



Students paint the road with the slogan, “Amar Shonar Banglay Boishommer Thaa Naai [There’s no place for discrimination in my golden Bengal!]” in front of the Brac University campus in the capital’s Badda area, *left*. BCL activists injured after falling from a building while trying to flee from attacks by protesters in the Chattogram’s Muradpur area, *centre*. Armed with a hockey stick, a helmet-clad youth attacks an unarmed quota protester in the capital’s Farmgate intersection, *top right*. Shima Akhtar breaks down next to the body of her husband, Md Faruk, 32, a staffer of a local furniture shop in the port city’s Sholokbahar area, a collateral victim of the clashes.

## 6 killed as violence spreads

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and Beribandh, bringing traffic to a halt.

They also blocked rail lines in Mohakhali for more than six hours, snapping communications between Dhaka and most parts of the country.

The students also obstructed Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka Sylhet, Dhaka-Tangail, Dhaka-Mymensingh, and Chattogram-Cox’s Bazar highways for most of the day.

Tension was high on public university campuses yesterday following the incidents of attacks on Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University students on Monday and early yesterday.

Yesterday, Chhatra League and quota protesters held separate rallies on DU campus. Both the groups ended their programmes without any major incident. Chhatra League held a rally near TSC while the demonstrators held their rally at the Central Shahed Minar in the evening.

But there was mayhem in Dhaka College and Science Lab areas and violence in Chankharpul, Rayshahebbazar of Old Dhaka, Bhatara on Pragati Sarani, Mirpur-10, and Farmgate.

Two youths were killed during clashes in Dhaka College and Science Lab areas between the BCL men and protesters.

One of the two was identified as Md Shajahan, 24, a hawkker who had a makeshift shop in front of Balaka Cinema Hall.

He was found in a pool of blood near City College and was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 7:00pm.

“My son had nothing to do with the protest. He was a hawkker. Who killed him?” lamented Ayesha Begum, the mother of the youth, at the DMCH.

In the afternoon, another youth with critical head injuries was found near Dhaka College. Sabuj Ali, 25, son of Badsha Ali and Surja Banu, of Nilphamari Sadar was taken to DMCH where he was declared dead. Police had to scan his fingerprint to ID him.

Science Lab area turned into a battle zone as clashes continued between quota protesters, mostly college students, and Chhatra League activists for over seven hours.

Both stick-wielding groups threw brick chunks at each other and chased each other.

The clash ensued around 1:45pm and finally ended after 8:45pm.

At least 127 people, including protesters and BCL activists, were injured.

Ten crude bombs exploded during the clashes.

Chase and counter chase continued for hours with brief pauses. At least two police personnel were assaulted at the time. And the protesters vandalised a police box.

Around 7:00pm, the protesters chased away Awami League leader and former member of parliament Haji Salim at Science Lab intersection near LabAid Hospital.

Md Babu, who accompanied Haji Selim, told The Daily Star that the AL leader had seen a doctor and was leaving in his vehicle when 300 to 400 protesters stopped his and an accompanying vehicle.

Haji Salim and four of his aides were chased into the LabAid Hospital. Four students of Jagannath University and a student of Kobi Nazrul Government College were shot at Rayshahebbazar intersection in Old Dhaka.

Protesters claimed that when several hundred students took out a procession around 3:30pm, AL and Jubo League activists attacked them.

The five were undergoing

treatment at the DMCH.

Two buses were torched in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the evening.

Around noon, a brief clash broke out between students of Dhaka International University, United International University and American International University, Bangladesh, and activists of Chhatra League in Bhatara area.

Rajon Kumar Saha, assistant commissioner of Badda zone, said, “We removed the Chhatra League activists from the area and the students were demonstrating on the

admitted to the hospital.

CMCH Director Brig Gen Taslim Uddin said the condition of two were critical.

The protesters were supposed to hold a rally in Sholashahar Railway Station area around 3:00pm, but BCL activists occupied the venue since 1:00pm.

