

JUJA to boycott VC's programmes

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association (JUJA) yesterday decided to boycott the programmes of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmed as he did not take any action to solve the row over JUJA office.

The association leaders announced their decision as the 24-hour ultimatum given to the university authorities expired yesterday. They demanded that the JUJA office be reopened and handed over to the elected committee within 24 hours.

The association also demanded punishment to those involved in Monday's attack on its office allegedly by the JCD activists.

The attackers broke the lock of

the office and assaulted the JUJA president. They also announced a new committee of the JUJA.

But without taking any action against the attackers, Proctor Saleh Ahmed Khan sealed the office on Wednesday.

The JUJA also submitted a written complaint to the central JCD committee against Sirajul Islam Siraj, a JCD leader and a JU correspondent of the Dinkal, who allegedly led the attackers on Monday night.

The association will stage a demonstration on the university campus today to press home their demand.

The association leaders also threatened to launch tough programme if the authorities do not meet their demands immediately.



PHOTO: STAR

The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation organised a four-day 'Monsoon Fair' that began at its office at Motijheel yesterday.

Drop-in Centre brings hope to HIV patients

UNB, Dhaka.

Rina broke down and wept when she heard that she got the deadly HIV virus that would lead her to death slowly but surely.

"Suddenly I lost my hope for life. I was particularly worried about my 11-year son; I thought he might also be infected with the virus. But Allah is kind and he is well," said the middle-aged housewife, who was infected by her husband.

Rina's husband, a migrant worker in the Middle East, died of AIDS in 2001. The same year, she was diagnosed positive with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), the virus of deadly AIDS, after going through several blood tests.

"My husband knew nothing of the disease before his death. Even I could not tell the truth to his parents. Now I'm also carrying the virus, but cannot share my agony with anybody. I believed it's something to hide from other people," Rina told me at a Drop-in Centre, established for the HIV/AIDS patients in the city.

But unlike Rina, Joy, who is also an HIV positive, did not try to hide what he was suffering from. He told his parents about the affliction and asked them to take the matter with composure.

Joy, 32, used to work at a hotel in Mumbai, the Indian city formerly known as Bombay, for six years. He returned to Bangladesh five months ago and was suffering from jaundice. He had his blood tested and was detected HIV positive.

Dealing with the news of being infected with HIV was not easy for both Joy and Rina in a conservative society like Bangladesh. But now

they found a way to get rid of their mental agony thanks to an aid agency.

They are now working as 'peer workers' with HIV positive Support Network of CARE Bangladesh.

"I got back my confidence and overcame all fears after getting all kinds of support from CARE Bangladesh. Now I'm helping other HIV positives in dealing with their problems. I help them see the doctors and extend counseling support," said a visibly confident Rina.

But all the HIV patients so far detected in Bangladesh are not as lucky as Rina and Joy. Since they do not always get proper medicare facilities or cannot discuss their problems, they are often neglected by relatives and feel reduced in esteem to their neighbours.

According to a statistics available with the Virology Department of Health and Family Welfare Ministry, some 248 people have

been detected with HIV positive in Bangladesh till 2002. Twenty of them have died.

Of the total infected people, 198 (78 per cent) are male and 50 (22 per cent) female. The infected include 111 migrant workers, 25 housewives, seven children and seven sex workers while the profession of 88 others could not be known.

"It's a reality that we'll have a short life. We won't be able to arrange for our children's future education. But death will be less painful for us if the government assures us that our children will be looked after," said Rina.

Experts say Bangladesh is becoming a high-risk zone for HIV/AIDS due to a spread of the disease in neighbouring countries like India. The disease, according to them, can spread quickly through smugglers, truck drivers, illegal immigrants, travellers and also sex workers.

Pak president, PM condole deaths in ferry accident

APP, Islamabad

Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali have expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of life in the ferry accident near Chandpur.

Musharraf in a message to President Iajuddin Ahmed said, "We have been deeply saddened by the tragic ferry accident in which a large number of precious lives were lost."

"Our hearts go out in sympathy to the families of the victims of this disaster."

The President on his and people's behalf conveyed "sincerest condolences to the bereaved families."

Jamali in his message to Khaleda Zia expressed "deep shocks" over the tragic loss of precious lives.

He conveyed heartfelt condolences on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan and said "our prayers are with the departed souls and members of the bereaved families."

"Our people share the grief of the brotherly people of Bangladesh."

362 more Rohingyas return home

BSS, Cox's Bazar

A total of 362 Rohingya refugees of 62 families voluntarily returned to their homes in Myanmar through Teknaf border between July 5 and 10.

According to the refugee commission sources here yesterday, these Rohingya refugees, who were living in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps, returned home under the supervision of Bangladesh government and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

They said 120 refugees of 17 families, 75 of 11 families and 167 of 34 families were repatriated to their homes in Myanmar on July 5, 7 and 10 respectively.

The Refugee Commission sources said a total of 2,34,892 Rohingya refugees were so far repatriated to their homes in Myanmar.

Besides, at least 20,393 Rohingya refugees of 3,130 families in both the camps are still awaiting repatriation, they said.

Disposal of city waste under pvt sector begins

UNB, Dhaka

They started work one and a half months back with a gigantic mission to clean up the city's garbage.

