

SEVEN-DAY DEADLINE

IU VC asked to give jobs to 150 JCD men or quit

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Jatitabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student front of ruling BNP, yesterday gave the Islamic University vice-chancellor a seven-day deadline to recruit their 150 men or quit.

Before giving the deadline, JCD activists confined VC Prof Fayez Mohammad Serajul Haque to his residence for about an hour and held back all transports carrying students, teachers, officials and staff to the campus.

Campus sources said at least 50 JCD men led by its IU unit president Mominur Rahman and general secretary Humayun Kabir Firaz went to meet to the VC at around 1.55pm, just five minutes before end of office hours.

The VC sent a message to JCD men that he was tired and hungry and would meet them after launch.

This angered the JCD men. They shouted at the VC and threatened of 'dire consequence'.

They then stopped all transports from leaving the campus when students, teachers, officers and staff

were boarding vehicles to return to their residences in Kushtia town or Jhenidah.

Hearing the blusters, the VC called the JCD men to his residence and asked them to allow transports leave the campus. They released the transports and went to the VC's residence.

Sources said the JCD men asked the VC to make ad-hoc appointments of about 150 JCD activists and leaders to university jobs hurriedly as the government's tenure expires within weeks.

But the VC declined to do anything regarding appointment at the fag end of the government's tenure as this may raise questions later.

The JCD men then raised slogans against the VC and allegedly hurled abuses at him.

University proctors and higher officials rushed to the spot to calm down the JCD activists.

They then gave the VC a seven-day deadline to accept their demand or to face 'dire consequence'.

After the incident, the VC left the campus. Till about 5:30 pm, this

correspondent tried to trace him for his comment but he was not available anywhere on the campus.

The Islamic University appointed 336 people in posts of teachers, officials and other staff since the alliance government came to power. All the appointees were men of BNP and Jamaat, the sources said.

The appointments created a heavy pressure on the university's budget, they claimed.

A writ filed against the appointments is pending with the High Court.

Earlier on May 22, JCD men vandalised 23 transports and damaged about Tk 2 crore property of the university as the then VC Prof Rafiqul Islam declined to appoint their men in different posts. Prof. Rafiqul resigned on July 20 this year. Prof. Prof Fayez Mohammad Serajul Haque joined on August 4.

The university remained closed for about five months following unwanted incidents over appointment.



Teachers of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) in Sylhet demanding removal of the vice-chancellor and their rivals opposing the demand stage sit-in at a close distance in front of the administrative building while students agitating for resumption of classes block the main gate (right) yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Hartal in Kalaroa today to protest journo murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Kalaroa Upazila Reporters' Club has called a six-hour hartal in Kalaroa upazila town today protesting killing of journalist Belal Hossain and demanding arrest and punishment to his killers.

The journalist leaders called upon the people to make the hartal from 6 am to 12 noon a success.

Earlier, people and journalists jointly brought out a procession in the upazila headquarters on Sunday. Processionists paraded the main streets of the town and formed a human chain in front of the Upazila Parishad. A meeting was held there with Reporters' Club

president Azadur Rahman Khan Chowdhury in the chair.

Speakers demanded immediate arrest and punishment to killers alleging that they belong to ruling BNP and Jamaat. They threatened a tougher agitation if their demand is not met within a week.

Meanwhile, Ainan Dafadar, elder brother of the slain journalist and Union Parishad (UP) member alleged that the killers are threatening him to withdraw the case or 'face the dire consequences'. He filed a case with Kalaroa Police Station accusing 13 local BNP and Jamaat leaders.

Woman killed in road accident

UNB, Comilla

A woman was killed and her granddaughter injured critically as a truck hit them at Chandina bus stand on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Saleha Begum, 52, a field worker of Family Planning Department.

Police said when Saleha along with her granddaughter Sharmin, 8, was waiting for a bus for going to her working place when a Dhaka-bound truck knocked them down, killing Saleha on the spot.

Sharmin was rushed to hospital in a critical condition. Police seized the truck.

Angry people blocked the highway for some time. Police intervened and cleared the road for traffic.

HOSSAIN SERAJ, back from Jhenidah

Ruling coalition partners BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami are at logger heads over fielding candidate in Jhenidah-3 constituency in the coming election, sources said.

The dispute between the partners widened after Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia at a public meeting at Maheshpur upazila headquarters on September 6 announced incumbent BNP lawmaker Shahidul Islam Master as alliance candidate from the constituency.

Local Jamaat leaders claimed that Nizami may vent anger on the decision and even declare their party candidate for the constituency for the coming election. Their likely candidate is Jhenidah district Jamaat leader Prof Matiur Rahman, party sources said.

They said they will mobilise at least one lakh people at the meeting to show their strength and make alliance leaders understand that 4-party alliance should change its candidate to regain the seat in next election.



Shahidul Islam MP

to convince Jamaat supporters to vote him as he (Shahidul) has created a rift between Jamaat and BNP activists in the area, he said.

Talking to this correspondent, some Jamaat leaders in Maheshpur upazila alleged that they were not properly treated and were sidelined in all development activities in the area. Besides, Khaleda declared Shahidul as 4-party candidate without consulting Jamaat, they alleged.

