

SUST REGISTRAR'S OFFICE BESIEGED AS PROTESTS CONTINUE

# Appointment committee's meet postponed again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The crisis at Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) has deepened and classes are not being held as the striking pro-opposition teachers are firm on their demand for removal of the Vice-chancellor.

The teachers laid a siege to the Registrar's office for an hour yesterday morning and held a rally there to press removal of VC Prof Musleh Uddin Ahmed and protest his bid for fresh recruitment of teachers, allegedly aimed at 'strengthening his group'. The rally was presided over by Dr. Akhtarul Islam.

In the face of protests, the authorities suspended yesterday's meeting of the appointment and promotion committee.

An official notice issued during the teachers' siege programme said the meeting was suspended due to 'unavoidable reasons'.

The postponement was announced at the striking teachers' rally by Proctor Sajedul Karim. Meanwhile, Prof Reza E Khondaker, a member of the appointment committee, resigned yesterday. He sent his resignation letter to the Registrar.

On the other hand, the SUST authorities' bid to resume university transport service from the city to the campus was foiled by opposition-aligned student parties.

The authorities, after a meeting with BNP-Jamaat backed teachers on Monday, decided to resume the transport service from yesterday. But vehicles did not ply as opposition backed Students' Action

Committee threatened to resist the move at any cost.

Transport Administrator Prof Habibur Rahman said, the service could not be resumed due to lack of security.

Earlier on July 23, the SUST authorities were compelled to suspend a scheduled meeting of the appointment and promotion committee as the pro-opposition teachers besieged the Registrar's office protesting fresh recruitment of teachers.

The pro-opposition teachers began an indefinite work abstention programme on August 23 demanding the VC's removal after some activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir allegedly misbehaved with some senior teachers earlier on the day. Since then, the teachers are also wearing

black badges.

The ruling alliance-backed teachers also took out a procession on the campus yesterday demanding immediate resumption of classes and restoration of normalcy on the campus.

The Students' Action Committee agitating for VC's withdrawal took out a procession from the city's Madina market area towards the campus. It was intercepted by police near the BDR gate on the Sylhet-Sunamganj road, about half a kilometer off the varsity gate.

They held a rally there with Sylhet city BCL Joint Convener Habibur Rahman Selim in the chair. Speakers at the rally said their agitation would continue till withdrawal of the VC.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

The 14-party opposition alliance holding rally at Alankar road intersection in Chittagong city on Monday on conclusion of its Chittagong divisional 'long march'.

# Hizbut Towhid regrouping

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Cadres of Hizbut Towhid, an Islamist militant outfit, are regrouping in remote areas of Tangail district.

They have resumed organisational activities and are recruiting members, intelligence sources said. Their number could be over 1,000 across the country. Tangail being its birthplace it may have a good number of activists, they said.

They are under watch and law enforcers will soon launch a drive to nab them and dismantle their dens, a source said. They had gone into hiding after the August 17 serial

bomb blasts across the country last year.

The organisation headed by Bayezid Khan Panni of Karotia started its activities in Bangladesh in 1991.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police in raids in different areas of the port city on the night of August 10 arrested seven Hizbut Towhid men including an engineer of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) and sales manager of a soft drink company.

Police also seized from them 200 leaflets and books, calling for establishing Islamic rule in the country through armed revolution.

During a primary interrogation the arrestees confessed to have been working for Hizbut Towhid in Chittagong for two years but denied having any link with outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Most of the armed activists of Hizbut Towhid hailed from Basail upazila in Tangail district, a senior police official in Tangail said seeking anonymity while talking to this correspondent.

"Hizbut Towhid recently recruited armed activists from different parts of the district including Bathulee Sadi, Kashi, Kamutia, Basail and adjacent villages in the

district", an intelligence official said.

They went into hiding after police arrested seven activists of the organisation from Chittagong recently, he added.

Maolana Abul Kalam Azad, an Imam of a mosque in Karotia, while talking to this correspondent said a good number of people including some educated persons from Karotia and adjacent areas joined Hizbut Towhid in last few months.

"A good number Hizbut Towhid men are active in all the 11 upazilas of the district. They are doing organisational activities secretly", he said.



PHOTO: STAR

The Lauhajong Nagarik Committee organised a token hunger strike at Daulatkhan ground in Lauhajong yesterday demanding immediate government steps to stop erosion by the Padma in the area.

# Rift in B'baria AL widens further as election nears

## Mudslinging starts as both factions claim themselves as 'genuine' partymen

SK SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

Two rival factions of Awami League here are now engaged in mudslinging over nomination for the coming election, further widening the intra-party rift.

The party is divided into two factions, one led by its district president Lutful-hi-Sachchu, vice-president Amanul Haque Sentu and general secretary Humayun Kabir.

