

## Over 600 BCL activists arrested: PM

Staff Correspondent

THE prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, on Tuesday told the parliament that the government had so far arrested more than 600 leaders and activists of the Chhatra League, the student wing of the Awami League, for their alleged involvement in extortion and tender snatching.

There some students who have infiltrated the Chhatra

League for protection but the government took action against them immediately after every such incident identified.

Hasina, who earlier dis-associated herself from the Chhatra League, also said that many of the relatives of the so-called Chhatra League leaders were involved in the politics of the opposition BNP and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.

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'You will be surprised to know that we have arrested more than 600 BCL leaders and activists so far on charge of extortion and tender snatching. We have filed cases against them and the trials are on,' Hasina told the parliament in her valedictory speech of the budget session.

She claimed that it was a history that a ruling party had arrested so many activists and

leaders of its student wing.

Hasina said that there were some parties and groups who sided with the ruling party overnight for their protection from police action.

'And I can say the BCL and the Juba League also invite such people to add to their strength,' she said. 'The government has taken action against the musclemen.'

Referring to the government order for the ar-

rest of the armed goons of the Chhatra League for killing Biswajit, who was murdered in Old Town of Dhaka during an opposition called blockade, she said that the people who killed Biswajit just applied for the membership of the Chhatra League.

The murderers were facing trial; some of them had been expelled for their alleged involvement in criminal activities much before

the incident took place.

Hasina claimed that her government had taken measures to root out crimes and militancy.

Hasina said that the brother of a cabinet member, who was the mastermind of the August 21 grenade attack, was promoted by giving him the position of president of the Chhatra Dal, the student wing of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.