

BCL factions again clash at CU

Hall rooms vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League of Chittagong University locked into a clash on the campus yesterday.

The clash took place between the factions of “Bijoy Group” in front of Suhrawardy Hall around 5:30pm, according to witnesses.

At least 10 rooms of the dormitory were vandalised, they said.

On February 21, at least 12 people were injured when the same groups clashed on the campus over occupying a room in Alaol Hall.

“A BCL activist of Suhrawardy Hall came under attack by the activists of a rival faction when he went to play on the ground of Alaol Hall in the afternoon,” said CU BCL Joint General Secretary Md Ilias, when contacted over yesterday’s incident.

Ruhul Amin, officer-in-charge of Hathazari Police Station, said, “The proctorial body of the university and a police team rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.”

Md Al Amin, a leader of another faction, said, “The Suhrawardi Hall BCL activists have been threatening their activists in various ways for a long time. They threatened one of his activists again this [Friday] afternoon, which triggered the clash.”

Van-puller killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A van-puller was killed and another injured in a road accident on Joypurhat Hill road in Joypurhat Sadar yesterday.

Faruk Hossain, 30, of the district’s Panchbibi, died on the spot and Babu Hossain, 32, received injuries, said police.

Around 10:00am, Faruk and Babu were heading towards a local cold storage with potato on the vehicles.

A bus hit them when they lost control over their vehicles and went in the middle of the road, said SM Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station.



Former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly and his wife Dona Ganguly call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday. Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan was present. Ganguly visited Dhaka to formally inaugurate the Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Cup 2023.

PHOTO: PID

Won’t issue injunction to media

Says India’s SC on Adani issue

AGENCIES

India’s Supreme Court yesterday rejected a plea seeking to gag the media from reporting on the Adani-Hindenburg issue till the court pronounces its order.

The apex court had reserved its order on February 20 on a batch of PILs on the recent Adani Group shares crash triggered by the Hindenburg Research’s fraud allegations.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud declined the plea of advocate M L Sharma who mentioned the matter, reports The Indian Express.

“We are not going to issue any injunction to the media”, the bench also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala said.

The top court on Monday had refused

to take on record the suggestion of one of the petitioners and a report published by Forbes in a batch of PILs.

The top court on February 17 had refused to accept in a sealed cover the Centre’s suggestion on a proposed panel of experts for strengthening regulatory measures for the stock market.

Observing that it wants to maintain full transparency in the interests of investors, it said it would rather not accept the Centre’s suggestion in a sealed cover. “We will not accept the sealed cover suggestion by you because we want to maintain full transparency,” the bench had said.

On February 10, the top court had said the interests of Indian investors need to be protected against market volatility in the

backdrop of the Adani Group stock rout and asked the Centre to consider setting up a panel of domain experts headed by a former judge to look into strengthening the regulatory mechanism.

Till now, four PILs have been filed in the top court on the issue by lawyers M L Sharma and Vishal Tiwari, Congress leader Jaya Thakur and activist Mukesh Kumar. Adani Group stocks have taken a beating on the bourses after the Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation, against the business conglomerate.

The Adani Group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

Bangladesh abstains

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The UNGA resolution adopted reiterated its demand that Russia “immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine and called for a cessation of hostilities”.

According to UN News, the UNGA resolution urged member states to cooperate in the spirit of solidarity to address the global impacts of the war on food security, energy, finance, the environment, and nuclear security and safety.

Underscoring that arrangements for a lasting peace should consider these factors, the UNGA also called upon all nations to support the secretary-general in his efforts to address these impacts.

The Assembly also reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, extending to its territorial waters.

The resolution also emphasised the need to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes under international law committed in Ukraine through independent national or international investigations and prosecutions to ensure justice for all victims and the prevention of future crimes.

At the outset of the session on Wednesday, the Assembly President, Csaba Körösi, said that in this “new chapter of history”, the world is facing “stark choices about who we are as an international community.”

“These choices will either set us on a path of solidarity and collective resolve to uphold the tenets of the UN Charter,” he said, “or a path of aggression, war, normalised violations of international law and collapsed global action.”

Days after the February 24, 2022 invasion, UN Security Council members voted to allow the General Assembly to convene the eleventh emergency special session after Russia had vetoed a resolution that would have condemned the invasion of Ukraine.

In line with resolution 377A(V), adopted in 1950, the Assembly is able to take up international peace and security matters when the Council fails to do.

Man stabbed to death

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After he was taken to the Enam Medical College and Hospital with the help of pedestrians, doctors declared him dead, he added.

The deceased, a mason by occupation, used to live with his family in the Majidpur area of Savar.

“We are looking for the culprits,” the OC said, adding that the process was underway to file a case.

