

BCL yet again

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chased them away, reports our correspondent at the university.

The programme was foiled right there.

The injured were given primary treatment at local clinics, said the protesters.

Contacted, Nobel denied his involvement in the incident. According to him, the protesters were trying to "create anarchy in the name of movement".

"Most of the protesters are outsiders. We will not let the infiltrators spoil the educational environment on the campus. That's why we protested [their programme]," he said.

Meanwhile, the injured students said some policemen were present near the sport during the attack. Instead of stopping the attackers, the law enforcers locked the main gate of the university so that the demonstrators could not escape, they alleged.

Campus Police Outpost Sub-Inspector Mamtaul Islam denied the allegation. He said they closed the gate so that the demonstrators could not

block the road outside the campus.

University Proctor Abu Kalam Mohammad Farid-ul-Islam said he was not aware of any attack.

In Chittagong city, around 200 students from different universities and colleges brought out a procession in Sholashahar area yesterday, demanding immediate release of the arrested quota reformists and punishment of those who attacked the protesters and harassed teachers.

BCL DEMAND TEACHER'S PUNISHMENT

Activists of Chittagong University BCL formed a human chain in front of Bangabandhu Chattar on the campus yesterday, demanding termination and punishment of Maidul Islam, an assistant professor of the university's sociology department.

According to the BCL men, Maidul made derogatory remarks about the prime minister on Facebook. The teacher, however, denied the allegation.

Yesterday's human chain was attended by former CU BCL president Mohammad Alamgir Tipu as well as

Chhatra League leaders Abu Torab Porosh, Mansur Alam, Abdul Malek and Mohammad Arman -- all accused in BCL leader Diaz Irfan Chowdhury murder case, reports our CU correspondent.

The BCL activists said they would not allow Maidul to enter the campus and threatened that they would wage a tougher movement if the university authorities did not take necessary steps against him by Sunday.

On June 23, Md Iftekhar Uddin Ayaz, a former executive member of CU BCL, filed a case against Maidul under Section 57 of Information and Communication Technology Act over his alleged remarks on the PM.

The sociology teacher left the campus along with his family members on July 15 following BCL threat. He later informed the matter to university authorities and sought security from them.

Talking to The Daily Star a couple of days ago, Maidul said, "I uphold the spirit of our Liberation War and the ideology of Bangabandhu. The Chhatra League men brought false allegations against me as I spoke in favour of quota reform."

government, meeting sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star later on, he said, "This practice [considering reports of agencies] has been going on for a long time as per government decision and it will continue."

Water Resources Minister Anwar Hossain Monju asked the DCs to stop illegal extracting of sand from rivers to prevent river erosion and to maintain navigability of rivers.

He also told them to remove bureaucratic obstacles in implementing various projects of the ministry.

The three-day annual DC conference is being held at Cabinet Division of the Secretariat.

'OPTIMISE USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES'

President Abdul Hamid yesterday stressed the need for ensuring optimum utilisation of the limited resources for the country's socio-economic development.

He said this at Bangabhaban while addressing the DC conference.

Hamid also said the government was continuously expanding the rate and volume of social safety allowances to create a sustainable safety net.

"You know the successful implementation of the social safety programmes is an effective means to reduce poverty and establish social justice," he said.

He also said people's welfare should be prioritised instead of acquiring personal assets. "Keep in mind that people provide the salaries, allowances and office expenses, for you and me. So, their interest should be given utmost importance in all the activities of the government."

Several projects, including some mega ones, are being implemented in various sectors, including agriculture, education, health, communication infrastructure, said the president, adding these were being done using the public's money.

"You'll have to remain alert so that proper utilisation of each and every Taka of the people is ensured," he told the DCs.

Mentioning that corruption was an impediment to socio-economic development, Hamid said a culture of transparency and accountability should be introduced at field-level administration.

Replies to a query, Hafizuddin said there were reasons to be frustrated with the three city corporation polls. Some recent incidents indicated that level-playing fields for all candidates were not ensured in the three cities, he added.

Local government expert Tofail Ahmed, also an executive member of Shujan, said a major candidate of a political party bagged about two lakh votes in a recent city corporation election, but he could not ensure the presence of his polling agents at 400 polling booths on the polling day.

Terming the incident unexplainable, he said, "I don't know whether this happened due to intimidation, indifference or aggression by a certain political party."

Reading out a statement at the press conference, Shujan Central Coordinator Dilip Kumar Sarkar said a few candidates submitted tax return certificates to the EC, but did not disclose the figures of their paid tax.

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