

# Appointment of Jamaat man as principal sparks agitation

## Strike observed in Jaldhaka educational institutions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Tension mounted in Jaldhaka as the All Party Students Alliance is agitating for cancellation of appointment of a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader as principal of Jaldhaka Degree College.

A strike was observed in all educational institutions at Jaldhaka upazila headquarters on Thursday at the call of the Alliance in protest

against appointment of Fazlul Haque as the principal.

The Alliance also brought out a procession held a rally at the Zero Point.

It will hold another rally at the same venue tomorrow and go for tougher agitation programmes including 'mass hunger strike' and hartal to press the demand.

A huge contingent of police was deployed at the college during

Thursday's strike.

Speakers at Thursday's rally bitterly criticised local Jamaat lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury for appointment of Fazlul Haque as principal of Jaldhaka Degree College.

Mizanur Rahman is chairman of governing bodies of Jaldhaka Degree College and eight other institutions, sources said.

The speakers alleged that the

lawmaker is replacing freedom fighter teachers with Jamaat men in different educational institutions in the upazila.

They also brought against him allegations of corruption and misappropriation of development funds and grants.

The post of principal of Jaldhaka Degree College fell vacant following resignation of Md Rahmatullah on August 25, 2003 on charges of irregularities brought against him by the college governing body.

After resignation, he filed a case with a court in Nilphamari alleging that the Jamaat-led governing body hatched conspiracies and forced him to resign as he is not a Jamaat supporter.

He also sought an injunction on appointment of a new principal but the court on April 26 this year rejected his prayer.

On April 29, test for selection of a principal was held at Jaldhaka Degree College. All senior teachers boycotted the test as there was an allegation that the governing body had already decided to select pro-Jamaat teacher Fazlul Haque as the new principal.

The five-member selection committee included Carmichael University College Principal Md Nurun Nabi (as national university representative), Nilphamari Government College Principal Mosaarraf Hossain (as representative of DG, Higher Education).

During the alleged mock test, students of the college threw brick bats at the principal's office. Police rushed there and brought the situation under control, leaving several students injured.

Talking to newsmen later, a senior teacher --Anisur Rahman Chowdhury claimed that majority of the 5-member recruitment committee belonged to Jamaat.

Besides Jamaat MP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, vice-principal of the college Mazaharul Haque, who is a member of the selection committee, is a 'Rokon' (senior leader) of Jamaat and another member, Azizul Islam, is also a Jamaat leader and a faithful follower of the lawmaker, he alleged.

When contacted Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said the recruitment process was 'clean' and there was no irregularity as representatives of National University and the DG were present.

investigation and confirmed about the guilt of the accused.

While contacted over cell phone, A B M Abdus Sattar told The Daily Star Correspondent a regular case is running against them under Sirajganj Court. Beside, they are trying to repay the entire amount of money to the bank.

On the other hand, after hearing the news of misappropriation, the leaders and activists of the district Jamaat-e-Islami expressed their grave concern and condemned the incident. They demanded a fair investigation into the incident.

Office filed the cases against them with Sirajganj Sadar Police Station on Thursday after an investigation.

Of the accused, three Jamaat leaders have gone into hiding after filing of the case.

It is learnt from the case, the three Jamaat leaders, with the help of bank manager Setaur Rahman, drew an amount of Tk 16 lakh as loan from the bank in name of a firm on November 2, 1996. But the money was not paid back to the bank within the fixed time.

On information, the District Anti-corruption Office launched an



PHOTO: STAR

Students marching streets of Jaldhaka on Thursday protesting appointment of a Jamaat leader as principal of Jaldhaka Degree College.

# 3 Jamaat leaders sued for defrauding bank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Three Jamaat leaders and a former manager of Islami Bank here have been sued for allegedly misappropriating Tk 16 lakh of the bank.

The accused are Jamaat leaders A B M Abdus Sattar, 50, former chairman of Rayganj upazila. Shahinur Alam, 35, of Paikortoli in Kazipur upazila, Jubayer Hossain, 42, Amir of Belkuchi town Jamaat-e-Islami and Setaur Rahman, former manager of Islami Bank, Sirajganj branch.

Akbar Ali, Sub-Inspector (SI) of Sirajganj District Anti-corruption

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# Illegal sand lifting from Monu under the nose of officials

## Moulvibazar town protection embankment threatened

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Illegal sand lifting from Monu riverbed by using a dredger is threatening the Moulvibazar town protection embankment.