RHD, metro rail authority at odds

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DEADLOCK

Officials of the RHD and the DMTCL and their consultants had a meeting on March 23, 2021. Then RHD chief engineer Abdus Sabur and MRT-5 Project Director Aftab Hossain Khan were present.

At the meeting, RHD officials said blocking the highway corridor with metro rail structures would not be sustainable.

They requested the metro rail’s consultants to explore other options, including relocating the MRT-5 depot to the south, according to the meeting minutes.

But Aftab said the depot cannot be moved south due to technical reasons and that approval for land acquisition for the depot had already been issued.

RHD officials said their feasibility study on the expressway did not consider the metro rail. They asked for the Hemayetpur to Aminbazar section of the rail line to be either moved south or taken underground.

MRT-5 Project Director Aftab said the line was planned on RHD land in accordance with Strategic Transport Plan (STP) or revised STP.

Due to technical difficulties and the heavy flow of traffic on the highway,

the line cannot be moved to the south or on the central reservation of the highway, he added.

Metro rail consultants requested the RHD to move parts of the expressway to the south instead.

The meeting decided to sit again and finalise a paper that would be sent to the ministry concerned for a decision.

But the issue was not solved, as evident by the RHD’s objection to MRT authorities’ tests along the highway about five-six months ago.

The RHD did not allow the tests to be carried out obstructing traffic, sources said. The tests are yet to be completed.

The DMTCL then sought intervention from the Road Transport and Highways Division, which convened a meeting with both sides about two months ago.

“We have raised the same points that if the MRT line is built following the alignment [planned by DMTCL], it will seriously affect our expansion plan,” RHD’s Executive Engineer (Dhaka Division) Mohammad Ahad Ullah said.

Besides, traffic on the highway would be obstructed during the construction period, he told this correspondent on February 19.

RHD Additional Chief Engineer (Dhaka zone) Sabuj Uddin Khan said

Abdur Razzaque echoed the statement of the law minister.

But Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud on Thursday said Khaleda cannot engage in politics due to the “conditions for her release”.

The confusion was further fuelled by Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader the same day when he said that as a convicted person, there is no scope for Khaleda to get involved in politics.

The BNP chief was convicted and imprisoned in a corruption case in 2018.

She was released in March 2020 under an executive order and on the condition that she would not leave the country and must receive medical treatment in the country.

DAILY ROUTINE OF KHALEDA
A member of Khaleda’s medical team said one of them visits her once a day to check her physical condition.

“She is mentally very strong and positive,” said the physician.

Because of her condition, she cannot move without the support of her aides and her diabetes remains unstable most of the time.

Two house helps assist her with her daily work while a physiotherapist remains in the house around the clock.

She wakes up around 9:00am and takes her breakfast with fruit, juice,

their main reservation regarding the MRT-5 alignment is in station areas, where more land will be required.

He said the problem will be solved and their chief engineer was expected to have a meeting with DMTCL officials soon.

Moshiur Rahman, additional project director (civil and underground) of MRT-5 (north), said the Road Transport and Highways Division has formed a committee, led by additional secretary Zakir Hossain, to solve the issue.

“We have requested him to resolve the issue quickly as our consultants will have to work there,” he told this newspaper on February 20.

Replying to a question, he said the dispute will not delay the MRT-5 implementation. They will start physical work with depot development within July. Preparatory work on other parts was ongoing, he said.

“Such problem arises in every project. We will solve it through discussion,” he added.

Zakir Hossain said they have visited the spot and have asked the RHD and the DMTCL to sit together and find a way out.

“We will take the next step upon hearing their opinions,” he told The Daily Star on February 20.

and egg white. At 11:00am, she gets physiotherapy for around an hour and then takes her shower.

Her lunchtime starts around 2:00pm when she prefers rice, chicken or fish, especially Pabda.

After lunch and prayers, she watches television channels to get news and updates.

At 5:00pm, a physician comes to her house for a regular medical check-up.

She takes some snacks or fruit in the evening when her family members and relatives visit her.

At 9:00pm, she talks to her elder son and party’s acting chairman Tarique Rahman, his wife, and granddaughter over the phone. She also calls the wife and daughter of her late son Arafat Rahman Koko. These phone conversations take around one hour every day.

She takes roti and some vegetables for dinner and then goes to bed. Sources said the BNP chief performs Namaz sitting on a chair due to arthritis.

Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital six times since she was infected with Covid-19 in April 2021.

Her family submitted several applications to the government, seeking permission to send her to an advanced centre abroad for the treatment of her multiple health complications, but the government rejected it every time as she was convicted of corruption by the court in two cases.

DAINIK DINKAL

Media Freedom Coalition worried over scrapping of declaration

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Media Freedom Coalition in Bangladesh has expressed concern over the government’s recent decision to cancel the declaration of the Dainik Dinkal.

