

ATTACK ON DU JOURNOS**BCL high-ups take move to save attackers****KAMRUL HASAN KHAN**

Instead of taking any organisational actions against 12 leaders who beat up journalists on Dhaka University (DU) campus recently, the high-ups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the main opposition Awami League (AL), are taking a blatant move to save the attackers.

After repeated demands from the journalists' community, the BCL top shots are mum over taking any action against them.

Sources said BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon and General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton are patronising the attackers and making vigorous efforts to make two of the 12 leaders Ashrafur Rahman and Sohel Rana Tipu as president and general secretary of DU unit committee which is likely to be formed soon.

Ripon and Roton are very reluctant to take any action against the attackers even after AL Chief Sheikh Hasina on September 19 instructed them to take action to solve the problems between the BCL and journalists.

Hasina also directed few mid-level AL leaders to look into the matter. But those leaders have expressed their dissatisfaction over the BCL activities to Hasina and refused to take any responsibilities in this regard.

A senior AL leader preferring not to be named has told The Daily Star that Hasina also is not happy with the BCL activities and she may dissolve present committee if situation like this continues.

Some BCL leaders and activists have alleged that former BCL president Liaqat Sikder is influencing incumbent president and general secretary not to take any punitive actions against the attackers, as they are loyal to Sikder.

However, Sikder has denied the allegation.

Sources said Ripon and Roton had directed some of the 12 BCL men over phone to attack the rival faction's press conference on September 16 in which at least five journalists were wounded.

Next day, Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) filed a case against the BCL leaders and activists including Sohel Rana Tipu, Saiful Islam, Alaul Islam Saikat, Tarek, Faisal, Ashraf, Abu Abbas Bhuiyan, Mizan, Nuruzzaman, Ziko and Titu who launched the attack on the journalists.

Even after 11 days into the attack, only two attackers Ashraf and Nuruzzaman were arrested.

Others are continuing participation in BCL activities and AL programmes outside the campus.

As the BCL did not take any actions, journalists have been boycotting their functions.