

100 jobs on cards for JCD men at IU

Stalemate on as JCD cadres do not allow teachers, officials into campus

AMANUR AMAN, *Kushitia*

A stalemate continues at the Islamic University. All offices are open but silent and desolate as teachers and most of the officials and employees do not go to the campus fearing attack by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists.

The agitating JCD activists are demanding jobs at the university.

Activists of JCD and other student organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) are still in their dormitories as the authorities closed women students' hostels only after last weeks violence that forces the Vice Chancellor to leave the campus.

Campus sources said the JCD activists are guarding different points on the campus, not to allow the VC and other top officials unless their appointments are promised.

There is none on the campus to

exercise authority and take any decision as the vice-chancellor did not hand over charge to any body when he left the campus after Thursday's Syndicate meeting following the violence.

The JCD men also assaulted some teachers in the past few days.

The latest incident took place on Monday. According to sources, JCD men stopped a microbus carrying eight teachers from the campus when it reached the Customs crossing at about 10 at night. They included Islamic University Teachers Association (IUTA) President Prof Foyez Mohammad Siraj and Transport Administrator Dr. Abdul Odud.

The sources said the JCD men were looking for Dr. Odud. They forced all in the vehicle to come out at gunpoint and abused them.

When contacted later, Dr. Odud admitted that he along with seven other teachers were abused by JCD

activists.

The JCD activists are also threatening teachers and senior officials over cell phone, the sources said.

Whereabouts of VC Prof Rafiqul Islam could not be known since he left the campus on Thursday.

When this correspondent tried to contact his family in Rajshai over telephone. His family declined to say anything about the VC, citing 'security problem'.

Some reliable sources said the VC is now in Dhaka. He met with the education minister and discussed the university situation. He sought the minister's intervention to cool down the JCD activists agitating for 'jobs'.

The sources said the VC is now thinking to offer 100 jobs to JCD cadres on ad hoc basis.

Meanwhile Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) unit at IU yesterday staged a sit-in in front of the vice-chancellor's office.

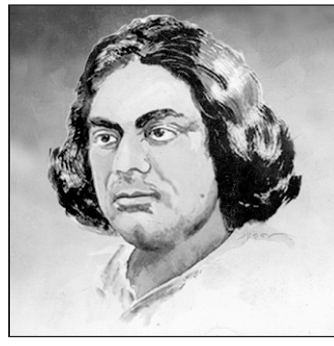
They demanded immediate resignation of the VC and cancellation of the "illegal mass appointments".

On the other hand, the newly appointed employees brought out a silent procession and held a rally on the campus demanding confirmation of their jobs.

A meeting on the university situation has held yesterday at Kushtia Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office with DC Jamal A Naesr Choudhury in the chair.

IU Treasurer Prof Anwarul Karim, Registrar Dr Moslem Uddin, ADC (general) MA Ahad and Police Superintendent Masud UI Hasan attended the meeting but it could not take any decision.

Sources said the meeting was discussed over all law and order of the university.



Nazrul celebration begins in Trishal tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate a three-day national level programme marking the 107th birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at Darirampur in Trishal tomorrow.

Earlier on the day she will open academic activities at Kazi Nazrul Islam University at Trishal Namapara. State Minister for Cultural Selinea Rahman, Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruq, Executive Director of Nazrul Institute Prof Wakil Ahmed will also address the opening session.

The three-day programme includes discussion on life and works of Nazrul Islam, culture functions participated by different cultural organisations of greater Nymensingh and Dhaka, book fair and Nazrul Mela at Darirampur.

A colourful procession marking Nazrul's birth anniversary was brought out from Town Hall Premises yesterday morning. Hundreds of students and cultural activists paraded the main thoroughfares of the district town in a procession.

Meanwhile, Trishal has worn a festive look to celebrate Nazrul's birth anniversary.

However, some journalists working for different national dailies are yet to get invitation cards to attend the programmes.

PSTU VC confined by employees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) vice-chancellor (VC) Dr Prof Wahiduzzaman was confined at his office for three hours yesterday.

Fifty-four master roll employees of the university besieged his office from 10 am to 1 pm demanding regularisation of service.

PSTU sources said, 105 master roll employees were working in the university for over 20 years. Of them, 51 employees got appointment on ad-hoc basis on Tuesday.

