

KU VC strips Pro-VC of power, sacks 4 for testifying to UGC

Teachers, employees planning protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Vice-chancellor of Khulna University is allegedly taking revenge on those who gave testimony to the UGC (University Grants Commission) probe team on his reported corruption.

The UGC team, led by its member Prof Monirul Hoq, came here in the first week of current month to probe several allegations of corruption against VC Prof Dr M Abdul Kadir Bhuiyan. The other member of the team was Dr. Mahfuzul Hoq.

The probe began on June 9 and ended on June 12. The team will submit its report to the UGC and to the Education Ministry, sources said.

The probe was ordered by the Education Ministry after the Katka tragedy in which 11 students were killed in the Sundarbans during a

study tour. Nine of the victims were final year architecture students of Khulna University and two were from BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) in Dhaka.

Sources claimed that Dr Sharafat Hossain, Dr Shamina Parveen, compounder Habibur Rahman and another person were removed from jobs at KU Medical Centre without showing any reason for testifying to the UGC probe team. Dr. Sharafat Hossain, when contacted, also admitted this.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Zabid Hossain has been stripped of his powers to appoint third and fourth class employees, maintain transport pool and security affairs of the university without showing any reason. The Pro-VC received an official letter from the VC in this regard on June 14.

The Vice-chancellor has also removed Dr Azizul Hakim from the post of Deputy Director, Public Relations for issuing a rejoinder in local newspapers.

The Pro-VC had issued the rejoinder in protest against the VC's "misuse of powers that has posed a threat to peace on the campus", Md Azizul Hakim said.

He contacted, Pro-VC Dr Jabid Hossain said, "Dr Azizul Hakim has been removed from the post and served with a showcause notice for issuing a rejoinder on stripping me of powers by the VC".

Teachers, officials and employees are planning agitation to protest the VC's alleged corruption, misdeeds and misuse of power that are vitiating the academic atmosphere on the campus, said Dr Mohammad Saiful Islam, head of Economics Department.

Where contacted yesterday, VC Prof Dr M Abdul Kadir Bhuiyan refuted all the allegations brought against him.

"My rivals in the university are making the allegations", he said. "I fired five persons from the medical centre as they are no longer required there", he said.

"None has been harassed for appearing before the probe team to depose against me. Transfer of officials from one department to another is a routine work.

"I am authorised to sack anyone if needed", the VC said.

"Of course, I am facing many problems".

He however admitted that the UGC team came here to probe the Katka tragedy and the prevailing "undesirable situation" on the campus.



Children staging a drama (L) and a partial view of a discussion meeting arranged as part of the three-day Shishu Ananda Mela at Satkhira town.



PHOTO: STAR

A loud voice for child rights

A three-day Shishu Ananda Mela at Satkhira creates awareness about child rights

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The small Satkhira town resounded with slogans against child labour and a pledge to protect child rights.

It was a different occasion for the townspeople as scores joined the three-day Shishu Ananda Mela (children's fair) programmes including dramas staged by children, and raised voices against employing children in risky jobs.

The fair, jointly organised by the district administration and the Satkhira Shishu Academy, concluded Tuesday evening with a call to create awareness about child rights.

The fair, held on the Poursava premises, drew crowds in large numbers every day and created an awareness about children's rights to education and care by the society. Slogans against engaging children against hazardous jobs

were raised at every programme.

At least 4000 children from all classes attended the inaugural ceremony and raised slogans against risky jobs for children.

Eleven stalls at the fair displaying various modern education tools for children were added attractions, which drew visitors in large numbers including teachers, government officials, NGO men and professionals.

At the largely attended concluding function on Tuesday night, Deputy Commissioner AYM Ekramul Haq called for spreading the message to protect child rights at grassroots level. He urged all to raise their voice against repression on children.

Other speakers said child rights are violated due to lack of awareness and suggested public-private initiative to check this.

Spread of education is vital to

protect child rights in poor sections of the society they said and called for government initiative to strengthen its mass literacy programme.

Presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Mohammad Gaus, the concluding ceremony was addressed by officials from across the district and representatives of different socio-cultural organisations.

Three dramas -- Akash Chhuye Jai (touching the sky), Sabar Jonney Shikhsa (education for all) and Budhdhir Joi (victory of merit) -- were staged on the concluding day. Those were staged by Dipalok Academy, GN Government Primary School and Silver Jubilee Government Primary School respectively.

Dipalok Academy was adjudged the best team and two of its members were declared the best actor and the best director.

