

# Striking Sust teachers announce fresh agitation

Sit-in in front of admin building Sept 6,7 for VC's withdrawal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

There is no sign of resolution of the crisis in Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), one month after its reopening.

The situation is getting worse as the authorities are not taking any step to end the stalemate while teachers announced a fresh agitation programme yesterday for withdrawal of the vice-chancellor.

The inquiry committee formed at a Syndicate meeting to probe the incident in which a student was killed in police firing could not start work in about one and a half months.

Left leaning teachers, now on an indefinite strike protesting harassment allegedly by some Shibir activists, at a meeting yesterday decided to stage day-long sit-in in front of the administrative building on September 6 and 7 to press their demand for 'withdrawal of the corrupt VC to save the university'.

The meeting was presided over by Dr Akhtarul Islam, former president of Sust Teachers Association. Students also formed a human chain at the central Shahid Minar in Sylhet city yesterday and held a rally there demanding resumption of academic activities.

The Samajtantrik Chhatra Front took out a procession from the Central Shahid Minar towards the Sust. Police intercepted it near the BDR Gate at Akhaila, about half a kilometer off the Sust.

Opposition-backed student bodies, who are agitating for withdrawal of the VC and other



SUST students formed a human chain in front of Sylhet Central Shahid Minar yesterday demanding resumption of classes. PHOTO: STAR

demands, yesterday took out a procession from the city's Medina Market area towards the campus.

As police stopped it near the BDR Gate, the processionists held a rally there, vowing to continue the agitation till withdrawal of the VC.

On Sunday, Sust Teachers Association handed over a memorandum to the VC to press its 4-point demand within three days.

The demands include promotion of teachers, hiring of a guest house for teachers in Dhaka city, and

transfer of services of some teachers to the government's revenue

head from development budget.

## HC rule on RU to explain controversial recruitment

RU CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has issued a notice on Rajshahi University authorities why its move for recruitment of teachers and other staff would not be declared 'illegal and annulled'.

A High Court Bench comprising Justice Syeed Dastagir Hossain and Justice Mamunur Rahman issued the notice on the vice-chancellor, pro-VC, Registrar, University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman and education secretary on August 31.

The notice followed a writ filed by jobseekers Abdus Shakur, Golam Mostafa, Motahar Hossain, Sahin Uddin and Gias Uddin.

When asked RU Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain said he knew about the HC notice but was yet to receive a copy.

Campus sources said the university authorities were processing recruitment of 350 class III and class IV employees allegedly on political consideration.

## JMB bomber Saifullah produced in Nilphamari court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Jamaatul Mujahidin, Bangladesh (JMB) Sura member Faruk Hosen Khan alias Khalid Saifullah, sentenced to death for killing two judges in Jhalakathi, was produced before a court in Nilphamari yesterday.

Amid tight security by Rab and police, Saifullah was produced before the court of District and Sessions Judge Rabiul Hasan in a case filed under the Explosives Act in connection with recovery of explosives in Saidpur in February.

Nine others, arrested during the recovery, were also produced before the court from Nilphamari Jail.

Saifullah is the main accused in the case.

Judge Rabiul Hasan transferred the case to the court of Assistant Session Judge Shamsuzzaman.

August 15 has been fixed for the next hearing.

After the hearing, Saifullah was taken out of Nilphamari amid tight security.

## BNP-Jamaat demands party quota in Ruet jobs

VC given 7-day deadline

RU CORRESPONDENT

Some ward commissioners of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), joined by local leaders and workers of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday demanded 'party quota' in jobs in Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet).

Ruet Vice-chancellor Prof ANM Anwarul Haque become sick as the demonstrators allegedly exchanged words with him in a noisy atmosphere, campus sources said. He was instantly shifted to his residence in a microbus.

The sources said that at around 11.30 am, over 100 activists of BNP, its youth front Juba Dal and Jamaat, led by RCC ward commissioners Alamgir Hossain, Tariqul Islam Palto, Azab Ali and Monwara Begum gath-

ered in front of Ruet administrative building. The demonstrators included BNP leaders Khazder Ali and Bakul.

Without caring for official formalities, the RCC commissioners and BNP leaders forcibly entered the VC's office and asked him, "Why are you not appointing local BNP men in vacant posts in your university?"

They cautioned him saying, "You are posted here (Ruet) due to blessings of the ruling party."

They demanded of the VC appointment of party men on *ad hoc* basis before end of tenure of four-party alliance government, the sources said.

They gave the VC a seven-day deadline saying, "If you fail to recruit them (in class III and IV posts) the university will face a deadlock".

Amid exchange of words, the VC

felt sick and was rushed to his residence. The demonstrators then left the spot.

Hours later, the VC again came to office but officials there did not allow newsmen to talk to him. On behalf of the VC, Ruet Public Relations Officer Golam Murtuza said, "Such incident is nothing new in the university."

Several months ago, activists of the political parties under the banner of a Local Interest Protection Committee vandalised some Ruet offices on the same demand, campus sources said.

After yesterday's incident, teachers, students and staff of the university met with the VC and assured him that they would guard against such incidents in future.

