



Defiant and fearless, quota reform protester Abu Sayed of Rangpur's Begum Rokeya University faces the police just moments before they shot him down in front of his university around 2:30pm, *left*. The capital's Science Lab area yesterday turned into a battlefield as BCL members and quota protesters were locked in clashes throughout the afternoon. The photo was taken around 4:00pm, *top right*. An alleged BCL activist shoots at student protesters with a shotgun in Chattogram city's Muradpur area around 4:45pm.

Bullets end life of family's brightest star

MD ABBAS and KONGKON KARMAKER

Abu Sayed, the youngest of nine siblings, was studying in the English department at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur.

Poverty forced his elder brothers and sisters to quit education, but they all chipped in to make sure Sayed continued his.

Sayed dreamt of joining the civil service, a job he believed would change his family's fate. So he joined the quota reform protest.

But police bullets cut his dream short yesterday.

His peers brought his bullet-hit body to Rangpur Medical College Hospital after a clash between protesters and law enforcers, where doctors said Sayed was already dead.

"Sayed was our only hope," his brother Ramjan told The Daily Star.

"We had big dreams for him, but all those dreams shattered today [yesterday]," he added.

Their father, Makbul Hossain, is ill and bedridden, and can hardly afford a treatment.

"We used whatever little we earned to support his education," Ramjan continued, "hoping that one day he would be successful and better days will come."



Abu Sayed

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Respect freedom fighters of every stripe Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said freedom fighters should always be accorded the highest respect irrespective of their political affiliations.

Handing over Prime Minister's Fellowship (PMF)-2024 to the recipients at a programme at her office, she said it should be always kept in mind that they are valiant freedom fighters.

"Abandoning their dreams, leaving behind

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6 killed as violence spreads

Fierce clashes break out in Dhaka, Chattogram, Rangpur between BCL, police and quota protesters; govt deploys BGB in 6 districts; all universities, colleges, secondary schools closed; univ students asked to vacate halls; Thursday's HSC exams suspended

STAR REPORT

In a major escalation of violence, at least six people, including three students, were killed and several hundred injured in clashes between quota protesters and Chhatra League activists and police across the country yesterday.

Three, including two students, were killed in clashes between the protesters and BCL men in Chattogram.

In the capital, two people died after being attacked in Dhaka College and Science Lab areas where protesters and Chhatra League activists fought pitched battles for over seven hours.

In Rangpur, a student of Begum Rokeya University was killed in police firing during a protest.

Incensed by Monday's BCL attacks on Dhaka University campus, the quota protests swelled yesterday with students from private universities and colleges joining.

Soon the violence spread nationwide. Clashes between BCL

The demonstrators announced a coffin procession and a gayebana janaza at Raju Bhashkarjo in Dhaka University at 2:00pm today.

The protesters set fire to the residence of vice-chancellor of Begum Rokeya University following the death of its student Abu Sayed in police firing.

In the face of a counterattack by protesters, 10 Chhatra League activists were injured in Chattogram. Two of them fell from a building trying to escape the attack.

men and police and students demanding reforms to the quota system were reported in Rajshahi, Bogura, Jhenidah, Cox's Bazar, Narsingdi, Sirajganj, Barishal, Kishoreganj, and Faridpur as well. The government deployed

BGB in Dhaka, Chattogram, Bogura, Rangpur, Rajshahi, and Gazipur.

It closed secondary schools and colleges indefinitely and suspended the HSC exams scheduled for Thursday.

Late last night, the University Grants Commission citing an education ministry decision said all public and private universities and their affiliated colleges would be closed until further notice. It asked the students to vacate their dorms as well.

Hasnat Abdullah, one of the coordinators of the quota-reforms protests, said state-sponsored attacks were carried out against the protesters across the country.

Another coordinator, Asif Mahmud, announced that there would be a coffin procession and a gayebana janaza (funeral without the body) at Raju Bhashkarjo at 2:00pm today to pray for the salvation of those killed during the violence.

He urged all students to join.

Yesterday, they blocked key intersections in the capital, including Jatrabari, Science Lab, Pragati Sarani, Shantinagar, Badda, Motijheel Shapla Chattar, Tantibazar, Uttara,

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Govt moves SC to scrap HC verdict that reinstated quota system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a leave-to-appeal petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the High Court judgement, which effectively reinstated quotas in government jobs.

The attorney general's office submitted the petition to the apex court seeking a "leave" to scrap the HC verdict.

In the petition, it has been argued that keeping provision of quotas in the public service is a policy decision of the government and the court cannot interfere with

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5 rights bodies slam attacks on quota protesters

114 eminent citizens demand justice

STAR REPORT

Several rights organisations yesterday issued statements condemning the attacks on quota reform protesters at Dhaka University and other campuses across the country.

The attacks resulted in the deaths of six people and injuries of hundreds of students over the past two days.

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Police raid BNP's Nayapaltan office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police raided the BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters in the capital over the suspected involvement of party members in subversive activities.

A team led by DB chief Harun-or-Rashid launched the raid around midnight.

"We conducted the raid after two buses were set on fire in front of Jatiya Press Club," Harun told journalists at the spot.

Around 100 crude bombs, 500 sticks, and five to six bottles of

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Ashura. There will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. Visit our website for updates.

GDP, per capita income to stay unchanged

Says finance ministry on adjustment of export data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's GDP and per capita income will stay the same after the reconciliation of export data as the two data points are calculated based on the actual export receipts registered by the central bank, says the finance ministry.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the government agency responsible for collecting statistics on demographics and the economy, uses the Bangladesh Bank's figures as export earnings, the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

"As a result, the apprehension the GDP and per capita income will also come down is not right," the statement said.

The statement comes after Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali held a meeting on Monday on the mismatch in export data. Ahasanul Islam Titu, the state minister for commerce, BB Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder

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BGP patrols the capital's Mirpur Road yesterday afternoon after clashes broke out between quota protesters and Chhatra League activists in the Science Lab area. *Inset*, two buses were set on fire near the National Press Club in the capital by unidentified arsonists around 8:00pm.

PHOTO: COLLECTED