

JCD's Helal, BCL's Roton freed on bail

DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) president Azizul Bari Helal and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) general secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton have been set free from jail on bail on Thursday. They were released following violent campaigns on the Dhaka

University (DU) campus and a meeting between DU Vice-chancellor and the Chief Adviser on Wednesday last.

Jail sources said Helal was freed, first from Dhaka Central Jail at about 10:25 am. Hundreds of

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JCD's Helal

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JCD leaders and activists welcomed him at the jail gate. Later, he went to his Maghbazar residence. The High Court (HC) granted the interim bail to Helal on Sunday last. Helal was arrested on charge of violating the emergency power rules (EPR) on August 24 last year.

Roton was released from Mymensingh Jail at 4.00 pm. A team of BCL delegation received him at the jail gate, said BCL acting general secretary Syed Abul Kalam Azad. Roton was arrested by joint force from carzon Hall area on the DU campus on charge of violating the emergency power rules (EPR) on January 16 last year.

Earlier on Wednesday night, DU VC Prof. SMA Faiz said that the two leaders would be released by Thursday night soon after his meeting with the Chief Adviser. The VC met with the CA after the JCD and BCL had announced a plan to besiege the home ministry on Thursday in demand of releasing them.

Soon after his release, Helal demanded the release of BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and sending Tarique Rahman abroad for better treatment in the interest of fair election. He said the present Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is illegal. Any elections under the present Election Commission will be illegal, he told the reporters at his Magbazar residence.

Helal also demanded the withdrawal of the State of Emergency and formulation of a 'judicial inquiry commission' to investigate the killing of JCD leader Mashul Mam Senu.

Meanwhile, JCD and BCL on Thursday separately observed the home ministry 'seize programme'. JCD demanded the release of Begum Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman and all political leaders of BNP, while BCL demanded permanent release of Awami League (AL) president Sheikh Hasina and the lifting of the State of Emer-

Police intercepted the JCD procession in front of Carzon Hall. Later, they staged a demonstration on the spot. In the demonstration, JCD acting president Sultan Salauddin Tuku said only one demand has been met out of the total 12-point demands, pressed to the interim government. He urged the government to immediately release Begum Khaleda Zia and send Tarique Rahman abroad for necessary treatment.

JCD general secretary Shafiqul Bari Babu said there should not be any elections in the country without Khaleda Zia. The students' community would resist any blucprint election keeping the BNP chairperson in jail, he added.

On the other hand, thousands of leaders and activists of BCL brought out rally from Madhu's canteen at about 12.30 pm and proceeded towards home ministry. The rally went to besiege the but police dispersed them near Doyel Square. They also staged demonstration on the spot.

In the demonstration, BCL president Mahmud Hasan Ripon demanded the permanent release of AL President Sheikh Hasina and withdrawal of the State of Emergency. Ripon urged the government to execute the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case and declare