

RU Shibir threatens to 'try' killers of Nomani on campus

RU CORRESPONDENT

The activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) yesterday placed some demands before the Rajshahi University authorities to meet them before reopening of the university.

Campus sources said a group of Shibir activists, led by RU Shibir president Delwar Hossain Saidee, met RU Proctor Prof Zakaria at his office and demanded arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of their leader Nomani before reopening of the university.

The Shibir activists said if the persons responsible for killing Nomani are not punished before reopening of the university, they will arrange trial of the killers on the campus.

Sharifuzzaman Nomani, general secretary of Shibir Rajshahi University unit, was killed during a clash between BCL and Shibir on the campus on March 13.

Later, Shibir activists along with some outsider moved around the campus, creating panic

among the teachers and employees.

BCL activists, led by RU unit president Ibrahim Hossain Moon, met the proctor and said that the cases filed by Shibir against 500 BCL leaders and activists in connection with March 13 incident must be withdrawn before reopening of the university.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists, led by Harunur Rashid Mamun, also met the proctor at his office and demanded immediate reopening of the university.

They urged the university authorities to take necessary steps to maintain a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

Meanwhile, classes at Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) resume yesterday.

The university was closed on March 13 following a clash between BCL and Shibir on Rajshahi University campus. The Ruet authorities, however, imposed restrictions on rallies, processions and student bodies' activities on the campus for an indefinite period.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Pabna schoolteacher stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Miscreants stabbed a schoolteacher yesterday at village Bonkola in Sujanagar upazila when he was going to his workplace at 9 in the morning. Kamruzzaman alias Badsha of Bonkola Primary School was shifted to Dhaka Pongu Hospital from local hospital as his condition deteriorated, doctors said. No case was filed till filing of this report yesterday.

Touchstone recovered, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Nagarkanda police yesterday recovered a touchstone and a terracotta from a house at Atal village of Dangi union under Nagarkanda upazila. Two persons were arrested for illegally keeping the statue of Radha and terracotta of Bishnu. An arrestee told police that they collected them from the labourer who found the precious antiques while digging a pond near Atal Pashchim Para mosque.

Fake cosmetics factory unearthed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mobile team of law enforcers yesterday unearthed a fake cosmetic factory at Balashpur in the town and arrested two people in this connection. The team raided a house and seized a huge quantity of fake raw materials of cosmetics and other consumer items and labels of different popular cosmetic companies, police said.

Bombs hurled at police office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unidentified miscreants exploded two bombs on the premise of Community Policing Office at Mohammodnagar under Batiaghata Police Station. The bombs were hurled from a motorbike. On-duty patrol police chased the bike but could not arrest anyone, said OC Abdus Salek of Batiaghata Police Station.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

FOR A RESPITE FROM SCORCHING HEAT: A dog soothes itself with a relishing bath in a water body in Jessore that saw the country's highest temperature yesterday. The country has been experiencing a hot spell for the last four days.

10 houses gutted in Comilla

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Ten houses were gutted leaving around 50 people homeless and 10 injured at Taguria village in Chandina upazila yesterday morning. Most of the dwellers were asleep when the fire broke out. The fire originated from a kitchen at about 4:00am and immediately engulfed the adjacent houses, locals said. Two fire-fighting vehicles from the upazila station went to the spot and put out the fire.

Truck with fake TSP sinks

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A truck, allegedly carrying spurious fertiliser sank in the Bhoiob river when trying to flee mob attack in Abhoinagor upazila yesterday. Mob, however, caught Mosharrif, helper of the truck and handed him over to police but the driver managed to flee. Police and local people said, the truck loaded with 300 bags of adulterated TSP was waiting to cross Bhatpara ferryghat. As people chased the truck it lost control over the wheel and fell into the river. Later, police recovered 203 bags of adulterated fertiliser from the truck.

Criminal held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Army personnel arrested a criminal with one shotgun and two bullets at Aamtolipara under Alikadam upazila yesterday morning. Nurul Islam, 28, who was caught red-handed during a raid was involved in criminal activities in the area for a long time, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

Memorial for the victims of April 27, 1971 massacre at Kaliganj village in Jaldhaka upazila under Nilphamari district lies in dire neglect as some people, disrespectful to the martyrs, block the memorial entrance to use it for business purpose.

UP chairmen boycott MP's meet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

The first upazila law and order meeting could not take place as 15 out of 18 elected members did not turn up citing 'lack of security'.

Sources said, the Shaikupa upazila UNO called a law and order meeting yesterday morning.

Eighteen newly elected public representatives of the upazila were expected to attend the meeting along with upazila officials and lawmaker Abdul Hye.

The lawmaker, vice chairman and woman vice chairman were present but BNP backed 14 UP chairmen and pourasava mayor did not attend. At this the lawmaker got angry and left the meeting venue.

