

'No academic activity at IU till VC's removal'

Teachers announce at rally, demand probe into alleged corruption by VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Leaders of the Bidibidhan Sangrakhan Committee (BBSC), a body Islamic University teachers, at a rally in the town yesterday said they will not resume academic activities at the institution till the "corrupt and inefficient" vice-chancellor is removed.

They said they are firm on their demand and urged the Prime Minister to intervene and remove VC Prof Mustafizur Rahman in the interest of the university and its students. The PM is the chancellor of the university.

They also demanded probe into the alleged corruption by the VC during his two and a half years'

tenure.

The rally, held at the Public Library ground, was addressed by, among others, Dr. Abul Ahsan Chowdhury, Dr. Ali Noor Rahman, Dr. ANM Rejaul Karim, Dr. Kamaluddin, Dr. Shawkat Jahangir, Dr. Tahir Ahmed and Dr. Zahir Hossain.

BBSC Convener Dr. Ashraf Ali presided over the rally, attended by about 100 teachers and a large number of students.

Earlier, the teachers gathered at the Customs Mor and marched the streets up to the Public Library ground.

The rally and the procession were part of a three-day

programme announced at a BBSC meeting on Saturday to press its demand for resignation of the vice-chancellor.

The BBSC will form a human chain at Kushtia town today and stage two hours' token hunger strike on the Public Library premises tomorrow.

At Saturday's meeting held at the university club with its Prof Ashraf Ali in the chair also drew the Prime Minister's attention to the stalemate in the interest of about 9000 students.

Classes are not held in the university since January as majority of the teachers and all the students are demanding the VC's resignation.

Sources on the campus said the university situation may deteriorate if the pro-VC group also announce agitation programme.

tion.

On the other hand, teachers supporting Jamaat-e-Islami on Saturday held a rally on the campus in support of the VC.

A large number of Islaim Chhatra Sibir (ICS) activists also joined the rally.

The rally demand IU Treasurer Prof Mosarraf Hossain's resignation.

Prof Mosarraf Hossain, president of IU unit of Zia Parishad, is among those demanding the VC's resignation.

Sources on the campus said the university situation may deteriorate if the pro-VC group also announce agitation programme.

RU to appoint 289 employees 'bypassing rule'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities are allegedly preparing to recruit 289 third and fourth class employees without prior notice and proscrutiny.

Outsiders belonging to the alliance government's student fronts -- Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and (JCD) -- laid a siege to the Registrar's office on Saturday in an apparent bid to keep in force the authority's decision to appoint 136 third class and 153 fourth class employees, sources claimed.

If the decision is carried out, most of these staff would be recruited under direct "political pressure from local BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, influential teachers and trade union leaders", they added.

The university authorities prepared the list earlier but failed to announce it despite pressure from different groups.

RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruk and Pro-VC Prof KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondal were sitting across the table to decide on the issue till the writing of this report at 6:00 pm Saturday.

When contacted, Pro-VC KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondal said the RU authorities have not given any appointment, but the process was underway.

Meanwhile, additional police forces were deployed in front of the Registrar's office to avert any untoward incident.

Salt mixed with Urea, cement with TSP

IRRI-Boro on 50,000 acres turn yellowish in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

IRRI-Boro on about 50,000 acres in Akhaura upazila have turned yellowish due to use of adulterated fertiliser, farmers have alleged.

A section of dishonest traders are mixing salt with Urea, cement dust with TSP and pebbles with MP fertiliser, they alleged while talking to this correspondent during a recent visit to some of the affected areas in the upazila.

The traders are also selling low quality SSP in the name TSP.

The badly affected areas are Mosjidpara, Akaura

Magura, Moniand, South Dharkhar and North Dharkhar villages.

The farmers said they complained to the local officials, but to no effect.

When contacted fertiliser trader Nurul Amin said he bought fertiliser bags packed in factory and told those without opening.

Gaibandha, Gobindaganj municipal polls on May 6,8

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Municipal election in Gaibandha and Gobindaganj will be held on May 6 and May 8 respectively.

As per the schedule declared by the Election Commission, the last date for submitting nomination paper is April 11. Scrutiny will take place on April 12. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 19.

Additional District Magistrate Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal will be the Returning Officer for Gaibandha and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) AKM Mizanur Rahman for Gobindaganj.

Deputy Commissioner Tapon Chandra Majumder will act as co-ordinator.

