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BCL men swoop on JU protesters

35 teachers, students injured in BCL bid to end confinement of VC by the agitators; university closed for indefinite period



"I am very grateful to students, especially to Chhatra League [members]. They took the responsibility upon themselves and did it."
JU VC PROF FARZANA ISLAM AFTER BCL MEN ASSAULTED STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WHO HAD KEPT HER CONFINED TO HER RESIDENCE

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Chhatra League men yesterday assaulted teachers and students who had kept Jahangirnagar University Vice-chancellor Prof Farzana Islam confined to her residence demanding her resignation over corruption allegations.

Later in the day, the authorities shut down the university for an indefinite period. They also banned processions and rallies on the campus until further notice.

Students were asked to vacate halls by 5:30pm, but most of the male students did not leave.

Four teachers resigned from the Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association protesting the assault. The teachers include the general secretary of the association, Mohammad Sohel Rana.

Earlier around noon, some 150 BCL

leaders and activists, led by JU unit President Jewel Rana, swooped on the protesters, driving them away from in front of the VC's residence.

The assault left at least 35, including nine teachers and four journalists, injured. Two female teachers and at least four female students were among those hurt. Some 12 students took treatment at a hospital in Savar.

Many policemen were present during the assault, but they did nothing, according to witnesses.

After the assault, Prof Farzana came out of her residence under BCL protection. Later, she attended an emergency university syndicate meeting, which decided to close the university sine die.

Talking to reporters after the meeting at the administrative building, Prof Farzana Islam described the agitating students as

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Chhatra League men pounce on a protester near the VC's residence on Jahangirnagar University campus in Savar yesterday. *Bottom*, a journalist rescues an injured protester. Some pro-VC teachers and BCL men try to intercept a procession.

PHOTO: STAR/COLLECTED



Anti-drug crackdown claimed 466 lives last year

Says Amnesty Int'l
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International yesterday said the Bangladeshi authorities have allegedly killed 466 people last year under the guise of an anti-drugs campaign in what appears to be "a wave of extrajudicial executions".

There are allegations of enforced disappearance and fabricating evidence by the law enforcement agencies in these suspected extrajudicial executions, the rights watchdog said in a report titled "Killed in 'Crossfire': Allegations of Extrajudicial Executions in Bangladesh in the Guise of a War on Drugs."

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KRISHAK LEAGUE

39 lakh leaders, yet it wants more

The AL front wing holds council today

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Their leaders claim that they have committees up to village level across the country. If we go by that claim, Krishak League should have at least a whopping 39 lakh leaders across the country.

Sounds surprising? Let's do the math. The charter of the front organisation of the ruling Awami League says the central committee would be comprised of 111 members, district committees 81, upazila committees 71, union committees 61, ward committees 51 and village committees 41.

Under the current formula, the organisation has 111 central committee members; 6,318 leaders for 78 district committees; 34,861 for 491 upazilas;



2,77,794 for 4,554 unions and 35,76,143 leaders for 87,223 village units.

Even with around 39 lakh leaders, that is excluding ward committee leaders, the number of which could not be specified, the Krishak League thinks the number of its leaders is not adequate.

They want to increase it further, as the number of country's population is on the rise and so are the number of farmers.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, there are 1.65 crore farmers in the country.

But the front is planning to submit a new proposal of bringing in more leaders to all its committees in its 10th council today at Suhrawardy Udyan. Awami

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Morshed Khan quits the BNP

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MULLA

Former foreign minister M Morshed Khan yesterday tendered his resignation to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, citing personal grounds.

Morshed, vice-chairman of the BNP, sent the resignation letter to party Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir through a messenger.

"In life, a person sometimes has to make a difficult decision, which has far-reaching impact. In my consideration, that moment is currently present and [it is] perfect too," he said in the letter.

"You [Khaleda] are aware that my involvement in politics has been for a long time... at present

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ABRAR KILLING AT BUET

At least 28 took part in or abetted the crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two days before Buet student Abrar was tortured to death, some of the suspects held two meetings at their dorm canteen and guest room and decided to beat him up and evict him if his involvement with Shibir was found.

At least 28 Buet students either tortured Abrar Fahad Rabbi or abetted the killing that sparked widespread protests last month.

The investigators learnt about these while interrogating 21 accused and from confessional statements made by seven other accused, officials said, adding that the investigation is almost complete.

They may submit the charge sheet any day.

Three of the 11 expelled Buet unit leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League were



the main instigators. They told others that Abrar might be a Shibir activist.

The 11 men beat him up with cricket stumps, skipping ropes, and hit him repeatedly after taking him to room-2011 of Sher-e-Bangla hall of Buet around 8:00pm on October 6.

The 14 other accused abetted the killing either by calling Abrar to the room where he was tortured or by carrying the unconscious victim to another room and finally to the staircase landing.

Abrar, a 2nd year student of Electrical and Electric Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, was brutally tortured for hours before he died. Doctors said he died sometime between 8:00pm on October 6 and 2:30am on October 7.

Some of the accused told police that

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Buses overtake each other dangerously on Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital. Such violation of traffic rules often leads to fatal accidents. Only two days ago, a college student was killed in a head-on collision between a bus and a motorcycle on the flyover. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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