

# BCL violence

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student body there, campus sources have alleged.

Teachers, officials and general students say that the central committee of the BCL has no command over its JU unit as the academic himself has been controlling it for the last one and a half years.

However, when asked, Prof Kabir denied the allegation. "I don't patronise any faction. I don't know who are doing what by using the name of the Chhatra League."

But Shafin Ahmed, president, and Nirjhor Alam Sammo, general secretary of the now-dissolved JU unit of BCL, differ.

They said the VC was indeed patronising all the misdeeds by the BCL men on the campus.

BCL central committee president Badiuzzaman Sohag echoed their views.

"A section of students are engaged in unlawful activities through using the name of the Chhatra League with help from the university administration and law enforcement agencies," he said.

Sohag maintains there is no BCL unit at the JU at the moment. He also denies having any contact with those doing politics on the campus by capitalising on the BCL's image.

The latest incident of violence happened on Sunday when a group of BCL activists beat up Zubair Ahmed, a fourth year student of the English department, over past rivalry on the campus. Zubair succumbed to his injuries on Monday at a hospital in Dhaka.

Frustrated with the VC's role, the BCL high command vented their concerns before the AL leadership on several occasions. Nothing, however, happened to the VC, who comes from Gopalganj, which is also where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's hails from.

Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir was appointed vice-

chancellor of JU in February 2009, a month after the AL-led grand alliance came to power.

At present, BCL activists loyal to the VC control seat distribution, said campus sources, adding the BCL men are also involved in tender manipulation, extortion and mugging.

The BCL men often force students to join their programmes and harass them if they do not follow their orders, a number of teachers said, preferring anonymity.

SM Shamim of the economics department and Sheikh Shariful Islam of the history department, who are loyal to the VC, have been leading BCL politics on the campus since July 2010, teachers said.

The Shamim-Sharif group came to the rescue of the VC on Monday when several hundred students confined him to his office following the death of Zubair.

**BACKGROUND**  
Around three months before announcing a fresh committee of the BCL at JU, the central executive committee of the student body dissolved its JU unit committee on July 5, 2010, following fierce infighting that left at least 30 BCL men injured. Five of the victims were thrown from the roof of a hall.

The university administration then expelled 23 students, including the president, Shafin Ahmed, and the general secretary, Nirjhor Alam Sammo, of the dissolved unit over their involvement in the clash.

Following the suspension of the Shafin-Sammo committee, the Shamim-Sharif group took control of BCL politics on the campus under the shelter of the university administration, according to BCL sources.

Since then, the Shamim-Sharif group has had a tight grip on BCL politics on the campus.

A number of central lead-

ers of BCL think the announcement of a fresh committee can bring back order in the BCL as well as on the campus.

## Israel approves jail without trial for illegal

AFP, Jerusalem

The Israeli parliament passed tough new legislation targeting illegal immigration early yesterday, giving authorities powers to detain migrants for up to three years without charge.

The legislation, an amendment to a 1954 law originally intended to deal with Arab militants trying to infiltrate the Jewish state, was passed by 37 votes to eight.

It also provides for prison terms of up to 15 years for anyone convicted of helping migrants involved in human trafficking, or smuggling weapons or drugs into Israel.

The legislation is part of the government's efforts to curb a huge influx of people sneaking across Israel's desert border with Egypt, the majority of them economic migrants from Africa.

Last month, the cabinet allocated \$167 million for new measures to tackle illegal immigration, which Netanyahu has called "a national calamity."

## Rajuk files case

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last night.  
The case was filed under Playfield, Open Space, Park and Natural Water Reservoir Conservation Act, 2000, for all metropolitan areas, divisional areas and including all district areas.

In response to an allegation that police did not take the case on Monday despite Rajuk's move, police said they could not take the case that day because the case statement was not written properly.

## Close aide

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Mukttagachha upazila of Mymensingh district, before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka with a 10-day remand prayer. He was then remanded for four days.

