

Kuet bows to demand for shifting exam date

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The authorities of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) yesterday deferred the date for first semester examinations of second, third and fourth year students of six undergraduate courses by ten days from earlier scheduled September 23.

This decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the university syndicate held at 11:00am yesterday with Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Alamgir Hossain in the chair, said university Registrar MA Rouf.

Earlier on Friday, the students applied to the vice chancellor to reschedule their first semester examinations, saying that they could not prepare well as they observed fasting during the holy month of Ramadan.

As the authorities refused to comply with the students' demand for deferral of the examinations, the agitators on Friday night vandalised academic buildings, dormitories, residence of the vice chancellor and a power sub station inside the campus to press for their demand.

The angry students kept the vice chancellor confined to the academic building for

over four hours on Friday night.

The agitators again went berserk on Saturday night when they locked the main gate of the university and snapped the electric lines from the power sub-station on the campus, witnesses said.

The students ransacked a few departmental offices and halls and attacked the residence of the vice chancellor as he continued to disagree with the students' demand.

At 10:00pm on Saturday, they withdrew from agitation as the vice chancellor assured the students to meet their demand.

Consequently, the Kuet

authorities held an emergency meeting of the syndicate yesterday and deferred the starting date of the first semester examinations.

The meeting also took decision to impose ban on holding any procession and rally on the campus until further orders.

Riot police have been deployed to maintain calm on the campus.

The classes and official works of the university resumed yesterday after a 12-day Eid vacation.

All the residential halls of students were reopened on Thursday.



PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

Nine Bangladeshi citizens, including a woman and her two children, who had been kept in Indian jail for illegal intrusion in 2006, return the home country through the border at Dinajpur in Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon district as BSF handed them over to BDR yesterday.

'Cancel' fee hike decision, demand CU students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rejecting the postponement of fee hike, the students of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday vowed to continue agitation until the fee hike decision was cancelled and their three other demands were met.

The CU authorities in a meeting on Saturday postponed their earlier decision of fee hike in the wake of student agitation. A high-powered committee comprising the deans of all faculties, CU proctor and student affairs adviser was also formed at the meeting to review the decision of fee hike. The committee will submit its report within seven days.

The students under the banner of 'Anti-Fee Hike General Students' yesterday arranged a photo and poster exhibition in front of the CU shaheed minar on their ongo-

ing agitation and police attack on female students on the campus on August 2.

Campus sources said some unidentified students arrived at the shaheed minar at noon and tore up the posters and photos.

A group of 15 students came to the venue, tore up around 50 posters, scuffled with the agitating students and accused them of creating unrest on the campus at the instigation of left student organisations, sources added.

Immediately after the incident, the general students brought out a procession on the campus protesting the attack. They held a protest rally and vowed to continue their agitation to press home the four-point demand.

The demands are cancellation of the authorities' earlier decision of fee hike, withdrawal of expulsion of a student, withdrawal of 'false'

cases filed against some agitating students and punishment to the policemen who attacked the agitating students on the campus on August 2.

"We contacted the CU administration including the proctor during the attack, but no step was taken," the agitating students alleged. Probal Majumder, president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) CU unit, said the authorities are trying to foil the ongoing agitation of the general students with the help of miscreants.

The university authorities are wasting time in the name of review of their earlier decision of fee hike, he alleged.

Contacted, CU Proctor Prof Jashim Uddin said the incident at the shaheed minar might have occurred due to division among the agitating students.

KHAGRACHHARI PCP leader abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A leader of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) was abducted allegedly by the cadres of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) in Manikchhari upazila of the district yesterday evening.

Police quoted locals as saying that 10 to 15 members of the UPDF backed Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) picked up Thowai Marma, general secretary of PCJSS supported Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) Manikchhari college unit, from the college premises at around 7:00pm.

Police said UPDF supported PCP cadres led by Aprushi Marma abducted Thowai Marma to take control of the college campus.

No case was filed with the police station concerned as of filing this report as 7:30pm.

Nine Bangladeshis back home after jail terms in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday handed over 9 Bangladeshi citizens, who were jailed in India for illegally crossing the border, to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

The handing over followed a deputy commander-level flag meeting at the Zero Line on Danajpur border under Pirganj upazila in Thakurgaon.

Deputy Commander of 2 Rifles Battalion MJ Iftekar Ahamed led the Bangladeshis side while Deputy Commandant of 120, Royganj BSF Battalion led the Indian side.

