

BCL INFIGHTING MAKES CU UNSTABLE

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Infighting over formation of the Chittagong University committee of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has been continuing on the campus for the last six and a half months.

At least eight incidents of beating, stabbing and attacks on rivals occurred after formation of the new committee, leaving 17 injured, sources on the campus said. All the clashes occurred only to establish supremacy over each other.

The central leaders of BCL announced a 19-member university committee on June 25 last year for a one-year term. Six and a half months of the term already passed but the full-fledged body is yet to be formed, sources said.

Internal disputes and chaos left the organisation in disarray as there is no chain of command in the absence of a full-fledged committee, said SM Alauddin, a BCL activist of the university unit. He said taking advantage of this vacuum, a section of activists are trying to become leaders by resorting to untoward incidents and trying to weaken the organisation.

Abu Kaiser Roni said a full-fledged committee should be declared to avoid such conflicts among the activists as soon as possible. Moreover, a full-fledged committee is also necessary for practising democracy inside the organisation, he added.

BCL men locked in a clash in front of Shahjalal Hall on January 1. Abu Tayeb Sumon, Saidul Islam and Jahangir Alam were injured critically in the clash. A faction of BCL locked the CU administrative building while submitting a memorandum to the vice chancellor demanding arrest of their rivals, campus sources said.

BCL activists Golam Rasul Nishan, Rezaul Karim and Golam Rabbani Nobin were injured in an internal clash on the campus on July 2, 2011. Ashique Aziz, Himel Chowdhury and Shovon Hossain and Hosne Mubarak and Hedayet Ul Islam were injured in separate clashes on July 16.

Campus sources said Fazle Rabbi Sujan was seriously injured in an attack by the rivals in the university Railway Station area on September 29 last year. Rivals severely beat up Shahidul Islam on October 23 and stabbed Mamunul Hoque on October 31 last year in university railway station area, sources added.

Amit Kumer Bashu and Mostafizur Rahman were injured on the campus in an attack on December 31, 2011 by the rivals.

One proctor and three assistant proctors submitted their resignation letters protesting misbehavior of some BCL men on August 2, 2011. Later, the assistant proctors withdrew their resignation while the proctor remained rigid on his decision.

The BCL men assaulted the university correspondent of the Daily Naya Diganta on the campus on October 26, the sources added.

The university unit BCL President Mamunul Hoque claimed that their activists are not involved in such activities. Some miscreants in the name of BCL are carrying out such untoward incidents, he said, adding that their activists never indulged in such hooliganism.

He said the full-fledged committee comprising competent as well as meritorious activists will be announced soon.

Tk 58CR EXPANSION WORK COMPLETED

Ctg Central Jail still overstretched



The newly constructed Chittagong Central Jail.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Despite completion of its Tk 58 crore expansion work, Chittagong Central Jail is still overstretched because of the very high number of prisoners.

At least 4,107 prisoners live in the 1,715-capacity Chittagong jail.

The work for expansion of the century-old jail started in July 1998 and ended on June 30, 2011 after 13 years.

The newly expanded Chittagong Central Jail will have the capacity of accommodating 1,715 prisoners, said

Deputy Jailer Nur Mohammad Sohel, adding that there were 4,107 prisoners in the jail on Sunday.

The jail, founded in 1885 during the British regime, still bears the testimony to the incident of hanging of great anti-British movement hero Masterda Surya Sen and his companion Tarakeswar Das.

Sources said Chittagong Zila Jail started its journey in 1885 with a capacity of 747 prisoners. It was made Chittagong Central Jail in 1999.

Public Works Department (PWD) took the project worth Tk 60.35 crore

titled 'Expansion and Modernisation of Chittagong Central Jail to upgrade it into a modern one when most of the buildings of this ancient jail became dilapidated. The PWD spent Tk 58,42,29,000 to complete the expansion work.

Rafiqul Kader Khokan, jailer of Chittagong Central Jail, said the project had been completed in three phases as all the old structures were demolished.

Sources said some 35 buildings have been constructed on an area of over 16.87 acres. The buildings housed quarters for the prisoners, separate prison cells for the VIP prisoners, work shed, rooms for female prisoners and separate cells for juvenile prisoners, an administrative building, a 100-bed hospital, three staff quarters, warden barrack, an office of PWD, ten condemned cells, 32 security cells, residences for the DIG prison and senior jail superintendent.

