

# Dirty politics makes CU students' future uncertain

Two ministers and teachers are using JCD cadres

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN RIAD

Politics of vested and partisan interest is one of the major factors responsible for the chaotic situation at Chittagong University (CU), making the academic life and future of over 20,000 students uncertain.

The ruling party and its student wing always rule the roost taking the power-backup as 'granted' while other parties follow suit.

You cannot blame a single party or fact for the most undesirable things that happen on regular basis on the campus, vitiating the academic atmosphere, some guardians said.

However, the volatile situations this time has had its uniqueness a bit, according to general students, teachers and guardians.

They blamed the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student wings of two ruling coalition partners, for the recent happen-

ings on the campus.

Two JCD factions, backed by two ministers have been creating disturbance on the campus with some motives, sources said. Another JCD faction led by university unit president and general secretary want removal of Vice Chancellor Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury.

Some senior teachers of BNP-Jamaat-backed 'white panel' are also using the JCD' cadres for changes in the administration, sources said, adding that they want immediate departure of VC Nuruddin from his office and 'the next violence on the campus had surely a link to it.'

Some senior teachers led by former pro-vice-chancellor Prof Dr M Badiul Alam visited Hawa Bhaban in the capital last week reportedly to talk to the BNP lawmakers in this regard. And the recent JCD rampage on the campus was the outcome of the

visit, source added.

The JCD cadres created panic on the campus attacking the general students and Progressive Student Alliance (PSA) activists last week aiming at deferring their April 24 council, another source said. Some insiders said that JCD President Md Selim and General Secretary MR Chowdhury Milton wanted to defer the council as they might be dropped from the next committee. But Milton said he wanted the council to be held in time as he would likely to be made president of the new committee.

However, Shibir President Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan said that the JCD rampage is nothing but to establish supremacy on the campus.

A section of pro-BNP teachers started lobbying to unseat Prof Nuruddin since his appointment as VC in 2002, sources said. Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr M

Shamsuddin is reportedly patronising them to get promoted as VC, sources added.

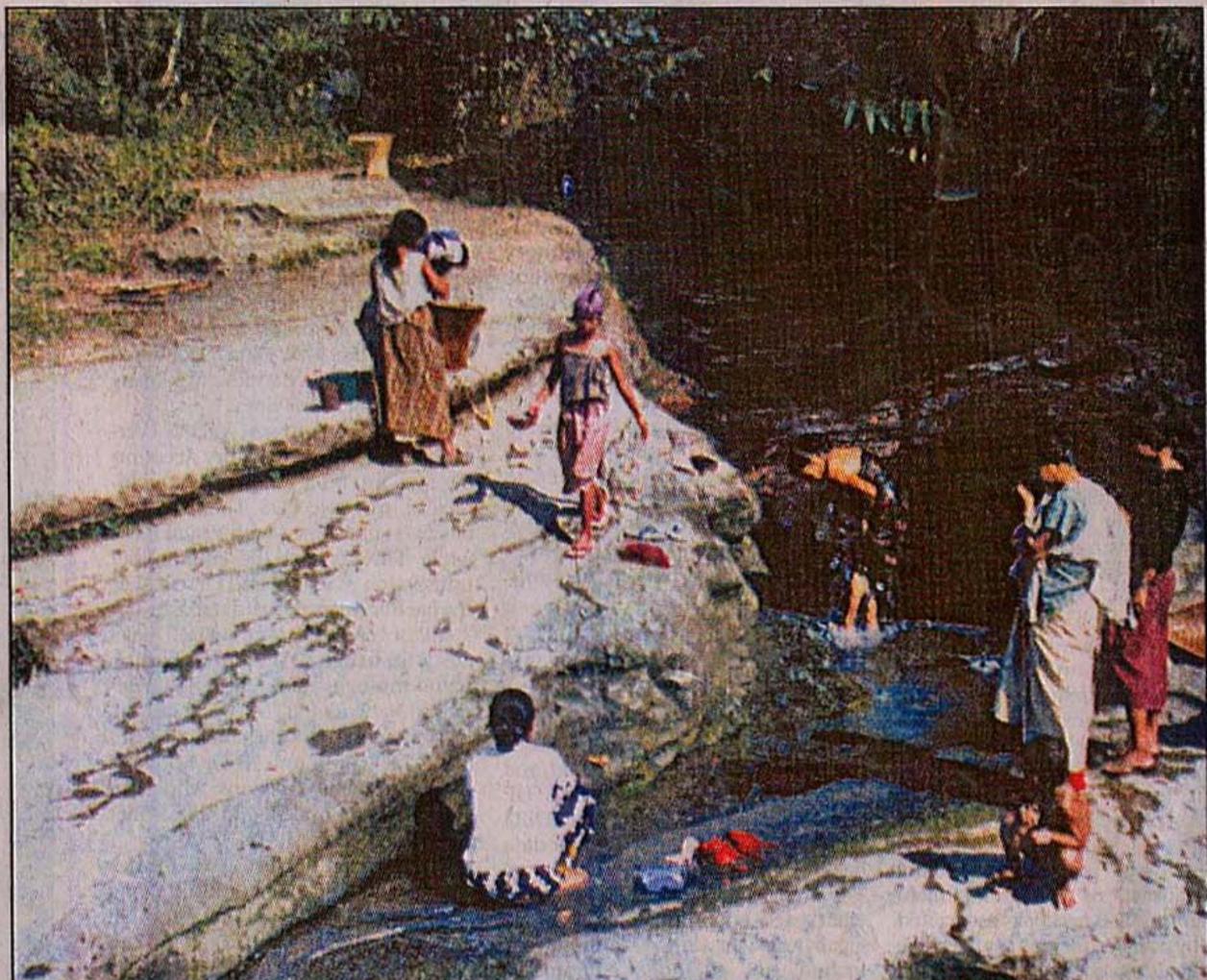
Prof Badiul Alam is also lobbying the high-ups of government for the post. Selim and Milton with the support of a local minister created the chaotic situation on the campus in a planned way to materialise Prof Badiul Alam's plan, a senior teacher said.