The fair was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner on Sunday.

One year RI for filing false case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A court here has sentenced a plaintiff to one year's rigorous imprisonment for filing false case under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

District Judge Rafiq-or-Rahman Patwary handed down the punishment to Nuru Farazi of Nachopara village in Kalapara upazila on Monday for filing a false case against his four neighbours in 2000 on a land dispute.

The case was proved false in police investigation, court sources said.

SNAPS

One of a 'killing mission' held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Kotwali Police arrested one Lal Mia, 28, allegedly a member of a killing squad, with a revolver on Monday night from Bellala ferry terminal of the city. A police team led by SI Mizanur Rahman was patrolling the area. Seeing them, four youths were fleeing. Police chased them and caught Lal Mia, a resident of Palashpur cluster village in Amanatganj area of the city, police said. During interrogation, he confessed to police that one Mannan of Amanatganj and three others gave him the firearm to kill one Tota Mia of Palashpur Bou Bazar. Police said Tota Mia is also a member of a notorious gang led by Saiduur Rahman Polu and rival of Mannan Bahini.

'Meghna trying to create artificial fuel crisis'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Some dealers have alleged that Meghna Petroleum Co. kept diesel supply to Rajshahi region suspended for last two weeks, forcing them to have supplies from Baghabari.

They sought authority's intervention immediately, alleging that Meghna stopped supplies "intentionally to create an artificial crisis".

"We are counting huge losses by collecting diesel from Baghabari depot in Shirajganj", said Abdus Salam, a dealer.

The dealers are paying the loss only to maintain 'good dealings' with their permanent consumers, he added.

Sources said that more than 20 petrol pumps in Rajshahi, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Natore used to collect diesel from two depots of Meghna Petroleum at Harian and Natore.

The district marketing officer of Meghna could not be contacted after repeated attempts.

Some sources said that he was not available in Rajshahi for last several days.

When contacted, Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner told some reporters that he was not aware of the situation. "I will look into the matter", he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Brahmanbaria Awami Jubo League brought out a procession in the town recently protesting the statement of Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Salauddin Kader Chowdhury against AL chief Sheikh Hasina.

Violence against women

All but two of 1037 cases false

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Only two of the 1037 cases disposed of by the Patuakhali Woman and Children Repression Prevent Court in the last two and a half years proved genuine and the rest were false.

In the two cases, one person got life term for acid throwing and four others got seven years' rigorous imprisonment for torture for dowry.

The rest proved false for various reasons including lack of evidence and "inadequate medical reports". Most of the cases were filed for alleged violence against women and rape, court sources said.

The court was set up on January 20, 2002. Till May 31 this year, 1656 cases were filed and 1037 of those were disposed of. The rest are pending.

It was proved in the court that most of the false cases were filed to harass opponents, the sources added.

When contacted, Public Prosecutor (PP) Advocate Uunus

Ali Molla however claimed that the cases proved false due to improper police investigation. Police also failed to produce witnesses in court, he claimed.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Advocate Humayun Kabir claimed that in most of the medical certificates submitted in the cases, the doctors "did not give proper description of victims' injuries". They also delayed in giving medical certificates. In one incident, medical certificate in a rape case was submitted 12 days after examination of the victim, he claimed.

The RMO of Patuakhali General Hospital, Dr Mizanur Rahma, said, "We try our best to write medical certificate properly and to give it timely".

Delayed may be caused as members of the Medical Board are not always available in time, he said.

Shafiqur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of the Sadar thana said final report in a case is given when evidence is not found. So the case proves false, he said.

290 poor get legal aid in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The Gaibandha Legal Aid Committee at a meeting here on Tuesday reviewed legal aid extended by it to the poor and destitute who can not afford it.

The meeting noted with satisfaction that 290 destitute people were given legal assistance by the committee and engaged panel lawyers to conduct 16 more cases.

The meeting was told that legal assistance is increasing in the district for poor who can not afford to seek justice.

The meeting also noted that there is no detainee over 70 years of age and below 15 in Gaibandha jail and that only one person is detained under Section 54 now.

Presided over by District and Session Judge AMM Sayeed, President of the Committee, the meeting was attended by, among others, Additional District Magistrate Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, Police Superintendent Lokman Hakim, Gaibandha Lawyers Association President Sekender Azam Anam, Public Prosecutor Jahangir Alam Sarker, jail superintendent Mokbul Hossain, Social Welfare deputy Directorate Harun-ur-Rashid and Additional Session Judge Abdur Razzak Mia.