Teachers' expulsion from SSC exam protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

The Mymensingh unit of National Teachers and Employees Front (NTEF) brought out a procession in the town on Saturday protesting the "illegal expulsion" of four teachers from SSC examination halls and alleged misbehavior with them by Additional Deputy Commissioner SM Ashfaq Hossain.

Its leaders also held a press conference at Mymensingh Press Club and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commission (DC) demanding remedial steps.

At the press conference, they said four teachers were on duty at Edward Institution on March 4. They were Md Ersad Ali, Md Iqbal Noor, Rawshon Ara Begum and Jushna Rani Das of Hazlal Uddin Pre-cadet and High School.

They alleged that the ADC during a visit expelled the four teachers without any specific cause and asked them to leave the centre immediately.

They condemned the alleged misbehaviour and demanded withdrawal of the expulsion order and threatened of boycott of the SSC examination for non-compliance.

When contacted, SM Ashfaq Hossain said he took the expulsion decision as per rule and denied having misbehaved with the teach-

Midnight mass eviction

Armed goons evict 400 dwellers from Achchya slum in Ctg, loot goods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Hired goons in a seven-hour raid forced over 400 families out of a huge slum in the city in the early hours of Saturday.

The armed miscreants unleashed a reign of terror, opening fire and threatening the slum dwellers with death unless they vacate houses at the Achchya Colony, victims and police said.

The slum is on a disputed land adjoining Muradpur Mirzapole area under Panchlaish thana.

They said the incident resulted from a dispute between one Nazu Mia and his five step-brothers over ownership of the land.

The victims alleged that over one hundred armed goons came at around 2 AM, allegedly on orders

from Nazu Mia. They forced them out and also looted goods from the evacuated houses.

They also blamed police for delayed appearance and not going into action against the miscreants.

Agitated people later brought out processions and chanted slogans against Nazu Mia and police.

Police claimed that they rushed to the spot immediately after receiving information. The miscreants opened fire, they said.

Police said that there was a long-drawn dispute over the land between Nazu Mia and his five step-brothers including Zahirul Alam Shafi, Vice-president of Chittagong City unit of Jatiya Party, over the hugeland.

They said, Achchya Begum,

mother of Shafi, owned the land while Nazu Mia, son of Laila Begum, was allegedly deprived of the property.

Nazu also filed five GDs in this connection. His resentment might have led to yesterday's incident, police said.

On the other hand, Nazu's steps brothers alleged that Nazu grabbed some 182 decimal land of the colony through forged documents and already sold them at a nominal price of Tk. 3 lakh to a notorious criminal, Ahmadya, Chairman of Satkania.

The evicted people alleged the armed cadres of Ahmadya, also an accused in the sensational business magnet Jamal Uddin abduction case, made the attack.

'Stern action against police failure' Brahmanbaria SP tells anti-drug meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

It was a unique event in the small town. The police chief joined the people in raising voices against drug use and drug peddling.

Over 1000 people from all classes joined a meeting, jointly organised by residents of Madda and the Brahmanbaria Anti-drug Committee. It was held at Brahmanbaria upazila auditorium on Thursday.

Brahmanbaria SP ATM Tarek was chief guest and Sadar upazila UNO Gulam Mustafa was special guest at the meeting presided over by Master Abdul Mazed.

It was also addressed by, among other, the Committee's president advocate Tanvir Bhuiyan, senior vice-president Alhaj Abdul Fayed, vice-president Mawlyan Sajidur Rahman, secretary Jamal Uddin Ahmed and Sadar than OC Md Ismail.

They were in one voice against



PHOTO: STAR

A partial view of the anti-drug meeting held at Brahmanbaria.

identify and nab them.

Other speakers earlier said drug use increase in the town, particularly by a section of youths, as these are sold almost openly at certain places. This is destroying the young generation, they said.

The people demanded steps within seven days to stop drug use.



People brought out a procession at Amlain Kushtia recently hailing the government's approval of the Sagarkhali Barabila Basin Project.

Farmers pin hope on Sagarkhali project

16,000 acres to be flood-free in 4 dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

People of all classes, farmers in particular, welcomed the ECNEC's recent approval of the Tk 97.20 crore Sagarkhali-Barabila Basin Project (SBBP) in Kushtia.

Jubilant farmers, joined by others, brought out a procession in Amla in Kushtia hailing the decision that will fulfil the long cherished desire of about 10 lakh farmers in four districts including Jhenidah, Chuadanga and Magura.

Work on the project has already

started. It is scheduled to be completed next year.

Two kilometres of embankment and for big sluice gates will be constructed under the project in Mirpur upazila in Kushtia.

This will make about 16,000 hectares of land flood-free in Mirpur, Daulatpur and Bheramara in Kushtia, and Shreepur and Sadar upazila in Magura districts.

More 41,000 hectares of land will be brought under Irrigation under GK project in the four districts.

A lifebuoy for the poor

200 patients get free treatment daily in remote shoals

KM REZAUL HOQUE, *Gaibandha*

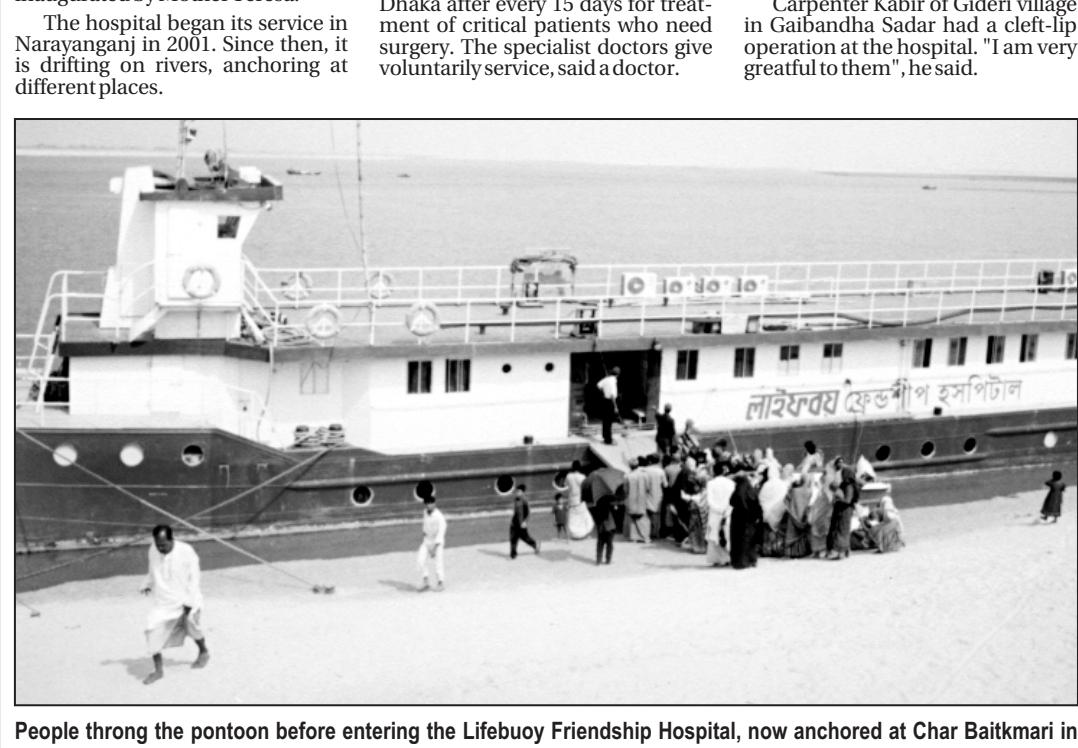
Every day, several hundred poor people come to the floating Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital, now anchored at Char Baitkari in the Brahmaputra in Gaibandha.

They return happy after free treatment.

The hospital provides free medical service in distant and inaccessible shoal areas where poor people are deprived of such facilities.

The 145-feet vessel was donated by the Hospital Association of France for charitable medical services in shoal areas of Bangladesh. It was commissioned in 1995 and inaugurated by Mother Teresa.

The hospital began its service in Narayanganj in 2001. Since then, it is drifting on rivers, anchoring at different places.



People throng the pontoon before entering the Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital, now anchored at Char Baitkari in Gaibandha.

35 MW load shedding in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Frequent load shedding amid a hot and humid weather has made life miserable in Barisal city.

SSC and HSC examinees are the worst sufferers.

Power Development Board (PDB) sources here said the national grid supplies only 17 to 20 MW power to Barisal zone against the peak hour demand of over 55 MW, including 35 MW in Barisal city.

So, load shedding is going on in all the 18 major transmission lines in the region.

The Barisal Diesel Power Station and the two units of Gas Turbine Power Station supplies 4 MW and 30 MW power to the national grid.

Barguna gets power supply from Patuakhali and Bholia depends on its own generation of 2 megawatts.

Water supply in the city is greatly affected by loadshedding, city corporation sources said.

Private clinics and commercial centres use generators but government hospitals have no such facility.

Irrigation for IRRI-Boro cultivation in the entire region is being greatly affected due to frequent power outage.