

ASSAULT ON TEACHERS AT QUOTA DEMO Teachers, students stage protests

STAR REPORT

Teachers and students of different public universities yesterday staged demonstrations on their campuses protesting Sunday's assault on teachers and students of Dhaka University over the quota reform movement.

At a human chain at Dhaka University, protesters demanded resignation of the proctor over his "failure" to provide security to teachers and students.

Under the banner of "Students against Repression", around 100 students of different departments formed the human chain at the foot of Raju Memorial Sculpture.

Speaking at the programme, students highlighted the recent incidents of violence on the campus over the quota reform movement and held DU Proctor AKM Golam Rabbani responsible for the recent "spate of attacks" on students.

"Several incidents have taken place after this proctor took office. But he

failed to act on any of those incidents," said Zakaria Hossain, an organiser of the platform.

"How many incidents will have to happen? What needs to occur for you to admit your failure?"

"Did these goons [Chhatra League men] take over the role of the proctorial team? If so, then give them the responsibility of carrying out proctorial duties and you join the organisation [Chhatra League]," Zakaria said addressing the proctor.

Another speaker, Ety Jahan, held pro-Awami League student front Chhatra League responsible for assaulting teachers near the Central Shaheed Minar and condemned the proctor's inaction over the incident.

Expressing solidarity with the protesters, Mujibor Rhaman, associate professor of the Institute of Education and Research of DU, said the students were being attacked when they carried out a legitimate protest.

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Students of Dhaka University's International Relations Department bring out a procession on the campus yesterday, protesting Sunday's assault on teachers, including the department's Associate Professor Tanzimuddin Khan. **Top right**, covering their mouths with black cloths, students and teachers of Jahangirnagar University take out a silent procession on their campus, demanding punishment of the attackers. **Bottom right**, Shahana Begum cannot but look at the photo of her missing son -- quota reform leader Tarek Rahman -- sitting next to her husband Abdul Latif at a press conference at the Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh in the capital yesterday.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS/MUNTAKIM SAAD/COLLECTED

FB POST ON QUOTA REFORM CU teacher leaves campus upon 'BCL activists' threat

CU CORRESPONDENT

An assistant professor of Chittagong University has said he left the campus after getting continuous threat from Bangladesh Chhatra League activists over his Facebook remarks on quota reform.

Talking to this correspondent, Assistant Prof Maidul Islam of sociology department said he along with his wife went to a safer place yesterday morning as he felt insecure on the campus.

The teacher added that he had protested the attacks on quota reformists as it was his political right.

"Considering the inhumane attacks [on quota reformists], I wrote some lines on Facebook. It is my decision what I will write on Facebook and they [BCL men] have no right to obstruct me," he added.

Prof SM Monirul Hasan, chairper-

son of sociology department, said, "A group of BCL men came to my office on Sunday with a complaint against my colleague Maidul."

"They demanded necessary steps against him, claiming that he is supporting the quota reform movement and instigating students and teachers and spreading hate speeches against the government on Facebook.

"The BCL men threatened that Maidul will have to face dire consequences, if we do not take any steps against him," Monirul said.

According to witnesses, around 25-30 activists of CU BCL, led by its former vice-president Mansur Alam, went to the chairperson's room on Sunday around 12:30pm and started shouting.

When Prof Monirul assured them of looking into the matter, the angry BCL men left the room, said an office assistant of the department.

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I want my boy back

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husband Abdul Latif came all the way from Bogra early in the morning yesterday.

Both in their 60s, the parents, however, managed to speak at the press conference convened by them at the Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh in the capital's Segunbagicha at noon.

"I just want my boy back. May he return safe and sound," Shahana said, addressing journalists.

Tarek Rahman has been traceless since Saturday night after he went to Fakirapool area for printing some banners for quota reform demonstrations, say his family and friends.

He is a joint convener of Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, the platform spearheading the movement.

Talking with The Daily Star, Tanjila Yesmin, his elder sister, on Sunday said the last time she could contact him was around 4:00pm Saturday.

