

# SUST crisis deepens as teachers go on strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The crisis at Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) took a new turn yesterday with left leaning teaches declaring an indefinite work abstention demanding withdrawal of the Vice-chancellor for what they called 'bringing back normalcy on the campus'.

The work abstention pogramme was announced after a meeting of the teachers yesterday afternoon.

The teachers also wore black badges protesting some Shibir activists' alleged misbehaviour with some teachers.

On the other hand, four deans sent a letter to SUST Chancellor President lazuddin Ahmed demanding immediate withdrawal of VC Prof

Musleh Uddin Ahmed.

The letter was signed by the four deans-- Prof Zafar Iqbal, Prof Habibul Ansan, Prof Reza E Karim Khondaker and Prof Zainal Abedin, according to official sources.

The teachers went to the Registrar in a group and alleged that Shibir men misbehaved with some teaches.

The VC, who was outside the campus, was informed of the teachers' allegations, Registrar Jamil Ahmed Chowdhury told The Daily Star later.

The Shibir activists staged a showdown on the campus yesterday demanding resumption of classes. At one stage, they went to offices of some senior teachers and misbehaved with them, campus

sources said.

Later, they took out a procession on the campus chanting slogans against Prof Jafar Iqbal, Prof Zainal Abedin, Prof Reza E Karim Khondaker

and former president of SUST Teachers Association Dr. Sushanta Kumar Das.

Protesting the Shibir men's alleged unruly behaviour, left leaning teaches aligned with Awami League and other opposition parties held the meeting with Dr Akhtarul Islam in the chair.

The teachers are opposing recruitment of some teachers in four departments, allegedly on political consideration.

Interview for the recruitment is scheduled for August 27.

Earlier, on July 23, the SUST administration was compelled to suspend the interview for teaches in the face of opposition by left leaning teachers, who staged a sit-in in front of the administrative building.

On Tuesday, the left leaning teachers in a statement demanded withdrawal of the VC by August 26 and threatened of tougher agitation for non-compliance.

The statement said the 'VC was conspiring to start a fresh process to recruit teachers when a stalemate persists at SUST'.

'We will resist such a move at any cost in the interest of students and maintaining a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus', the statement said.

## AL 'long march' ends in polls campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine's long march on its third day yesterday virtually turned into a pre-election campaign with thousands of party men and people walking down the roads chanting slogans for reforms to caretaker system and the Election Commission (EC).

The long-marchers started from Noakhali and crossed more than 200 kilometers to reach Khagrachhari town. From the outskirts of the town they walked about three kilometres waving banners, festoons and placards and reached the Muktamanchha, erected in the town for a rally.

The five-day march till August 25 seeks to mobilise people to join opposition's agitation to force the BNP-Jamaat alliance government to accept the proposed reforms.

Thousands of people from Heyako, Ramgarh, Guimara, Manikchhari, Matiranga, Panchhari, Mohalchhari, Dighinala, and other areas joined the march, turning it into a human sea.

They also chanted slogans in favor of a number of prospective opposition candidates in the next election.

After overnight stay in Khagrachhari, the marches will proceed towards Rangamati today. No untoward incident took place during yesterday's march.

Opposition leaders and activists, joined by people lined up on both sides of the road to welcome the marchers.

Police, Army and intelligence agencies were deployed along the 'long march' route.

Senior opposition leaders including Chittagong city Mayo ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury addressed the rally at Khagrachhati town at a number of places on way.

They reiterated the demand for immediate resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and

two other election commissioners, and reforms to the caretaker system and said there will be no election without reforms.

They also reiterated that the

opposition will not accept a voter list prepared under the present CEC. A new CEC has to be appointed on the basis of a consensus.

The big rally at Khagrachhari hill

ton was also addressed by, among others, Mohammad Zahidul Alam, Zatindra Lal Tripura and Samir Datta Chakma and district AL president Zatindra Lal Tripura.



PHOTO: STAR

Pneumonia attacked children on the floor of children ward at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

### PNEUMONIA

## 103 children admitted to Moulvibazar hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 103 children have been attacked with pneumonia following its outbreak in the district in an epidemic form within a couple of days, said child specialist Dr Jillul Haque.

Dr Haque who is In-Charge of Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital children's ward said although the ward has a capacity of 20 beds but 103 children were admitted after being attacked with the disease. He apprehended much more patients' admission shortly as the disease had broken out in an alarming form due to sharp rise and fall in temperature.

During a visit to the ward, this correspondent saw that three to four children had been accommo-

dated in each bed of the ward having a capacity of 20 beds only. A large number of child patients were seen flooring. Many guardians complained that their children are being deprived of proper treatment. They said their children are still waiting for treatment even after their admission six days ago. A guardian said many already left the hospital with their children without getting treatment. Most of them did not take discharge certificates, they said.

Admitting the fact, Dr Jillul Haque said that they had admitted patients four times the capacity of the ward. Besides, the attendants of patients are also creating problem in rendering service to patients, he said. 'Each and every child has at least three to four attendants,' he said.

## 32 fishermen missing in rough sea

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At last 32 fishermen are missing as three trawlers capsized in the Bay Tuesday night due to gusty wind.

Survivors who returned to the coast yesterday said seven trawlers with 52 fishermen on board were caught in gusty winds and sank.

Coast Guard and other fishing trawlers rescued 19 fishermen.

Coast Guard sources said search for the missing fishermen

is going on.

The meteorological department here said the sea is rough because of depression accompanied by strong winds ahead of the full moon. Chittagong and Mongla ports have been asked to keep hoisted local cautionary signal No. 3 and all vessels and fishing trawlers have been advised to stay in safe places. Ships in the outer anchorage of Chittagong port have been advised to remain cautious because strong winds are whipping up high waves, they said.

## Verdict in Sajib murder case today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Verdict in the sensational 7 year-old Sajib murder case will be delivered today.

Sajib, son of Prof Manirul Islam of Bahera village in Debhata upazila, was slaughtered in a nearby bush on August 30, 2002. The victim's father filed a case with Debhata police station.

Arguments in the case was completed in the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Golam Morshed last week.

The main accused, Abdul Aleem, is absconding since the murder.

As per order of the home ministry, the case was listed as a sensational one and sent to Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal (STT).

The Khulna STT returned the case to Satkhira District Judge's court as it failed to complete the trial within 135 days.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted charge sheet on March 26, 2003, accusing seven people.

The accused are Akhtarul Islam Moina, Shafiqul Islam Bhutto, Sakina Khatun, Anisur Rahman, Abdul Aleem, Anwarul Islam Anu and Abdul Karim Gazi.

The IO in the charge sheet said victim's father Prof. Manirul Islam had a long standing dispute with Anwarul Islam and Manirul Islam.

Sajib had to pay his life for witnessing a love affair of Anwarul's daughter with a local youth, the IO said.

## 12 bombs recovered from straw heap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered 12 bombs from a heap of straw at Raispur village in Sadar upazila Tuesday night.

None was arrested in this connection, Rab and police sources said.

Police said, acting on a tip-off, members of the elite force raided a homestead in the village and recovered the bombs.

Miscreants might have kept the bombs for robbery or anti-social activities in the area, police said.

Sadar police station Officer-in-Charge Shahjahan later said said Rab men took away the bombs to Khulna.

## 3 bombs found at school gate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three bombs were recovered from near the main gate of Cox's Bazar Government School yesterday.

A cleaner saw three small packets wrapped with red tape and informed the headmaster, who called police.

Cox's Bazar Sadar police along with bomb experts recovered three bombs.

Police later said those were bombs but did not give details. Police were deployed in the spot.



PHOTO: STAR

Coalition for Local NGOs, Bangladesh (CLNB) staging a demonstration yesterday in front of Rajshahi Engineers' Institute as police stopped it from proceeding towards the Indian Deputy High Commissioner's office to protest recent comments by Indian BJP president Rajnath Singh.

## Agitation for power in Joypurhat Hartal today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

People under the banner of Biddut Grahak Sangram Committee brought out a procession and held a rally in Joypurhat town yesterday protesting frequent power outage.

Leaders of the committee at the rally called a half-day hartal in the town for today from 6 am to press smooth power supply. They also announced that the Power Development Board office will be besieged today.

People from all walks of life spontaneously joined the programmes. The processionists paraded streets of the town chanting slogans demanding power.

After the procession and rally, the committee members were seen holding small street corner meetings to campaign for today's hartal.

According to PDB officials, the requirement of power in Joypurhat is 5 MW everyday but only 2 MW is available. They said they have nothing to do unless supply from the National Grid is increased.

### WORKSHOP ON PLANNED TIPAIMUKH DAM

## Silence of govt, major parties slated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a workshop here alleged that the government and major political parties are silent while people are protesting construction of the Tipaimukh Dam cum hydroelectric project at the upstream of Surma river.

Construction of a dam will dry up the Surma and Kushiara rivers in Bangladesh and initiate a desertification process in the Meghna basin, they said at the workshop on Tipai Mukh Dam: Aftermath

and Our Agenda, held at Shahid Solaiman Hall Tuesday afternoon. It was organised by Sylhet unit of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD).

The speakers included BSD Convener Khalequzzaman, its local leaders Ujjal Roy, Barrister Arosh Ali and Abu Zafar; Workers Party leader Abul Hossain and district JSD general secretary Lokman Ahmed.

They said the Indian government's plan has also been protested by people in Indian states of Manipur, Mizoram and Assam.

Khalequzzaman said India being the upper riparian country can not unilaterally withdraw water from common rivers.

The project has been planned on the Barak river, which enters Bangladesh in Sylhet as Surma and Kushiara.

## 2 convicts in Aug 17 blast case surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Two convicts of the August 17 serial blasts case surrendered before Rajbari Special Tribunal Tuesday afternoon.

They are Golam Mawla and Faruk Hossain. Tribunal judge Md Sahidullah sent them to jail.

The tribunal, in a verdict pronounced on March 18, sentenced each of them 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI).

## Fugitive ward commissioner held after gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Police on Tuesday night arrested Farid Dewan, a fugitive ward commissioner of Rajbari Pourasabha from his Dewanpara house in Goalondo upazila after gunfight with his accomplices.

A shutter gun and 14 bullets were also recovered from Farid's possession.

Police said Farid, a front line leader of Goalondo upazila BNP, is a fugitive accused in nine cases including three murder cases. He is absconding for the last two years, police said.

On a tip-off, police besieged Farid's house and asked him to surrender. But his accomplices opened fire on police who retaliated by opening fire. At this stage, they gave up and fled the scene.

Jubo Dal, youth wing of BNP and its student wing Chhatra Dal brought out separate processions in Goalondo town yesterday protesting the arrest.

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7X4