

JU teachers

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The president, who is also JU Chancellor, appointed Anwar as the new VC on May 17.

The appointment followed Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir's standing down as VC earlier that day. Students and teachers had been agitating since January for removal of Prof Sharif on allegations of corruption and irregularities.

Shikhhak Samaj, the banner under which a section of teachers waged the movement against the then VC, yesterday welcomed Prof Anwar, hoping that he would bring about a peaceful atmosphere at JU.

Teachers who had earlier sided with Sharif also welcomed Anwar at a press conference.

Juta President Prof AA Mamum and General Secretary Prof Sharif Uddin issued a press statement after a general meeting at Zahir Raihan Auditorium yesterday.

The statement read, "A teacher from a different university has been made vice-chancellor to resolve the ongoing crisis at the university. This step has surprised and saddened the Jahangirnagar University faculty."

"In this situation, if there is any opportunity, we urge you [the president] to reconsider your decision and appoint a capable teacher of Jahangirnagar University as the vice-chancellor."

Juta, dominated by pro-Al teachers, said Prof Sharif's resignation proved that the allegations of irregularities and corruption against him were not baseless.

"We strongly demand an investigation into and exemplary punishment to the former vice-chancellor," said the statement.

Prof Nasim Akhtar Hossain, on behalf of Shikhhak Samaj, at a press conference at JU yesterday, urged the new VC to meet their 11-point demand to ensure a peaceful atmosphere on the campus.

The demands include bringing to justice the killers of English department student Zubair and also punishment to those who were involved in assaulting cultural activists.

Ferry service

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Ten Roll-on Roll-off (Ro Ro) and two K-type ferries were operating on the route of which five Ro Ro ferries are currently out of order, creating the crisis.

Ro Ro ferries Shah Paran, Birshreshtha Motiur Rahman, Birshreshtha Jahangir and Shah Enayetpuri were sent to Narayanganj dockyard for repair work, while Khan Jahan Ali was seen bobbing near the ferry ghat with damaged propellers.

"The repair work is being delayed as some of the parts are supposed to come from abroad," the official said.

"The propellers of the ferries are getting damaged due to underwater sand dunes," he added.

Commuters heading to and from 21 south western districts along with staff and drivers of goods-laden trucks and buses were seen waiting in the long queues under the blazing sun.

Housewife

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her husband and in-laws.

Mother of two daughters, Mousumi Akhter Sumi expired at the Burns Unit of DMCH at 9:30pm, her brother Ashiqur Rahman told The Daily Star.

She came under attack on May 12 at her house in Krishnapur of Comilla Sadar upazila for protesting her husband's extramarital affairs.

Mousumi had been married to Abul Bashar Sujon for six years. The couple had a quarrel on that morning.

At one stage, Sujon collected petrol from his motor-bike. He poured it on her and set her ablaze with the help of his mother and sister, complained Ashiqur.

On the same day, Mousumi's father filed a case accusing her husband and four other in-laws.

Contacted, Nasiruddin Mridha, inspector of Comilla South Police Station, said they could not arrest any of the accused despite several raids at different locations until last night.

Local political

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from the workers' unrest, which is not so frequent in other industrial belts like Narayanganj and Chittagong.

The latest incident that was originated from Ashulia-based Ha-Meem Group on Saturday turned the industrial belt into a battleground.

The other major causes behind such unrest are location of almost all bigger garment units there, density of industrial units, more number of sweater factories, deaths of workers in road crashes and also rumours.

Sometimes it is very difficult to handle so many workers by a single management team. Most of the bigger units at Ashulia have more than 10,000 workers. The number in some factories even crosses 25,000, insiders inform.

Garment units in other areas including Narayanganj and Chittagong are not so big. Those are much smaller and located in a scattered manner.

Sweater factories are a major source of unrest because workers here work on piece rate basis meaning more production will bring more earning at month's end.

If any worker finds something wrong between the number of pieces and payment, they instigate fellow workers and bring out processions and damage the factories, industry peoples say.

"Comparatively, incidents of unrest at Ashulia are higher than other areas for density of factories. The area is a highly labour intensive one," commented a senior official of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) asking not to be named.

