

# Students bear the brunt as JU in disarray

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Students of Jahangirnagar University have been the real victims of a session backlog that has lingered on for the last 18 months.

The academic session of the university has fallen behind the schedule due to the ongoing teachers' movement, student agitation and alleged mis-management of the authorities. As a result, classes and examinations have frequently been deferred since October 15.

The unscheduled extension of the academic session will reportedly cost an extra Tk 18 crore for the students and at least Tk 37 crore for the government.

On an average, each of the seven thousand students of the university is paying Tk 1,500 per month as tuition fee, dormitory charges and other expenses, according to Robin Ahsan, a student of English Department.

Officials say that the government is also counting financial loss since the University Grants Commission sanctioned funds

of Tk 24 crore 95 lakh and Tk 25 crore 60 lakh simultaneously for the current and previous academic years. But there has hardly been any academic or relevant activities in the in this period.

The students are feeling increasingly frustrated with the situation. "Our future is totally uncertain. We had passed our HSC in 1997 and still haven't appeared in the Masters final examination," said Shakila Samad of Anthropology department.

Within the last 13 months, session jam in the university increased from seven months to almost eighteen months.

The crisis is believed to have been caused mostly by teachers who are active in politics. Conflict between faculty members supporting the ruling party and the opposition is creating the unease.

The government's removal of former Vice Chancellor (VC) of the university Professor Abdul Bayes has not gone down well with a vast section of the teachers who are reluctant to express solidarity with the newly appointed VC.

Besides, teachers have also become divided on the allegation of some leaders and activists of the ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal continuing to eat without paying the canteen bill of Salam Barkat Hall.

When the provost of the hall tried to take action against them, those students confined the provost, house tutor and others.

"We want proper justice for misbehavior of students," said Prof. Shah Sufi Mohammed Mustafizur Rahman of Archeology Department.

Student's also complain that some teachers do not want to continue classes since they can earn more money by doing consultation work outside the university.

"More than five teachers are on study leave and have gone abroad. Some of them took leave and are doing contract jobs while still drawing salary from the university," claimed a student of Anthropology department.

# Dark side of pet sale at Katabon

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Katabon market, famed for its sale of pets, has another side. Under the cover of selling pets, the market supplies other animals, prohibited for sale.

The market is a popular place for pet lovers as a variety of domestic animals sell at reasonable prices. Various species of birds, pedigrees of dogs and cats, guinea pigs and varieties of fish are available on request.

Shop owners and salespersons are found helpful in taking orders from customers and providing them with what they want. Meantime, they breathe if the customers want to buy 'prohibited' animals.

A pair of black-headed, red, green or spotted *munias* sell at around Tk 150. Hilly mynahs sell at up to Tk 3,000, while the prices of Alexandrian, blossom headed and rose-ring parakeets range from Tk 150 to Tk 700 a pair.

Locally bred white rabbits are sold between Tk 150-500 a pair, while the brown or black pairs are sold at Tk 250. "Foreign-bred rabbits are lower in price, as they are outlived by the locally bred ones," said Salman Mahmood, an animal lover in the city. A monkey is priced at Tk 1,500.

Most animals come from the city and nearby districts. Some animal lovers in Old Dhaka breed rare cage birds and sell them off to the shops at Katabon. The shops also import animals from other countries, some shop assistants said.

Where do the wild animals come from? The shop owners have 'parties' to provide them with animals.

The shops can even provide customers with tiger cubs, if the lead-time is given. "Just place the order and the job will be done for you," one of the traders boasted of his links to the network of hunters.

According to the Directorate of Livestock, only cage birds and animals can be sold. Selling any animal captured from its natural habitat is prohibited. Creating a mini zoo at a personal level is subject to permission from the livestock ministry.



The pet shops in Katabon are not only a place for pets, but also for underhand dealings in wildlife.

