

JUSTICE FOR ABRAR

BCL attacks JCD rally at JnU, protests go on nationwide

STAR REPORT

Students from universities in and outside the capital yesterday continued protests against the murder of Buet student Abrar Fahad, while Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists -- student front of BNP -- came under attack during a demonstration at Jagannath University (JnU).

Six leaders and activists of JCD's JnU unit were injured in the attack by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League -- student front of the ruling Awami League -- on campus, according to witnesses.

The injured were identified as JCD JnU unit vice president Mijanur Rahman Nahid, joint general secretaries Ali Howlader and Mijanur Rahman Sharif, and activists Mehedi Hasan Himel, Shamsul Arefin and Jahid.

Witnesses said a group of JnU BCL activists, led by Atik Hasan Prince -- a student of accounting and information systems department -- attacked JCD men when about 30 of them were demonstrating on the campus around 9:30am, demanding punishment for the killers of Abrar.

Shahriar Hossain, a JCD activist, said, "Chhatra League men swooped on us all of a sudden. Six leaders and activists were injured."

Atik Hasan Prince, however, said that

JCD men tried to create unrest on the campus and shouted "objectionable" slogans against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. "So, we chased them away."

JnU Proctor Mostofa Kamal said the authority would take steps if anyone lodged a written complaint in this regard.

Meanwhile, students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday blocked the Dhaka-Aricha Highway for an hour, for the second consecutive day, protesting Abrar's killing.

Around 12pm, about a hundred students gathered in front of Shaheed Minar on the university campus and staged a demonstration under the banner of 'General Students of JU'. Later, they marched towards the highway and blocked it until 1:30pm.

Members of JCD's JU unit brought out a separate procession around 9am, demanding justice for Abrar. They formed a rally in front of Amar Ekushey sculpture when Mahbubul Haque Rafa, library affairs secretary of BCL's JU unit, chased them away with a stick.

A faction of teachers, under the banner of 'Bangabandhu Shikkhok Parishad', in a press release protested the brutal killing and demanded exemplary punishment for the killers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated Bangladesh Shishu Academy's programme marking World Children's Day and Children's Rights Week-2019. PHOTO: PID

3 more remanded over Abrar murder

UNB, Dhaka

Three students of Buet were placed on a five-day remand each yesterday in connection with the murder of Abrar Fahad.

They are: Moniruzzaman Monir, 21, a third-year student of the university's water resources engineering department; Akash Hossain, 21, a third-year student of civil engineering department; and Shamsul Arefin Rafat, 21, second-year student of mechanical engineering department.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Tofazzal Hossain passed the order when DB Inspector Md Wahiduzzaman, also the case's investigation officer, produced the three before the court with a 10-day remand prayer each.

On Tuesday, detectives arrested them from the capital and Ashulia.

On Monday, law enforcers arrested 10 leaders and activists of Chhatra League over the murder. They were put on a five-day remand each the next day. So far, 13 persons have been arrested in the case.

Abrar's father Barkat Ullah filed the murder case on Monday evening, accusing 19 Buet students. The case was transferred to the Detective Branch of police on Tuesday.

Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of Buet's electrical and electronic engineering department, died after he was brutally beaten, allegedly by some BCL leaders at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall sometime between 7:30pm Sunday and 2:30am Monday.

Make bilateral agreements public

Left Democratic Alliance demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Alliance yesterday demanded that the government make public the bilateral documents it signed with India during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to the neighbouring country.

Reportedly, Bangladesh's interests have been overlooked and India's interests were given priority in the agreements, the alliance leaders said at a press conference in the capital's Mukti Bhaban.

In protest, LDA will stage a rally at Jatiya Press Club on Sunday afternoon, they said.

On Saturday, Bangladesh and India signed seven bilateral documents, aiming to further strengthen the relations between the two countries, according to media reports.

The bilateral documents are MoU for providing a Coastal Surveillance System; the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports for movement of goods to and from India; MoU on withdrawal of 1.82

cusec water from the Feni river by India for drinking a water supply scheme in Sabroom town of Tripura; agreement on implementation of the lines of credit (LoC) committed by India to Bangladesh; MoU between the University of Hyderabad and the University of Dhaka; MoU on cooperation in youth affairs and renewal of a cultural exchange programme.

The government has agreed to India's use of Bangladesh's sea ports but it did not disclose the agreement's terms and conditions before the countrymen, said Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim.

Nothing has been said about whether there are any "protective measures" in the agreement, he said.

Selim also said the present government came to power through a "farical election." As a result, it agreed to whatever demands were made by India because its aim was to "survive" in power.

"This government has to step down

if Bangladesh's interests are to be upheld," he added.

On the killing of Buet student Abrar Fahad, the left-leaning politician said such incidents would not happen at a renowned educational institution if students there had the chance to practice and engage in ideology-based political activities.

