



People huddle at the outdoor of Suhrawardy Hospital in a long queue for tokens yesterday as staff observe two-hour work abstinence. PHOTO: STAR

TOKEN STRIKE AT SUHRAWARDY HOSPITAL Patients' suffering increases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Patients at Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in the city continued to suffer immensely as doctors, nurses, officials and staff of the hospital yesterday observed their two-hour abstinence from daily work for the second consecutive day.

programme earlier said they will announce a tougher movement today, at the end of their three-day work abstinence programme, if the authorities do not meet their demands that included arrest and punishment of those who beat up two nurses of the hospital on Wednesday night. Witnesses said hundreds of demonstrators barricaded the Mirpur

Road for about half an hour yesterday.

The blockade that started at 10:00am led to a few kilometres tailback on the road stretching from Asad Gate in the south and Kalyanpur in the north. Later, police removed them from the road.

Meanwhile, patients claimed that they have been suffering seriously for the last two days due to the work abstinence programme as doctors and nurses are only attending the emergency patients.

"I am not getting the medicines that I used to get from the hospital for the last few days. Moreover, doctors and nurses are not attending me regularly," Anwar Ali who was admitted to the hospital on August 9 with heart ailment told reporters.

Like Saturday, many patients were found leaving the hospital yesterday.

The patients also alleged that most of the operations scheduled for yesterday were not done due to the strike. Administrative activities also came to a halt at the hospital where sufficient policemen have been deployed to avert any unwanted incident.

Their other demands include construction of a boundary wall around the hospital, a permanent police camp on its premises and removal of the slum adjoining the hospital.

On Wednesday night, a group of students of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University beat up two staff nurses of emergency wing of the hospital - Abu Bakar Siddik and Raisuddin - for their refusal to give penicillin injection for a fellow student suffering from rheumatic fever. The nurses said they could not give such injection without a doctor's prescription.

Injured Abu Bakar was stated to be in a critical condition.

Help save Labib

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Committee for Treatment Assistance for Labib appealed to the generous people of the country to come forward with financial assistance to help save the life of 12-year-old Ahmad Hamim Labib.

At a press conference organised by the Committee at the auditorium of the Photo Journalists Association in the city yesterday, the speakers said the contributions of people could help Labib survive as the doctors prescribed him for bone marrow transplantation that would cost Tk 40 lakh.

Convener of the Committee Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, former president of Bangladesh National Cricket team Aminul Islam Bulbul, Member Secretary of the Committee Hasan Mortuza, Labib and his father Foyz Ahmad were also present at the press conference.

The little boy, who is studying in class five, was diagnosed blood cancer in 2000. He was cured after receiving chemotherapy and has been fine for three years. But the disease unfortunately attacked him again this year.

Labib is receiving treatment under Prof Dr MR Khan, head of the Department of Haematology in Dhaka Medical College and



Ahmad Hamim Labib and his father at the press conference. PHOTO: STAR

Hospital (DMCH). Condition of Labib is deteriorating day by day. It has become quite impossible for his parents, who are teachers by profession, to bear the expenses of his treatment as they have already spent Tk 15 lakh in this regard.

The Committee has raised Tk 10 lakh so far and needs Tk 30 lakh more to send him abroad for bone marrow transplantation.

Interested people may send their financial contributions to: Dr Eliza Momtaz, Accounts no22631, Janata Bank, DMCH Branch, Dhaka. Cell phone numbers are 01711149179, or 0156346800.

PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY Students agitate for recognition of physiotherapy department

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of a private university in the city yesterday urged the vice-chancellor to seek approval of the authorities concerned for its physiotherapy department.

They also protested harassments of students by the department chairman as well as by the members of the committee formed to probe the allegations.

At a press conference on the campus of People's University of Bangladesh, the students declared boycott of their classes demanding recognition of the department by the Medicine Faculty of Dhaka University.

"We will not be eligible for government jobs if our department is not recognised by Dhaka University," said a student requesting anonymity.

They also demanded removal of department chairman Dr Abdur Rahman who is reportedly threatening them for waging agitation against him.

A female student alleged that Dr Rahman has assaulted many female students and the probe committee is now asking them to prove their allegations.

"This is totally silly. Can a girl in our society speak to a male how she was assaulted by her teacher. Is it possible to prove the matter," she posed the questions.

After the press conference, the students brought out a procession.

