

## BCL given cold-shoulder

### Top AL leaders, ministers staying away from programmes of crime-obsessed student leaders

**HASAN JAHID TUSHER**

The Awami League has finally chosen to leave Bangladesh Chhatra League to its own devices for the disgrace it earned in the last 14 months through violence, admission trade, and tender scam.

Frustrated with their crime-loving student leaders, some top Awami League leaders and ministers decided to give them a lesson by staying away from all Chhatra League programmes.

This is not any official decision from the ruling Awami League or the government policy makers, but Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself had recently advised some of her close aides in the government and party to avoid Chhatra League, which has been sully the image of the government along with its own since Awami League took office, said

sources close to the prime minister.

Chhatra League had always been officially Awami League's student wing until less than two years ago when Awami League had to cut the umbilical cord with Chhatra League to be in compliance with the amended Representation of People's Order, 2008.

However, Chhatra League's activities still cast a shadow on the government's image and cause embarrassment, said a number of ruling-party leaders.

Matia Chowdhury, one of the senior leaders of Awami League and a revered senior minister of the cabinet who had earned the title "Agni Kanya" for her extraordinary role as student leader in the 60s, is also seriously unhappy with Chhatra League's recent activities.

Matia told The Daily Star at her office recently, "I will refrain from attending any

programmes organised by Chhatra League or programmes where there would be Chhatra League discussants."

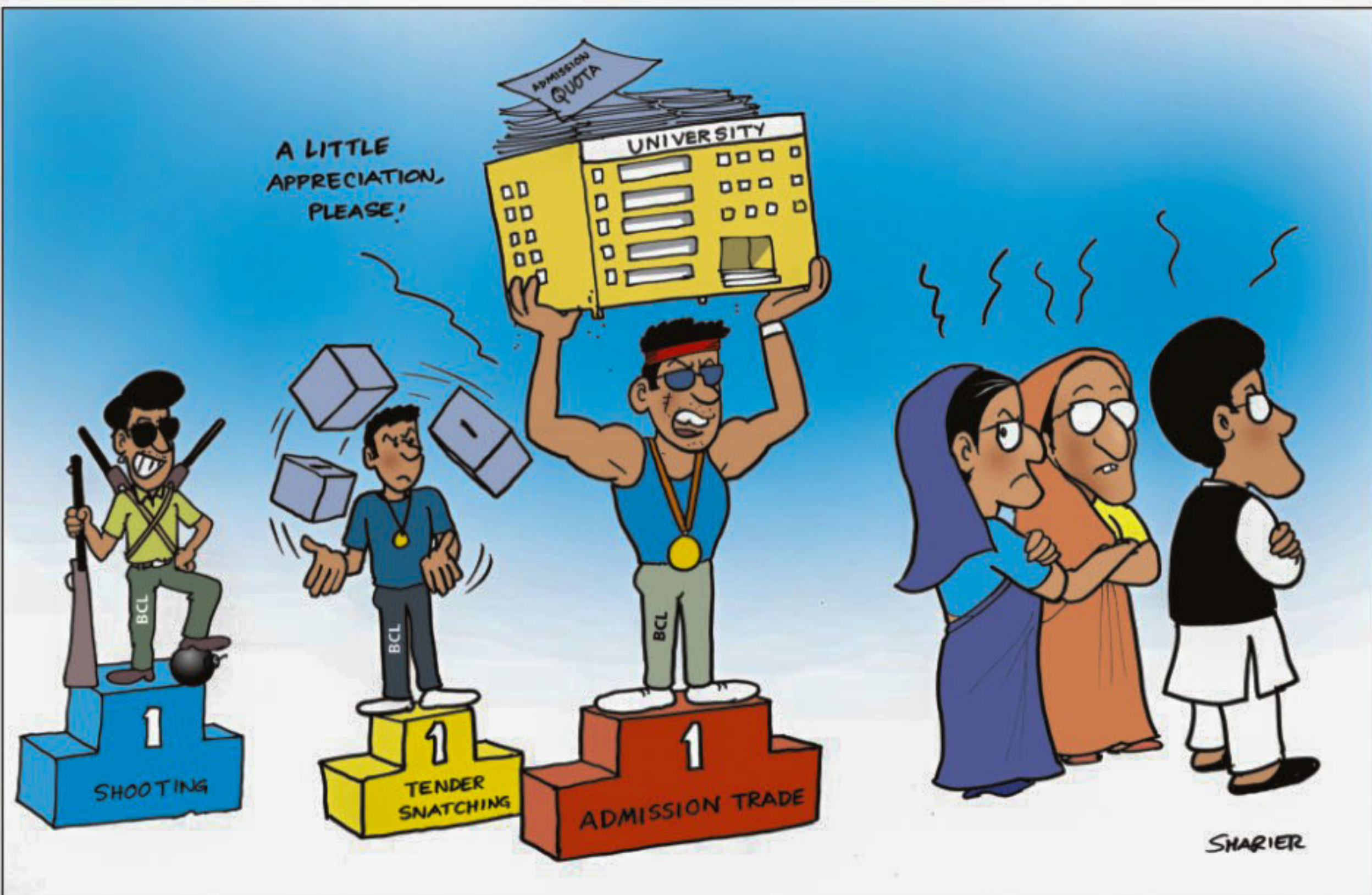
Asked why she is avoiding Chhatra League, she said she feels uncomfortable as the student organisation achieved quite a bad repute.

