



Students staged a sit-in in front of the administrative building at Dinajpur Medical College yesterday to press their 5-point demand.

PHOTO: STAR

# Strike hits problem-plagued Dinajpur Medical College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Classes were not held and administrative activities remained suspended yesterday at Dinajpur Medical College.

Students locked all classrooms and the administrative building on Saturday and declared an indefinite strike on the campus demanding adequate number of teachers and other academic facilities, which, they claimed, are too poor to the needs.

The students staged sit-in in front of the administrative building and held rallies and processions on the campus yesterday and the day before to press their five-point demand for academic facilities including proper library and laboratory facilities and transport for non-resident students.

Officials and employees of the college also began an indefinite strike yesterday demanding four months' arrears salary.

On Saturday, the employees brought out a procession on the campus to press their demand.

There are 309 students and 150 employees at the college.

"We came here from different districts for studies but we are deprived", Raihan, a 3rd year student said talking to this correspondent "We are also medical students like others at Rajshahi and Rangpur medical colleges. They are getting facilities but we are deprived and our academic life is being affected", he said.

When contacted, college Principal Dr Saiful Bari said he sent proposals to the health ministry and gave reminders several times to resolve the problems, but to no effect.

On April 5, the students at a press conference in Dinajpur had declared that they would start tougher agitation if their five-point demand is not met by April 8.

They had said that all their

demands are for academic facilities, there is nothing political. But the authorities did nothing to ensure those.

On investigation, it was gathered that the Dinajpur Medical College is plagued by problems, teacher shortage being the main.

Against 116 posts, there are 58 teachers on roll, 16 of them now on study leave.

Set up in 1991 on about 25 acres of land, the medical college started its first academic session in 1992-1993 with Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Micro-Biology departments. But academic performance in most of the departments is very poor due to lack of teachers and other facilities.

Physiology, Biochemistry and Pharmacology departments run only with one professor and one Assistant Professor each. There is only one Professor in Microbiology department. Each of the departments should have at least seven

teachers including a Professor and an Associate Professor, sources at the college said.

There was only teacher in Anatomy department, who is in jail now in connection with the death of a domestic help in his house last month.

Talking to this correspondent, some of the students said classes were held irregularly due to lack of teachers.

Moreover there is negligence by teachers because of the poor facilities, they alleged.

Talking to this correspondent, the principal also acknowledged the acute shortage of teachers and other facilities.

## Classes hampered as JU teachers busy in polls campaign

JU CORRESPONDENT

Most of the classes were not held at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday as teachers linked with political parties were busy in campaigning for election of university bodies.

Election of Syndicate, Dean, Senate, Academic Council and Finance Committee is scheduled for April 13.

Three panels aligned with BNP, Awami League (AL) and left parties are contesting for 49 posts. The panels are 'Sammilito Panel' (SP) backed by Awami League, 'White Panel' (WP) backed by BNP and the 'Bangali Jatiyatabad Progotishil Shikshak Forum (BJPS) comprising teachers aligned with left parties.

The 49 posts include five in the Syndicate, four posts of Dean in four faculties, six in Academic Council, one in Finance Committee and 33 in the Senate.

Prof Amir Hossain, Assistant Professor Khairuzzaman Mitu, Associate Professor Md Kamrul Ahsan, Lecturer Shafikul Islam and Prof Naeem Sultan will vie for Syndicate posts from SP panel.

Their rivals from JGSP are Prof Obaidur Rahman, Associate Professor Dr Moshirur Rahman, Assistant Professor Monir Hossain Talukder, Lecturer Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad and Dr Mohiuddin Molla. Prof Dr Fahmida Ahmad, Prof Dr Abul Hashem, Prof Sayed Monwar Hossain Bokhary and Prof Feeroza Hossain will fight for the four posts of Dean from JGSP while Prof Nasir Uddin, Prof Dr Mahmuda Ghani, Prof Amin Mohammad Ali and Prof Shahabuddin Kabir Choudhury will compete for the same posts from SP.

About 315 teachers of the university are expected to cast vote in the elections, to be held at the Teachers Club.

# BDR on alert in Dinajpur

## 20 push-in bids in a week: Tea plantation attempt by Indians on zero line foiled

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) is on alert along the 132 kilometre border in northern districts including Dinajpur following several push-in bids by BSF in the last few days.

