

UNREST AT HAJEE DANESH UNIVERSITY

# 21 sued as VC's residence, other buildings damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Twenty-one students of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) were sued yesterday on charge of damaging public properties at the university.

The case followed attack on several buildings including the vice chancellor's residence by agitating students on Tuesday midnight.

Proctor Dr SM Harun Ur Rashid filed the case with Dinajpur police station.

Of the accused, 14 were

identified while the rest seven remained unidentified.

The identified students are Devdas Mohanta, Shouvik Sarker, Zahangir Alam Bappi, Sadekuzzaman Sujon, Dehlobi Reza, Rashedul Islam and Hasel Khandaker of agriculture faculty, Nazmul Hasan Adin of CSE (Computer Science and Engineering) faculty, Mahbubuzaman Ovi, ATM Sadequr Rahman, Sabbir Ahmed Shimul, Azit Kumar Das, Shamim Ahmed and Shihabur Awal of AFE (Agro-Food Engineering) faculty.

The case mentioned that

the accused damaged the public properties with lethal weapons including rods and hockey sticks.

Witnesses said the students damaged a number of buildings on the campus on Tuesday midnight, protesting the decision of the authorities to close the university.

They also attacked and damaged the residence of vice chancellor (VC) Prof Afzal Hossain and besieged it for seven hours.

According to sources, the students have been agitating for the last few days demand-

ing repeal of punishment slipped on 15 students who allegedly instigated clashes on the campus on May 16 and 17, leaving five students injured.

An investigation by the university authorities earlier found these students guilty of violating discipline.

During an hour-long rampage on Tuesday night, the students also damaged several transport vehicles of the university.

As the situation went beyond control, police entered the HSTU campus at around 1:00am and charged

batons to disperse the agitators. Later, the students and police locked in a chase and counter-chase, leaving 10 students wounded.

Earlier, the agitating students in a letter on Sunday, urged the authorities to reconsider the decision to punish 15 students on different terms including expulsion.

As their appeal went unheeded, they held a press conference on Monday at Dinajpur press club and announced tougher programmes to realise their demands.

The students started class boycott for an indefinite period from Tuesday morning and decided to stage a hartal today.

In face of growing agitation, the HSTU authorities on Tuesday afternoon closed the university until July 8 and asked the students to vacate the halls by evening.

At this, the students burst into protest and started gathering in front of the administrative building.

They confined about 12 people, including the VC, registrar and a few teachers to their offices at the building.

About six hours into the confinement, a police force led by ASP Shanjit Kumar Roy entered the administrative building and freed them at about 12:00 midnight.

Later the agitating students spread out in small groups and went on the rampage damaging several buildings including VC's residence on the campus.

Early yesterday, police forced the residential students to move out of the halls. The female students left their dormitories in the morning.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested 12 students from the campus. They are Shahriar Haque, Rafiqul Islam, Prionkar Roy, Tuhin Rahman, Shariful Islam, Rakibul Islam, Fahim Mahfuz, Mahbub Zaman, Mahbubur Rashid, Mohammad Shibli, Ariful Haque Rana and Ratan Shaha. The arrestees were sent to jail after being produced in court.



A family leaves its flooded home for shelter yesterday as different areas of Fulchhari and Saghata upazilas have gone under water following increase of water level of Teesta, Karatoa and Ghagot rivers in Gaibandha district.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## Erosion in Lalmonirhat makes 150 families homeless in two days

### Kurigram victims block road

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 150 families at four villages of Sadar and Aditmari upazilas became homeless in the two days as erosion by the rivers Teesta and Dharla took an alarming turn in the areas.

The affected villages are Kutirpar and Gobordhan in Aditmari upazila, Boalmari and Badaitari in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said administrative sources.

Victim Hafizar Rahmani, 63, of Kutirpar village said erosion by the Teesta river devoured scores of houses in his area.

"My homestead has been eroded away for the fifth time on Tuesday noon. Now all of my family members have taken shelter at a relative's house at neighbouring village. Some 40 families in this village were rendered homeless in the last two days," he said.

According to Azizul Islam Vatiya, 70, of Boalmari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar, at least 45 families in his village have become homeless due to erosion by river Dharla in the last two days.

The two rivers continued erosion forcing the villagers to leave their homesteads for safer places. Many lands with standing crops especially maize have been eroded, villagers said.

Erosion victims at Boalmari village said, hundreds of acres of cultivable land, gardens, bamboo clusters have been eroded away by the

river Dharla in the last 48 hours.

