

BCL memo to Ctg Edn Board chairman

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Chittagong City unit, yesterday submitted a memorandum to the chairman of Chittagong Education Board to press their 10-point demand, including cancellation of a decision for enrolling students in colleges on age basis.

Their other demands include reduction of admission fees and prices of educational materials, removal of discrimination between the government colleges and non-government colleges and solution to ongoing teachers crisis in colleges.

During submission of the memorandum, Chairman of the Board Professor AJM Shahidullah said we are not able to take initiatives to meet all the demands due to lack of budget.

Earlier, a rally was held in front of the board office at noon with BCL President MRAzim in the chair.

Addressing the rally, the speakers threatened to launch a tougher movement if their demands are not fulfilled immediately.

BCL General Secretary Mohammad Salauddin, Abul Hossain Abu and SM Alam were also present.



Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Chittagong city unit, holds a rally in front of Chittagong Education Board to press their 10-point demand.

Killings, horror rise in Lanka's war zone

REUTERS, Thiraimadu, Sri Lanka

Bodies dumped in wells, dead children hung from rafters and underage boys abducted to fight.

During two decades of civil war, such atrocities were commonplace in Sri Lanka but a ceasefire since 2002 halted the worst of the attacks on children.

Now, with violence rising, nightmare tales and gory pictures are again emerging from the island's war-battered north and east. But apportioning blame is hard and global interest limited.

In addition, many of these areas were badly battered by the deadly 2004 tsunami, and the nation's combatants are finding fertile ground in camps for survivors of the disaster.

In the island's east, temporary relief camps like Thiraimadu were hastily built but these have proved to be easy places for children to be abducted to be trained as soldiers.

"Some people come for boys and take them away," Indrajith Piyaraj, 24, told Reuters as he returned from washing. "Some come back but refuse to say what happened. They said their faces were covered with cloth and they didn't know where they were taken."

Not everyone gets away from abductions alive.

In a nearby village close to the front line of rebel Tamil Tiger territory, a few burnt scraps of cloth and discoloured sand mark where three young men were shot and burned.

After the funeral, the family refused to say who they believe killed the men for fear of retribution. Villagers were also too scared to say.

BLAME GAME

Near an army camp in the north in May, a family showed Reuters where they had dug away the earth around

their front door to remove blood and brains after unidentified gunmen shot dead a father in front of his young children.

In northwestern Mannar district, photos showed a family slaughtered in their home, the bodies - including those of young children - left hanging from the roof. The army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) blamed each other.

With more than 700 people dead so far this year, almost all of them in the past three months, apportioning

blame in each case is almost impossible.

The government and the rebels, who want a separate homeland in the island's north and east for minority Tamils, publish lurid pictures. Each claims the other is trying to provoke a war, but deny doing anything wrong themselves.

Ceasefire monitors and other observers say that, despite denials, the security forces, Tigers and break-away ex-rebels have all been involved in abductions, attacks and killings,

risking restarting a war that has killed some 65,000.

High profile attacks such as a bus blast that killed 68 civilians or suicide bombs in Colombo make international headlines.

Killings and abductions do not. More than 200 people have disappeared in the northern Jaffna area since December.

Few aid agencies or local journalists dare dig too deep or talk too much on the record. Local aid staff have gone missing and four media workers

have been killed so far this year. INTERNATIONAL WORRIES Nonetheless, main donor nations and aid agencies are growing increasingly impatient.

Most diplomats say the Tigers kick-started the recent escalation of violence, but others say the government began by backing breakaway ex-rebels led by former Tiger commander Karuna Amman who have attacked the mainstream rebels in the east.

The government denies backing Karuna, but aid workers still trying to rebuild tsunami-damaged areas say his fighters operate with increasing impunity. UN children's fund Unicef says that, like the Tigers, Karuna is now abducting child soldiers - probably dozens during June.

Angry over the rising violence, the European Union and Canada followed Britain, India and the United States in listing the Tigers as a terrorist group, threatening to hit their funding from Tamils overseas.

Donor nations were also taking an increasingly tough line after reports of rights abuses by the military in the past six months, making barely veiled threats to cut or freeze aid promised after the tsunami and 2002 truce.

They also say the Tigers must choose politics not violence, give up child soldier recruitment and halt use of suicide bombers. Abuses on the government side must also be punished.

"The strong support of the British government, and I suspect of other governments, can only be sustained over the medium term if that is the case," said British High Commissioner Dominick Chilcott said. e have higher expectations of the authorities and security forces of a democracy - because they represent democracy."



Chhatra Sangram Parishad takes out a procession on the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) campus in Sylhet yesterday demanding resignation of the vice-chancellor.

