

New law to violate autonomy of public varsities

Speakers tell discussion

DU CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government's move to approve the draft of Umbrella Act for all public universities will destroy the autonomy of the universities, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They also said a number of sections of the Umbrella Act, prepared by the University Grants Commission (UGC), would permit the government to interfere directly in the academic, administrative and financial matters of the universities.

The speakers were addressing a discussion titled 'Umbrella Act

2007 and Autonomy of the Universities' organised by Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left-leaning student organisation, at RG Majumder auditorium on Dhaka University (DU) campus.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Prof Manwar Uddin Ahmed and Associate Professors Tansimuddin Khan, Kabery Gayen and Jahid Hasan Mahmud also spoke at the session with SCF DU unit President Hossain Ahmed in chair.

Prof Anwar Hossain said those who have formed the draft of the Umbrella Act do not have the right to form such an act for the public

universities anyway, adding, "The autonomy of the public universities would be violated if the Umbrella Act is implemented."

He stressed the need for amending the existing 1973 ordinance in four public universities, including Dhaka University, to make the university administration free from the grip of government interference.

Prof Manwar Uddin Ahmed rejected the Umbrella Act saying, "The government gets the chance to impose such destroying act on the public universities as our teachers and students are not concerned about their responsibilities."

Jahid Hasan said public universities are run by the tax paid by the mass people. So, there are no chances of forming such acts, which would go against the interests of commoners.

He said this approach is a part of the conspiracy against public universities to make it a commercial institute to facilitate the implementation of the '20-year strategy paper' suggested by the World Bank.

The teachers called for an all-out movement against the act to save the autonomy of the public universities.



CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan speaks at a seminar at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is ASM Abdur Rob and on his right is MA Zaman.

Call to formulate policy to rehabilitate hawkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should formulate a national policy to rehabilitate the urban poor, including hawkers, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

Evicting hawkers from the footpath is not a solution to any problems, rather such acts are a violation of human rights and leads to human disaster, they said, adding that proper rehabilitation of hawkers would also help alleviate poverty.

Bangladesh Hawkers Sangram Parishad and Bangladesh Gramheen and Nagar Daridra Foundation jointly organised the seminar at the Jatiya Press Club.

The speakers also said the hawkers play an important role in the economy through self-employment, but there is no law for their protection.

Rather, they frequently fall victim to eviction and lose everything due to eviction, they said and called on the government to take steps for their welfare.

Wali Ullah Patwary read out a written speech at the seminar presided over by MA Zaman.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Gonotantri Party President Nurul Islam and General Secretary of Sramik League Roy Ramesh Chandra and ASM Abdur Rob spoke at the seminar.

UNSAFE USE OF INJECTIONS 20m infected with Hepatitis B virus a year Says WHO study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 million Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), 2.0 million Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and 0.26 million HIV new infections are associated with unsafe use of injections every year across the world, experts quoting a WHO report said yesterday.

They also warned that South East Asia is a red zone of unsafe use of injections, saying that half of the total use of injections in the world is unsafe.

Experts said this yesterday at a seminar on 'Injection use and risk of HBV, HCV and HIV infection: Intervention for risk reduction' at the British Council auditorium in the city.

The seminar was jointly organised by Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology of Dhaka University, Centre for Social Science Research in Health and Medicine, School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham, UK and British Council.

After conducting a WHO-funded pilot project on 'Intervention can reduce the unsafe use', Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in a paper said, "The outcome of the pilot project is good. Unsafe use of injections can be reduced by intervention."

He said by monitoring, training and proper planning, the use of injection can be reduced.

Under the project, the teams will monitor the use of injections in upazila health complexes and train the staffs for not using injections and then plan accordingly to work for

intervention to stop using injections. DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz was present as the chief guest at the seminar with Prof AK Azad in the chair.

Director General of Health Prof Md Abul Faiz, Prof ABM Faroque of Department of Pharmaceutical Technology and Prof Dr Murriddin Ahmed and Prof Saiful Islam of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology Department also spoke.

Train derails in C'nawabganj

A CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

A Chapainawabganj-bound passenger train derailed near Rahanpur railway station yesterday.

At least 10 people were injured as two compartments of the train derailed. The injured were admitted to the local health and clinics.

Locals and station officials said the train derailed about 500 metres off Rahanpur railway station at around 6:50am.

Rail communication between Rahanpur-Chapainawabganj and Rahanpur-Rajshahi remained snapped since then.

Md Shahidullah, stationmaster of Rahanpur railway station, said they are trying to restore train communication as soon as possible.

The accident might have occurred due to faults in the rail track, sources said.

Agyan Party men rob 3 of Tk 3.5 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of 'Agyan Party', a gang of criminals, took away Tk 3.5 lakh from them in two separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Sources said at least five people were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after being victimised by the criminals.

One of the victims, Mohammad Badal, 35, of Bhanga upazila in Faridpur, was found in an unconscious state at Fakirapal at around 4:00pm.

Police rushed Badal to the DMCH and after he regained consciousness, he said he started for Dhaka with Tk 2.0 lakh with an intention to go to Malaysia. He was on board a bus. But he could not recall anything what happened later.

