

# DU halls now dens for outsiders

Varsity Correspondent

The residential halls of Dhaka University have become the dens for outsiders who have been living in almost all the halls with ease. These outsiders are not only outsiders but are proven 'terrorists' too.

The halls are being literally 'ruled' by outsider hooligans. They are practising the culture of capturing halls. If any faction of group loses control over a hall for any reason, in no time a new faction emerges and takes charge of the hall.

Some of the provosts who are officially in-charge of the halls admit the fact that outsider terrorists reside in their halls.

These terrorists, who are residing in the halls at present, have allegedly been enjoying the blessings of different factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). They drove away the former captors from most of the halls as they were their arch-rivals from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). Now, ten out of the total eleven male residential halls, are under the control of different factions of BCL.

According to the information provided by different hall sources, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hall is being controlled by Apu of Gopalganj Faction of BCL, Ziaur Rahman Hall is under the control of Hemayet of Ratan-Tami Faction, Haji Muhammad Monsin Hall under a newly emerged faction formed by senior executive committee member of BCL Central Abdul Wadud Khokan, Zahirul Haq Hall under Babu of Ratan-Tami Faction, Salimullah Muslim Hall under Shamim Ahmed alias

'Pichchi Shamim' and Shahidullah Hall under 'Kala'-Santu of the Barisal Group of BCL.

Jagannath Hall being the only male hostel is till now free from the culture of 'hall-capturing'.

Sources said that the university authorities have taken up by a move to oust the outsider terrorists with the help of law enforcing agencies. The authorities have prepared a list of outsiders and accordingly police arrested five of them from the Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall on Saturday.

But the irony is that immediately after the police action another group of outsiders entered the hall and are now residing despite the presence of police at the hall gate.

In early April, police initiated an action in the Zahirul Haq Hall to nab another terrorist popularly known as 'Tokai-Mizan' but failed. After the police action 'Tokai' with his gang came back and drove the on-duty policemen away from the hall premises. This reflects the pitiable condition of police on DU campus.

The halls have become a major hide-outs for the terrorists, most of whom are wanted by police. At the same time the outsiders are of great use to the political organisations.

"The more halls you have under your control the greater your power is on the campus", said a residential student of S. M Hall while describing the mentality of the politicians especially those who are active on the DU

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## DU halls

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campus. "They even deploy armed hoodlums at the hall gates at night to guard the hall from their rivals", he added.

Another student, while talking to this correspondent said, "expensive books and other goods are stolen from the rooms and sometimes we know who the thieves are".

A victim of the Suryasen hall on condition of anonymity said, "I know the outsiders who stole my brand new bicycle but I don't dare to say it."

The terrorists who have been staying in the halls under the shelter of political organisations collect toll from the adjoining business centres and share the booty with their godfathers. They also have a record of demanding ransom by kidnapping a businessman and keeping him locked in the Mohsin Hall. Outsiders at Zahirul Haq Hall have phensidyl business in the hall. Some of the rooms of F. Rahman Hall and Mohsin Hall are known to be rented out to businessmen by the outsiders.

These terrorists are also utilised by the political organisations in the fight against their rivals.

Expressing the inability of the hall authorities, the Provost of Zahirul Haq Hall Dr. M.A. Mannan said, "We fail to trace the arrival of the outsiders as they enter the hall late at night but I learn that they have been staying at the hall for a long time".

At present, no student or outsider has to guard the hall gates with arms during the night in the three female halls as the venomous culture has yet to reach these halls. It is yet to be ascertained whether the female hostels are free from the grip of the outsiders but fact remains that the halls are terrorist-free.

Talking to this correspondent, Tazrin, a student of the Department of Sociology said, "Campus terrorism and abuses of student politics are two strong factors that lead to the gradual deterioration of academic standard of DU which was once called the 'Oxford of the East' and we all have become scapegoats".

Meanwhile, more than hundred students of Mohsin Hall in a statement on Monday expressed their shock at the 'Rat Race' of the student organisations to capture residential halls.

"We become scapegoats when the outsider as well as residential terrorists compel us to hide arms and ammunition in our rooms" read the statement.

The statement, signed by 117 students, claimed that they submitted a prayer to the Vice-Chancellor for immediate action in this regard.