

Non-govt teachers threaten movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Teachers-Employees Unity Council at a press conference yesterday urged the government to pay 100 per cent salary benefits to non-government teachers and employees to remove discrimination.

The Unity Council, an organisation of the non-government teachers and employees, announced that it would submit a memorandum to the education minister on May 10 to press home their 15-point demands. They also threatened to launch anti-government move if their demands were not met immediately.

Selim Bhuiyan, chief co-ordinator of the Unity Council read out the written statement. Council leaders Kamrunnahar Ahmed, Kalimullah, Chowdhury Mugis Uddin Mahmood, Principal Saidur Rahman and Mohammad Ali were present at the press conference at the National Press Club.

They said that the government did not pay heed to their demands despite assurance from

the high officials of the education ministry.

Earlier, the Council leaders wrote letters to the Education Minister Dr. Osman Farruk in this regard. Education secretary at a meeting with the Council leaders had assured them of meeting their demands, they said.

He said that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, when was in the opposition, had pledged to provide additional 10 per cent salary benefit for non-government teachers and employees. Non-government teachers and employees get 90 per cent from the government, he added. Other demands include annual increment, medical allowance, an end to the highhandedness of the school managing committees and governing bodies and formation of teachers' recruitment commission.

They also demanded separate higher secondary directorate and appointment of teachers in education directorate, education boards and other bodies concerned.



PHOTO: STAR

Islamic Front of Bangladesh stages a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting government failure to ensure safety of the people, check price hike and curb corruption.

'Post-independence history has fallen victim to divisive politics'

Staff Correspondent

Post-independence history has fallen victim to divisive and conflicting politics, speakers said at a publication ceremony of a book yesterday.

"Though an essential discipline of academic study, history started getting marginalised in different ways since the partition of the sub-continent," said noted academician Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui.

The book titled 'Bangladesh National Culture and Heritage' was published by the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Former chief justice Habibur Rahman, who unveiled the book, said, "Bangalee culture and history is more than thousand years old but people are less concerned over the

past."

As to history being controversial, he said, "We are passing a critical time."

The book is a compilation of write-ups by eminent writers covering topics such as agricultural and industrial economy, rural culture, literature, painting, architecture, music and sculpture, Prof. Zillur Rahman said, adding that it would be useful for a great variety of readers.

Appreciating the initiative of IUB, he said, "Most of the private universities focus on business and computer studies instead of offering disciplines of humanities and social science studies which is an integral part of the idea of a university."

"The book, which is fairly advanced and well-researched, has successfully focussed that culture is

a living present," said Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University.

He said the book could be more comprehensive if it contained a separate chapter on the country's ethnic group and could capture the contemporary history.

"We have to have the courage to correct the history, otherwise we will fail to do justice to ourselves," Prof. Islam said.

Historian Prof. AF Salahuddin Ahmed said that the history part of the book dwells on the country's history since ancient time till the independence in 1971.

Said Abul Ahsan: "We deliberately avoided incorporating post-independence history as it has fallen victim to controversial politics."

Six abducted girls return to their guardians

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A magistrate's court here yesterday handed over the rescued six girls, who were abducted from Narayanjanj on Saturday, to Siddhirganj Thana Police and their guardians.

All of them are the students of Miz Mizi High School of Narayanjanj. Azizul Haq, a sub-inspector (S 1) of Siddhirganj thana received the girls from the court.

They were rescued by the people when they were crossing the local ferryghat.

ATTACK ON NEWSMEN Ultimatum to arrest JCD activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) and the Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh have given the police an ultimatum to arrest those involved in Friday's attack on two newsmen by the JCD activists by today.

Otherwise, they will not cover any news of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the police, said the leaders of the reporters' organisations.

Baki Billah of Sangbad and Shaheen Mollah of The Daily Star were injured when a group of JCD activists attacked a medicine shop opposite to the emergency gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) as police at the nearby camp remained inactive.

Shaheen was released after treatment while Baki is still undergoing treatment at the DMCH.

At a rally, journalist leaders called on the JCD high command to expel the activists who beat up Baki and Shaheen.

They also condemned the police role during the incident.

The Dhaka-based Barisal Division Journalists' Association also demanded punishment to the attackers.

Padatik offers new membership

The Padatik Natya Sangsad, a theatre group, has started offering new membership, says a press release.

Application forms are available at its office at 6 Lake Circus, Kalabagan from 10.00am to 7.00pm daily till May 6.

The interview of the candidates will be held at 5.00pm on May 7.

Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Alhaj Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, former additional director of customs intelligence, will be held today after Asr prayers at the deceased residence at 37, Free School Street, Kathalagan. Fazlur Rahman died on April 15.

The abductors, however, managed to flee after jumping into the river.

According to the girls, an unidentified man brought them out from their school luring them to a nearby fair on Saturday.

A girl told this correspondent that they became senseless after drinking water supplied by two men near

their school.

The girls found themselves in a launch when they regained their sense at night. They could not remember anything more.

