

Deadlock at CU aggravates existing session jam

CU CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

The students of Chittagong University (CU) face fresh session due to recent deadlock following suspension of all examinations under grading system.

The academic life of the students will now linger up to about three years.

Sources in the Registrar building said, at least 800 scheduled examinations have been postponed during the last two months.

The academic life of around 10,000 students who got admitted under grading system, particularly in the Science, Arts and Social Science faculties has become uncertain.

Campus sources said, the CU

Syndicate on August 20 postponed all the examinations under grading system for 20 days. They took the time to take a decision whether the grading system would be continued in evaluation of answer script or revive the old class system.

But the authorities failed to make any decision during the period and extended it for an indefinite period.

Due to the embargo on holding of examinations, examination of four academic sessions in 27 departments under Science, Arts and Social Science faculties could not be held resulting in great concern to nearly 10,000 students.

Even, 27 departments did not publish any year final result due to the reason.

"Following postponement of

examinations, students of the university are going to face session jam for a more year, which will hamper the academic life of thousands of students, Ali Asgar Chowdhury, Chairman of Journalism Department told this correspondent.

Another teacher of the university preferring anonymity told this correspondent that the departments concerned would be unable to complete the postponed examinations before April next year. "At least additional Taka 15 lakh will also be needed to prepare question papers of postponed examinations", he added.

However, a session jam of two to three years grips all the departments of the university.

Rikta, a third year student of History Department alleged that the university failed to complete the four-year course in seven years. "The new session jam will force us to suffer more and perhaps our age to apply for government jobs would expire in the university," she observed.

Students had launched a strong movement on the campus from August 11 demanding immediate cancellation of grading system.

When contacted, Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury apprehended that the recent crisis might create more session jams.

Diarrhoea claims 4 in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Diarrhoea claimed four lives and attacked 60 others in the district in three days.

The victims are Tashlima, 7, of Kuptola village under Gaibandha Sadar, Halima Khatun, 27, of Putiya village, Hitlu, 18, of Hasalkandi village and Aleya Begum, 35, under Shaghata upazila.

Sixty persons were attacked with the water-borne disease and the number was increasing everyday.

Scarcity of IV saline was prevailing in Shaghata upazila Health Complex, according to the sources closed to the patients.

The worst affected area was Shaghata upazila where local public representatives alleged that food crisis and adverse environment were the main reason behind the outbreak of diarrhoea. Physicians, however, blamed the adverse weather for the deadly disease.

Crops on 100 acres damaged by rain in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

Standing crops on 100 acres of land were damaged and about 3,000 kutcha houses were completely or partially destroyed in the district due to incessant rain for the last several days.

The low-lying areas of six unions were submerged affecting 3,000 people. Electric poles were uprooted snapping electric wires at various places due to influence of gusty wind. Power supply was disrupted for two days till Friday noon in the district headquarters and four upazilas. Hundreds of trees were also uprooted.

Villagers' clash leaves 20 hurt in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

At least 20 people were injured, six of them seriously in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at Char Chakdah village in Sreepur upazila on Saturday noon.

Witnesses said, two rival groups, one led by Batul Biswas and the other by Nirapada Mandal clashed as a sequel to the previous enmity.

The seriously injured persons identified as Bibek Mandal 30, Nipapada Mandal, 50, and Rupkumar, 20, were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital while Jugal, 35, Dulal, 40, and Dilip, 25, were rushed to Dariapur Health Complex. No case was lodged till filing of this report on Sunday noon.

Two commit 'suicide' in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Two housewives committed suicide in the district within 24 hours.

Shipra Rani Pal, 23, wife of Pradip Kumar Pal on Monday night committed suicide by hanging herself after an altercation with her husband.

Police said Pradip asked his wife to go with him to his parents house at Harinarayanpur on the outskirts of Kushtia town, but she denied. Then he went there alone. On return at night he found a crowd in front of his house. There he came to know that his wife had committed suicide.

Another housewife Razia Khatun, 35, mother of two children on Tuesday committed suicide at village Dhahnagar in Kumarkhali upazila. She took poison following an altercation with her husband over family affair. She was rushed to a local hospital where she died. Separate cases were filed with the respective police stations.

Tk 14 cr land tax realised in Magura

UNB, *Magura*

Land Development tax amounting to Tk 14 crore was realised exceeding the target in the Khulna division during the last fiscal year.

Official sources said the amount was realised against the target of 13.92 crore in 10 districts of the division which is Tk one crore more than that of the previous year.

Of the total amount, Tk 46.20 lakh was realised in Magura, Tk 3.71 crore in Khulna, Tk 1.46 crore in Satkhira, Tk 2.52 crore in Jessore, Tk 1.06 crore in Jhenidah, Tk 52.26 lakh in Narail, Tk 92.69 lakh in Kushtia, Tk 1.15 crore in Chuadanga, and Tk 56 lakh in Meherpur district.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offers munajat after laying the foundation stone of Noakhali Science and Technology University in Noakhali on Saturday.

