Another arrested over CU clashes, Sayem still in critical condition

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The Rapid Action Battalion has arrested another accused in the case filed over the recent violent clashes between students of the University of Chittagong and residents of Jobra village.

With this, eight people were arrested in connection with the case. The two rounds of clashes in August 30-31 left nearly 300 students and villagers injured, some critically.

Three injured CU students still remained under treatment at Parkview Hospital in Chattogram.

According to Parkview Hospital, Sociology department student Mamun Mia is steadily recovering and showing improvement every day. Another student Sadid Mahbub Subonto has also been gradually improving. However, Imtiaz Ahmed Sayem, a master's student of the international relations department, remained in critical condition as of Friday.

RAB-7 assistant director (media) ARM Mozzafar Hossain confirmed to the media on Friday that Md Hannan, 33, son of Dula Mia of Bikhtiar Fakir Bari at Hathazari, was arrested on Thursday night.

He is named as the 56th accused in the first information report lodged by the CU authorities.

RAB said that Hannan was a close aide of Hanif, the number one accused in the case and a local leader of Juba League, the youth front of the Bangladesh Awami League, activities of which are now banned.

Mozzafar said that a RAB team arrested Hannan from Hathazari and later handed him over to the Hathazari police for legal action.

Investigating officer of the case Rupon Nath, a sub-inspector at the Hathazari Model police station, said that the arrested accused was sent to jail through court on Friday morning.

The police operations are continuing to arrest the others involved in the incident, he said.

On Friday, Nurjahan Begum, adviser to the health and family welfare ministry, visited Parkview Hospital to see the injured students.

She spoke with doctors and hospital authorities about their condition and progress of treatment.

During the visit, she instructed that all necessary measures be taken to ensure advanced medical care for the injured.

About midnight on August 30, the clash between CU students and villagers began after a first-year female philosophy department student was allegedly assaulted by a building guard near the Gate No 2 of the university.

Students rushed to the spot and soon clashed with the villagers of Jobra, injuring many.

The clash began again at about noon on August 31, and hours of fighting with locally made sharp weapons left many more injured, including Chittagong University pro-vice-chancellor (administration), proctor and several teachers.

Law enforcing agencies intervened later in the day, and Section 144 was imposed until September 2 in the surrounding areas and the classes and examinations at the university were postponed.

Local people later placed seven demands, while the students called for justice and the resignation of top university officials.

On September 2, the university authorities filed the case against about 1,100 people, including 95 identified and about 1,000 unidentified people, in connection with the incident. On September 3, police arrested eight people in connection with the case.