



PHOTO: PID

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed makes a courtesy call on President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Police atrocities on students condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different student bodies, political parties and rights organisations yesterday expressed grave concern over the attack on the students and demanded punishment to those involved in police atrocities on the campus of Dhaka University (DU).

Chhatra Sangram Parishad condemned the attack and demanded immediate dismissal of the accused army personnel, withdrawal of army and police from all academic institutions, release of the arrested students, free treatment of the injured students and reinstating the constitutional rights of people.

Denouncing the police attack, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front leaders said, "The protest and violence on the campus for the second consecutive day is the outcome of irresponsible behaviour from the government and administration."

A press release of Bangladesh Chhatra Union said the outbreak proves that the university campus cannot be kept confined.

Condemning the attack, Bangladesh Chhatra League called strike in all academic institutions today.

Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree, Bangladesh Jubo Maitree, Jatiya Chhatradhara and Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council also condemned the attack. Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) urged the government to realise the demands of the students with a view to restoring the academic atmosphere.

Bangladesh Workers Party observed that the law enforcement agencies could tackle the situation with patience and said the way the security agencies tried to curb the rational protest of the students remind people of the atrocities on students in previous eras.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu and General Secretary Syed Jafar Sazzad condemned the army beating of DU students and police action on them, and said, "Taking students as enemy even during the caretaker government era is disappointing."

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal Convener Kholiquzzaman condemned the attack on the students and said, "The nation was anticipating that the government would play a responsible role but even yesterday police launched attack on them."

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) termed the intolerance and rude behaviour of the army personnel a bad sign.

In a press release the ASK said, "The situation turned complex as people cannot demarcate between the government and the military."

Odhiakar, a rights organisation, said the action of law enforcement agencies, which were telecast by different TV channels, cannot be taken as an appropriate crowd control measure.

The organisation urged the caretaker government to launch an independent investigation in this connection.

Peshajibi Samonnoy Parishad leaders criticised the action of the law enforcement agencies over a trivial issue and said, "The barbarity of these agencies remind us of the dark days of '71."

Jatiya Mukti Council, Gonomukti Andolon and Ganasanghati Andolon also condemned the attack on the students.

4 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people, including a schoolboy, were killed and two others injured in different road accidents in Satkhira, Gaibandha, Dinajpur and Chandpur yesterday.

Our Satkhira Correspondent adds: An elderly woman was killed in a road accident yesterday on Kalaroa-Bamankhali road at Bamankhali bazar at Kalaroa in the district.

The victim was identified as Shamsunnahar Begum, 55, wife of Sahil Uddin of village Baidyapur.

Quoting local people, police said the accident occurred when a motorcycle knocked her down while she was crossing the road.

She succumbed to her injuries while she was being taken to a Satkhira hospital.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent adds: One person was crashed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Taherpur on Sadullapur-Mirpur road in Gaibandha yesterday.

Locals and police said one Mongla Bepari, a timber trader, died on the spot when the loaded truck knocked him down while he was crossing the road.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent adds: One person was killed and two others injured in a road accident at Champatoli on Dinajpur-Rangpur highway yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Khadeiful Islam, 28. One of the injured was identified as Abdur Rahman of Thakurgaon Sadar while identity of the other could not be known immediately.

Police quoting villagers said the accident occurred when a stone-laden truck fell into a roadside ditch while trying to overtake a bus.

Khadeiful died on the spot while the injured were rushed to Saidpur health complex.

A Correspondent in Chandpur adds: A schoolboy was killed in a road accident at Dherora in Hajiganj on Chandpur-Comilla highway yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Tanvir Ahmed Gazi, 9, son of Al Mamun Gazi and a class III student, hailed from Dumuria in Shariatpur district.

Tanvir, who come to his maternal uncle's house at Dherora, was just standing beside the road when a speeding Ramganj-bound bus from Chandpur knocked him down, killing him on the spot, said witnesses and police.

Angry mob put a barricade for an hour on Chandpur-Comilla highway.

