

JUTA prepares for allout agitation

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) meets September 15 to decide on an agitation programme, as the university authorities did not take any initiative to meet its seven-point demand within a one-week ultimatum that expired yesterday.

The JUTA demand includes the announcement of schedules of the overdue election of the VC panel, senate, syndicate and deans, resignation of the JU proctor, introduction of law against sexual harassment, withdrawal of police from campus, creating permanent posts for teachers appointed on temporary basis earlier and the release of recently arrested JU students.

Meanwhile, JUTA President Prof. Amin Muhammad Ali and General Secretary Shamsul Alam Selim met Vice-chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddin yesterday to press home the demands.

Talking about the demand for the VC panel election, Prof. Jasim Uddin told the JUTA leaders that there was complication in holding the election as the former VC Prof. Abdul Bayes filed a writ against his removal.

"I was appointed on a permanent basis, not as an acting VC," he said. He further said according to his appointment letter he had been appointed for a four-year term or until further order or until appointment of a new VC by the chancellor.

"In spite of that, I will take up the matter with the education minister," he added.

The poll for 25 posts of registered graduate in the JU senate cannot be held at this moment as the High

Iraq debate

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The US leader said he was ready to work with the United Nations to craft a resolution warning Saddam to comply with UN resolutions he has flouted for a decade or face what is widely expected to be military action.

The US Central Command has already said it will move 600 staff and a deployable headquarters to Qatar, near Iraq, for an exercise, and the Bush administration is considering permanently moving the command to the Gulf state.

"My nation will work with the UN Security Council on a new resolution to meet our common challenge. If Iraq's regime defies us again, the world must move deliberately and decisively to hold Iraq to account," he said.

Bush again vowed he would act against Saddam alone if necessary.

"If the Iraqi regime wishes peace, it will immediately and unconditionally forswear, disclose and remove or destroy all weapons of mass destruction, long-range missiles and all related material."

"By heritage and by choice, the United States of America will make that stand. Delegates to the United Nations, you have the power to make that stand as well," he said in closing.

The Bush administration has insisted that Saddam has consistently flouted UN resolutions he agreed after the 1991 Gulf War. Weapons inspectors have not been allowed in the country since 1998, and Washington says Saddam has used this time to build or seek a nuclear, chemical and biological arsenal.

Unless the international community acts now, "the first time we may be completely certain he has nuclear weapons is when, God forbid, he uses one," the US president said.

And he asserted that Saddam's nuclear program could produce an atomic weapon "within a year" if he acquires the right radioactive materials.

In his speech earlier, and with Bush listening, UN Secretary General Annan warned the United States not to usurp UN authority in dealing with Iraq.

Annan acknowledged that the UN Charter gave every country the right to self-defence if attacked. But he said: "When states decide to use force to deal with broader threats to international peace and security, there is no substitute for the unique legitimacy provided by the United Nations."

Annan did not refer directly to the United States, but the thrust of his

ETV licence

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out on behalf of the rally. The statement noted that since the process of issuing licence for the ETV was found non-transparent, it could be granted a fresh licence in an acceptable process.

Closure of the ETV has made thousands of people including artists, production workers and others unemployed. "This will affect the national economy," it said.

The rally observed that free flow of information is a must for strengthening democracy in the country and that the ETV was playing a significant role in this regard.

Court Division has not yet given a verdict to the writ petition filed by two teachers last year challenging the procedure of listing of the registered graduates, he said.

"We will soon arrange the election of four teachers' representative to the university syndicate," the VC said.

Regarding the resignation of Proctor Enamullah Parvez, the VC said, "We are considering the matter," declining to elaborate further.

The VC told the JUTA representatives that the university authorities could not withdraw police from campus as the government deployed them to ensure the security of the insiders. He added that police personnel had been staying on the campus for the last few years.

About the long-standing demand of introducing a set of law against on-campus sexual harassment, the VC said the authorities were considering the formation of a broad-based committee to this end.

"We will be able to provide confirmation for the teachers who were appointed temporarily only after we succeed in creating new posts once the government withdraws the restriction on new appointments," the VC said.

Prof. Jasim further said, "As the present administration has not filed any case against students, we are not supposed to get the release of any arrested student."

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, JUTA General Secretary Shamsul Alam Selim said, "The administration so far has not taken any step to met any of our demands." The general teachers will decide what to do to press the authorities, he added.

remarks was unmistakable.

"The more a country makes use of multilateral institutions, ... the more others will trust and respect it and the stronger its chance to exercise true leadership," he said.

The liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation by a US-led coalition in 1991 showed that UN member states were "willing to take actions under the authority of the Security Council which they would not be willing to take without it," he added.

Iraq's refusal to comply with UN demands that it disarm was one of "four threats to world peace, where true leadership and effective action are badly needed," Annan said.

The other threats were the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the instability in Afghanistan and tensions between India and Pakistan, he said.

Annan urged Iraq to comply with council resolutions, "for the sake of its own people and for the sake of world order."

If Iraq's defiance continued, "the Security Council must face its responsibilities," he said.

The debate spread around the world, with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Bush's strongest ally, gathering opposition leaders to organise a special House of Commons debate on Iraq.

In Moscow, US Under-secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton met Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov for talks focusing on disputes over Iraq. Russia has been a major opponent of US action against Iraq.

There was no immediate response from Baghdad to Bush's comments, but the Iraqi official press accused Bush of seeking to exploit the UN to legitimise an attack.

"Bush wants to use the United Nations to implement and confer international legitimacy on his aggressive plots against Iraq after most world leaders came out against the unilateral (military) campaign Washington is preparing to wage," wrote the daily Ath-Thawra, the mouthpiece of the ruling Baath party.

Many leaders remain worried about the US plans, including Washington's allies in the war against terrorism launched after the September 11 attacks last year.

5-member JS panel of chairmen

BSS, Dhaka

Speaker Barrister Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday nominated a five-member Panel of Chairmen to preside over the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad in absence of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The nominated members are Kabir Hossain (BNP-Rangpur), Nurul Islam (BNP-Khulna), Abdul Momin (AL-Netrakona), Alhaj Shafi Ahmad Chowdhury (BNP-Sylhet) and Shahjahan Chowdhury (BNP-Cox's Bazar).

The speaker nominated the panel in line with Article 12 (1) of the Rules of Procedure.

15 get life term for murder in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

District and Sessions Judge's Court, Gopalganj, yesterday sentenced 15 people to life term imprisonment in a murder case.

The convicts are Abul Hossain Mia, Md Sahin, Md Salim, Abdul Mannan, Mohan Mia, Yunas Mia, Sekander Mia, Iskander Mia, Ful Mia, Feroj Mia, Asad Mia, Shariful Islam, Zamal Mia, Furu Mia and Mudasser Mia.

According to the prosecution, Md Hassanzaman Hassan, 26, son of Abdul Malik Mia of village Gochapara under Kotalipara upazila of Gopalganj district, was murdered by the accused at Wapdarhat in Kotalipara upazila on October 14, 1997.

A case was filed with Kotalipara thana in connection with the murder.

Police submitted charge sheet against 17 people. Two of the accused died during trial.

Judge Feroz Alam, after examining the evidences and documents, pronounced the judgement.

Camel jockeys

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tightened security measures at all international airports in the country to prevent trafficking in women and children or people from going abroad without valid documents.

A vigilance team comprising representatives from various government agencies is working round the clock to check migration with forged documents.

He said the government plans to withdraw the restriction on sending out women for overseas employment. The demand for Bangladeshi women in the Middle Eastern countries for household job is very high.

But before sending women abroad a strong monitoring system would have to be put in place there so that no Bangladeshi women are subjected to torture or abuse there, Quamrul Islam said.

Sigma Huda underscored the need for co-ordinated efforts by the SARRC countries to combat trafficking in women and children from this region.

She felt that the absence of birth registration and social security number in the country was also a major hindrance to identifying the trafficked children.

Advocate Salma Ali supported the government's move to withdraw restriction on sending out women for overseas employment.

She said the women should be allowed to move freely and have job abroad. The BNWLA would train women for getting household job in the Middle Eastern countries, she said.

Rickshaws

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Market and Panthapath on the road. Besides, five foot-overs would be built at Kalyanpur, Asad Gate, Dhanmondi Boy's School, Russel Square and Nilkhet area, the meeting decided.

Regarding the probable date for imposition of the ban, one source, who attended the meeting, said the decision would be taken after the mayor along with local MPs visits the Mirpur Road on Sunday.

"A date might be announced on that day or at the next meeting of Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board," he added.

According to an official estimate, nearly 87,000 rickshaws with genuine DCC licence and another four lakh unlicensed rickshaws ply the city roads.

Taking advantage of the transport crisis due to the ban on 12,500 two-stroke auto-rickshaws from September 1 and absence of adequate alternative public transport, huge numbers of these unlicensed rickshaws are back on the city roads, resulting in severe traffic congestion on many city roads.