"He went to Fakirapool in the evening [on Saturday]. Since then he has been traceless," she said quoting his friends. "Before going missing, he

told his friends that plainclothes men were following him."

The Daily Star could not independently verify the claims.

Hasan Al Mamum, convener of the quota movement platform, told this newspaper that he could not reach Tarek over his mobile phone after Saturday night.

"I talked to him over the phone around eight o'clock that night when he went to Fakirapool to print banners for Sunday's demonstrations. But I could not reach him afterwards," he added.

Earlier, four other quota reform leaders -- Faruk Hasan, Mahfuz Khan, Jashim Uddin Akash and Moshir Rahman -- "went missing" before resurfacing in police custody one or two days later.

Law enforcers are currently cracking down on quota reform leaders and arresting them in lawsuits, a measure that has almost crushed the movement.

Tarek, an MBA graduate from Comilla University, was admitted to a coaching centre in Dhaka to prepare for BCS exams.

Tanjila said he used to stay at her house in the capital's Badda. "As he

got involved in the movement, he started staying away from our house since the Eid-ul-Fitr to avoid arrest."

At yesterday's press conference, Abdul Latif, a stationery shop owner, said his son was picked up by police in earlier days of quota reform movement but he was released later.

"I told him not to join the quota reform demos as he was not a university student anymore. But he said they were demonstrating for jobs. Then I said it's okay. If the government agrees to your demands, why should I disagree?"

Asked if they have any involvement in politics, Latif said they don't. "But Tarek was an organising secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Comilla University."

Tarek's mother said she went to Motijheel Police Station around 10:30pm on Sunday to file a general diary, where the duty officer asked her to go to Shahbagh Police Station, saying it's not in their jurisdiction.

When she went to Shahbagh Police Station around 12:15am yesterday, the officials there didn't record any GD and only took her phone number. "They said they would first verify the

complaint."

Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, told this newspaper around 9:30pm yesterday, "I was not aware of it first but heard about the incident from journalists."

"The area of his [Tarek's] residency or the place of occurrence is not under Shahbagh Police Station."

Around 9:45pm, Omar Faruk, officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station, said, "The family members didn't come to this police station. You better contact Paltan Police Station. Fakirapool comes under both the police stations."

Paltan Police Station's OC Mahmudul Haque said he was not aware of the incident.

Contacted, Devdas Bhattacharya, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they didn't detain Tarek. "But we are looking for him," he said, without going into details.

According to police, some 18 people, including several quota reform leaders, have been arrested so far and they are accused in different cases filed in April in connection with the agitations.

Hearts won by Croatia

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The final had the full package: controversial decisions, pitch invasions, a first own goal, first teenage goal-scorer after Pele, comedy of goalkeeping errors and even the first trophy-awarding ceremony in the rain.

Sunday belonged to France. And what a win it was for a team with ultra-defensive capability. A 4-2 triumph in the final is a goal-fest that the world last witnessed 52 years ago when England beat the then West Germany at Wembley in London. A hat-trick from great Geoff Hurst and a controversial penalty helped England win the trophy (known as Jules Rimet Trophy then) for the first time by a 4-2 margin.

No other teams were as talented and skillful as France in Russia. No other teams were as formidable as France in every position. They were solid everywhere in the line-up, with equally qualified alternatives on the bench. They were all young, hugely talented and highly adventurous.

So, it's only natural for the coach of

prince of this World Cup, Mbappe is certainly a great in the making.

Croats were attractive and attacking right from the word go, showing no sign of fatigue after playing three extra-time matches and getting less rest in between. They ruled the first half but France ended up lucky.

In the 18th minute, the referee let Croatia down. Antoine Griezmann took a cheeky dive to win a free-kick 30 yards from the Croatian goal. Griezmann took it and Mario Mandzukic headed it into his own net. Croatia came back into the match in 10 minutes with a superb strike from Ivan Perisic.

