

Sequel to RU, Khulna clashes

Tension mounts on campuses

Tension gripped the Dhaka University campus on Tuesday as student activists of different organisations began an "eliminate Shibir" operation protesting Sunday's killing of a student in Rajshahi, allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir, reports UNB.

More than a dozen students were beaten up on the DU campus, suspecting them to be Shibir activists. But of the injured, two were later identified as members of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra Union.

Witnesses said a group of 25 to 30 students started the operation from 12 noon on different floors of the Arts Faculty building.

The militant group beat up two second year students Sirajul Huq of Journalism department and Abdul Quddus of Political Science. But party affiliation of the victims was not immediately known.

Two Shibrites, Mohammad Sadeq of 3rd year Philosophy and Mobinul Islam of 2nd year International Relations Department were seriously beaten up by angry students at Salimullah Hall at about 1.30 am. Police on duty at the hall gate rushed inside and rescued

the two who were first admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) but later shifted to Ibne Sina Clinic.

In the early hours yesterday (Tuesday), police raided the Salimullah Hall thrice to avert any untoward incident. They searched different rooms to rescue Shibir workers.

Meanwhile, different student groups held rallies on the campus demanding ban on the politics of Jamaat-Shibir.

NON-STOP STRIKE AT CU

Report from Chittagong says: Some 50 students were injured in sporadic clashes between Shibir activists and supporters of other student organisations in the port city yesterday (Tuesday) at the Rajshahi University incident triggered backlashes across the country.

Among the injured, Jatiy-

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atabadi Chhatra Dal Chittagong University unit General Secretary Rafiqul Islam Helali was admitted to a city clinic with serious stab injury.

Many injured students were given first aid at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the University Medical Centre.

Protesting the "Shibir attack" and demanding arrest and trial of the "terrorists" JCD announced nonstop student strike at Chittagong University from today (Wednesday). The ruling BNP student wing announced the programme at a Press conference at local Press Club in the evening.

The Shibrites reportedly halted a passing train, searched different compartments and allegedly assaulted general students.

After the clash at railway station, the organised Shibir activists, while returning to halls, attacked JCD leader Rafiqul Islam Helali who was going to Shahjalal Hall of the

university. He was beaten up mercilessly and stabbed.

HARTAL IN KHULNA TODAY

Reports from Khulna: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and All Party Student Unity have called a full-day hartal in Khulna town today (Wednesday) to protest terrorism unleashed by Jamaat-Shibir and press for banning their politics.

The hartal call was announced at a press conference jointly organised by JCD and APSU at the local Press Club yesterday (Tuesday).

At the Press conference leaders of the two groups alleged that the two Shibir activists were killed as a result of Shibir's internal clash.

They also demanded immediate opening of all the seven colleges in the town which were closed following Monday's violence.

Meanwhile, the Principal of the Alia Madrasa, in a Press release yesterday (Tuesday) said that dead Amanullah Aman was not a Shibir worker, but an orphan student.

Shibir has also called a half-day hartal in the town today (Wednesday) to protest the killing of their partymen.

SHIBIR ACTIVISTS ATTACKED

Another report says: A group of belligerent students in Fultala thana yesterday (Tuesday) roughed up two Shibir activists and abducted one of them, Jamaat sources said.

Shamsul Islami Khokan, VP of Fultala College and Harunur Rashid, a student of the college, were attacked at Fulbart Gate while they were returning from the janaza of Munshi Abdul Halim who was killed in Monday's incident in BL College.

Tension was mounting in the city following killing of two Shibir activists on Monday. Paramilitary BDR and reserved police were posted in different places to guard against untoward incidents.

Meanwhile, Rahmat Ali, Literary Secretary of BL College, was shifted from the Khulna 250-bed Hospital to PG Hospital in the capital in an unconscious state.

Halim and Amanullah Aman, who was killed in Monday's violence in Khulna Alia Madrasa, were buried in their respective family graveyards in Khanjahan Ali and Asansuli Thanas yesterday.

144 IN JHENIDAH

Reports from Jhenidah says: The authorities here yesterday (Tuesday) imposed Section 144 from 3 pm to 12 midnight to thwart violence as tension mounted in the district town following campus trouble in Rajshahi and Khulna in last two days.

District administration announced the Section 144 over microphone throughout the town at 12 noon and asked all to maintain law and order.

They also banned a scheduled meeting of Chhatra Shibir at Agrani Chattar.

Meanwhile, a group of 50 to 60 youths attacked Kotechandpur thana Senior Aliya Madrasa at about 10.30 am. At least seven Shibir activists were injured in the attack.

Of the injured, four were admitted to the local health complex.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Our Staff Reporter adds: Various political parties on Tuesday in separate statements to the Press expressed their grave concern over the killing of students at Rajshahi University. Govt BL College, Daulatpur in Khulna and Khulna Alia Madrasa.

A meeting of the Central Executive Committee of Freedom Party on Tuesday with its Chairman Col (retd) Abdur Rashid in the chair criticised the government for its what it called 'complete failure' to maintain congenial atmosphere in country's educational arena and to give security to the life and properties of the students.

In this context, the meeting said the recent killings and violent activities at Rajshahi University and at BL College in Khulna are the glaring examples of the government's failure to maintain law and order situation in the educational institutions.

Resident of Bangladesh Nezam-e-Islam Party Maulana Advocate MA Raquib and Secretary-General Maulana Abdul Latif in a joint statement on Tuesday said that the killing at Rajshahi University, BL College and Khulna Alia Madrasa students is a matter of great concern for the entire nation.

They demanded effective measures to free campuses from the grips of armed hooligans and ensure congenial academic atmosphere.

They also demanded of the authority to recover all illegal arms and arrest terrorists irrespective of their political affiliations.

Progressive Nationalist Party (PNP) Senior Vice Chairman Alhaj Nurul Amin Sarker and Secretary General ATM Golam Mowla Chowdhury in a joint statement on Tuesday said incidents of killing and hooliganism at Rajshahi and at Khulna recently have proved that there exists no congenial atmosphere in the country's educational institutions.

Other organisations which issued similar statements on Tuesday condemning the killing and violence at Rajshahi University and at Khulna are Islamic Labour Organisation (ILC) Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khelafat Mazlish and Islami Bank Karmachari Kalyan Union (CBA).

Meanwhile, the Central Working Committee meeting of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh on Tuesday with its Ameer Prof Golam Azam criticised the government for the current spate of campus violence.

The Jamaat Working Committee observed that Saturday's incidents at Rajshahi University were all pre-planned and said the way government is trying to spread violence by capitalising on Rajshahi University was not only disturbing, but also creating obstacles on the way of flourishing democracy.