

QUOTA REFORM MOVEMENT

DU, RU given legal notices over attacks by BCL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen Supreme Court lawyers yesterday sent legal notices to the authorities of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities to inform them in 24 hours what action has been taken against the BCL men for attacks on students demanding quota reform in public jobs.

The two notices, served on the vice chancellors, proctors and registrars of the universities, said "legal action will be initiated against them" if they don't inform the lawyers in writing about action taken against Bangladesh Chhatra League activists for attacking quota reformist students.

The counsels sent the notices on behalf of DU students Md Faruk Hasan, Md Moshir Rahman, Jasim Uddin and Rashed Khan, and RU student Tariqul Tarek.

The five students were injured in attacks during protests over quota reform on the university campuses.

Citing from the notices, Hasnat Quaiyum, one of the 13 lawyers, said BCL activists attacked and tortured the quota reformists on DU and RU campuses, and reports on the incidents were published in the media with photographs and video clips.

But the authorities of the two universities have not yet said what action has been taken against the perpetrators, the lawyer told this newspaper.

FARUK DENIED BAIL

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petition of quota reform leader Faruk Hassan in a case filed over attacks on police and vandalising of vehicles during protests by quota reformists.

Faruk is one of the joint conveners of "Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad", a platform that spearheaded the quota reform movement.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Kaisarul Islam passed the order on Faruk's bail petition filed by his lawyer.

On Saturday, a Dhaka court sent Faruk and two other joint conveners of

the platform -- Jashim Uddin Akash and Moshir Rahman -- to jail on completion of their two-day police remand.

Faruk was shown arrested in a case filed over attacks on police and vandalising of vehicles during demonstrations by quota reformists while Jashim and Moshir were shown arrested in another case filed over the attack on the DU vice chancellor's residence on April 9. The trio were placed on two-day remand on Tuesday.

Earlier in April, many students of public and private universities across the country took to the streets demanding reform in the quota system.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament on April 11 spoke of abolishing all types of quotas in public jobs amid demonstrations by students and job seekers demanding reform in the quota system.

As no gazette notification was issued in this regard, the protesters started preparing for fresh programmes after the Eid-ul-Fitr last month. But they came under attack allegedly by BCL men.

On July 2, the government formed a seven-member body, headed by the cabinet secretary, which will review the reports of all the committees formed so far regarding civil administration reform.

Later on July 12, the PM told the House that it is not possible to reform the freedom fighters' quota in public service due to a High Court verdict.

REFORMIST LEADER 'MISSING'

Tarek Rahman, joint convener of Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, had been missing since Saturday night, said his family members and leaders of the platform.

Police said they did not detain him, but they were looking for him.

Talking to this correspondent, Tarek's elder sister Tanjila Yesmin said

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Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh witness the signing of "Revised Travel Arrangement-2018" at the home ministry's meeting room. The deal will see an ease in visa restrictions for Bangladeshis wishing to visit the neighbouring country.

PHOTO: PIO

India to help secure remote borders

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nine-member Indian delegation. Both the ministers also discussed security related matters of interest including counter-terrorism, capacity building of different forces and the ministry's divisions, countering illegal activities like fake currency, drug and human trafficking.

The Indian home minister wrapped up his three-day official visit to Bangladesh after the meeting.

The two ministers yesterday also witnessed the signing of a Revised Travel Arrangement 2018 (RTA 2018) amending the earlier RTA 2013 under which India would provide five-year multiple-entry visa to people aged 65 and above and the freedom fighters.

Secretary to Security Services Division Farid Uddin Ahmed and Special Secretary to the Department of Border Management of India Sri Brij Raj Sharma signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries.

Around one crore people from Bangladesh travel to different countries every year and at least 30 lakh of them go to India, said the Bangladesh home minister.

Earlier in the day, Rajnath paid

homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by laying a wreath at Bangabandhu Museum in Dhanmondi. He also offered prayers at the Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka.

