

Sust English students stage hunger strike for holding exams

VC, registrar confined to offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

English department students of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) observed a hunger strike and confined Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar at their offices yesterday to press holding of two remaining examinations and two other demands.

About 100 students of the department also locked the main gate of the registrar building at about 3 pm yesterday to press their demand.

The hunger strike that began at about noon continued till 8:30 pm when the report was filed.

The Dean of Social Science faculty Reza-E-Karim Khondker was holding a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof M Aminul Islam when the report was filed, campus sources said.

The demands are holding of the remaining two examinations which were postponed by the faculty dean following a May 4 decision of the Academic Council, appointment of two permanent professors in English department and creation of Arts Faculty comprising English and Bangla departments.

Before the 'hunger strike', the students staged a sit-in in front of the registrar building for three hours.

One of the hunger striking students--Abu Sufian-- was sent to Osmani Medical College Hospital at about 2 pm as his condition deteriorated, campus sources said.

The sources said the students were pressing their demands for holding the remaining two examinations so that they can sit for the ensuing BCS examination.

Earlier in the morning, the students handed over a memorandum to Vice-Chancellor Prof M Aminul Islam.

At about 2 pm, the VC went to the agitating students and asked them to withdraw their hunger strike, assuring that steps would be taken to fulfill their demands. But the students wanted 'clear decisions', the sources said.

When contacted over cell phone at about 7pm, Sust Registrar Zamil Ahmed Chowdhury said, "We are yet confined in our offices".

"However, measures are being taken to end the problem", he said.

"Dean Reza-E-Karim Khondker sat for an emergency meeting with his faculty members a short while ago. Then we will talk to the VC", Chowdhury added.

Fake medicine factory detected in Jhenidah, five arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police yesterday seized spurious medicine worth around Tk 10 lakh and medicine making materials from an illegal medicine factory at Chaklapara in the town.

They arrested five workers of the factory-- Mizanur Rahman, Nazma Khatun, Shabanara Khatun Shukhi Khatun and Parul Begum.

Tipped off, police raided a house at Chaklapara and recovered thousand bottles of spurious vitamin B-complex, Baalarist, Mostakarist, Gatronal, Dirobale and fake medicine making materials, Jhenidah Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sayed Iqbal Ali said.

Abul Kashem of Kanyadah village under Harinakunda upazila rented the house and set up the illegal factory, the arrestees said.

UP chairman held with guns, cocktails in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police arrested Goaispur Union Parishad (UP) chairman Md Ibrahim Ali Mridha at Dhophagata village and recovered two shutter guns and four cocktails from his possession Saturday night.

Ibrahim who was also the vice-president of Pabna district unit of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal is an accused in 12 cases including murder, police said.

Trawler sinks in Meghna with sugar

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A sugar-laden trawler capsized in the Meghna near Pura Bazar in Chandpur Sadar thana following a nor'wester at around 9 pm on Saturday.

Three staff of the trawler sustained injuries. Affected trader Subash Podder of Pura Bazar said the trawler sank along with 120 sacks of sugar worth Tk 5 lakh. Injured trawler driver Md Golam Hossain was admitted to Sadar hospital.

Kuet classes suspended till May 31 as rival students clash

Students defy order to vacate dormitories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Authorities of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) yesterday suspended all classes till May 31 with immediate effect.

The decision was taken unanimously in a meeting of Teachers' Council of the university held at 12:30pm apprehending violence between two rival groups of students who were agitating since Saturday to press their demands which include resignation of Director of Students' Welfare Prof Dr. Khandaker Aftab Hossain.

The classes were suspended on orders of Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr. Mohammad Nawsher Ali, campus sources said.

The vice Chancellor also ordered students, both male and female, to vacate all the six resi-

dential halls by 6 pm (Sunday). But inmates of residential halls staged sit-in in front of the administrative building in protest against VC's order.

They were demonstrating demanding withdrawal of order when the report was filed in the evening, campus sources said.

They also expressed their determination not to vacate halls, terming the VC's order as 'unjustified and detrimental to academic activities'.

Meanwhile, the Director of Students' Welfare, Prof Dr. Khandaker Aftab Hossain tendered his resignation to VC at 5:15 pm yesterday in the face of student agitation.

Earlier, at about 11 am, two rival groups of students, one supporting the Director of

Students' Welfare and the other opposing him, clashed on the campus for over half-an-hour. Some unruly students damaged glass panes of windows of some class rooms during the clash.

The situation was brought under control as the VC and other teachers intervened.

The VC formed a seven-member committee to probe the incidents and submit a report as early as possible, said KUET Public Relations Officer Abdur Rahman.

Prof Dr. MA Bashar, head of Civil Engineering department and Assistant Provost of Fossil Huq Hall Prof ABM Awlad Hossain have been made chairman and member-secretary of the probe committee respectively.

Agri official held for stealing farmers' diesel subsidy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Joint forces Saturday night arrested a sub assistant agriculture officer (SAAO) of Mithapukur upazila for his alleged involvement in misappropriation of government diesel subsidy for Boro farmers. Abdul Wadud was arrested for allegedly misappropriating the money by enrolling some fake farmers.

Officer-in-Charge of Mithapukur police station Wahedul Islam said, Upazila agriculture officer (UAO) Golam Mostafa lodged a case against Abdul Wadud and three others including an agriculture officer for the fraud.

UAO Golam Mostafa said, a large number of farmers in the union complained that they did not get the subsidy.