At least 40 students including PSA activists were injured in a series of JCD attacks last week.

Prof Nuruddin said that a vested quarter is trying to destroy the congenial atmosphere on the campus. He said that a 'conspiracy' is going on against him and nobody would be allowed to keep CU hostage in the name of 'meaningless' politics.

Prof Badiul Alam, however, denied allegations against him but said the VC has failed to run the university smoothly.

A SPRING OF DISAPPOINTMENT



ZAHID HOSSAIN RIAD

Shalladhabra, a spring of tourist attraction in the hill district of Bandarban, has been drying up, causing disappointment to the visitors and a water crisis for the local people.

## Third bridge on Karnaphuli still treads water

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

All preparations were made to start the much-awaited construction work of the third bridge on the river Karnaphuli when a fresh government order poured cold water on all the aspirations and enthusiasm at the eleventh hour.

A third bridge on this river is the crying need of the time to link the vast southern part to

Chittagong as the century-old Kalurghat and Shah Amanat bridges have already been exposed to vulnerability on several occasions in recent time. The project work, to be funded jointly by Sweden and the Netherlands, was about to start after approval of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the Roads and Highways Department had also taken all necessary preparations in this connection.

But the government in an order on March 24 postponed the process and asked the authorities concerned to invite a fresh tender reportedly to pave the way for a Kuwaiti grant for the project instead of Dutch-Swedish Grant, sources said.

The order came only six days after a cabinet meeting with PM in the chair on March 17 had approved the Dutch-Swedish funded project.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was supposed to inaugurate the construction work of the third bridge on April 19. As per the project plan, construction of the Tk 431 crore bridge will be completed in three years.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the cabinet meeting favoured the Kuwaiti grant while Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan Japanese grant and former Commerce Minister Amir Khosru

Mahmud Chowdhury Dutch-Swedish grants, sources said. "Besides, the contractor under the Dutch-Swedish fund also promised to build the third bridge in three years and they have the capability," a source at R & H Department said here on condition of anonymity.

"Construction of the third bridge on Karnaphuli was the election pledge of the ruling BNP and they can keep the pledge

well before the next general election if the project goes on with Dutch-Swedish proposal," the official added.

"A fresh bidding will not only delay the process but also put the project into uncertainty" he said.

"If re-tender procedures are completed in one year, the construction work will start in 2005 or 2006 and the bridge will possibly be completed by 2008," he said.

Earlier, the government okayed the Dutch-Swedish grant for its attractive offer that includes low and bearable interest rate against the loan.

Communication Minister Nazmul Huda favoured the project with a view to completing the bridge during the BNP government tenure. He also requested Saifur Rahman to give order to the Economic Relation Department (ERD) for necessary

arrangements in this regard.