Mohishkhoa UP chairman Mohammad Hossain said, at least 70 homesteads have been devoured by the Teesta at Kutirpar and Gobordhan villages during the period. He said he submitted a prayer to Aditmari UNO for necessary steps in this regard.

Moghlat UP chairman Habibur Rahman Habib said, around 80 homesteads of Boalmari and Badaitari villages have gone into the Dharla in the last two days.

Sadar UNO Raja Miah and Aditmari UNO Parvez Hasan told this correspondent that their offices have already taken preparation to help the erosion victims.

"We have informed the matter to WDB to take necessary step to check river erosion," Sadar UNO Raja Miah said.

In Kurigram, people of Sonahat area under Bhurungamari upazila yesterday morning blocked road for two hours and staged a demonstration demanding steps against erosion by the river Dudhkumar, reports our correspondent.

The Dudhkumar river is eroding away lands on the western side of the century-old Sonahat bridge in the area, locals alleged.

The erosion victims blocked the road welding bamboos near the bridge demanding immediate measures to protect it and the area from river erosion.



The residence of the vice chancellor of Hajee Danesh University of Science and Technology lies damaged after students went on rampage Tuesday night in 'protest' against authorities' decision to close the university till July 8. Inset, female students leave their dormitory yesterday following the closure.

PHOTO: STAR



MONDAY'S INCIDENT AT FINE ARTS DEPT

## RU teachers boycott classes

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of fine arts department at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday boycotted classes protesting confinement of proctor, department chairman and three teachers to office and classroom on Monday.

They also submitted a memorandum to Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan demanding exem-

plary punishment to the students involved in the incident. The teachers also urged the university authorities to ensure their security at the department.

Students of fine arts department on Monday confined Proctor Prof Chowdhury Zakaria, department Chairman Abdul Motin Talukdar and three teachers to office and classroom protesting abrupt increase in fees for

filling up examination forms.

The authorities recently hiked the fees for filling up final year examination forms of the students of 2006-07 session from Tk 350 to Tk 3,030.

The agitating students also vandalised the department's windows, notice board and furniture and burnt an effigy of the department chairman.

The protesters along with the students of different ses-

sions locked the chairman's office confining Chairman Prof Abdul Matin Talukdar and two teachers of the department--Prof Sidhartha Sankar Talukdar and Humayun Kabir--to the room.

They also confined the proctor to a classroom as he could not give any assurance to resolve the issue.

Prof Abdul Matin Talukdar told this correspondent yesterday that they would launch their next programme if the unruly students were not punished immediately.

Meanwhile, the students of the department yesterday withdrew their agitation programme as Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan on Tuesday assured them of resolving the matter.

### Train derails in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

A goods-laden wagon of passenger train Mohananda Express from Khulna derailed in Milki area of the town early yesterday suspending communications between Chapainawabganj and other districts.

Locals and station officials said the wagon derailed at around 3:45am. The spot is about a kilometre away from the station.

The accident might have occurred due to faults in railway track, they added.

Railway communications between Chapainawabganj-Rohanpur and Rajshahi came to a halt after the accident.

Chapainawabganj Station Master Mohammad Moniruzzaman said a relief train with railway engineers aboard reached the spot after the accident.

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নতুন ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালককে ফুল দিয়ে বরণ করছেন কোম্পানীর মাননীয় চেয়ারম্যান জনাব আতিউর রহমান লস্কর। আরও উপস্থিত আছেন প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান ও পরিচালক ইঞ্জিনিয়ার সৈয়দ মুন্সিফ আলী এবং পরিচালক ও সাবচেয়ারম্যান জনাব এ.কে.এম. আজিজুর রহমান খান।

ড. এম.এ. আজিজ আমেরিকান লাইফ ইনসিওরেন্স থেকে বীমা পেশা শুরু করে বিভিন্ন দেশীয় জীবন বীমা কোম্পানীতে উর্ধ্বতন নির্বাহী পদে সফলতার সাথে দায়িত্ব পালন করেন এবং ইতিপূর্বে তিনি পপুলার লাইফসহ আরো দুটি জীবন বীমা কোম্পানীতে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক হিসেবে কৃতিত্বের সাথে দায়িত্ব পালন করেন। সম্প্রতি তিনি গোল্ডেন লাইফ ইনসিওরেন্স লিঃ-এ "ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক" হিসেবে যোগদান করেন।

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