The project also includes a sentry post, a parade ground, a gallows-stage, an observation tower and a

water pump, said the sources.

Sajal Biswas, executive engineer of PWD, said the project concluded with the saving of Tk 1,92,73,000. He said residences for prisoners keeping spacious walking area, bathrooms, entrances, store rooms and meeting place for the prisoners with their relatives have been built under the project.

Shahara in her speech as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony said Chittagong is the land of anti-British hero Masterda Surya Sen as well as the second largest city in the country.

Terming Chittagong Central Jail the second largest jail in the country, she said all the vacant posts of this jail will be filled up very soon.

Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Fayez Ahmed said 37 posts were lying vacant in the jail which should be filled up immediately to ensure its safety.

The gallows stage where anti-British hero Masterda was executed has been preserved to show respect to his supreme sacrifice for the country, said Jailer Rafiqul.

theweekthatwas

Call to unite against war criminals

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon here on Saturday urged all to stand united against the people who are trying to save the war criminals.

"A quarter is plotting to save the criminals who committed crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971", he said.

Menon was addressing a programme as chief guest held at Muslim Hall organised by Gono Oikya Committee.

Speakers urged the Awami League-led government to establish the constitutional rights of the indigenous and minority people.

They also demanded the government to restore constitution of 1972 for ensuring the rights of all citizens of the country.

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma popularly known as Santu Larma, committee Convener Pankaj Bhattacharya and General Secretary MA Sabur, National Awami Party (NAP) Presidium Member Abdul Momen Bhuiyan also spoke as the special guests.

Committee leader Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury presided over the meeting.

Myanmar food festival held

Myanmar cultural and food festival was concluded in the port city on Tuesday.

Honorary Consul General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Chittagong arranged the programme in Hotel Agrabad supported by Bangladesh-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The programme, first of its kind in the port city, was inaugurated by Myanmar Ambassador to



Artistes of the Manipuri Pung Chalom Institute perform Manpuri dance in the two-day long folk cultural festival on the DC Hill premises in the port city on Friday organised by Samaj Samiksha Sangha.

STAR PHOTO

Bangladesh U Lwin as chief guest. HM Hakim Ali, honorary consul general of Myanmar to Chittagong, presided over the programme.

Lwin in his speech said this kind of festival and cultural exchanges would play a significant role in strengthening relations between the two countries.

Hakim said this kind of festival would promote tourism industry.

Indian Assistant High Commissioner Somnath

Ghosh and the Dainik Azadi Editor MA Malek were present as the special guests.

Different types of traditional foods of Myanmar were showcased at the festival following a cultural programme.

Assault on journo protested

Aain Sahayata Kendra, a non-government organisation (NGO) working on human rights,

formed a human chain on the Chittagong Press Club (CPC) premises in the port city on Thursday protesting assault on a journalist of Rtv.

Following the programme a rally was also held on the occasion.

Later, speakers at a rally said without freedom of media objective journalism was not possible.

Attack on any media person is a gross violation of human right, they added.

Terming media the fourth estate, they said every conscious people should extend their helping hands to media persons so that no obstacle could hamper in gathering objective news.

Drama festival held

A five-day drama festival was concluded in the port city on Monday.

Fame, a leading school of dance, drama and music in the port city, organised the festival titled "Fameian Natya Samaroho" at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC).

The festival featured pantomime, Tagore's play, children's drama. A cultural programme was also held on the occasion.

Vessel launched

Western Marine Shipyard, a shipbuilding company, launched a catamaran type passenger vessel successfully in the bay on Sunday.

The fully air-conditioned passenger ship will be handed over to Chittagong Boat Club, owner of the vessel.

Western Marine Services Ltd. and Chittagong Boat Club will jointly operate the vessel, says a press release.

Managing Director (MD) of the company Sakhawat Hossain hoped that this vessel would fulfil tourists' expectation as it has luxurious service.

"This type of luxuries and modern tourist vessel will attract national and international tourists, which will help boost the country's tourism industry" said Saiful Islam, chairman of Western Marine.