Sources in 15 Rifles Battalion told The Daily Star yesterday that BSF of Kamdevpur camp tried to push eight Indians including two women into Bangladesh through Phulbari border in Dinajpur Sadar upzaila at around midnight Friday. BDR personnel along with villagers foiled the bid.

Again, on Saturday night, BSF

tried to push in one man and one woman along the Kamdevpur-Manipur border by opening the barbed wire fencing.

Seeing the bid, BDR hoisted red flag, warning BSF. The drama continued for about two hours.

In view of repeated push-in bids, BDR has been put on alert along the 80 km border under Phulbari 15 Rifles Battalion, 40 km under 14 Rifles Battalion and 12 km under 29 Rifles Battalion.

BDR sources said they foiled at least 20 push-in bids by BSF in the last seven days.

Besides push-in bids, BDR also

foiled a tea plantation bid by Indians in lands on the zero line close to Panchagarh-Tentulia highway on Tuesday.

BDR officials said several hundred Indians backed by BSF of Nayabari outpost entered the zero line and tried to plant tea saplings.

BDR objected to this and proposed a flag meeting. Paying no heed, the Indians continued tea plantation. The Indians however stopped the plantation as local Bangladeshis joined BDR in the protest.

Lt. Col. Shawkat Hossain visited the area later.



Hundreds of people from Kamarpra village in Taraganj upzila paraded Rangpur town streets yesterday demanding rescue of 14-year-old girl Purnima Mohanta and action against the abductors, now threatening the victim's family. Purnima was abducted on March 27 on her way home from Shaer Kazipara School.

PHOTO: STAR

## 40,000 acres of khas land in 3 dists illegally occupied

STAR NATIONAL DESK

About 40,000 acres of government khas land are illegally occupied by land grabbers in Rajshahi, Pabna and Rajbari districts.

But no initiative has been taken by the government to recover the lands located along the bank of the Padma, says a press release of Samata.

Local influentials and touts prepared fake documents for 12,000 acres of khas lands. The lands were not included in the RS record for reasons unknown to all, although alluvium land should be included in khas khatian. Political touts and influential land grabbers have illegally occupied 15,000 acres of khas lands in 12 mouzas of Pabna and Natore. About 11,852.26 acres of khas lands are also under illegal occupation in Najirganj, Sujaganar, Chartarapur, Charsadirajpur, Ranigram, Sanirdiar, Chargargari in Pabna, Sultanpur, Nausara Sulatanpur and Bilmarichar of Lalpur upzila in Natore and Harirchar of Bagha upzila in Rajshahi.

Only 328 out of 5474.61 acres of khas lands are in possession of organised landless people of Sultanpur, Nausara and Harirchar of Lalpur upzila. The Padma has changed direction time and again since 1960. The devastating flood in 1994 has changed the map of the area. Villages like Bathanbari, Harirchar and Sultanpur have gone in the Padma.

## SNAPS

### Hundreds of vehicles stranded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Several hundred buses, trucks and other vehicles are stranded on both sides of the river as the Bailey bridge at Mahipur on Patuakhali-Kuakata road was severely damaged on Saturday. The bridge was damaged when a bus carried by a ferry fell on the pontoon, Roads and Highways Department sources said. It may take four to five days to repair the ferry engine and the damaged Bailey bridge, said R&H officials at Patuakhali over telephone yesterday. The ferry had been plying for long only with one engine as its other engine was inoperative, sources claimed.

### JCD cadre arrested in Tangail

A CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Tangail Sadar police on Thursday arrested a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadre and an accused in District Awami League (AL) leader Buppy murder case. Shiblee alias Dipu, 20. Police recovered a foreign made pistol and two bullets from his possession.

# Joint strategy suggested to develop coastal areas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Speakers at a workshop here yesterday called for joint efforts by the government, NGOs, professional bodies and socio-cultural and political organisations to prepare a 'sustainable resource management plan' for development of south-western coastal areas.

The areas, despite having resources, are lagging behind in all

fields as there has not been any comprehensive development programme so far. The workshop held at Sathkia Poursava auditorium was jointly organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Ministry of Planning and Pradipan, a local NGO, to create awareness about the need for joint efforts by all for sustainable development of the areas.

Mirza Shafiqur Rahman of BIDS



Participants at a workshop on strategy for coastal area development, held at Sathkira yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR