

BCL men torture JU student to death

University expels 3 BCL activists

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A GROUP of activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League Jahangirnagar University unit tortured a member of its rival group to death early Monday.

Jubaer Ahmed, 23, an undergraduate student of English at the university, died at United Hospital in the capital at around 6:00am, hours into being abducted and then subjected to prolonged torture by his political opponents on the university campus.

Campus sources said a number of BCL activists belonging to Shamim-Sharif group of the ruling Awami League-backed student organisation's JU unit abduct-

ed Jubaer as he came out of an examination hall after sitting an honours final exam at around 5:00pm on Sunday.

The abductors took Jubaer to a secluded place behind the university's science laboratory building, where they stabbed him indiscriminately and beat him black and blue for hours.

After torturing him this way for around three long hours, the abductors took him to Enam Medical College Hospital at Savar with critical injuries, dumped him there and then fled the scene.

Jubaer condition deteriorated as he did not receive any treatment at the Savar hospital. He was moved at around 8:30pm to United

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Hospital at Gulshan in the capital, where he passed out due to excessive bleeding, his family said.

'We have lost our dream,' the victim's brother, Abdullah Al Mamun, told New Age.

He said they demanded that the government should conduct a neutral investigation into the killing and bring the killers to book.

The news of Jubaer's death sparked angry demonstrations on the campus since the morning with hundreds of students gathering in front of the vice-chancellor's office and demanding exemplary punishment of the killers and expulsion of the students accused of committing the capital crime.

The students so far have identified three students who led the events leading to the killing, campus sources said.

The students on demonstration laid siege to the administrative building of the university and chanted slogans demanding resignation of JU proctor Arju Miah and security-in-charge Azim Uddin for their failure to protect the student's life.

The agitating students kept the JU VC, Sharif Enamul Kabir, along with around 30 teachers confined to his office until the evening to press home their demands.

BCL activists and police dispersed the demonstrators in the evening by resorting to baton charge and then freed the teachers from confinement.

At least 15 students were injured in the police-BCL attack, the witnesses said.

A huge contingent of police has been deployed on and around the campus to quell the protest, sources said.

Earlier in the morning, the university authorities in an emergency meeting expelled three students—Khanddaker Ashiqul Islam and Khan Mohammad Rois of Zoology department and Rashedul Islam of philosophy—for one year for their alleged link to the murder.

The university authorities also filed a case with the Ashulia police accusing Khanddaker Ashiqul Islam, Khan Mohammad Rois, Rashedul Islam, and 12 other unnamed students for leading and committing the murder.

Ashulia police station officer-in-charge inspector Badrul Alam said they were trying to arrest the accused.

But, as of Monday midnight, the police could arrest only one of them, Khanddaker Ashiqul Islam.

In a press release on Monday, the university authorities

said the JU Syndicate in an emergency meeting formed a six-member body headed by pro-vice chancellor Farhad Hossain to investigate into the killing.

Jubaer was a member of the recently dissolved BCL JU unit committee led by Shafin and Shammo.

BCL JU unit former president Shafin Ahmed accused the Shamim-Sharif faction for carrying out the 'cold-blooded murder'.

BCL insiders said the Shafin Ahmed-led committee of the BCL JU unit was dissolved in July 2011 following a fierce factional clash on the campus on July 5. Jubaer had no involvement with the BCL since then, they claimed.

BCL JU unit leader Sheikh Shariful Islam, however, claimed no member of his chapter was involved in the brutal incident.