

# Patients suffer as interns at Barisal medical on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Wildcat strike by interns yesterday paralysed Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital.

Hundreds of patients suffered for lack of medical services for all the day yesterday.

The lone 500-bed specialised hospital in the division having over one thousand patients depends mostly on its 150 interns for round-the-clock treatment, medical care and other services.

Dr Abdur Rashid, director BSBMCH, said the interns went on strike without prior notice from yesterday morning demanding full payment of their monthly internship allowance of April 2011.

Usually the internship allowance of Tk 10,000 per month is distributed within first week of next month. This time it was delayed for only 10 days due to holidays and other problems, Dr Rashid explained.

"For this delay we requested the interns to receive 40 percent of the allowance from the hospital fund. We also told them that the problem will be over within next Sunday, he said.

"We also requested the interns to continue their duty considering the inhuman sufferings of 1,165 indoor patients, mostly from low income group, who came for medical services at low cost from far away places. However they ignored the request

and started strike, the BSBMCH director said.

Dr Russell, a leader of 39th batch of interns at the hospital claimed that they earlier verbally drew attention of the director regarding the 'unusual' delay.

But he failed to take any action. At this we held a meeting on Tuesday night and decided to go for strike, he said.

We will hold a meeting tonight on whether we will accept the partial payment, the intern leader said.

While visiting the hospital yesterday noon this correspondent saw helpless patients seeking care of nurses and ward boys in absence of the interns.

## Nurses, ward boys enforce strike at SWMCH

UNB, Dhaka

Over 100 patients left Sylhet Women's Medical College and Hospital (SWMCH) yesterday in the wake of strike called by nurses and ward boys on Tuesday.

The strike caused immense suffering to patients, especially emergency ones, for not getting treatment facilities at the hospital as nurses, ward boys and other staff have enforced the wildcat strike since Tuesday night in protest against assault on ward boy by a physician on the day.

Relatives of patients have complained that they had no alternative but to admit their patients to other hospitals and clinics leaving SWMCH.

The strike was called following assault on ward boy Rana by on-duty doctor Faisal Ahmed, sources said.

The protesters will announce their next course of action later on to realise their demands, including punishment to the physician and security of nurses and ward boys as well as general employees.

Prof Dr Rezaul Karim of Sylhet Women's Medical College and Hospital claimed that staff were agitating but the problem has been solved. He admitted that many patients have left the hospital due to the strike.

Director of SWMCH Ehsan Emdad said the strike forced scores of patients to leave SWMCH causing substantial financial loss to the hospital.

Jamal Mia of Kollagram of Sylhet suburb said he came to SWMCH with his wife Rupia Begum, a patient, in the morning but left the hospital without receiving medical service in the evening as there was no nurse as well as doctor to attend the patient.

Gias Mia of Surma upazila who came from a remote village with his sister Zakia Begum also narrated a similar story.



PHOTO: STAR  
People of Fulchhari union in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha district demonstrate in front of the deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding arrangement of the union parishad election as per the existing schedule.

## Hartal demanding UP election 'on schedule'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Saghata Upazila Nagorik Committee yesterday enforced a daylong hartal at the upazila headquarters demanding election to Ghuridaha union parishad in the district as per schedule.

Offices, educational institutions, shops and banks remained closed at Saghata upazila headquarters during hartal, which also hampered vehicular movement between the upazila and other parts of the country.

The Election Commission postponed the election to Ghuridaha Union Parishad, scheduled to be held on June 5, following a petition filed with the commission by sitting Chairman Ataur Rahman.

The chairman in his petition said as the Jamuna recently devoured a ward of the union, fresh voter list and area demarcation are needed to hold the election.

The EC's decision angered local people

who enforced the shutdown to press home their demand.

People of Fulchhari Union Parishad yesterday formed a human chain on Gaibandha-Palashbari Road and later submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner demanding election in the union on scheduled date.

