

MAY 19 EXAM BOYCOTT

PSTU punishes 138 students for being 'unruly'

OUT CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) on Monday punished 138 students of agriculture faculty for boycotting semester final examination violating PSTU rule.

The university authorities asked them to leave the hostel and not to enter campus till further order.

A press release signed by AKM Mostafa Zaman, registrar of PSTU said the decision was taken jointly on Sunday by Regent Board, the highest decision-making body of the PSTU, academic council, dean council and examination

disciplinary committee.

These 138 students are barred from entering campus till further decision, the press release said, adding they did not take part in the examination despite repeated request by the authorities concerned.

They disregarded the rules and authority of PSTU though others from different faculties took part in the examination held from May 19, university sources said.

Meanwhile, all 138 students who boycotted the examination yesterday left the campus.

Only two students out of 140 took part in the first semester final examination of agriculture faculty. The other

students boycotted examination to create pressure on the university authorities to withdraw expulsion order against 21 students.

The students belonging to BCL were expelled by the PSTU disciplinary committee for their alleged involvement in unruly activities on the campus.

Contacted, Vice Chancellor Prof. Syed Shakhawat Hussain told this correspondent that the decision was taken to ensure congenial educational atmosphere on the campus.

"We will not tolerate any unruly activities on the campus that harms education of other students", he said.



PHOTO: STAR

People give a bleak look as Someshwary River continues to devour Ranikhong village in Durgapur upazila of Netrakona district.

Rain-fed rivers erode away more villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Erosion has taken a serious turn in Durgapur upazila as Someshwary and other rivers swelled in the last few days due to torrential rain.

Onrush of hill water from across the border added to the situation.

At least 300 dwelling houses and over 500 acres of cropland at Dakumara, Kamarkhali and Ranikhong villages under Durgapur upazila have been devoured by the river in the last one week rendering more than 1000 people homeless.

The erosion victims have taken shelter in the nearby flood shelters and on the highlands in neighboring villages.

During a visit to the areas this correspondent found that people of over 200 houses have shifted to safer places. A vast tract of land of Shibgonj and Birishiri villages on the bank of river Someshwary

in Durgapur upazila eroded away.

Locals dumped sands, bamboo and timbers to protect the areas from the erosion but all their attempts went in vain due to strong current in the river.

About one kilometer of three-kilometer-long Shibganj-Ranikhong Road, the lone link between Durgapur upazila Sadar and different bordering villages has been devoured by Someshwary much to the suffering of the locals.

Contacted, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) Netrakona Mohammad Harun-Ur-Rashid told this correspondent that the construction work of one kilometer out of 6-kilometer Someshwary river erosion protection embankment has already started.

The rest of the work would be completed in phases, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

A section of unscrupulous people taking away earth from this 1200-year-old archaeological site at Chandipur village in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur district, threatening the existence of a recently excavated Vishnu Temple nearby.

Most suitable for making bricks indeed!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A section of people are taking away the earth around the 'Vishnu Temple' at a recently discovered of 8th century archaeological site in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur, to use it for manufacturing brick in the next season.

Sixty to 70 bags of mud are being removed from around the temple daily as the callous act started on June 2, locals said.

Removal of earth from the surrounding area of the temple built during the rule of Paul dynasty will harm remains of the ancient structure, said sources of Bangladesh Archaeological Department.

The students and teachers of archaeology department of Jahangirnagar University discovered the site during a survey carried out in 2000, sources said.

In 2007, they started digging the site and unveiled the 8th Century Vishnu Temple at Chandipur village in Birampur upazila.

About 44 archaeological sites have been found in the area since the survey started in 2000.

"Seeing that some labourers were filling large jute bags with the mud of the temple area on June 2, I protested," said Didar Hossain, a resident of Chandipur village.

Later local UP Chairman Md Rahmat Ali was informed of the matter but to no effect, locals said.

One Nurul Islam engaged some labourers to collect mud from the temple area, saying that he had obtained permission from the UP chairman in this regard, they said.

Rahmat Ali, however, denied giving any permission to cut the earth of the temple area.

During a visit to the site on June 3, this correspondent saw about 80 bags of mud on the spot. Sensing presence of a journalist, the labourers left the place immediately.

This correspondent also came to know that a section of local influential people grabbed 1.72 acres of 'enemy property' in the area.

When contacted, Swadhin Sen, associate professor of Archaeology Department of Jahangirnagar University, also leader of the team that conducted digging at the site, said it is the responsibility of all to protect the newly found 8th century temple, which is a precious addition to the rich archaeological history of Bangladesh.

