

College student shot dead as rival groups clash in Patiya

CHITTAGONG, Feb 13.— A college student was shot dead and over 100 people were wounded, some 44 by bullets, in a deadly fighting between villagers and madrasa students at Baghuli in Patia upazila on Wednesday, says UNB.

At one stage of the clash, the two belligerent groups traded gunfire killing Fariduddin, 18, son of Abdur Rahman, and a first-year student of Patia College, at 5.55 pm.

Over 100 people, including six police, were injured during the widespread clash. And 44 of them suffered bullet wounds. The bullet-hit people were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Police said the clash erupted at 11 am following a conflict between the villagers and the students of Patia Jamia Al Islamia (See Page 15 Col. 8)

College student

(From Page 1 Col. 4)

Madrasa over building of a house on a patch of land owned by the madrasa on Monday.

Madrasa sources said locals and the students chased each other on Monday evening when the former prevented them from building a house on madrasa's own land, which was "occupied by the villagers".

In that situation, the local people held a protest rally on Tuesday and called a daylong hartal in the upazila on Wednesday. But the hartal could not be enforced due to intervention by the TNO and police administration.

The situation worsened again on Wednesday when the madrasa pupils and locals started blaring out abuses to each other over microphone at 3 pm, in presence of police deployed earlier.

During the miking, the two groups pelted each other with brickbats. "And at one stage of the melee, the students hurled bombs provoking the villagers into setting fire to two madrasa hostels, where nearly 15,000 students reside," said a spot account of the troubles.

Police fired over 100 rounds of teargas shells to disperse the rioters.

Madrasa authorities claimed property worth Tk 78 lakh was damaged as over 100 rooms were gutted in the fire.

The unruly people also attacked firefighters when they went there to douse the blaze, injuring six of them and damaging the vehicle of Fire Brigade.

Traffic on Cox's Bazar-Chittagong road halted following the violence that spread like forest-fires. Vehicles were plying an alternative road through Anwara upazila.

Meanwhile, local administration slapped Section 144 on Patia as high tensions engulfed the area.

The clash spread and continued till filing of this report.