

5 university teachers held for 'questioning'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security personnel picked up five professors—two from Dhaka University (DU) and three from Rajshahi University (RU)—in the early hours yesterday and took them to unspecified places for 'interrogation'.

The joint forces hauled in Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) General Secretary Professor Anwar Hossain and Social Science Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid at about 12:30am from their campus residences on the Fuller Road.

They also seized three computers and two mobile phones from the flats of the senior academics.

Meanwhile, plainclothes Rab men arrested former vice-chancellor of RU and a member of Awami League Advisory Council Prof Saidur Rahman Khan and Convenor of RU Progressive Teachers Society Prof Abdus Sobhan at about 3:00am yesterday at their residences.

The law enforcers also arrested Maloy Kumar Bhowmik at his sister's on the campus at about 5:30pm yesterday.

Mobile phones of all the three have also been seized.

The arrests followed the last couple of days' student protests that prompted the military-backed interim administration to clamp an indefinite curfew on the capital and five other divisional headquarters Wednesday night.

Different political parties including Workers Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Samajtantrik Dal of Bangladesh (BSD), Bangladesh

No curfew from 6 am to 11 pm today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has relaxed curfew for 17 hours from 6:00am today in all the six divisional cities, including Dhaka metropolitan city, according to an official announcement yesterday.

Therefore, there will be no curfew from 6:00am to 11:00pm today.

Meanwhile, the curfew re-imposed from 10:00pm yesterday after it was lifted for 14 hours from 8 in the morning.

Instruction to cooperate with newsmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has instructed all concerned engaged in maintaining law and order to remain alert about harassment of media men during the curfew hours and asked them to extend all-out cooperation to the journalists and media men in discharging their professional duties.

According to a PID handout last night, the government said its attention was drawn to a news report published in different dailies and broadcast through electronic media that the media men were harassed while discharging their professional duties during the curfew hours, which was "undesirable and regrettable".

The government has also asked the law enforcement agencies to remain vigilant against any possible recurrence of such incident, the handout added.

Create congenial atmosphere for duties, BFUJ urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday expressed grave concern over harassment of and assault on journalists during curfew hours and urged the government to create an atmosphere so the journalists can perform their duties freely.

In a joint statement, BFUJ and its affiliated journalists unions also expressed resentment over the arrest of four senior teachers of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities.

In the statement, the leaders of the journalists unions said: "An anarchic situation has been created for the journalists discharging their duties during curfew hours."

The joint statement mentioned that the TV channels could not broadcast routine "talk show" programmes. "We think, it is an interference in freedom of the media and also freedom of expression."

Signatories to the statement are BFUJ President Manjurul Ashan Bulbul and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) President Altaf

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

HSC results tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations, 2007 under seven education boards, Alim, Fazil and Kamil under Madrasa Education Board and HSC-Business Management under Technical Education Board will be published tomorrow.

The results of Diploma in Business Studies and Diploma in Commerce under Dhaka Education Board will also be published simultaneously, said a handout yesterday.

Examinees have been asked to collect results from their educational institutions at 4:00pm tomorrow. No results will be made available at the education boards, education ministry or newspaper offices, the handout said.

The second largest public examination HSC began on May 10 and ended on June 24. About five lakh examinees including 4.40 lakh HSC examinees took the examinations.

Examinees under seven education boards will be able to get results from the education board website www.educationboard.gov.bd and examinees under Technical

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Disillusioned by high prices of essentials in the capital, 55-year-old Sara Banu (in burka), her daughter and grandchildren return to their Shariatpur home yesterday. They had come to Shyampur in the city to try for a better luck only a few days ago.

INDEFINITE CURFEW

Floating people stream out of city fearing uncertainty

SURANIITH DEABNATH

Thousands of people, mostly day labourers and of low income bracket, yesterday crammed different bus and launch terminals, and railway station in a desperate bid to leave the capital.

Left wondering how to earn a living with the indefinite curfew in force since Wednesday night, they opted to return to their village homes, fearing the situation might not change for the better soon.

As the curfew was relaxed for 14 hours yesterday, they streamed to Gabtoli, Sayedabad and Mohakhali bus terminals, Kamalapur Railway Station and Sadarghat Launch terminal.

But a large number of them could not find tickets while some had to count much higher than the usual fares.

"We are going to Shariatpur as we couldn't earn a penny in the last two days when we need at least two kilograms of rice a day. Probably, the curfew is here to stay and it's simply not possible for us to be in Dhaka without a means of livelihood," Sara Banu, 55, a female day labourer.

Like Sara, thousands of others who were already on starvation wages were leaving the capital for fear of things getting worse during curfew brought in to quell the student unrest.

Despite the let-up, transport

movements did not return to normalcy due to fear of harassment by the law enforcers.

The number of vehicles hitting the road was low after the law enforcers beat up transport workers during the hours when the restriction was loosened, sources at bus terminals alleged adding that showing IDs just do not work.

