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Cuta protests BCL assault on teachers

Demands actions against perpetrators, on-duty cops

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University Teachers' Association (Cuta) yesterday protested the assaults on teachers and their family members by a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League men after a clash with its rival group on the campus on Sunday.

Following the clash between Choose Friends with Care (CFC) and Varsity Xpress, two shuttle train based factions of BCL's CU unit, BCL activists from CFC group assaulted a marine science teacher in his dormitory and went to several teachers' houses where they verbally abused and threatened the families with dire sequences if they did not stop patronising their rival group, alleged some teachers.

When contacted, joint general secretary of the dissolved BCL committee, also a CFC member, Sumon Mamun, denied the allegation but admitted that his group members went to the houses of assistant proctors Md Abdul Wahed Chowdhury and Anup Barua, and Arabic department's Professor Osman Mehedi after learning that one of the accused in the murder case of their fellow, Taposh, was hiding there.

Cuta President Benu Kumar Deyat yesterday at a protest rally also claimed that the group also assaulted some teachers when they tried to prevent the students from locking the university's main entrance. "And when the teachers sought help from on-duty policemen, they refused to take any action unless they get instructions from the high command," said Benu.

But Hathazari Police Station Inspector (investigation) Md Salauddin said no such incident occurred after they reached the spot.

Cuta members urged the prime minister, home ministry and IGP to take actions against the police officials who did not help the teachers, proving their negligence in duty, and also urged the university authorities to cancel the studentships of those perpetrators.

Meanwhile, police detained Nasim Siyam, 22, a first-year Public Administration student, and a CFC activist, in CU station area, suspecting that he might create an untoward incident, while held another CFC activist, SM Alauddin, 28, a former journalism student and an accused in a case filed on last September 28 over a factional clash in Shahjalal Hall, at his residence.