Hearing the news, 54 employees assembled in front of the academic building at about 10 am and decided to besiege the VC's office.

The deprived employees expressed their determination to continue their agitation until regularisation of their services.

Outlaw held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Police yesterday arrested an outlaw from Damodar union under Phultala upazila in Khulna district.

He was identified as Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, 35, hailing from Keshabpur upazila in Jessore.

Police said Bhutto belongs to outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party. He was wanted in seven criminal cases including three for murders committed in Dumuria, Batiaghata and Rupsha upazilas.

3 bombs found in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Police recovered three bombs yesterday from near Shaheed Shurawardy College at Basupara under Sonadanga thana in Khulna city.

The bombs were taken to Sonadanga thana and defused, police said.

Recovery of the bombs created a panic among students and teachers of the college.

Teachers' politics blamed for SUST situation

700 academic days lost since 1991

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, *Sylhet*

Academic activities at Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) remained suspended or disturbed time and again mainly due to teachers' politics, not for students' politics.

This view was expressed by many including apolitical teachers, officials and local elite often involved with activities of the university. Since its inception in 1991, academic activities in the university remained suspended for about 700 days due to agitation and political unrest, they said while talking to this correspondent.

The longest suspension was for about nine months due to agitation and unrest over naming of different dormitories and buildings of the university. Agitation solely by teachers kept academic activities suspended for about 250 days, they said.

Teachers have been involved in politics since the lone university in the country's north-eastern region came into being.

A section of teachers allegedly tried to save the killers after the murder of the then vice-president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit at SUST, Rafiqul Islam Patwary, in July last year in a sequel to intra-party feud.

In 1999, students' agitation over introduction of grading system was also allegedly provoked by some teachers. At a stage, the house of Life Science Dean Prof Habibur Ahsan was vandalised by some unruly students in presence of a number of teachers. Valuables worth Tk 8 lakh were damaged in that incident.

Some teachers also provoked a section of locals against the univer-

sity authorities when they tried to construction a road attached to it in 1995.

In another incident, a faction of teachers provoked locals as well as students in 1994 when three teachers were injured as they tried to stop armed clashes between students and locals over a trifling matter.

The May 12 clashes this year between students of Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College (JRRMC) and Shahjalal University was mainly due to alleged inaction by the Proctorial body, teachers apathy and police excess, they claimed.

Even, none of the senior teachers went to visit the bullet-hit students at hospital following police firing on the night following May 12.

On the other hand, some of the teachers allegedly provoked the agitation and tried to desist police from entering the campus in time, it is alleged.

None of the teachers or leaders of the teachers' association or employees association went to the VC's house when it was being vandalised.

It is clear that teachers belonging to both the rival camp linked with ruling BNP and opposition Awami League remained inactive on that day when the Proctorial body members were on an indefinite strike.

On the other hand, the rival faction is demanding immediate posting of a new VC and a Pro-VC. Meanwhile, a new wave of politics is surfacing over appointment of new VC and Pro-VC. Lobbying for getting appointment as VC and Pro-VC has already started, the sources said.

Considering the overall situation, guardians and general students as well as people in the area are wor-

ried about the future of the university.

So far, names Prof Dr. Habibur Ahsan, Dean of the Faculty of Life Science and Prof Kamal Ahmed Chowdhury, Dean of Faculty of Social Science are being discussed for the post of Pro-VC. Both of them are from the pro-BNP faction of teachers.

On the other hand, names of Prof Hasanuzzaman Chowdhury and Prof Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury and Prof Dr. Abdur Rab of Dhaka University are discussed for the post of VC. All of them are from the rightist platform.

However, Prof Musleh Uddin Ahmed, who resigned as VC on 14 May is also trying to back to the campus, sources close to him said.

Prof Musleh Uddin called some of his men from the campus to the capital yesterday and held a meeting there, they added.

SUST Registrar Jamil Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said a serious crisis is ahead if the administrative vacuum can not be filled up immediately.

Treatment of injured students at hospital is being hampered for want of money.

Musleh Uddin Ahmed, a teacher at Public Administration department at Dhaka University joined SUST as Pro-VC in 2002. He was made VC on April 27, 2003 as Prof Md. Shafiqur Rahamn resigned in the face of agitation by a section of teachers and employees. Prof Rahman backed to his former post in DU.

