

Family members of detained BCL leaders slate govt

Varsity Correspondent

Family members of the detained top leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on Friday accused the government of filing cases against the leaders and demanded their immediate release.

Mother of BCL President Liakat Sikder and brothers of Vice-President Rafiqul Islam Kotwal and General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu made the demand at a Press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity after four months of the arrest of the BCL leaders.

Addressing the Press conference Liakat Sikder's mother Sufia Sikder said, "There is not a single general diary against them before their arrest. Even the high court ordered the government to release them as they were not proved guilty."

"But police, instructed by government high-ups, filed false cases and showed them accused in four murder cases. Surprisingly, their names were not mentioned in the FIR of those cases," she added.

"I've only one question, Is Chhatra League an outlawed organisation? If not, why the government was steamrolling on our children?" the aggrieved mother asked.

Mirad Sikder, younger brother of the BCL President, Abdus Sobhan, brother in law of Vice-President Rafiqul Islam Kotwal, Hasimul Islam Kotwal, younger brother of Rafiq, BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu's elder brother M Zahidul Islam, elder sister Delowara Begum were present at the Press conference.

The relatives alleged that the detained leaders were facing inhuman behaviour in the jail. "Even they are not given pure drinking water."

After the October 1, general election the entire country was gripped by terrorism, killing, Sufia Sikder said adding "If those were reduced by keeping our children in the jail, I'd ask all Chhatra League supporters to embrace detention." "The newspapers make it clear who were responsible for terrorism."

She expressed her deep sympathy to the parents of Naoshin and Sony, the victims of recent terrorism.

On February 25, plainclothed police arrested Liakat Sikder, Nazrul Islam Babu, Rafiqul Islam Kotwal and other seven BCL leaders when they were coming out of Sudha Sadan after exchanging Eid greetings with Awami League President and Leader of the Oppo-