According to Uttara police, Emdadul was sentenced to a four-year jail term in 2007 in a case filed under the Antiterrorism Act in Mukttagachha, and also a charge-sheeted accused in a case in connection with a robbery at a Brac office in Podurbari of Mukttagachha on February 16, 2003.

Acting on intelligence, police arrested Emdadul at 10:30pm from Sonargaon Janapath in section-9 of Uttara, said police sources. They also seized from his possessions several publications of the banned organisation and some books giving instructions on how to make bomb and operate firearms.

Mohammad Abu Miah, officer-in-charge of Uttara Police Station, said the arrestee had been impersonating a shop employee, rickshaw-puller and a hawkker to escape arrest.

Nisarul Arif, deputy commissioner of Uttara Division, told The Daily Star, "The theme of many of the publications is motivating people to wage jihad and form suicide squads."

"Some of those read about making bombs and operating firearms like AK-47."

The DC added they were interrogating the JMB man to extract information about his recent connections and plans.

## Deadly blast

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shattered glass of at least nine destroyed shopfronts.

Pakistan's remote and lawless northwestern region is a stronghold of Taliban and al-Qaeda operatives and other Islamist militants opposed to the government.

Insurgents largely based in the tribal border lands have carried out bomb and gun attacks killing more than 4,700 people across Pakistan since July 2007.

But the market bombing was the first major Islamist militant attack in Pakistan since a suicide bomber killed 46 people, targeting anti-Taliban militia at a funeral in the northwestern district of Lower Dir on September 15.

Pakistan has battled a homegrown insurgency for years, with more than 3,000 soldiers killed in the battle against militancy.

There were about 120 bomb attacks in Pakistan in 2011 and the same number in 2010 according to an AFP tally.

The latest attack comes as the northwest border crossing for Nato supplies remains closed to trucks supplying foreign troops fighting in neighbouring Afghanistan following a clash in US-Pakistan relations in the wake of deadly Nato air strikes on November 26 that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.

Pakistan rejected the results of the military coalition's investigation into the incident and said the cross-border strikes had been a deliberate act of aggression, leaving relations floundering between the uneasy anti-terror allies.

## Defamation

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press release.

The cases were filed against the then TIB chairman M Hafizuddin Khan, executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman and senior researcher Wahid Alam following publication of the 'Corruption in the Service Sectors: National Household Survey 2010' on December 23.

Welcoming the verdicts, Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "The verdicts have legitimised the report and have proved its scientific base."

"TIB did not conduct the survey aiming to tarnish the dignity of the judiciary, rather TIB conducts these surveys regularly to ensure transparency and accountability of service providing institutions," he said.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman asserted that cooperation of people and media would encourage them to accelerate the anti-corruption movement and to address challenges in future.

# JU erupts in protests

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But the demonstrators vowed to continue their agitation until the university met two others of their demands -- the sacking of JU Proctor Prof Arzu Miah and Chief Security Officer Azim Uddin for failing to ensure students' security on the campus.

Of the expelled trio, Khandaker Ashikul Islam and Khan Mohammad Rais are of zoology department and Rashedul Islam is from philosophy.

The decision came a day after the university authorities suspended the three for only a year, sparking outrage from teachers and students alike.

Zubair Ahmed, who reportedly belonged to the Shafin-Sammo faction of JU unit Bangladesh Chhatra League, succumbed to his injuries at a city hospital on Monday, 13 hours after being beaten allegedly by his rivals over previous enmity.

Shafin Ahmed, president of the suspended JU unit BCL committee, blames the Shamim-Sharif group for carrying out the killing. He claims the faction is patronised by VC Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir himself.

Shamim, a Chhatra League activist of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of the university, has denied the allegation.

The vice-chancellor, talking to journalists at his office yesterday, said he did not back any BCL faction. He claimed that Zubair was not killed in any infighting of the Chhatra League, a pro-Awami League student body.

