

Showcause on 5 leaders

BCL activists assault JU teacher on campus

By JU Correspondent

Activists of the ruling party-backed BCL assaulted a teacher of Jahangirnagar University on the campus yesterday.

The JU authorities later served showcause notices on five BCL leaders for assaulting the teacher.

The BCL leaders, including JU unit general secretary Jasimuddin Manik, Vice President Hamidul Haq, former publicity secretary Meer Mehedi Hasan Titu, Bhasani Hall president Mahmudul Alam Babu and a leader of Kamaluddin Hall Hasibur Rahman Barkat, have been asked to reply to the notices within the next three days.

The BCL leaders led Jasimuddin Manik launched the attack on Rehnuma Ahmed, an assistant professor of the Anthropology Department, while she was taking photographs of a BCL rally near the JU administrative building at around 11.30 am, witnesses said.

BCL leaders hurled abuses at Rehnuma Ahmed who is also a amateur photographer and a director of the reputed Drik Picture Library.

BCL organised the rally as part of its indefinite strike enforced at the university from today demanding investigation into three rape incidents that took place on the campus recently.

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In a complaint lodged with the authorities, Rehnuma Ahmed alleged that she was roughed up by the BCL leaders while she was taking photographs of a rally in front of the administrative building.

Describing the assault as an attack on the entire teachers' community, she said "As a teacher, a woman and a citizen, I am disgraced and panicked. I am feeling totally insecure." Rehnuma Ahmed in her written

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complaint alleged.

Following the attack, agitated students under the banner of General Students Unity (GSU) staged a sit-in in front of the Vice Chancellor's office demanding stern action against the BCL leaders involved in the attack. They also brought out a procession on the campus to press home their demands.

Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out separate processions demanding immediate action against the BCL leaders who assaulted the teacher.

The JU Teachers' Association in a statement condemned the attack on Rehnuma Ahmed and urged the authorities to take stern action against those responsible immediately. JUTA has also called an emergency meeting today to decide their next course of action.

Agitated students were holding the sit-in programme in front of the VC office till filing this report last night.

The JU Officers' Samity, Journalists' Association, Employees Association, Sangskriti Sangsad, Jahangirnagar Theatre and the Droha Cultural Movement separately condemned the attack and demanded punishment to the persons responsible for rapes of students and attack on the teacher.

Meanwhile, talking to newsmen, JU BCL president Nuruzzaman Sheikh yesterday claimed his organisation was not involved in the assault incident. Mentioning the name of BCL general secretary Jasimuddin Manik, he said "some persons being ordered by him (Manik) launched the attack as the teacher was taking his photograph."