In another incident, Abdul Jalil, 30, and his cousin Maksud, 28, of Narsingdi were victimised while they were on way to Banani from Sayedabad Bus Terminal. They were rescued in unconscious condition from Banani area.

After they got back to their senses, the victims said a gang of criminals took away Tk 1.5 lakh from them.

Besides, police rescued one Alauddin, 35, from Sayedabad in the morning and an unidentified 60-year-old man from old Dhaka.

Navy kicks off tree plantation campaign

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Navy has launched a massive tree plantation campaign at all Naval Bases and other shore establishments in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Mongla and Kaptai and various places of coastal belt as a part of Tree Plantation Campaign-2008.

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam formally inaugurated the programme by planting an 'Araucaria' sapling at the Naval Headquarters Compound in the city yesterday.

The navy chief called upon all individuals and organisations to implement the tree plantation programme successfully taken by the government.

Massive tree plantation in coastal belt will help to reduce the magnitude of damage caused by natural calamities like devastating cyclone Sidr and Tsunami, he added.

This year Bangladesh Navy is going to plant about 3 lakh sapling of different types of fruits, timber, forest species and medicinal plant including Shal, Mahogoni, Koro, Mango, Jackfruit, Coconut and Arjun.

Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (personnel) Commodore Commanding Farid Habib, all principal staff officers of Naval Headquarters, senior military and civilian officials, and sailors of Dhaka Naval Area were present on the occasion.



A student of Chittagong University tries to get on a running train as the shuttle train service between the campus and Chittagong city resumed yesterday, three days after a student of the university was killed in a train accident.

BRAC SUPERVISION

Pry teachers reject govt decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary school teachers of the country threatened to go for tougher movement against the government decision of handing over the responsibilities to Brac, a non-government organisation, to supervise all primary schools in 30 upazilas.

They feared that this is the initiation to privatise the whole primary education.

Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (BPTA), Bangladesh Private Primary Teachers Association (BPPTA), Bangladesh Graduate Primary Teachers Association (BGPTA) and Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers Association (BCPTA) jointly organised a press conference at BPTA office yesterday demanding withdrawal of the government decision on monitoring of all the primary schools in 30 upazilas across the country.

The four associations of primary teachers announced a series of protest programmes demanding immediate withdrawal of the government decision.

CU BCL demands withdrawal of case against activists

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong University (CU) unit gave a six-day ultimatum to the university authorities for taking step to withdraw the case filed against the BCL men on charge of violating Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

They gave the ultimatum through a memorandum submitted yesterday to the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Badiul Alam. The BCL men threatened tougher movement on the campus if their demand is not met by this time.

BCL CU unit General Secretary Ershad Hossain, Vice President Anisuzzaman Emon, Joint Secretary Mizanur Rahman, Organising Secretary Badiur Rahman Biddut and Utpal Shaon were present during submission of the memorandum through the CU Proctor Prof Jasim Uddin.

Mentionable, police filed a case with the Hathazari Police Station accusing nine identified and 50-60 unidentified leaders and activists of the BCL in connection with bringing out a procession on the campus on April 30 violating the EPR.

Later, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case submitted charge sheet accusing seven out of nine identified BCL men on May 12.

BARD observes 49th founding anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla observed its 49th founding anniversary yesterday, says a press release.

BARD started its journey in 1959 under the leadership of eminent social scientist Dr Akhter Hameed Khan.

The academy organised various programmes to mark the day. The programmes include publication of supplement in national dailies, special issues of Gram Unnayan (Bengali News Bulletin), indoor and outdoor games, reunion, cultural programmes and a discussion.

BARD Director General M Khairul Kabir presenting a keynote paper titled 'Extension of technologies in rural development: The experiences of BARD' at the discussion.

He called for innovating new models in rural development to face the challenges of 21st century.

He also called for combined efforts of all officers and staffs of BARD to contribute more to the national development.

Alauddin Ahmed and Hasan Sarwar, directors of BARD, and Nurul Islam, head teacher of Comilla Cantonment Board School, retired staff Anwar Hussain and Zahurul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

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Programme Schedule: Dhaka

Individual Counselling: 3rd June 2008, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Meeting Room, British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka
Seminar: 3rd June 2008, 5.30 pm, Meghna, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka
Open Day: 6th June 2008, 10.00 am to 3.30 pm, Surma, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka
Interviews: 8th June 2008, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Bangladesh Liaison Office
London Metropolitan University

Programme Schedule: Chittagong

Individual Counselling: 7th June 2008, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
Seminar: 7th June 2008, 3.30 pm
Venue: Auditorium, British Council Chittagong, 77/A East Nasirabad (Behind Chittagong Shopping Complex), Chittagong

For further information and appointments:

Bangladesh Liaison Office: Room L 361, 2nd Floor, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka 1215
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* 1sq.ft.=0.0929 sqm.

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Bangladesh Chhatra Union Dhaka University unit takes out a procession on the campus yesterday demanding allocation of eight percent of the national income for the education sector.