Prof Shariff also said he had taken the action against the three students, who are all in the fourth year, under the university's disciplinary code.

"We have already filed a murder case and one of the accused was arrested. If we find any others' involvement in this killing, we will include their names in the case," he said.

Yesterday, Zubair Ahmed was buried in the Poura Graveyard at Madinabagh in Patuakhali at around 10:15am following a namaz-e-janaza attended by over a thousand people, including local political leaders and social workers.

Later, the mourners formed a human chain in front of Kalapara Press Club, demanding the arrest and punishment of the killers, our Patuakhali correspondent reports. Several hundred students of local educational institutions took part in the programme.

Earlier on Monday at 11:30pm, as the ambulance carrying the body from Dhaka Medical College morgue reached Zubair's Madinabagh residence, family members and relatives burst into tears and a pall of gloom descended on the locality.

Hasina Begum, mother of Zubair, is yet to understand who could have killed her son and why. "What was the fault

of my son?" she asked, trying in vain to keep her emotions in check.

Zubair's father Tofael Ahmed, who has retired from the navy, said, "I want justice for the killing of my son."

He also urged the law enforcement agencies to arrest the killers immediately, and called upon the government to free the campuses across the country of all sorts of violence.

**"GOOD CONNECTIONS"**  
Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed Ashikul on a four-day remand after the investigation officer of the case, Sub-Inspector Shaheen Parvez of Ashulia Police Station, produced him before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

Police arrested Ashikul from his room at Mir Mosharrif Hossain Hall of JU on Monday, hours before a murder case was filed against him, Rais, Rashedul and 10-12 unknown others with the police station.

Officer-in-Charge Badrul Alam told The Daily Star yesterday that the police have the names of six others whose connections with the incident are now being verified.

Additionally, a university committee investigating the murder said it had got names of some other students in connection with the killing.

The head of the probe team, Prof Farhad Hossain, also the JU pro-vice chancellor, while talking to The Daily Star yesterday, refused to disclose the identities of the news suspects.

He said the names would come to light when the probe report is published within the one-month deadline.

Zubair's elder brother Abdullah Al Mamun, a law teacher at Leading University in Sylhet, expressed his doubts whether the real culprits had been arrested.

He had heard that those involved in the killing had "good connections" with the university VC and proctor, Mamun said.

He also said he regarded the case filed by the university authorities with distrust and will include the names of the "real culprits" in the case if those are omitted.

## THE AGITATION

Over a hundred teachers -- a section of Pro-Awami League teachers led by Prof MA Matin, left-leaning teachers and others from pro-BNP Nationalist Forum -- have expressed solidarity with the students demonstrating on the vice chancellor office premises, witnesses say.

As on the previous day, the protesters chanted slogans, demanding exemplary punishment for the murderers and resignation of all the members of the proctorial body, and formed human chains.

Teachers and students of the English department also joined the agitation and called upon the VC to ensure the safety of students and create a

congenial atmosphere on the campus.

The BCL also brought out a separate procession that teachers and students alleged was aimed at diverting the attention of the demonstrators.

## White House

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November that he had ceded some of his duties and amid signs other top officials were dictating Obama's political direction.

But Daley, part of a storied Chicago political dynasty, had been expected to stay on in the White House until after November's election, in which Obama is seeking a second term in a challenging economic environment.

The former Bill Clinton-era commerce secretary was appointed just a year ago as the administration sought to bounce back from a Republican triumph in mid-term congressional polls in 2010 and to show a friendlier face to business.

His contacts in the financial sector and propensity for the political centre however caused distrust among some liberal members of Obama's base.

Daley shouldered much of the blame when the White House failed to clinch a deal on cutting the deficit and taxes with Republicans last year, and the Obama administration has since returned to a more confrontational posture.

He steps down as Obama gears up for another showdown with Republicans over extending a payroll tax cut and amid a constitutional showdown after he bypassed Congress to appoint several key officials to his administration.