Stop filing conspiratorial cases: Sardar Amjad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) leader and former minister Sardar Amjad Hossain yesterday called for stopping filing of 'false' and 'conspiratorial' cases against him and other party leaders.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, he said conspiracy is to implicate him and other progressive AL leaders in cases with the banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to destroy their political image.

Amjad said those, who brought JMB kingpin Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai to Bagmara, are trying to associate the progressive leaders including him with the people who are now in prison for aiding and abetting JMB militants.

Amjad alleged that the BNP-Jamaat alliance has long been conspiring to put him in trouble and the recent case filed against him is part of that conspiracy.

Death anniversary

Today is the 19th death anniversary of journalist, educationist, politician and women movement leader Begum Khaza Selima Khatun, says a press release.

Selima was a commissioner of Jessore municipality and the editor and publisher of weekly 'Banhi'. She was also vice-president of Jessore Press Club and chairman of the Jessore branch of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha.

Motherland Foundation will observe the day with religious and social programmes.

Abdur Rob Mridha

Today is the 7th death anniversary of Abdur Rob Mridha, an educationist and social worker, says a press release.

A top leader of the then East Pakistan Teachers' Association, he played a significant role in anti-Ayub education movement in 1962.

He was also the founder-convenor of Babuganj Welfare Association.



Managing Director and CEO of Uttara Bank Shamsuddin Ahmed hands over a cheque for Tk 1 crore to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed for the flood victims at the latter's office in the city recently.



Chairman of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd Alhaj Md Anower Hossain hands over a cheque for Tk 25 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed for the flood victims at his office recently.



Holcim distributes relief materials among the flood victims at Sonargaon in Narayanganj recently.

Food crisis, price hike

FROM PAGE 1
Dr Uttam Kumar Dev told The Daily Star.

The country's average food production is 2.73 crore metric tonnes per year and over 20 lakh tonnes it either imports through government or private agencies or gets as food aid. Both the quantity of import and the price are increasing gradually.

Although a boost in research funds, from both public and private sectors, for development of new varieties of crops is urgently needed to improve the production pattern domestically, the fund situation appears to be grim, said researchers.

The recent floods in the country damaged crops worth about Tk 2,000 crore, according to a preliminary estimate by Department of Agricultural Extension. Bangladesh, along with other developing countries, is at the most vulnerable location to be hit by other natural calamities as well.

Agriculture and Environment Adviser Dr CS Karim at a recent seminar said, "Livelihood and food security in future will face enormous challenges. We, the developing nations, are more vulnerable to it, as we do not have adequate knowledge base to face those."

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) Executive Director Dr Atiq Rahman said flooding in the country seems to occur every 10 other years that used to be every 20 other years a few decades back.

"This is more likely to be the impact of a climate change," he said citing example of flooding in India, Pakistan, China and Thailand.

He said climate change is set to shift time of rainfall and snow melting that will also change the period of flooding. "If there is flooding when there are crops on the field, it will cause huge damage."

Such calamities do threaten food and water security, Dr Atiq said adding that there is no alternative to developing technologies and capacities of people to combat natural calamities.

Talking about the government's setbacks in food management, several officials at food and disaster management ministry said long, cumbersome and complicated procedure for procuring grains are the main reasons behind its failure to reach its target procurement.

As opposed to the target procurement of 12 lakh tonnes of grain during the boro procurement drive, the government only succeeded to build a grain stock of 7 lakh tonnes --



Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-3) distribute relief materials among the flood-affected people at Khilgaon Taltola Community Centre in the city yesterday.



Managing Director of Dhaka Bank Shahed Noman hands over a cheque amounting to one day's salary of its employees and officials to President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam for the flood victims yesterday.



IFIC Bank officials distribute relief materials among the flood victims at Rupganj recently.

MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS KCC executive engr suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman has suspended Executive Engineer (Mechanical Section) Md Abdul Aziz for alleged misappropriation of KCC funds.