Reading out a written statement, LDA central leader Abdus Sattar said countrymen are aggrieved and frustrated over PM's consent to the withdrawal of water from the river Feni, as Bangladesh's demand for logical distribution of water of common rivers, including the Teesta, still remains unresolved.

"This is similar to betraying the country and its citizens after sacrificing Bangladesh's interest," he said.

Saiful Haque, general secretary of Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh, said Bangladesh as a sovereign country has failed diplomatically during PM's recent visit to India and that the countrymen also rejected the government's recent deals.

105 workers sent back from KSA

Several of them claim they had valid work permits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabian authorities have sent back 105 Bangladeshi migrant workers on Tuesday and yesterday -- as part of a crackdown on undocumented workers in the kingdom.

With them, the number of migrant workers returning from the Middle Eastern country has now risen to 355 over the last seven days.

A Saudia Airlines plane, carrying 42 workers, landed in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:20pm on Tuesday. Another plane of the same airline, carrying 63 workers, arrived around 1:15am yesterday.

Following their arrival, a support team comprising of officials of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and Brac Migration Programme arranged food for the returnees and assisted them at the immigration office, officials said.

Some 120 Bangladeshi workers returned from the oil-rich country on Friday night. On October 3, 130 migrant workers returned home from the kingdom.

Shariful Hasan, programme head of Brac Migration, said around 10,000-11,000 Bangladeshi workers have so far been sent back by the Saudi authorities this year alone.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Visually impaired jobseekers demonstrate on the road adjacent to Gono Bhaban, demanding reintroduction of quota in public service, and arrangement of special BCS test for them, among others. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Resolve problems faced by vision-impaired jobseekers: PM to ministry

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the public administration ministry to take necessary steps to resolve the problems faced by vision-impaired jobseekers.

She gave the directive when a six-member delegation of Chakuri Protyasi Drishti Protibandhi Parishad met her at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

PM's Deputy Press Secretary Ashrafal Alam Khokon briefed reporters after the meeting.

During the meeting, delegation members put forward a six-point demand, including reintroduction of quota in the public service and arrangement of special BCS test for them.

Besides, they sought appointment as resource teachers in all 64 districts of the country under the Ministry of Social Welfare.

The delegation thanked the premier for giving them class-1 and 2 jobs in public service in 2012, as well as for providing them bank loans and waiving tax.

State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain and Public Administration Secretary Faiz Ahmed were present at the time.

Entire country now a torture cell: Rizvi

BNP expresses solidarity with Buet students

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday expressed solidarity with demands of demonstrating students of Buet over the death of Abrar Fahad.

Speaking at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office, BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi also called upon Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to show she is "on the side of" the slain Buet student, by cancelling recently-signed bilateral documents with India.

He demanded the government immediately arrest Amith Saha, a student of Sher-e-Bangla Hall's room-2011 -- where Abrar was reportedly tortured to death. "We express solidarity with each and every demand of the students who have been on a movement," Rizvi said.

He said though Abrar was tortured and killed in Amith Saha's room, no action was taken against him. "He was neither made accused in the case, nor expelled by Chhatra League. The Buet administration and controversial police officials are active to save him," he said.

Rizvi said Abrar was killed for posting on Facebook in the interests of the country. "The government deceived people by signing the anti-state deal. So, it can't avoid the responsibility for the murder of Abrar."

"I would like to tell the Prime Minister that Abrar was killed for protesting anti-nation deals. So, you prove you're in favour of Abrar by revoking the deals with India," Rizvi said.

The BNP leader alleged that the government is resorting to various tricks to divert people's attention to a different direction from the main cause of Abrar's brutal murder, adding that the entire country now has become a torture cell while people of all ages are being subjected to repression.

"A modern torture cell was found after the arrest of Jubo League leader Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan. Another torture cell was found at the office of Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat. Buet Chhatra League leader Amit Saha's room 2011 was also a torture cell where Abrar was killed," Rizvi said.

Arrest warrant issued against Dr Yunus

JNU CORRESPONDENT

A labour court in Dhaka yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus in connection with three cases filed over sacking of three employees of Grameen Communications.

Dhaka 3rd Labour Court Chairman Rahibul Islam passed the order as Dr Yunus, chairman of Grameen Communications, failed to appear before it despite an earlier summon order.

On July 3, Abdus Salam, Shah Alam and Emranul Haque -- former junior MIS officers of the company -- filed the cases against Dr Yunus and two others with the court as they were sacked in June for their role in forming a trade union at their workplace.

The two other Grameen Communications officials, summoned by the court, are Managing Director Naznin Sultana and Deputy General Manager Khandaker Abu Abedin.

Yesterday, they appeared before the court and filed two bail petitions, which the court granted.

On July 10, the court asked the trio to appear before it on October 8, which turned out to be a holiday. As a result, the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PHOTO OF THE DAY

ANISUR RAHMAN



A walk in Suhrawardy Udyan is no longer a relaxing activity, rather quite a distressing one, as the smell of trash might come wafting through. The area's vendors dump waste on both sides of the walkway, with no regard for the environment.