

# MAOLANA BHASANI UNIVERSITY AT SANTOSH Teachers threaten to resign if VC does not step down

Deadline ends today as demonstrations continue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Teachers of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) at Santosh continued their agitation on the campus yesterday to press their demand for resignation of Vice-chancellor Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman for his alleged corruption and irregularities.

The teachers staged a demonstration on the Shahid Minar premises, brought out a silent procession and then launched a signature campaign in favour of their demand.

The MBUST Teachers' Association at a press conference at Tangail Press Club on Sunday gave the VC a 72-hour deadline to step down and threatened of mass resignation for non-compliance. Students, who are also agitating for the VC's resignation, welcomed the teachers' move.

The teachers alleged at the press conference that the VC 'spoiled' the academic atmosphere of the university by his 'irregularities and corruption', which have already been made public.

Teachers' Association President Dr AKM Mohiuddin, who is chairman of Biotechnology and Genetic Department, blamed the VC for the present situation and said he can not expect cooperation of teachers, students and employees in such a situation.

"We should not cooperate with the VC as he is an incompetent and corrupt. We will resign and not take part in academic and administrative activities from Wednesday (today) if the VC does not resign by the deadline," he said at the press conference.

"We do not want promotion, we want development of the university."

VC Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman is not on the campus though a virtual deadlock is prevailing for last few days due to agitation by students and teachers. The VC is in Dhaka since February 22, when students began demonstrations to press their 16-point demand including removal of the VC.

Teachers' Association General Secretary Motiur Rahman, a lecturer at Computer Science and Engineering Department, told The Daily Star yesterday that they want an academic atmosphere on the



PHOTO: STAR

MBUST teachers brought out a silent procession on the campus yesterday demanding resignation of Vice-Chancellor Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman.

campus, corruption-free administration and creation of academic facilities for students, not teachers' promotion.

He also alleged that the VC ran the administration at his will as there is no pro-vice-chancellor, register, treasurer and director (accounts).

"The VC did not recruit the required number of senior teachers despite repeated demands by teachers and students", he added.

When contacted yesterday over cell phone, VC Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman said, "All the allegations brought against me are false and baseless".

"Some junior teachers seeking promotion are responsible for the present situation on the campus. They are instigating innocent teachers, students and employees to agitate against me to serve their purpose", the VC added.

Campus sources, however, alleged that the VC appointed officials and employees instead of

teachers, despite repeated demands by teachers and students.

A high-level investigation team from the University Grant Commission (UGC) came to the university in the first week of last month and investigated the alleged irregularities over appointments and other decisions.

Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman joined the university as VC on September 22, 2004 when there were only 157 students, 8 teachers, 34 third class employees and 25 fourth-class employees.

After his joining, the UGC gave approval for appointment of "required manpower" in five years (from 2004).

Sources claimed that the VC appointed officials and employees in excess but did not recruit teachers in proportion to students.

The UGC approved 256 posts but the VC recruited 446 people, 117 of them on ad hoc basis.

The students have been

demanding for about a year recruitment of adequate number of teachers, classrooms, students' hostels, laboratories, workshops, and other educational facilities.

On February 26, the students locked the administrative building for two hours and demolished all the foundation stones on the campus, laid by the VC, alleged to be a pro-BNP man. On that day, the teachers at a press conference expressed solidarity with the students' demands. They also put forward a 6-point demand including promotion of the deserving teachers and urged the authorities to fulfil those immediately in the interest of bringing back a congenial academic atmosphere.

On February 28, they declared executive engineer of the university Sarwarul Islam "unwanted" on the campus, locked his office for two hours and confined him on his room, alleging that he was VC's accomplice in all the irregularities.

## 6 Indians and a Bangladeshi held in Sherpur remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The six alleged Indian militants and a Bangladeshi indigenous man, arrested on Nalitabari border in Sherpur district on Thursday, were placed on a 3-day remand for interrogation.

