

PILOT PROJECT TO SUPERVISE PRT SCHOOLS Teachers' protest programmes begin tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary school teachers on Thursday announced a month-long countrywide programme to protest the government decision to allow Brac, a leading NGO, to supervise all primary schools in 20 upazilas under a pilot project.

In a joint press conference, leaders of four organisations -- Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (BPTA), Bangladesh Private Primary Teachers Association (BPPTA), Bangladesh Graduate Primary Teachers Association (BGPTA) and Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers Association (BCPTA) -- also rejected the Brac proposal to sit with its officials to discuss the issue.

"We are employees of the government, not of any NGOs. So, we cannot sit with Brac or any NGO to solve our problem. We will only sit with the government," said BM Asad Ullah, general secretary of BPTA, at the press conference at its Tophkhana office in the city.

At a press conference on June 11, Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed said his organisation would hold a meeting with the teachers to clear the misconception and confusion over the pilot project.

On May 23, the government approved the pilot project under which Brac would work to improve overall education and classroom environment in the 20 upazilas by training teachers and making school management committees more effective.

At Thursday's press conference, the teachers alleged that such a

step is aimed at commercialising and privatising the primary education in the country.

The month-long protest programmes include view-exchange meetings with school management committees and guardians from June 15 to 25 at all primary schools, meetings with intellectuals, civil society members, media persons, politicians and other professionals from June 28 to July 3, teachers' rally at district level on July 10 and a grand rally in the capital on July 17.

BGPTA General Secretary M Badrul Alam Mukul, BPTA President Wahiduzzaman Mian, BGRTA President M Abdul Kaleb, BCPTA President Hafizur Rahman Khan, BPPTA Secretary General Megandra Mohan Saha and BCPTA Secretary General Mahbulul Alam were present at the press conference.

On June 11, Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed also clarified that Brac has no intention of privatising or commercialising primary schools in the country.

'Quality training needed for varsity teachers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam on Thursday said quality training and research activities are needed for the university teachers for their professional improvement.

"The improvement of quality of higher education is not possible without advanced researches and the publication of their results. It is crucially needed to arrange quality training for the university teachers," UGC chairman said this while addressing a discussion as the chief guest at its auditorium.

Training either in short-term or long-term forms is significant to run any organisation successfully, he added.

UGC organised the discussion

on 'Foundation training for university teachers and certificate distribution ceremony' of the 3rd batch which was conducted by Graduate Training Institute of Bangladesh Agriculture University.

UGC member Prof AHM Zehadul Karim, who moderated the function, said well-planned curriculum, competent teachers and congenial atmosphere only can ensure quality of education.

A total of 25 young teachers from public universities from across the country took part in the training programme financed by UGC.

UGC members Dr Ehsanul Haque, Prof Abdul Hakim, Prof Tajul Islam and Prof Amena Begum and UGC Secretary Dr Lutfie Alam also took part in the discussion.

One gets life for killing wife in Jamalpur

UNB, Jamalpur

A Jamalpur court on Thursday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Sirajul Islam handed down the verdict to Tofluddin Mondol of Polisha village in Madarganj.

The convict was also fined Tk 10,000. If he fails to pay, he would have to serve six more months in jail.

The court, however, acquitted five other accused.

According to the prosecution, Tofludin strangled his wife Jharna Begum on July 3, 1999 following a family feud and dumped the body in a ditch.

A case was filed against six people, including Tofludin, after the police recovered the body.

Navy new entry sailors' passing out parade held

UNB, Khulna

The passing out parade marking the induction of a batch of new entry sailors of Bangladesh Navy was held at BNS Titumir parade ground in Khulna on Thursday.

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam reviewed the smartly turned out parade and took salute at the impressive march past. He also distributed awards among the outstanding new entry sailors.

M Zakir Hossain DE/UC was adjudged the best all round New Entry Sailor in SSC group and awarded with the coveted Cup of the Chief of the Naval Staff while M Saiful Islam, DE/CAT-2/UT received the Titumir cup as the best sailor in non-SSC group.

Speaking on the occasion, the Naval Chief called upon the new entry sailors to make the best use of the valuable training which they obtained from the new entry school of BNS Titumir to build themselves as worthy sailors to discharge any responsibility in future.

