

Empty pockets put pressure on DU hall students

By DU Correspondent

The resident students of the Dhaka University are passing hard times as they are now running short of money due to the Opposition's indefinite non-cooperation programme.

The crisis emerged following the closure of some canteens in the residential halls and price-hike at others which are still kept open, students said.

In some dining halls meal charge has gone up by one to two taka without prior notification while in some other cases the quality of food has fallen despite raise in price, students alleged.

The main dining hall of Zahurul Haq Hall was closed few days after the non-cooperation started, while price was increased in the two others by two taka, a student of the hall disclosed.

The canteen of Sir A F Rahman Hall was closed while the price rate at Mohsin, Bangabandhu and SM Hall dining halls was up by two taka, the students alleged.

Talking to The Daily Star some residents of different halls said that most of the students did not have enough money on them as they were not receiving any money from their parents in different parts of the country.

Besides, it was also reported that the banks on the DU campus were refusing cheques. The resident students of the university usually receive their money from home through money order and bank accounts.

"It has become difficult to run the canteen due to the price hike of essentials," said a canteen manager of a residential hall who had already shut down his shop.

Another manager said that they might shut their one if the political crisis continues.

UNB adds: Resident students of Dhaka University have expressed resentment at the inadequate financial assistance granted to them by the authorities in view of the drying up of their supply line from home due to current non-cooperation movement.

The authorities have sanctioned Tk 200 as loan for an individual student totalling Tk 10,000 for each hall. The amount is far from adequate to meet requirements of students residing in halls.

Besides, Tk 10,000 can cover only 50 students if the amount is distributed on the basis of Tk 200 for each.

The students, therefore, requested the authorities to pay for their mess bill until they receive money from home.

In the event of the authority's failure to meet their requirement, the authorities must provide them transports to enable them to get back home, they said.

Earlier, on March 21, the students submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor to help ease their problem either by providing them with money or food on credit through dining halls to help them avert their difficulties.



Artistes of the Sammlita Sangskritik Jote presenting songs at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Nari Samaj programme on March 26

Sommlita Nari Samaj will celebrate the 25th anniversary of independence by organizing a discussion and cultural function today at Art Institutes 'bakul tola' at 10 am. The function will be participated by leading artistes and academicians, says a press release.

Lankan IGP meets Shahjahan

The visiting Sri Lankan Inspector General of Police, WB Rajaguru, yesterday called on Inspector General of Police ASM Shahjahan at the police headquarters here, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest on crime control, prevention of drug trafficking and international terrorism and strengthening cooperation between the police forces of the two countries, a press release of police headquarters said.

The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh SB Atugoda was present on the occasion. Additional inspectors general of police and other senior police officers of police headquarters were also present.

New committee

A 101-member national committee for celebration of 25th anniversary of independence has been formed with Dr Mahububullah and Amanullah Kabir as convener and member-secretary respectively, reports BSS.

Pharmaceutical assoc executives

Salman F Rahman and Dr Momenul Huq have been re-elected as the president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries for the year '96-97.

They were elected at the annual general meeting of the association held at its conference room on Sunday last.

The other office bearers are: Samson H Chowdhury and Mian Abdullah Wazed vice presidents and SM Shafiquzzaman - treasurer.

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More world leaders greet Biswas

Heads of states and governments felicitated President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the Independence Day, report agencies.

President Farook Ahmad Khan Leghari of Pakistan felicitated Bangladesh Prime Minister Abdur Rahman Biswas on the occasion of the Independence Day of Bangladesh.

In a message, Leghari conveyed warmest felicitations to the government and the people of Bangladesh and expressed his best wishes for its continued progress and prosperity.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in a separate message, hoped that the relation between the two countries will contribute to the peace and stability in the region.

"I look forward to further strengthening of the ties of close friendship, cooperation and understanding that link our two brotherly countries."

King of Spain Juan Carlos, President of Egypt Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of Syria Hafez Al-Assad and the President of Mali Alpha Qumar Konare, have sent separate messages to President Biswas on the happy occasion.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin has congratulated President Abdur Rahman Biswas on the occasion of the 25th Independence and national day of Bangladesh.

Messages have been received from the countries: People's Republic of China, Uzbekistan, Maldives, India, Singapore, Brazil, Iran, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Romania, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Italy, Turkey, Libya, Australia, Belgium, USA and Russian Federation.

Programmes on World Theatre Day

The Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation have organised a rally of the theatre workers which will start from Mahila Samity at 4 pm.

In the evening, after a reunion of the theatre workers at the Institute of Fine Arts playwright Abdullah Al-Mannun will deliver a speech on "Transformation of Play Writing in Bangladesh."

BCL (S-P) iterates call for PM's resignation

By DU Correspondent Bangladesh Chhatra League the student wing of the Bangladesh Awami League has again urged Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down.

"Otherwise, you will be lost into oblivion having the same fate as of fallen autocrat," the BCL leaders said at a rally held in front of the Fisheries Bhaban yesterday.

Earlier BCL brought out a procession in support yesterday dawn-to-dusk hartal called by Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif protesting the unprovoked police attack on the mass sit-in programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The rally was addressed by Enamul Haq Shamim, Ishaque Ali Khan Panna, Afzal Babu, Ajoy Kor Khokon and Bahadur Bepari.

The student leaders said that the ongoing democratic movement by the people could not be stopped using armed forces as it was failed in 1952, 69 and 71.