When the demonstrators were heading towards the venue in droves, Chhatra League men attacked them at Muradpur, Sholashahar Railway Station and Sholashahar Gate No 2, triggering chases and counter chases,

with stones, causing at least two activists to fall from the five-storey building.

“At least 10 Chhatra League activists were stabbed,” said Nurul Azim Roni, former general secretary of Chattogram city unit Chhatra League, who led the Chhatra League activists there.

He claimed that Jamaat-Shibir activists in disguise were behind the attack on BCL men.

Saiful Islam, commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, told this newspaper that they recovered two bodies from Sholashahar Railway Station area around 4:30pm.

RANGPUR

Abu Sayed, 25, a student of English department at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, was killed during a clash between police and the protesters on campus yesterday.

He was the son of Mokbul Hossain from Babanpur village of Rangpur’s Pirganj upazila.

Demonstrators said a procession of students from Lalbagh area reached the university Gate-1 around 2:30pm and a clash ensued with the police.

A video clip making the rounds in social media shows a shot being fired at Sayed when he is standing with his arms spread out in front of a group of police across the street. Moments later, he is seen falling to the ground.

A student who took Sayed to the hospital, said, “Police were firing rubber bullets and tear gas at us. Sayed was hit in the chest and fell unconscious on the street. We took him to the hospital in a battery-run rickshaw. I tried to talk to him, but he did not respond.”

Eunus Ali, director of Rangpur Medical College Hospital, said, “One injured student was brought dead to the hospital at 3:05pm.”

“The emergency unit informed me that he suffered injuries from rubber bullets,” he said.

Around 30 students, including several female students, were also injured in the incident.

Md Moniruzzaman, commissioner of Rangpur Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that a group of students were demonstrating on the campus around 2:30pm.

He said students from nearby education institutions also joined the protest.

He claimed that the protesters attacked a police station nearby, injuring several police personnel, and damaged vehicles. The clash ensued as police retaliated, he said.

Tension ran high when student attempted to take Sayed’s body to the campus as the police intercepted and took the body to the hospital for an autopsy.

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

VC Prof Abdur Rashid along with 15 to 20 officials, teachers, and staffers were confined to the building when the students attacked the residence in the evening, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

The protesters also torched five university vehicles, said Asaduzzaman Mondal, general secretary of BRUR’s teachers’ association, adding that the students left the area after 7:00pm.

Law enforcers later rescued them, the teacher said.

The students also set fire to a BCL leader’s room at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of the university.

## GDP, per capita income

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and higher-ups from different ministries and government agencies were present.

The same methods will be used by all the government agencies for data collection, the statement said.

“So, it is expected from now on that there will be no major difference in export data collected by the BB, Export Promotion Bureau and the National Board of Revenue. It is worth mentioning that there will also not be any major change in the balance of payment (BoP) although little revision in the current account and fiscal account was done.”

The revised BoP has already been published on the BB website, the statement said.

The amount of cash incentive given to the exporters is disbursed after a third party audits the export receipts, it said.

“As a result, the amount of cash incentive that was given to the exporters is also correct,” the statement added.

However, economists are predicting the size of GDP will drop once the export

data is corrected.

“The most pressing implication of the correction of the shipment value of exports is for the GDP growth estimate,” Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist at the World Bank’s Dhaka office, told The Daily Star recently.

BBS has projected GDP growth of 5.8 percent in fiscal 2023-24.

In making this calculation, they projected a 5.63 percent growth in the real exports of goods and services.

Recently, the BB data showed that actual exports in the first 10 months of fiscal 2023-24 were nearly \$14 billion less than the shipment value of goods published by the EPB earlier.

Following the correction, economic growth may be about one percentage point lower than the government’s preliminary estimate, Hussain said.

“Thus the 5.8 percent GDP growth could be 4.8 percent due to the shortfall in actual export growth relative to the export growth projected, other things equal.”

## Respect freedom fighters

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their families, parents and everything, they joined the war with whatever they had responding to the call of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.”

