

# Khulna people threaten to stop power bill payment

## Rally gives Aug 21 deadline to ensure smooth supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Braving rains, several thousand people marched streets of Khulna city and held a big rally yesterday, where civil society leaders urged the government to resolve the persisting power crisis in south-western region by August 21 and threatened of stopping bill payment for non-compliance.

The rally resolved that tougher agitation will be launched if specific steps are not taken for smooth power supply and to meet other demands of the people of south-western districts by the deadline.

Khulna Bidyut Adhikar Sangram Parishad (KBASP), a civic body

organised the programmes. Cross-sections of people from all the 31 wards of the city irrespective of political affiliations attended the programmes. The rally was held at the Shahid Maharaj square with Khulna Press Club president and a co-convenor of the Parishad Liaquat Ali in the chair.

It was conducted by Secretary Gof Gerater Khulna Development Co-ordination Action Committee (GKDCAC) Shaikh Ashrafuzzaman. The speakers included Khulna Citizens' Forum (KCF) President and freedom fighter Shaikh Abdul Qayyum, Principal Zafar Imam, Director of Rupantar (an NGO) Rafiqul Islam Khokon, Khulna Press

Club Secretary AK Hiru, Dainik Purbanchal journalist Ahmed Ali Khan, Co-Convenor of KBASP Kazi Wahiduzzaman, BNP leader Nazrul Islam Manju, Awami League leader and former lawmaker Sikander Ali Dalim and president of Khulna District Bar Association Mujibar Rahman.

The speakers threatened the government to stop payment of electricity bills if their ten-point demand including smooth power supply is not met immediately.

Load shedding has virtually crippled life and the economy in south-western districts but the government did not do anything during its tenure to solve it. Besides

students, it has badly affected all industries including shrimp processing units, which earn valuable foreign currency for the country, they said. Lives of patients are also threatened at hospitals due to load shedding, they added.

Liaquat Ali read out a declaration containing the 10-point demand which also include setting up of a power plant in Khulna.

People raised their hands and showed spontaneous support to any agitation programme to be taken up by the KBASP to realise the demands. After the rally, a big procession was brought out.

### Shibir activists confine college principal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Principal of Sylhet Government College Ataul Haque Lashkar was confined to his office for about two hours as Islami Chhatra Shibir activists locked his office to press their demand.

Yesterday was the last date for admission of 50 students to first year course from the waiting list.

The principal called leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir and informed them that each party will get 16 seats.

But Shibir men refused it asked for admission according to merit. As the principal did not agree to this, Shibir men put the principal's office under lock and key at about 11-45 am keeping him inside.

However, the principal withdrew his order at about 2 pm. Then JCD men escorted him out of office.



Principal of Sylhet Government College Ataul Haque Lashkar being escorted out of his office where he was confined for about two hours by Shibir activists yesterday.



Khulna Bidyut Adhikar Sangram Parishad brought out a procession and held a rally in the city yesterday demanding smooth power supply.

3X2

### 10 injured in BCL-JCD clash at Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

At least 10 students were injured as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) clashed over establishing supremacy at Khagrachhari Government College yesterday.

Police and college sources said the clash started at 11am when activists of both of the BCL and JCD brought out processions on the campus.

Four seriously injured were admitted to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

They are BCL activists Mohammad Al-Amin, 22, son of Mohammad Ibrahim, Mohammad Helal Uddin, 21, son of Abdus Salam and JCD activists Mohammad Asaduzzaman, 19, son of Abdul Khaleque and Linkon, 21, son of Shahidul Islam. Later, two BCL activists were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for better treatment, hospital sources said. Six others were released after first aid treatment.

Principal Bodhi Satya Dewan of the college confirmed the incident.

4X2

### 40 fishermen rescued in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

Forty fishermen were rescued by coast guards from the Bay of Bengal during an overnight rescue operation, coast guard sources said.

Earlier, five trawlers with 50 fishermen capsized in the Bay Thursday night.

The missing fishermen hailed from Moheshkhali, Teknaf, Chakaria and Pakua upazilas.

4X2

6X2

10X3

5X3

### Diploma engrs reject power co's pay scale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Diploma engineers of Power Development Board (PDB) working under the West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPDCL) have rejected the pay scale offered by the company, terming it discriminatory.

At a rally on WZPDCL office compound at Boyra on Thursday, they also urged the company to announce a new pay scale with more benefits.

A large number of diploma engineers working under WZPDCL in 21 districts of Khulna and Barisal divisions and greater Faridpur district attended the rally, chaired by Shukhan Roy, convenor of Khulna Regional Committee of PDB Diploma Engineer's Association (DEA).

They said they will paralyse WZPDCL if the recently announced pay scale is not cancelled and a new one with more financial benefits and job security is not announced.

5X4