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BUET bans student politics

ABUL KALAM AZAD

Political activities have been banned indefinitely on the campus of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) from yesterday in a bid to restore congenial academic atmosphere.

The activities of the Engineering University Central Students' Union (EUCSU) and the hall students' unions have also

EUCSU activities suspended

been suspended.

A meeting of the university's academic council yesterday unanimously decided to slap the ban. The council met in the afternoon to thrash out a solution to the month-long closure of the institution following a gunfight on the campus on June 8 that left a female student killed. Processions and rallies on the

BUET campus will come under the purview of the ban. "From now on, no-one will also be allowed to paste political posters on the wall or erect political banners on the campus," said a teacher, who attended the meeting.

The meeting also suspended the activities of other BUET organisations like the BUET Debating Club

and officers' and employees' associations.

Sources said the authorities would act against non-compliance with the decision as per the university ordinance.

Chaired by BUET Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof. Nooruddin Ahmed, more than 100 members attended the academic council

meeting. They took the decision unanimously after about a three-hour discussion, meeting sources said.

After the meeting, the VC told The Daily Star at his office that the decision was taken for the greater interest of BUET. He added that the BUET ordinance does not permit any political activities on the campus, either.

"We went for the decision so that
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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh cricket team captain Khaled Mashud (F) stretches with his teammates during a training session at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo yesterday. Bangladesh will play against Sri Lanka on July 21.

Spycam to catch criminals

UNB, Dhaka

Video cameras will be installed at all entrances to the capital for scanning and catching illegal drugs, arms and criminals on their way in and out of the city.

The cameras will be installed along with permanent police checkpoints as part of government's measures to curb criminal offences.

An official announcement said the decisions were taken in a meeting of the Dhaka District Law and Order Committee yesterday that also took a serious note of the comeback of traffic mess in the city.

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda presided over the meeting in the Conference Room of the Communications Ministry.

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Talks today to end cable TV strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is initiating a dialogue with the striking cable operators today to resolve the crisis over the telecasting of satellite TV channels. The decision came following requests of cable TV businessmen who have refrained from telecasting satellite programmes for four consecutive days.

According to BSS, Information Secretary Mirza Tasadduq Hussain Beg has already asked the aggrieved businessmen to give a written

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Gas export not now

Committee sinks differences on utilisation options

SHARIER KHAN

The national committee on gas utilisation yesterday unanimously agreed that the current gas reserves should be kept for domestic use and pipeline export could be considered in future only if new gas discoveries lead to supply saturation.

In a meeting yesterday the committee finalised a number of impact analyses of gas use. These include the projected impacts of immediate "limited" gas export, utilisation of gas for power and fertiliser plants and other options.

These scenarios would help the government decide whether or not to go for immediate gas export, said a committee member.

"But the most important fact is that the committee members have reached the consensus that the present gas reserves are inadequate to justify any export right now," he said.

Initially, two of the nine committee members disagreed on the consensus approach. But later, they bridged the gap and everyone agreed to the recommendations. They are likely to sign the report next week and submit it to the prime minister.

The committee will refrain from naming any oil company or gas field while addressing the gas export issue.

"This committee was formed with the mandate to chalk out gas utilisation options and not to assess the possibility of export. If the government decides to export in future, it should form a separate committee," another member said.

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PHOTO: STAR

A procession and a human chain were organised at Gaibandha town yesterday demanding punishment to 'killers' of Sadia Sultana Trisha. The 12-year-old school girl jumped into a pond and drowned when some local youths chased her.

'Punish killers of Trisha'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Several thousand students of primary and high schools in the district brought out a procession at the district town yesterday, demanding exemplary punishment to the 'killers' of fellow student Sadia Sultana Trisha, 12.

Besides, a nearly one kilometre-long human chain was formed at the town yesterday in protest against increasing criminal activities which resulted in the tragic death of the girl here on Wednesday. The human chain was organised by the Gaibandha Nagorik Committee.

Earlier, the committee also called a half-day hartal tomorrow demanding proper action against the killers of Trisha. Students of primary schools also decided to

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Newsman on the run from ruling roughnecks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prothom Alo correspondent of Keraniganj is still hiding from ruling party hoodlums. Mohammad Iqbal Hossain Ratan, was abducted by the goons on July 9, and after being tortured, was left near the Buriganga in an unconscious state.

Ratan cannot return to his home in Zinzira Bus Road, fearing that the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leader Ekbal Hossain and his gang members may kill him. Although an abduction case was filed with the Keraniganj Police Station on July 10, police are yet to arrest any of the 'influential' abductors.

Ratan became a target of the
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Colombo Test for cricketers

HASAN MASOOD from Colombo

Bangladesh will blood four rookies in their First Test against Sri Lanka starting in Colombo today.

Hannan Sarker, Ehsanul Huq, Talha Jubair and Alamgir Kabir will wear the Test cap in skipper-wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud's new-look team.

Having played eleven Test matches so far after getting the Test status in 2002 Bangladesh have lost ten while drawing another, that, too, courtesy of the rain god.

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