Besides, plying of vehicles on the Kalurghat Bridge will be suspended for six months from July for its repair. The closure will worsen the sufferings of thousands of commuters, who depend largely on this bridge, to and from Chittagong and the regions of south Chittagong.

The R & H Department is building four ghats for heavy vehicles during the period.

## the week that was

### Photography exhibition

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman said, "We find true picture of our lifestyle and socio-economic situation through photography and most of our photojournalists take lot of trouble and even risk to do the job."

He was speaking as chief guest after inaugurating a two-day photography exhibition titled 'Amar Desh' at the Chittagong Press Club (CPC) auditorium on Saturday.

Sixty-five photographs of 13 photojournalists were displayed in the exhibition organised by the CPC.

The participants are Dev Prasad Das Debu, Monzurul Alam Monzu, Subash Karan, Shishir Barua, Ali Abbas, Rupam Chakrabarty, Asif Siraj, Rashed Mahmud, Dildar Alam Dilar, Mashirul Rehman Badal, Mostafizur Rahman, Mohammad Faruqi and Monzur Qader Monzu.

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was present as chief guest on the concluding day on Sunday. CPC President Abu Sufian and General Secretary Kalim Sarwar also spoke.

### VC for economic emancipation

"Only economic emancipation can make the independence meaningful," Chittagong University Vice Chancellor Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury said this while speaking as chief guest at a meeting to mark the Independence Day on Thursday.

CU Club (Campus) organised the meeting with club president Prof Dr Munshi Nazrul Islam in the chair. Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Shamsuddin, Prof Dr Moniruzzaman,

Prof Abul Kalam Azad, Prof Siddique Ahmad Chowdhury, Prof Dr Abul Kalam Azad, Prof Asfar Ali, CU Officers Association President Jafar Sadeque and club secretary Saiful Islam also spoke.

The speakers emphasised the need for creating a fair and good political culture to give democracy an institutional shape.

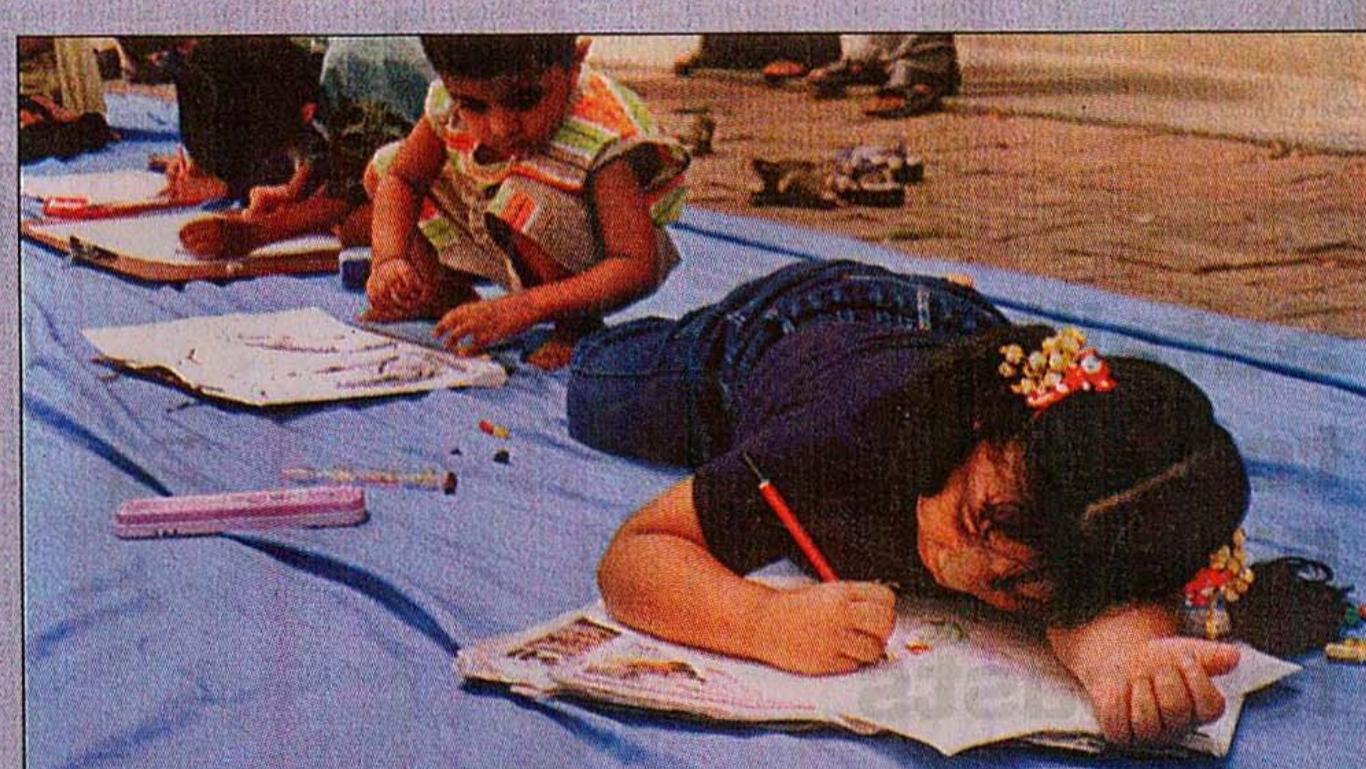
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### WHO lauds mayor