# BSCIC fair draws crowd, handloom fair limping



Convener of the Tant Bastro Mela expressed disappointment at the turnover this year. "The numbers are fewer," he said, but hoped that sales would pick up four or five days before Eid



The BSCIC fair features multicoloured bangles, left, and hand-embroidered nakshikantha at Motijheel.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) opened a *Mela* (fair) at Motijheel, on Monday adding to the number of other fairs, especially of clothes organised by the weaver's community.

With a wide range of sarees, salwar kameez, the BSCIC *mela* is attracting a large number of people especially the womenfolk, as Eid draws nearer.

Adding to the different types of clothes, the *mela* also included items like *churi* (bangles), *bindi* (a facial decoration), and a variety of ornamental jewellery, from silver to gold plated giving the shoppers a feast for their eyes and a pinch to the purse.

The Tant Bastro Mela (handloom fair), which has been annually held since 1990, is taking place in five places in the city simultaneously. Weavers from different parts of the country, including the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are participants, displaying their best hand-made products targeting the middle and low-income groups.

"Silk sarees dominate our sales," said Hasan, a salesperson of Hanif Silk, a stall at a *mela* being held near the Sonargaon

Hotel. "We do have *punjabis*, *salwar kameez*, and shirts, but the sale of sarees top the list."

Of Hanif Silk's range of sarees, the most expensive is priced at Tk 1,450,000.00, he said. "We have so far been able to sell sarees ranging only between Tk 1,500.00 and Tk. 3,000.00. Sales have not been up to our expectations this season," lamented Hasan.

Shoppers are drawn towards the stalls put up by the CHT people as most of their products are reasonably priced. Items like *fatua*, shirts, *salwar kameez*, *punjabis* and sarees are priced between Tk. 250.00 and Tk. 1,800.00

Other items on exhibition are Kawsar Jamdani and Rajshahi Silk sarees, along with Bata products selling at a 15 per cent discount.

Convener of the Tant Bastro Mela, Pintu, has expressed disappointment at the turnover this year. "The numbers are fewer," he said, but hoped that sales would pick up four or five days before Eid.

In another *mela* at Manik Mia Avenue, the weavers put on display Jamdani silks and Benasari sarees, wrappers from Kumarkahli, Nakshi Kantha and

*lungi* from Narsindi.

A supplier, expressing satisfaction with the sale of some of his products at this *mela* said, "I usually supply ware to various cloth shops in Dhaka. I am content with my sales." Nabiuddin of Chandi Cloth Store from Tangail does not have a stall at the fair.

At Kawran Bazar, weavers once again expressed disappointment as their sales did not pick up two weeks after the opening of the *mela*.

"Our sales have not gone over the Tk. 30,000.00 mark. Two years ago, sales were more than our expectation. So many *melas* in the city is probably the reason for this drawback," said Anjum of Nargis Silk.

"It is frustrating to wait for customers to come in after dusk. They hardly walk in after breaking their fast. I wonder if the rent of Tk. 12,000.00 per stall is worth the effort," added Anjum.

Sumon, a shopper said he bought most of his items elsewhere. But he said the prices are quite reasonable at the *mela*.

Munira, another visitor who bought some items for *zakat* said, "Sarees and *lungis* are much cheaper here than other markets and exhibitions."

## marketprice

**Dhaka New Market, Dhaka**

- CEREALS**  
 Rice (HYV) Aman Medium kgs19.00  
 Rice coarse (HYV) kgs14.33  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs37.00  
 Wheat Grain (Local White) kgs11.33  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs45.67  
 Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs38.00  
 Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs23.00  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (Deshi) kgs33.00  
 Onion (India big) kgs25.00  
 Garlic Deshi (common) kgs37.00  
 Garlic Big (Imported) kgs31.00  
 Ginger (Deshi) kgs31.33  
 Ginger (Imported) kgs44.00  
 Turmeric kgs82.67  
 Turmeric (India) kgs56.67  
 Chili Green kgs48.33  
 Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) kgs85.00  
 Chili Dried (Imported) kgs97.33  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holland) kgs12.67  
 Bitter Gourd kgs23.00  
 Barbat Green (Long bean) kgs22.33  
 Cauliflower Average Size kgs8.67  
 Cabbage Average Size kgs8.67  
 Local Bean Green kgs22.00  
 Lau (Water Gourd) kgs20.00  
 Pataalkgs13.00  
 Brinjal (Long purple) kgs19.00

- Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs11.00  
 Papaya Green kgs7.00  
 Radish White kgs13.00  
**FRUITS**  
 Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs10.00  
 Apple (Australia) kgs65.00  
 Coconut pcs16.00  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Deshi) kgs115.00  
 Hilsahkgs180.00  
**Mesua Bazar, Mymensingh**  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice (HYV) Aman Medium kgs14.15  
 Rice coarse (HYV) kgs13.25  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs31.75  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs40.10  
 Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs21.00  
**OIL & OIL SEEDS**  
 Mustard seeds kgs59.50  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (India big) kgs24.00  
 Garlic Big (Imported) kgs29.00  
 Ginger (Imported) kgs27.00  
 Turmeric (India) kgs75.00  
 Chili Green kgs47.67  
 Chili Dried (Imported) kgs90.00  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holland) kgs13.00  
 Bitter Gourd kgs22.00  
 Barbat Green (Long bean) kgs18.00  
 Local Bean Green kgs25.00

- Lau (Water Gourd) pcs16.25  
 Pataalkgs14.25  
 Brinjal (Long purple) kgs16.60  
 Papaya Green kgs6.50  
**FRUITS**  
 Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs8.00  
 Apple (Australia) kgs70.00  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Deshi) kgs178.00  
**FERTILIZER**  
 Urea (Local) kgs5.95  
**Rangpur Municipal Market, Rangpur**  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice (HYV) Aman Medium kgs12.20  
 Rice coarse (HYV) kgs13.20  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs35.40  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs42.80  
 Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs22.40  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (India big) kgs24.40  
 Garlic Deshi (common) kgs48.80  
 Garlic Big (Imported) kgs30.80  
 Turmeric kgs67.00  
 Chili Green kgs42.80  
 Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) kgs97.00  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holland) kgs10.40  
 Bitter Gourd kgs15.40  
 Barbat Green (Long bean) kgs12.40  
 Cauliflower Average Size kgs14.40

- Cabbage Average Size kgs11.40  
 Tomato Ripen (Imported) kgs35.40  
 Pataalkgs10.80  
 Brinjal (Long purple) kgs14.80  
 Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs10.80  
 Papaya Green kgs7.60  
 Radish White kgs9.40  
**FRUITS**  
 Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs5.40  
 Apple (Australia) kgs60.80  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Deshi) kgs154.00  
 Hilsahkgs164.00  
 Chingri Small kgs124.00  
**FERTILIZER**  
 TSP (Imported) kgs14.00  
**Comilla Chaka Bazar, Comilla**  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs45.00  
 Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs38.60  
 Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs21.40  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (India big) kgs23.40  
 Garlic Deshi (common) kgs35.60  
 Garlic Big (Imported) kgs27.20  
 Ginger (Deshi) kgs38.00  
 Ginger (Imported) kgs46.00  
 Turmeric kgs77.00  
 Turmeric (India) kgs62.00  
**Khulna Sadar Bara Bazar, Khulna**  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice (HYV) Aman Medium kgs12.40