“A free press and free speech play a key role in a transparent democracy,” the Coalition said in a statement yesterday.

The members of the Coalition are Australia, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

The Media Freedom Initiative (MFC) is a cross-regional partnership of countries working together to advocate for media freedom, and for the safety of journalists and media workers, while holding them accountable who harm journalists and restrict them from doing their jobs.

Established at the Global Conference for Media Freedom in July 2019, the MFC now has over 50 member states from six continents.

Nine foreign missions in Bangladesh on February 9 launched the Diplomatic Network Initiative aimed at supporting media freedom in Bangladesh.

2-year-old dies as car runs over him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-year-old child was killed as a car ran over him at Janata Housing in the capital’s Mirpur yesterday.

Shakib, son of Jamal Uddin, a CNG-run three-wheeler driver, was playing in front of his house around 4:00pm when the accident happened, said locals.

The child was rushed to a nearby private hospital. As his condition deteriorated, doctors referred him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, they added.

Doctors at DMCH declared him dead around 7:30pm, said Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH Police Outpost.

Police seized the car and arrested its driver Sujan Bepari, said Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station.

Back into action

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After being granted bail by the Supreme Court on August 22 last year, Samrat made a show of strength as he along with several thousand Jubo League activists placed a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Road-32 in the capital’s Dhanmondi.

Party insiders said Samrat also tried to announce his presence by sending his followers to the Jubo League’s Golden Jubilee (founding anniversary) programme.

Khaled has also become active lately to get back his control over Jubo League politics in Motijheel-Kamalapur area, the insiders added.

AKM Mominul Haque Sayeed, former councillor of ward-9 of Dhaka South City Corporation, and then joint general secretary of Dhaka City (South) Jubo League, allegedly ran an illegal casino business at the Wanderers Club in Motijheel.

Mominul fled abroad after raids on some sporting clubs in Motijheel began in September of 2019.

He was also removed from the post of ward councillor for being “absent in meetings and staying abroad without permission”.

Mominul returned home in January this year, and was made the general secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation.

During the crackdown, two brothers Enamul Haque Bhuiyan alias Enu and Rupon Bhuiyan, leaders of Gendaria Thana AL, were arrested for their involvement in casino business.

Law enforcers recovered Tk 32 crore from their house in Gendaria. Investigators said the siblings own 22 houses and plots in the capital and five cars. They had Tk 19.11 crore in 91 bank accounts which were frozen by the Bangladesh Bank.

However, sources in Dhaka city AL said that a person loyal to the duo was made a top leader of the Dhaka City (South) Awami League. The Gendaria Thana AL leaders, who were allies of the siblings, are still holding their posts.

A section of AL leaders opined that since the expelled or relieved leaders did not lose their primary memberships in their respective organisations, there was no bar for them to get involved in politics again.

However, some other leaders said removal of controversial leaders didn’t weaken the party and that’s why there was no need to get them reinstated.

“We are following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s instruction that no controversial person will have any place in any tier of the organisation. There is no bar for anyone to engage in politics, but including

them [controversial leaders] in committees would mean giving them recognition. That will not happen,” Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, general secretary of Jubo League, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday expressed grave concern over the reports on reinstatement of political leaders who were accused of being involved in casino scandal, and were subsequently relieved of party posts following the anti-casino drive.

Referring to reports run by the media, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, “What message do the government and the ruling party want to give to the countrymen? No matter whatever crime is committed, will the offender be able to get away with it if he is associated with the ruling party? The government and the ruling coalition must take the responsibility to counter this evil process of institutionalising muscle power and corruption in the political arena,” reads a statement issued by TIB.

Ukraine suffered

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unimaginably from an unprovoked full-scale attack on their nation.”

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Russian President Vladimir Putin has “failed to achieve a single” goal.

During a televised address in Kyiv yesterday, Zelensky said: “We have become one family. There are no more strangers among us ... Ukrainians have sheltered Ukrainians, opened their homes and hearts to those who were forced to flee the war.”

“We withstand all threats, shelling, cluster bombs, cruise missiles, kamikaze drones, blackouts and cold,” he said. “And we will do everything to gain victory this year.”

Britain announced new sanctions on Russia, and other Western powers were expected to do so around the G7 online summit, led by Biden, who journeyed to Kyiv and gave a landmark speech in Warsaw this week to mark the anniversary.

The United States yesterday announced sweeping sanctions aimed at increasing economic pain for Russia, reports Reuters.

The new sanctions, which target sectors including banks, mining, and the defence industry, will hit “over 200 individuals and entities, including both Russian and third-country actors across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East that are supporting Russia’s war effort,” the White House said.