He said from Abdullahpur to Baipail, in a stretch of three kilometres, at least 250 factories are located where more than 2.5 lakh workers are employed.

"Bad political intention is also a major cause. Moreover, big factories of leaders of different trade bodies are also located in this area," said the official who mainly deals with workers.

Amirul Haque Amin, head of the National Garment Workers' Federation, a workers' platform, said apart from management problem, inter-

River gypsies

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Another group of wanderers appeared in Russia. They claimed to be the people of Pharos. They were chasing Moses through the Red Sea when the sea parted and then collapsed on them. Only two survived—a man and a woman. They were the progeny of these two people.

Sometimes they said they were the offspring of two soldiers who had been asked to gather four spikes to nail Jesus and so were cursed forever and were on the move.

But later anthropologists and linguists found that they were a people from the Indian sub-continent who had spread across the world and become gypsies. Their itchy feet never let them settle anywhere. They kept on moving and moving.

But here in Savar, near the capital, one finds a group of river gypsies permanently settled. Locally known as Bedes, they live in a group, collect snakes from all over the country and go out when the season takes over the land. They sell snakes and show their charms.

A snake market is there at Porabari where snakes of different species and sizes are bought and sold every day.

A cobra is sold at between Tk 800 and Tk 1,500, a python at Tk 1,000 and Tk 7,000, Lau dog, Keute, Kal Nagini, Kata Dubal and Shankhini are sold for Tk 400 to Tk 1,200.

Sometimes foreigners, especially Koreans, buy snakes.

The Bedes say many of them have been living on snake charming for generations. They point out that every day more than 200 women of their community spread out in different areas of the capital and adjoining villages to earn their livelihood by demonstrating their skills as snake charmers.

They lament that nobody has done anything for the development of their community.

nal political feud is also responsible.

Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, former president of BGMEA, also blames local political influence for frequent unrest. "Sometimes provocative statements from different quarters also initiate unrest. The most compliant factories are located at Ashulia, so any quarter can be benefited from the unrest in this area," he added.

During the devastating flood of 1998 when most parts of the country were inundated, the highland areas of Gazipur, Savar, Tongi, Maona and Ashulia did not submerge.

That led the industrial entrepreneurs to set up their production units in these highland areas so that floods cannot hamper or damage production.

Continuous adequate pressure of gas is also another cause for industrial density in the area. Insiders say transportation of goods is also easier in this area for good road communication and the international airport being very close to the factories.

In case of the Narayanganj-based factories, sometimes owners have to charter a helicopter for the international buyers to take them to the factories.

From an estimate by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, it could be known that 60 percent of the garment factories are located at Mirpur, Ashulia, Savar, Tongi and Maona.

The remaining 40 percent are located across the country including Narayanganj and Chittagong.

First Bangladeshi

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conducted the expedition though the Nepal (south) side of the Everest, he added.

Nishat, a 31-year-old accountant, on April 9 began her adventure from Kathmandu to the base camp of the Everest to hoist Bangladesh's flag atop the highest mountain of the world.

Mohit is the first Bangladeshi who scaled the Everest twice, as he earlier reached the summit on May 21 last year.

Musa Ibrahim was the first Bangladeshi to conquer the Everest on May 23, 2010.

Organised by the club, the adventure was co-sponsored by Plan Bangladesh, a non-government organisation (NGO), under a campaign titled 'Because I Am a Girl'.

Nishat left Dhaka for the quest on April 6, a press release of Plan Bangladesh said earlier.

Hailing from Laxmipur, Nishat completed her post-graduation from Dhaka City College and recently joined Dhaka Vasa.

In his immediate reaction, her father Abdul Mannan Majumder said, "Her (Nishat) success will encourage Bangladeshi women to come out of religious bigotry."

"We from our family always encouraged her in this job," said Mannan, also the cultural secretary of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad central council.

Enam said Nishat and her associates stayed a while at the peak of the Everest and started descending to the base camp. "The mountaineers are expected to reach the base camp this morning and will return to Bangladesh by next Friday," said Enam.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, opposition leader Khaleda Zia and Finance Minister AMA Muhith complimented Nishat on her success.

Meanwhile, Wasfia Nazreen, another Bangladeshi girl, has also reached the Everest base camp to scale the highest mountain.

