

Litu was not BCL activist
Claims Sylhet district unit; family files murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bangladesh Chhatra League of Sylhet district unit in a statement has claimed that Khalid Ahmed Litu, who was killed inside a classroom of Beinabazar Government College in Sylhet on Monday, was not its activist.

The incident took place around an hour after two factions of the student front clashed on the campus over establishing supremacy.

The statement, received by The Daily Star yesterday, also claimed that Litu "mistakenly" shot himself while loading his revolver in the classroom.

However, the district BCL secretariat Rayhan Chowdhury earlier told The Daily Star that Litu was a BCL activist and murdered by some outsiders.

Meanwhile, on Monday night, Litu's father Khalid Uddin filed a murder case with Beinabazar Police Station, accusing seven people by names and four to five others unnamed.

Policemen detailed BCL activists Emdad, Fahad and Kamran on the spot immediately after the incident. Yesterday, they were shown arrested in the case. Later, police also arrested another BCL activist Delwar Hossain in the Niyangan village of Beinabazar.

The four BCL men were sent to jail yesterday after they were produced before a Sylhet court, said Officer-in-Charge Chandan Kumar Chakrabarty.

On information gleaned from the arrests, police recovered a revolver from a vegetable vendor's shop on the road in front of the college, said the OIC.

The weapon might have been used in the incident, he said.

About the denial that Litu was a BCL activist, Rayhan Chowdhury said initially they got "misleading" information on Monday after the incident.

Later, they came to know that Litu was not a student and ran a mobile phone shop, said Rayhan.

Sugyan Chakma, additional superintendent of police in Sylhet, said investigation is going on to ascertain how Litu died.

The claim of BCL that he shot himself is baseless, Sugyan added.

SM Jakir Hossain, general secretary of BCL central unit, said according to its charter, the other two students cannot be BCL activists.

The college principal, Darlekh Chandra Nath, said Litu was not a student of the institution and he was an outsider in the college.

Litu's family said he dropped out of school after completing class IX.

INDIAN STUDENT KILLING IN CTG Father files murder case against 8 students

MINHAU UDDIN, CG

The father of the deceased Indian student Atef Sheikh yesterday filed a murder case against eight Indian students of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) including two of Atef's roommates and the girl who used to stay in his room.

The five other accused students -- three Indian and two Bangladeshi -- are Maisunnisa, Winston Singh, Gangmei Nitaj, Tongli, Jayotsana Dahi, Prabhatar Laishram, and Kavaswar alias Kavish, Md. Islam Rabbul, Promesh Chakma alias Tuku, and Sojol Chakma alias Moon.

"Atef was pre-planned murder," claimed the father, Abul Khalek in the written complaint.

According to the complaint, Atef, a MBBS final-year student, used to live in a flat on the fourth floor of a six-story building in the port city's Akhber Shah area along with three other Indian students of USTC -- Winston, Nitaj and Jayotsana.

On Friday, they organised a "drinking (alcohol) party" from 7:00pm to 10:30pm joined by the five other students.

Atef was murdered with sharp weapons and his body was taken to a hospital around 1:45am on Saturday early hours. The father suspected the eight, present at the flat that night, for the murder.

"We received his complaint and registered that as the case," said Muhammed Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Akhber Shah Police Station. The OIC said they

Traffic cop sues JnU students over assault

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An attempt to murder case was filed against 30 to 40 autonomous students of Jagannath University (JNU) and three bus drivers yesterday over beating up a traffic sergeant for stopping three university buses travelling on the wrong side in the capital.

In the case filed with Ramna Police Station, Traffic Sergeant Karmna Hamid also accused the students of obstructing him from performing his duty of assaulting him after "unlawful confinement."

In the case statement, he said drivers of three BRTC double-decker buses carrying JNU students towards Farmgate drove through the wrong side on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at Bangla Motor intersection around 5:00pm on Monday.

"As I asked the drivers to take the right lane, the 40 students got off the bus and

came towards me. When I barked the drivers from driving through the wrong side, I was threatened with life by the students," Karmna alleged. He said when he again requested the drivers to take the right lane, the students started punching him and also tore his uniform.

Karmna added that as he shouted for help, a student of JNU who then rushed to the spot, rescued him and sent him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he took his permanent treatment.

OC Mashruh Rahman of Ramna Police Station said they were trying to identify the accused from TV footage and photographs published in newspapers.

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Responsibility lies with all to keep judiciary in force

Says SK Sinha; executive magistrates-led mobile courts can run for two more weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday said welfare cannot take place in a country if its judiciary is kept cornered.

"Even though you and I will not remain, the judiciary will remain in place, as it is for all. Everybody has responsibility to keep the judiciary in force. If the judiciary of a country is not in place, welfare cannot take place there," he told Attorney General Mabubulayeb Alman.

The chief justice made the comment while presiding over a six-member bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court during a hearing on the three government petitions challenging the High Court verdict that declared unconstitutional the rules under which the executive magistrates run mobile courts.