When contacted, acting vice-chancellor Prof Aslam Bhuiyan told the reporters that the health ministry in a notification withdrew the order that made it mandatory to seek permission of the Medicine Faculty of Dhaka University for running a health science subject in any private university.

Besides, he said the university has approval of University Grants Commission and education ministry as well for running the subject.

The VC said the authorities would take action against Dr Rahman after receiving the probe committee report.

CPB calls for protection of rail service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday observed 'Rail Rakha Dibosh' (Day to protect rail).

"Save the rail, save the workers and enhance the commuters' facility" was the slogan of the day.

To mark the occasion, the CPB held programmes at different stations, junctions and workshops across the country.

Addressing a meeting at Kamlapur Railway Station, party President Monjurul Ahsan Khan said while other countries are expanding their railway services even beyond the domestic frontier, the Bangladesh government is rooting out the rail line.

Criticising the government's shrinking policy in rail sector, he said there were 58 thousand workers only a few months back, but now their number has been reduced to 34 thousand.

The CPB leaders alleged that in the name of privatisation as prescribed by the ADB the government is destroying the railway sector through widespread plunder.

CPB's Dhaka Committee President Abdul Quader, Secretary Mahabub Alam and member Morshed Ali also spoke on the occasion.

Develop yourselves as ideal citizens

DU VC urges students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Vice-chancellor (VC) of Dhaka University (DU) Prof SMA Faiz yesterday called upon students to develop themselves as ideal citizens of the country through concentrating on study.

He advised that students should participate in debate, sport, cultural programmes and other extracurricular activities along with academic studies.

The VC made the comments at a Freshers' Reception and Passing Out ceremony of Soil, Water and Environment Department of DU at Teacher-Student Centre yesterday.

Prof Faiz said "The nation is looking at you all with hope and you will have to meet their expectations."

Presided over by the Chair of the Department Prof SM Imamul Haq, the ceremony was also addressed by Dean of Faculty of Geology Prof Md Anwar Hossain, Prof Syed Fazle Elahi and students of the department.



BNP procession from Nayabazar to Gabtali celebrating its 28th founding anniversary creates unusual traffic jam causing immense suffering to the city dwellers yesterday. The picture was taken from Farmgate. PHOTO: STAR

Govt college teachers vow to continue strike

Refrain from work for second consecutive day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of government colleges under the banner of BCS General Education Association yesterday refrained from work for the second consecutive day and vowed to continue their six-day strike programme protesting the initiative to amend the Absorption Rules 2000.

The association alleged that the promotion of over ten thousand cadre services teachers recruited through the Public Service Commission (PSC) would suffer if the absorption rules were amended.

However, the examinations at various government colleges scheduled for this week will be held as usual during their programmes, association leaders said.

They cautioned the government against the amendment move and said

they would go for tougher agitation programmes if the government does not back down by September 7.

The government formulated an amendment proposal of the Absorption Rules 2000 to bring the non-cadre teachers of government colleges under a common government rule for members of the education cadre.

Education ministry has already sent the amendment proposal to the establishment ministry for approval.

The government has nationalised some non-government colleges where all of the teachers in those institutions were adopted as government employees and if the amendment to the Absorption Rules 2000 is passed, most of these adopted teachers will enjoy advantage by seniority over the teachers recruited through PSC, said Masum Rabbani Khan, secretary general of the association.

Masum told the Daily Star that they would declare an indefinite strike and shut down all colleges if the absorption rules are amended.

A total of 12,500 BCS cadre teachers at 271 government colleges in the country will lose seniority if the government brings changes in the Section 3, Article 9 of the Absorption Rules 2000, Masum clarified.

Government should recruit the adopted teachers through the PSC, he added.

College teachers from the BCS cadre services went on a 6-day strike from Saturday to press home their 8-point demands that includes creating more teaching positions, announcing permanent status to 3500 posts, ensuring due promotions and stopping turning colleges into universities.

'Fix minimum wage for RMG workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari (KN) expressed concern over the uncertainty to fix the minimum wage for the garment workers.

President of KN Shirin Akhter and General Secretary Sharmin Kabir in joint statement said despite passing of the deadline, there is no sign of implementing the tripartite agreement signed in June 12.

In the statement, the leaders said crisis in garment industry could not be resolved by hanging on the minimum wage at Tk 930 as the price of essentials has increased beyond common people's ability.

They urged the government to immediately fix the minimum wage without dilly-dallying and take initiative to implement all the agreements.