"We discussed the matter with our central leaders and have already launched campaign for Prof Matiur", said Maheshpur upazila Jamaat secretary Enamuzzahir.

Prof Matiur Rahman also claimed, "If the coalition intends to regain seat, there is no alternative to nominating Jamaat candidate".

Maheshpur upazila BNP organising secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed however claimed that there is no dispute between BNP and Jamaat.

"Four-party alliance candidate from Jhenidah-3 has already been declared by our leader Khaleda Zia and Jamaat is bound to abide by the decision", he said.



Prof Matiur Rahman

to convince Jamaat supporters to vote him as he (Shahidul) has created a rift between Jamaat and BNP activists in the area, he said.

Talking to this correspondent, some Jamaat leaders in Maheshpur upazila alleged that they were not properly treated and were sidelined in all development activities in the area. Besides, Khaleda declared Shahidul as 4-party candidate without consulting Jamaat, they alleged.

"We discussed the matter with our central leaders and have already launched campaign for Prof Matiur", said Maheshpur upazila Jamaat secretary Enamuzzahir.

Prof Matiur Rahman also claimed, "If the coalition intends to regain seat, there is no alternative to nominating Jamaat candidate".

Maheshpur upazila BNP organising secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed however claimed that there is no dispute between BNP and Jamaat.

"Four-party alliance candidate from Jhenidah-3 has already been declared by our leader Khaleda Zia and Jamaat is bound to abide by the decision", he said.

Tipaimukh dam will create disaster in Bangladesh, India

Seminar in Sylhet told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a seminar in Sylhet yesterday called for raising protests against the planned Tipaimukh dam in Manipur in India as it would cause a disaster in Meghna basin areas in Bangladesh due to withdrawal of Barak river waters.

The move by the Indian government has been protested by people in Manipur, Mizoram and Assam, particularly by the indigenous people, they said.

M Anwar of Action Aid; Engineer Muhammad Hilal Uddin, Chief Director of Angikar, Bangladesh and barrister Raihan Khalid of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) read out three papers at the seminar highlighting the possible affects of the mega project in Bangladesh and India.

Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) was the chief guest while Mahfuz Ullah, Chief Executive of the Centre for Sustainable Development, was the moderator.

Besides NGO executives, journalists, experts and local elite took part in the seminar held at Zila Parishad auditorium.

The Tipaimukh dam will create a man-made disaster for parts of Bangladesh and India they said and called for raising protests against it.

People in the Indian states already observed 'bandh' (strike) against the project as it would affect the ecology there.

In Bangladesh the proposed

dam will trigger off a desertification process in greater Sylhet region, they said.

The Indian government plans to construct the project on Barak river at a common border of the three Indian states. The river enters into Bangladesh as Surma and Kushiara.

The dam will be another Farakka for Bangladesh, they said.

It will affect at least 40,000 aborigines in the three Indian states, where some 25 peoples' forums have been formed to protest the move, they said.

Workshop for journalists begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A two-day workshop on Challenges of Reporting Poverty began at Khulna Press Club VIP Auditorium yesterday.

The workshop was jointly organised by Change Makers, a human rights organisation and Bangladesh country office of Panos South Asia.

Panos Bangladesh project officer SM Moinuddin Ahmed presented the key-note paper.

Thirty journalists of print and electronic media attended the workshop.

Kansat 'hero' may seek ticket, stages 'grand rally' today

ANWAR ALLI, from Kansat, Chapainawabganj

Kansat Pally Biddiut Unnayan Sangram Parishad (PBUSP) will hold a 'grand rally' at Kansat Rajbari ground today.

Oikya Mancha leader Dr Kamal Hossain will attend the rally as chief guest.

Barrister Amirul Islam, ZI Khan Panna, Abul Kashem and left leaders Pankaj Bhattachariya and Fazle Hossain Badsha are likely to be present.

At the rally, Sangram Parishad convenor Golam Rabbani may formally announce his solidarity with the opposition movement for electoral reforms, sources said.

They said Rabbani, who led the

agitation in Kansat for smooth power supply, may join the Oikya Mancha and seek nomination from Shibganj (Chapainawabganj-1) constituency to contest in the coming election.

"We will strengthen the movement under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina as the ruling alliance failed to ensure people's right", he told the Daily Star.

"Dr Kamal might tell something on it at the grand rally", he said on his intention to seek nomination.

Rabbani met Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on September 14.

Local political circles said Rabbani's joining politics will have an impact in the coming election in the constituency.

Zahir Chowdhury, joint convener of PBUSP, claimed that Rabbani could be a challenge for incumbent BNP lawmaker Shahjahan Miah.

Shahjahan Miah however said he is being elected since 1975 and Rabbani would not create any difference for him in the coming polls also.

Local Jamaat leader Obaidur Rahman said Rabbani may be popular in only five unions out of total 19 unions in Shibganj upazila.

Awami League ticket aspirant Brig (ret'd) Enamul Haque said he is yet unaware whether Rabbani would seek 14-party nomination.

10x2

8x3

6x3