

In CMC, student politics is banned in name only

Two BCL factions still terrorising campus, dorms, allege students

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Although student politics is officially banned on Chattogram Medical College (CMC) campus and its dormitories, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has been carrying out its activities as authorities continue to turn a blind eye, alleged students.

They often lock into factional clashes, which put the lives of students at risk and hampers academic activities, they claimed.

They even use the dorm rooms as "torture cells" to "discipline" students who belong to or are suspected of belonging to a different political ideology, according to the students.

In the latest incident, BCL activists reportedly kept Zahid Hossain Wakil, Sakib Hossain, MA Raihan and Mobashwer Hossain Shubhra of MBBS 62 batch confined to a dormitory room from Wednesday midnight to Thursday evening, torturing them on suspicion that they were Shibir activists.

Zahid and Sakib had to be admitted to the ICU of Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

Mahadi Bin Hashim, a former BCL leader and general secretary of CMC Intern Doctors' Association, said the BCL faction loyal to Deputy

Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury was involved with the incident.

Mahadi, a former leader of CMC BCL faction loyal to AL Chattogram city unit general secretary AJM Nasir Uddin, said no activist of Nasir's group was involved in the incident.

Meanwhile, Abhijit Das, a CMC unit BCL leader loyal to Mohibul,

We lodged a complaint with CMC Academic Council on Monday asking for a neutral probe into the incident, and ensuring punishment of the perpetrators and safety of the victims on the campus and dormitories in future.

MIZANUR
Cousin of injured Sakib

claimed that no students were tortured on campus. "The four students were conducting Shibir activities and were warned not to do so," he told the media.

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Tangail's 128-year-old Shyamababu's canal had been in life support for the last 32 years after a part of it was converted into a drain. Now the last nail is getting hammered in the coffin of this waterbody after the remaining part of the canal in Biswas Betka area is also being turned into a narrow drain. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Killing century-old canal by turning it into a drain

MIRZA SHAKIL

The last nail is getting hammered in the coffin of Shyamababu's canal in Tangail town. After more than half of the town's main canal was converted into a central drain nearly three decades ago, now drain construction on the remaining part of the canal

has also started. Through this, the 128-year-old canal is going to end its life, leaving the ancient town in fear of environmental disaster.

According to Tangail municipality sources, Shyamacharan Gupta, a teacher of the local Bindubasini High School, who was also the then vice chairman of the

municipal council, dug the canal from Lauhajang River in Paradisepara area of the town to Burai Beel of Biswas Betka area in 1905 for the development of the town's drainage and local waterways.

Even in the 70s, people used to cross the 35 to 40 feet wide canal by cargo boats.

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One district, two AL headquarters

Ruling party factions establishing different offices in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Despite owning land on which an office is being built, a faction of the Rajshahi Awami League inaugurated an alternative headquarters on a 14-decimal land leased from the district administration yesterday.

The incident caused a stir in local political circles, with many saying the incident has exposed infighting among the ruling party.

"Opening a separate office exposed nothing but the division among leaders," Asaduzzaman Asad, a member of the district AL, told The Daily Star.

Led by the district AL secretary Abdul Wadud Dara, the office was opened yesterday afternoon at the city's Ranibazar area, through a milad mahfil.

Meanwhile, the AL owns a 10-katha land in City Hat area for its office, where the construction of an office building on a 4,500 square-foot area is currently underway.

Both the sites have banners claiming the lands to be the office of the district AL.

AL lawmaker Enamul Haque said he donated the City Hat land to the district AL in 2017 and currently, he is also constructing the office building spending Tk 2.5 crore.

The current market value of the land is around Tk 5 crore, he added.

He said AL presidium member and Rajshahi city mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton visited the progress of the under-construction office recently.

"The construction of the office building is expected to be completed within a month. Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader has

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Making polls participatory not just AL's responsibility

Says info minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ensuring a participatory election is the responsibility of not only the ruling Awami League but also of all political parties including BNP, said Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday.

If any party boycotts the election or tries to prevent it, then they will be held responsible to make the polls non-participatory, he said.

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Indian cyclists in the country to pay homage to language heroes



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An eight-member Indian cyclist team from West Bengal has arrived in Bangladesh to pay homage to the language heroes on the occasion of International Mother Language Day. This visit also aims to build cultural unity between the two countries.

The team reached Pabna on Thursday night and visited historic places in the district yesterday. They started for Manikganj in the afternoon. The team is likely to reach Dhaka on February 19 by riding bicycles, said Shaibal Banerjee,

who is leading the team and a teacher in India.

The team comprising six teachers and two local businessmen began their journey from Hooghly in West Bengal on February 14. They entered Bangladesh through the Darshana border on February 15. Later they reached Pabna through Shilaidah Ghat.

"Although the barbed-wire fence divided the Bangla, we all are Bangalee. Despite the border, we speak in Bangla and we have the same passion and culture as the Bangladeshi people have," said Shaibal.

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FEBRUARY 18

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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