

DINAJPUR UNIT OF DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

Patients suffer as doctors, staff on wildcat strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Doctors and staffs of Diabetic Association of Dinajpur (DAD) went on a wildcat strike yesterday morning demanding unconditional reinstatement of its executive director who was allegedly forced to step down on Saturday.

The strike paralysed all medicare services at the hospital adding to the miseries of hundreds of patients.

Sources said, authorities of Bangladesh Diabetes Association summoned the DAD executive director to a

meeting in the capital city yesterday and asked him to resign as the recent audit report held him responsible for financial anomalies.

Nurul Moeen Minu, president of Dinajpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries, conducted the audit about four months ago. Sources said Tk 16 lakh anomalies were detected in the audit report.

The audit report, submitted recently to the chairman of Bangladesh Diabetes Association, also held accountants Md. Mazedur Rahman and Md. Shamsul Alam responsible for the

irregularities. Shafiqul Haque Chhutu, Mayor of Dinajpur Municipality also member of Dinajpur Diabetic Association Management Committee was present at the meeting in Dhaka.

Contacted, Chhutu however told this correspondent that the DAD ED resigned willingly.

As the news spread to Dinajpur Diabetic Association, an affiliated organisation of Bangladesh Diabetes Association, the doctors and staffs immediately stopped work at about 10:00am yesterday protest-

ing the incident. During a visit to the hospital this correspondent found most doctors' rooms under lock and key.

The hospital has at least 40,000 registered diabetes patients. Besides, hundreds of people of Dinajpur and surrounding districts including Thakurgaon and Panchagarh visit it every day. Yesterday they returned without any treatment as all activities of the hospital remained suspended from the morning.

Anjuman Ara, who traveled about 100km to reach the hospital from Panchagarh for the treatment of her seriously ill son, went back home finding no treatment at the hospital.

"I came here as my son's pain increased in the last few days. But I am so unfortunate that I could not meet any doctor", she lamented.

Like her, hundreds of patients coming from far off areas of the districts had to return without any treatment as doctors did not see any patients yesterday.

This correspondent could not talk to any member of the management committee despite repeated attempts as all of them were holding meeting on the crisis at the time of filing this report in the afternoon.

Contacted, Dr. Chowdhury Mosaddequl Isdani, Executive Director of Dinajpur Diabetic Association claiming himself innocent said he had to resign just on an allegation of anomalies.

"I will hand over charges to Shafiqul Haque Chhutu, mayor of Dinajpur municipality on my return".



PHOTO: STAR

A patient lies on the floor while his attendant gives a bleak look at Dinajpur diabetic hospital as the doctors put their rooms under lock and key during a wildcat strike yesterday.

One killed, 10 hurt as villagers in 2 districts clash

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A middle aged man was killed while over 100 were injured in clashes in Faridpur and Sylhet on Saturday and yesterday.

One person was killed and four others were critically injured in a clash between rival groups at Notubdia village under Boalmari upazila of Faridpur on Saturday night, reports our correspondent.

The dead was identified as Jalal Mridha, 50, son of late Hamid Mridha of Notubdia village of Boalmari upazila. Injured Siru Mridha, 55, Robiul Mridha, 30, Ripon Mridha, 30, Delwar Mridha, 35, and Nur Islam, 40, were admitted to Faridpur Medical College and Hospital (FMCH).

According to locals, at around 9pm on Saturday, a group led by Rezaul Karim of Notubdia village attacked Jalal Mridha and his associates with sharp weapons on the yard of one Rafiq.

The attack was a sequel to longstanding enmity, locals said.

All the injured were hospitalised early yesterday while Jalal succumbed to his injuries at the hospital in the morning.

In Beanibazar, Sylhet, over 100 people were injured in a fierce clash between people of two villages near Charkhai Godarbar in the upazila yesterday.

Police said two residents of Adinabad and Belakhani villages locked in an altercation over a trifling matter while they were crossing Surma River by boat.

