

Stalemate at RU: No hope for resolution in near future

From Tareq Chowdhury

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, May 30: Rajshahi University has been plunged into a deep crisis with no hope of immediate solution. Two opposing groups among teachers and students are blaming each other for deteriorating campus situation.

Although the present deadlock apparently started on April 26 due to introduction of new department-wise admission test system instead of faculty-wise admission test system, the root of the crisis actually started soon after the removal of the elected vice-chancellor of the university, Prof. M Eusuf Ali from his post on February 16 without assigning any proper reason following a 41-day strike enforced by Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) and left leaning student organisation which sparked agitation and tension among the pro-Jamaat teachers and the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists of the campus.

Reacting to the removal order, Pro-Jamaat teachers and ICS activists called strikes, held demonstrations and organised meeting in the campus demanding reinstatement of Prof. Eusuf as the VC of the institution. The newly appointed Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abdul Khaleque tried to contain the situation by imposing ban on students politics in the campus but due to strong protests the decisions could not be implemented and authority was compelled to withdraw the ban within nine days.

In the meantime, the authority introduced a new admission system in the 1st year honours classes which apparently affect the easy admission of ICS supporters to the university. As a result prolonged stalemate of strike continued in the campus and the VC and his teacher group failed to bring back normalcy in the campus by any means. The pro-Jamaat teachers and ICS activists continued to dominate the campus politics.

The unruly ICS activist went on rampage attacking into the teachers' houses including Vice-chancellor, some senior officials of the university and Agrani Bank, RU branch protesting the newly introduced admission system on April 26, the first day of form distribution from Agrani Bank, RU Branch. The authority called and deploy huge contingent of police and paramilitary forces on the campus and filed several cases against ICS activists.

The ICS extended strike programme and went on hibernation. They continued threatening the pro-administration teachers and officers as the authority attempted to run the administration with the help of Police and BDR forces.

The general students felt completely insecure and panicky following several police raids and arrest of more than one hundred general students instead of arresting the 'real' culprits from different residential halls. On the other hand, the teacher officers and employees started to spend their days and nights with anxiety of bomb attacks by the alleged ICS activists.

In the meantime a massive change in University administra-

tion was made by the present authority removing pro-Jamaat teachers from various administrative posts as per the demand of RUTA which angered pro-Jamaat teachers who immediately reacted to the decision and demanded to cancel the decision but the Vice-Chancellor remained obstinate and even refused to talk with any quarter about this decision which sparked more anger among those teachers who ultimately formed a counter RUTA. Most of the RUTA members reportedly belong to pro-Jamaat and a small faction of BNP teachers.

All academic activities and almost all administrative function remained suspended since April 26 as ICS enforced non-stop strike protesting the new admission system. The pro-Jamaat teachers have also gone on a strike with demanding similar ones to those of Shibir. Both the strikes are scheduled to be continued till May 31 and may further be extended.

ICS has already gave a ultimatum to the authority to realise the demands by May 31 otherwise they will demand resignation of Prof. Abdul Khaleque from the office of the Vice-Chancellor. The strike, however, coincided with the summer vacation till June 10 and the University authorities have been trying to conceal the deadlock under the summer vacation.

The situation remains more or less like this during the summer vacation. You see, I am in my office. Administrative works are going on as usual", said Professor Abdul Khaleque, the Vice-Chancellor on Monday when a group of journalists including this correspondent visited the VC office. The journalists found only a handful member of rooms of administrative building open with poor attendance of officers and employees while most of the residential halls offices and offices of the academic buildings were found under lock and key.

The functioning of Agrani Bank and post office of the campus have been shifted to the regional branches of bank and GPO in the city as allegedly ICS activists threatened the officials of these two institutions over telephone. University buses are not plying as unnamed youths hurled bombs on the university residences of the officers of the transport section. In such horrific situation university authority suspended distribution of forms which has started on April 26 and distribution of forms will begin afresh from June 1 with some changes regarding collection and submission of forms.

Prof. Abdul Khaleque while talking to The Daily Star said that he offered dialogue to the ICS. Refusing his offer ICS said there is no question of any dialogue unless their demands were met.

In such condition the teachers-students of the university have become worried, about the wayout of the complicated situation. However, informed circle viewed that this problem could be solved by bowing to their demands.

Now they clean city streets

From Abdul Wadood



RAJSHAHI: Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has undertaken a noble programme of rehabilitating street women. In the picture two such women benefited from the RCC initiative are seen cleaning city streets. —Star photo

RAJSHAHI, May 30: "We were compelled to lead an indecent life before but now the want to live honourably like any other citizens in society", said the new sweepers who were once gay girls.