Lawmaker Obaidul Quader, a presidium member of the Awami League who was once president of Chhatra League and assigned to look after the student organisation on behalf of the party, also stopped attending Chhatra League programmes, his close aides said.

Quader said, "I believe that the only solution is to take punitive and corrective measures to bring Chhatra League back on track."

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, now abroad, also prefers

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## BB freezes account of 'gold trading company'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The central bank yesterday suspended for one month a bank account of Unipay2u Bangladesh, a 'gold trading company' that promises high returns on investment.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) did not clearly mention any charge against the company but only said the suspension order came after three banks

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## Power tariff to go up

### Govt unveils electricity generation plan for 6 years

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government yesterday unveiled a mega plan for adding around 9,500 megawatt of electricity to the national grid by 2015, while announcing that power tariffs will gradually increase as well.

The tariff increase will be necessitated by high price of rental power, and to avoid additional government subsidy in the sector, said power and energy ministry officials.

"A proposal for raising power tariffs will be prepared in a month or two,"

POWER PLAN	
792	megawatt this year
920	megawatt next year
2269	megawatt in 2012
1675	megawatt in 2013
1170	megawatt in 2014
2600	megawatt in 2015

Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Towfiq-Elahi Chowdhury told a media briefing at Bangladesh Secretariat.

He said the country requires a boost in power generation, and the government has no other choice but to meet the demand, even if it is costlier for the people.

Power Development Board (PDB) Chairman ASM Alamgir Kabir unveiled the six-year mega plan, at the briefing.

The plan includes adding between 1,015 MW and 1,215 MW by the end of this year through setting up fast track areas.

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## It's all because of cab requisition

### 20 hurt in clashes with cops; 300 drivers pull up at police station in protest against vehicle seizure, detention of drivers

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

An unusual row over taxicab requisition led to a clash between police and cab drivers leaving 20 people injured yesterday in the capital's Farmgate, Manik Miah Avenue and Bijoy Sarani areas.

Witnesses said several taxicab drivers clashed with police at Farmgate as a traffic police was taking a taxicab to Tejgaon Police Station from Sonargaon crossing for requisition around 12:00 noon.

Police detained eight taxicab drivers and

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## Another girl kills herself for stalking

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A teenage girl in Narayanganj district committed suicide yesterday morning allegedly after being stalked by a youth in the neighbourhood.

The dead, Sufia Akhter, 13, was a daughter of late Rahmat Ali, of Chonpara, Rugganj of the district.

Family members said Sufia hanged herself from a beam of the ceiling around 10.30am. They took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

Sufia used to sew caps at home and sell those.

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## Pond water hilsa under test run

**A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur**

It is common knowledge that hilsa fish can survive only in rivers. But researchers at Chandpur Fisheries Research Institute have now taken steps to farm the hilsa in ponds.

They captured some hilsa fry under special arrangements and released them into ponds.

Chief Scientific Officer of the institute Dr Anisur Rahman is leading the research. Preparations to rear hilsa in ponds have been under way for the last few days.

A 1.5-inch long fry, caught using special measures from the Meghna River, was released into a pond under the supervision of the institute.

The small, sweet water river fry ran down the pond waterbed after it was released. The researcher said the initiative was taken recently based on experience gathered in the last decade.

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## 2 AL leaders involved

### Hannan tells court about Kotalipara plot to kill Hasina

**A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj**

Mufti Abdul Hannan, the prime accused in the attempted murder of Sheikh Hasina in Kotalipara, Gopalganj, yesterday named two AL leaders for their alleged involvement in the plot.

The two leaders are AL's Religious Affairs Secretary Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Gopalganj District unit's Joint General Secretary Mahbub Ali Khan.

"Quiz the two leaders for truth. They know everything," Hannan was shouting at journalists who were waiting outside

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