- Rice coarse (HYV) kgs13.30  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs34.80  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs44.40  
 Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs42.40  
 Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs22.80  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (Deshi) kgs32.80  
 Onion (India big) kgs24.40  
 Garlic Deshi (common) kgs38.00  
 Garlic Big (Imported) kgs30.80  
 Ginger (Deshi) kgs32.00  
 Turmeric kgs72.00  
 Chili Green kgs48.00  
 Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) kgs82.00  
 Chili Dried (Imported) kgs92.00  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holland) kgs13.70  
 Bitter Gourd kgs26.80  
 Okrakgs14.60  
 Barbat Green (Long bean) kgs12.80  
 Cauliflower Average Size kgs22.40  
 Cabbage Average Size kgs14.80  
 Tomato Ripen (Imported) kgs46.00  
 Local Bean Green kgs24.60  
 Lau (Water Gourd) kgs8.80  
 Pataalkgs10.80  
 Brinjal (Long purple) kgs12.80  
 Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs10.80  
 Papaya Green kgs5.40  
 Radish White kgs10.80  
**FRUITS**

- Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs8.80  
 Apple (Australia) kgs57.00  
 Apple (India) kgs52.00  
 Coconut kgs10.80  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Deshi) kgs132.00  
 Hilsahkgs190.00  
**FERTILIZER**  
 Urea (Local) kgs6.50  
 TSP (Imported) kgs14.40  
**FERTILIZER**  
 Urea (Local) kgs6.00  
 TSP (Imported) kgs14.60  
**Jessore Sadar Bazar, Jessore**  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice coarse (HYV) kgs12.60  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs34.60  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs45.00  
 Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs43.00  
 Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs23.00  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (Deshi) kgs30.80  
 Onion (India big) kgs23.60  
 Garlic Deshi (common) kgs38.80  
 Garlic Big (Imported) kgs33.20  
 Ginger (Deshi) kgs35.60  
 Turmeric kgs73.20  
 Chili Green kgs42.00  
 Chili Dried (Imported) kgs100.00  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holland) kgs12.00

- Bitter Gourd kgs34.00  
 Barbat Green (Long bean) kgs18.60  
 Cauliflower Average Size kgs25.60  
 Tomato Ripen (Imported) kgs40.00  
 Local Bean Green kgs24.80  
 Lau (Water Gourd) kgs13.60  
 Pataalkgs11.20  
 Brinjal (Long purple) kgs13.40  
 Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs11.60  
 Papaya Green kgs4.80  
 Radish White kgs12.80  
**FRUITS**  
 Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs7.60  
 Apple (Australia) kgs62.00  
 Orange (India) 4 pcs22.00  
 Coconut pcs9.60  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Deshi) kgs128.00  
 Hilsahkgs154.00  
 Chingri Small kgs113.00  
**Islamia Bazar, Sylhet**  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice coarse (HYV) kgs14.20  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs36.40  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs44.60  
 Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs40.40  
 Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs23.00  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (India big) kgs23.60  
 Garlic Big (Imported) kgs27.20  
 Ginger (Deshi) kgs24.40

- Ginger (Imported) kgs40.80  
 Turmeric (India) kgs78.00  
 Chili Green kgs58.00  
 Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) kgs87.00  
 Chili Dried (Imported) kgs92.00  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holland) kgs12.60  
 Bitter Gourd kgs32.00  
 Okrakgs24.40  
 Barbat Green (Long bean) kgs27.00  
 Cauliflower Average Size kgs27.00  
 Cabbage Average Size kgs17.20  
 Tomato Ripen (Imported) kgs37.00  
 Carrot Medium Size kgs55.00  
 Local Bean Green kgs37.00  
 Lau (Water Gourd) kgs14.60  
 Pataalkgs16.40  
 Brinjal (Long purple) kgs23.20  
 Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs17.20  
 Papaya Green kgs9.40  
 Radish White kgs17.40  
**FRUITS**  
 Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs7.80  
 Apple (Australia) kgs72.00  
 Orange (India) 4 pcs28.00  
 Coconut 4 pcs48.00  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Deshi) kgs174.00  
 Hilsahkgs164.00  
**FERTILIZER**  
 Urea (Local) kgs6.20  
 TSP (Imported) kgs13.60