As a sequel to the incident, a large number of residents of two villages equipped with home made lethal weapons attacked each other. The clash continued for two hours from 10:30am to 12:30pm, leaving at least 100 injured from both sides.

Five of the injured, Tarmuj Ali, 50, Faruk Ahmed, 42, Tajul Islam, 30, Abu Bakr, 45, and Imran, 19, were admitted to a local hospital in critical condition.

BCL cadres attack BNP office, men in Chuadanga

8 opposition activists hurt

UNB, Chuadanga

At least eight BNP activists were injured, three of them critically, as armed BCL cadres attacked Alamdanga BNP office and beat up opposition activists on Saturday evening.

Upazila Jubo Dal secretary Anwar Jalal and two other activists were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital with serious injuries.

Besides, upazila BNP secretary Sheikh Saiful Islam, Poura BNP secretary Azizur Rahman Pintu, leaders Babul Kaunain, Jammy and Limon were admitted to a clinic.

Witnesses said a gang of 50-60 armed BCL men, led by upazila BCL president Salman Ahmed Don and secretary Alal swooped on BNP office at

Hajmore in Alamdanga town and beat up people, injuring eight leaders and workers at 6:45pm.

The BCL men also ransacked the office damaging furniture, papers and photos when a meeting was going on before Iftar.

Half an hour later, Bangladesh Chhatra League cadres attacked and ransacked the house and business centre of upazila BNP president Shahidul Kaunain Tilu.

Meanwhile, district BNP president and former lawmaker Haji Md Mozammel Haq and central leader ex-MP Shamsuzzaman Dudu in a joint statement condemned the BCL attack on upazila BNP office.



Bangladesh Chhatra League activists lock the gate of the Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Science University yesterday to protest expulsion of party men.

Strike at Ctg vet university over BCL men expulsion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Science University (CVASU) unit yesterday enforced an indefinite strike on the campus protesting the authorities' decisions to expel and punish their nine party men.

The university authorities on Saturday expelled five BCL activists for lifetime and punished four other students

on charge of assaulting some teachers and staffs of the university.

No classes were held at the university and administrative activities came to a halt yesterday as the BCL men locked the administrative building and two academic buildings to enforce the strike.

They also physically assaulted a university employee, Jewel Billal, when he went to open the locks at

about 10:30am, said Khalilur Rahman, assistant public relation officer of the CVASU.

Additional forces of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have been deployed on the university campus to avoid further untoward situation.

The students expelled for lifetime were BCL CVASU unit convener Dr Komol Kanti Mazumder, BCL joint convener Dr Md Abdul Momin, Dr Subrata Dey, Dr

Md Shahadat Hossain and Dr Abu Hasan Lavlu.

CVASU second year student Amit Kumar Das was expelled for two years while Sabuj Kanti Nath was expelled for one year and fined Tk five thousand.

Contacted, second officer at Khulshi police station Inam Ahmed said the law enforcers rushed to the campus at about 8:00am and no untoward incident took place till 12noon.

60 injured in fresh B'baria clashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least 60 people, including a sub-inspector, were injured in fresh clashes between two groups over toll collection at a local market in the district yesterday.

The clash started around 9:00am between the two groups of villagers, one led by Fayeze Miah of Birashar village and another by Latif Miah of Kandipara village, said police and witnesses.

During the clash, the villagers vandalised around 10 shops, looted valuables, and hurled brick chips at rivals, police said.

On information, a police team led by Hamidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar police station, rushed to the spot and fired 20 rounds of rubber bullets and lobbed 15 tear gas shells to disperse the people.

The situation was brought under control at about 12:00pm, and additional police were deployed in the market area.

Hospital sources said 27 of the injured, including Sub Inspector Md Mahub, took treatments at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital while others took first aid at medicine shops to avoid the police.

Police said the clash was a sequel to Thursday's dispute over toll collection between Latif, a trader of Ananda Bazar, and Fayeze, the toll collector of the market, that led to an initial clash on Friday injuring at least 30 people.

