

3 suspended BCL men still residing in JU halls

One enjoying employment, remaining 10 accused frequent campus

JU CORRESPONDENT

Despite being suspended from Jahangirnagar University (JU), three of the 13 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men accused in the Zubair murder case are not only residing in the halls, one of them is also still employed at the university.

The rest of the 13 frequent the campus and sometimes stay overnight in JU halls.

Of the aforementioned three, Mahamudul Hasan Masud and Najmul Hossein Plabon reside in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall while Shafiu Alam Setu in Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall.

Bringing the allegation, "Shontrasher Biruddhe Jahangirnagar", a platform demanding justice over the murder, also claimed that six of the 13, out on bail, beat up two of its activists, also Zubair's friends, outside Dhaka District Judge's Court after a hearing on January 18.

Over two years past the murder, the JU probe report is yet to be made public although it was scheduled to be published on January 10.

Zubair Ahmed, an honours final year student of English and a BCL activist, was tortured and stabbed allegedly by the accused 13 on January 8, 2012. He succumbed to his injuries in a Dhaka hospital the next day.

Under the syndicate's January 30, 2012 decision, the 13, seven expelled and six suspended for two years, cannot



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enter the campus, let alone stay in the halls.

However, JU Law Officer Md Mahtab-Uz-Zahid told The Daily Star recently that a High Court stay order on the syndicate's decision allows the 13 to only take exams but does not clarify whether the six suspended can reside in the halls.

On the employment, JU Transport Office In-Charge Prof Khairul Bashar said Mahamudul Hasan Masud, one of the suspended, replaced his father as the office's computer operator on March 6, 2013 following the latter's sudden death.

Mahamudul was appointed on request of the JU employee's union but he will be sacked if the court finds him guilty, he added.

On making the probe report public, the law officer said they needed an HC order for it and since the trial was ongoing, they had opted for not disclosing it.

The expelled students are Khandaker Ashikul Islam alias Ashik, Khan Mohammad Rais, Zahid Hasan, Rashidul Islam, Ishtiaq Mehbub (Arup), Mahabub Akram and Najmus Sakib Topu.

The suspended are Majharul Islam, Mahamudul Hasan Masud, Kamruzzaman Sohag, Najmul Hossein Plabon, Shafiu Alam Setu and Abhinandon Kundu.

Zubair's murder was a sequel to a ragging ritual he perpetrated during his first year on campus following which he had driven out some of his alleged would be murderers from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman Hall in June 2010.

This was stated by a number of BCL leaders of his session and teachers of that time but none wanted to have their names published.

On July 5, 2010, an infighting took place between supporters of the then JU unit BCL president Rashedul Islam Shafin and general secretary Nirjhar Alam Sammo over establishing supremacy in a male dormitory, leaving at least 30 BCL men injured.

That night, the BCL central executive committee dissolved the JU BCL unit and expelled 13 activists.

Immediately afterwards, SM Shamim and Sharkar Ajar Ali of the economics department and Sheikh Shariful Islam of the history department took control of BCL politics on the campus with the "blessings" of the then vice-chancellor, Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir.

Prof Kabir had denied the allegation but Shafin, Nirjhar and the then BCL central committee president Badiuzzaman Sohag had stated it to be true.

In February 2011, the accused activists, loyal to this Shamim-Shariful group, took control over the hall and threw out Zubair, loyal to the Shafin-Nirjhar group.

Zubair's family at different times claimed that Zubair had detached himself from politics on the campus. But the enmity arising from the first year's event eventually led to Zubair's murder, stated the BCL leaders and teachers.