A Facebook post by Wasfia yesterday said that her expedition had been hindered by heavy snowfall.

"My tent at camp 3 is gone by the lethal avalanche that severely injured two of the rope-fixing Sherpas earlier last morning! Their conditions are critical and one person is still missing," said the status. "This has, apparently, been one of the toughest years on Everest... Summit push super delayed."

Pabna journo's

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Abdullah Al Mamun, zonal correspondent of Daily Kaler Kantho, was beaten up in public in Bera upazila of Pabna by a nephew of State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku for publishing a report on the alleged corruption by Tuku's relatives in the tender process of TR (test relief) and Food for Work (Kabikha) programmes.

Speaking from his hospital bed, Fazlur said an anonymous caller rang him around 11:00am and asked him to go to the college campus for collecting information about irregularities in the institution.

As he reached near the teacher's mess on the campus, about four assailants attacked him with machetes. They badly hacked Fazlur's right arm and left.

A local whistled the injured to the hospital.

Aggrieved, local journalists staged demonstrations at Pabna Press Club on Abdul Hamid Road.

They also stopped State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku, who was on an official visit here, at Janata Bank intersection and demanded immediate action against the assailants.

Tuku assured the agitating newsmen of taking immediate steps to bring the culprits to book.

Fazlur complained of receiving threats over the phone for publishing reports on the obscene dance performance during a cultural programme on the campus on May 9.

"Last week many newspapers published the news, prompting the college authority to form an enquiry committee to probe the allegation," said Fazlur.

Contacted, college Principal Dr Naid Shamsul Huda said they have formed the committee headed by general secretary of its teachers' association.

The authorities will take action if the probe finds anybody guilty, he added.

Meanwhile, journalist leaders yesterday condemned the attack on ABM Fazlur Rahman and demanded exemplary punishment to the attackers.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), said such incidents will increase in future unless the culprits are brought to book and awarded punishment.

President of another BFUJ faction Ruhul Amin Gazi called upon the government to ensure proper medical treatment for Fazlur.

Home asked

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The NHRC chairman was speaking at a seminar titled "Human Rights Education in Bangladesh" organised by the Faculty of Law of Dhaka International University (DIU) at Cirdap auditorium in the capital.

He strongly condemned the incidents of extrajudicial killings by the law enforcers and justified it only when done for self-defence.

The NHRC would be organising a campaign across the country titled "Brave Men Campaign" to create awareness among school children on violence and repression on women. He expressed his interest in engaging law students from various universities in the campaign.

"For developing the country where a society, based on human dignity, can emerge, human rights should be incorporated in the primary and secondary school curriculum," Mizanur Rahman said.

The NHRC chief also suggested that the authorities should receive a clearance from the NHRC while promoting the rank of government officials including, the law enforcers.

Uttam Kumar Das, associate professor of law at DIU presented the keynote paper.

Das said 50.2 percent of the population has never heard of the term human rights and even the country does not have any policy on human rights and legal education.

Prof M Shah Alam, chairman (acting) of Law Commission, Ms. Shamim Ara, chairperson of Department of Law, DIU and Prof Nurul Monem, vice chancellor of DIU also spoke on the occasion.

Chelsea overcome Bayern to win final

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midfield maestro Bastian Schweinsteiger miss with their final kick to give Drogha the opportunity to score the penalty to clinch the shoot-out 4-3.

Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech also saved brilliantly from Ivica Ovic to get Chelsea back into the shoot-out after Juan Mata had missed the Premier League side's opening effort.

Droghba's winning spot-kick was a fairytale ending for the 34-year-old Ivorian striker, who had been sent off in the final minutes of Chelsea's Champions League final defeat in Moscow four years ago.

But the loss left Bayern shattered as their dream of lifting their fifth European title before their own fans at their home ground ended in agony.

A match Bayern had dominated went to penalties after a frenetic finish to normal time, with Mueller heading Bayern into the lead seven minutes from time only for Droghba to equalise for Chelsea in the 88th minute.

A dramatic start to extra-time then saw Bayern's former Chelsea winger Arjen

Robben miss a penalty -- saved by Cech -- after Droghba had needlessly brought down Franck Ribery in the area.