Although the private operators are still fighting to mark their success, the authorities pin hope on their efforts to bring about a greater change in waste management.

As part of its move to hand over the garbage dumping work to private sector, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has undertaken a pilot project for eight wards of the city and appointed the private operators.

As soon as they started work on May 15, they found huge stockpiles of garbage in and around specified dustbins, which was beyond their imagination. They, however, overcame the problem within a few days.

"And that was our first and main hurdle at the initial stage," said Nurul Huda, executive secretary general of Bangladesh Integrated Environment Development Forum (BIEDF), a coalition of 38 environment protection organisations.

The second impediment, the BIEDF identified during the last 50 days of their operation, is the daylong primary disposal of garbage from the doorsteps to nearby dustbins by primary garbage pickers.

Although there has been no tangible change in the situation as the monitoring authority rated their performance as "average", the private operators claimed that they are close to reaching the city corporation's standard after facing hardship in the early stage with almost no experience in the job.

Nurul said they are assigned for the final disposal of garbage at the dumping grounds in Matuail and Mohammadpur at night taking it from the dustbins of ward numbers 18, 19, 20, 21 and 38. The rest three operators are working in ward numbers 1, 17 and 37.

The primary garbage pickers, however, start dumping wastes in dustbins in the morning, resulting in visible stockpiles of garbage for

the whole day, he said.

Had they maintained the timetable, from 6.00pm to 10.00pm, set by the DCC for garbage dumping, the situation would have been different, he added.

Unfortunately, they do not follow the timetable and collect garbage with rickshaw vans throughout the city since morning, Nurul said.

According to him, the BIEDF got approval for primary collection from 38 wards, including those five for which they are assigned for the final disposal of waste.

The BIEDF has been doing the job of primary collection in 17 wards for the last one year, by virtue of which they got such a big contract of the final disposal.

"We'll try to take the responsibility of primary disposal from the third month. If we can link the primary disposal with the final dumping, 80 per cent of the problem will be solved," said the BIEDF executive, expressing confidence to achieve the desired standard.

Besides, he said, they have a plan to relocate the dustbins at places to be convenient for them for easier disposal of wastes, and launch a community awareness programme so that people dispose garbage timely.

Their other programmes include ensuring need-based facilities like vehicles and manpower, and form a joint monitoring team with DCC to get direct feedback from the city dwellers.

Sohel Faruqui, chief conservancy officer of the monitoring authority of DCC, told UNB that the operators were trying to reach the expectation level with a positive attitude.

"They have taken steps to improve gradually. We'll wait to see what they can," he said.

About the problem of primary garbage collection, he said the DCC is planning to introduce environment-friendly garbage bags and trying to bring the collectors under the DCC command.

DHAKA TODAY

Award giving ceremony

Women Entrepreneurs' Association, Bangladesh organises an award giving ceremony on 'Honouring the Empowerment of Women' with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 11.00am.

Workshop

Physiotherapy department of Gono Bishwabidyalay organises a workshop on Physical evaluation and physical diagnosis of knee conditions. Venue: Gono Swasthya Nagar Hospital, Dhanmondi. Time: 9.30am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'The Gathering Storm'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Drama

Swapna, a cultural organisation, will stage a drama titled 'Ekti Swarnaghatito Durghatana'. Venue: Natmandal of Dhaka University. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Rally

In observance of World Population Day, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund will hold a rally. Venue: National Swimming Complex, Mirpur-2. Time: 4.00pm.

Display

The British Council organises a five-day long display on law courses available in the United Kingdom. Venue: British

Council Library, Fuller Road. Time: 10.00am to 6.00pm.

Council

The national council of Bangladesh Mohila Awami League will be held with Leader of the Opposition in parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. Time: 10.00am

JP meeting

A meeting of the Jatiya Party Secretariat will be held. Venue: 7/10/A, Block-D, Lalmeta. Time: 6.00pm.

Human chain

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will form a human chain demanding cancellation of Gram Sarker. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 5.00pm.

Rotary Central

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1.30pm.

Rotary North West

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Seminar

A seminar on the menace of Arsenic and its impact on social life, organised by Greenforce, an associate organisation of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, will be held. Venue: TSC conference room of Dhaka University. Time: 4.00pm.



Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation has awarded scholarship to 23 meritorious students of the Business Studies Faculty, Dhaka University. The recipients pose with the guests, including DU Vice-Chancellor SMA Faiz, Managing director of the bank Md Yeasin Ali, and Prof. Md Sirajul Islam, at the scholarship award ceremony held at the university on Thursday.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Alhaj Muhammad Harun-ar-Rashid Khan, a retired judge and lawyer of Supreme Court, died of old age ailments at BIRDEM Hospital on Thursday at the age of 88.

Harun-ar-Rashid Khan left behind his widow, six sons, two daughters and a host of relatives.

His qulhawani will be held at his residence at Road-137, House-SE (E) 3, Gulshal-1 after magrib prayers on Sunday.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions till 6pm today.

Moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong divisions is also expected during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and lowest 24.4 degree at Kutubdia.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:19am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	27.3	86	71
Chittagong	30.6	25.8	83	83
Rajshahi	32.2	26.3	92	81
Khulna	33.0	27.0	77	95
Barisal	29.5	26.4	92	93
Sylhet	30.7	25.4	96	96
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.4	92	100