A painful scene was created when the girls saw their guardians at the court. They left for home at 5:00pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh took out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the attack on journalists Baki Billah and Shaheen Mollah by the JCD activists near Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

DHAKA TODAY

<p>Seminar</p> <p>A seminar on 'Exports of fresh horticulture crops from Bangladesh- Problems and prospects', organised by Bangladesh Agricultural Economists Association, will be held with Agriculture Minister M K Anwar as chief guest. Venue: BARC auditorium, Farmgate. Time: 11.00am.</p>	<p>Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.</p> <p>Rotary meet</p> <p>Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.</p>
<p>Discussion</p> <p>The Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organises a discussion and cultural function marking the historic Mujibnagar Day. Venue: Bishwasahilya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 4.00pm.</p>	<p>Jamaat meet</p> <p>A meeting of Olama-Mashaekh, organised by Dhaka City unit of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, will be held with Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natya Mancha, Gulistan. Time: 4.00pm.</p>
<p>Reception</p> <p>The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will accord a reception to women freedom fighters. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 4.30pm.</p>	<p>ICM rally</p> <p>The Islamic Constitution Movement (ICM) organises a rally to protest the killing of Hamas leader Abdulaziz Rantisi by Israeli forces. Venue: North gate of Baitul Mokarram National Mosque. Time: After Asr prayers.</p>
<p>AMCHAM meet</p> <p>Monthly meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh will be held. USAID Director Gene V George will deliver a talk on 'USAID foreign assistance a new look at public private alliances.' Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 12.30pm.</p>	<p>Certificate giving ceremony</p> <p>A certificate giving ceremony of the children's art competition, organised by Save The Youth Forum to mark Pahela Boishakh, the first day of Bengali New Year, will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 4.00pm.</p>
<p>Roundtable</p> <p>With the assistance of CARE, BURT organises a roundtable on 'Urban poverty' with LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: LGED auditorium.</p>	<p>Film show</p> <p>Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'The Passion of The Christ' (2004). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.</p>

Jamaat distorts Islam under govt patronage: Islamic Front

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Islamic Front of Bangladesh yesterday strongly criticised the government for failing to ensure safety of the people, check price hike and curb corruption.

They demanded immediate resignation of the ministers responsible for the prevailing situation.

Speaking at a rally at Paltan Maidan, the leaders also alleged that the Jamaat-e-Islami was distorting Islam through media and under government patronage.

Islamic Front President Syed Bahadur Shah said that their goal is to establish a society based on Sunni philosophy.

Zainul Abedin Zubaer, secretary general of the Front, denounced the government for not protesting the US occupation of Iraq and killing of Iraqis.

Md Anifur Rahman Taheri, organising secretary of Bangladesh Aahle-Sunnat Wal Jamayat, said, "Some of those who drive around with flags on their cars were the same people who shredded the same flag 33 years ago."

Md Momtazuddin Chowdhury, Syed Md Habibur Rahman, Md Khandakar Golam Mowla, Syed Md Naserul Haq Chisty, Khaja Tayebul Islam and Abu Naser Talukdar also spoke.

ATTEMPTED MURDER CASE

Yussuf Abdullah Harun gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Comilla court yesterday granted bail to leading businessman Yussuf Abdullah Harun in an attempted murder case against him.

District and Sessions Judge Khademul Islam Mohammad Belal granted the bail after hearing both the sides in a jam-packed courtroom and fixed May 22 for the next hearing.

Harun, a former president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, appeared before the court yesterday on a High Court order.

One Siraj Mian filed the case on August 7, 2001 after his son Abu Taher, a resident of Muradnagar, received a bullet during a clash between the activists of the opposition Awami League and ruling BNP on August 3, 2001. The court tasked Muradnagar police with a probe, but they are yet to submit the probe report.

Siraj filed another case with the court against Harun and 24 others on May 5, 2002 where he alleged that the accused hurled bombs on a BNP procession and Harun at one point got down from his car and shot his son.

Muradnagar police submitted a chargesheet against Harun.

Senior lawyer of the Supreme Court Abdul Baset Mazumder and 100 other lawyers appeared for the accused while Public Prosecutor Nazmus Sadat stood for the government.

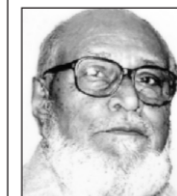
Faridabad Kalyan Samity reunion

Faridabad Lane Kalyan Samity organised a discussion and reunion at the Faridabad High School ground in the city on Friday, says a press release.

Samity President GS Ansari, Vice-President AKM Mohsin and General Secretary Sheikh Fazlur Rahman Bakul took part in the discussion.

Later, a cultural function and raffle draw were also held.

Obituary



Doctor Ruhul Amin, former deputy director of the health directorate, died of cardiac arrest at his Zikatola residence in the city on April 17 at the age of 73, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four sons and two daughters.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence after Asr prayers on April 23.

Mohammad Azizul Haque



Mohammad Azizul Haque, former joint chief of Planning Commission, died of old age complications on April 15 at the Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital at the age of 72, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was laid to rest at the Faridpur graveyard in Dinajpur town.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his 'Sheltech Dream' residence at Malibagh in the city after Asr prayers on April 22.

Relations with UK excellent: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing British High Commissioner in Dhaka Dr. David Carter yesterday made a farewell call on Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence.

They discussed bilateral matters and ways to further expand cooperation between the two countries.

Dr Carter, who spent about four and a half years as British High Commissioner here, expressed his happiness about his stay in Bangladesh and thanked Hasina for extending him cooperation on different occasions in the effective dis-

charge of his duty.

In response, Hasina recalled Britain's contribution to Bangladesh both during and after the liberation war.

She said the relation between the two countries was excellent and hoped that it would further deepen through mutual cooperation in various fields.

Hasina recalled that she had started active politics while she was in London in exile in 1982 and many British MPs, including Thomas Williams and Peter Shore, helped her a lot in those crucial days.