For much of the match a Bayern victory had looked the likeliest outcome, with the Bundesliga giants revelling in the raucous support of their home fans.

They suffered an early setback when Schweinsteiger was booked for a nery handball after only two minutes, but thereafter they enjoyed a virtual monopoly of possession.

Schweinsteiger was the first to set alarms off in the Chelsea back four, having his shot deflected behind by Gary Cahill after only three minutes.

Toni Kroos was next, his low shot drifting just wide of Cech's upright.

Chelsea coach Roberto Di Matteo had sprung a surprise by handing a first Champions League start to youngster Ryan Bertrand in an effort to cut off the supply lines to Arjen Robben down the right flank.

However the wily Dutchman found space with ease in the eighth minute, cutting in from the flank and

curling a shot over the bar.

The former Chelsea winger produced the best chance of the half on 21 minutes, teasing the ball past Jose Bosingwa to dart into the area. Robben's shot was low and hard, but Cech stuck out a leg and the ball cannoned to safety.

The closing stages of the half saw Bayern up the tempo and they carved out a string of openings that they could well have scored from.

On 36 minutes Ribery and Diego Contento combined down the left to send Contento racing away. The left-back whipped in an inviting cross but Mueller could only slash his first-time volley wide of the post.

Chelsea, largely anonymous in attack until that point, then forced Neuer into his first save of the match.

As sweeping counter-attack saw captain Frank Lampard lay off to Salomon Kalou whose thumping low drive was gathered at the near post by the Bayern keeper.

Bayern's pressure should have earned a reward but Mario Gomez squandered two promising openings shortly before half-time, slicing from close range on 39

minutes and then blazing over from just inside the area after losing Cahill.

The second half followed largely the same pattern as the first, with Bayern having a goal disallowed for offside by Ribery on 54 minutes.

The Germans were thwarted by some dogged Chelsea defending, with Cole saving the Londoners with a series of telling interventions.

It looked all over for Chelsea when Muelle headed in to put Bayern 1- seven minutes from time. But Droghba had other ideas to set up the extra-time finale.

However Chelsea looked to have squandered parity in the fourth minute of extra-time, when Droghba needlessly clipped Ribery to concede the softest of penalties from referee Pedro Proenca.

Once again though Chelsea's refusal to yield came to their rescue, Cech diving low to his left to thwart Robben's spot-kick with his legs as the tension rose to excruciating levels.

Substitute Olic almost won it for Bayern in the 108th minute, but his shot flashed across goal as the game went to penalties.

Graft, lax law enforcement

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He, however, mentioned that the most corrupt system in Bangladesh was the system of land administration, and termed it "an evil cycle" gifted to the people.

Muhith was speaking at a roundtable, "Good Governance: Leveraging Initiatives that Work", organised by the Cabinet Division in partnership with Asian Development Bank (ADB). Cabinet Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and country director of ADB M Teresa Kho also spoke.

Ghulam Rahman, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), told newsmen after the programme that almost every sector in the country had corruption.

The finance minister opined that proper implementation of information technology and flow of information could stop graft and thus ensure good governance.

He said around 75 percent of the litigations were filed centring on land registration and land records.

It takes years to find the owner of a piece of land because of the hurdles concerning land records or surveys, said the minister.

He hoped that digitisation of land records and land offices would make it easier for people to deal with land issues.

Regarding graft among the police, he said the rules and regulations, by which the police are governed, ensure that corruption could be checked, "but unfortunately it is not".

"It can be totally checked by applying Information Technology," he said.

An FIR (first information report) or a GD (general

diary) usually contains all related information, and it is impossible for a policeman to be corrupt if that is made public, he said.

"If a policeman doesn't carry out his duty according to the FIR or GD, people will say he must have taken bribes," said the minister.

On RTI's role in good governance, Muhith said it was the best guard of individual rights. "If I know how a decision is taken and what the decision is, I can seek accountability from the government."

He said the government had taken some steps in that respect: establishment of citizen charters and information officers in every office were among them.

Anybody can visit an office and ask for service referring to the charters. "Unfortunately, that is not very much in use, neither by citizens nor by offices," he added.

