



PHOTO: STAR

The Shantinagar Market Shop Owners Association stages a demonstration in front of the Shantinagar Bazar in the city yesterday protesting the eviction of shop owners.

Pursue policy of fair dealing in promoting army officers

PM urges Army Selection Board

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Unveiling the government's new plan to expand artillery and infantry battalions, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the Army Selection Board to pursue

the policy of fair dealing in promoting the army officers.

"Our army has earned recognition as a highly skilled professional force at home and abroad...I have faith in your knowledge, wisdom, judgement, intellect and conscience. Of course, you will take the right decision," she said.

believe, this will not only enhance the strength and capacity of the army, but also increase employment opportunity, promotion and scope for working in the peacekeeping missions abroad," Khaleda said.

The prime minister hoped that each and every member of the army, including the promoted officers, will be equipped with

utmost sincerity and sense of responsibility.

"You will perform your duties with honesty, sincerity, discipline and courage. You will remain alert to protect country's constitution, democracy and sovereignty," she said congratulating the newly promoted officers.

She said the government has taken up programmes to develop a strong, skilled and modern army to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Terming the army the symbol of national unity, the prime minister lauded its outstanding role in tackling natural calamities, holding peaceful elections and improving the law and order situation.

"You (army) have already earned faith and love of the people by actively contributing to the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to curb crimes," she said.

SOURAV KILLING

Police yet to arrest culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to find out the killers of Sourav, a college student, five days after his killing.

Imtiaz Shafiq Sourav was gunned down at Uttara in the city on July 21.

Sourav, 18, who appeared in the HSC examination from Rajuk Model School and College this year, was shot by the unidentified miscreants on his way to home at Uttara.

Sourav, son of Modhumoti Foundation Private Ltd. Managing Director Shafiqul Alam, came to the capital two years back from Gopalganj.

Uttara police arrested two of his college mates on July 22 and later released them as they were innocent.

Faridpur police arrested Shamim, another friend of Sourav.

"We are trying to arrest the killers," said Fazlul Hoq, investigation officer of the case.

Meanwhile, several thousands students of Gopalganj staged a demonstration in the city on Sunday morning protesting the killing and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner (DC) and superintendent of police (SP) of the district.

Mystery shrouds death of female student at DU hall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mystery shrouded the death of a female student of Dhaka University (DU) at her room at the dormitory yesterday noon.

Kakoli Roy, 24, a fourth year student of sociology and resident of Samsunnahar Hall, suddenly fell sick after she came out of the washroom at the hall at around 11:15am.

The doctor of the university examined her at her room and referred her to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital as her condition was critical.

Her roommates rushed Kakoli to the hospital at 2:00pm where the doctors declared her dead.

They said Kakoli might have committed suicide as she was going through a rough time with her fiancé.

The forensic department of the DMCH performed autopsy on her body, but could not confirm if she was poisoned. The cause of the death will be decided after the submission of the viscera report.

Kakoli hailed from Chitalmari upazila in Bagerhat. Her father Amulya Roy is a professor of Chitalmari Sher-e-Bangla College.



PHOTO: STAR

The younger sister of Kakoli Roy, a Dhaka University student who died mysteriously at Samsunnahar Hall yesterday, wails over the death of Kakoli.

Threats, attacks put JU journos at risk

EMRAN HOSSAIN EMON

The non-cooperative attitude of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities and frequent threats and attacks on the journalists by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) put objective journalism at risk.

The JU correspondents often face wrath of the authorities for their reports on various irregularities and anomalies in the university and politicisation of teachers' appointment and admission of students.

Also, the JCD often assaults the journalists and issues death threats to them for their report on the intra-party feud of the student organisation and extortion by its activists.

Reporting on different agitation programmes of the general students also invited the wrath of the authorities and JCD, student wing of the ruling BNP.

For the first time since the four-party alliance government took over, Prof Jasim Uddin, then vice-chancellor, unleashed the JCD cadres on the reporters in a bid to stifle their voice. The university authorities also gave special facilities to some correspondents aligned with the JCD to get favour.

On the night of July 7, 2003, the JCD cadres led by its leader Sirajul Islam Siraj, also the JU correspon-

dent of the Inqilab, stormed the Jahangirnagar university journalists' office and occupied it. They also assaulted the JUJA President SM Zakirul Islam and put the office under lock and key. Instead of taking any action against them, the then proctor Saleh Ahmad Khan sealed the association office on July 9.

However, present VC Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman, took over the office on March 20, 2004, reopened the JUJA office in January this year.