Top criminal nabbed in Narail

UNB, *Narail*

A top criminal of the region and "Farooq Bahini" chief, Farooq Hossain Mollah, was arrested along with his six accomplices in a surprise operation at a village in Sadar upazila early Saturday.

Government had declared an award of Tk 50,000 for his arrest.

Acting on secret information, a joint contingent of police from Fultala and Sadar police stations raided a house at Tarapur village where the gang had been hiding.

After a brief encounter, Farooq, who hailed from Poigram village under Fultala upazila, Khulna, surrendered to police with one firearm along with his accomplices.

Police said Farooq, 35, was wanted in 20 cases, including four murders. He was the regional leader of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party.

Police also picked up five other people, including Farooq's wife Mahfuza Begum, 21, and a Union Parishad member of Tarapur, Shariful Islam, during the operation.

Other arrested were identified as Kashem Sikder, Kamal Mondal, Amin Sikder, Shaheed Sikder, Saiful Sikder, Ariful Sikder, Nazmul Sikder and Samad Sikder.

Body of little girl recovered

UNB, *Rajshahi*

The body of a little girl was recovered from Beel Dhorompur village in Poba upazila on Friday.

Police and locals said Hira Khatun, 8, remained missing since she went out for playing on October 5 and later her body was recovered from a paddy field.

The body bore some injury marks. A case was filed.

Man stabbed to death in Bhola

UNB, *Bhola*

A man was stabbed to death by his rivals at Mizanpur village in Char Fashion upazila on Thursday.

Police said Tofazzal, 35, was killed following past enmity with his cousin Harun and stepbrother Aminul over land.

Female child trafficker convicted in Jessore

UNB, *Jessore*

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal here on Tuesday convicted a woman and sentenced her to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for her involvement in child trafficking.

Local people caught Shahanaj Begum of Pikegachha upazila when she was trying to kidnap a little girl of Goira village of Sarsha upazila on June 4, 1999.

Shahanaj was handed over to police and a case was filed against five with Sarsha thana.

Outlaw killed

UNB, *Khulna*

An outlawed party leader was shot dead by his rivals at a village in Rupsha upazila here on Friday.

Police said rivals gunned down extremist Sohag, 19, at Deara village at night. Police on information recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

No headway yet in Sylhet trader murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Police could not unearth the mystery of murder of elderly businessman of Sylhet city Mokhlisur Rahman as yet. Mokhlisur was gunned down on October 6 at his office chamber at a travel agency named Jalalabad Air Express.

Though police caught the driver of the auto-srickshaw, which had carried the killers to and from the spot within hours and arrested two others including the manager of the business firm, but the mystery remained in dark.

The 3-day remand of Sudhir Devnath, manager of the firm and that of Mainuddin Dudu ended on Wednesday.

Police on interrogation from the driver got some information about the group, which assigned the killers, but could not arrest any killer.

Two notorious criminals Shahed and Mokbul of Akhalia Kalibari area hired the auto-rickshaw for the killing mission, and they followed the killers to and from the spot with a motorbike, the driver told police.

He also confessed it before the magistrate, but could not specify the killers. Shahed and Mokbul, hoodlums in the area were wanted in a number of cases, police said. They are members of a faction of Chhatra League and armed cadres.

Police are in a dilemma, whether the two were hired by vested quarters or they were annoyed with the deceased businessman.

The deceased possessed valuable landed property near the house of Shahed. Police made several attempts at places to nab Shahed and Mokbul during the last several days, but failed.

A police official, however, claimed that, the mystery would be unveiled soon.

The deceased had a long-standing dispute with his neighbour Abdul Matin Chowdhury, a leading contractor and leader of Jatiya Party. The day on which, he was shot dead was the date of a case between them.

Mokhlisur appeared in a court in the morning on the fateful day. He went to his business chamber for refreshment after offering Zohar prayer. From there he was supposed to appear before the same court after the lunch break. Police tried to arrest Matin Chowdhury within hours, but in vain.

Two sons of Chowdhury were picked up for interrogation. They were released after a day. The driver of Chowdhury's private car was arrested on Thursday. He will be remanded. Police are now looking whether there is Chowdhury's link with the killing any way. However, police are also looking him for other possibilities.

The murder of the elderly man, who was an ex-headmaster of a high school and well-known for his amiable behaviour with all sparked a strong resentment in the city. He was also the president of Taltola

Bayboshayee Samity.

The agitated businessmen put a barricade on the man road in front of the spot and Bangladesh Bank just after the killing. People and business community took to the streets soon after the broad day light murder.

