

Resentment brews over formation of BCL central body

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

Dissatisfaction and resentment have been brewing deep among hundreds of leaders and workers of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), as the student body is yet to announce its full-fledged central committee even after five months of the election of its president and general secretary.

BCL, the student wing of main opposition Awami League (AL), has also failed to form its Dhaka University (DU) unit committee due to intra-party feud, said a number of BCL leaders and activists while talking to The Daily Star.

Many BCL leaders feared that violence may take place at any time on the campus over the formation of the committee.

On Thursday last, a group of BCL leaders and activists led by Meherul Hasan Sohel, Mizanur Rahman and Gaffari Russel slammed its newly elected

President Mahmud Hasan Ripon and General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton on the campus.

They went rough with the president and the general secretary while asking about the committee at Modhu's Canteen as they went there to hold demonstration demanding release of its three leaders who were arrested earlier this week.

"The president and the general secretary are mum months after months though we have been repeatedly asking them about the selection of the members of the committee," said Sohel, president of the former committee of Salimullah Muslim Hall unit of BCL.

"We told them just say 'no room for you', we will disappear, but the fun is that they say neither 'yes' nor 'no'. They just keep us hanging on intentionally," he added.

Others alleged that some influential leaders of the last BCL

central committee and their incumbent counterparts Ripon and Roton have been sending letters either taking handsome amount of money or considering their loyalty.

AL President Sheikh Hasina in a sudden move brought radical changes in the student wing of the party in April this year by introducing polling system through transparent ballot box and fixing the age limit up to 29 years with regular studentship.

The president and the general secretary of the new BCL committee were elected on April 4 and the AL high-ups instructed the newly elected and the immediate past leaders on the next day to form the full-fledged central committee within 15 days.

But being failed to announce the full-fledged committee, the BCL leaders in an unusual and unprecedented move about two months ago began to form the committee by selecting mem-

bers through "secret letters" and it has so far selected only 151 members out of total 251-member central committee, sources said.

Country's oldest and traditional student body, which generally forms its committees through open conferences, has opted for forming the committee through "secret letters" this time due to unwanted interference by some influential leaders of the previous committee, the sources added.

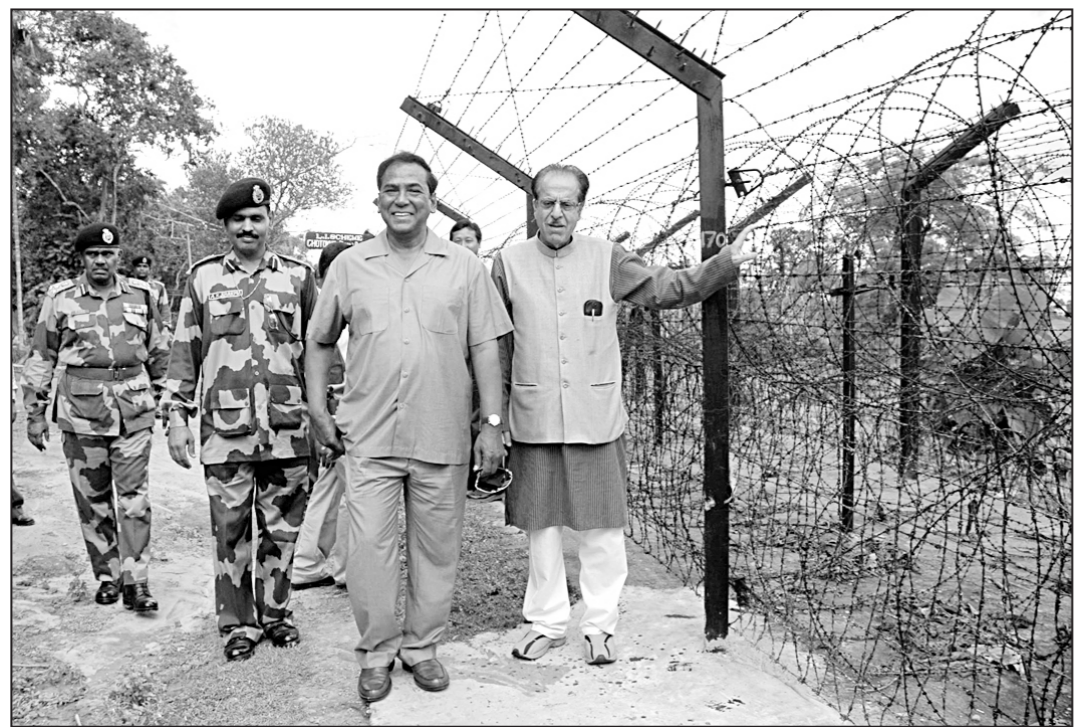
What happened on Thursday was unwanted, Ripon told The Daily Star, adding that those who were involved in the incident were not loyal to organisation.