Rajnath expressed the hope for a long-lasting friendship between Bangladesh and India and appreciated Bangladesh's hospitality during his visit.

"After spending three days in Bangladesh, I'm heading back to New Delhi. I'm deeply touched by the warmth and hospitality of the people of Bangladesh. Bharat-Bangladesh Moitree Chirojeebi Hok," said Rajnath in a tweet as he left Dhaka for New Delhi at 1:00pm on a special flight.

The last home minister-level talks were held in New Delhi in July 2016.

Rajnath met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and discussed various issues of mutual interests. The two home ministers also inaugurated a new state-of-the-art and integrated Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) at the Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka.

He also visited Rajshahi and jointly inaugurated the Bangladesh-India Friendship Building at the Bangladesh

Police Academy, Sardah with his Bangladesh counterpart.

HOME MINISTER'S BRIEFING

The Indian minister said the present ties between Bangladesh and India are at the peak, according to Asaduzzaman Khan. An excellent understanding exists between the two neighbours and all problems have been solved through discussion, he observed.

"If any problem arises in future, we will resolve those through discussion," he told the briefing.

"India has assured us that if we need higher training for our police, BGB, Coast Guard, firefighters and prison officials and staff, they will extend necessary cooperation. They will also help in capacity building of the divisions under the home ministry."

Referring to fake currency, he said India was in an embarrassing situation and Bangladesh was also in an awkward situation over the issue.

"We have let them know about what we have done to resolve the fake currency problem. They have expressed their satisfaction," the minister said, adding, thanks to Bangladesh's steps those problems are now out of concern.

"Whenever we get anyone involved in such offences, we bring them to book."

He further said Bangladesh is firm that it would not allow an inch of its land to operate terror activities or separatist movements against any friendly and neighbouring countries. "We follow a policy of zero tolerance in this regard," he added.

He also said India extended all types of support to Bangladesh as sought by them to counter terrorism and militancy. "They're exchanging information with us so that we can combat terrorism and militancy," he noted.

On Myanmar issue, India said they would extend their cooperation and would work for rehabilitation of the Rohingya refugees.

Drugs like Phensedyl which are smuggled into Bangladesh have decreased to a large extent as India closed Phensedyl factories along the border, the minister added.

Replying to a query about bringing back two killers of Bangabandhu from India, the minister said, "A committee was formed earlier to look into the matter. The members of the committee are working to that end."

3 killed in 'shootouts'

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The shootout took place at Koker Beel area around 2:30am when a police team took the two men along to recover a consignment of drug that was supposed to have come from India.

Sensing presence of law enforcers, criminals opened fire on the police forcing them to retaliate and triggered a "gunfight", leaving the duo injured, our local correspondent reports quoting police.

They were rushed to Sathkhira Sadar Hospital where doctors declared them dead, the OC said.

Five policemen were also injured in the "gun battle", he claimed.

Police also claimed to recover three kilogram hemp, 20 bottles of Phensedyl and a firearm from the spot.

Our Bogra Correspondent reports, Police claimed an alleged drug dealer was shot and injured during a "gun battle" when the law enforcers carried out an anti-narcotics drive on the Kalai Khamarpara road of the Kahaloo upazila 3:00am yesterday.

Bakul Sardar, 36, son of the Bulu Sardar, village, Kalai Guhunpara, upazila Kahaloo was receiving treatment at Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital for bullet

injuries on his left knee, police said. He is accused in eight cases including seven for drugs.

Alleged robber killed in shootout In another incident an alleged 'robber' was killed in a "gunfight" in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Murad Hossain Akanda, 30, son of Md Shahjahan Akanda of village Bogajaan in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh.

On information that a gang of robbers had been preparing for a robbery at Uthura area on Bhoraduba-Uthura road in Bhaluka, police raided the area around 2:15am, said Mazharul Islam, inspector (Investigation) of Bhaluka Police Station.

Sensing police presence, the criminals fired bullets at police forcing them to retaliate.

Murad sustained bullet wounds in the ensuing "gun battle" and was immediately rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where the doctors declared him dead, the OC added.

Police recovered five sharp weapons from the spot.

Murad is accused in some six cases related to robbery, police said.

Luck plays its part

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Performance is of course the most important factor that brings the trophy. But then again, there are small things that at times draw the thin line between winners and losers on some days. The god of small things is Lady Luck, which may swing this way or the other in any of the seven matches, on any of the seven days that a team turns up to lift the coveted cup.

match or the other. At least one or two of the favourites -- Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Spain or Portugal -- that went home early would have played in the final had they been a little lucky.

Remember the curling free-kick of Messi that barely touched the fingers of the France goalkeeper to stay out, the deflected own goal of Brazil's Fernandinho, the injury of Edinson Cavani in Uruguay's match against

Now teachers assaulted

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The incident occurred around 12:30pm in Shibbari area of the campus after teachers and students began a procession towards Raju Memorial Sculpture after forming a human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The protesters on Saturday announced their plan to hold the human chain around 11:00am yesterday.

An hour before the programme, a group of BCL leaders and activists took position in the area.

They were led by Al Mamun, deputy liberation war affairs secretary of BCL central committee; Saif Babu, publication affairs secretary; Aminul Islam Bulbul, former organising secretary of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall unit, and Mehedi Hasan Tapos, general secretary of Salimullah Muslim Hall unit, said witnesses including DU students.

Another group of BCL activists were seen holding a human chain in front of the DU law faculty, a few yards off the Shaheed Minar, protesting what they claimed was "attempts to create instability" on the campus, around 11:00am.

Among the BCL men, there were some students of Eden Mohila College and Badrunnesa College, said the witnesses. According to a second-year student of Eden, around 100 students came from these two institutions.

The two groups of BCL men jointly took position just opposite to around 500 students who were preparing to form a human chain at the Shaheed Minar under the banner of "General Students of Dhaka University" demanding release of detained quota reformists.

As soon as the human chain was formed, some BCL men started making speeches using loudspeakers, hurling abuse at the quota protesters and labelling the teachers who joined the programme as "Jamaat-Shibir men" and "anti-liberation force".

The teachers tried to protest the behaviour of the BCL men but the activists became more aggressive in their language and threatened the demonstrators.

At one stage, the demonstrating students declared they would stage a sit-in. The BCL men came closer and intimidated the teachers as well as the students.

Postponing the sit-in, the demonstrators brought out a procession from the place around 12:30pm but as they reached near Shibbari, the BCL men all of a sudden swopped on them.

Being divided into small groups of five or six each, the BCL men were encircling the protesters one by one and started slapping, punching, dragging and stomping them before chasing them away.

The female students took shelter in the Bangabandhu Tower and nearby residential areas.

As the teachers tried to save the students, the BCL men assaulted three of them. They were assaulted again when journalists went there seeking their comments.

The journalists then managed to pacify the attackers.

A group of BCL leaders including Vice President of Salimullah Hall unit Mohammad Milon; DU unit Vice President Rumman Hossain; Tanvir Hasan Shaikat, member of central committee; Mehedi Hasan Taposh,

general secretary of Salimullah unit; Rana Hamid, deputy planning affairs secretary of central committee, and Jahangir Alam, vice president of central unit, led the attack on the procession.

These BCL leaders were among those who launched attacks on the quota reformists on the DU campus between June 30 and July 2. Witnesses said they were "deployed" at different spots on and around the campus to stop the demonstrators yesterday.

The teachers then went back to the Shaheed Minar and Prof Fahmidul then contacted the DU proctor asking for help. But the proctor apparently blamed teachers for "creating instability", a video clip obtained by The Daily Star suggests.

After that, the two groups left the place.

"Here are two conflicting groups. You have sided with one group [protesters]. You went there but did not inform us. You only informed us when a trouble occurred. You will be responsible if the situation deteriorates. There will be no protest on the campus," reads Fahmidul Haq's Facebook post that quoted DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani as saying in the phone conversation.