Fayeze Miah, who was also injured, filed a case in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

ARTISTIC WORK AT REMOTE VILLAGE: Workers of 'Baufal Handicraft' at Bogi Bazar in Baufal upazila of Patuakhali district busy embroidering cloth as per designs supplied by a few dress houses in the capital.

Artistic needlework on cloth changes their lot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Fifteen women workers of 'Baufal Handicraft', a business firm at remote Bogi Bazar in Baufal upazila of Patuakhali district, are passing busy time as their products are sent to different shopping malls in Dhaka city and sold for good prices ahead of the Eid.

Following designs specified by several dress house owners in the capital, they embroider clothes with artistic needlework on plain cloths meant for making salwar and kameez, a dress worn especially by young women.

"We receive orders from owners of dress houses in different shopping malls at New Market, Gauchhla, Basundhara, Gulistan and Gulshan in Dhaka. They supply us plain cloths to prepare dresses according to

specified designs. After doing the work, we send it to them," Morium Akhter, 20, owner of the firm, said.

"We fix rates according to design. For a very gorgeous design, we take up to Tk 3,000 as four to five days are needed to complete such work on a piece of cloth. We need one or two days to complete a cloth with ordinary design," she added.

"This season we got order for over 10,000 pieces of cloths from our buyers. During the one month before every Eid, we make a profit of about Tk 2 lakh on an average. Fifteen girls of different villages work in my firm, maintaining themselves and contributing to their families," she said.

Morium's father Abdul Hai, 45, collects orders from different markets in Dhaka city and supplies the products to them

after completion of work.

Morium's elder sisters Salma and Jharna set up the firm in 2002 after receiving training on dress design in Mymensingh town with the help of Tredas Netherlands Homes, a local NGO. After Salma and Jharna got married, they handed over the firm to Morium.

Rina Begum, 16, daughter of Khorshed Howlader of Bashbaria village in Dasmina upazila, has been working in the firm for four years.

"My father fell in problem after losing all our landed property due to river erosion. Now I am contributing to the family as I can earn Tk 2,500 to 4,000 per month by working in the firm," she said.

Kulsum, 22, of the same village also works in the firm and maintains their four-member family as his father is too old to earn.



PHOTO: STAR

Class four employees, who work under muster roll at Bogra municipality, dumping waste in front of the municipality office yesterday as part of their ongoing agitation demanding bonus equivalent to their basic pay.

Fresh feud in Rajshahi Jubo Dal City committee dissolved as 'tenure expires'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Internal feud surfaced anew in Jubo Dal Rajshahi district unit after formation of a new committee on Saturday night while the central leadership of the opposition BNP's associate body dissolved the committee of its Rajshahi city unit the same night.

In a press release faxed to Rajshahi on Saturday night, Jubo Dal central committee's office secretary Kamruzzaman Dulal said the central committee dissolved the committee of the city unit as its tenure expired.

The decision to dissolve the committee was taken in a meeting held in Dhaka

on August 24 with Jubo Dal President Sayed Moazzem Hossain Alal in the chair, Dulal stated in the press release.

District Jubo Dal committee was formed in March 2001 with Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul and Aslam Sarker as president and general secretary.

The central committee has announced a 31-member new district committee with Khondoker Mizanur Rahman Khokon as its convener. After announcement, at least 21 members of the new committee refused to accept Khokon as convener of the committee and threatened to resign en masse.

New committee members Saifur Reza Mithu and Rezaul Karim Dablu told

reporters that Khokon enjoyed blessings of the army-backed caretaker government.

"We cannot accept an opportunist as our leader who denied us in time of danger. We will resign if Khokon is not removed from the new committee within a few days," said Mithu.

Fax message was sent to BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, urging her to select a new convener for Jubo Dal Rajshahi district unit instead of Khokon, Mithu added.

Contacted, Khokon refuted the allegations, saying that the central committee made him convener in recognition of his contribution to the party.