UP chairmen coordination committee secretary UP chairman Shariful Islam Masum said, in the last week about 10 BNP-backed UP chairmen were assaulted by local goons. UP chairman Rafiqul Islam was injured seriously. The gangs vandalised the motorbike of UP chairman Rakibul Hasan. Some received death threats. So they could not feel secure to join the meeting, he claimed.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mahmudul Hossain Khan said, the boycott of meeting was unjust. It will hamper the development process in the area.

Sacked Mongla dockers warn of fresh agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The sacked dockers of Mongla Port will go for fresh agitation from May 1 if their five point demands are not met by April 30.

Babul Khan, member-secretary of Sacked Dock Workers' Action Committee, made this announcement at a rally on the premises of Mongla Stramik Sangha office yesterday.

He said 4,000 jobless dockers will launch a tougher agitation programme from May 1 to press home their demands.

Addressing the rally, action committee convenor Abdur Rashid Talukder said the sacked dockers will give a call for an indefinite work stoppage at the port if their demands are not met by April 30.

He said they had postponed the movement following assurance given by Khulna City Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque on February 26 that their demands would be met by April 30.

"But we see no progress in meeting the five-point demands of the sacked dockers who have been struggling hard simply for survival with members of their families," convenor of the action committee said.

Mayor's intervention in this matter is no more needed, as he is not at all concerned with Mongla Port affairs, he added.

The demands include repeal of the ordinance that abolished Dock Workers Management Board, abolition of berth operating system, reinstatement of the dockers and payment of their arrears.

KALIGANJ MASSACRE DAY TODAY Memorial bears all signs of neglect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Local people will observe 'Kaliganj massacre day' today in memory of the 300 innocent people killed by the Pakistani occupation army on this day during the Liberation War.

But the memorial, built by locals several years ago at Kaliganj village in Jaldhaka upazila under the district, shows all signs of neglect and dishonour as unscrupulous people have occupied entrance of the main gate.

Visiting the place yesterday, this correspondent saw that grocery shops, bus ticket counters and butchers' tables were set in front of the main gate and boundary wall. The area is covered with dense grass and dry leaves of trees were scattered there.

On April 27 in 1971, about 1,500 people including men, women, children and elderly ones from Kathali, Balagram, Golna, Jaldhaka and adjoining villages were walking towards the Indian border to save themselves from the Pakistani army.

When they reached Kaliganj village, Pakistani

troops on board several vehicles appeared there and ordered them to stop. The troops then separated around 300 young men and shot them.

The barbaric troops picked up some young girls and left the spot.

Amar Krishna, now a schoolteacher, who lost his father and two brothers on that day, said, "I was then a young man of 19. The Pakistani soldiers' bullets failed to hit me but I fell down on the ground unconscious.

After regaining sense, I saw many dead bodies around me."

"The governments did not do anything to keep the memory alive for the future generation. Even the local units of different political parties do not observe the day," said former union parishad member Manshed Ali of Kaliganj village, who helped rescue of the survivors on that fateful day.

Some local youths arranged whitewashing the memorial as martyrs' relatives and local people will place flowers at the altar today.

Power crisis in Khulna Zone likely to drag on

Overhauling of plants needs at least six months

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

There is no hope of early relief from power crisis for the people of Khulna Zone as four of the six power generating plants under Khulna Power Station (KPS) need replacement for resuming their production.

Installation of four new wall tubes imported from abroad will take at least six months and consequently, Khulna Zone is set to reel under severe power outages for the period when the area will face load shedding for over 12 hours a day, KPS sources said.

All the four old wall tubes of 110 MW plant need to be replaced with new ones. The four wall tubes comprise 467 support tubes that also require replacement or repair, said a source of KPS.

The plant was shutdown on Tuesday noon as all wall tubes developed bigleakages.

The 110 MW plant installed at Khulna Power Station in 1984 has become totally ineffective and inoperative after generating 327 crore 95 lakh and 37,329 kilowatts of electricity in 44,117 hours.

It underwent the last overhauling in July 2007. Another 60MW plant of KPS was shut down on July 5 in 2006 as it lost capacity to produce electricity due to major technical faults, KPS sources said, adding that total overhauling will be needed as this plant has become completely ineffective.

If totally overhauled, the two power plants with 110 and 60 MW capacities are expected to resume power generation for at least six years at a stretch.

At least Tk 170 crore is needed for overhauling of the 110 and 60 MW power plants but the fund is yet to be available from the government, he said.

Water-borne diseases spreading in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 200 people were attacked with diarrhoea, pneumonia, jaundice and other water-borne diseases in nine upazilas in last three days.

The diseases have broken out rapidly due to scorching heat in last few days, Civil Surgeon's Office sources said. Children and elderly people are the worst sufferers, they said.

While visiting different hospitals in the district in last three days this correspondent found that on average 15 to 20 diarrhoea patients are being admitted to hospitals everyday. Because of accommodation problem, many patients have taken shelter on the hospital floors.

While talking to them, it was learnt that the hospital authorities did not supply IV saline and essential medicine saying 'short supply'. As a result, attendants have to purchase those from outside the hospitals at higher prices, they alleged.

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