

IU VC off to Dhaka for talks as agitation continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Amid agitation for his resignation, Islamic University Vice Chancellor Mustafizur Rahman has gone to Dhaka for urgent consultation with higher authorities, campus sources said yesterday.

The VC left for Dhaka Monday night, they said.

A deadlock situation is continuing on the campus. Classes are not being held since January 1 as majority of the teachers and students are agitating for his resignation for alleged administrative irregularities and toeing Jamaat-e-Islami line.

The Bidibidhan Sangrakkhan Committee (BSC), a body of teachers, joined by student organisations, organised a token hunger strike in front of the VC's residence

yesterday to press the demand for his resignation.

Earlier, it held similar programmes on Jhenidah Press Club premises on Tuesday and on the Kushtia Public Library premises on the day before.

First year admission test has become uncertain. It was scheduled for January 19.

Both the teachers and students now say they will not back out from the demand for his resignation.

The BSC also held a rally on the campus on Tuesday demanding his resignation.

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Bangladesh Chhatra Front also took part in the programmes.

Teachers belonging to both ruling BNP and opposition Awami League are demanding the VC's resignation. Only teachers aligned to Jamaat are supporting.

Earlier, memorandums were sent to the Prime Minister and the Education Minister for intervention.

There are also allegations of nepotism in promotion of teachers and officials. Sources said the VC appointed 43 teachers after his takeover. Of them, 39 are pro-Jamaat.

It is alleged that the VC ignored national days like Victory Day, March 26 and February 21.

When contacted, BSC convener Prof. Dr. Ashraf Ali told The Daily Star that the VC "lost the right to remain in office".



Teachers of Islamic University staged a token hunger strike on Tuesday for resignation of its Vice-chancellor. PHOTO: STAR

Long March, rally to protest India's river diversion plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hundreds of people on Tuesday protested an Indian move to divert water from three major international rivers under US 124 billion-dollar 'Inter-river Networking Project.'

The Indian scheme to transfer water from the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna was protested at a mammoth public meeting held after arrival of a long march at Shibganj in Chapainawabganj from Dhaka. Nagorik Committee Co-chairman Hasna Moudud who led the march called upon all irrespective of ideas to unite under a banner for the interest of the

nation.

Speakers told that after implementation of the project, 14 crore people of Bangladesh would be affected and the country's north-western region would turn into a desert. They asked the Indian government to cancel the project and reminded them that the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna being international rivers, concerned countries have equal rights over water of the rivers.

Speakers further told that India had already completed reviews on 137 sub-projects of water receiving, 71 reviews on water withdrawal, environmental tests for 37 link-channels and 31 pre-

feasibility and six feasibility studies.

Various socio-cultural organisations including Nagorik Committee, International Farakka Committee, Bangladesh Poribesh Sangbadik Forum and Padma-Jamuna-Meghna Bachao Andolon jointly organised the long march towards Kansat in Chapainawabganj.

BNP lawmaker Professor Shahjahan Ali chaired the meeting.

Among others, Rajshahi city mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, Jahangirnagar University vice chancellor Prof Jasim Uddin and Dr Zakir Hossain addressed the meeting.

SNAPS

5 BNP activists hurt in clash over toll money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least five ruling BNP activists were injured, one of them seriously, in a clash between two factions of the party at Kalaroa on Sunday.

The clash ensued over sharing of toll collected from Kalaroa cattle market.

Seriously injured Quddus was shifted to Khulna hospital as his condition deteriorated.

A case was filed with Kalaroa thana.

Drive to recover PDB bills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) recovered about 67 lakh taka from the defaulting consumers here in two days.

A mobile court led by first class magistrate Abu Naser recovered the amount from PDB consumers as unpaid bills Monday and Tuesday.

Official sources said, the mobile court has disconnected of 234 illegal connections and arrested seven persons who were freed on payment of cash.

Besides, television sets, refrigerators, micro-ovens and generators were also seized during the period.

