

DEADLOCK AT BHASANI UNIVERSITY

Time for experts to strike a balance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The 220 students of Food Technology and Nutritional Science (FTNS) department of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) in Tangail have kept themselves away from classes for the last four months demanding BSc (engineering) degree instead of BSc (honours) degree.

The FTNS students have also decided to keep themselves away from the semester final examinations supposed to begin on November 28.

Demanding engineering degree, students of all years of FTNS department started boycotting their classes on July 12 this year.

They held a series agitation programmes including human chain, sit-in, token hunger strike and press conferences on and outside the campus to press for their demand.

On September 21, they locked the administrative building and kept the vice chancellor and 150 other teachers and staff confined to their offices.

Law enforcers freed the vice chancellor and others by dispersing the agitating students through baton charge in front of the administrative building after five hours.

Fifteen students of FTNS department were injured during the incident and police arrested 11 students of the department. The university authorities also filed a case against 30 students of the department including the 11 arrestees under Speedy Trial Act.

The university authorities on the same day declared all the activities including classes and examinations of FTNS department sus-

pending and banned presence of students of the department on the campus for indefinite period.

Since then, the FTNS students have remained outside the campus amid grave concern over their uncertain future, said Nurunnabi Siddique, a third

Class boycott demanding renaming of degree continues for 4 months

year student of FTNS department. "We have already lost a full semester," he added.

Several students of the department said although many universities of home and abroad give engineering degree to the FTNS students, the students of MBUST are yet to get it due to non-cooperation of several teachers of the university including a few department teachers.

Refuting the allegations, Rokeya Begum, chairman of FTNS department, said they cannot give engineering degree to the students as it is not covered in their existing syllabus.

"We had sent letters to eight experts [senior teachers] of different universities in the country for their opinion about the matter and they gave negative opinions about the students' demand," she added.

FTNS students, on the other hand, said the questions in the letters sent by the department chairman were made in such a way that the

experts had to give negative opinions about giving engineering degree.

Claiming that they also went to 'experts' who gave opinion in favour of them, students said the letters for experts' opinions should be sent through a neutral committee formed by the University Grants Commission.

Vice Chancellor Prof M Nurul Islam said they could not resume the activities of FTNS department so far due to non-cooperation of the students.

"I have got negative opinions from the experts and the FTNS students should understand it. If the students continue running on such a wrong track, the FTNS department can be closed," he added.

He, however, declined to disclose the names of experts.

When contacted, Prof Mozammel Haque, chairman of food engineering department of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, said his university gives engineering degree to their food department students.

"As per the existing course, the FTNS students of MBUST should not be given engineering degree. But the engineering degree can be arranged after an amendment to add several engineering courses in the syllabus," he said.

"Responding to a letter from the FTNS department of MBUST about the degree renaming issue, I have already sent my opinion. As the FTNS students have lost their confidence on the honours degree, it would be better to provide engineering degree for the sake of their job satisfaction in professional life."



MAD JOURNEY TO CELEBRATE EID: Eager to enjoy the Eid-ul-Azha with near and dear ones, people vie for room on the roof of a train at Chittagong Railway Station yesterday.

Thousands celebrate Eid in several districts today

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

About 45,000 people, in conformity with Saudi Arabia, will celebrate Eid-ul-Azha in eight upazilas of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi and Barguna districts today.

The devotees claim they are the followers of Kaderia, Jahagiria and Chistia tarikas and pir of Allahabad Sufia Darbar Sharif and Pir Shaheb of Mariachi Darbar Sharif in Satkania of Chittagong district.

They followers of these

tarikas will offer prayers at 80 Eid congregations in eight upazilas of the five districts and sacrifice animals.

They are the residents of Madhabpasha, Kedarpur, Tajkati, Talukdar Char, Nishan Baria and Haji Banshkati of Babuganj upazila, Sundarkati of Bakerganj upazila and Harinapulia of Sadar upazila of Barisal district; Galachipa, Bauful, Kalapara and Sadar upazilas of Patuakhali district; Charfesson upazila of

Bhola district; Nalchhity upazila of Jhalakathi and Taltali upazila of Barguna districts.

They said they celebrate Eid-ul-Fitre, Eid-ul-Azha and other religious festivals in conformity with Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the main Eid congregation in Barisal city will be held at Hemayet Uddin Eidgah Maidan at 8:30am tomorrow.

Other Eid congregations will be held on BM College

campus, at Amanatganj Power House, Jail gate, Puran Bakla, Bazar Road, Brown Compound, Sikdarpara, Sagordi Bazar, Chandmari, Khan Sharak, Gorasthan road, Kazipara, on BM School premises, Kashipur High School, at Steamer Ghat, A Kader Chowdhury School ground, Natun Bazar, Battala, Tablig Jamat Markaj, Kawnia Akon Mosque, Sadhur Battala Ground, Mahmudia Madrasa and at Fakir Bari mosque.

25 cattle drown as trawler capsizes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least 25 cattle drowned as a trawler capsized in the Dhaleshwari River near Kunder Bazar area under Tongbari upazila of the district yesterday afternoon.