Earlier, SI Abdul Gafur of Nalitabari police station and also investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted a petition to the First Class Magistrate's court in Sherpur with a prayer of a 5-day remand on Monday but the court granted 3 days' remand.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) raided a house at Burunga village at Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur district early Thursday and arrested the seven people. The six Indians are allegedly members of National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) a militant organisation in Assam.

Acting on their confessions during a two-day interrogation at Mymensingh BDR headquarters, BDR personnel Friday night recovered a huge quantity of arms, ammunition, and bomb-making materials from their possession.

Later, they were handed to Nalitabari police on Saturday.

On the same day, police produced them before court, which sent them to jail.

The arrested Indians are Mohishwar, 27, Shomshu, 23, Warao, 21, Hor Kumar, 23, Jibon Kumar, 24, and Thandoi, 22. They hail from different districts in Assam.

The arrested Bangladeshi indigenous man is Imrul Sangma, 22, son of Naosher Marak of Burunga village in Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur district.

## Survey of 160-acre disputed land begins on Moulvibazar border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A joint commission of Bangladesh and India is surveying 160 acres of disputed land in Kurma frontier in Moulvibazar district from Saturday last.

The lands are at Champonagar village in Kamalganj upazila.

The BDR source said they are hopeful that after survey, Bangladesh will get the land.

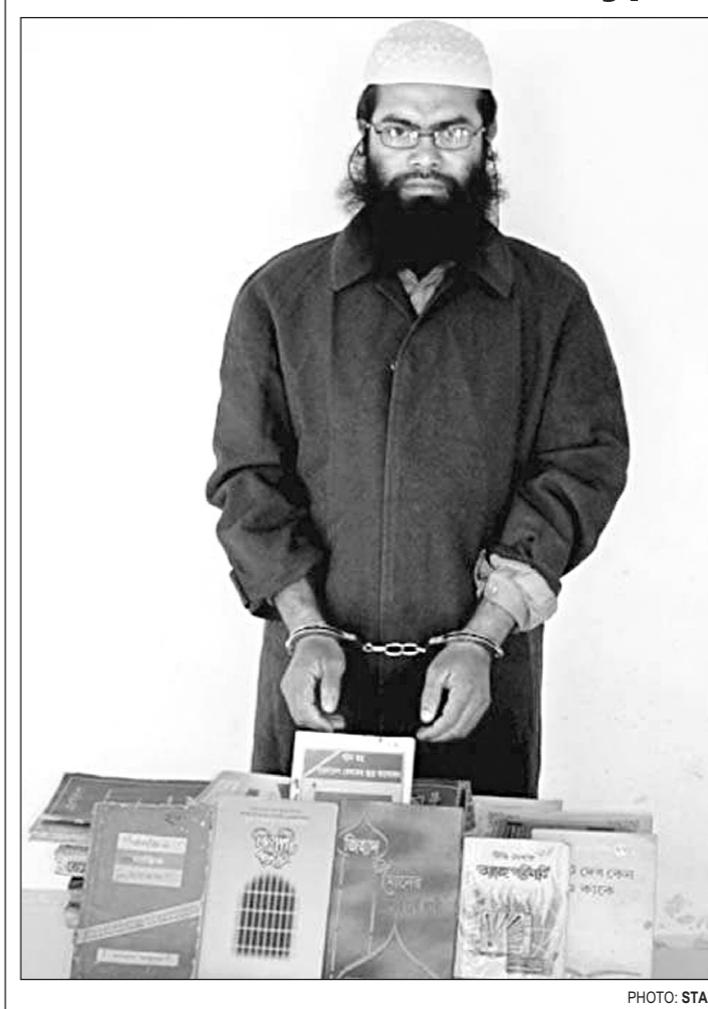
Representatives of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) are also members of the survey team.

Sources said flag meetings between BDR and BSF were held and joint surveys made on several occasions in the past to determine ownership. The latest joint survey was done in June last year. After the survey, BSF assured that the land would return to Bangladesh after a minister meeting between the two countries.

Chairman of Islampur Union Parishad Abdul Ahad and local people said, Indians took possession of the 160 lands near border demarcation pillar no 1904 55 years ago.

However, BDR Lt. Col. Obaidul Haque said after the survey that began on Sunday will take a few days more. After the survey, district level land survey officials of the two countries may hold a meeting, he said.

# Harkatul Jihad 'commander' arrested in Dinajpur



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Detective Police (DB) arrested a suspected activist of Jamatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) in Dinajpur yesterday and recovered a large number of 'jihadi' text books from his possession.

The arrestee was identified as Hafez Mohammad Tajul Islam alias Nabab Mukut, son of Waheed Ali of Joyrampur village in Kamalpur union in Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

Acting of a tip-off, a team of DB police led by SP Mostafa Kamal raided a house at Shipahipara near Phulbari bus stand in Dinajpur town and arrested him along with the books.

Soon after arrest, police produced him before a court, which placed him on seven days' remand.

During primary interrogation, Tajul told police that he left JMB about five months ago and joined Harkatul Jihad, another banned Islamist militant organisation. He also claimed that he was the 'commander' of Harkatul Jihad in Dinajpur, police said.

He got training at Kamalpur village in Sirajganj and Bhaluka upazila in Mymensingh district, police said quoting him.

Tajul also confessed that his trainers were Harkatul leaders Abdur Razzak and Abdur Rouf.

After his joining as 'commander' in Dinajpur, he recruited at least eight members in the militant organisation, Tajul told police.

## Ensure rights of Harijans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Speakers at a workshop styled 'Finding Ways to Establish Human Dignity and Right of Harijan Community' yesterday urged the government to take steps for guaranteeing constitutional rights of Harijan community people.

The workshop was organised by FAIR, a local NGO working for Harijans.

With Dewan Akteruzzaman, executive director of FAIR in the chair, the workshop was addressed by human rights activist and former advisor to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal as chief guest. Other speakers included human rights activist Dr. Hamida Hossain; Rina Roy, director of Dhaka based NGO Manusher Jonyo; former lawmaker Bodruddoza Gama, daily Matir Dak Editor Abu Bakar Siddiq, journalist Laki Mizan and MA Razzak.

Panna Lal, lone young man of Harijan community who obtained graduation degree, told the workshop that his community people are being deprived of human rights, despite repeated demands.



PHOTO: STAR

A market attached to the Bazaar Mosque in Nilphamari town being demolished during a drive launched by the district administration yesterday to evict encroachers from government lands.

## Scouts campaign to preserve bio-diversity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Scouts, under the 4th National Comdeca-2007, are campaigning to create awareness among people about bio-diversity and protection of sea resources.

The five-day programme will conclude today.

Yesterday, they held rallies and organised mass awareness programmes protesting hill cutting, destruction of forests, catching fish fries, tortoise, dolphin and other sea species.

Scouts in groups also motivated people about tree plantation, sanitation, health, education and cleanliness.

As part of the campaign, about 1,000 scouts brought out a rally in the resort town to make people aware about the issues.

About 2,000 scouts went to Moheshkhali island and planted 1,000 saplings of coconut trees at courtyards of poor people in Gorakhpur village. Another team of 1,000 scouts were engaged in a campaign to discourage fishermen from catching fish fries.

Head of the public relations department of the 4th National Comdeca-2007, Delwar Hossain, told this correspondent that the main theme of this year's Comdeca is 'Scouting in Preservation of Bio-diversity'.

He said hill cutting, destruction of forest, fish fry netting are common practices in the tourist town of Cox's Bazar. This is why scouts have taken up a five-day long programme to desist people from these, he said.

A grand campfire was also held here yesterday evening.

8X3

4.5X3