Helpless, people had to walk a long way to the bus and launch terminals and Kamalapur Railway Station, humping the luggage.

"The panic in public mind is not over yet. Usually, we run 60 to 70 inter-district buses but today only 10 left the capital. Besides, none left after 4:00pm though the curfew

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Poor services at hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14-hour break in curfew yesterday did not bring much relief to the patients admitted to different hospitals as treatment was disturbed on the government holiday.

The outdoor services in different medical colleges and hospitals remained suspended as usual while patients desperately sought treatment.

"Only the emergency patients were brought to the hospital during the curfew. After its relaxing today, we are having more patients than usual," said the on-duty medical officer of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

Shilpi Begum, mother of a patient, was repeatedly appealing to the nurses to release her son as she would have to go back to Mymensingh.

"My son was supposed to be released today. But as the doctors

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

JCD president arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law enforcers arrested Azizul Barea Helal, president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the BNP, at his Moghbazar residence in the capital yesterday morning.

Sources said Helal, a close aide to detained Senior Joint Secretary General of BNP Tarique Rahman, was arrested for his alleged role in the recent violent incidents in the city including on the Dhaka University campus.

Members of the Detective Branch of Police picked up Helal at about 7:00am without showing any arrest warrant. "They [police] just told us that they are taking him [Helal] for interrogation," Bushra Hossain, wife of Helal, told the reporters.

Sources in different intelligence agencies said there has been a number of allegations against Helal, also a former JCD general secretary, including of taking

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

VIOLENCE DURING EMERGENCY Cases filed against 42,000 in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cases were filed with different police stations in the capital in the last three days against 42,000 unidentified people, including students.

Charges ranging from staging demonstrations violating the emergency power rules, to attacking law enforcers during the recent unrest that spilled over to different parts of the city following Monday night's incidents on the Dhaka University (DU) campus, were brought against the accused.

Mohammadpur, Sutrapur, and Kotwali police arrested four people and picked up nine others, without showing them arrested, in connection with the cases till yesterday, while different teams of law enforcement agencies including police

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Badly damaged by the recent flood, this road at South Matuail of Jatrabari in the capital now remains difficult to be plied by vehicles.

Tangail weavers quitting the loom

50,000 handlooms shut due to high price of yarn, other materials



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Price hike of yarn, dye and other weaving materials have forced many weavers in Tangail to quit the loom and look for other jobs.

A large number of weavers in the district have already engaged themselves in different professions leaving their ancestral profession.

Over 50,000 handlooms in the district were closed during the last few years due to sky-high prices of these materials, especially yarn and dye, said Tangail Central Cooperative Artisans Society Ltd vice-president Mufakharul Islam.

Weaver Yousuf Ali of Balla in Kalihati upazila, who became popular in Tangail between 1976 and 1990 with his "Good Luck" brand saris, was forced to shut down his business in 1991.

He left the profession since prices of cloths including saris did not increase in accordance with the prices of yarn, dye and other

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

MALE TO PROBE STRING OF ATTACKS IN A MONTH

Steps for safety of Bangladeshis

ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

Dhaka has stepped up diplomatic efforts with Male to ensure the safety of 25,000 Bangladeshi workers in the Maldivian capital, following a string of attacks on Bangladeshi workers, including murders, in the past month.

High-level diplomatic sources said Bangladesh High Commissioner to the Maldives Mijarul Quayes told the local authorities last week that he is worried about the future Bangladeshi workers' presence if the government cannot guarantee security there.

The warning came following a number of attacks on dormitories of Bangladeshi workers in Male, and a brutal castration and murder of a Bangladeshi worker in another part of the Maldives.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury publicly aired his concerns regarding the worker's safety on Thursday, and sent a letter to the Maldivian foreign minister urging that "all necessary steps be taken to ensure safety and security of Bangladeshi workers in the Maldives".

He has also asked for "enhanced measures" in this respect, referring to the "mutual trust and understanding that are the hallmarks of our bilateral relations," according to a foreign ministry press release.

Acting foreign secretary Toudh Hossain told The Daily Star that the Maldives' foreign and deputy foreign ministers had called Bangladesh's High Commissioner in Male and gave assurance of a probe into the attacks and murders.

Foreign ministry officials allege that based on information received from Male, they feel that Maldivians' indifference to the fate of Bangladeshi workers borders on a state of intolerance and denial of rights.

The high commission in Male has sought answers from the Maldives foreign office after each of the last three incidents and the high commissioner met Maldivian Home

Minister Abdullah Kamaldeen to demand greater police protection.

But, Quayes also told Kamaldeen that they are growing increasingly impatient with the lack of police protection of Bangladeshi workers and the Maldivian government should give out visible signs to demonstrate their seriousness about the issue, foreign ministry sources in Dhaka said yesterday.

Otherwise, Dhaka has told Male that they might withdraw existing workers en masse if the Maldivian

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6