Champions Trophy

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from the fourth ball of the final over. Shoaib's dismissal came in the early collapse, which hardly vindicated the Pakistan skipper's decision to bat first on winning the toss.

He had been hit on the pads by left-arm pacesman Chaminda Vaas bowling.

Umpire Daryl Harper referred the decision to television umpire Rudi Koertzen who decided the ball had been in line with the stumps. Under experimental regulations in force for the one-day tournament, umpires can refer any decision, including lbws and bat-pad catches, to the third umpire.

Pakistan started without vice-captain Inzamamul Haq, ruled out because of a heel injury and replaced by Misbah.

Opener Shahid Afridi was the first to go, edging an attempted drive against a rising ball from Pulasthi Gunaratne.

Shoaib fell next and two balls later Yousef Youhana was run out for a second ball duck after a comical mix-up with Anwar.

West Indies play South Africa today.

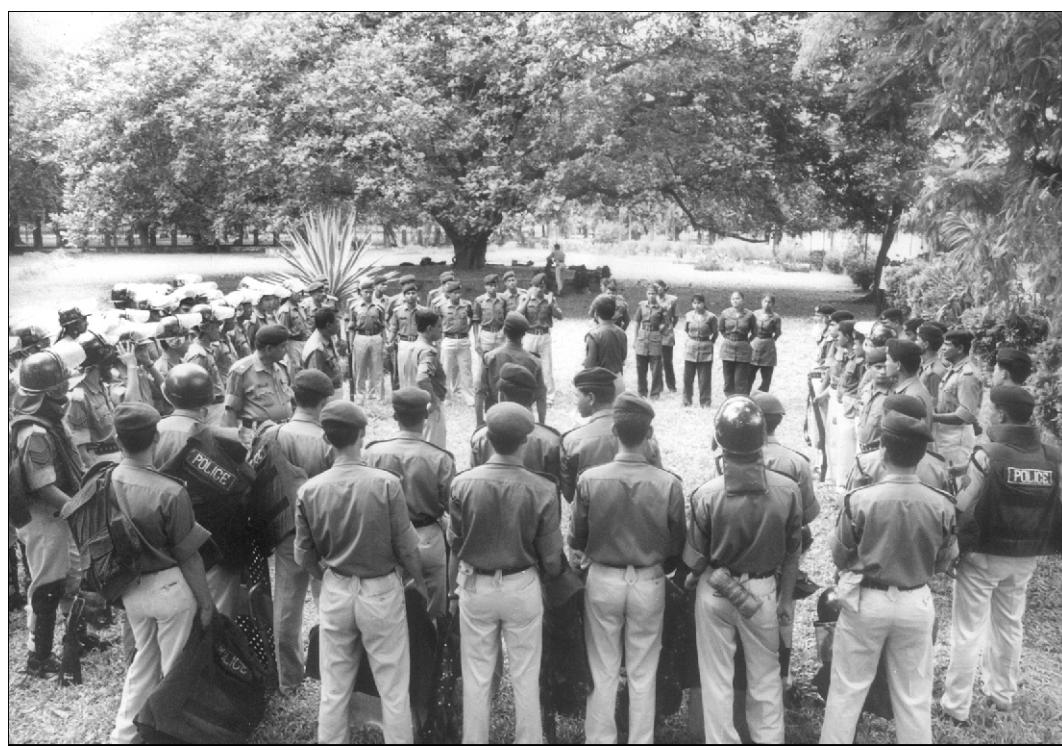


PHOTO: STAR

Policemen and policewomen lay siege to Battala on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to prevent students from gathering at the venue for the programme of token classes for immediate reopening of the institution.

Direct Biman flights to Barisal soon

BSS, Dhaka

The communication network of the Barisal division headquarters will be developed with immediate introduction of direct Biman flights, sea truck service and double-decker BRTC buses.

Whip Mojibur Rahman Sarwar told this while exchanging opinions with the journalists of different national newspapers and news agencies at a local hotel here yesterday. Senior journalist and News Editor of the Bangladesh Observer Mahfujul Haq Khan also spoke on this occasion.

Sarwar said the sea truck and air-conditioned double-decker BRTC buses had already been introduced while Bangladesh Biman would soon reintroduce its flights to Barisal.

Sarwar, who is also the minister-in-charge of the district, said although Barisal was declared a division, it is yet to be built up with necessary infrastructures comprising modest administrative buildings, education board office, an university, Radio and TV stations, telephone, electricity and a complete branch of Bangladesh Bank.