"Primarily investigation proved that the SAAO and his accomplices misappropriated the money given for farmers", Mostafa added.

Training for newsmen begins in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A week-long foundation training course for journalists working in different national and local dailies began at Mymensingh Press Club yesterday.

Mass Line Media Centre (MMC) with assistance from CARITAS Switzerland organized the training programme.

MMC programme officer Mubarak Hossain Khan was in the chair while CARITAS regional director Theofil Nokrek inaugurated the programme as chief guest.

Among others, press club vice-president Ziauddin Ahmed, News Today correspondent Fazlur Rahman Siddiquee, MMC Coordinator Syed Reazul Islam and MMC official Sharmin Akhtar Sagari spoke on the occasion.

A total of 20 journalists of Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail, Sherpur, Netrokona and Kishoreganj took part.



Sust English students on hunger strike, left, and a student, fallen sick during the programme, being carried onto an ambulance yesterday.

'Save Rajshahi silk industries from ruination'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Silk traders and workers at a discussion held here yesterday demanded special allocation in the upcoming budget to save silk industries of Rajshahi region from ruination.

Reshom Shilpa Sartho Sangrakkhan Committee (RSSSC) and Bandendra Unnayan Procheta (BUP) jointly organised the discussion at GDRC auditorium.

Rajshahi Silk Industry and Factory Labourers' Union president Ataur Rahman chaired the discussion while BUP coordinator Rashed Ripon presented the keynote paper.

Bangladesh Silk Industry Owners' Association (BSIOA) president Manjur Faruk Chowdhury, former president Liaqat Ali, Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad convenor Jamat Khan and several marginal farmers addressed among others.

The BSIOA president said Rajshahi silk is capable to compete in world market like China if the growers are provided with proper technologies. He revealed the country is now producing only 50 metric tons (MT) of silk yarn much lower than the demand of 350 MT.

He blame Bangladesh Sericulture Board and its research unit for growers' lack in interest in silk cultivation.

Arrest warrant against OC for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday issued warrant of arrest against suspended officer-in-charge (OC) Kazi Mizanur Rahman of Patkelghata Police Station following submission of a charge sheet in the case for killing his Sabiha Akhtar.

Investigation Officer of the case, sub-inspector Ziaur Rahman Zia of Patkelghata Police Station submitted the charge sheet before Satkhira Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

Judge Ranu Bilkis Banu of the court, who issued the warrant of arrest, fixed June 12 for next hearing of the case.

Investigation authorities said they are convinced that OC Mizanur Rahman, who went into hiding after the killing, was involved in the incident.

On March 6, Sabiha Akhtar succumbed to her injuries allegedly inflicted on March 4 by her husband Kazi Mizanur Rahman, the then OC of Patkelghata Police Station.



The victim's mother Tayebunnesa, a resident of North Shahjahanpur in Dhaka, filed an FIR (First Information Report) on March 5 with Motijheel Police Station in Dhaka as she was unable to go to Satkhira due to her old age ailments, Satkhira police said.

Motijheel police sent it to Patkelghata Police Station. Deceased Sabiha Akhtar was the second wife of OC Mizanur Rahman.

Patient released from RMCH after 3 days 'without treatment'

Doctor was busy at private clinic, attendant alleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A patient was released from a surgery ward at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) Saturday night allegedly after keeping him waiting for three days virtually without any treatment for want of a senior doctor.

Abbas Ali Mollah, an elderly patient from Kanaikhal in Natore town, was rushed to RMCH at around 5am on Thursday with severe pain from gall bladder infection.

He was admitted to Ward no. 6 under a senior doctor.

"There was no doctor but an intern who came to see my father three hours later admission", said Abbas Ali's son Farrukh Ahmed.

The intern talked to a senior doctor over cell phone and prescribed some medicines. He then

left, saying a senior doctor will come shortly.

But none came. As the day passed, Ahmed was frantically looking for the doctor under whom his father was admitted.

The following day, he contacted the doctor on his mobile phone.

"At noon, the (senior) doctor told me that he was busy in a meeting. But 10 minutes later, I found him at a private clinic near the hospital", Ahmed told this correspondent.

In the evening on Saturday, Abbas Ali's condition deteriorated. Ahmed contacted the doctor again and was told to have 'patience'.

Hours later, the ward staff told Ahmed that the senior doctor asked them to release his father.

At dead of night, Abbas was taken out of the hospital and taken to BIRDEM hospital in Dhaka, his

son said.

"I could afford to take my father to Dhaka but there are many who can not do this", he

When contacted, the senior doctor said, he was on leave on Thursday and was busy in meetings with health secretary on Friday and the next day.

He however admitted that he was on duty at RMCH operation theatre.

Contacted, surgery department chairman Prof Dr ABM Abdul Hannan said, "Such conduct of a doctor is unexpected."

Action will be taken so that no such incident occurs in future".

Entry of journalists for professional work at the hospital is barred for last two years.

Hired security men have been deployed at the entrances of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.



Jubilant Fine Arts students of Chittagong University in a procession on a city street marking fine arts exhibition yesterday.

Advertisement for BIF (Bangladesh Investment Finance) featuring 'আমদানি বিকল্প এসিড প্রফ টাইলস' and 'শিল্প উদ্যোক্তা/মালিকদের জন্য সুখবর'.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation (BSF) with details on recruitment and contact information.

Advertisement for 'নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Job Advertisement) for 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার' (Government of Bangladesh) with a list of 16 positions.