

BCL men paralyse CU for political interest

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A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League men, for their rivalry with another faction, has forcibly kept academic activities at Chittagong University suspended for nearly a week through an indefinite strike, calling it a movement for general students.

Some 35 activists, led by BCL's CU unit Vice President Amit Kumar Bashu and Joint Secretary Suman Mamun, enforced the strike on May 7 by stopping the operation of the shuttle train, the main transport of CU students, attacking and kidnapping the train driver, setting fire to rail tracks, and exploding crude bombs at the railway station, said sources.

They also have vandalised some minibuses that carry students to CU.

They are demanding punishment for those BCL men who beat up Awami League leader and former BCL CU unit general secretary Nasir Haider Babul, tore his shirt, and put a garland of shoes around his neck on April 5. The AL leader, a political guru of Amit's faction,

was allegedly trying to put his men in an upcoming BCL CU unit committee.

Another of their demands is the removal of the proctor.

The strike, which is entirely enforced to serve a BCL faction's political interest, has victimised about 20,000 students of the university, where all classes and examinations remain suspended now, causing the fear that such a situation, if it persists, may cause session jam and eventually a delayed career for the sufferers.

"I don't know whether we would be able to finish our course in time or it would be prolonged by one more year," said Abdul Hasib, a master's student of public administration. An examination has already been postponed due to the blockade on May 11, he said.

Nurul Karim, a student of communication and journalism, said, "Our examination is scheduled for June. But, as classes have not been held for a week, completion of our course curriculum as well as examinations

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may not be possible within June."

Talking to The Daily Star, Amit recognised the "temporary" problems but said the movement was for the sake of general students. "The perpetrators who humiliated Babul bhai also humiliated general students, including girls, at different times," he claimed.

Vice Chancellor Anwarul Azim Arif said, "I hope a solution will come out, and the stalemate will be resolved shortly."