

ALLEGED CORRUPTION AT RU

Teachers urge CA to make UGC probe body 'neutral'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Over 200 teachers of Rajshahi University yesterday urged the chief advisor to the caretaker government to reform the University Grand Commission (UGC) investigation committee by appointing 'neutral' persons and probe alleged irregularities and corruption by the RU administration during the tenure of the BNP-Jamaat government.

The demands were made through a memorandum faxed to the chief advisor's office, sources said.

In the memo, the teachers belonging to the Progressive Teachers Society (PTS), a forum aligned with Awami League, said the UGC earlier formed an investigation committee to probe the corruption and irregularities. But the

probe body is not 'neutral'.

They also mentioned in the memorandum that some UGC members faced corruption charges, and they were published by the print media.

The teachers said they, on several occasions in the past launched agitation against alleged corruption, irregularities and violation of the University Act by the RU administration during the BNP-Jamaat rule but the UGC did not take any initiative to verify the allegations or take action.

In last five years, the RU administration recruited a large number of teachers and other staff violating the University Act. The illegal recruitments, mostly done on political considerations, spoiled the academic atmosphere on the campus. The

academic atmosphere deteriorated as the university administration patronised a student organisation belonging to a party.

The teachers demanded scrapping of investigation committee, claiming that its members are loyal to some political parties.

Signatories to the memorandum included former RU VC Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Progressive Teachers Society Convener Prof Abdus Sobhan, Prof Mukhlesur Rahman, Prof Anando Kumar Shaha, Prof Muhammad Nurullah, Prof Mizan Uddin, Prof Khairul Alam, Prof Faikuzzaman, Prof Moloy Kumar, Prof Shamsuddin Ilyas, Prof Abdul Latif and Prof Sayen Uddin.



Hopes shattered...A bewildered farmer at his ready-for-harvest paddy field battered by Thursday's nor'wester in Bhuijhar village in Narayanganj.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

'Unity of media men a must for journalism without fear, favour'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Journalists in Kushtia at a meeting here yesterday vowed to carry on their professional duties without fear or favour.

The meeting jointly organised by Kushtia Reporters Unity (KRU), Kushtia Zila Reporters Unity (KZRU), Kushtia Photo Journalists Association (KPJA), Kushtia Medical Journalist Association (KMJA), Kushtia Crime Reporters Association (KCRA) and Kushtia Press Club was held at Kushtia Shilpakala Academy.

At least 60 journalists working for national and local dailies and the electronic media attended the meeting.

Speakers at the meeting stressed the need for unity of media men to uphold truth and maintain professional integrity.

The meeting was presided over by SM Halimuzzaman, editor of Dainik Desh Tathya. It was addressed by, among others, Abdul Rashid Choudhury, editor of Daily Bangladesh Barta; Manjur Ehsan Choudhury, editor of daily Andoloner Bazar; Mukul Khasru, vice-president of Kushtia Press Club; Amanur Aman, convenor of Kushtia Reporters Unity and correspondent of The Daily Star; Rashedul Islam, editor of Daily Arshinagar; Akther Firoz, editor of Ajker Sutrapat; Jamil Hasan Khan,

editor of Daily Sharmajug; Jamal Uddin, acting editor of Dainik Ajker Alo; Mizanur Rahman Lucy, executive editor of Daily Bazrapat and Kushtia correspondent of Daily Sangbad; Tarikul Haq Tarik of Prothom Alo; Mustafizur Rahman of Ittefaq; Faruk Ahmed Pinu of ntv; Munshi Torikul Islam of channel-1; Noor Alam Dulal of Borer Kagoj and Bangla Vision; Sazzad Rana of Samakal and Nurul Kader of Nayadiganta.

The meeting came three days after the journalists filed a case against 12 political leaders and activists including two former lawmakers of BNP. The former lawmakers are Sahidul Islam of Kushtia-2 and Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi of Kushtia-4.

Earlier, Mehedi Rumi filed a defamation case against the editor and publisher of local daily Andoloner Bazar Manz Ehsan Choudhury on April 24 for publishing a report on his alleged corruption.

Journalists also filed another case against Sahidul, Mehedi and 10 other BNP men accusing them of attack on a journalists' convention on May 29 last year in Kushtia in which at least 25 journalists, including several media leaders from Dhaka were injured.

The journalists in the meeting urged the district administration and police to help them carry out their professional duties.

DEATH OF BARAPUKURIA CONSULTANT

Petrobangla chief meets probe team, officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The three-member body is probing the death of a British consultant in an accident at Barapukuria coal mine on Thursday.

Petrobangla Chairman Dr. Sheikh Abdul Rashid Khan who arrived at Barapukuria Friday afternoon held several meetings with officials of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL), Chinese company CMC, British consultants and other officials. He left for Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

The Petrobangla chairman expressed his grave concern at the death. According to BCMCL sources,

British consultant Albert David, 62, and his colleague Nick entered 430 metres into the mine at about 11am on Thursday to examine how to resume production at a 'sealed part' of the mine.

After some time, Nick sent a message that Albert was missing. A rescue team entered the mine and rescued Albert and Nick in an unconscious state. Albert was later declared dead.

Soon after the incident, Petrobangla, parent organisation of BCMCL, formed a three-member inquiry committee.

They are supposed to submit their probe within three days.

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