The other group is led by vice-president Md Helal Uddin, joint secretary Maj (Retd) Md Zahirul Hoque Bir Pratik, publicity secretary Md Ashraful Imam Rana and RAM Obaidul Muktaadir alias Rabiul, who was private secretary to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The two rival factions have been holding party programmes separately for months, casting aspersions on leaders of either faction. The infighting has spread to workers level, frustrating most of them, party sources said.

At a party meeting on Sunday, district AL president Sachchu said that violating instructions of central leaders, some local AL leaders are separately working for Rabiul, who has no 'position' in the party as he is

still a government servant.

"Rabiul's activities are widening the rift in the party. He (Rabiul) is using party men to serve his personal interest".

On Saturday, Sachchu held a meeting to 'save the party from rift created by Rabiul'. The organisers called it a meeting of the district AL.

The meeting, presided over by the district AL president was addressed by all senior leaders including Sayed AKM Emdadul Bari, Mahiuddin Khan Masum, Nizamul Haque Khan, Taj Muhammad Yasin, ASM Yousuf, Nirad Baran Sahaji, Ramesh Ranjan Roy, Minar Alam, Anwar Khan, Md Zaydul Haque, Md Mohsin, Faruk Ahmed, Md Shahjahan, Mahbulul Alam Khakan, Md Lokman Hossain, Mobasser Ali Khadem, Shahana Khayer, Samina Mujib and Selina Chowdhury.

The other group headed by Rabiul and vice-president Helal also held another meeting in the town on the same day, saying their group is the 'genuine' district Awami League.

Vice-president Helal told the meeting that leaders of the rival

faction are 'agents of ruling party'. They should be identified and expelled, he said.

Rabiul has said that though Sachchu is district AL president, he is not following instructions of central leaders.

"Only we are following order of Sheikh Hasina and party rules. They are creating a rift in the party", Rabiul claimed.

On August 17, Rabiul along with some party men and members of Mahila Awami League held a mourning meeting at Zila Parishad auditorium under the banner of Mahila Awami League.

On information, district Mahila AL chairperson Minara Alam along with some others rushed to the meeting spot, tore the banner and snatched the microphone.

She asked them not to use the name Mahila Awami League. Since she is the chairperson of Mohila AL, there can not be any meeting without her consent, she said.

On August 15, the rival groups also held separate programmes in the town.

# 14 hurt as AL, BNP clash over 'fake' voter list

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least 14 people including and a local Union Parishad chairman were injured in a cash between Awami League and BNP supporters in Tangibari over cancellation of fake voters.

The clash ensued when the district election officer accompanied by Tangibari upazila election officer went to Mulchar in Tangibari upazila to investigate allegation of enrolment of 554 fake voters in the updated voter list.

The clash on the yard of Binoy Sadhu temple ensued when AL men opposed a demand by BNP men for deletion of names of the fake voters, police said.

The UP chairman injured in the clash was identified as Md Ariful Islam Haldar.

During the clash the election officials took shelter at the temporary army camp at Mulchar Government Primary School, set up for distribution of VGF (vulnerable group feeding) rice.

The clashing groups were led by Tangibari upazila AL president Zaglul Hasan and Digirpar union BNP president Waliullah Khan, witnesses said.

VGD RICE

# One killed in stampede

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

An old man was killed in a stampede while trying to take ice distributed under VGD cards in Kazipara in the district yesterday.

Eshak Ali, 55, came to Khashrazbari Union Parishad ground from Biswarigachha village with his VGD card for rice. At least 1500 others also gathered there.

Eshak fell on the ground in a melee and was trampled, police and locals said. Ill-fated Eshak lost his homestead due to erosion by the Jamuna a year ago, locals said.

# Hartal observed in Alamdanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A half-day hartal enforced by ruling BNP was observed in Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga district peacefully yesterday.

Alamdanga BNP called the hartal protesting bomb attack on upazila BNP general secretary Mojibur Rahman Monday night. Mozibar and party man Toaz were injured.

The bomber, Tutul, an alleged cadre of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), was also injured.

Police said Tutul hurled the bomb on Mozibur at Gobindapur when he along with Toaz was returning home from Chuadanga riding a motorcycle.

ATTEMPT ON TITO

# 2 Jubo League activists held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Police yesterday arrested two Jubo League activists in connection with attempt on former minister and Awami League (AL) leader Khaledur Rahman Tito.

The arrested are Taslu alias Bere Taslu, son of Mohammad Sheikh and Monir alias Hath Kata Monir of old Kashba area.

A police team led by town sub-inspector (TSI) Aminul Islam surrounded Taslu's house at night. Next morning, police arrested Taslu when he came out of his house. Later, he was taken to Kotwali Police Station.

In another raid conducted at noon, police arrested Monir from a sweepers' slum on the Airport Road in the town.



PHOTO: STAR

The new building of Toke Sorjubala Girls High School, constructed with assistance from International Angel Association, a Japanese NGO, was inaugurated at Kapasia in Gazipur district recently. Some Japanese officials of the NGO were also present at the simple function.

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