

INDEPENDENCE DAY PROGRAMME

RU authorities slammed for allowing Shibir at Shaheed Minar

Removal of 'pro-Jamaat' TSCC director demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Different political, socio-cultural and student organisations in Rajshahi including Rajshahi University yesterday strongly criticised the university authorities for allowing a Jamaat-backed organisation to hold programmes at RU Central Shaheed Minar on Independence Day.

The university authorities did not allow RU Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) to hold programmes at the Shaheed Minar on the plea of emergency. The SSJ decided to wear black badges in Independence Day protesting the RU authorities' decision.

This is part of a plan by RU authorities to allow Shibir fully capture the campus, they said in separate statements.

Making RU authorities 'hostage', Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, earlier established its supremacy in every filed on the campus except cultural

sector. By holding cultural programmes at Shaheed Minar on Independence Day, they will fully capture the campus, the statements said.

They called on RU authorities to allow SSJ hold Independence Day programme at Central Shaheed Minar and demanded removal of pro-Jamaat TSCC Director Prof Siddiki.

Earlier, during BNP-Jamaat alliance government, Shibir occupied two rooms of Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) building and has been using those for political activities instead of cultural programmes.

Recently, Shibir started observing all national programmes including Victory Day, Amar Ekushey and Independence Day on the campus.

Sources said, Shibir took 'permission' from Teachers Students Cultural Central (TSCC) authorities and forcibly held cultural programme at university Shaheed

Minar, Sabas Bangladesh and on Rabindra Arts building premises where other cultural organisations regularly held cultural programmes earlier.

"RU authorities always prefer Shibir-loyal organisations for holding programme on the campus and impose restriction on progressive organisations", SSJ said in the statement.

The RU unit of SSJ sought permission from TSCC authorities on March 2 for its programmes at Shaheed Minar on the Independence Day.

TSC authorities informed it that Shaheed Minar was already allotted for Bikalpa Sahita Sangsad, a Shibir-backed body.

On September 6 last year, Shibir activists, with alleged backing of authorities, foiled Anushilon Drama Group's scheduled programme at Shaheed Minar and held their political programme there.

Udichi activists alleged that RU TSC director is a 'controversial

person' and always favours Shibir-loyal organisations on the campus.

Prof Moloy Kumar Bhowmik, president of Anushilon, told The Daily Star that allowing Shibir on the Shaheed Minar is a conspiracy against the spirit of the Liberation War.

RU administration is loyal to Jamaat and favours Shibir, he said. "It is not acceptable that Shibir will hold programme at Shaheed Minar", he said.

Teachers, students and cultural activists at RU also condemned the authorities for favouring Shibir and demanded allowing SSJ to hold Independence Day programmes at the Shaheed Minar.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, Chhatra Union, Samajtrantik Chhatra Front and Progressive Students Alliance at RU in separate statement strongly protested the authorities' decision and urged all progressive people to launch a fresh movement against anti-liberation forces.



Chetanai Ekush, a cultural organisation, lights candles at the Shaheed Minar at Bhubanmohon Park in Rajshahi city yesterday in memory of martyred freedom fighters on the eve of Independence Day. PHOTO STAR

Rajakar's name on memorial plaque

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Over two years after construction, the Shaheed Smriti Falak (Martyrs Memorial Plaque) on Satkhira Collectorate compound is yet to be opened as names of a few fake freedom fighters and a Rajakar are still on the plaque containing the names of martyred freedom fighters.

It was completed on December 3 the same year.

Faced with protest by freedom fighters and pro-liberation forces, the authorities could not inaugurate the martyrs' memorial plaque as names of four fake freedom fighters and a Rajakar (collaborator of Pakistani occupation forces) are on the memorial plaque.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs is yet to erase the names despite submission of written appli-

cation and a memorandum by Satkhira district Muktiyoddha Sangsad in 2007, said Abu Bakkar Siddique, member secretary Satkhira district command of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, and this year.

He said the plaque contains the names of at least five fake freedom fighters including a Rajakar.

The fake freedom fighters are Kazi Moshur Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam, Mozammel Haque and Syed Abul Hossain and Rajakar Golam Rahman.

"The district administration arranged engraving the names following the list given by the government, Deputy Commissioner Kefayetullah told this correspondent, adding that he had sent the prayer submitted by local unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad to the Ministry of Liberation War.



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Cops closed in Bagerhat, Faridpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sub Inspector Lutfor Rahman of Fakirhat police station in Bagerhat was closed to police lines Monday evening for taking bribe.

OC Ershadul Kabir of Fakirhat police station admitted that SI Lutfor Rahman took Tk 3,000 as bribe from Dr Uday Baran Mandol, medical officer of Fakirhat Health complex on Wednesday last.

The OC said Lutfor demanded the bribe against sale of government medicines to local markets.

The action against SI Lutfor was taken on orders from Bagerhat police superintendent after the

allegation was found true during investigation, sources said.

In Faridpur, officer-in-charge of Saltha police station Afer Uddin Gazi, was closed to Faridpur police line Monday night, reports a correspondent.

Official sources was the action was taken following an order by Faridpur Police Superintendent Kusum Dewan but declined to give details.

The action followed clashes between rival groups at Gotti and Yousufdia villages under Saltha police station on Thursday and Friday in which two persons were killed and over 60 people were injured.

'Reform a must to make police people-friendly'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police of Khulna Asaduzzaman has said reformation in police is a must to make the policing system people-friendly.

It is high time to establish police in a glorious position as there is no intervention now and a timely reformation is on the cards, the DIG said at a community consultation meeting on Police Ordinance-2007 on Monday evening.

District police organised the meeting with Kushtia Superintendent of Police Mosleh Uddin Ahmed in the chair.

Nilphamari DC regrets harassment of journo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner Rashidul Hasan at a meeting with the journalists yesterday expressed regret at two magistrates' misbehaviour with journalists on Monday.

The DC said he had already requested the divisional commissioner of Rajshahi to withdraw the two magistrates -- Rashidul Mannaf and Ashraf Hossen.

The two magistrates arrested The Daily Star correspondent EAM Asaduzzaman on Monday as he took photograph of cheating in the examination hall of Nilphamari Homeopathic Medical College.

Baufal OC, 2 policemen sued for 'torture'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A case has been filed with Patuakhali Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court against the officer-in-charge (OC), an assistant sub-inspector (ASI), and a constable of Baufal Police Station for alleged torture on a man in police station lock-up.

The accused are OC Md Zakir Hossain, ASI Md Sakhawat Hossain, and constable Monir Hossain.

Badiuzzaman, elder brother of Anwar Hossain, who was allegedly tortured by the police, filed the case on Monday. The court asked for judiciary inquiry.

According to case, ASI Sakhawat and constable Monir arrested Anwar Hossain from Baufal Bazaar at about 1:00pm on March 19 after

a woman in the area made an oral complaint that Anwar was sexually harassing her daughter Shukhi.

Police brought Anwar to the police station and beat him up there while ASI Sakhawat and constable Monir, who arrested Anwar Hossain, snatched Tk 25,000 from Anwar's pocket, the complainant said.

Informed, Anwar's relatives went to the police station. Meantime, Shukhi's father Fazle Alam Talukder also went to the police station and urged the OC to release Anwar. The OC released Anwar after keeping signatures on two papers but when Anwar demanded return of his Tk 25,000 the OC tortured him at his room before letting him leave the police station, the complainant added.

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