Obama said Daley told him last week that he wanted to return to Chicago to spend more time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

"No one in my administration has had to make more important decisions more quickly than Bill and that's why I think this decision was difficult for me," he said, adding he did ask Daley to reconsider.

Obama said Daley, expected to leave by the end of the month, played important roles in the decision-making which led to the operation to kill Osama bin Laden in Pakistan last year, among other crucial issues.

In a letter to Obama, Daley said he was "honoured to be a small part of your administration. It is time for me to go back to the city I love."

Obama made his announcement less than two hours after his press spokesman Jay Carney insisted that the working environment was "harmonious" at the White House, and portrayed and painted a new book detailing tension between First Lady Michelle Obama and key presidential staff members as "over-hyped."

## Ghulam Azam

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from several old-age complications, he added.

The hearing of the petition may take place today, Tajul said, adding that his client is ready to face the trial on charges of committing crimes against humanity in 1971 and will not attempt to flee the country.

On Monday, the tribunal accepted formal charges against Ghulam Azam and asked his chief counsel barrister Abdur Razzak to produce him before it by 10:30am on January 11.

It also said if the counsel fails to produce Ghulam Azam before the tribunal it will issue an arrest warrant against the accused.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken steps to ensure security in the capital to evade untoward situation over the incident.

A DMP official requesting anonymity told The Daily Star that they will deploy additional forces and intelligence personnel at the key points of Ghulam Azam's way to the tribunal.

Meanwhile, Jamaat has asked its leaders and workers to be prepared for tougher situation in the days to come, said party insiders.

Although Ghulam Azam stepped down from the highest post [ameer] of his party over a decade ago, his followers still consider him as the supreme spiritual leader. So the first-ever appearance of the party's highest leader before the tribunal has caused panic among the rank and files of Jamaat, said insiders.

Wishing not to be quoted, a Jamaat leader said, "We are prepared for everything and will follow the high command's instructions."

Asked to elaborate, he said, "Jamaat is not a secret or banned organisation. You will see everything we do centring the trial of our top most leader."

According to history, Jamaat under Ghulam Azam's leadership opposed the country's independence during the Liberation War and cooperated with the Pakistani occupation army in committing heinous crimes.

# BNP to press

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Star last night.

The dialogue is scheduled to start at 11:00am at Bangabhaban. The party will brief the media about the outcome of the talks at 2:00pm at its Naya Paltan office.

As part of the party's final preparation, the BNP chief sat in two phases with members of the standing committee, the highest policy-making body, at her Gulshan office in the capital last night, said RA Ghani, a standing committee member.

The government in June last year scrapped the caretaker system through the fifteenth amendment to the constitution, allowing parliamentary polls to be held under political government. The main opposition party opposed the amendment, and now maintains it will not go to polls unless held under a non-party caretaker government.

Against this backdrop, the president on December 22 last year started the talks with the political parties to discuss formation of the new Election Commission. The tenure of the current commission expires on February 14.

So far, 21 political parties went to the discussion table. Of them, at least 12 parties recommended reinstatement of the caretaker system.

However, seven political parties, most of whom are partners of the Awami League-led ruling alliance, spoke against the system. They instead stressed the need for strengthening the election commission.

BNP initially criticised the president's initiative and termed it unconstitutional, but finally decided to join the dialogue.

Veteran AL leader Suranjit Sengupta, who has been recently appointed railways minister, yesterday hailed the main opposition's decision.

"By taking the decision, BNP has proved that it believes in constitution and also democratic practice within the party," he told reporters at his Railway Bhaban office.

some sort of unity in it."

Talking to The Daily Star, a BNP leader said they would also make it a point to the president that the judiciary, the civil administration and the law enforcement agencies have been deeply politicised under the current government.

In addition, ensuring a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election is impossible under a political government, he added.