The apex court bench, however, extended for two weeks its July 4 order that stayed the SC challenging the HC verdict. Lastly on July 4, the SC had extended its chamber judge's stay order on the verdict.

Barrister Hassan MS Azim appeared for the writ petitioners.

AG Mabubulayeb Alman met the chief justice at his SC office yesterday afternoon. Talking to The Daily Star, the attorney general refused to disclose what they have discussed.

He, however, said the executive magistrates can run the mobile courts until the SC hears the leave to appeal petitions filed by the government against the verdict.

Delivering a verdict on the three writ petitions on May 11, the HC declared unconstitutional the rules under which executive magistrates run mobile courts.

On July 2, the government filed three separate leave to appeal petitions with the SC challenging the HC verdict. Lastly on July 4, the SC had extended its chamber judge's stay order on the verdict.

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Quader hints at cabinet reshuffle, again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday once again hinted that the cabinet might be reshuffled.

It is his second such hint in two months. On May 8, Quader hinted at cabinet reshuffle, but it has never happened till date.

In a bid to bring dynamism to the government activities ahead of the upcoming 11th parliamentary election, the cabinet might be reshuffled, he said, while talking with reporters at Setia Bhaban in the capital's Mohakhali area yesterday.

"It's prime minister's jurisdiction. I can't say when the reshuffle will be made; but I can sense that the change will be brought," Quader added.

Responding to a query over creating a post of deputy prime minister, Quader said, "It's nothing but a rumour."

Expressing hope that the next general election will be held in an inclusive and impartial manner, he said the government will extend its all-out cooperation to the Election Commission to make the polls a success.

"We will carry out our jobs just as routine works and army will remain under control of the Election Commission," he added.

If the EC's decision whether army will be

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Once regarded as the lifeline for trade at the traditional business centres of the port city, the Chittai canal has shrunk alarmingly due to encroachment over the years. Illegal structures on its both sides continue to mushroom due to indifference of the authorities concerned. The rampant encroachment has narrowed down the water body, escalating residents' waterlogging woes. The photo was taken recently in Chittai area.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

A LIFELINE UNDER THREAT

Encroachment, waste dumping continue to choke Chittai canal

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, CG

The 6.9km Chittai canal, one of the main drainage channels of Chittagong city, has been shrivelled up noticeably, thanks to indiscriminate dumping of waste and rampant encroachment over the years.

The width of the canal -- starting from Bahadarpur area of the city and falling into the Kamaphuli River at Chittai-Charmar-Gudam area -- was about 65 feet on an average, as per the RS survey and 61 feet according to the BS survey. But now the width will be about 50 feet, said sources at the Chittagong City Corporation.

Consequently, during monsoon and high tide the canal -- flowing through Shantia, Chawkbazar, South Bakalia, West Bakalia, Dewanbazar and Boxbazar -- overflows and inundates the adjoining localities.

During the rainy season, these areas remain waterlogged almost all the time and the residents go through untold sufferings.

Following a writ petition, filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the High Court on June 6, 2016 directed the Chittagong District Administration to make a list of occupiers of the canal.

Shahreah Khalid, 59, a member of Forum for Planned Chittagong, said the canal is not in its earlier state. Apart from illegal occupation, the depth of the canal also reduced significantly for not being maintained properly.

So water overflows nearby areas during monsoon and high tide, said Khalid, also a resident of Masterpool area beside the canal.

To mitigate the waterlogging crisis in the city, the depth of the canal has to be increased and the illegal establishments

As per the direction, the administration submitted a list of 48 occupiers to HC in November last year. However, no progress to remove the water body from illegal grabbing has been made so far.

Moreover, the CCC, responsible for maintaining the drains and canals of the city, itself is in the list of the 48 occupiers.

According to the district administration, the 48 occupiers constructed different kinds of establishments occupying about 20,000 square feet of land of the canal.

The CCC constructed a four-storey building, occupying about 793 square feet of land in Bahadarpur area.

Shahreah Khalid, 59, a member of



Not only the encroachment, the 6.9km canal is also swamped by garbage in many parts like this one in Masterpool area.

removed," he added.

Shivsena Ghosh, a resident of West Bakalia, said his son said jail, also a former councillor of Bodhratia.

Ali Ashraf, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners' Chittagong chapter, said, "Only making the list of occupiers will not do. The authorities have to be serious to demolish them."

Regarding the list, Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) Abdul Jalil said, "We submitted the list of the illegal occupiers to the HC and steps would be taken as per the HC direction."

Contacted, CCC Mayor AIM Nasir Uddin said they are working to increase the depth of the canal.

CCC is also conducting a survey to identify the occupiers. After that a massive drive to free the canal will be conducted, he informed.

They will cooperate with the district administration to demolish the illegal establishments.

If any such establishment of CCC is found that will also be demolished," the mayor said.

the canal area in 2007 during the period of caretaker government.

Later, portions of the canal again went under water after jail, also a former councillor of Bodhratia.

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A four-storey building of Chittagong City Corporation, constructed occupying around 793 square feet of the canal land, in Bahadarpur area.

MINHAU UDDIN, CG



Atef Sheikh

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