In an emotion choked voice they expressed their gratitude to Mijanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation for his noble initiative.

Minu has rehabilitated 26 gay girls of the city recently. He gave them job opportunity by turning them into sweepers. Once gay girls, they work now as sweepers. Now they are engaged in cleaning the city streets and earning Tk 50 a day as wage.

There is no brothel in Rajshahi, but the number of gay girls have increased alarmingly who freely wander in the city streets and elsewhere in the town to earn their livelihood in an indecent way.

Rajshahi City Corporation sources could not confirm the exact number of such street gay girls. But there may be about one thousand floating women in the city approximately.

They are completely shelterless and live on footpaths, verandahs of shops, railway platforms, bus terminals, fallow lands, deserted buildings and such other places.

Recently Rajshahi City Corporation has undertaken a programme to rehabilitate these street girls with a view to making the city free from all kinds of public nuisances.

To implement the objective, 26 gay girls were given employment of sweepers on temporary basis. Each of them get Tk. 50 only per day.

When asked to express her feelings, one such gay girl turned sweeper said that earlier she was compelled to take the bad profession due to adverse circumstances. She said, "Mayor, Minu Sir has rescued me from the hell. Now I have regained my faith in life which I had earlier. I am ever grateful to the Mayor". She hoped that her employment would be made permanent. She also appealed to the mayor to arrange shelter for them. She has urged the people not to hate them but to treat them as their sisters and daughters.

Another new sweeper hailing from Bagmara of Rajshahi said, "We want nothing but love, opportunity of work and a healthy environment to live with honour".

When contacted the Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation, Mijanur Rahman Minu said, "Rehabilitation of distressed women, especially those who were derailed, is a very difficult task and even risky".

But remember that, he said, "We cannot give employment to all street girls, nor we can afford them with all kinds of supports. What we want is to set an example".

The Mayor hoped that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) would come forward and take extensive and long-term programmes for rehabilitation of the street girls. "We shall extend our all-out cooperation to them", he said.

Minu lauded the service of the rehabilitated women. "Thus they will be able to regain faith and love of the people in the society. Ultimately they will be able to mix with the mainstream of the society", he hoped and informed that the city corporation, with the help of its ward commissioners and social workers, had extended a programme to motivate both the girls and the society people for providing them with shelter.

The City Corporation has a programme to include some other girls very soon in the second phase, the Mayor revealed. "They are our sisters and daughters", he said and urged all sections of people to help them becoming good citizens.

Unusual fall in boro paddy price

NILPHAMARI, May 30: The prices of newly-harvested boro paddy at different places of the district have marked an unusual fall, leaving the growers in frustration, reports UNB.

Market sources said marginal farmers were incurred a loss of between Tk 30 and 40 per maund of paddy due to low price of it.

During a survey last week it was found that boro paddy is being sold at Tk 160 and 180 per maund at Ambarihat, Basurehat, Mirganjhat, Tunirhat and Delapirhat bazar of the district.

A section of middlemen were said to be the main culprits in creating the artificial price fall.

Violent clash in Faridpur leaves 40 injured

FARIDPUR, May 30: At least 40 people, including five policemen, were injured in a violent clash between two rival groups of people in Bhangra thana of the district Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said the clash between the rival groups of Garua and Chandra unions ensued in the morning over establishing supremacy at Maligram Bazar. They ransacked several shops of the bazar during the clash.

Thirty-one of the injured were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and Bhangra Thana Health Complex. The policemen, who suffered injuries while dispersing the mob, were being treated at the district police hospital.

Three killed in lightning in Magura

MAGURA, May 30: Three people, including a father and his son, died in lightning and 10 people were injured during a thunderstorm in Shalikhathana on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Villagers said Osman Kazi, 58, and his son Zafar Kazi, 30, inhabitants of Naghosha village, and Abu Yusuf, 75 of Harishpur village were caught by thunderbolts that struck at their houses.

Truck kills boy at Benapole

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 30: A minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a truck near the Benapole check-post Thursday. Police said the victim was identified as Moniruzzaman, 8, son of Mizanur Rahman of Bhoberpar under Sharsha thana.

Police arrested the truck driver, Sunil Roy and seized the truck. A case has been filed.

Social afforestation programme in Jhenidah faces obstacles

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, May 30: The social afforestation programme, run by the forest department is likely to be hampered in Jhenidah district, this fiscal as Bangladesh Water Development Board and Roads and Highways Department are yet to give permission to plant trees on their land, according to Forest Department office sources.

Sources said, they had taken a target to plant 8,000 trees on five kilometre long roads of Roads and Highway (R&H) Department, 24,000 trees on 15 kilometre canal banks of Ganges Kobadak (GK) Project and 36,000 trees on 45 kilometre connecting roads in the district. They had further taken a target to transplant 9,000 trees

on different educational institutions this fiscal under Social Afforestation Programme. But Ganges Kobadak project of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWD) and Roads and Highways Department (R&H) of Jhenidah did not allow them to use their land for the purpose this fiscal.

As a result, the target may decrease to 45 kilometre. The Forestry Department would not be able to plant 32,000 trees they had fixed as the target.

When this correspondent visited some areas of Forestry Department in Harinakundi and Saikupa thanas of the district the beneficiaries expressed that they were not in receipt of their deed documents from the

Tornado hits Barisal: 20 injured

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, May 30: A tornado accompanied with rain swept over five thanas of the district at a speed of 64 km per hour evening leaving at least 20 people injured, police sources said, reports BSS.

The tornado which lasted for 10 minutes damaged at least 500 kutcha houses and a college at Sadar, Babugonj, Agaljhara, Gauranadi and Bakergonj thanas.

Uprooted trees and disrupted power supply.

A tree fell on a Patuakhali-bound passenger bus near Burirhat leaving at least ten people injured. Ten other people were injured at different places of other thanas, the sources said.

authorities concerned which were furnished. In the fiscal 1992-93 and 1996-97.

As a result they had to suffer a lot. The deed documents were supplied in prescribed forms by the BWDB authorities.

Forestry Department authorities informed that since the fiscal 1992 they had planted 1,19,200 trees on 74.05 kilometre long canal bank of GK project area and 1,05,976 trees on 132.47 kilometre land of connecting roads in the district under Social Afforestation Programme. At least of 3500 members of 350 groups were benefited from the programme, authorities said.

Sufferings at RMCH mount as its 'dead' generator goes out of order

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 30: The only electric generator of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) has been lying out of order for last one week.

Normal functioning of the hospital is being hampered as electricity cannot be supplied during loadshedding hours.

RMCH sources said that the generator was installed for non stop supply of electricity in the hospital whenever Power Development Board (PDB) shed loads which happens at least five to six times a day for about an hour each time.

According to the local office of the Public Works Department (PWD), the 200 KVA electric generator, brought from Czechoslovakia was set up in 1973 to meet the emergency need of electricity. The generator has already lost its usual life span a few years ago making it almost a 'dead' one. The PWD informed the Ministry of Public Works for replacing it, but no step has yet been taken.

The Electricity Cell of PWD has managed, so far, to keep the generator running by repeated repairing and renovation. But its condition has become so miserable that further repairing has almost been impossible, it said.

PWD sources informed that

the generator goes out of order quite often making things even more difficult.

To minimise the problem it was thoroughly repaired twice in 1994 and 1995 at a cost of about Tk two lakh and minor repairs are needed at least six to seven times a year, they said. Still then, the generator is not working well.

The cable lines set up and connected by the PWD at the same time in 1973 have also exceeded its expiry date. The lines may break at any time, sources apprehend.

Sources said that the PWD often had not budget allocation for repairing works.

Meanwhile, the 200 KVA generator cannot meet the demands of the hospital. It requires a 500 KVA generator. PWD seeks every year budget allocation for a new 500 KVA generator that may cost about Tk 50 lakh.

Recently CMMU of the Ministry of Health is considering to set up a 500 KVA generator at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. A team of CMMU already visited the hospital on May 6 and met PDB, PWD and RMCH authorities. It is learnt that PWD anchors differed on that issue with CMMU on a ground that the existing old ca-

ble lines would not be able to bear the load of 5000 KVA. As a CMMU is not interested in replacing the cable lines, PWD suggests to keep the matter of replacement of both the generator and the cable lines in its own hand. A tussle is now going on centering the issue between the two departments.

Meanwhile, the normal functioning of the hospital is being seriously hampered by inoperation of the generator. Conditions is critical especially in the operation theatres.

Fugitive convict arrested

BARISAL, May 28: A fugitive having a sentence of death for murdering launch worker Alok Kumar Dutt was arrested from Kalyanpur in Dhaka Tuesday, reports UNB.

When contacted, Mirpur police confirmed the arrest of the convict, Shamim, 27, of village Modonpura in Boupchal thana of Patuakhali district. Shamim was awarded capital punishment by the court of additional district and sessions judge Mominullah on May 17.

Six others convicted in the case were given life term in jail

X-ray, ECG, ultrasonography and other investigations are also being hindered. Besides, sufferings of the patient have risen.

Under the circumstances, RMCH authorities urged the PDB not to shed electricity in the hospital area.

PDB sources said that they were trying to keep continued supply of electricity in the hospital but it was not possible all the time because the hospital needed a huge amount of electricity.

Two minor boys sent to jail

NILPHAMARI, May 30: Two boys, arrested on charge of smuggling, were sent to jail as none volunteered to be their guarantor, reports UNB. The accused were identified as Golam Mostafa, 8, and Abul Kashem, 12.

On February 15, BDR men nabbed these children as they were crossing the border illegally.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Nilphamari granted bail to the minor boys on humanitarian ground, but none appeared as their guarantor.

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology
Dhaka
Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers for supply of different kinds of stationery articles etc. Details terms and conditions may be available from the Stationery Section. Tenders must be submitted on or before 11:30 AM of 12.6.97 and will be opened on the same day at 11:35 AM before the tenderers present. The University Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

D-664 Registrar

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Feni PWD Division, Feni

Notice Inviting Tender
No. 35 of 1996-97

- Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited for the undermentioned works from Special Class-I and Class-I Civil Contractor of PWD and Class-II Civil Contractor of PWD Zone, Chittagong, Class-III Contractor of PWD, Comilla Circle Class-IV Civil Contractor of this Division and will be received by the undersigned as well as the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Comilla/Noakhali/B'baria/Chandpur/ Lakshampur in their respective office up to 12:00 Noon on 19-6-1997 and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.
 - Name of work : Construction of 8-Zonal Co-operative training institute, one at Feni. Sub-Head: Construction of compound road (earth filling, brick flat soling & herring bone bend) during the year-1996-97.
 - Estimated cost : Tk. 6,00,719/30
 - Earnest money : Tk. 12,020/=
 - Time allowed for completion of work : 90(ninety) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Tender form will be 18-6-1997 be sold upto
- Contract documents consisting of BD Form No. 2911, tender notice, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of all Executive Engineers under Comilla PWD Circle and Feni PWD Sub-Division on payment of usual charges of Tk. 400/=(Tk. Four hundred) (non-refundable) per set of schedule (notice inviting tenders, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc) and a sum of Tk. 25/=(Tk Twenty-five) (non-refundable) per copy of Tender Form No.2911.
- The intending tenderers shall have to produce their registration book of enlistment letter bearing the photo and full signature of the contractor duly attested by an Executive Engineer of this Deptt. along with challan for depositing the current renewal fees at the time of purchasing of tender form as in absence of which no tender form will be sold. No complain in this respect will be entertained.
- The contractor/firm shall have to submit VAT Registration Certificate along with the tender failing which their tender will be summarily rejected. If more than one no contractors stood lowest quoting same rate than the contractor will be selected by drawing lottery. The lottery will be held on 28-6-1997 at 11:00 AM in the office of the undersigned in presence of tenderers if any without further information.

Md Asgar Ali
Executive Engineer
DFP-12703-26/5
G-1532 Feni PWD Division, Feni, Ph No 4038



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammed Hussain handing over certificates to the BAU Rover Scout leaders on the annual camp held at the university campus recently

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

- Sealed tenders in local/foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/indentors/dealers (enlistment with this Directorate General is not necessary) for supply of following items for Bangladesh Army:

Ser No	Nomenclature	Qty	Selling date	Date of opening	Cost of 1/T and currency
1.	Boxes PTGP	250	16-6-97 to 13-7-97	14-7-97	Tk 25/= Local
2.	Hand Cuff Common No 2 with 02 (two) Key Lantern Hurricane Complete (OG)	50Nos 950 Nos	do	do	Tk 15/= Local
3.	Various type of Hardware Store 11 Line Items	11 Line Items	do	do	Tk 25/= Local

Detailed specification, nomenclatures and quantity of items have been mentioned in the tender schedule. The tender schedule will be available on cash payment against the mentioned amount (not refundable) at abovementioned dates on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender will be opened on aforesaid date at 1000 hrs in presence of all tenderers.

ISPR/Misc/97/500
DFP-12642-26/5
G-1534

Major For Director General