

## Uneasy calm at SUST

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An awkward calm prevails in the crisis-stricken Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) following the sudden resignation of the vice-chancellor (VC) on Sunday afternoon.

The university is now facing uncertainty with none there to run the administration.

VC Prof Musleh Uddin Ahmed, who had resigned from his post amid students' agitation, left Sylhet in the evening without handing over the responsibilities to anyone.

He had given his resignation letter to the students who arranged the sending of the letter to the chancellor with the help of some senior teachers. He was in charge of three key posts - VC, Pro-VC and the post of treasurer.

Two factions of SUST teachers yesterday held separate meetings with former president of the SUST Teachers' Association (SUSTTA) Akhtarul Islam in the chair. In a press release following the meeting with left leaning teachers

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# Benazir, Sharif strike deal to fight out Musharraf

AFP, London

Former Pakistani prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif have agreed on a "charter of democracy" and pledged to return from exile to challenge President Pervez Musharraf in elections due next year.

"Both will go to Pakistan soon to fight for democracy and take part in the elections," Ashfaq Raja, information secretary for Benazir's Pakistan's People Party, told AFP late Sunday.

After nine hours of talks in London, the one-time bitter rivals "signed an agreement, a charter of democracy" to work for necessary reforms in Pakistan. Raja said, adding that the two would run sepa-

ately in the polls.

Benazir told the BBC the pair had decided to work together to wrest control of the country from Musharraf, who ousted Sharif in a bloodless coup in October 1999.

"It's true that there were major differences between the two parties in the past," she said in an interview.

"But we have both been victims of military dictatorship and so we have an understanding of the larger picture."

Benazir, Pakistan's first female premier, said she doubted that Musharraf, who proclaimed himself president in 2001, was "sincere about democracy".

Benazir said she and Sharif had agreed to work together on the key issues of reforming the military and

security services, improving education and health, and strengthening the country's parliamentary system of government.

Sharif, the 56-year-old industrialist-turned politician, served as prime minister from October 1990 to March 1993 and from February 1997 until being ousted by Musharraf.

Under a deal brokered by the Saudi royal family, Musharraf released Sharif from detention in December 2000 on condition he and his family live in exile in Saudi Arabia for 10 years.

Benazir, 52, who governed Pakistan from December 1998 to August 1990 and October 1993 to

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## Power-starved people hem in Ctg PDB office

CU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred power-starved people yesterday laid a siege to the city's Agrabad Bidyut Bhaban, the Chittagong regional head office of Power Development Board (PDB), demanding uninterrupted supply of electricity.

Chittagong Juba Sangram Parishad and Chittagong City unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) organised the programme where people from all walks of life participated spontaneously.

The demonstration was peaceful with additional police forces deployed on and around the PDB Office premises.

At one point, Chief Engineer of Chittagong region Aminul Islam came out of his office and assured the agitating people of putting best efforts to reduce the amount of load-shedding.

"Ensuring uninterrupted power supply would be difficult, unless the generation of electricity rises"

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PHOTO: STAR

Workers of a garment factory in Savar having lunch in the open due to a lack of indoor facilities even though the RMG sector makes up the largest share of Bangladesh's export revenue.



PHOTO: AKIM MOHSIN

Lumberjacks saw a felled tree on Chimbuk hill in Bandarban. Felling of trees continue in the hills for cultivation causing damage to environment in the form of soil erosion and landslide.

## Dhaka won't let any country explore within its waters: FM

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has said Bangladesh will not allow anyone to explore hydrocarbon within its maritime boundary and exclusive economic zone.

"If someone—whichever he is and wherever they come from—will not be allowed to do this within Bangladesh's maritime boundary," he told reporters at Zia International Airport on return from D-8 Summit on Sunday night.

Morshed, however, said he will consult experts to assess the actual situation about the matter that raised grave concern among the people and media in the country.

Commenting on the D-8 Summit held in Bali, the foreign minister said the summit focussed on two agenda-Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Customs Cooperation. All trade barriers among the member states will be

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## STAMFORD UNIVERSITY

# Students allege little care for them

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Violent outburst of Stamford University students on Saturday is the result of dissatisfaction that has been brewing among them for not getting educational and other facilities as 'promised' during their admission.

Students said their Saturday demonstration was also to protest monetary exploitation—charging an extra credit fee of Tk 1,000 in each semester and late registration fee of Tk 500.

Besides, the university authorities have increased the per credit charge to Tk 1,800 from Tk 1,600 recently.

The students who scored below 15 in English during the admission test, have to complete three non-credit course on English spending Tk 5,400, which many students

dubbed as unfruitful.