"There is no question of any irregularity or corruption," he claimed.

Meanwhile, BCL yesterday expelled its three leaders Mizan, Sohel and Poniruzzaman Ponir.



Demra-Shyampur Water-Electricity Action Committee stages a demonstration at Dhania in the city yesterday to press its 10-point demand, including immediate steps to resolve water and electricity crises.



Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed, second from right, gestures as he stands with his Indian counterpart Saifuddin Soz, right, and other officials as they visit Sabroom Border Post in Tripura yesterday. The ministers were leading respective teams of officials to visit disputed river boundary areas, embankments, irrigation sites and water treatment projects along the Pheni river banks in Tripura.

CU syndicate polls tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

The election of Chittagong University syndicate will be held tomorrow.

Two panels - opposition-backed Yellow Panel and ruling four-party alliance-backed White Panel - will contest the election.

Both of the panels are now busy with the last-minute campaign to woo the voters, sources said.

The Yellow Panel grabbed three posts, out of four, in the previous election.

The tenure of the previous syndicate expired on August 21.

The candidates contesting the election from the Yellow Panel include Professor Dr Sultan Ahmed of Accounting Department in professor category, Associate Professor Mohammed Helal Uddin Nizami of the same Department in Associate Professor Category, Assistant Professor Dr Abdul Haq of Geography and Environmental Science Department in Assistant Professor category and Anthropology Department Lecturer Mohammed Ashrafuzzaman in Lecturer category.

On the other hand, the White Panel candidates are Professor Mostafa Kamal Pasha of Botany Department, Associate Professor Md Tayub Chowdhury of Marketing Department, Assistant Professor Tanvir Mohamed Haider Arif of Finance and Banking Department and Lecturer Mohammed Kamal Uddin of International Relation Department to contest the election for posts in professor, associate professor, assistant professor and lecturer categories respectively.

The election will be held at Commerce Faculty auditorium from 10:00am to 1:00pm where more than 500 voters, out of 559, are expected to cast their vote, sources said.

CU Acting Registrar Mohammed Zahurul Islam would conduct the election as election commissioner.

The Yellow Panel Coordinator Helal Uddin Nizami expressed his confidence over winning the election in all posts and said corruption and irregularities in appointments in the tenure of Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury would prompt the progressive minded teachers to vote for them.

On the other hand, Convener of the White Panel Steering Committee Professor Dr Kazi Ahmed Nabi told The Daily Star that they had already overcome all the problems behind their failure in the previous election and hoped to sweep the election.

Three killed in road accidents in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Three people were killed and 10 others injured in two separate road accidents in the city and district yesterday.

According to sources, two women were killed and at least 10 others injured when a truck ramed through the passengers on board a ferry at the other bank of the Karnaphuli river, opposite to Firingbazar Bridge Ghat, under the city's Karnaphuli thana at around 5:30pm.

The passengers were getting off the ferry when the sand-laden truck from the other side moved swiftly towards them resulting in the accident.

In the accident, Mafia Begum, 45, was killed and eleven others injured, four critically, sources said.

Of the injured, another woman identified as Jamila Begum, 30, died on way to the hospital while three others Nazma, 25, Hasina Begum, 23, and Shahnaj, were undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition.

Of the dead, both Mafia, wife of

Jalil Mia of Kamar Char under Murad Nagar upazila, and Zamila Begum, 30, wife of Sattar Mia of Musa Nagar under Devidwar upazila, hailed from Comilla.

Local people rescued the victims and held the truck driver identified as Nazim Uddin, 28, of Chakaria in Cox's Bazar, and handed him over to police.