The protest rally held within two hours was addressed by leading people of the city including the City Mayor and other political, social and business leaders.

Sylhet Zila Bayboshayee Oikya Parishad enforced an 8-hour strike in the business establishments on October 7 while the travel agencies also kept their shutters down for eight hours on October 8. Oikya Parishad had threatened tougher agitation programme including hartal within a day or two.

Almost all the political parties including BNP, Awami League, Jamaat, Khelafat Majlish and left leaning organisations strongly condemned the murder and demanded immediate arrest of the killers and masterminds behind the incident.

Social and trade organisations like Chamber and others also demanded immediate nabbing of murderers.

Police officials visited the house of the deceased. The family members requested all not to harass any innocent person. A number of agencies also started investigation to unveil the mystery.

Nilsagar: A potential tourist spot in Nilphamari

ZAM KHAIRUZZAMAN, back from *Nilphamari*

Nilsagar of Nilphamari holds the potential to become a bustling tourist spot.

During winter thousands of migratory birds flock the big beautiful pond creating a spectacular scene.

Situated at Gorgram, 16 kilometres off Nilphamari Zila Sadar, Nilsagar has become a very popular tourist spot for hundreds from home and abroad.

Two hundred years ago the pond was called Birat Dighi after the name of King Birat. Afterwards it was named as Biran Dighi, because of its clear water where the horizon meets. Many also called the pond as Biraj Dighi or



A panoramic view Nilsagar of Nilphamari

Billah Dighi.

However, ultimately it was renamed as Nilsagar after the name of Nilphamari, famous for indigo cultivation. Indigo cultivating Nagas revolted here against the British rulers. Devi Chowdhurani attacked the foreign masters from two sides simultaneously and defeated them. General people joined the revolution which spread all around.

Nilphamari Sub-divisional headquarters was established in 1875 at Bagdogra under Domar thana. The sub-divisional headquarters was shifted to its present site at Nilphamari in 1882. After 110 years Nilphamari became a full-fledged district.

Then an initiative was taken to turn Nilsagar area into a national park by creating a safe abode for migratory birds. A massive afforestation programme was undertaken while the Nilphamari Zila Parishad undertook the maintenance work of its banks and internal roads were constructed. The zila parishad also constructed car parking lots, guard sheds, general toilets,

rest houses and some other buildings.

The existing facilities are grossly inadequate for visitors who come to relax and pass their time close to nature. Every day hundreds of people come to the site with their friends or dear ones. They want establishment of a full-fledged tourists spot here.

However, the Parjatan Corporation is yet to take up any programme to turn it into a tourist spot.

There is an old Hindu temple near here. Every year members of the Hindu community assemble here to have a holy dip during 'Baishakhi Purnima'.

Extensive archaeological excavation may be conducted here. The Fisheries Department conducted a drive here in 1957 and found the existence of a pucca structure including a pucca wall in Nilsagar.

At present the scenic beauty of Nilsagar has been decreasing. It needs proper attention by the authorities concerned.

SNAPS

Outlaws active again in 5 northern dists

UNB, *Sirajganj*
Outlaws have become active again in 19 upazilas of five northern districts in Chalan Beel area.

Outlawed groups distributing posters and leaflets in hats and bazaars with a call for guerilla warfare.

An official source said the groups created a reign of terror in Sherpur of Bogra district, Atrai of Naogaon, Singra and Gurudaspur of Natore, Chalmohor, Bhangura and Faridpur of Pabna and Shahjadpur, Ullapara, Raygonj and Tarash of Sirajganj district.

The groups claimed the responsibility of a number of killings in Kamarkhand and Ullapara upazilas of Sirajganj district recently.

Child drowned in pond in Bagerhat

UNB, *Bagerhat*
A little girl drowned in a pond at Atraka village in Fakirhat upazila on Sunday.

Family sources said Sima, 8, daughter of Nazu Sheikh of Khulna city came to her aunt's house in the village. She was playing on the bank of the pond. Suddenly she fell down the pond. Later, local people recovered the body on the same day.

Youth slaughtered

UNB, *Narail*
Criminals slaughtered a youth in Rameswarpur area of in Lohagara upazila recently.

Police said a gang of five criminals stabbed Bakul Sheikh alias Kalu, 30, son of Fazar Sheikh of Jhikra village in the same upazila and slaughtered him on the night of October 8 while he was selling tea in the area.

Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. Locals said the victim was murdered following a previous enmity. A case was filed.

Flood hampers pry edn in shoals

UNB, *Madaripur*

Primary education virtually comes to a halt in the shoals and low-lying areas of four upazilas here during the monsoon every year due to stagnant floodwater.

This year, rainwater remained stagnant for about three months in these areas hampering education of 17,325 students in 99 primary schools.