Tk 2.5 lakh loans to acid victims, disabled in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

The district Social Welfare Department has distributed Tk 2,50,000 interest-free loans among 25 acid-burn victims and disabled people to make them self-reliant.

The loans were disbursed at a simple ceremony, held recently.

Advocate Haroon-Al-Rashid MP was the chief guest at the function.

With Brahmanbaria sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Gulam Mastufa in the chair, the function was also addressed by, among others, Social Welfare Officer Abdur Rahim, Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Md Sheed Ullah, BRDB Chairman Md Burhan Uddin and district BNP Joint Secretary Md Mubarak Ali.

Fame and fortune from scientific fishery

Hashim revives cultivation of popular local varieties, earns Tk 25 lakh a year

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Muktagacha (Mymensingh)

NETRAKONA: Educated youth Mir Abul Hashim has earned fame and fortune.

His Mir Fishery at Podurbari village is well known in greater Mymensingh district.

Hashim sold Tk one crore fishes last year to earn a net profit of Tk 25 lakh. He expects Tk 40 lakh net profit this year from Tk 1.5 crore sales.

The village is 24 kilometres from Mymensingh town and five kilometres from Muktagacha upazila headquarter.

But Hashim's approach is different from others. He has revived commercial cultivation of local varieties which are gradually

going to be extinct. He grows Koi, Magur, Chitol, Pabda, Shol, Mohashol and other varieties.

He cultivates fish in 53 ponds in 30 acres. He grows local varieties in seven ponds and curb species in others.

His system is scientific and advanced than those of others. He has installed machines in ponds to generate more oxygen in water for fish. This helps faster growth of fish.

Hashim had started with cultivation of Pangas in a 50 decimal pond with only Tk 4000 capital in 1992.

Abul Hashim does not buy fish feed from market. He has set up a factory to produce fish feed. He produces 600kg fish feed daily. His farm needs 500kg and the rest is

sold. His fish feed is better in quality than those available in the market, Hashim told this correspondent during a recent visit.

Fish farmers from different areas come to him for fish feed. He plans to expand the factory for the benefit of others.

Hashim said Pangas cultivation had earned him good initial profit. But after some years its price fell. So he thought of cultivating local varieties because those are tasty and have good demand.

Hashim said local varieties in his seven ponds are now ready for sale. He sells Chitol, Magur and Mohashol at Tk 200 per kg, and Koi and Pabda at Tk 150 per kg. He expects to earn about Tk 12 lakh from sale of these varieties.

He has transports and sends the fishes to markets in Dhaka. He said he will expand the cultivation of local varieties in 20 ponds.

Hashim says he encourages others to cultivate local varieties because those are tasty and have also good demand abroad.

He is also fulfilling his social responsibility. Unemployed youths are getting practical training at his fish farm.

He said he did not get any assistance from government. Fish farming can employ many unemployed youths if the government takes appropriate steps, he said.

Hashim got award twice as the best fish farmer in Mymensingh district.



File photo: (left) Mir Abdul Hashim showing a big Chitol fish to District Fishery Officer Abdul Khaleq (third from left) and a machine in operation at one his ponds for supply of more oxygen in the water. PHOTO: STAR

Police trying to divert case, acid attack victim says

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Momtaz Begum, 30, wife of an army man working as peacekeeper abroad, is languishing at Gaibandha Sadar hospital with severe injuries from acid attack.

But police are trying to divert the case in favour of the accused, she alleged while talking to journalists.

Momtaz, wife of Obidul Huq, was asleep with her minor child at her house at Kishamat Malibari village under Gaibandha sadar Upazila on March 6.

The miscreants broke open the window and threw acid on her.

She suffered severe burn injuries on her throat and chest. Relatives removed her to Gaibandha hospital in a critical condition.

Family source said she had a quarrel with neighbor Abdur Rashid and Abdus Samad over a disputed land.

Two persons were arrested as her husband's elder brother Wahedul Huq filed a case in connection with the land dispute.