Outlining the necessity of constructing a bridge over the river Kirtonkhola, Sarwar said Barisal, once called the Venice of the East, could easily be developed as an attractive tourist spot of the country.

While talking about the development of inter-district road communication, particularly the road link of the southern region with the capital, the Whip demanded that the Padma Bridge should be built here yesterday. It is the proper place for the bridge under all considerations of justice, legality and rationality.

3 robbers killed in clash with police in Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

Three robbers were reportedly killed and 15 others injured in a police-robbers firefight in Jobayer Bazar area of Char Jabbar thana here Wednesday night.

Although police could not confirm the deaths, villagers said they saw three bodies and 15 injured were being taken inside the deep forest by their accomplices.

JS session

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express annoyance at the "irrelevant words" used in the prayers. He said that members of the Treasury Bench do not support the political tinge in the prayers and that the leader of the house was very sorry for that.

"We're very sorry for the unpleasant incident. It was unintentional and we feel embarrassed," the finance minister said and requested the speaker to delete the faux pas from the prayers.

Saifur's statement drew overwhelming support from the Treasury Bench members who thumped their desks in approval. And the speaker later deleted the remark.

The house witnessed another lengthy debate over Saifur's reported remarks about wartime acting President Syed Nazrul Islam.

Morshed attends Sept 11 memorial service in NY

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan who is leading a Bangladesh delegation to the United Nations spent a busy day in New York Wednesday.

He called on the President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai and conveyed him the greetings from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, according to a message received here yesterday.

During the discussion, Morshed Khan assured the Afghan leader of Bangladesh's fullest support and cooperation in the areas of social development, micro-credit and training of military and police personnel.

Also present on the occasion were Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, ambassador and permanent representative to the UN, AH Mofazzal Karim, delegate to the UN, and Liaquat Ali Chowdhury, DG of Foreign Ministry.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Morshed Khan met his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharrazi. They discussed matters of mutual interest including the situation in the region.

The Iranian foreign minister extended a cordial invitation to Morshed Khan to visit Iran soon.

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan also attended a memorial service at Ground Zero to observe the first anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, as well as another event organised by the secretariat staff at the UN.

15 hurt

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to the Pallan where it came under baton-charge by police and were dispersed.

The BCU leaders and activists later regrouped and held a protest rally in front of the Pallan mosque. Sharifuzzaman Sharif, Sajedul Huq Rubel, Mohammad Noor Alam, Alamgir Kabir, Raju Ahmed and Aninda Pandit spoke at the rally.

The speakers said the BNP-led four-party alliance government has been pushing the country toward a terrible situation by attacking political rallies and processions and urged the countrymen to be united against the government persecution of its political opponents.

They also said the government has been obstructing people's democratic right to education by sealing off campuses of the country's education institutions including the DU and BUET with police and BDR.

Meanwhile, different organisations condemned the police attack on BCU's procession yesterday.

Bangladesh Communist Party in a statement said the present government has been using the police force in a fascist manner to prevent political rallies and processions of the opposition to thwart the democratic movement.

Among others, Bangladesh Jubo Union, Samjantrik Chhtra Front, Progotishil Chhatra Jote and Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri protested the attack on the procession.

Dance festival

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Academy, Benuka, Akriti and Nriyadhara will perform at the festival starting at 7:00pm every day.

Tickets are available at Aranya at Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banglar Mela at Banani, Shagor Publishers at Bailey Road and Pathak Samraj at the Aziz Supermarket in the city.

A discussion titled "Exercise, problems and possibilities of dance" will also be held at the Bengal Shipalay in Dhanmondi at 10:30am on September 16.

BAC goes

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and political persecution of opposition activists.

The AL lawmakers have already filed more than 80 notices with the parliament secretariat in this regard, sources said.

However, as the session will be a very short one, there will be little scope for the opposition AL to raise all those issues.

At yesterday's BAC meeting, the treasury bench agreed to have discussion on dengue and the law and order.

The first session of the eighth parliament ran for 37 working days and the second one for 19. The main opposition AI boycotted both sessions.

The third session, which was basically a budget session, ran for 29 days. The main opposition joined the third session after the resignation of President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury to have a debate on the issue.

Commercial

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that there is no scope to approve any commercial complex there. "If the ministry (housing and public works ministry) declares the road (Road-8) a commercial site, only then it is possible, otherwise not," he said.