He also directed the BN personnel to put in their best efforts to protect the maritime boundary of the country and safeguard the valuable marine resources. He also urged the navy personnel to curb the menace of smuggling, piracy and illegal catching of fish with an iron hand.

Principal Staff Officers of Naval Headquarters, Commodore Commanding Khulna and local high civil and military officials witnessed the spectacular parade.



The participants of 'Exercise Shimanto Prohori' pose for photograph at the School of Maritime Warfare and Tactics in BNS Issa Khan in Chittagong on the concluding day of the exercise on Thursday. The UK and Bangladesh Navy jointly organised the special exercise.

Schoolgirl killed in train accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl was killed when a train knocked her down at Uttara in the city yesterday.

The train hit the nine-year-old girl, Irin, as she was playing near the rail tracks at Azampur at around 9:45am, hospital sources said. She was a student of class two in a local school.

Local people rushed the seriously injured girl to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

Bailey bridge collapses in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The road communication between Dhaka-Dinajpur via Gabindaganj upazila remained snapped since Thursday evening due to collapse of a bailey bridge at Khalsi, two kilometres off the upazila headquarters.

On visiting the spot, Gabindaganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Kabir Al Asad declared suspension of vehicular movement in this route.

The bailey bridge turned vulnerable since the last few years following congestion due to heavy traffic. On the other hand, some organised gang of miscreants dismantled equipment and nut bolts at dead of night that resulted sudden collapse of bridge, he added.

500 units in Barisal closed in recent yrs

UNB, Barisal

Around 500 small and medium industries were closed down in recent years in the district due to various problems, including management crisis.

A recent survey conducted by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) revealed that according to the enlistment of 2007, a total of 490 small and medium industries, out of 1,938, were closed down.

Besides, 29 industries, out of 80, established on Barisal BSCIC estate

have become sick and 133 plots in the estate remained unused.

The remaining 1,448 small and medium industries are also facing management crisis and economic pressure due to scarcity of raw materials, shortage of working capital, modernisation and technological setback.

More than 15,000 employees working in these industries have been passing their days in inhuman condition for irregularities in payment of salaries, low rate of wages and unhealthy condition in workplaces.

One lakh green card holders likely to enjoy US citizenship this year

BSS, New York

Over one lakh green card holders, including a big number of Bangladeshi-born expatriates, are likely to enjoy US citizenship by September this year, immigration authorities said.

The Federal Immigration Services is going to give US nationality before the citizenship test becomes harder in October, Immigration Attorney Nazmul Alam told the news agency in an interview.

Nazmul is the only Bangladeshi-American lawyer practising in the US Supreme Court.

Referring to a meeting held between Director of Federal Immigration Services Andrea Quarantillo and immigration attorneys on June 5, Nazmul said major changes would take place in the upcoming scrutiny process from October.

Under the new system, nationality seekers must have English-speaking and writing competency as well as basic knowledge on American history and its government structures, he said.

Nazmul said Andrea has already taken necessary steps to give US nationality to the possible highest number of green card holders before the new system comes up by next three months.

YKK begins tree plantation programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

YKK Bangladesh Pte Ltd, a Japan-based zipper manufacturing company at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ), began its tree plantation programme in Manikganj on Thursday.

The YKK, as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, organises different types of social welfare activities every year, says a press release.

This year the company has observed "YKK Fastening Tree Plantation Day" with an aim to plant a large number of trees across the country.

On the first day of the programme, the YKK planted a huge number of saplings at Koitta Girls' High School at Satoria upazila in the district.

YKK President and CEO Hiroaki Nakamura formally inaugurated the programme. He planted a sapling and distributed them among the students of the school. Director Yoshimine Kobayashi and Human Resources Manager Masud Karim of the company also took part in the programme.



Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam takes salute at the passing out parade of new entry sailors of Bangladesh Navy at BNS Titumir parade ground in Khulna on Thursday.



YKK Bangladesh Pte Ltd launched its tree plantation programme on Koitta Girls' High School premises at Satoria in Manikganj on Thursday.

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