Considering the overall situation, guardians and general students as well as people in the area are wor-



Zainul's death anniversary on Friday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A three-day programme begins at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) on Friday marking the 30th death anniversary of the great artist.

The programme includes art competition for children, discussion meetings and prize distribution ceremony.

Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu MP will inaugurate the programme as chief guest.

Abu Mohammed Yusuf, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Md. Abdullahel Baki, Mymensingh Police Superintendent, Artist Amirul Islam and Prof AKM Shafiqul Islam will address the opening session as special guests. Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik, Deputy Keeper of the art gallery, will preside.

Students from different schools in the district in three age groups will participate in the art competition, said the organisers.

The Shilpacharya, a pride of Mymensingh, passed his school life in Mritunjay School in the district town.

The Sylhet unit of Udichi, a cultural organisation, brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting a move by some quarters to stop its activities in Habiganj.

JCD attacks Sainik League rally in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

A rally of Bangabandhu Sainik League was foiled by activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student front of ruling BNP, in the city's Court point yesterday.

Bangabandhu Sainik League organised the rally at the Court Point, where JCD also called a rally to raise protest against 'vandalism and anarchy' in garments factories the capital.

Convener of Sylhet district unit of Sainik League, Babrul Hossain Babul, a former chairman of the then Sylhet Pourashava, organised the Sainik League rally to protest some 'unwanted comments' about Sylhet

people passed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, who is also lawmaker from Sylhet Sadar constituency.

As the rally was on, about 40 JCD men on motorbikes in a procession from the Central Shahid Minar. They vandalised chairs, benches and tore down loudspeakers and foiled the rally.

The speaker and the audience left fled towards nearby Hasan market while Babul entered into a nearby mosque.

Later, JCD men held a rally there to raise protest against the anarchy, saying it is being done by the opposition.

A BNP leader later claimed that,

Sainik League was lingering the rally. We had repeatedly asked them earlier about our programme. However, Babul denied this.

The finance minister while addressing a rally last week in Sylhet termed Sylhet people as 'ungrateful' as they did not appreciate the 'huge development work' done by him.

The incident created panic in the area.

Shopkeepers downed their shutters and people ran for safety when the JCD activists swooped on the Sainik League rally.

RUET teacher suspended

RU CORRESPONDENT

A senior teacher of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET), Prof Dr. Yakub Hossain, was suspended yesterday on charge of neglect to duty and violation of service rule.

A press release issued by RUET said, the decision was made on May 17 at the 13th special Syndicate meeting as he did not abide by the decision of the Syndicate's 12th meeting.

Sources said, as per a decision of the 12th Syndicate meeting, Prof Yakub Hossain was transferred to Electric and Electronic Department from Computer Science and Engineering Department as professor.

But he remained absent and delayed in publishing examination results.

The decision of the 13th Syndicate meeting was implemented by RUET VC Prof Anwarul Haque at a meeting with faculty deans, departmental heads, hall provosts, student welfare directors and senior teachers yesterday.

The meeting decided that all papers and documents of the department will be recovered from Prof Yakub.

Later taking to newsmen, Prof Yakub Ali said, the decision was unethical.

Policy for newspapers assured again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday reiterated his commitment to announce a policy for development of newspaper industry and wellbeing of newsmen.

He, however, stressed need for objective journalism for greater national interest. Democracy can not be firmly rooted unless events are not projected objectively, he said while addressing as chief guest the installation of the newly elected office bearers of the executive committee of Khulna Metropolitan Union of Journalists. The function was held at the press

club auditorium.

Presided over by MUJ member Md Zakir Hossain, the function was addressed by, among others by Khulna city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, BFUJ president Mozammel Huq and secretary general Ruhul Amin Gazi, president of Khulna Press Club Liaquat Ali and newly elected general secretary of MUJ HM Alauddin.

The minister said both print and electronic media are enjoying now 'freedom'. But they to also a great role to play to serve the people and the country through objective reporting without being politically biased, the minister said.



PHOTO: STAR

Ravaging a river... Encroachers have built structures choking the Gumti river flowing through Comilla town.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful procession was brought out in Mymensingh town yesterday marking the 107th birth anniversary of poet Nazrul.