Police took the driver under their custody and seized the truck.

Filing of a case with the concerned Karnaphuli Police Station was under process, said SI Nurul Amin while talking to this correspondent.

The other accident occurred when a Chittagong bound train knocked a tempo along with its driver near Fateyabad Rail Station at around 9:30pm on Thursday.

The critically injured tempo driver identified as Manjur Hossain, 25, son of Nur Mohammad of North Madarsha under Hathazari Upazila, was admitted to CMCH at around 1:30am yesterday.

He succumbed to his injuries at the hospital at around 2:30am, said the sources.

REFUSAL TO PAY EXTORTION JCD cadres stop construction work of RU dormitory

RU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres of Rajshahi University unit yesterday forcibly stopped construction work of a female dormitory on the campus, as the contractor refused to pay them extortion.

The JCD cadres also gave death threat to Contractor Asaduzzaman Kola.

Campus sources said a number of JCD men led by JCD activist Asif Iqbal Romel went to the site of the under construction fifth female dormitory of the university and asked the contractor to immediately pay them Tk 30,000. When Asad refused to pay the money, the JCD men ordered the workers to stop the construction work. They also tried to torch the motorbike of Asad.

On information, the university proctorial body members and police rushed to the spot but the police did not arrest anybody, Asad alleged.

He told newsmen that the same JCD men demanded Tk 10,000 from Moksed Ali, one of the shareholders of the construction farm, on Thursday.

When contacted, RU unit JCD Convener Nuruzzaman Likhon told newsmen that he heard about the incident and assured to take punitive action if the allegation is proved true.

RU proctor and Officer In Charge of Matihar Police Station Ramzan Ali also admitted the truth of the incident.

Liberation War Museum extends programme for students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Museum has extended its 'Students encouragement programme to uphold the history of the liberation war, human rights, peace and solidarity' for next three years.

This was stated by Ranjit Kumar, co-ordinator of the programme, at a teachers' conference at Cirdap auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Representatives from different city schools joined the first Dhaka divisional conference and expressed their views about the programme.

Ranjit said over 125000 students of 220 schools in 11 districts across the country have already been incorporated under the programme.

The students have submitted around 5000 writings in the form of stories, poems and dramas to museum authorities through their schools, he added.

Ranjit said the main object of the programme is to inspire the school students to write about the liberation war in 1971.

Mafidul Haque, trustee of the museum, said they have taken measures to preserve the writings of the students in a website.

He urged the teachers to inspire the students to go to freedom fighters and old people who saw the liberation war and listen their experience during the war.

This programme will help new generation know the real history of the liberation war and improve their writing skill, Mafidul said, adding that the project originally started for two years but trustees of the museum has decided to extend the programme for next three years.

Poet Syed Shamsul Haque and Shawkat Ara Hossain also addressed the conference.

NAT'L ADOLESCENT CONVENTION BEGINS IN CTG Formulate policy to address adolescents' problems

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A two-day adolescent convention began in the port city yesterday with a call to formulate policy and take measures to address the problems of the adolescents going through the transitional stage of life during puberty period.

ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Shoyeb Siddiqui, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) Chief Executive Arifur Rahman, Ghashphul Executive Director Aftabur Rahman Zafree and Sammilan Parishad Convener Syed Akber Reza attended the inaugural ceremony as special guests.

Minister Noman in his speech observed that ignorance of changes that naturally take place among the adolescents during this transitional period of life results in mental and social crisis in the society.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman underscored the need for formulating a policy

and taking measures to help the adolescents overcome the problems they face during the puberty period.

They said the needs of adolescent boys and girls were different from those of others.

But, neither the government nor the society has any initiative or measure to make the adolescent aware of the natural changes of puberty period and provide them with necessary healthcare, said the speakers.

They demanded formulation of necessary policy, campaign and education for the adolescents and emphasised the necessity of the government intervention into the matter.

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US citizens advised to avoid travel to CHT

UNB, Dhaka

The US has advised its citizens in Bangladesh to avoid travel to Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and also downtown Dhaka on Fridays, terming the security situation volatile.

The US State Department has issued a consular notification calling on the US citizens to check with the embassy in Dhaka for the latest information.

The notification said during nationwide strikes or hartals, clashes between rival political groups have resulted in deaths and injuries.

"American citizens are therefore urged to avoid all political protests, demonstrations, and marches. During hartals, they should exercise caution in all areas and remain inside their hotels, residences, schools, or workplace whenever possible," it added.

Referring to kidnappings and other security incidents, including those involving foreign nationals, the State Department also advised the US citizens against travelling to Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban districts.

The US embassy also recommends against travel to Teknaf, Kutupalong, Ukhaia and Ramu of Cox's Bazar district as it continues to receive reports of incidents of kidnapping, arms and narcotics smuggling and clashes between local people and Rohingya refugees in those areas.

Bodies of 2 brothers recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The bodies of two brothers, who had been missing after being swept into the sea in Cox's Bazar on Thursday, were recovered yesterday.

Divers of Yeasir Lifeguard recovered the bodies of Abrar Ahammed Shad, 18, an HSC student of Dhaka CODA College, and Afif Ahammed, 15, a student of class eight of Mastermind School in Dhaka.

According to the police, Shad and Afif along with their father Ekolil Mondal and sister Ena, 23, a BBA student of North South University, were taking a bath at Labonee point at 11:40am on Thursday when they were swept into the Bay.

Yeasir Lifeguard members managed to rescue their father and sister.



Columnist Anwara Syed Haque speaks at the first Dhaka divisional conference of teachers organised by Liberation War Museum at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On her left are Shawkat Ara Hossain, Mafidul Haque, trustee of the museum, and poet Syed Shamsul Haque.

International Ozone Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The International Ozone Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the world today as part of the global effort to create mass awareness about the ozone layer depletion and its consequences.

Bangladesh has been observing the day since 1995 along with other member countries of the United Nations.

The ozone layer protects the planet from ultraviolet radiation, which at high levels poses a number of dangers, including increased risk of skin cancer and cataracts.

Scientists first marked the decline in the stratospheric ozone over Antarctica in 1986.

The theme of this year's International Ozone Day is: Protect the Ozone Layer, Save Life on Earth.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in separate messages urged all to put in their best efforts in making a success the global endeavours to stop the ozone layer depletion.

<p>Convention Sujon- Citizens for Good Governance will hold its first national convention. Venue: Institution of Diploma Engineers. Time: 9:00am.</p> <p>Scientific session Bangladesh Dental Health Research Foundation organises a scientific session on 'Recent development of oral health science-Bangladesh perspective'. Venue: BSMMU. Time: 11:00am.</p> <p>Seminar Independent Newspapers Readers Association, Bangladesh, organises a seminar on 'Independence, democracy, newspaper and the readers' society'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.</p> <p>Lecture Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises a lecture on 'Reflections of women's rights in Bangla literature' by Prof Rashida Akhter Khanam of Dhaka University. Venue: Society seminar room. Time: 4:30pm.</p>	<p>Workshop Prokaushali Sangsad Limited will hold a workshop on 'Achievement of MDGs through projects'. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 9:00am.</p> <p>Seminar The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry will hold a seminar on problems and prospects of textile sector. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 11:00am.</p> <p>Roundtable Five Left Parties organise a roundtable on 'Pulbari uprising and movement to protect national resources'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.</p> <p>Freshers Reception Freshers Reception and Passing out Ceremony of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University, will be held. Venue: TSC. Time: 9:00am.</p> <p>Rotary Dhaka Central The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.</p>
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Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Barisal, Khulna and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 24.2 degrees at Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:01pm today and rises at 5:45am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.2	26.6	80	64
Chittagong	33.5	25.4	86	77
Rajshahi	34.6	25.4	89	81
Khulna	33.0	28.0	84	84
Barisal	32.2	26.4	82	90
Sylhet	32.0	25.0	86	73
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.0	85	78

Obituary

Begum Safia Hossain, wife of late Mosharrif Hossain, passed away in Dhaka on September 5 at the age of 85, says a press release.

She left behind a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn her death.

Shraddha

Shraddha of Tarapad Saha, a senior official of Doyal Group, will be held at village home at Belishwar in Dhamrai today, says a press release.

He passed away at his home at Sutrapur in Dhaka on September 1 at the age of 63.

He is survived by his wife and three sons.