She mentioned that the country’s victory was achieved through their sacrifices. “Therefore, they should always be given the highest respect.”

Hasina said she knows that many of the freedom fighters may not support her party. “Wherever they go, it doesn’t matter to me. It is important to me that they sacrificed everything – their lives, their blood – and many were maimed to make this country free and victorious.”

She also mentioned that freedom fighters defeated the enemies and brought victory.

Hasina said many freedom fighters might not agree with her opinion, they might not agree with her party, still they are freedom fighters. “I respect everyone. And we want that the people will uphold that honour for ages.”

She said the freedom fighters were once neglected. “Since I assumed power, I have given them every kind of support and they can proudly say that I’m a freedom fighter.”

She said the country has minorities, differently abled people and autistic people. The government is sympathetic to all of them.

## Bullets end life

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But bullets ended all that.”

The mood in Sayed’s village home in Babanpur of Rangpur is one of grief and disbelief. The loss is too heavy for his mother Monowara Begum. The news of Sayed’s death has plunged her into a cycle of breakdowns and fainting spells. She was in no condition to talk to The Daily Star.

Anwar Hossain, a neighbour, said, “Sayed was the brightest among his siblings. Humble and gentle, he was the only one among his siblings receiving higher education. His death has deeply saddened us all.”

Just a day before his death, Sayeed shared on Facebook how he was ready to sacrifice his life for the cause if needed.

At 12:37pm on Monday, he

shared a photo card of Rajshahi University teacher and martyr Prof Dr Shamsuzzoha, who was killed in police firing in 1969 during a student protest.

The accompanying caption read: “Sir! We desperately need you right now, sir! Everyone of your generation has passed away, but you live on even after death. Your legacy is our inspiration. We are enlightened by your ideals.

“And to those of our generation, you too will die one day as per the laws of nature. But as long as you live, live with integrity. Support the just cause, take to the streets, stand as a shield for the students. You will receive genuine respect and honour. You won’t be lost in the sands of time after your death. You will live forever like Shamsuzzoha.”

## Police raid BNP office

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petrol were recovered from the spot, he said, adding that seven Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists were also arrested at the time.

The DB chief said a group was trying to derail the ongoing quota movement by offering financial support and weapons to create confusion.