"The authorities are realising a huge amount of money from the students by charging extra credit fee and late fee which were not mentioned in the brochure," said a student seeking anonymity.

The university is beset with a number of problems like shortage of fulltime efficient teachers, lack of laboratories and libraries, which is also a violation of the conditions set by the government for the private universities, students alleged.

Many students believe that they are deceived, because they university is not providing them standard education, as they were promised by the authorities in the brochure prior to admission.

"In many private universities, students get a total of six-hour class per subject in a week, but we get only two hours and 40 minutes,"

said a BBA student, adding, "Even we do not get any makeup class if one is missed due to shortage of classroom."

With around 14,000 students, the university lacks required classroom space.

There is also want of fulltime efficient teachers. Most of the teachers are fresh graduates who have hardly any experience to teach at the university level.

The authorities overlooked the Pharmacy students' long time demand for accreditation of their course by Bangladesh Pharmacy Council, which is required to get a pharmacist's job.

"At least seven laboratories and a library are required to get the accreditation, but there are only two laboratories only for nearly

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## Kushtia journo get bail in extortion case

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail to three journalists of Kushtia in two extortion cases.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Justice MA Rashid and Justice Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan also issued a rule upon the government to show cause why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail in the cases.

The operation of the bail order will continue until submission of the police reports on the cases.

The journalists who obtained anticipatory bail are Munshi Tariqul Islam of Channel 1 and the daily Shamokal, Hasan Zahid of Rtv and the daily Jugantor and Al Mamun Sagar of ATN Bangla and the daily Manabzamin.

They accused journalists appeared before the High Court bench for bail.

Shahidul Islam MP of Kushtia-2

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## Judges killed on instruction from Allah

JMB chief tells court

UNB, Jhalakathi

JMB supremo Abdur Rahman facing trial in the judges murder case yesterday claimed in the court that he should be rewarded for abiding by the instruction of Allah.

"The judges were murdered on instruction from Allah. We should be rewarded, not punished for following the order," Rahman told the court while making statement under Section 342 of CrPC. Four other accused were also allowed to speak.

Rahman reiterated the demand for allowing him to exchange views with the newsmen either in the sub-jail or at the press club.

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## KANSAT VIOLENCE

# Minu blames it on govt officials

Keeps mum about local MP's role

ANWAR ALI, Kansat

A section of officials the district administration, police and Rural Electrification Board (REB) are mainly blamed for the recent Kansat tragedy, and punitive actions are being taken against them, BNP lawmaker and district minister for Chapainawabganj Mizanur Rahman Minu claimed yesterday.

The tragic incidents at Kansat occurred because of some 'ambitious' government officials, who were 'happy' to open fire on people. Corruption and irregularities of

some REB officials also accounted for the incidents, said Minu, also mayor of Rajshahi.

He expressed these views at a meeting with Kansat Palli Bidyut Unnayan Sangram Parishad (PBUSP) at the local Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) office.

The lawmaker mentioned that a probe committee headed by Additional Secretary of the home ministry Mohsin Ali is investigating the incidents. "I hope the committee will be able to ascertain the

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# Fresh Thai polls proposed for Oct

AFP, Bangkok

Thai election officials yesterday proposed holding new polls in October, a date which analysts say could give the opposition enough time to persuade factions to defect from the embattled ruling party.

But the Election Commission's proposal to the government would also prolong the political crisis, which has gripped the country for three months.

"We agreed that October 22 is suitable because it will give enough time for party members to switch parties if they want to," commissioner Prinya Nakhudtree told reporters.

"We will make the proposal to cabinet on Tuesday," he said.

The announcement came after the Election Commission met

representatives of the ruling party and several smaller parties, who voted on when the polls should be held.

The leading opposition parties refused to attend the meeting in protest at the commission, which they say should resign after the Constitutional Court tossed out the results of last month's snap polls.

Outgoing Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said his party had no objection to the date, although his Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party had called for August elections.

"The date doesn't matter for us as long as everybody complies with the regulations," Thaksin told reporters.

The commission's proposal is only a recommendation and could

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## 60kg ganja seized

STARR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Detective Branch (DB) of Police recovered 60kg of ganja from a truck on the Bogra-Joypurhat highway at Ganispur of Shibganj upazila early yesterday.

DB police sources said one person, Dulal, was arrested for his alleged involvement with the trade of the contraband substance.

DB police, on information, intercepted a Bogra-bound truck loaded with sand from Joypurhat and recovered the ganja hidden in the sand.

Prayer Timing		
May 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation