

JU still tense Students to stage token hunger strike today

JU CORRESPONDENT

Students of the History Department of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will stage a token hunger strike today to press home their four-point demand, including immediate release of seven JU students and two local youths who were arrested on Friday under the Public Safety Act.

The agitating students, who have been boycotting classes for an indefinite period, will stage the demonstration in front of the Vice Chancellor's office at 10.00am.

Their other demands are withdrawal of false cases filed against the nine, trial of the policemen responsible for the attacks on JU students on the campus and inside Savar thana custody, and trial of the driver of the bus which ran over Kawsar Hossain, a teacher of the English Department on Friday.

The students also brought out a protest procession on the campus today. Earlier on Monday, they also submitted a memorandum in this regard.

The students of the chemistry department have also boycotted their classes protesting police attacks on the JU students who were protesting the tragic death of Kawsar Hossain on Friday.

The students of the English department also submitted a memorandum to the VC yesterday demanding release of the nine, compensation for the family of Kawsar Hossain and steps to ensure safe traffic system on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma victims (BRCT) launched an investigation into the incidents of last four days. They will also provide medical treatment and financial assistance to the injured.

BRCT started investigation after JU correspondents of different national dailies and Bangladesh Manobhakti Sangbadik forum requested them officially.

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When contacted, Savar thana police said they had arrested the driver of the bus responsible for the death of Kawsar Hossain. The bus belongs to Modern Enterprise.

A case has also been filed against him, thana sources said.



Ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh Gerd Wahlstrom called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

Envoy tells Khaleda Bangladesh development partner of Norway

UNB, Dhaka

Norwegian parliament has decided that Bangladesh will be one of the main partners of Norway for long-term constructive development in the years ahead.

Norway has this sort of long-term relationship with six other countries of the world.

Norwegian Ambassador in Dhaka Gerd Wahlstrom conveyed the decision to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during a call on her at her office yesterday afternoon. The Norwegian parliament took the decision last month.

The prime minister expressed her happiness and thanked the Norwegian parliament and the people of Norway for the decision.

Wahlstrom expressed her confidence that the existing relationship between Bangladesh and Norway will continue to strengthen in the future.

She also hoped that Bangladesh will go far ahead under the able leadership of Khaleda.

The Norwegian envoy said Khaleda's commitment to the welfare of the people and development of the country is appreciated by the people of Norway.

The prime minister hoped that Norwegian assistance to Bangladesh would be increased further for the development of the country.

Wahlstrom congratulated Khaleda for her balanced and straightforward address to the nation on Monday and said it reflected the rare quality of her statesmanship.

Officials said other bilateral issues also came up for discussion during the meeting.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui was present.

Various aspects of DUTP discussed

BSS, Dhaka

A wrap-up meeting with the Mid Term Review (MTR) Mission of the World Bank on Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) was held at the LGRD Ministry yesterday.

MTR Mission leader Navaid A Qureshi and Operations Advisor of the World Bank Ms. Nancy Zhao discussed various aspects of the project and suggested some proposals for implementation of the project on schedule, official sources said.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan chaired the meeting.

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed and State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar attended the meeting.

Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, Local Government Division Secretary AYBI Siddiqui and senior officials of the concerned ministries, agencies and Dhaka City Corporation were present at the meeting.

Shao Qiwei, Deputy Governor of the Chinese province of Yunnan, is leading the delegation.

Huda hoped that relations between Bangladesh and China would be strengthened, particularly in the fields of trade-business and economic cooperation, after the establishment of the Asian

Highway and railway.

The meeting stressed the need for talks with the countries concerned seeking cooperation from them as well as regional and international forum to launch the Asian Highway.

It also discussed about cooperation for developing communication infrastructure including roads and national and international highways and construction of the sixth China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge.

Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat and members of the Chinese delegation Che Zhimin, Luo Mingyi, Zhou Hong, Li Jiming, Ma Ying also took part in the discussion.

The members of the delegation showed keen interest in the electoral process of Bangladesh.

Danish team meets CEC

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation of politicians from Denmark yesterday called on Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed at his office.

The delegation was apprised of the utilisation of the UNDP fund in the Bangladesh Election Commission through 'Strengthening the Election Commission for Improvement in the Electoral Process Project.'

Syed appreciated UNDP assistance in modernisation of the systems and practices in the electoral process. He informed the delegation of the electoral database and automation systems established in the Election Commission.

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President for quality education to face advancing world

BSS, Dhaka

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the nation must give serious thought on quality education to keep pace with the advancing world and meet the challenges of the new millennium.

The higher education in our country must continue to change to absorb new ideas, the latest technology and a high-level of professionalism as we have now entered the information age, the President told a seminar.

He said information technology has revolutionised the world by making access to information and knowledge easier.

The seminar on 'Higher Education and the Role of Private Universities' was jointly organised by the North South University (NSU), American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) and Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) in association with the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AMCHAM).

Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruk, US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters, Vice-Chancellor of AIUB Carmen Z Lamagna, and Vice-Chancellor of IUB Prof Bazlul Chowdhury also spoke at the inaugural session.

The President said a key ele-

ment must be in the creation of a new academic culture that values teaching, learning and sharing of knowledge. The target of education planning must be clear in the minds of those involved in the process, he added.

Stressing the need for a huge number of top quality teachers, educationists and researchers, the President reminded that in all these spheres, moral education should be an inseparable element of 'total' education. "Without moral education, real educated mind cannot materialise."

The function was told that 30 private universities have been set up in the country within a decade and that the enrollment in these institutions is around 20 per cent of those pursuing higher education. NSU, the first private university, was established in 1993 following an act passed in the parliament in 1992 during the previous BNP government.

Emphasising the need for 'total' education, the President said, "With the present state of near social anarchy, we need persons with total education to lift the society out of this grim darkness surrounding us." The society must be enlightened through higher education, he said.

Lauding the role of private universities, the President said that

Huda tells Chinese team

Dhaka working for Asian Highway, Trans Asian Rly

UNB, Dhaka

The government is closely working toward establishing Asian Highway and Trans Asian Railway to connect Bangladesh with outside world including China.

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said this at a meeting with a five-member Chinese delegation at his ministry yesterday.

Shao Qiwei, Deputy Governor of the Chinese province of Yunnan, is leading the delegation.

Huda hoped that relations between Bangladesh and China would be strengthened, particularly in the fields of trade-business and economic cooperation, after the establishment of the Asian

Highway and railway.

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