

RU to shelve plan for evening courses

A RU CORRESPONDENT

In the face of student agitation, the Rajshahi University authorities yesterday postponed their decision to introduce evening master's courses in all departments under social science faculty.

The authorities took the decision at an emergency meeting after the RU students of different departments called for an indefinite strike from today (Wednesday) to press home their demand for withdrawing the decision to intro-

duce evening master's course in different departments under social science, law and business studies faculties.

The students gave the strike call at a press conference in the office of Rajshahi University Journalists' Association at around 1:45 pm. Immediately after the strike call, Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Abdus Sobhan sat with the deans of nine faculties of the university in his office and took the decision.

The authorities, however, did not take any deci-

sion about two other faculties--law and business studies--where they decided to introduce evening master's course.

At around 8:30pm yesterday, the RU students withdrew their proposed indefinite strike from today, urging the authorities not to introduce evening master's course in two other faculties.

The students of social science faculty had been agitating since June 2 to press their demand for withdrawing the RU authorities' decision to introduce

evening master's course in all eight departments under the faculty.

On Monday, the students of law and business studies faculties and other departments of the university joined the agitation and locked two academic buildings for four hours from 8:00am.

They also brought out a procession on the campus, held a rally in front of the administrative building and staged a sit-in for two hours on the premises of Rabindra Arts Building.

Ex-PCJSS leader shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A former member of a reformist group of Parbattya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) was shot dead allegedly by the armed cadres of PCJSS at his house at Moddhyam Pakuzzachhari under Baghaichhari upazila of the district Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Suvas Chandra Chakma, 37, son of Samo Dhan Chakma.

Sources said a group of 12 to 15 armed men attacked his house in the small hours of Monday and asked him to open the door.

As Suvas did not respond to their call, the gang broke open the door and fired several shots at him leaving him dead.

Officer-in-Charge of Baghaichhari police station Nayeem Uddin confirmed the incident.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Sajib Chakma, assistant publicity secretary of central committee of PCJSS denied the allegation.

He said, "we don't believe in politics of killing. It might be an internal conflict."

Strike at stone quarries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet District Truck Owners' Association and three other organisations have called a day-long strike at all stone quarries in Jaintapur and Gowainghat upazilas today demanding immediate removal of illegal toll collection points from Sylhet-Tamabil highway.

The leaders of the four organisations gave the call at a press conference at Sylhet Press Club yesterday afternoon. They read out a written statement at the conference, alleging that some organised groups have set up four illegal toll collection points on the highway in the name of union parishad tax and upazila parishad tax.

They even forcibly realise Tk 700 to Tk 1200 from each stone-laden truck, the press conference was told.

They further alleged that they had submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner last week demanding removal of the illegal toll collection points from the highway, but to no effect.

President of Sylhet Zila Truck Malik Samity Saleh Ahmed Khasru, Jafflong Stone Crushing Mill Malik Samity President Haji Aziruddin, Jaintapur Truck Malik Samity President Md Sirajul Alam, Jaintapur Pathor Sramik Trade union leader Abdus Shukur were present at the press conference.

Over 50,000 labourers work in the quarries at Jafflong, Sripur and Bichhnakandi. Some organised groups allegedly backed by the ruling party leaders are involved in illegal toll collection on Sylhet-Tamabil highway, which is used for transporting stones from the quarries to Sylhet and other places of the country.

LAST-MINUTE POLLS CAMPAIGN AT CTG



PHOTO: STAR
Nagorik Committee backed Mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury conducts mass contact at Madarbari Sweepers' Colony, below, Unnayan Andolon supported candidate Manjur Alam does the same at Railway Station Colony yesterday, the last day of campaign, as Chittagong City Corporation goes to polls tomorrow.

PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST 34

Human chain at KU, hunger strike on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Seventy students of Khulna University (KU), who began fast-unto-death on Monday demanding withdrawal of punishment imposed by the authorities on 34 students of the university in connection with April 5 incident on the campus, continued the programme for the second day yesterday.

Seven of the 70 students fell sick yesterday morning and they were given intra-venous saline by private physicians. They are Imran Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Ismat Jahar, Prago Dipta Halder, Zakaria Jaber, Mahub Alam and Arefin Huq.

On April 5, a few students of the university locked in an alteration with flexiload shop owner Shahnewaz over non-payment of dues. At a stage, it turned into a fierce clash between two groups forcing the authorities to shut the university indefinitely. The university reopened on Sunday after remaining shut for over two months.

Vice-Chancellor Prof

Saifuddin Shah formed a seven-member committee on April 6 to probe the untoward incident. On the basis of the committee's report, the authorities on June 8 permanently expelled four students and take punitive measures against 30 others for their involvement in June 5 incident.

Those permanently expelled from the university are Abir Hossain Talukder of urban planning department, Golam Faruque of social science department, Saiful Islam Bappi of business administration department and Zakaria Jaber of architecture department.

Besides, seven students have been expelled for two years and fined Tk 15,000 each, in default, they are to face expulsion for more one year, 13 students for one year and fined Tk 15,000 each while 10 others fined Tk 15,000 each as their involvement was proved beyond doubt by the probe committee.

Apart from fast-unto-death programme, over 400 KU students yesterday formed a human chain in front of the university to press home the

same demand. The hunger strikers and the participants of human chain programme jointly issued a press statement at 12:30pm. In the statement, they alleged that the vice-chancellor had declared state of emergency on the campus, imposing ban on holding cultural programme, rallies and procession.

"Our fast-unto-death will continue until the demand is met," they said.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Saifuddin Shah told this correspondent that nine out of the punished 34 students have appealed to him in writing for reconsidering the punitive action taken against them. "They have rejected my appeal to call off fast-unto-death programme for greater interest of the university," the VC said.