Children engrossed in showing latent talent at an art competition at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy on Saturday.

### Railway workers for permanent pay commission

Leaders of Bangladesh Railway Employees League at a meeting on Sunday urged the government to announce a permanent pay commission, its immediate implementation and modernisation of railway.

The meeting was held at Polo Ground Office with Bangladesh Railway Employees League President Abu Taher Khan in the chair.

Stipends worth Tk 2,96,700 were distributed to 292 meritorious students.

Secretary General of the Foundation, Ranjit Kumar Chowdhury presented the annual report. Prof Ranjit Kumar Dey, Permanent Secretary Md Selim Biki Dev, former Lion Governor Prafulla Ranjan Singh, advocate Purnendu Masih Chowdhury, advocate Rana Das Gupta, journalist Samir Bhattacharya, politician Indu Nandan Dutta and Prof Bijoy Laxmi Devi discussed on the report.

### Annual function of Mastermind

The annual function of Mastermind International School was held in the city on Wednesday with a call for infusing sense of humanity among the students alongside imparting academic knowledge.

The speakers at the function at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong auditorium emphasised the need for encouraging the students in extra-curriculum activities.

Professor Dr. Masud Mahmud of Chittagong University addressed the function as chief guest with Prof. Ghulam Abu Muhammad, principal of the school, in the chair.

The speakers also called for helping "the future nation" develop a mindset with a strong sense of

morality, which the country badly needs at present.

### 292 students get stipends

The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Hindu Foundation was held at Maitree Bhavan on Momin Road on Friday with veteran revolutionary Binod Bibhori Chowdhury in the chair.

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### Urs at Maizbhandar

The annual Urs of Gausul Azam Shah Sufi Mawla Syed Golamur Rahman Baba Bhandari (K) was held at the Maizbhandar Darbar Sharif at Fatikchhari Upazila on Monday. Anjumane Rahmania Moineea Maizbhandari organised Urs programmes. The programmes include Khatme Quran, discussion, milad, zikr mahfil and akheri munajat.

Shah Sufi Syed Moinuddin Ahmed conducted the akheri munajat. Thousands of devotees from home and abroad including India, Pakistan and Myanmar attend the Urs at the shrine to show their respect to the Baba Bhandari every year.

### Computer training for school students

Gateway Kids School of Computing launched computer training programme for school students at Saint Placid High School on Thursday. Under the programme, to be introduced at city schools gradually, the students of Saint Placid will enable to have a first-hand knowledge about Information Technology (IT), says a press release.

Gateway Managing Director Imrul Islam Chowdhury gave address of welcome where he emphasised the need for such extra-curriculum activities. Headmaster Brother Pradip Placid

Gomes thanked the organiser for initiating the course and said, "This is a timely initiative to make our kids capable of keeping pace with the present competitive world."

Members of the school managing committee, teachers, guardians and a large number of students were present in the function.

### Attack on CU students condemned

Sammitto Peshajibi Sangram Parishad, Chittagong at a meeting condemned the

attack on the procession of students of Chittagong University (CU) by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists backed by police on Thursday.

Chaired by Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) General Secretary Prof Helaluddin Nizami, the meeting was held at Parishad Office at Court Building on Friday.

Prof Gazi Salehuddin, Prof Hossain Kabir, advocate Iftekhar Saimul Chowdhury, engineer Dewar Majumder, politician Kazi Shahjahan, community leader and senior lawyer Rana Das Gupta, advocate Manobostu Barua, Dr AQM Sirajul Islam and Dr Chandan Das spoke.

They demanded immediate arrest of the culprits responsible for the attack.