Dhaka Int'l
Textile & Garment
Machinery Exhibition

15-18 FEB. 2023

ICCB International Convention
City Bashundhara **12:00 - 20:00**

Concurrent with:

DitaTex

DYECHAM
Dhaka

**The Largest International
Textile & Garment Industry
Show in Bangladesh**

1,200
Exhibitors

32
Countries
& Regions

1,600
Booths

25,000
Sq.m