The riverbed is being dredged near the spot where the Water Development Board (WDB) is implementing a Tk 2.5 crore project to renovate the town protection embankment. The project is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

But officials of WDB and the district administration, when asked by this correspondent, expressed their ignorance about the illegal dredging.

Sources said an influential person enjoying political backing is lifting the sand to fill up his land in the town.

They said the town protection embankment will become vulnerable in the coming monsoon due to the sand lifting.

The temporary pipeline for

carrying sand from the riverbed has been laid by digging the town protection embankment and two main roads in the town and making a hole in the flood protection RCC wall. The RCC wall will be threatened in the monsoon, the sources said.

Talking to this correspondent, some locals expressed their surprise that the dredging continued on the nose of WDB officials, who visited the spot to see the ongoing embankment renovation work.

When contacted, WDB Executive Engineer Abu Zafar Siddik first said he knew nothing about the illegal sand lifting and would visit the spot.

Next day, when asked again, he said he went to the spot but could not locate the dredger.

This correspondent then described the location of the dredging machine in operation in the river behind the old hospital. Then he said he will visit the area and take necessary steps.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Ayatullah Majumdar,



PHOTO: STAR

Sand is being lifted illegally from Monu riverbed near the area where Water Development Board is renovating the Moulvibazar town protection embankment.

when contacted over telephone, also said he knew nothing about the illegal sand lifting. He said district administration did give permission to any body to lift sand from Monu riverbed near the town.

He said he will look into the

matter and take steps.

Moulvibazar Pourasava Chairman Fayzul Karim Moyun said the municipality did not give permission to any body to lay a pipe for sand lifting by cutting road in the town.

# 4 hurt in Narail bomb blasts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Four persons were injured in bomb blasts at Gobra Bazar under Sadar upazila in Narail yesterday.

Police and witnesses said, Mofiz, 32, of Agdiachar village, Mustafizul, 22, of Bagdanga village, Lipon, 22, and Didar Mina, 32, of Gobra village under Narail Sadar upazila were injured as two youths hurled bombs at them in a tailoring shop owned by Didar Mia at about 1pm.

People in the bazar ran helter-skelter in fear of bomb. The entire area was covered with smoke at that time.

One leg of Mofiz was blown away by the blast, police and witnesses said.

Mofiz and Mushfizul were sent to Khulna 250-bed Hospital while two others were taken to Narail Sadar Hospital for treatment.

Police have apprehended that the bomb attackers might be activists of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janojuddho).

Police further said, a brother of Mofiz was killed by unidentified criminals who hurled bomb at him a few years ago.

# Delete fake voters from list

## Ershad tells Gobindaganj rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday claimed that there is a large number of fake voters in the new list and demanded its correction.

The government has prepared a fake voter list to cling to power, he said while addressing a public meeting at Nakaihat High School ground to campaign for his party candidate in by-election in Gaibandha-4 constituency. He also addressed gatherings at Baneshwer, Kamdia Bazar and Panitola.

Ershad said all fake voters must be dropped from the list to make the next parliamentary election credible.

He said the Gaibandha-4 by-election will be an acid test for the government. He claimed that the JP candidate will win the polls race if it is held in a fair way.

This government has already lost people's support. They will try to rig the by-election, he alleged and urged the people and his party men to be prepared to foil any such attempt by the ruling party.

He criticised both the ruling four-party alliance and the opposition 14-party alliance led by Awami League, saying they failed to do any good to the people.

People's sufferings mounted under the present government as it could not resolve any of their problems. Besides price hike of essentials, crises of fuel, electricity and fertiliser have made people's life miserable, the former president said.

People are now fed up with the government's misrule and rise of Islamist militants, he said.

This should not be allowed to continue. He called upon the people to vote for JP candidate Lutfar Rahman Chowdhury in the by-election to be held on May 9.

Presided over by Lutfar Rahman Chowdhury, president of Gobindaganj upazila Jatiya Party, the meeting was addressed by, among others, JP secretary general ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, former foreign minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Golam Habib Dulal, MP, Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, Abdur Rashid Sarker and former MP Wahiduzaman Sarker.



PHOTO: STAR

Monsoon is yet to set in but the Kodomtoli bus stand in Sylhet city is full of sludge and stagnant water after a light shower.

6X3

8X3

9X3