## People will foil 'election engineering', Hasina says

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Awami League (AL) chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina said here yesterday the Four-party Alliance has finalised a blueprint to descend to power in the next general election by means of vote rigging but the 14-party Combine will foil the conspiracy at any cost.

Hasina was addressing a roadside meeting at the Janata Bank intersection in Gobindaganj here yesterday while on her way to Phulbari in Dinajpur. Gobindaganj Upazila AL president Tozammel Huq Prodhan presided the meeting.

AL chief said so-called uncompromising leader Khaleda Zia has compromised with her husband's killer Ershad just to clinch to power. As a consequence, Ershad is being released from the corruption cases one after another, she said. As the prime minister has no confidence on people, so she extended her hands with autocratic Ershad, she

said. The Alliance government has formed a puppet Election Commission (EC) just to bring the polls result in their favour, but the 14-party Combine would resist such move, Hasina said.

Hasina said the Khaleda-Nizami Government is patronising Islamic militants and using them in own interest. The ruling Alliance announced death sentence to kingpins of militants so that they do not disclose names of their patronisers, she said.

AL general secretary Abdul Jalil, in his address, said no election would be held in the country unless reforms in the caretaker system of government and EC. He said if the Alliance Government refuses to meet the demands, those will be realised through non-cooperation movement during the next Caretaker Government's tenure.

Among others, central leaders Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Mirza Azam, Jahangir Kabir Nanonk, Advocate Fazley Rabbi, Pankaj Dev Nath and Mahmud Hasan

Ripon addressed.

Earlier, at a similar meeting held at Mitidali intersection on the outskirts of Bogra town, Hasina said price of rice came down to Tk 10 per kg while prices of other commodities were within reach of common people when her party was in power. Rice price increased from Tk 10 to 20 per kilogram as soon as the Four-party Alliance came to power, she said.

She alleged that BNP leaders were involved in corruption at the same time the government party rehabilitating the corrupt persons.

Bogra AL president Momtaj Uddin presided the meeting.

Among others, 14-party Combine leaders Abdul Jalil, Motia Chowdhury Hasanul Haque Inu, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Mostafa Zaman Mohiuddin, Zahangir Kabir Nanak Mirza Azam MP, Pankaj Devnath, Mohamudul Hasan, Abdul Mannan, Saleha Sultana, Shahadat Alam Zhunu, Sagar Kumar Roy and Haider Ali addressed.

## OPPOSITION'S BARISAL DIVISIONAL 'ROAD MARCH' TODAY

# Farcical polls without opposition being planned, Menon tells rallies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said the ruling 4-party alliance government is planning a 'farcical' election to retain power.

With this end in view, they have appointed another 'partisan election commissioner', he said while addressing several rallies in Babaganj, organised to make the 14-party opposition alliance's 'road march' to Barisal divisional city

today a success. The road march is aimed at mobilising public support in favour of opposition's demand for reform of the caretaker system and the Election Commission for holding a fair election.

Menon appointment of another election commissioner disregarding opposition's opinion indicates that the parties in power are planning to hold the coming election without participation of opposition parties.

Their dream will not come true as

the opposition demand has become people's demand, he said.

They want to retain power anyhow because they know people will not vote them and try them after the election for their misdeeds and corruption, the Workers Party leaders said.

He reiterated opposition parties' stance that there will be no election without the proposed reforms.

Menon said a section of traders belonging to the ruling parties have created a syndicate and raised prices of essentials by creating

artificial crisis ahead of the Ramadan but the government is not taking any step.

Farmers will begin agitation soon as a fertiliser crisis is being created, he said.

Local leaders of Awami League also addressed the rallies.

Today's road march will be led by Menon, Awami League leaders Abdul Jalil, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed, JSD leaders Hasanul Huq Inu and Bimal Biswas and other opposition leaders.

## Road barricade in Ctg if reforms not made: Mohiuddin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Chittagong City Mayor and Awami League leader ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday threatened to enforce a road barricade programme in Chittagong division of the demand for reforms of caretaker system and Election Commission is not accepted.

He was addressing a public meeting at Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar.

Mohiuddin said the reforms are now people's demands and they will realise those anyhow.

The parties in power are not fulfilling the demands as they know they will lose the coming election if held without reforms, he said.

He bitterly criticised the appointment of another election commissioner.

He ridiculed the government saying, it has made the Election Commission more controversial by appointing yet another election

commissioner while the opposition is demanding its reforms.

"This only proves they are going ahead with an election engineering plan, ignoring people's demand", he said.

Mayor said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government in last five years killed a number of veteran opposition leaders and intellectuals including former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, Ivy Rahman, Ahsanullah Master, journalist Manik Shaha, Humayun Kabir Balu, Dr Humayun Azad, Rajshahi University teacher Prof Taher. All these are aimed creating anarchy in the country to secure power, Mohiuddin said.

Cox's Bazar district AL president Mohammed Ali, secretary Secretary Shalauddin Ahamed CIP, former MP Mostaque Ahmed Chowdhury, district AL vice-president Shahabuddin Ahamed, joint secretary Shirajul Mostafa, former chairman of Cox's Bazar poureshova Nurul Absar also addressed the rally.

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# 10X3



Awami League Leader and Mayor of Chittagong ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury addressing a public meeting at Teknaf yesterday. PHOTO: STAR