

# DISCONTENT OVER NEW RU BCL COMMITTEE

## Former leaders thinking of quitting politics

MA SAYEED

Around 50 former Rajshahi University (RU) unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders, currently members, are thinking of leaving politics, alleging that the present RU BCL committee was selected, not elected as per its constitution, and it comprised unqualified leaders.

They opined that the president, Mizanur Rahman, did not have the experience and expertise to run the university-based student organisation of the Awami League and that his only achievement was maintaining a strong lobby.

Moreover, there were also allegations of murder and robbery against the general secretary, SM Towhid Al Hossain Tuhin, who was seen openly brandishing a firearm during a clash at RU on October 2, 2012, they added. The decision to appoint the two was taken at RU unit BCL's council on the campus on July 20.

As per BCL's constitution, RU unit BCL members elect the two at its council. The two then recommend a 121-member full-fledged committee to the BCL Central Executive Committee, who then approves it after scrutiny.

The former leaders left the halls and are residing elsewhere in order to avoid getting involved in politics although most have not declared that they would resign from the organisation.

They include the immediate past RU unit BCL vice-presidents Khaled Hossain Nayan, Masud Rana and Ilias Hossain, joint secretaries Firoz Mahmud and Saidul Islam Rubel, organising secretaries Zahirul Haque Zakir, Md Noman and Hasan Matubbor and member

Shariful Islam Sharif.

However, BCL presidents of three halls -- Ashish Dey, Zubaer Ibn Tanim and Rashedul Islam Ranju of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Madar Bux and Sher-e-Bangla respectively -- recently told The Daily Star that they would resign.

Khaled Hossain Nayan told The Daily Star, "BCL Central Executive Committee leaders did not make me the president although I had all the qualities."

Stating that the BCL Central Executive Committee leaders made a "great mistake", Shariful Islam Sharif and Ilias Hossain predicted that the new RU unit BCL would soon be abolished.

The immediate past RU unit BCL general secretary, Abu Hossain, told The Daily Star last week that the BCL Central Executive Committee leaders formed the committee without considering their recommendations.

He, however, withdrew the comment yesterday.

Stating that he entered politics in RU six years ago and was the deputy education secretary of the previous committee, RU unit BCL President Mizanur Rahman said, "I do have the qualities to be the president."

RU unit BCL General Secretary SM Towhid Al Hossain Tuhin said the former leaders were thinking of leaving as they were not awarded posts.

Admitting that there was no election, BCL Central Executive Committee General Secretary Siddique Nazmul Alam said they chose the two as per "consensus" among former senior RU unit BCL leaders.

The full-fledged committee will be announced in four days and then there will be no discontent, he added.



Soil dug out from the New Eskaton Road, where a flyover is being built, is left on the fast lane of the extremely busy street, making the usual gridlock even worse ahead of Eid. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## RAILING COLLAPSE IN BADDA

### Two child victims yet to regain consciousness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two children who were seriously injured in a railing collapse in the capital's Badda on Friday evening have not yet regained consciousness.

Saima Sultana, 10, and Tariqul Islam, 7, are being treated in Dhaka Medical College Hospital with head injuries.

They were playing on the rooftop of a one-storey building when the metal parapet on the rooftop of an adjacent three-storey building collapsed on them, killing Modabbir Hossain Sabbar, 8, and injuring his sister Saima, and friend Tariqul.

Officer-in-Charge of Badda Police Station Iqbal Hossain said, "Children used to play on the roof of the three-storey building. Being concerned about their safety, the owner Arjina employed people to build the railing, which was completed a week ago. The railing's construction work was weak."

Police had detained Arjina but later released her. Sabbar's mother Shilpi Begum said Tariqul lived in the one-storey where the accident occurred.

## Stop commercialisation of healthcare sector

### Experts demand at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Policymakers must decide whether access to healthcare services is a right of the people or it is a commodity that they have to buy, said experts at a roundtable discussion yesterday.

Slamming the high cost of medical treatment in the country, they said political parties need to step forward to stop the wholesale commercialisation of the healthcare sector.

The discussion titled, "Health Sector Governance: Policy, Influence, Ownership", was organised by Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of Brac University at Brac Centre Inn in the capital.

Dr Mustaq Hossain, general secretary of Bangladesh Chikitsak Sangsad, said no political party took steps against the commodification of healthcare services.

Addressing the event, Prof Rashid E

Mahbub, president of Bangladesh Health Rights Movement (BHRM), said neither the general public nor the political leaders are well-informed about the health policy.

"It is the civil society of the country that is knowledgeable about the policy. And the people of the society can afford healthcare costs, but neither political parties and general people have no adequate knowledge about the policy," he said.

Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, founder of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, said the child mortality rate in the country can not be reduced if presence of doctors at every union is not ensured.

Dr Abul Kalam Azad, additional director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, and other stakeholders of the health sector, among others, were present at the discussion.

## Human interventions endangering Sundarbans

### 50,000 hectares deforested in a decade

UNB, Dhaka

Although the Sundarbans' green cover is standing firm against natural disasters and recovering from the onslaught of Sidr and Aila on its southern front within a few years of the cyclones, it is gradually giving away to human interventions on the northern front, reveals a recent study.

