

BCL attacks on students protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pragotishil Chhatra Jote, an alliance of progressive students, on Wednesday brought out a procession and organised a rally on Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) campus in Sylhet protesting the recent BCL attacks on the students at Buet, Kuet and Jagannath (JnU) University in Dhaka. They criticised and condemned such heinous acts on the different campuses and demanded immediate punishment to those involved in it.

Junayed Ahmed, president of Chhatra Union of the university unit, presided over the rally.

Tamanna Ahmed, general secretary of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front of the university unit, conducted the programme while Golam Rabby, general secretary of Chhatra Union, Kajal Das, convener of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Anik Dhar, member of the same organisation, spoke on the occasion.



Mokhles, Habib police assoc president, general secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Mokhlesur Rahman, additional inspector general of police and the chief of Criminal Investigation Department and Habibur Rahman, deputy commissioner (headquarters) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, were elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Police Service Association (BPSA) on Wednesday.

The 41-member committee of the BPSA was also elected for the next one year at Rajarbagh Police Lines Auditorium.



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1. Kamal Ahmed Majumder MP forced students and teachers of Monipur School and College and two other schools to join a human chain programme on this road in the city yesterday to 'protest conspiracy' against the lawmaker.
2. Panicky children are trying to get on their school van.
3. Some outsiders (children) also join the human chain.
4. Guardians with their children leaving the school in a state of panic. (Story on Page 1)



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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

US wants Grameen Bank to flourish

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States wants Grameen Bank to continue to thrive in every possible way, as the Nobel-winning microfinance organisation is an example of extraordinary development work happening in Bangladesh, a visiting senior US official said yesterday.

"Many officials in our government have said that we hoped that it will continue to flourish in every possible way because the work that it does is very critically important", said Melanne Verveer, the US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues.

"It is an example of the extraordinary development work that has been happening in Bangladesh", she said.

She was talking to reporters during her visit to a Grameen Bank

centre at Singair, Manikganj along with US Congresswoman Betty McCollum and US Ambassador to Dhaka Dan Mozena.

During the nearly three-hour visit, the US diplomats talked to several Grameen Bank borrowers and listened how they are using the collateral-free loans to better their economic conditions. They also asked them how loans are given and repaid. They also visited their homes.

Both McCollum and Verveer, who arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday, are now in Bangladesh to meet with the representatives of the government, civil society, and community-based organisation involved in advancing the rights and well being of women and girls, and to promote US policy on women, health, and education.

McCollum is a Democrat serv-

ing her sixth term in the US Congress. She recently introduced legislation that declares child marriage to be a human rights abuse and advocates for the elimination of child marriage as a US foreign policy goal.

Verveer coordinates foreign policy issues and activities relating to the political, economic, and social advancement of women around the world.

Echoing Verveer, Mozena said, "The position of the government is that Grameen Bank continues to work as an effective institution, bringing hopes to millions".

He said a selection committee should be formed in line with the Grameen Bank procedures to find out a strong candidate for the post of managing director in a free and transparent fashion.

In May last year, the top post of

the country's best known organisation fell vacant after its iconic founder Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus resigned following a legal defeat against the government.

Mohammad Shahjahan, who is currently the acting managing director of the bank, accompanied the US diplomats during their visit. He said Grameen Bank is continuing its activities as per rules.

Verveer will depart for Nepal today, while McCollum will continue her visit in Bangladesh until January 10, according to the US embassy in Dhaka.

Grameen Bank has lent more than US\$10 billion to 83 lakh mostly rural women since its inception in 1983. Its microfinance model has been copied at home and abroad.

Extremist leader killed in gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A leader of extremist outfit Gonomukti Fauj was killed during a "gunfight" between his team and the Rapid Action Battalion in Kushtia yesterday around 10:30pm.

The deceased, Motaleb Hossain, 45, son of Kutub Ali of Khoksha upazila, was accused in a number of cases, including five for murder. He was dodging a 10 years' jail sentence imposed by a Rajbari court.

Yesterday, two Rab teams went to Mokhlurchar area on information that Motaleb and his associates were preparing for a robbery, said Major Asad of Rab-12 in Kushtia.

Sensing their presence, the Gonomukti Fauj activists opened fire, prompting the elite force members to shoot back. After a short gunbattle, Rab found Motaleb lying dead. Other members of the outfit, however, had left the scene.

Rab recovered five light guns, a pistol, a revolver, 12 bullets, two hand bombs and two swords from the spot, Maj Asad told The Daily Star.

After the killing of Gonomukti Fauj operation commander Abdur Rashid Tikka in "crossfire" in 2007, Motaleb took up the position.



Salim Reza, former governor of Rotary, speaks on the occasion of the national programme of polio-free Bangladesh at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

JnU teachers, staff protest assault on them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and staff of Jagannath University (JnU) yesterday formed a human chain on the campus protesting assault on them on Wednesday by students who were staging agitation demanding cancellation of development fees.

The teachers also held a rally to advise the students to sit with them for discussion to resolve the issue instead of agitation.

JnU Proctor Dr Kamaluddin and Student Welfare Adviser Arun Kumer Bose spoke at the rally.

Activists of Pragotishil Chhatra Jote, a platform of different left leaning students' organisations, continued their demonstrations for the third consecutive day yesterday.

Meanwhile, the students resumed their agitation, which continued from 10:00am to 1:00pm, brought out a procession and held a rally to press home their demand.

A scuffle between teachers and students of JnU took place on the campus on Wednesday following the agitation of the students demanding cancellation of development fees of Tk 5,000 for first year hounour's admission.

Timescale restored for pvt educational instns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday restored timescales of teachers and employees and monthly pay order (MPO) of index-holders of private educational institutions which are entitled to get them.

Last year, the education ministry declared resuming timescale which was suspended for seven years. But, the ministry could not implement this announcement due to lack of fund, said ministry sources.

The government's stance on announcing the timescale and then snapping it sparked widespread resentment among teachers and employees.

Finally the ministry yesterday restored the timescale and MPOs to the private schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutions, said a handout.

Teachers and employees of a private secondary school, college, madrasa and technical institution, which are getting MPO facilities, get timescale, a special scale, on completion of his eight years in teaching profession with fulfilling all professional eligibility.

According to the education ministry statistics, about 49,280 teachers and employees and 3,578 index-holding teachers are entitled to receive the MPO and timescale money.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aminul Huq, former director general of Department of Land Records and Survey, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 80.

He will be buried at the Uttara Sector 4 graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza at the Uttara Sector 4 mosque (near Aga Khan School) after Juma prayers today.

Abul Kasem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Abul Kasem, general manager of Bangladesh Chini O Khaddo Shilpa Corporation, passed away yesterday due to Hepatitis-C at the age of 55, says a press release.

Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh President Dr Nitish Chandra Debnath and Secretary General AFM Bahauddin Nasim condoled the death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Alhaj Mohammad Seraj Mea, treasurer of Baitun Nur Jame Mosque Dhaka and father of photo-journalist Mohammad Habibur Rahman.

Sirajul Huda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Advocat Syed Sirajul Huda, president of Bangladesh Jatiya Dal, says a press release.



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