

# GB students leave campus

JU CORRESPONDENT

About 80 per cent students have left the campus following the closure of Gono Bishwabidyalay (GB) on Sunday for an indefinite period.

"The decision to close the university was taken following untoward situations created by the students of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) department", said a notice put up at the gate of the university.

The students on Sunday vandalised different university buildings including the registrar room, as the authorities could not meet their demand to set up a specific timetable for the registration of BDS department with the health ministry and the approval of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC).

The BDS students had been agitating since August 6 demanding the registration of their department without which they would not be able to apply for any government job or practice anywhere in the country on completion of their course.

"The university authorities introduced the department under medi-

cal faculty in 1998 only for financial gains. Each of us paid about Tk 7.5 lakh for the course", said one student.

"They are conducting business in the name of education without providing minimum facilities including proper accommodation. Only some female students have been given accommodation facilities in three women dormitories", said another student seeking anonymity.

The situation got worse when the government took the decision that no private university would be allowed to introduce or continue medical faculty.

The BDS students will hold a meeting tomorrow to take a decision on their future course of action.

Sources said an untoward incident might take place at the meeting as the students are now divided following the closure of the university.

Vice Chancellor Prof Abul Qasem said they had applied to the health ministry for the registration and they were waiting for the reply.

He said the university would reopen soon.



PHOTO: STAR

Launch owners have resorted to tactics to avoid legal action for carrying additional passengers and goods. Before anchoring at the Sadarghat launch terminal where the mobile courts are on the lookout for malpractice, the launches stop briefly at Shyambazar to unload additional passengers and goods. This launch coming from Baliganj, Munshiganj, touches Shyambazar at around 1.00pm yesterday .

## Adopt appropriate tech to manage medical wastes

BELA serves notices on govt agencies

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) has demanded adoption of appropriate technology for management of medical waste as envisaged under the Environment Conservation Act, 1995, says a press release.

In a notice served to different government agencies responsible for protecting and promoting public health, BELA blamed them for their utter negligence in regulating the health hazards that medical wastes generate.

While it was expected that the relevant agencies would frame and implement necessary regulations for effective management of medical waste, the agencies concerned have opted for redundant technology like the incinerator, said the notice.

It said incinerators are being increasingly discouraged in developed countries for inefficient disposal of hazardous and medical waste causing harmful impact on human health.

Incinerators generate matters like acid gases, oxides of nitrogen and products of incomplete combustion including chlorinated organic compounds and carbon dioxide (CO2).

Dioxin and furane, the most lethal carcinogens, are also formed as unintended by-products when chlorinated substances are burnt in incinerators at a given temperature. Dioxins are extremely potent toxic substance that produces a variety of adverse effects on humans and animals even at extremely low doses.

These compounds are persistent in the environment and accumulate in magnified concentration as they entered the food chain concentrating in fat and breast milk.

Different studies have already shown that these pollutants are responsible for cancer and deformed new-born baby.

The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act of 1995 to be read with the Rules of 1997 has classified incinerators as falling under 'red' category of operation and also made it mandatory to undergo strict environmental impact assessment (EIA) for setting up incinerator.

At present, BELA has no information on the EIA findings of the incinerator that has been set up, said the notice.

BELA, therefore, demanded immediate halt of all steps for setting up/operating incinerators in state owned and other hospitals and medical centres.

BELA served the notice on secretaries of health and family welfare, environment and forest, local government, rural development and co-operatives ministries including director generals of health services directorate and department of environment.

## JUTA programmes to realise demand

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) yesterday announced a three-day programme as their ultimatum to the university authorities expired on Wednesday.

The JUTA gave the ultimatum on August 14 demanding punishment to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists who confined the Shaheed Salam Barkat (SSB) hall authorities on August 11.

The JUTA announced the programme at an emergency meeting held at the teachers' lounge of the central cafeteria.

The programme includes a token strike tomorrow.

The other programme includes a demonstration on the campus on Thursday at 10.30am and a sit-in in front of the VC's office at 11.00am on August 31.

The JUTA also decided to withdraw their 'all-administrative activities boycott programme' which was taken on August 13 to press home their demands.

Speakers at the meeting blamed the vice chancellor for taking much time in taking action against the JCD activists.

They expressed concern at the prevailing situation on the campus.

The speakers also alleged that the JCD cadres played vital role in allocating the seats among the freshers of 2002-03 academic session in six male dormitories.

Meanwhile, the JUTA has applied to the prime minister seeking a meeting with her to inform her about all 'illegal' activities of the vice chancellor.

They will also seek her intervention to solve various problems on the campus including the VC panel election.

JUTA General Secretary Prof Nasir Uddin said the VC is patronising a group of students to make the campus unstable.

"The probe committee, that formed to investigate the SSB hall incident, is nothing but to avoid punishment to JCD activists", he added.