The student community would not leave the street until the fall of 'illegal' government," the BCL leaders said.

Restore four state principles: CPB

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday urged the people to work restoration of the four state principles — nationalism, democracy, secularism and socialism — that guided the War of Liberation in the year 1971, reports BSS.

In a statement Shahidullah Chowdhury and Mujahidul Islam Selim, president and general secretary respectively of the organisation, called upon the people to observe the silver jubilee celebrations of the nationhood in a befitting manner and exhorted them to contribute towards the resurgence of spirit of the War of Liberation.

The CPB leaders said the Liberation War was the greatest achievement of the Bengalee nation but very essence of the war was largely distorted during the last two decades.

The party programmes today in celebrations of the silver jubilee of independence include hoisting of the national flag at the party office at 7 am and placing of floral wreaths at the Jatiya Shaheed Smriti Shoudha, Savar, at 8 am.

Another party press release said that the CPB will hold a rally tomorrow, at 4 pm at the Purana Paltan crossing demanding immediate elections under a neutral government.

Siraj clarifies stand on Ctg port issue

State Minister for Shipping Shahjahan Siraj yesterday categorically said that he did not make any interference in overcoming the deadlock in the Chittagong Port, reports BSS.

In a statement Siraj expressed his surprise and described the report of his interference in a section of press as false, baseless and misleading.

Clarifying his stand he said he sought active cooperation of the leaders of all sections and at the same time advised the authorities of Chittagong Port as well as the chairman of the port to seek the cooperation of all concerned to resume the operation of the port.

In this connection Siraj pointed out that in a letter to the chairman of the port on March 23 he advised him to take steps to resume the operation of the port with the active cooperation of all. In that letter he also gave his own opinions, he added.

In this backdrop certain decisions were taken at a meeting held Sunday between the port authorities and opposition political parties regarding the operation of the port. But a copy of the decisions has not yet been sent to him. Yet, it was published in newspapers that the minister has instructed the chairman of the port over telephone not to sign the agreement concluded with the opposition parties, which he maintained, is not at all correct.

FEMA activities deplored

Bangladesh Chhatra Union yesterday said the formation of the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) in the name of observation of the election is nothing but the ill design of the NGOs to interfere in the national politics, reports UNB.

In a joint statement Chhatra Union president Kazi Sazzad Zhai Chandon and general secretary Aslam Khan said the election is a part of the politics and the well intention of the political parties is enough to hold a free and fair election.

"In the parliamentary system there is no such system to count the ballots side by side the Election Commission in the world," they said.

Advertisement for 'স্বাধীনতার রক্ত-জয়ন্তী দিবসে' (Independence Day) featuring 'আসুন দেখুন মুক্তিযুদ্ধ জাদুঘর' (Let's see the Liberation War Museum) with dates and location.

JCD urges opposition to sit across table

By DU Correspondent Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling BNP has urged the opposition parties to sit across the table and call off their non-cooperation programme for a peaceful solution of the present political crisis.

JCD brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday and then held a rally in front of the DUCSU building. The JCD rally was addressed by Moniruzzaman Monir, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny, Monwar Hossain Rana, Shabuddin Laitu, Nasur Uddin Asim and Zakir Ahmed Bablu.

JCD leaders said that the Awami League was collaborating with Jatiya Party and Jamaat to destroy the hard-earned democracy.

Call for trial of war criminals

By Staff Correspondent Odhikar, a coalition for human rights, in a statement on the eve of the country's Independence Day demanded trial of the war criminals in Bangladesh under the International Crimes (tribunals) Act, 1973.

It also urged people from all walks of life to raise consciousness for holding trial of the war criminals.

Rotary meet tomorrow

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held at the Sonargaon Hotel at 5:30 pm tomorrow, says a press release.

Advertisement for 'অগ্রগতি ও নিরাপত্তার প্রতীক' (Symbol of Progress and Security) featuring 'সেন্ট্রাল ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিঃ' (Central Insurance Company Ltd).

Advertisement for 'মুক্তির গান' (Song of Freedom) featuring 'স্বাধীনতা দিবস উপলক্ষে সারা দিন বাপী বিশেষ প্রদর্শনী' (Special display of Bapi throughout the day on Independence Day).

Advertisement for 'জনতা ব্যাংক' (Janta Bank) featuring 'সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও উজানুধ্যায়ীদের মহান স্বাধীনতা ও জাতীয় দিবসে আমাদের আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা' (Warmest wishes to our honored customers and benefactors on Independence Day and National Day).

Advertisement for 'ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স বাংলাদেশ' (Institute of Bankers Bangladesh) regarding 'পরীক্ষার সময়সূচীর পরিবর্তন' (Change in exam schedule).

Advertisement for 'ঢাকা কাষ্টম এজেন্টস এসোসিয়েশন' (Dhaka Customs Agents Association) regarding 'নির্বাচন '৯৬' (Election '96).

Large advertisement for 'অগ্রণী ব্যাংক' (Agnani Bank) featuring 'মহান স্বাধীনতা দিবসে দেশবাসীকে জানাই শুভেচ্ছা' (Warmest wishes to the people of the country on Independence Day) and 'অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের স্বর্ণময় ভবিষ্যতের অগ্রদূত' (Agnani Bank's golden future).

Large advertisement for 'PEAKWARD RAINBOW GROUP OF COMPANIES' and 'RAINBOW ASSOCIATES LTD' with contact information for various branches.