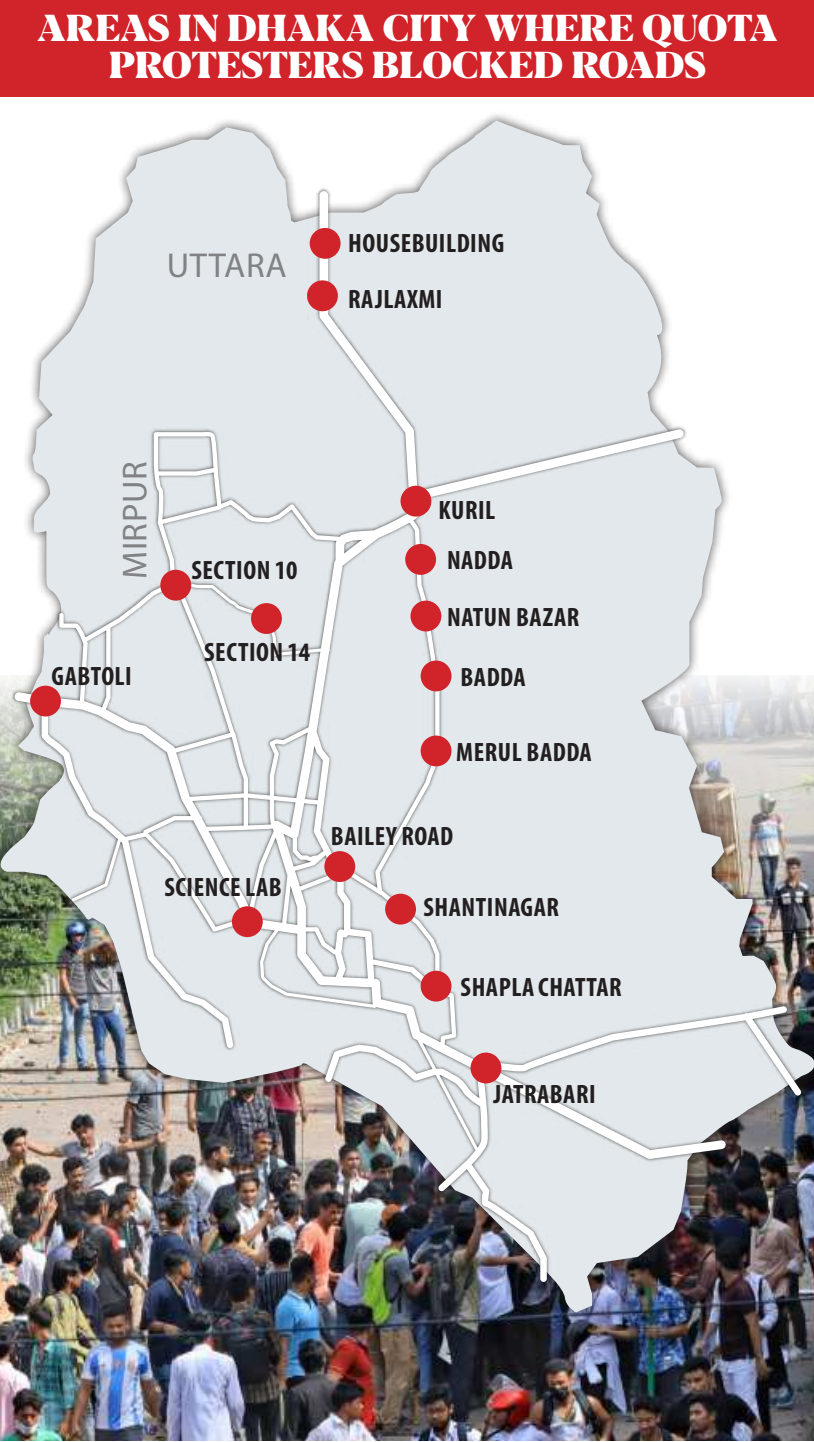
He assured that the authorities have identified those responsible and will arrest them soon.

Speaking on the issue, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul

Kabir Rizvi claimed the raid on the Nayapalton party office was conducted to divert attention away from the quota reform protests.

“They staged a drama inside the party office. This drama is part of an ongoing attack against Chhatra Dal and affiliated activists,” Rizvi told a virtual press briefing following the raid.

“Why didn’t they [police] conduct the raid when party leaders and journalists were present at the office? As part of the master plan, the raid was conducted in the middle of the night.”



road.”

Students of BRAC University blocked a road in Merul Badda area around 10:00am.

Habibur Rahman, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, “We are working strategically to keep the law and order situation under control.”

“A police sergeant and a constable were hurt ...”

CHATTOGRAM

Three people were killed during clashes between the quota protesters and BCL men in Chattogram.

The victims were Wasim Akram, 24, a student of Chittagong College, Faisal Ahmed, 24, student of management at the Omargani MES College, and Md Faruk, 32, an employee of a furniture shop, said Chittagong Medical College Hospital doctors and police.

Nuzhat Inu, on duty doctor at the CMCH, said the body of Faruk had bullet injury marks while Akram was stabbed.

Some 30 injured people were

witnesses said.

In Muradpur, Chhatra League activists hurling brick chunks at students, prompting the students to retaliate in kind. There were running battles too.

During the clash, several gunshots were heard.

Chhatra League activists retreated and went inside Meer Manzil, a residential building near Muradpur intersection.

They started throwing brick chunks and flower pots at protesters from the roof of the building, The Daily Star correspondents saw and took footage of it.

The demonstrators then stormed the building and beat up the BCL men.

In the face of the fierce attack by the demonstrators, many Chhatra League men tried climbing down from the building using the external plumbing, shows a video clip making the rounds in social media.

A handful of protesters were seen pelting the Chhatra League activists