As the JU correspondents of several national dailies continue to write reports on the anomalies in the university, the authorities formed a committee for JUJA with the journalists of their choice bypassing the election process. The VC also threatened some journalists several times for their reports.

But the reporters stood firm against all odds. They ran several stories in the newspapers, forcing the authorities to cancel admission under quota and appointment of two teachers who were selected without placing any advertisement.

The JCD started attacking the journalists soon after the BNP-led four-party government took over in 2001. Chokor Malitha, the then JU correspondent of the Prothom Alo,

was the first victim. Inspired by the authorities' indifferent attitude to the journalists, the JCD cadres also beat up Gazi Shah Alam, Billal Khasru, Joyee Jasmin and Zahidu Rahman Khan in 2003.

They even issued death threats to Emran Hossain Emon and Nur Siddiqui, the JU correspondents of The Daily Star and Prothom Alo, several times. Akker Kagoj and Janakantha reporters also received the death threat.

On July 17, the JCD musclemen assaulted Alamgir Swapan, former JU correspondent of Janakantha, for his reports on violence and extortion by the JCD men.

The situation further worsened when the JU correspondents of Prothom Alo, Bhorer Kagoj, Akker Kagoj, Sangbad and Amar Desh resigned from the JUJA on May 18, 2005 after they were served a show cause notice for attending a press conference outside the office.

Terminating the decision a threat to the freedom of press, the correspondent of The Daily Star, Janakantha, Shamakal and Mukhtakantha followed suit.

The journalists have submitted written complaints to the authorities and the JCD and demanded action against the JCD cadres again and

again, but the authorities did not take any action. They have only issued show cause notices in some cases, which is a mere eyewash.

"Such harassment of journalists is aimed at stifling the voice of the outspoken journalists," said Prof Nasir Uddin, dean of the Arts Faculty.

VC Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman was not available for comments despite several attempts to contact him.

DU officers observe work abstention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Administrative officers of Dhaka University (DU) refrained from work yesterday and will continue the work abstention today to press their 20-point demands.

The main demands of the officers are elimination of salary discrimination according to the Syndicate decision in 2003, participation of their representatives in all policymaking meetings and extension of retirement age to 65 years from existing 62 years.

"We play vital role to run the university but why do we face discrimination in salary?" Khandakar Fazlur Rahman, president of Dhaka University Officers' Association, said addressing a protest rally on the campus yesterday.

The association threatened the DU authorities of tougher movements if their demands are not met within today.

General Secretary of the association Abul Kashem Khan, however, told The Daily Star that they kept the university medical centre, libraries and other utility services out of the purview of their work abstention.

'Narrative journalism has great potential'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is a great potential and a noticeable trend in Bangladesh to adopt narrative form of journalism, said Associate Professor of The George Washington University Janet E Steele yesterday.

"It is more applicable to the newspapers in the age of competition with television journalism," she said at a seminar on 'New Journalism', organised by the Independent University, Bangladesh in the city.

But this does not mean that narrative journalism is going to replace the existing trends and techniques of conventional journalism altogether, said the American academic.

There should not be any confusion that narrative journalism too deals with news and it's not a fiction anyway, she added.

"New journalism is rather narra-

tive in form and it's not literary journalism," Janet said, "It's not a marriage between fiction and journalism, it's just a form of journalism."

A distinctive aspect of new journalism is that it broke away from obsession with objectivity in conventional journalism, placing emphasis on subjectivity in reporting and other genres of journalism, she said.

"By now, narrative journalism has moved out of the feature section to news section."

Four distinctive features of narrative journalism include scene by scene description, extensive use of dialogues, multiple points of views and credible attention to details in reporting.

That new journalism has gained popularity today is due to different shortcomings of the conventional journalism as readers today long for in-depth reports with vivid details, said Dr Ahaduzzaman M Ali, a

professor of journalism at Dhaka University.

"Though new journalism seems to be fictional, it's actually an in-depth reporting for a greater truth," he said, adding that it is sometimes criticised as literary paranoia and para-journalism.

This form of journalism reflects the reporter's honest participation with the event and in-depth description, he said. Traditional approach of journalism with all its superficiality and constraints cannot address all the grave problems, he added.

The new journalism was pioneered by renowned US journalists like Tom Wolfe and Jimmy Breslin in 1960s in the USA, said Dr Ali.

Works of Daniel Defoe, Mark Twain and George Orwell manifest elements of new journalism, he said.

IUB Vice-chancellor Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, faculty members and students attended the seminar.



The Independent University, Bangladesh organised a seminar on 'New Journalism' in the city yesterday, with Janet E Steele, left, associate professor of The George Washington University, as the key speaker.