The KCC mayor has also served show cause notice upon KCC Chief Engineer Liakat Ali Sharif for negligence in duties.

The suspension order and show cause notice were issued from City Mayor's office on Monday evening.

Tayebur said Executive Engineer Abdul Aziz purchased two vehicles fixed with hydraulic lift at a cost of Tk 43 lakh for monitoring and maintaining functions of street lights in Khulna city. But the hydraulic lift went out of order only two weeks after the purchase.

He alleged that the executive engineer purchased a defective hydraulic lift intentionally in connivance with Chief Engineer Liakat Ali Sharif for illegal monetary gain.

Both the engineers denied the allegations.

Protest spreads to other institutions

FROM PAGE 1
yesterday as students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) staged frenzied demonstration on the highway demanding immediate punishment of the persons responsible in the DU incident.

Students marched in procession in thousands on the campus as well as on the highway and vandalised five vehicles including a police patrol van.

The demonstrators under the banner of 'Students against harassment' enforced a strike on the campus and boycotted classes, threatening to launch a tougher movement if their demands were not met by today.

Their other demands include immediate withdrawal of state of emergency and police forces deployed on the campus.

Jagannath University
Students of Jagannath University vandalised several vehicles in front of the main entrance of the university.

Earlier, the students brought out a procession on the campus. They also staged a rally on the Shaheed Minar premises at around 1:00pm.

Students of the university, expressing solidarity with the demands placed by DU students, boycotted classes as well.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet)

Students of Buet formed a human chain on the campus protesting the incident at DU and expressed solidarity with the DU students.

At Government Kabi Nazrul College, the students boycotted classes in protest against the Monday night incident at DU.

Rajshahi University
Several hundred teachers and students of Rajshahi University (RU) staged demonstrations on the campus.

RU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) also enforced a student strike on the campus.

Several hundred students and teachers brought out a procession from in front of Mass Communications department at around 12:30pm and staged a rally in front of central library.

Kushtia University
Students of Islamic University (IU) enforced an indefinite strike on the campus in protest against the police and army attack on DU students.

No classes and examinations were held at the university yesterday as the students refrained from attending their classes.

Earlier at 10:00am, several hundred students came out of their classrooms and requested teachers

of different departments to refrain from giving lessons and taking examinations.

Teachers came out of their departments and expressed solidarity with the students' demands.

Students also blockaded university transport vehicles for 30 minutes in the morning.

Police were deployed outside the main entrance of the university adjacent to Kushtia-Jhenidah highway.

Chittagong University (CU)
Sadharan Chhatra Chhatra Parishad of CU enforced student strike on the campus protesting the DU incident.

The CU authorities meanwhile warned nine student protesters including three Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) activists for wearing black badges on campus.

The authorities also made the nine students sign bonds stating that they will not take part in similar activities in the future.

Security has been beefed up on the campus.

Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports, students of BAU brought out processions on the campus and later held a rally demanding exemplary punishment to the persons responsible in the DU incident.

The students of Ananda Mohan College wore black badges in protest at the incident.

Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST)

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reports, students of SUST wore black badges and brought out a silent procession on the campus.

Classes were, however, held as usual.

Security has been tightened on the campus as well as on the Sylhet Agricultural University and other college campuses.

Barisal Govt Brajo Mohan College

Our Barisal correspondent reports, general students of Barisal Govt Brajo Mohan College brought out a silent procession protesting the attacks on DU students.

Carmichael University College in Rangpur

Several hundred students brought out processions on the campus protesting army and police brutalities at DU, reports our correspondent.

The students continued their protest till filing of this report at 9:00pm yesterday evening.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangpur and the lowest 24.7 degrees at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:26pm today and rises at 5:36am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.8	25.8	75	80
Chittagong	31.0	26.4	81	84
Rajshahi	34.5	25.6	79	70
Khulna	34.4	25.8	77	77
Barisal	34.1	26.5	79	90
Sylhet	33.8	26.7	75	67
Cox's Bazar	32.6	26.5	77	76