Authorised Officer of Rajuk Mohammad Ali said he had no information about the commercial complex yet. "But we will look into the matter and take proper action immediately after conducting an inspection," he told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, the PWD has sent to the ministry concerned a list of the 327 unapproved commercial structures in Dhanmondi residential area.

But sources said it is a trick by some corrupt officials of the PWD and the Rajuk to take bribes from the owners of these unapproved structures. "Nothing happens beyond the eyes of the authorities, but things are managed somehow," one source said.

Road accidents kill 5 in 3 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people were killed and 45 others injured in separate road accidents in Manikganj, Munshiganj and Mymensingh districts yesterday.

Of them, two each were killed in Munshiganj and Manikganj while the rest was killed in Mymensingh.

In Manikganj, two women were killed and 35 others injured as two buses collided head-on at Golra on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday.

Police said a Manikganj-bound minibus hit a Dhaka-bound coach at noon killing one Rumi on the spot and injuring 36 others. Of the injured, one identified as Asia, 28, died on way to hospital.

Eighteen of the injured identified as Lutfor, 50, Hasina, 30, Oliullah, 25, Halima, 30, Kabita, 15, Ataur, 35, Amena, 50, Zahangir, 30, Joyal, 45, Moslem, 40, Afroja, 30, Rasheda, 40, Mannan, 20, Nabin, 16, Tara Mia, 18, Anwara, 55, Karim, 20, and Kabul, 9, were admitted to Manikganj General Hospital and Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In Munshiganj, two brothers were crushed under the wheels of a bus at Guagachhiya in Gazaria upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong

highway yesterday. Police said Abu Taher, 10, and Kawser, 20, were hit by the Dhaka-bound bus at about 7 pm while crossing the road.

Taher died on the spot while his elder brother Kawser on way to hospital.

Police seized the bus. The driver, however, managed to flee.

In Mymensingh, a college teacher was killed and ten others were injured in a road accident on Muktagachha-Mymensingh road in Kotwali thana yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred at about 10 am at Maizbag when a Mymensingh-bound maxi overturned after its driver lost control over the steering.

Kasem Ali, 50, an associate professor of the history department of Ananda Mohon College received serious injuries in the accident and died on the way to hospital.

Of the injured persons, two were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Indian medicine worth Tk 1.5 cr seized

UNB, Chapainawabganj

BDR personnel seized Indian medicine worth Tk 1.5 crore from Eaktipur area in Shibganj upazila Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip off, BDR of Mankasha camp seized the medicine from two boats in the river Pagla. The smugglers, however, managed to escape.

Ctg lawyers form human chain

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong District Bar Association (CDBA) formed a human chain on court building premises in the port city yesterday morning to press home their six-point demand including withdrawal of enhanced court fees and stamp duty.

The programme began at 9.30 am and continued till 10.30 am.

A rally was also held at the same

Six killed

FROM PAGE 12

Shyamoli area at about 9:00 pm on Wednesday. Traffic police tried to stop them, but they sped away.

When they came near a local cinema hall, a mob also chased them and caught Wajed.

Police rescued him and sent him to the DMCH where he died later.

Earlier, the gang had gone to Khilji Road in Mohammadpur area and shot three people, sources said.

The three Samsul Alam, Delaware Hossain and Abul kalam, were admitted to the DMCH and the chest diseases hospital.

Besides, Shyampur police recovered the body of a man aged about 25 from Dholairpur High School area yesterday morning.

Police suspected that he was strangled and his body was left on the road near the school.

Anwar Hossain, 25, an alleged criminal in the city's Sutrapur area, was shot dead last night.

Witnesses said local youth Zakir and his men shot Anwar in the chest and abdomen at Dholai Khali at about 9:00 pm.

Anwar was rushed to the DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

He was a resident of Lal Mohon Shah Street under Sutrapur Police Station.

Shaheed Minar

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Several hundred SSJ activists turned up for the rally and in the face of police barricade, ended up bringing out a procession near the Doel Chattrar at around 4:00pm.

As they marched towards the Shaheed Minar, police intercepted and at one stage, the SSJ leaders exchanged heated words with the law enforcers.

On-duty police officers told the demonstrators there was prohibition against any programme at the Shaheed Minar. They said they had instruction from higher authorities in this regard.

The SSJ leaders and workers then sat down on the road and held a rally protesting police barricade.

"The government has violated our fundamental rights by cordoning off the Shaheed Minar," said Nasiruddin Yusuf, who presided over the rally, "I fell very ashamed when I, being a freedom fighter, cannot go to the Central Shaheed Minar."</