Launched this month, the Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI) research unveils that an area of about 50,000 hectares of the country's mangroves, which mostly fall under the domain and range of the Sundarbans, has been deforested from 2000 to 2010.

The research, "Trends in Availability of Agricultural Land in Bangladesh", has also assessed that the aquaculture, excluding homestead ponds, in Khulna division has increased by about 50,000 hectares over the same period.

The survey was conducted through the use of aerial photographs and Landsat images to assess the changes in land use in various sectors, including crop agriculture, forestry, housing and aquaculture, in a 34-year timespan from 1976 to 2010.

SRDI principal scientific officer and lead researcher Nazmul Hasan, told the news agency that the non-pond aquaculture, popularly known as Ghers (enclosures), particularly shrimp Ghers, had marked the most significant rise in Khulna division between 2000 and 2010.

"The area of non-pond aquaculture in that area was zero back in 1976, as it was recorded by previous studies, whereas it expanded over an area of 45,596 hectares in 2000 and 96,283 hectares in 2010, thanks to the expansion of shrimp Ghers," he said.

Nazmul said the satellite images also indicated that the green cover of the Sundarbans was not much degraded due to cyclones like Sidr and Aila as it was claimed by different non-government organisations.

"Contrary to the popular belief, the Sundarbans has been deforested along its northern front. It must be human interventions like felling of trees, salt pans, and Ghers.

"Factors responsible for the destruction of the mangrove forest are removal of forest products for fuel, haphazard fishing activities, human settlement, salt production and shrimp farming," according to "National Programme of Action for Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities" prepared by the Department of Environment.

## Two cases filed over spinning mill workers' clash in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two separate cases were filed on Friday night with Sreepur Police Station following a clash between two spinning mills' workers, leaving a worker shot dead at Nagarhaola village in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur on Friday morning.

NR Group Managing Director, Shahajada Pradhan Babul filed a case on behalf of Arif Spinning Mill, against 10 named and 500 unnamed persons over killing the mill worker Abdus Salam, 35, son of Mainuddin.

On the other hand, Masudur Raham, administrative officer of Gulshan Spinning Mill, filed the other case accusing four named and 400 unnamed.

Sreepur Model Police Station Officer in-Charge Amir Hossain said police arrested two security guards of Gulshan Spinning Mill in this connection.

The arrested are Ziaul Haque, 40, and Abul Khayer, 50.

They were sent to jail as per a court order, Amir added.

The clash ensued over a land dispute, killing Salam and injuring 50 others from both of the spinning mills.



Tariqul Islam, left, and Saima Sultana, right, lie unconscious at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday after they were injured in a railing collapse in the capital's Badda on Friday. PHOTO: STAR

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প্রশস্ত রাস্তারপাশে বিল্ডিং চৌধুরী পান্ডায় প্রায় রেডি ১০৭০, ১২৫৫ বর্গফুট, শান্তিনগরে ১৫০০ বর্গফুট ও গেন্ডারিয়ায় ১২৪৫ বর্গফুটের লাক্সারী ফ্ল্যাট কিস্তিতে বিক্রয়।  
যোগাযোগ- ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৭, ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৮

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
বঙ্গবনের দক্ষিণে ১২০' রাস্তার পাশে সুসামর্থ্য কোম্পানীর অভ্যুত্থানিক স্থাপত্যশৈলী ও গুনগত মানসম্পন্ন নির্মাণাধীন ১১৫৫-১৫০০ বর্গ ফুট ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয় চলছে। যোগাযোগ- ০১৭৫৫৫৫৮৫৬৭, ০১৭৫৫৫৫৮৫৬৮

**লাক্সারী ফ্ল্যাট**  
দুই দিকে রাস্তা ও ৪২% খোলা জায়গাসহ বাইতুল আমান হাউজিং-এ দক্ষিণমুখী প্রায় রেডি ১২৭০ ও ১৪০৫ বর্গফুট ও শ্যামলীতে ১২৫০-১২৭৫ বর্গফুট লাক্সারী ফ্ল্যাট কিস্তিতে বিক্রয়।  
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**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
স্বামীবাগে প্রাইম লোকেশনে রাজউক অনুমোদিত এখনই রেজিস্ট্রেশন যোগ্য উন্নতমানের ফিউচার দ্বারা নির্মিত পূর্ব-দক্ষিণ এবং দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম কর্ণার বেষ্টিত এক্সক্লুসিভ ফ্ল্যাট সহজ কিস্তিতে বিক্রয়।  
যোগাযোগ- ০১৬১১০৩৭০০৮, ০১৭১৪৮৪৪০১২

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স্বামীবাগে আধুনিক সকল সুবিধাসহ ১৩৫০, ১৪৫৫ ও ১৯১৫ বর্গফুটের লাক্সারী ফ্ল্যাট কিস্তিতে বিক্রয়। যোগাযোগ ৪-০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৭, ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৬৮

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