Pirojpur pourasabha polls today

All 18 polling centres "vulnerable"

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Election to Pirojpur pourasabha will be held today.

The administration has identified all the 18 polling centres as vulnerable.

Election in the 110 year-old pourasabha was scheduled to be held on the same day with other municipalities in the country, but was delayed due to an injunction by the High Court.

Five candidates are contesting for the post of chairman, 41 for posts of commissioner and 12 for reserved seats of women.

The prime contestants for the post of chairman are Pirojpur district BNP vice-president Shahidul Alam Niru, a Four Party Alliance backed candidate and Awami League leader Habibur Rahman Malek, brother of district AL secretary Abdur Awal.

Both the candidates have accused each other of violating electoral rules ahead of the polls. The AL supported candidate has demanded deployment of army for holding a free and fair election.

The number of voters is 33,591.

When contacted yesterday, Deputy Commissioner Azmal Hossain and Police Superintendent said proper measures have been taken to maintain law and order in the town during and after the polls. If necessary army will be deployed, the DC said.

Returning Officer Additional District Magistrate Abdul Mannan said all necessary preparations have been taken for holding a fair election. "There is no pressure on the administration from either side".

In the last pourasabha election, Liaquat Ali Badsha of AL was elected chairman. He later joined BNP.

4x2

Debhata Women College Governing Body resigns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

All the ten governing body members of Debhata Hazri Kiyam Uddin Mahila College resigned en masse on Tuesday as the president of the governing body did not take any action against the college principal for his alleged corruption and embezzlement of funds.

They submitted their resignation letters to president of the governing body Khandaker Kazi Mahmmad Alauddin MP.

Sources said a five-member body, formed by Aluddin, earlier submitted a report to him on the principal's corruption, but he did not take any action.

Academic activities are being greatly hampered as teacher and students are also agitating for removal of Principal Mominur

Rahman.

On April, 14, over 200 students, teachers and staff of the college locked the principal's room and boycotted classes, demanding his removal.

They also staged a rally, brought out procession and submitted memorandums to Satkhira Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of Jessore Education Board through the Debhata Upazila Nirbahi Officer on April 12.

Alauddin had formed the probe body in the face of agitation by students and teachers. The body submitted its report at the end of April.

When contacted, Mominur Rahman denied the allegations saying the students are being used by some self-seeking teachers and a vested quarter outside the college.

8 get life for killing JP leader Saleh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Addition District and Session Judge Didar Ali Fakir has sentenced eight persons to life term for murdering Saleh Ahmed, president of Phultala upazila unit of Jatiya Party (Ershad) and Secretary of Phultala Traders' Association in 1998.

The eight convicted are Faruque Molla, Anis Molla, Insan Shaikh, Palash, Masud Khan, Abdullah Nikari, Mustafizur Rahman and Habibur Rahman. Only Anis Molla, a Jubo League leader, was present in the court when verdict was pronounced. Others are absconding.

Twelve others were acquitted.

JP leader Saleh Ahmed was killed in a bomb attack on the third day of 60-hour countrywide hartal on November 11, 1998, called by BNP-led four-party alliance, then in the opposition. Shahabuddin Ahmed, elder brother of Saleh Ahmed filed a case with Phultala thana on November 12, naming 18 persons.

The FIR-named accused included Jalil Molla, Joint Secretary of Phultala upazila unit of Jubo League.

The complainant of the case who is also a leader of Phultala Awami League, had stated in the FIR that Saleh Ahmed was killed for protesting anti-hartal procession brought

out by Jubo League and led by Jalil Molla.

Jalil Molla was later expelled from Jubo League. He was killed by unidentified men on February 23 in 2001. His dead body was recovered from Benapukur village under Phultala thana.

Sub Inspector Mashur Rahman who investigated the case submitted chargesheet accusing 20 people.

The court cross-examined 15 prosecution witnesses during trial.

Jubo League leader murdered in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Tajul Islam, 29, vice-president of Nazirpur upazila unit of Jubo League in Pirojpur district, has been hacked to death.

Police recovered his body from a canal in Karal-Doania area on Tuesday and sent it to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police quoting victim's family sources said Tajul Islam was missing since Sunday.

The motive of the killing and identity of the killers could not be known. Police is yet to arrest any body as no case was lodged till writing this report on Wednesday afternoon.



The Mymensingh Sahitya Sangsad held a discussion on selected stories of Ata Sarkar at Mymensingh town recently. The photo shows some of the discussants.

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