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**NEWAGE**

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## IU female student testifies for third time over BCL torture

IU Correspondent . Kushtia | Published at 08:21pm on February 22, 2023



The main entrance of the Islamic University, Kushtia. – File photo.

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The female student of Islamic University in Kushtia, who was allegedly tortured by the university unit's Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders and activists, testified for the third time on Wednesday before probe committees.

The student from the finance and banking department came to campus with her father after she was tortured and intimidated by IU unit BCL vice-president Shanjida Chowdhury Ontora and other BCL activists at Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall.

A university car of the IU proctorial body carrying the student arrived on campus at about 12:30pm. She was taken directly to the Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall to testify in front of the inquiry committees appointed by the hall authorities and the university, respectively, from 1:00pm to

4:00pm.

The accused, IU BCL unit vice-president Ontora, her cohorts Tabassum, Israt Jahan Mim, Halima Khatun Urmi, and Maobiya, also met with the probe bodies.

M Shahadat Hossain Azad, the proctor of IU, stated that additional police personnel were deployed on campus to ensure the victim's safety.

The victim left the campus after she met with the probe committees.

Speaking to journalists, the victim said that she would come to the campus whenever the investigating bodies asked her, while she reiterated her demand for the punishment of the accused.

The victim's father, Ataur Rahman, who is a van-puller by profession, said that he enrolled his daughter at the university only to study, but he felt agony when he heard that his daughter was tortured.

He also demanded the immediate punishment of the accused involved in the incident after a proper investigation so that no one could dare repeat such a thing on campus.

The accused declined to say anything to the media in this regard.

Accused BCL leader Ontara and activist Tabassum left the hall following the High Court order on Thursday.

The victim met with the inquiry committee formed by the Kushtia district administration on Monday.

On the night of February 12, a group of BCL activists led by Ontora and her cohorts tortured and forced the victim to undress while filming the incident on their mobile phones.

The accused threatened to spread the video on social media if the victim disclosed the matter to anyone.

Meanwhile, a group of former leaders and activists of the BCL university unit staged a demonstration on the campus for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, demanding university vice-chancellor Shaikh Abdus Salam's removal.

They staged the demonstration on the campus as eight audio clips—three with a job seeker from the IU mass communication and journalism department, and five others with different ministry officials—went viral on social media.

In the audio clips, the vice-chancellor is heard giving a job applicant some advice for the test.

The IU acting registrar, HM Ali Hasan, lodged a general diary with the Islamic University police station in this connection on Friday.

On Sunday, the university authorities postponed three recruitment tests, including the recruitment test for the mass communication and journalism department.



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