



Karmojibi Nari forms a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding punishment to those responsible for the suicide of Swapna.

PHOTO: STAR

SUICIDE OF SWAPNA Punishment to culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmajibi Nari (KN), an organisation working for women rights, formed a human chain in the city yesterday protesting the teasing by hooligans that forced Bijlee Akhter Swapna to commit suicide.

They also held a rally at Mukhtangan with KN President Shirin Akhter in the chair.

Speaking at the rally, they demanded immediate trial and exemplary punishment of the criminals involved.

Shirin Akhter said through the sacrifice of Swapna, it has again been proved that torture and regression against women is unabatedly going on in the society.

Criticising police inaction in eve teasing everywhere, she said women must rise, protest and fight against such incidences in the society.

Executive Director of KN Rokeya Rafiq Baby, Mahmuda Iman and Arefa Akhter Anu also spoke on the occasion.

The 13-year-old girl hanged herself from the ceiling of her house in Pallabi on July 20 failing to endure teasing of local miscreants.

Teachers blame govt for stalemate in edn sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers on indefinite strike yesterday blamed the government for continuing stalemate at secondary and higher secondary level education as no initiative was taken by those entrusted by the prime minister to resolve the crisis.

The striking teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas said the government has been passing time in the name of negotiations.

The prime minister called on the education minister, state minister for education, education secretary and her political secretary in her office on July 17 and entrusted them to end the teachers' strike through negotiations.

But it was alleged that none of them contacted the teachers even after a week of the prime minister's directives.

Along with the striking teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas, teachers of government colleges under the banner of BCS (General

Education) Association yesterday observed their second day of three-day class abstention programme to realise their 10-point demand.

They will also observe the programme today. The government teachers will again observe work abstention programme from August 5 to 10 if their demands are not met by July 31.

Meanwhile, the National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE), a platform of 11 organisations of teachers and employees, yesterday held a grand rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital where thousands of teachers from across the country were present.

Speakers at the rally said the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance in its election manifesto in 2001 pledged that they would provide cent per cent basic salary to the teachers from the government exchequer if they were voted to power.

"But the alliance government did not keep its pledge in last four and a half years," they added.

"Now the government is ignoring us in the name of dialogue," said Quazi Faruque, chief coordinator and convenor of the NFTE, while addressing the rally.

Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Jote led by Prof Shariful Islam will hold protest meeting at every educational institutions today and observe two-hour sit-in programme at Mukhtangan in the capital on July 27.

Another faction of jote led by Selim Bhuiyan blamed the state minister for education and finance minister for creating impasse at secondary and higher secondary level education.

Teachers under the jote yesterday observed one hour sit-in programme in front of the offices of upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) across the country, he claimed.

Meanwhile, polytechnic teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association yesterday completed their three-day work abstention programme to press home their 10-point demand.

Punishment to Momin killers demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leaders yesterday demanded immediate punishment to the killers of Kamrul Islam Momin, a leader of JSD-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Momin, a third year student of Dhaka Commerce College and Dhaka City BCL president, was killed over a land dispute at Kafuril on September 13 last year.

The leaders alleged that the investigation officer of Momin murder case has been trying to drop the name of prime suspect from the charge sheet, even though the monitoring cell of the home ministry gave an order on February 12 to take steps so that the accused cannot be freed.

Some high-ups in the BNP-Jamaat government have also been trying to save former officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station Rafiqul Islam, an accused in the Momin murder case, they said at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu said any attempts to save OC Rafiq would not be successful. Those who are trying to save him will be punished in future, he warned.

JCD decides not to clash with Shibir

JN Varsity extends closure until July 31

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University authorities at a meeting yesterday again extended its closure until July 31 in view of the lack of security on the campus.

Sources in the meeting said the campus lacks sufficient security arrangements, as most of the police force deployed on the campus was shifted from there for 14-party alliance's road march programme beginning today.

First year honours final examinations of the university, scheduled to begin on August 3, were also deferred due to unavoidable reasons, a university press release said.