Only 10 minutes later, France again got the lead through a controversial penalty converted by Griezmann. Perisic leapt up to head the ball but it took a deflection and hit his hand, which should have been let off as unintentional ball-handling inside the forbidden zone. But, Argentine referee consulted the VAR (video assistant referee) and judged it intentional.

WC celebrations rock Paris

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guard -- some of the 2,000 officers deployed in the capital -- nine jets from the Patrouille de France, the air force's acrobatic unit, did an honorary flyover trailing blue, white and red smoke.

After leaving the Champs-Elysees, the players quickly changed into custom-made blue suits before being welcomed at the Elysee Palace by President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte, who were also decked out in blue for the occasion.

Macron previously promised the Legion of Honour for the victors' "exceptional services" to the country, an award already given to the legendary team which won France's first World Cup title in 1998.

The first couple then posed with the team as they sang the Marseillaise national anthem and waved scarves for a joyous group photo, before heading inside for a private meeting.

"Thanks to you all!" Macron told the team after gathering again outside. "This team is beautiful because you are united!"

Despite a voice nearly failing him, Pogba then proved himself a showman off the field as well as on by leading the guests in an impromptu celebratory rap punctuated by "Allez les Bleus!"

Nearly 3,000 guests were invited to the reception in the Elysee gardens, including around 1,000 youths from local football clubs such as Bondy, the gritty Paris suburb whose tower-

ing housing projects produced Mbappe.

Afterwards guests would be treated to the beats of DJ Snake, who has worked with pop stars including Lady Gaga and is part of the Pardon My French collective of French DJs.

Macron had already celebrated with the team on Sunday -- even doing "dab" dance moves with players in a video that has gone viral -- after attending the final in Moscow.

Later, the team were expected to attend a dinner in their honour at the posh Hotel du Crillon.

In Paris, the metro system has temporarily renamed six of its stations in honour of the key players, with the Victor Hugo stop -- named after the famed 19th-century writer --

becoming Victor Hugo Lloris after the team's goalkeeper.

Two stations were rebaptised in tribute to France coach Didier Deschamps, who captained the national side to its first World Cup victory, won on home soil in 1998.

"There are two things that matter -- one is that these 23 players are now together for life, whatever happens, and also that from now on they will not be the same again, because they are world champions," a champagne-soaked Deschamps said Sunday.

Macron will be relieved that joyous and occasionally chaotic celebrations across France on Sunday night passed off without any major incident following a string of terror attacks in France since 2015.

Unsettled LCs, ghostly import

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non-submission involving around \$1 billion, and a number of cases relate to one company -- Beximco Fashions.

This major foreign exchange violation has made the BB worried, and it served five warning notices on Janata Bank from January last year to April this year.

But the state-run bank did not pay heed to the central bank's warnings and continued to give LC facilities to Beximco Fashions, violating the rules.

Janata Bank even showed callousness in replying to the BB's warning notices. For instance, it replied to the first notice 61 days after it was served, and took 56 days to respond to the second warning.

In its every reply, the state-run lender said the violation had occurred because their officers were not well-trained about the foreign exchange rules.

On January 25, the central bank served a show-cause notice on Janata Bank, threatening to cancel the state-run bank's authorised dealer licence and impose a penalty of Tk 10 lakh.

Later, Janata Bank was penalised Tk 10 lakh on May 28 as its reply could not satisfy the central bank.

"The bank has been fined Tk 10 lakh for not following the central bank's instructions and for repetition of the same irregularities," the BB said in its letter to the state-run bank on May 28.

Beximco Fashions, an export-oriented garment company of Beximco Group, opened LCs for imports but could not submit bills of entry to the bank against the imported goods, according to BB findings.

Janata Bank continued to make advance payments against the LCs of the firm despite having overdue bills of entry which is strictly prohibited as per the BB's foreign exchange guidelines.

According to the guidelines, banks will have to ensure that importers don't have bills of entry pending for submission beyond the stipulated period of four months against any advance remittance for imports. If an importer fails to submit its certified invoice of imported goods, it will not be allowed to open any new LCs through banks.