He hoped that the crisis would be resolved soon with active cooperation of teachers and students.

But the hunger strikers, when asked, said they did not submit any written appeal to the vice-chancellor for mercy. His action against 34 students is quite unjust, they added.



PHOTO: STAR
Fishing boats and trawlers lie idle at Fringibazar Bridge terminal in Chittagong yesterday as the sea remains rough due to a depression over the Bay.

Flash flood in Barisal, tidal water enters Patuakhali

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Flash flood caused by heavy downpour hit at least 50 villages in Barisal while tidal water flooded five villages in Patuakhali in the last two days.

The flash flood in Barisal followed continuous downpour and onrush of water from upstream, reports UNB.

The district relief and rehabilitation office said, at least 50 villages and shoals of five upazilas of the district went under water.

A large number of people in the affected areas of Mehendiganj, Hizla, Muladi, Wazirpur and Agoiljhara have taken shelter on high land and in educational institutions, upazila administra-

tion sources said.

In Patuakhali, at least five villages under Aila-hit Mirzaganj upazila were inundated as the flood control embankment on the Payra river collapsed at different points during high tide on Monday and Tuesday.

The tidal water rose above the normal level, reports our correspondent.

It was flowing at 2.60 metre which is 0.60 metre higher than usual level, according to Water Development Board officials.

Mobarak Ali Munshi, UP chairman of Subidkhali UP told this correspondent that several areas of the 7 km-long flood control embankment washed away as high tide hit the coast.

The dam was earlier affected by both cyclones Sidr and Aila, he said.

At least five villages--Mehendiabad, Ranipur, Charkhali, Golkhali and Hajikhali--were inundated as tidal water entered through the breaches, he added.

Md Shahjahan, upazila agriculture officer of Mirzaganj told this correspondent that Aus paddy on at least 1,000 acres went under tidal water.

"A vast tract of crop field will be affected due to saline water and silt," he said.

Contacted, Siddiqur Rahman, executive engineer of WDB said, "We hope that repair of the embankment will start by next month".



STAR PHOTO

Flood water submerges Sylhet-Beanibazar highway, snapping road link between the city and the upazila headquarters, right, inundates shops at Fenchuganj Bazar.

Flood situation in Sylhet unchanged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Flood situation in the district remained unchanged yesterday despite decrease in rainfall in the last 24 hours.

However, all the rivers marked further rise flowing above danger level at many points.

The road link between Zakiganj, Balaganj and Beanibazar upazilas and district headquarters remained snapped as water inundated several

points of Sylhet-Zakiganj, Sylhet-Baroigram and Tajpur-Balaganj roads.

The Surma was flowing 12 cm above danger level in Sylhet, 18 cm above at Sunamganj town and 95 cm above at Kanaighat while the Kushiyara was flowing 98 cm above at Amolshid border point and 79 cm above at Sheola at 3:00 pm yesterday, Water Development Board (WDB) officials informed.

Erosion by the Surma and the

Kushiyara took a serious turn in Zakiganj, Beanibazar, Golapganj, Balaganj and Fenchuganj during the last two days.

Floodwaters submerged Zakiganj upazila headquarters for the fourth day yesterday causing much suffering to the people.

Many areas in Zakiganj municipality and Fenchuganj upazila headquarters are still under water.

In Golapganj upazila, all villages in Budhbaribazar, Sharifganj and

Badepasha unions have been badly affected.

In Balaganj, floodwater continued to enter villages through at least five breached points of Kushiyara dyke.

Upazila complex and upazila health complex areas are now under 2-3 feet water.

In Dakkhin Surma upazila, floodwater damaged about 2,000 hectares seedbed of Aush paddy, officials said.

Jubo League activist killed in clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jubo League activist was killed yesterday in a clash at Putkhali village under Benapole police station.

The deceased was identified as Babu Sarder, son of Motleb Sarder of Putkhali village, also the general secretary of Putkhali union Jubo League.

Sources said, an altercation took place between Babu Sarder and Abul Morol at Putkhali school ground on Monday evening over control of a local smuggling ring.

As it turned into a fierce clash, both sides hurled 10 to 12 bombs and fired 10 to 15 rounds of bullets at each other.

Seriously injured Babu was rushed to Jessore Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Police later arrested five people in this connection.

Top outlaw held, arms recovered

Another outlaw arrested in Bongaon of India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police early yesterday arrested a top cadre of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) and recovered firearms and ammunition from his possession.

Acting on a tip off, a team of Sadar police raided a house in Bottail area under Sadar upazila at about 12:30 pm and arrested outlaw Somir Mondol, 40.

Later on the basis of his confession, police recovered a light gun and three bullets from a place at Swastiput village.

According to police, Somir is accused in seven cases including four for murder. He hailed from Nawapara village in Sadar upazila of Kushtia.

Meanwhile, a leader of an outlawed party was arrested in India on Sunday.

The arrestee was identified as Akram Hossain, 33, Chuadanga district commander of outlawed Janajuddho, a faction of Purbo

Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML).

Police superintendent (SP) of Chuadanga Nazrul Islam confirmed his arrest yesterday.

According to police, Akram was leading the outfit since its district secretary Robi was killed in a shootout with police in November last year.

Accused in at least nine murder cases, Akram recently fled to India after one of his close accomplices, Ferdous Ali, was killed in 'crossfire' with police on March 11, police said.

A team of Chapra police in Bongaon district in West Bengal in India raided the house of one Nabab Ali at Huda village under the police station and arrested Akram.

After interrogation, Akram was produced before a magistrate court in Bongaon and the court sent him to jail.

Hailing from Charulia village in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga, Akram was a most wanted criminal in the district.