



A student protester being beaten allegedly by BCL activists at Dhaka University, as attacks were launched on quota reform demonstrators yesterday afternoon, *left*. A man about to hit a female student at DU's Doyel Chattar, *top right*. A man points a gun at the protesters in Shahidullah Hall area.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS; PROTHOM ALO

## Panic at DMCH emergency as 'BCL men' swoop on demonstrators

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Patients and attendants of Dhaka Medical College Hospital were gripped by fear as alleged Chhatra League activists launched two consecutive attacks on the student protesters there last evening.

Emergency services were disrupted due to the attacks.

Over 50 alleged BCL members, armed with sticks and wearing helmets, barged into the emergency department around 6:50pm and again at 7:30pm. They brutally beat the students, who were participating in the quota reform movement.

Witnesses said the attackers forced their way in with weapons after ignoring Ansar members' requests.

The main gate and other hospital buildings were closed during the attacks, adding to the chaos.

Patients who had come for emergency treatment were in a state of panic since 4:00pm, as injured student protesters, who were assaulted by BCL activists in Dhaka University, were being brought in.

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# BCL unleashes fury on quota protesters

Over 300, mostly demonstrators, hurt at DU during 5-hr-long pitched battles; female students, BCL men among the injured; agitators to hold nationwide protest rallies today

### STAR REPORT

Chhatra League activists yesterday attacked quota protesters on Dhaka University campus, triggering fierce clashes that left at least 300 people injured mostly protesters including female students and also some BCL men.

Clad in helmet and armed with sticks and iron rods, hundreds of Chhatra League activists, many from outside DU, beat up the demonstrators across the campus.

They were also seen whacking female protesters with sticks.

Bruised and bloodied, students ran for their lives.

At one point, the demonstrators retaliated by throwing brick chunks and beating up some Chhatra League men.

For about five hours, mayhem reigned supreme. After the pitched battles, the streets there were littered with thousands of brick

**"They are afraid of the fact that we can also speak about our rights. They want to gag our voice at any cost."**

A female student of DU

**"They [demonstrators] brought students from different halls by threatening them. They carried out attacks on students with locally made weapons."**

SADDAM HUSSAIN Chhatra League President

chunks.

A group of Chhatra League activists even swooped on demonstrators at the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the evening, causing panic among doctors, nurses, patients, and their attendants. Many ran for cover.

The attack disrupted medical

services at the country's prime medical facility.

"We deployed additional nurses and doctors to deal with the situation. Injured from both groups are getting treatment here," said DMCH Director Brig Gen Md Asaduzzaman.

Around 297 received treatment at the DMCH and six at the

Sarkari Karmachari Hospital, said inspector Md Bachchu Mia, in charge of the DMCH police outpost.

Nahid Islam, one of the organisers of the quota protests, said, "We don't know the exact figure. But our estimate is that over 200 fellow demonstrators were injured in the attacks and many are in serious condition."

Students of at least four other universities — Jagannath University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University — also came under Chhatra League attack yesterday. At least 60 students were injured there.

**MAYHEM AT DU**  
Tension was running high on the campus since late Sunday night when hundreds of students came out of their dormitories

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## QUOTA IN GOVT JOBS HC verdict to be inoperative till appeal is filed with SC

### The apex court says in full text of its July 10 order

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, in the full text of its July 10 order, has said the High Court judgement, which effectively reinstated quotas in government jobs, must remain inoperative until the leave-to-appeal petitions filed with this court are disposed of.

"We have heard the learned counsels from both parties in both the cases and perused the civil miscellaneous petitions [stay petitions] as well as other materials on record. Upon hearing, the parties are directed to maintain the status quo regarding the subject matter of the case till the filing of civil petitions for leave to appeal. The impugned judgement of the High Court shall remain inoperative till that period."

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan made the observation in the two-page full text of the order released recently.

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## OPINION

# Why must brute force always be the response to student protests?

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

At first it seemed the government was going to show the restraint expected from the state towards students protesting a quota system that needs a logical reform. Sadly, it did not take long for the government to take an unnecessarily hardline in an attempt to squash the spirit of these young people. What could have been resolved through a discussion as expected from any government, ended up being yet another violent suppression of the voices of students.

In an all too familiar sequence, when students on campuses throughout the country, spontaneously started protesting comments of the prime minister regarding their movement at a press conference on Sunday, members of the Chhatra League were ready and waiting to attack.

What followed was not something too surprising. Yet one cannot fail to be shocked at the brutality with which students, even women students, were beaten with rods and sticks. The images are hard to forget — students beaten unconscious, a student looking dazed as blood poured down his face, a capture of a man raising a stick just before it would hit two young women, a female student, unconscious, being taken to the hospital, young men with sticks and rods chasing students before hitting them mercilessly — these are not scenes from a battlefield but from campuses of universities. University campuses that resemble riot scenes. Student protesters who had gone to the emergency centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with their wounded fellow protesters were beaten up inside the hospital. Is this why young people go to universities — to either get beaten up or to be part of groups that do the beating?

Unfortunately, that is how students are divided on our campuses.

So why the show of restraint in the beginning? It was clear that at first, the police and the Chhatra League were given

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## Trump picks JD Vance for running mate

Officially becomes the Republican presidential nominee

AGENCIES

Donald Trump yesterday selected US Senator JD Vance to serve as his vice presidential running mate, as the Republican Party officially nominated the former president as its 2024 presidential nominee at the start of the party's national convention in Milwaukee.



"As Vice President, J.D. will continue to fight for our Constitution, stand with our Troops, and will do everything he can to help me MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

The four-day convention opened in downtown Milwaukee's Fiserv Forum two days after Trump survived an assassination attempt in Pennsylvania, and hours after he secured a major legal victory when a federal judge dismissed one of Trump's criminal prosecutions.

Trump is due to formally accept the party's nomination in a primetime address on Thursday and will

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## It's a shame that they call themselves Razakars: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it was a matter of great regret that protesters seeking quota reforms chanted slogans like "Who are you? Who am I? Razakar, Razakar."

"They don't know how the Pakistan occupation forces and Razakar Bahini tortured people in the country; they didn't see the inhuman torture and bodies lying on roads. So, they don't feel ashamed to call themselves Razakars," she said while addressing the signing ceremony of Annual Performance

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