

Varsity officials go on strike from Jan 17

By Masud Arif

Some 1,000 administrative officials of seven universities in the country will observe a 13-day strike from January 17 demanding implementation of their demands.

The demands are higher pay scale for them and inclusion of the officers' representatives in the University Senate, the Syndicate, the Finance Committee and the Academic Council in all universities of the country.

The Bangladesh Inter-University Officers' Federation at a meeting recently also decided to boycott examinations and keep the libraries closed during the last five days of the 13-day strike, according to sources.

The administrative officers earlier observed a ten-day strike from December 18 last.

The federation leaders would

Lawyers' conference

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Nazmul Huda, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sirkar, member-secretary of the Forum Abdul Wadud Khandker, Ziaur Rahman Khan, MP and representatives from the five divisions of the country.

The Prime Minister said, "We have restored democracy in the country and now we are trying to establish the rule of law. The lawyers have always played a constructive role in the struggle for democracy".

She informed the audience that a bill to separate the judiciary from the administration was now under scrutiny. Efforts are also on to amend the laws, formulated during the colonial period.

The people have lost confidence in the country's judiciary. It's the lawyers who can help restore the confidence and can also help the courts in quick dispensation of justice," she pointed out.

She announced that an academy would be set up for training of the lawyers to standardise the legal practice in the country.

In order to clear off pending cases in different courts, she also announced that more judges, at all levels, will be appointed shortly.

"In addition, we have sanctioned money for the purchase of books for the Bar libraries across the country," she said.

Criticising the role of a section of lawyers, the Prime Minister said, "There are some lawyers who are creating confusion by misinterpreting the constitution. The nationalist lawyers should resist them."

Speaking on the occasion, Mirza Golam Hafiz said: "We need good lawyers to ensure the rule of law."

At the initiative of the government, some two lakh twenty three thousand pending cases, mostly in Dhaka district, have been disposed of, he said.

He said, the government had improved the service conditions of the judges, increased the pay scales of the Sub-Judges and

meet the Education Secretary tomorrow (January 11) and the Education Minister within a couple of days to discuss the implementation of their demands.

Some leaders of the Dhaka University Officers' Association, talking to this correspondent, said a high-powered committee of the government had already recommended implementation of their demands. But the demands had not yet been fulfilled, the leaders added.

The administrative officers of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Jahangirnagar, BUET, Islamic and Agricultural universities have been agitating for the last six years for the implementation of their demands. The officers on several occasions observed strikes for over 20 days last year.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia waving to the audience during a public meeting at Nazipur in Naogaon yesterday.

— PID photo

JMB foundation

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constructing the much-expect Jumuna Multi-purpose Bridge, a milestone in the development of the country's communications network. Begum Zia said with the beginning of the construction work tens of thousand would get jobs there.

Communications Minister Md. Ahmed, State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq, Alamgir Kabir MP, Shamsuddin Ahmed MP, Akbar Hamid Siddiqi MP, Roads Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, Local BNP leaders Abdur Rouf Mannan, Begum Surjya also spoke. Local BNP leader Abu Taher Minu presided.

Hanif to turn DCC into a welfare centre

Awami League mayor candidate Mohammad Hanif yesterday promised that, if elected, he would cut spending on unproductive sectors and turn the Dhaka city corporation into a welfare centre, reports UNB.

"It is possible to run the city corporation in a planned way without imposing fresh taxes in next five years," Hanif told crowds during his electioneering in Ramma and Lalbagh areas.

He said the city corporation had been made a white elephant. The wastage of money must be reduced to engage the corporation for the well-being of the city dwellers, he told election rallies during the campaign.

City Awami League general secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Akhtarpur Alam, Foizuddin Mia and local commissioner candidates joined the electioneering.

Police said the clash erupted at around 3 pm when a group of villagers attacked Damdama-2 refugee camp in a bid to snatch away Mirhajuddin Prokash alias Miranga, an inmate of the camp.

The refugees of the camp put up resistance against the attacking villagers.

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 11: At least 10 villagers were injured during a clash with the Ansars near Damdama-2 Rohingya refugee camp in Teknaf thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Police said the clash erupted at around 3 pm when a group of villagers attacked Damdama-2 refugee camp in a bid to snatch away Mirhajuddin Prokash alias Miranga, an inmate of the camp.

The refugees of the camp put up resistance against the attacking villagers.

Mostafiz said the next SAARC summit is expected to take place in India towards the end of this year.

Import list

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the locally produced ones.

Industrial entrepreneurs, in this regard cited the example of the fluorescent light factories which are facing serious problems.

They said the country's three fluorescent light industries — one in the public sector and two in private ownership — can meet country's annual requirement of 20 lakh tube lights. But the ban on import of tube lights was withdrawn last April and since then imported lights have flooded the country.

These imported tube lights, mostly from India, are cheap because the duty and taxes are comparatively lower than those on the locally produced ones," said an entrepreneur. He mentioned that huge stocks of finished products are lying unsold in the tube light factories, which have already reduced their production substantially.

But although the prices of the local products have also been reduced, yet these are unable to compete with the imported lights, he said, claiming that the quality of the locally produced lights are better than the imported ones.

Local ceiling fan and electric switch manufacturers are also facing similar situations.

Explaining various aspects of human rights, Mostafiz said: "External interest in the matter of human rights, without proper understanding of the national factors of history and culture, can cause considerable misunderstanding in the public's mind in a free society."

Referring to the incident at Naniarchar in Rangamati hill district that claimed 12 lives, the Foreign Minister told the envoys "we are awaiting the official report of the commission" headed by Justice Habibur Rahman.

On the outcome of the 13th meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Dhaka early last month, he said the Ministers

had specially the ready-made garments of Bangladesh were facing serious problems of market access in some major markets.

These market access problems are directly related to unfair quota restrictions, he said, adding, "our hopes for export led growth are being frustrated."

He said that Bangladesh hoped that its trading partners would fully honour the special concessions it (Bangladesh) had been given as a least developed country under the Uruguay Round agreement.

The Foreign Minister stressed the need for better addressing of fundamental aspects of human rights by creating a democratic polity, establishing the rule of law, an independent judiciary and fair opportunities for all segments of the population".

He called for a collective response to curb terrorism and insurgency anywhere in the world.

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The seventh summit meeting in Dhaka in April, 1993, marked the completion of the first cycle of summits and beginning of the second", he added.

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Justice Chowdhury

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1948, and a signatory to the historic Language Agreement, signed on March 15, 1948.

The then Chief Minister Khwaja Nazimuddin was also a signatory.

Justice Chowdhury was an excellent debater, who had led the Dhaka University debating team against Oxford University in 1949. He also led the Pakistani youth delegation in the Asian Youth Conference in 1948, and also in Washington in 1955.

A leading Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chowdhury was the first Bengali to be elected as the general secretary of the All Pakistan Bar Council, and vice president of the Dhaka High Court Bar.

He was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in 1973, and held the post till 1983. He was also the chairman of the Bangla Academy. Justice Chowdhury was the founder president of the International Human Rights

— PID photo

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