Another senior BNP leader, who was supposed to be in the BNP delegation, said, "We'll tell the president that a huge number of government and law enforcement officials, including deputy commissioners, superintendents of police and upazila executive officers who play vital roles in elections, will not act neutrally unless a caretaker government is in place."

The Election Commission will not be able to hold a free and fair election as it would have to work under a political government."

In addition to pointing out all these verbally, BNP will submit a written statement covering their main arguments in favour of the caretaker system, he said.

Following instructions by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the president initiated talks with the political parties having representation in parliament and registration with the EC.

However, Jamaat-e-Islami, which has two seats in parliament, was not invited to the talks for its anti-liberation role. The party opposed the country's liberation and sided with the Pakistani occupation forces during the 1971 Liberation War.

## YESTERDAY'S TALKS

Joining the talks, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon and Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis yesterday proposed reinstating the caretaker government system before formation of the new Election Commission.

Another political party -- Ganotantrick Islami Oikya Jote -- proposed to take legal steps for extending tenure of the present commission as well as to appoint two more election commissioners.

## Khaleda's

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that army officers are being abducted to destroy the army. The remarks, which were covered by different media, are misleading and provocative."

Through this [speech], the ISPR observed, an evil attempt was made to tarnish the image of a well-disciplined force like the army and create chaos.

"The nation does not expect such false, provocative and irresponsible statements from a person who is holding a responsible position as that of leader of the opposition," it added.

In her speech at the Chittagong rally, Khaleda blasted the government for what she said was a deterioration of law and order. She alleged, "Even army officials are now disappearing. Many have lost their jobs."

The ISPR statement said the army is run by specific army codes. "If there is any deviation, measures are taken as per the law. And there is no scope to create confusion here."

When action is taken against anyone in accordance with the army act, the army is not destroyed; it rather becomes a more disciplined and professional force, the statement continued.

Bangladesh Army is a national institution and everybody's cooperation is expected in safeguarding its good name and fame.

Asked if the BNP had any specific information about Khaleda's claim regarding "disappearances of army officers", the party's acting secretary general Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said he did not know anything about the matter and would try to gather information about it.

About the ISPR release, he said he knew nothing about it. As The Daily Star read out the statement and sought his views, the BNP leader declined to comment.

Earlier on January 4, another press release from the ISPR said an army officer was being tried by court martial while another was facing an arrest warrant on charges of their involvement in anti-disciplinary activities.

The two are Lieutenant Colonel Hasin and Major Zia respectively.

The ISPR added that a field general court martial formed on December 11 last year was recording the statements of prosecution witnesses in line with the recommendations of a high-level court of inquiry.

The court of inquiry was formed on July 11 last year after the arrest of Lt Col Hasin and Lt Col Zayed.

The ISPR press release came in the wake of some newspaper reports that one Major Zia had been abducted, confined and interrogated at an unknown place by an intelligence agency.

Refuting the reports that the authorities concerned did not start trying Lt Col Zayed, Lt Col Hasin and Lt Col Ehsan Yusuf though 150 days had passed since their arrest, the ISPR said the information was "totally baseless".

The press release, however, did not go into details about Lt Col Ehsan Yusuf and Lt Col Zayed.

It said Major Zia was issued an order to join unit 3 E Bengal after he completed his course at the MIST (Military Institute of Science and Technology). Recently, he was given an attachment order to the Headquarters Logistics Area in Dhaka cantonment on charges of his involvement in anti-disciplinary activities.

As Zia absconded instead of joining the Headquarters Logistics Area, an arrest warrant was issued against him.

## 4 of a family

**FROM PAGE 20**  
from Jhenidah around 2:00pm hit an auto-rickshaw while giving side to another bus.

Arzina Begum, 22, a resident of Bhangri village in Ullapara upazila, her nephew Khairul Islam, 20, and auto-rickshaw driver Jahangir Alam, 17, died on the spot.

Arzina's husband Ershad Ali, 30, and their four-month-old son Abdullah succumbed to their injuries on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the OC said.