

BARISAL UNIVERSITY 20 injured in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
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At least 20 people, including 17 students of Barisal University, were injured when students clashed with police over the removal of a roadblock yesterday.

Students put up the brick barricade on the Barisal-Patuakhali highway at Karnakathi, protesting the assault on a fellow student by local transport workers.

The agitated students threw brickbats at the police and Rab members when the law enforcers rushed to the spot to dismantle the roadblock around 10:15 am, police said.

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"We brought the situation under control by charging batons and firing rubber bullets and teargas shells at the students," said Abu Raihan Md Saleh, deputy commissioner (north) of Barisal Metropolitan Police.

Traffic movement on the highway, which connects nine inter-district routes, including Barisal-Bhola-Patuakhali, resumed at 12:30 pm, he added.

Two law enforcers, Constable Siddikur Rahman and Havildar Asadul Haq, were injured in the clash.

Campus sources said students put up the roadblock after Naimuddin Mistu, a student of the university's law department, was assaulted by a bus helper and conductor yesterday morning.

Mistu came under attack after he had protested at not being given a chance to disembark from the bus in front of the campus gate at Karnakathi.

Students alleged that bus conductors never allow them concessions in fare. They also do not give students opportunities to disembark from buses at the campus gate.

Of the 20 injured, 14 students were admitted at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital. The rest were given primary treatment at the hospital.

Meanwhile, police, the university authorities and road transport owners and workers' association held a tripartite meeting at the office of the Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP) yesterday evening.

Emerging from the meeting, BMP commissioner Md Shamsuddin told reporters that a bus stoppage would be made in front of the campus gate and students would get concessions in bus fare.

Later, he visited the injured students at the hospital.