BDR sources said the nine returnees, including a woman and two children, were trafficked to India in 2006 through different borders of the district by brokers assuring them of giving better jobs.

Indian police caught them and later all of them were jailed.

Of the nine returnees, Shudhir Barman, 35, son of Baifur Barman hailed from Milonpur village and Poben Shing, 28, son of Pania Shing, his wife Asha Shing, 25, their sons Poten Shing, 7, and Shabuj Shing, 5, from Roypur village under sadar upazila, while Karim, 37, son of Fotehpur village, Islam, 30, son of Mozammel from Kasha village and Obin Pal, 61, son of late Mortupal from Haripur village under Baliadangi upazila and Jadab Barman, 55, son of late Gondhu Barman from Mohendragaoon village under Haripur upazila of the district.

Allar Dal active in Gaibandha

Another held on Saturday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

August 3.

Police said, his suspicious movement drew attention of jail security personnel and later a police team arrested Maged from the spot.

Rab-5 in a drive arrested another active member of the outfit from village Kismat Bagchi under Sadullapur upazila a few days later.

Rab also arrested another leader, Rebel Mia, 19, son of Abdul Ghani of village Kismat Bagchi under Sadullapur upazila from the Zila Judge Court premises and handed him over to police on July 10.

In the last week of June, Sadullapur police arrested four others from different areas of the upazila after the militants threatened to blow up houses of some people.

Protesting the open threat locals held meeting, rally and submitted a memorandum to UNO demanding immediate arrest of the militants.

Despite the arrests, other activists of Allar Dal continued to threaten local people over cell phone to blow up houses, police said.

The Islamit outfit led by its kingpin Matin Mehdi is still regrouping in Gaibandha Sadar, Sunderganj, Sadullapur and Gobindaganj upazilas, they said.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested another alleged member of Islamit outfit Allar Dal on Saturday raising the total number of arrestees to 27 in the district in the last three months.

Rab-5 in a drive arrested Nurun Nabi, 45, a leader of the outfit from village of Keshalidanga under Sadullapur upazila and handed him over to Sadullapur police.

Of the total arrestees, four have been identified as leaders of different categories assigned to regroup the members of the organisation in remote areas, said police.

Gaibandha Sadar police in a raid arrested 24 militants of the outfit including two leaders of Nilphamari and Pabna districts from the house of one Haji Moinudin at village Rother Bazar on July 24 while they were holding a secret meeting.

Police arrested Abdul Majed Sarker, a leader of the organisation hailing from Mithapukur in Rangpur district from Gaibandha district jail gate minutes after he came to visit his fellow mates imprisoned in the jail on



As the low-lying areas of Faridpur district still reel under flood, students of Purbo Char Tepakhola Government Primary School in Sadar upazila attend classes in the yard of a house at food-hit Sadipur village of the same upazila, right, people of the submerged village wade through waist-deep water.



PHOTO: STAR

Lone seismograph in south lies inoperative

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The lone seismograph of the southern region has remained inoperative since its inauguration at Patuakhali in May 2008 due to lack of a functional hand terminal device.

"Tremor jolted the area at around 10:00am on September 11 for around 10-20 seconds. As there is no functioning seismograph-machine in the region, we could not determine the duration, strength and epicentre of the tremors," Prodip Kumar Roy, assistant director of Kalapara Weather Radar Station, said.

The geology department of Dhaka University of Bangladesh in collaboration with Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University of the United States of America installed a seismograph machine on Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) campus under Bangladesh-USA joint research project at a cost of above Tk 1 crore.

The seismograph instrument was inaugurated at PSTU on May 27, 2008.

At the time of inauguration, a computer from PSTU lab was temporarily used and it was returned soon after the function.

Later a computer with Linux operating system was procured for the project in 2009 and an underground chamber for the sensors was constructed by using a grant of Tk 10 lakh from the University Grant Commission in February 2010.

However the seismograph has remained inoperative since installation, as digitalised configuration was not done properly and the hand terminal device does not work.

Md Asaduzzaman Sumon, teacher of agriculture engineering of PSTU and in charge of seismographic centre of PSTU, said that concerned project authority has been informed about the problem and has assured to supply the device and configure the system soon.

Dr Syed Humayun Akter, professor of geology department of Dhaka University and director of the project, said that Bangladesh is now under threat from an imminent

major earthquake.

In Bangladesh six seismographs are installed at six permanent seismographic centres at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Patuakhali.