Officer-in-charge Mohammad Abdullah of Tongbari PS said the trawler loaded with 30 cattle capsized following a head-on collision with another passenger trawler coming from the opposite direction.

The cattle traders could save only five out of 30 cattle, said a hapless trader.

The loss was estimated at Tk5-6 lakh.

Locals caught the passenger trawler from near Baligaon while fleeing the spot of accident and handed it over to law enforcers.

Outlaw held in Chuadanga

UNB, Chuadanga

A regional leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML-Janajuddho) was arrested at Keshabpur village in Alamdanga upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestee is Sakibul, 38 son of Ainuddin Ali of the village.

Acting on a tip-off, law enforcers from Alamdanga Police Station raided the village in the morning and arrested Sakibul.

Police said the outlaw was wanted in six cases including four for murder.



Dakhhin Char Panchakola Primary School in Bera upazila of Pabna district remains in an awfully dangerous condition as a portion of the ground under the building has moved away due to erosion by the Jamuna.

School's days are numbered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Dakhhin Char Panchakola Primary School in Bera upazila under Pabna district is dangerously exposed to collapse any moment as the Jamuna has already eroded a portion of the ground under the structure, exposing a few foundation pillars.

Classes are now held on the premises of the two-storied school building that was constructed at a cost Tk 40 lakh in 2006/07 fiscal year, said the teacher.

"The school building may collapse any time because the soil under the ground floor has become loose. We have informed the primary education department, upazila administration and the Water Development Board of the matter but no step has been taken to protect the school," Abdul Baten, headmaster of the

school, said yesterday.

Locals told this correspondent that the Jamuna River engulfed over a hundred acres of land around the school zone during the last two months.

"We are in fear because our school is hanging on the river. Many of our friends do not come to school in fear of building collapse," said Md Jahid, a class three student.

When contacted, Bera Upazila Parishad Chairman Md Azizur Rahman said the Water Development Board has not taken any step to protect the newly built school building despite several for several times.

On contact, Sub Divisional Engineer of Bera WDB Md Anisur Rahman said, "The water level in the river is falling. The protection work will start after it falls further. Sirajganj Water Development Board is mainly responsible for taking the initiative for protection."

Eight bombs, gunpowder recovered in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police in a raid recovered eight powerful bombs and one kilogram of gunpowder from a sugarcane field in Gangni upazila of Meherpur Sunday night.

Meherpur Superintendent of Police (SP) Shahriar said a team of police raided the spot at Nawdapara village in the upazila at about 7:00pm.

The team conducted the raid following a tip-off by Lalon alias Lalu, who was arrested after being injured in a bomb explosion at a brick kiln Saturday night, he said.

The recovered bombs are powerful, police said, adding that the drive was on to arrest the criminals.

A General Diary (GD) was lodged with Gangni police station in this connection.

Clash leaves 5 injured in Munshiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least five people were injured, two of them with bullets, during a clash between two groups of people belonging to a co-operative society at Bhukailash village under Sadar upazila of the district on Sunday night.

The injured are Yunus Ali, 25, Didar, 25, Monir Dewan, 35, Alam Dewan, 28, and Anwar Hawlader, 40.

Yunus and Didar received bullet injuries and are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the rest at Munshiganj General Hospital.

Office-in-charge Shahidul Islam of Sadar police Station said some members of 'Bhukailash Sabuj Palli' raised voice against the activities of a member of the society named Abdullah Khan as he is allegedly using the society for his own purpose.

As they submitted a written complaint to the district administration, Abdullah became furious. He along with his supporters, equipped with sticks and firearms, attacked his rivals on Sunday night.



A baby gharial, netted by a fisherman from the Padma River at Gohmabona in Paba upazila of Rajshahi district yesterday morning, was later released in the same river by a forest department official.

Ras Mela at Kuakata from Nov 19

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The 150-year-old traditional Ras Mela, the biggest festival in the Hindu community in the country's south will begin here on November 19.

Several thousand Hindus are likely to gather at Kuakata beach to celebrate the festival.

The three-day celebration will start with devotees taking a

dip in the Bay at dawn after the full moon. Devotees believe that the bathing in the Bay would wipe out all their sins.

People irrespective of faiths and communities join the biggest celebrations in the area every year.

The Mela is also celebrated simultaneously at Dubler Char in the Sundarbans.

Meanwhile eight pairs of idols of Lord Krishna, god of

Hindu community, have been set up at a temporary mondpot at the beach.

Various programmes including kirton (songs in praise of Krishna), religious discussion are held during the festival.

The Mela will conclude on November 21, Ranojit Kumar, president and Uttam Kumar secretary of Ras Mela observance committee told this correspondent.

Mr. A.S.M. Mohiuddin Monem receiving the CIP 2009 award from the Hon'ble Commerce Minister Mr. Faruk Khan, MP

Heartiest Felicitations to
Mr. A.S.M. Mohiuddin Monem Hon'ble Director & Convener of the Finance Committee, Pragati Life Insurance Ltd.
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