

Physiotherapy students' memo to PM today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students' Union (BPSU) will march towards the Prime Minister's Office at 12:00 noon today to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as part of their agitation programmes, says a press release.

More than 200 physiotherapy students have been staging hunger strike from June 21 to press their demand for a Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy.

On the 8th consecutive day of the hunger strike, a group of health officials of the ministry and directorate general of health services (DGHS) met the protesters on behalf of the health minister at 2:00pm at the Central Shaheed Minar and requested them to call off their hunger strike.

Dr Khandaker Mohammad Shefayatullah, director (medical education) of DGHS, and Ahsanul Haque Khan Swapan, deputy chief engineer (health wing) of architecture department, talked to the students. But they did not assure the students of establishing a separate college of physiotherapy.

Meanwhile, around 70 students fell sick during the last seven days of hunger strike and many of them are receiving treatment at different city hospitals.

Carbon storage faces leak dilemma, says study

AFP, Paris

Dreams of braking global warming by storing carbon emissions from power plants could be undermined by the risk of leakage, according to a study published yesterday.

Rich countries have earmarked tens of billions of dollars of investment in carbon capture and storage (CCS), a technology that is still only at an experimental stage.

Under CCS, carbon dioxide (CO2) would be snared at source from plants that are big burners of oil, gas and coal.

Instead of being released into the atmosphere, where it would contribute to global warming, the gas would be buried in the deep ocean or piped into underground chambers such as disused gas fields.



(Left) Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia visits the house of party standing committee member Mirza Abbas at Shahjahanpur in the city yesterday. (Right) Afroza Abbas, wife of Mirza Abbas, speaks at a press conference at her residence. (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: STAR

Police maintain law and order during hartal: DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police arrested a total of 167 people from different areas in the city during dawn-to-dusk hartal on charges of obstructing the police, blocking the roads, vandalising shops and vehicles and issuing threats.

The arrestees include former BNP minister Mirza Abbas, lawmaker Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury Annee, former state minister Prof MA Mannan, Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury and Advocate Ahmed Azam Khan, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said in a press release last night.

The DMP also claimed that the police maintained law and order in the city during the hartal and normal situation has now been prevailing.

It said Mirza Abbas was arrested from his Shahjahanpur residence at noon yesterday in connection with torching of a vehicle at Bijoygar on Saturday evening after a case was filed in this connection. During the arrest, his supporters also attacked the law enforcers, injuring six policemen.

A case was also filed against Mirza Abbas with Motijheel Police Station in connection with bomb blasts during the hartal period. Preliminary investigations revealed that vehicles

were vandalised and torched in different areas of the city on Saturday at the directives of Mirza Abbas, the press release said.

At around 9:00am, BNP leaders and activists led by BNP lawmaker Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury Annee ransacked Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and attacked their rivals. When the law enforcers arrived at the scene, unruly people attacked them, leaving four policemen injured.

At around 7:15am, former state minister Prof MA Mannan and advocate Ahmed Azam Khan led a procession of pickets and held a rally, blocking a road near Petro Bangla office at Karwan Bazar. Some rickshaws were also damaged at that time. The two leaders also gave threat to policemen, the press release added.

At around 11:00am, the DMP said, around 150 people led by Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury attacked the law enforcers in Mohakhali Wireless Gate area, injuring six policemen. The pickets also damaged rickshaws and beat up pedestrians, creating a panic during the hartal.

Unruly people also clashed with the police in different areas including Kaptan Bazar, Shaheed Faruk Road and Jagannath University areas. The police charged batons and fired tear gas shells to disperse the pickets.

FOREIGN SHIP DETAINED IN INDIA News misleading Says army headquarters

UNB, Dhaka

The Army Headquarters termed misleading the news item headlined "Foreign ship detained in India after offloading arms in Chittagong," published in a section of dailies here yesterday.

Quoting Army Headquarters statement, Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) press release said MV Aegean Glory carrying military equipment of some contingents along with a battalion under the supervision of UN returned to Chittagong port on June 15 after accomplishing their task for the United Nations mission in Liberia.

It said on June 24, the ship left the port after offloading the equipment from June 19-23 under the supervision of local shipping agent Messrs Sunshine Business Limited. Among the equipment, 32 containers carried war weapons and military vehicles.

The military equipment are being handed over from Chittagong port to Bangladesh Army in Dhaka Cantonment under the supervision of UN-nominated shipping agent Sunshine Business Limited, the press release said.

The same ship also carried some military equipment for Pakistan and Nepal under the supervision of the UN, the release added.

Gillard rejects 'big Australia'

AFP, Sydney

New Prime Minister Julia Gillard signalled a change in the government's approach to population growth yesterday, saying she did not believe in a "big Australia".

Gillard, a former lawyer who wrested leadership of the Labour Party and the government from Kevin Rudd on Thursday, said population policy needed to strike the right balance between growth and sustainability. "I don't believe in a big

Australia," Welsh-born Gillard said.

"Kevin Rudd indicated that he had a view about a big Australia, I'm indicating a different approach. I think we want an Australia that is sustainable," she told the Nine Network.

With 22 million residents, Rudd had expressed optimism about a "big Australia" with a population of more than 36 million people by 2050, achieved through rising birth rates and immigration. But Gillard said such popu-

lation growth could be problematic given Australia's water shortages, the difficulty in providing services across the vast landscape and transport infrastructure.

"I don't believe in simply hurtling down a track to a 36 million or 40 million population, and I think if you talk to the people of western Sydney or western Melbourne, or the Gold Coast growth corridor in Queensland, people would look at you and say, 'Where will all these people go?'," she said.



Ex-joint secy missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abu Ahmed Kadir, former joint secretary at the industries ministry, 69, has been missing since Saturday, says a press release.

His complexion is fair and height is six feet and two inches. Kadir, wearing a full pant and a half-sleeved shirt, went out of the house for an evening walk at 6:00pm on Saturday. He has been missing since then.

He was carrying two mobile phones when he came out of his house at Sukrabad. The numbers of the mobile phones are 01552-395931 and 0167-3984741.

A general diary has been lodged with the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police station yesterday in this regard.

His family members have requested anybody knowing his whereabouts to call at 01732-944133, 9133488 or 8153592.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a meeting of the National Science and Technology Council at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

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Driver burnt to death
 A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
 Taleb of Torabganj area in Tangail Sadar.
 On information Saidul's relatives took the body to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue from where they took away the body without autopsy.
 Police said the accident occurred near the gate number four of Bhawal National Garden at around 4:00am when the stone-laden truck was going to Mymensingh from Narayanganj.

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 Photo taken on April 2010