Contacted, Janata Bank Managing Director Md Abdus Salam Azad said Beximco Group made delays in submitting the bills of entry to the bank against its imported goods.

The BB has extended time till September 30 for the Group to match the pending invoice, he said.

According to the BB findings, the overdue bills of Beximco Group with Janata Bank involved about \$3.5 million as of April. Of the amount, Beximco Fashions accounted for a significant portion.

Moreover, the bank opened new LCs of \$3.6 million against Beximco

Fashions from January last year to April this year though the firm had overdue bills of entry.

An internal audit by the BB raised objection last year against the new LC opening of Beximco Fashions in breach of the rules and asked the department concerned to look into it, according to a source at the BB.

On April 15, Janata Bank sought time extension from the BB to adjust the overdue bills of Beximco Group.

Later, the state-run bank applied to the BB on June 10 for waiving the Tk 10 lakh fine as financial penalty is a serious discredit for its management and board.

Janata Bank's application was placed at the BB board's meeting on Sunday, and the board decided to waive the penalty.

Asked, BB Deputy Governor Abu Hena Mohd Razez Hassan said the board made the decision on condition that the state-run bank would settle the overdue bills of entry.

Contacted, Beximco Group claimed that it had submitted documents to Janata Bank for each consignment.

"The number of part shipments made against individual LCs and the bill of entry against each consignment has to be matched with each LC. Since this matching was not done, there was a discrepancy between Bangladesh Bank records and Janata Bank's record," it said in an email to this newspaper.

Talking to this correspondent, a top executive of a private bank said it is the bank's responsibility to match the bill of entry against each consignment but the client also has an important role to play in this regard.

M Mahfuzur Rahman, a former executive director of the BB and deputy head of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), said overdue bills of entry is a serious issue, and trade-based money laundering is taking place through imports.

Analysts have long been demanding probes into whether money laundering is going on in the name of imports, said Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, an ex-BB deputy governor.

As the central bank has finally detected suspicious imports through Janata Bank, it should go for a detailed investigation in collaboration with the BFIU and the customs department to unearth this type of cases, he said.

In January this year, the Centre for Policy Dialogue, a think-tank, advised the government to investigate whether capital flight has taken place through imports of sugar, edible oil and cotton.

"Despite global price stability of raw cotton and an upturn in the growth of garment exports, the high growth of more than 75 percent in import payments for this item appears to be suspicious," the CPD said in its latest study "State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY 2017-18".

the fearsome team to become the toast of France. Didier Deschamps has the right to bask in glory as he is only the third man after Mario Zagalo of Brazil and Franz Beckenbauer of Germany to win the famous cup both as captain and coach.

The former France defender may not be popular with his school of football that advocates for 'win, not how you win' is what matters. France might not have played beautiful football but they indeed have won the cup. The two spectacular goals by Paul Pogba and Kylian Mbappe in the second half should serve as a strong rejoinder to the critics of France's defensive and dour style of play.

Both goals originated through rare build-ups before attack and ended in shooting precision, with Pogba's left-footer finding the top corner of the net and 19-year-old Mbappe's scorching grounder from 25 yards catching the Croatian goalkeeper laden-footed. The

Two poor decisions in less than 20 minutes proved too much to overcome for Croatia. Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic was justifiably fuming.

"We played well but the penalty knocked the wind out of us and after that it was very difficult," Dalic said after congratulating France on their victory. "I just want to say one sentence about that penalty: you don't give a penalty like that in a World Cup final."

Luck indeed played a small but significant part in that match!

Captain Luka Modrich was once again in the thick of Croatian things to launch attack after attack on the French fort. The No. 10 was deservedly chosen as the best player of the tournament. His Golden Ball will remind him of how agonisingly close he was to lifting the Cup.

The Telstar comes to a halt with the final result: the best team, not the best player, won the World Cup.

The writer is former Sports Editor of The Daily Star