This angered them. The acid attack is a sequel to the case-filing, Momtaj's family claimed.

A case has been filed by the victim's family after the acid attack.

But police, when contacted, said they are yet to find any clue to the incident of acid



Acid attack victim Momtaj Begum at Gaibandha hospital. The photo was taken on Tuesday. PHOTO: STAR

attack. They say they did not find any trace of acid in the evidence they collected though doctors say Momtaj is a victim of acid attack.

Meanwhile, Gaibandha unit of the Mohila Parishad in a statement

condemned the incident and expressed surprise at the role of police.

It has demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits and threatened of a agitation if police try to divert the case.

Peddler hacked for not selling phensidyl on credit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A group of armed hoodlums allegedly led by Munna, a notorious extortionist, hacked drug peddler Shakil at Aker Barta lane in the city centre Tuesday evening as he refused to sell phensidyl on credit.

Witnesses said, being attacked, Sakil took shelter at a doctor's chamber but the hoodlums dragged him out and hacked him indiscriminately in presence of many people.

Sakil was sent to the Barisal SBMCH in a critical condition. He suffered at least 20 stab injuries. There were deep cut wounds in his left leg and hand, witnesses said.

The attackers brandished firearms and blasted bombs, creating a panic in the area.

Police came about half an hour after the incident though the spot is at a little distance from the police outpost, the witnesses said. None was arrested.

9 officials sued for Tk 1cr scam in Muktagachha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Nine officials of Muktagachha Upazila Accounts Office were sued on Sunday for their alleged involvement in misappropriation of over one crore taka.

The District Anti-Corruption Bureau filed four cases against them with Kotwali police station.

The accused are: AKM Fazlur Rahman, ex-Upazila Accounts Officer of Muktagachha, Anwarul Islam, Muktagachha Upazila Accounts Officer, Mohiuddin Ahmed Auditor (Post), Dhaka Md Shamsul Alam Auditor, Upazila Accounts Office, Nurul Islam, Auditor (T&T), Dhaka, Md Abdul Gani, Auditor, (Post), Dhaka, Abul Hasnat, Accounts Office, Gazipur, Abdul Karim Purbadhala, Netrakona and Abul Kalam, (T&T), Dhaka.

They 'misappropriated' one crore, 12 lakh and 56 thousand taka through various means. They misappropriated money from GP fund, house building loans making fake bills and advices from 1995-'96 to 1998-'99 fiscal from Sonali Bank, Muktagachha branch.

SELECTION OF MAWA POINT FOR PADMA BRIDGE Celebrations in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

People of Barisal city observed Bijoy Utsob (victory celebration) on Tuesday following selection of Mawa as the site for construction of the proposed Padma Bridge.

The JAICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) selected the site after survey.

The victory celebration was organized by the Barisal Divisional Committee for Padma Bridge at Mawa.

People from all classes including students and teachers of different educational institutions spontaneously participated in the programme.

A big gathering was held in front of Aswani Kumar Hall on

the occasion.

Golam Mawla, convener of the committee, presided over the meeting, addressed by district BNP secretary advocate Nazrul Islam Rajon, cultural personality Mintu Bose, Barisal Reporters Unity Secretary Shawkat Milton, journalist Tawfiq Maruf, freedom fighter Nurul Alam Farid, Saifur Rahman Miron and SM Iqbal.

The speakers thanked the JAICA and Bangladesh government for their 'right decision' to construct the Padma bridge at Mawa.

They said quick implementation of the decision will change the socio-economic condition of the region, reactivate Mongla Port and develop

tourism in Kuakata and the Sundarbans.

It will benefit 5.5 crore people of 21 districts of southern region, they said.

After the gathering, a colorful victory procession was brought out. Thousands of people from all works of life marched the city streets carrying banners, festoons and replicas of the proposed Padma bridge.

In the afternoon, cultural programs were presented by different cultural groups at the Bijoy Manch (victory stage), erected on the premises of Aswani Kumar hall. A large number of people enjoyed the programmes till midnight.