Asked about the incident, the proctor told journalists that a proctorial team on information rushed to the spot but no one came up to assist the team.

"Those who were involved in the chaos, even if he or she was a teacher, would be punished as per the university rules," the proctor said.

TEACHER FOLLOWED

France again after 20 years

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the quality of true champions and mercifully hit their opponents on the break, which Croatia failed to negotiate.

It was a story of two contrasting halves. Croatia was on the ascendancy in the first 45 minutes while it France asserted control after the break. When Argentine referee Nestor Pitana blew the final whistle, the most powerful image was Les Bleus coach Didier Deschamps being toasted by his young charges. Deschamps truly built the bridge after 20 years. He won it in 1998, France's first-ever World Cup triumph. And after the disappointment in the Euro final two years ago when they lost to Portugal, the France legend guaranteed another moment of national pride.

The Luzhniki final saw the first three goals scored every 10 minutes after Mario Mandzukic headed the ball into his own net off an Antoine Griezmann free kick

from outside the left-hand box in the 28th minute. Incidentally, it was France's first shot on target, a floater deep into the far post where Croatia's hero of the semi-final against England soared above everybody. It was a header from a class striker that rattled the top left-hand corner, but unfortunately though the Juventus forward was oblivious that he was defending his own goal.

France were lucky to take the lead against the run of play, with Croatia not only starting brightly but also dictating possession. The pall possession ratio of 68-32 in Croatia's favour was reflected in the stands, where the red-and-white stripes overwhelmingly dominated the blues.

Croatia got the deserved equaliser in the 28th minute with Ivan Perisic firing in a scorching left-footer. It was originated from another dead-ball situation after Perisic won a free kick about 35 yards

from the French goal. Modric lobbed an intelligent ball wide where Sime Vrsaljko headed it across the penalty area. It dropped for Perisic, who made a little space before unleashing an unstoppable diagonal drive into the bottom right-hand corner.

The third goal came after a lot of deliberation and the referee had to take the assistance of VAR, which ruled Perisic had handled the ball in the forbidden zone. Griezmann was again the initiator with a corner from the same corner flag. N'golo Kante headed it at the near post which struck the stretched hand of Perisic, though unintentionally. Griezmann stepped up to convert the penalty, sending Danijel Subasic the other way.

France went into the lemon break with a fortuitous 2-1 lead. But they returned only to bury the game beyond doubt with Pogba and Mbappe finding the net in the space of six minutes and

that too after a pitch invasion by members of Pussy Riot that stopped the final for a few minutes.

Pogba increased the lead in the 59th minute from a rebound after his first attempt was blocked. It was then the turn of Mbappe to become only the second youngest player after Pele to score a goal in the final. The 19-year-old France prodigy drove a spectacular low shot after a little shimmy on the top of the box.

Hugo Lloris's blunder in the 69th minute allowed Croatia to make it 4-2. The France captain unnecessarily waited with the ball before Mandzukic closed in on him and poked the ball into the net as the goalkeeper was trying to cut across him. But that goal served only as a consolation for Croatia, who turned up in their maiden final with great expectations but once against came unstuck against a team they lost 2-0 to in the semifinal 20 years ago.

The best of teams may not win a World Cup if they are not a little bit lucky from tournament's first fixture to the final.

A deflected goal. Ball hitting the post and staying out. A player's slip-up at a crucial moment. A key player sidelined for unnecessary bookings. A misdirected spot kick from the unlikely footballer. A wrong pass to the opponent inside the box. A player not in the right place at the right time.

This World Cup in Russia has been witness to all these small things in one

France or the perfect dummy of Romelu Lukaku in the last minute that edged Japan out.

However, it's not because of luck alone that France and Croatia moved to the final out of the 32 teams in the tournament. Both teams are gifted with depth and talent. Rival coaches have also showed good tactics as well.

If France and Croatia fail to write their fate, the god of small things will for sure.

The writer is former sports editor of The Daily Star