

BCL sues attacked Chhatra Adhikar activists

Nahid Riyasad | Updated at 12:28am on October 09, 2022



Gana Adhikar Parishad and Chhatra Adhikar Parishad leaders stage a sit-in to court self-imprisonment in front of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka on Saturday in protest at the jailing of their leaders and activists after an attack on them by Bangladesh Chhatra League on Friday. — Sony Ramany

Over 300 leaders and activists of the Chhatra Adhikar Parishad were prosecuted by the Bangladesh Chhatra League on Saturday, a day after the latter attacked the parishad members on the Dhaka University campus.

At least 24 activists of the parishad were sent to jail on Saturday in two cases filed by the BCL central committee with the Shahbagh police.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner Bayezidur Rahman said that twenty five of the activists were named in both cases while there were some 300 unnamed accused.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shahidul Islam fixed October 11 for hearing the bail prayer for the accused, and asked the police to submit an investigation report on the two cases -- beating and attempt to murder -- against the Chhatra Adhikar Parishad activists on November 16.

The parishad activists came under a series of the BCL attack on the Dhaka University campus during a commemoration gathering on Friday on the death of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology student Abrar Fahad. The attacks left some 20 activists injured.

On October 7, 2019, Abrar was beaten to death by the then leaders and activists of the BUET unit Chhatra League at Sher-e-Bangla Hall over his Facebook post criticising a government deal with India.

Of the named accused, 24 are shown arrested in the both cases while another person remains absconding, said the police.

DMP deputy commissioner for prosecution Jashim Uddin said that the 24 arrestees were sent to jail after the police produced them before the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate court.

Chhatra Adhikar Parishad central committee general secretary Md Toriqul Islam, DU unit president Akhtar Hossain and general secretary Akram Hossain, Gana Adhikar Parishad central member Taslim Hossain Ovi, Abdul Kader, Mamunur Rashid and Md Nazmul Hasan were among those arrested.

Among the arrestees, eight are from the Chhatra Adhikar Parishad central committee, five each are from the DU unit and Dhaka south city unit, and two are from Dhaka College unit, according to leaders of the student organisations.

Protesting at the BCL attack on the Chhatra Adhikar activists, Gana Adhikar Parishad held a symbolic self-imprisonment rally and drew out a procession from Paltan to the chief metropolitan magistrate court on Saturday afternoon.

Addressing the rally, Gana Adhikar Parishad member secretary Nurul Haque Nur said, 'The court authorities requested us to move out as the court was running. Out of respect to the court, we have announced an end to our protest session.'

Ganatantra Mancha, a coalition of six political parties and a socio-cultural organisation, in a statement on Saturday, condemned the Friday's attack through a statement on Saturday.

‘The attacks carried out by the BCL on a peaceful and democratic gathering suggest that the government is reluctant to ensure a sound political environment for all. They want to control the educational institutes through terror and fear,’ it said.

Students’ Federation Bangladesh’s DU unit also protested at the attacks through a statement.

‘The BCL activists have been wreaking havoc on the campuses through their activities and Abrar murder bears a testimony to that. The BCL attack on Abrar commemoration was another example. The students need to unite to stop such crimes,’ it said.

The BCL central social affairs sub-committee secretary, Tanbir Hasan Shaikat, however, blamed the Chhatra Adhikar activists for the attacks.

‘A few of our activists were injured, and the Chhatra Adhikar Parishad launched attacks on the injured activists as they were receiving treatment at the Dhaka Medical College,’ he said on Friday.

The attacks by the BCL as well as by the AL on the JCD and the BNP appear to have continued unabated.

On May 24 and 26, 2022, the Chhatra activists launched attacks on the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a student of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party on the DU campus.

Following the attack, a case was also filed accusing 400 leaders and activists of the Chhatra Dal.

On July 31, after attack by the AL activists on the main opposition BNP, two cases were lodged against more than 425 BNP leaders.

On September 15, the ruling party members swooped on the BNP activists during a prescheduled rally at Mirpur in the capital. The police filed a case against 225 BNP activists with the Pallabi police.

On September 21, more than 50 people including the BNP activists were left injured following attack by the ruling party members in Munshiganj.

Two cases were filed accusing more than 1,700 BNP activists.



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