The examinations will now begin on August 10. Authorities said classes will resume on August 1 and students will have to show their IDs for entering the campus.

Violent clashes among Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus on July 16 and 17 led the authorities to close the university till July 20 and afterwards till July 24. This time the authorities again deferred the date of reopening the university till July 31.

At least 100 students and several policemen were injured when ICS men clashed with BCL, JCD and left-leaning students' organisations on the campus on July 17. Fifteen more were injured in another clash on July 16.

Meanwhile, sources said JCD Jagannath University unit leaders had a meeting yesterday with a BNP lawmaker at his house to discuss JCD strategy on the campus in the question of ICS.

During the meeting, JCD leaders talked to ICS Central President

Shafiqul Islam Masud on Jagannath University situation. After the talk, both JCD and ICS reached a consensus that they would not clash again and JCD would allow ICS to enter the campus, considering parent organisations' coalition.

The day before yesterday, ICS leaders also held a meeting with the lawmaker, sources added.

1,668 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,668 people, including three listed criminals, from across the country on various charges in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also seized seven firearms, 21 bullets and five explosives, said an official handout.

4th round of 13th NDI August 6

UNB, Dhaka

The fourth round of vaccination campaign of the 13th National Day of Immunisation (NDI) will be held on August 6.

On the day, two drops of polio vaccine will be administered to all children aged up to five years as an antidote to the deadly disease.

Children either given or not given the vaccine in the previous rounds could be fed with the vaccine in the fourth round.

"All the vaccination centres across the country will be available for vaccination. Parents can get their children vaccinated at airports, railway stations, bus terminals, ferry ghats and launch terminals during travel time," said a government announcement yesterday.

All the vaccination centres will remain open from 8:00am to 4:00pm. The 1st round of 13th NDI was observed on April 16, the 2nd on May 13 and the third on June 11.



Members of Jatiya Shikkhak Karmachari Front stages a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday reiterating their demand for 100 percent salary from the government exchequer.

PHOTO: STAR



Students of The Red Brick School perform at a cultural function on its premises in the city recently to mark the Proclamation Day of the school.

Policy to control hospital wastes soon

BSS, Dhaka

Health Minister Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain yesterday said that the government is going to formulate a policy on safe disposal of hospital wastes.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest at second international seminar on 'Infection Control and Prevention', jointly organised by Infection Control and Prevention Programme (ICPPB) and Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) branch at North America at

Sufia Kamal Auditorium of National Museum in the city.

Prof Zahidul Hasan, president of ICPPB, presided over the seminar while Dr Mohammed Murshed, general secretary of ICPPB, Dr Ziauddin Ahmed, Drexel University of USA, Prof AK Azad Khan, general secretary of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, and George Kombakono of WHO also addressed the seminar.

The minister said that infection control and prevention is a branch of surgery of medical science and a

hospital with clean hygiene can ensure better treatment for patients.

"Waste disposal management of hospital is crucial, but trained and skilled nurses and medical workers can control it efficiently as the government has provided incinerators in every hospital across the country," he added.

The minister laid emphasis on awareness build-up among patients, doctors, nurses and medical workers to ensure clean and safe environment in hospitals.

200 receive Fair & Lovely scholarship

The certificate giving ceremony of 'Fair & Lovely Foundation Scholarship Programme 2005' was held in the city on Sunday, says a press release.

Two hundred meritorious students received the four-year scholarship at the programme.

Sanjiv Mehta, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, gave away the certificates as the chief guest.

Geetara Safiya Choudhury, chairman and managing director of Adcomm Ltd., and Tasmima Hossain, editor of the Anannya, were present as special guests.

The Foundation invited applications from undergraduate female students earlier this year. The participants went through a preliminary screening process conducted by the Anannya, while a panel of judges from relevant fields interviewed the final nominees.

Fair & Lovely Foundation is a social initiative of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. that is involved in projects in the areas of education, career and enterprise.



Winners of Fair & Lovely Foundation Scholarship Programme 2005 pose with the guests at the certificate giving ceremony in the city on Sunday.