As per scheduled declared by the returning officer, voting in the union will take place on July 2. But local alleged that some sitting members of the union lodged petitions to the Election Commission, saying that six out of nine wards in the union were partially eroded by the Jamuna River and the residents became homeless.

They urged the Election Commission to postpone the election to make a fresh voter list and demarcate the area of the union.

Locals termed the move of the members a conspiracy and urged the authorities concerned to hold polls in the union as per schedule.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology form a human chain in Tangail town yesterday demanding solution to the problem of agitating students of food technology and nutritional science department.

## FAST UNTO DEATH AT BHASANI UNIVERSITY

### Students of other departments join agitation, back demands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Thirty-three students of Bhasani university fell sick till yesterday, the fifth day of their fast unto death, but the authorities still remained unmoved.

Meanwhile, students of different departments of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) yesterday formed a human chain in Tangail town calling upon the university authorities to meet the demands of the agitating food technology and nutritional science (FTNS) department

### Follow-up

students without further delay.

They held the programme at Zila Sadar Road in the town at noon.

Talking to the newsmen, the students expressed their grave concern at indifferent attitude of the authorities and urged the authorities concerned including the education minister to take steps to save the lives of the agitating FTNS students.

Over 200 students of FTNS department continued their fast unto death programme at

Shaheed Smriti Pouro Udyan in the town for fifth day yesterday to realise their two-point demand including BSc (Engineering) degree instead of BSc (Honours) degree. Thirty-three of the students fell sick till yesterday due to long fasting and admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

Amena Talukder, a member of the four-member medical team deployed by the district health department there to treat the sick students, said most of the students admitted to the hospital have already returned to fasting after slight recovery.

## Abducted girl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Abducted student of a primary school Arifa Akter was rescued from Gabtoli bus terminal in the capital on Tuesday night after five days of the incident.

Arifa's father Aziz Sheikh, a rickshawpuller, found the girl at the shelter home of Aparajeyo Bangladesh, an NGO at Mirpur in the capital.

Arifa, 11, said that one Anwar Hossain, 42, of Kamalpur picked up her on an autorickshaw putting a handkerchief on the mouth on May 13 morning while she was walking near her house at Habeli Gopalpur.

An unknown woman wearing Burkha was sitting in the three-wheeler. She talked with Anwar, showed a knife to Arifa and forced me to eat a piece of bread, Arifa said.

After eating the bread, I fell unconscious. Later the woman brought her me a 13-storied building and kept me there for three days, Arifa added.

On the fourth day, the woman freed Arifa in Gabtoli bus terminal area.

Momin Hossain, an official of the NGO told this correspondent that Munni, a worker of Aparajeyo Bangladesh took Arifa to the shelter home from Gabtoli bus terminal area. "We are happy to hand over the girl to her parents", he said.

On secret information, a Sadar police team led by inspector (Investigation) Md. Ramizul Haque, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, caught Harun from the area at about 11.30am.

Victim's grandmother Rawshan Ara filed a case accusing six people including Harun-or-Rashid and the two arrestees on April 18.

Earlier police arrested two other accused -- Jamal, 35, and Abdul Karim alias Kana Kori, 40 -- of the same village, who allegedly helped Harun to suppress the heinous act through a monetary deal.

Arrestee Harun-or-Rashid, 38, hailed from Paschimpar Dighuli village under Jamalpur Sadar upazila.

On secret information, a Sadar police team led by inspector (Investigation) Md. Ramizul Haque, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, caught Harun from the area at about 11.30am.

Two teenage girls allegedly committed suicide in Kushtia and Nilphamari districts yesterday and on Monday.

A madrasa girl allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Goneshpur village in Khoksa upazila of Kushtia yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The dead was identified as Samapti Khatun, 15, daughter of Belal Hossain.

Samapti was a student of Class X at Goneshpur Dakkhil Madrasa.

According to police and family sources, Samapti had an affair with a boy of the same area. Family members came to know the matter and

the police are investigating the case.

At this, the girl became shocked and took poison in the evening, locals said.

Photo: Star

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