

PREMIER UNIVERSITY, CHITTAGONG Protests over BCL man's murder halt port city

Factional rivalry blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A student of Premier University, Chittagong was allegedly killed by his rivals in Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday, triggering a huge protest that kept the port city almost crippled for about five hours till the evening.

After the death of Nasim Ahmed Sohel, an MBA student and member of BCL's Chittagong city unit, thousands of students and BCL activists took to the streets.

The protesters vandalised the university campuses in Prabartak and Wasa intersections and damaged at least 10 CNG-run auto-rickshaws and six private cars. A correspondent of The Daily Star witnessed the incidents.

Chawkbazar police arrested four students of the university over the murder but did not disclose their names.

During the demonstration, the students, mostly BCL activists, shouted slogans against Chittagong city Awami League President Mohiuddin Chowdhury, accusing him of the murder.

Sohel was said to have been loyal to Chittagong city Awami League General Secretary and Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, the intra-party rival of Mohiuddin.

The murder was centred around a conflict between two groups of students who tried to organise a farewell programme, scheduled for tomorrow. Some from the warring groups were also members of the city BCL.

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Nasim Ahmed Sohel



Agitated students take to the street at Prabartak intersection of Chittagong city yesterday, protesting the murder of a student of Premier University, Chittagong, Nasim Ahmed Sohel, allegedly over a factional clash among members of Bangladesh Chhatra League. Inset, Sohel's father breaks down in tears after hearing the news of his son's death.

PHOTOS: STAR



Faulty sewers one of prime problems in DSCC ward 32

Residents tell Mayor Khokon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Bagdasa lane, Badamtoli, Koshaituli, Mahattuli, Swarighat and some other parts of Old Dhaka yesterday identified faulty sewerage management as one of their main problems, demanding that the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) mayor provide an immediate solution.

At a programme DSCC organised in ward 32 beside the Babu Bazar bridge, the residents also pointed out other nuisances centring water supply, traffic congestion, garbage management, streetlights and foot bridges.

They demanded modernising the Armanitola playground and Mohanagar General Hospital and developing Sirajuddaula Park.

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon listened to the residents, the second time he went to an area to address issues since taking to office.

A Koshaituli resident said the area's sewers overflowed, leading to waterlogging in front of the Koshaituli mosque.

Another of Mahattuli said the area's sewers were not big enough and the sewage overflowed from old pipes. His neighbour said almost half of the area's residents faced problems related to water supplies.

"Every day we have to face immense traffic congestion from Swarighat to Babu Bazar," said a Babu Bazar resident.

Khokon asked the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority to solve the sewer problems and officials concerned to repair the streetlights, all in the next three days. Officials concerned were also told to set up a foot bridge near Sirajuddaula Park.

"We will replace all old streetlights with LEDs (light emitting diodes) in ward 32 by May and all the streetlights of Old Dhaka will be converted to LED lights in the next seven or eight months," he said.

On developing parks and playgrounds, he said they have already taken some initiatives.

UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS 2016

Polls in Rangamati postponed

Official statements show reason as ensuring participation of all, avert violence; EC insiders point out lack of AL chairman candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday rescheduled polling to all 49 union parishads (UP) of Rangamati from the third phase on April 23 to the sixth in June, reasoning in a letter to the district election officer that major political parties could not field chairman candidates.

The directive was aimed "at ensuring participation of all", reads the letter directing the rescheduling, signed by EC Deputy Secretary Shamsul Islam.

However, several EC officials told The Daily Star the postponement was mainly for the absence of the ruling Awami League's (AL) candidates. There were no AL candidates in 19 UPs and BNP could not in 27 UPs, according to EC's statistics.

Local leaders of both AL and BNP

showed reluctance fearing attacks by regional political parties in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), according to news reports.

There was no BNP candidate in 119 UPs in the first phase, in around 75 in the second and in around 45 in the third, according to EC's documents.

"But the EC does not show that much of a headache for it. The commission suspended polling to only a few union parishads considering the absence of BNP's candidate," a deputy secretary told The Daily Star seeking anonymity.

"But the commission has taken the Rangamati issue seriously as Awami League could not field candidates there," he added.

However, at a formal press briefing at the EC secretariat yesterday, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz claimed the rescheduling was over security

grounds. "We think if elections in the region are held in the last phase, violence may be lower," he said.

He also threatened to take stern action against law enforcers and polling officials who neglect duties and "are found sitting silent during ballot stuffing or any irregularities".

Elections to 712 UPs were held on March 22 and 13 on March 23 in the first phase. Around 645 UPs will go to polls tomorrow in the second phase; around 621 on April 23 in the third and 743 on May 7 in the fourth and around 1,400 in two other phases till June.

SECOND PHASE CAMPAIGN

Some three weeks of campaigns ended at electoral areas last night at 11:59pm as the EC banned all meetings and campaigns, presence of outsider from 6:00am today and movement of motor vehicles from 12:01am today. Voting

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BNP questions govt actions for finding BB heist culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday expressed dissatisfaction at the government's action following the stealing of money from Bangladesh Bank's account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Asserting that there must have been involvement of insiders in the hacking leading to the heist, the party demanded interrogation of the central bank officials, particularly those who knew the passwords to access the account.

An uproar has been created in the Philippines after the heist, said BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury. "But we have not seen any effective step in Bangladesh."

Khasru, an adviser to the BNP chairperson, made the remarks at a press conference at party chief's office in the capital, where the party presented an analysis on the \$101 million heist last month. He said the people wanted to know what steps the government had taken regarding the matter.

"The government cannot avoid its responsibility for the incident. It can't give any satisfactory explanation of the looting," said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Presenting the analysis, BNP executive member Shama Obayed said it was impossible to access the BB account without the help of the bank officials, who knew the passwords. Quoting Shane Shook, a security consultant who investigated some of the biggest cyber crimes, she said, "It takes somebody from the inside who have deep knowledge of the bank's internal protocol." Matt Bishop, a computer science professor from California, participated in the conference through Skype.

WAR CRIME TRIALS

Charges accepted against two Mymensingh men

Noakhali's Mansur to be tried in absentia; IO of Habiganj case cross-examined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday accepted five charges against two Mymensingh men of genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque fixed May 16 for passing the next order.

Accused Riaz Uddin Fakir, 65, son of

Nayeb Ali Fakir of Bhalukjan village, is now in jail, and Wajuddin, 70, son of Joynal Abedin of Bidyananda village under Phulbaria upazila, on the run.

The five charges filed on March 23 are abduction, torture and killing of three people of Kalairpar, Chaklauripara and Phulbaria municipality between August 22 and 25; killing of three people of Bidyananda and Betbari on August 27; an

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Suspended SCC mayor Ariful gets bail to visit ailing mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

After 15 months in jail, Ariful Haque Chowdhury, mayor of Sylhet City Corporation (temporarily suspended) got bail and returned to Sylhet yesterday to see his mother as she got admitted to a private hospital due to deteriorating health condition.

Ariful, who also is suffering from different kinds of

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Piles, Fistula, Constipation, Dysentery, Colonoscopy, Colon & Rectum Cancer

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