Contacted, Birampur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abul Khayer Muhammad Hafizullah Khan said that steps have been taken to resist any mud lifting around the temple.

Majpara becomes first 'bio-gas union'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Mili Khatun, a housewife of Majpara village in Atghoria upazila under Pabna district, cooks in a gas stove although there is no connection of natural gas in this village, thanks to the introduction of biogas plant.

Besides saving daily fuel cost of about Tk 50, it rids her of the health hazard caused by smoke produced in wood-burning cooker.

One hundred other families of Majpara union are using gas stoves with the help of biogas plants.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Bishwas announced Majpara as the country's first 'biogas union' at a programme organised by Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (IDCOL), a government owned organisation, on Majpara School premises on May 28.

He attended as chief guest at the programme marking the first 'hundred household coverage' of biogas plants in a union and the inauguration 'Biogas Week-2010'.

IDCOL sources said 12 thousand biogas plants have already been set up



PHOTO: STAR

A housewife at Majpara village in Majpara union of Atghoria upazila under Pabna district cooks at a biogas burner as the union with 101 sucs plants has been declared the country's first 'biogas union'.

across the country while they have a plan to set up 37.7 thousand biogas plants within 2012.

"The union which sets at least one hundred biogas plants, will be declared 'biogas union'. Covering the target, Majpara union has become the first 'biogas union' in the country,"

Nazmul Haque Faysal, an official of IDCOL, told this

correspondent.

Seventy percent people of the country who live in villages are deprived of natural gas connection facility. They generally use wood as fuel, consuming wood worth about Tk 12 thousand crore every year, speakers said at the programme.

Biogas plants bear bright prospect as it will save forests and reduce health risks, espe-

cially for rural women, they said.

"Cooking in wood stoves required wood worth Tk 50 daily. Besides, it produced huge smoke and made me suffer from diseases very often. Now I can easily cook in a gas burner. It saves my money and reduces health risk. Natural fertiliser produced from this plant helps fish cultivation in a two-bigha

Free office from Roni's control, AL asks Patuakhali unit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The central Awami League has asked its Patuakhali district unit to free Galachipa upazila AL office from control of lawmaker Golam Mowla Roni's supporters and hand over it to the present committee headed by Harun-ur-Rashid and Golam Mostafa Tito.

The AL district unit received a letter signed by Mrinal Kanti Das, deputy office secretary of the central committee, in this regard on Monday.

Patuakhali district AL Secretary Khan Mosharraf Hossain said they will act as per order of the central committee. "We will soon request the local administration to take necessary steps to free the office which is now under

control of Roni and his supporters."

He said the supporters of Roni, lawmaker from Patuakhali-3 (Galachipa-Dashmina) constituency, captured the office following a quarrel between Roni and Harun-ur-Rashid in August 2009.

Later, Roni declared Rezaul Karim as president of Galachipa AL unit though Harun and Tito were earlier made president and general secretary of the unit through a council.

After the incident, Harun and Tito sought intervention of the district unit that forwarded the matter to the central body, seeking its actions against Roni and his supporters.

When contacted, Rezaul Karim said he is sitting in the office as local MP Golam Mowla Roni made him president of the upazila unit.

A leader's unbecoming behaviour

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Tangail

A leader of ruling Awami League (AL) abused and threatened two police sergeants when they were performing their duty on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday.

Police sergeants Mohammad Salahuddin and Abdur Rahim were measuring speeds of the vehicles plying the highway at Khudirampur in Tangail Sadar upazila in the morning and filing cases

against the vehicles that broke the speed limit, police said.

As they stopped a Karotiabound private car from Tangail for running over 100 kilometres per hour on the busy highway, the car driver told them not to file any case as district AL organising secretary is owner of the car.

The police sergeants, however, filed a case for breaking the speed limit in violation of traffic rules, police said.

A few minutes later, the AL leader came to the spot and

asked the sergeants why they filed a case against his car.

When they told the reason for filing the case, the AL leader hurled abuses at the police officers in presence of many people. He later left the place on the car after saying that he will teach the two police officers a lesson soon.

Sergeant Abdur Rahim told this correspondent that he has filed a general diary with Tangail police station in this regard.



PHOTO: STAR

PRAISEWORTHY: A worker plants mehakony tree on the bank of Laldighi, an old water body in the heart of Jessore town, as the municipality authorities have taken steps to protect it following demand from the townspeople. Earlier on Monday, authorities demolished 18 illegal structures on its bank.