

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 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, the 'Platform for Resistance to Repression', which was formed by JU students on Monday, will form a human chain on the campus on Thursday at 11.00 am to press for the same demands.

At a press conference on Monday, it threatened to go for a tougher agitation programme if the authorities do not meet their demands by February 8.

Tension swept through the campus on Friday after Kawsar Hossain, acting chairman of the English department, was killed in a road accident on the highway in front of the university's Dairy Farm gate.

As JU students were demonstrating on the Dhaka-Aricha highway to protest the incident, police swooped on them, leaving over 250 students injured.

Police also arrested seven students and two local youths who just arrived on the campus from Dhaka city and filed a case under PSA.

It is alleged that police also beat them up in the thana custody. One of them, Rakib Khan, a student of history department, was admitted to Savar Thana Health Complex in a serious condition.

Police also arrested Moyezuddin Palash, a JU student and staff reporter of Rupali Desh, even after he showed his ID card to them.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh 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 Manobadhikar Sangbadik forum requested them officially.

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.

Programmes to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha

UNB, Dhaka

The government has drawn up elaborate programmes to celebrate holy Eid-ul-Azha this month. The programmes were finalised yesterday at a meeting of the Religious Affairs Ministry.

The Eid-ul-Azha is likely to be observed on February 23 or 24, depending on the appearance of the Zilhajj moon.

As per the state programme, President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will issue separate messages on the eve of Eid.

The main Eid jamaat will be held at the National Eidgah Maidan at 8 am. In case of inclement weather the main jamaat will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at the same time.

The government will formally invite Muslim diplomats to take part in the Eid jamaat.

National flag will be flown atop all government and non-government buildings at dawn while important buildings will be illuminated in the evening.

Main roads of the capital from Dhaka Gate to Bangabhaban will be decorated with banners inscribing "Eid-Mubarak" in both Bengali and Arabic language.

Radio and television will put on special programmes while news-

papers publish special supplements marking the significance of the day.

Improved diet will be served in the hospitals, jails, orphanages, vagrant centres and childcare centres.

Movies will be screened in accordance with the state rules and regulations and cultural programmes, friendship football match and Eid reunion for children will be arranged.

All divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers have been asked to take necessary steps to take up similar Eid programmes.

Bangladesh missions abroad will also celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with due respect and religious fervour.

Turkish envoy meets LGRD minister

UNB, Dhaka

Turkish Ambassador in Bangladesh Erdinc Ulumlu called on LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the latter's office.

They discussed matters of mutual interests and hoped that the bilateral relations would be strengthened further in the days ahead, said an official handout.

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.

1401 more held, 14 firearms recovered

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered 14 firearms, seven other weapons and 24 bullets from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

They also arrested 1401 people, including eight identified terrorists, 769 warrantees and 610 accused in different cases, during the period.

Ten people were arrested in connection with the recovery of arms and police filed seven cases against them under the Arms Act, a police headquarters press release said.

Police also recovered five explosives. Of them, three were recovered by DMP.

The arrested identified terrorists are Sohag of Patuakhali, Momin Mian of Tangail, Bhola of Kushiya, Masum and Harun Ur Rashid of Dhaka city, Fakhrul of Chittagong City, Badiar Rahman and Mashair of Jessore, the release added.

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 Bazul M 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 enrolment 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

they have already started to play a distinctive role in higher education and contributing significantly to the development of manpower.

But, he added, the ratio of intake in private universities is still far behind than that of the public universities.

Education Minister Dr Faruk described the seminar as "timely" and hoped that the enrolment in private universities will be around 40 per cent of students pursuing higher education.

He said enactment of Private University Act in 1992 is a milestone in spreading higher education in private sector.

Referring to various issues raised by the participants from different universities, the minister said the high-powered committee formed earlier will look into the problems of higher education.

US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters praised the private universities for their contribution in offering quality higher education and helping Bangladesh build a base of quality human resources.

She hoped that like their counterparts in the USA, private universities in Bangladesh would also help the government in fulfilling its commitment and obligation to the nation in the field of education.

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.

The meeting stressed the need for talks with the countries concerned seeking cooperation from them as well as regional and international fora 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 Jining, Ma Ying also took part in the discussion.

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.

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



The Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the city drew a large number of visitors yesterday.

SEMINAR / STUDY IN USA

Dr. Steven Harvey, Director of Int'l Admissions of the Southern New Hampshire University, will assist you in getting admissions in a highly marketable undergraduate and graduate programs in USA. For personal interviews with students and their parents on the **Wednesday, 06 February 2002** (1000 to 1600 hours) in the Hotel Abakash, Mohakhali (opposite to the Titumir College), please contact the office of the Management Consultancy Services at 80/1 VIP Road (Ground Floor), Karail, Dhaka. Tel: 9335349, 934162 and 018-251200.

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Principal.

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NOTICE HALF YEARLY REPORT

In terms of circular No. SEC/CFD/88/99/149 dated 23rd February, 2000 of securities & Exchange Commission this is to be notified for information of all concern that, we have already despatched the half yearly (Un-Audited) account for the half year ended 31/12/2001 to all the honorable shareholders of the company on 30th January 2002, as well as Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd. & Chittagong Stock Exchange there of.

(A.K.M. Kutub Uddin)

Company Secretary

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