Except for the first two, others were installed under the Bangladesh-USA joint project and except the last two, other four permanent seismographic centres are working properly, he informed.

Besides, there are six temporary seismographic centres at Madhupur Garh, Manikganj, Saffur, Tangail, Bhuapur and Kaliakoir.

Except the first two, other four centres are to be transferred to Chandina, Baghaichhari, Ruma and Barkal within a few days and all centres would be interconnected with meteorological and disaster management department, said Dr Akter.

About the seismographic centre at PSTU, the project director said he would visit it on September 20 and try to manage an alternative hand terminal device and parts for its repair to make the centre operative as early as possible.

Rab recovers 4 bombs in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered four powerful 'remote-controlled' bombs in an abandoned condition from the newly built stadium at Rehaichar Moholla in the town.

Ahsanul Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar police station said, local youth Anwarul Islam noticed the bombs, wrapped in red tapes, under the gallery of the Chapainawabganj stadium at around 8:00am and informed the police.

Police rushed to the spot and later informed the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-5).

Later, a team of explosive experts of Rab-5 reached the spot at around 2:00pm and recovered the bombs hidden under sand.

Identifying them as a kind of locally made remote controlled grenade, the team defused the four bombs.

Ansarul Haque, an official of Rab-5 said, if exploded, the grenades could cause extensive damage to life and property.

KM Ali Azam, deputy com-

missioner and Khondoker Shamim Hossain acting superintendent of police and other civil and police officials visited the spot.

Police officials said, criminals kept the grenades there with a motive to carry out subversive acts.

In Benapole, five powerful bombs were recovered from a house at Putkhali frontier on Saturday.

On secret information, a team of Rab-6 raided the house of Ruhul Amin early in the morning and recovered the bombs from the rooftop of the house in an abandoned condition.

Sensing the presence of the elite force, owner of the house managed to flee the scene.

However, none was arrested in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Law enforcers yesterday recover four 'remote-controlled' bombs from beneath the gallery of the newly constructed stadium at Rehaichar in Chapainawabganj town.

Two outlaws held in Pabna, Chuadanga

STAR NATIONAL DESK

OC said.

In Chuadanga, an outlawed party cadre was arrested by police at Brititirdari village in Sadar upazila on Friday morning, reports UNB.

The arrestee was identified as Sheikh Abdus Sattar, 30, activist of banned Biplobi Communist Party and son of Sheikh Nazim Uddin of village Titudah in the same upazila.

Police said on secret information, they launched a special drive in the village early in the morning and arrested Abdus Sattar.

OC of Sadar P S Kamruzzaman confirmed the arrest. He said Sattar was carrying out criminal activities in the area since long.

Police said Sattar was wanted in murder cases of Titudah union parishad member Abdul Latif and another UP member of Saganna union Abdus Samad.

Two alleged outlaws were arrested in Pabna and Chuadanga districts on Friday.

Police arrested an outlawed operative with firearms from Rangamati village of Santhia upazila in Pabna on Friday.

The arrestee was identified as Md. Firoz Pramanik, 28, son of Azahar Pramanik of the village, reports our correspondent.

He is a hardened operative of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Janajudhha faction, police said.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Ataikula police station Md. Sirajul Islam said acting on a tip-off, a police team arrested Firoz from his village Friday afternoon and recovered a shutter gun from his possession.

He is a listed criminal, the

19 shops gutted in two Noakhali upazilas

UNB, Noakhali

guttled in the blaze.

In another incident, at least 15 shops were gutted by a devastating fire at Choumuhani Hossain Market in Begumganj upazila on Saturday night.

Fire Service and local sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a cloth shop of the market at about 11:15pm and soon engulfed the adjacent 14 shops.

On information, Fire Service personnel from Choumuhani and Majidee rushed in and put out the blaze after one hour of frantic efforts with the help of the local people.

The affected shop owners claimed that the extent of loss from the fire could go up to Tk 1 crore.

At least 19 shops were gutted in separate fire incidents in Kabirhat and Begumganj upazilas here on Saturday night and early yesterday.

Locals said four shops were gutted in a fire that broke out in Kalamia Bridge area of Kabirhat upazila early yesterday.

They said the fire broke out at a grocer's shop and soon engulfed the adjacent three shops at about 1:00am.

On information, fire fighters from Majidee rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of local people after one hour of hectic efforts.

Affected shop owner claimed that cash and valuables worth Tk 1.50lakh were