On community-level action against corruption and mismanagement, Muhith said decentralisation and empowering local governments were very crucial instruments for good governance.

"Of course, the administrative chairs are there up to the Union Parishads, but power is extremely concentrated at the upper level," he said.

The minister added that community involvement was fundamental for good governance as it gave the people a sense of participation in policy-making, legislating, and questing after transparency and accountability in the government's performance.

Bringing up an example, Muhith said, "If the director of education sits in a district

headquarters, it will be very difficult for him to not notice the interests of the community. Otherwise, people will storm his office and the officer will have to flee."

On IT-based service delivery, he said, "If there is online service, it will be much easier for an individual to obtain services and follow regulations. IT is the biggest instrument against corruption."

Muhith said good governance had become a matter of serious concern as "without good governance, it is very much difficult to manage the affairs of the people and the country in a very healthy manner".

He said the Constitution of Bangladesh, as originally adopted, had provided for an office of Ombudsman with the aim of ensuring good governance. "But we have been unable to appoint an Ombudsman in 40 years," he added.

"It is said that political divisions were too strong in this country to permit the emergence of an Ombudsman. This is the argument which I have heard in government after government; every government has had the same view -- that it is very difficult to find a person who can be made Ombudsman," said the minister.

Asked to comment on Muhith's remarks about graft, the ACC chairman said corruption had become a way of life in Bangladesh.

"Every sector has corruption -- more or less," he told reporters. "It continues to rise when greed acts as the main factor and when the corrupt are released due to the loopholes in laws."

Corruption could not be

contained unless there was political will, said Ghulam Rahman.

Body found on navy quarter's rooftop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified woman's body was found on the roof of Navy officers' quarters at Mirpur-14 in the capital yesterday morning.

The woman, aged around 35 and wearing salwar kamiz, had deep injury marks on her face, nose, neck and eyes.

Police recovered the body from the five-storey building-13 of the Navy officers' quarters around 11:30am.

Sub-Inspector Rafique Islam Miah of Bhashantek Police Station said 20 families live in the building. A housewife noticed the body around 10:30am and the residents informed police.

Security guards, residents, locals had no clue who the woman was.

Rafique said, "Visitors have to pass several security checks to enter the area and put down their names and addresses in the register to enter the flats but now nobody seems to know anything about the woman."

"It seemed that the body was kept in a refrigerator after murder and later it was dumped there," he said.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1
May 14 as part of the alliance's countrywide demonstration.

The opposition has set a target to gather over 20,000 people at the hunger strike. Although the opposition alliance planned to make the strike a success, some of its mid-level leaders said it would be hard for them to do so.

"We have been going through a tough time for the last two months. And the latest blow was our 33 top leaders being sent to jail," a BNP leader told The Daily Star in front of the BNP central office.

Speaking at the rally in front of the party office at Naya Paltan, Nazrul urged party leaders and activists to ensure their presence in today's strike.

"Even if it rains heavily or the weather remains hot, you must attend the programme tomorrow [today]," said the BNP leader.

Because of the government being tough on the opposition, the alliance activists were skeptical about getting permission to observe today's programme, BNP insiders said.

However, getting the government's nod at the last moment was a relief to the opposition, they said.

Earlier on May 14, the BNP-led alliance was not given permission to bring out a mass procession in the capital.

ADP size gets 34pc bigger

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Coming out of the meeting,

Planning Secretary Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam told reporters that the prime minister increased the amount following demands from ministers, and the money would be given from government funds.

Of Tk 55,000 crore, the government will provide Tk 31,450 crore or 57 percent.

At the meeting, several ministers said work that will grab people's attention must be done, as the national election nears. They demanded more allocation for construction and repair of roads in rural areas, said meeting sources.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith proposed increasing the amount by Tk 500 crore but the prime minister finally decided to raise it by Tk 700 crore.

While preparing the ADP, the planning ministry asked all ministries to place their demands, and the ministries and departments asked for an allocation of Tk 67,368 crore in the ADP, said the ministry in

its proposal.

The original ADP for the current fiscal year was Tk 46,000 crore but it was later revised and lowered to Tk 41,000 crore.

Shafiqul told reporters that Tk 3,000 crore, which has been allocated for the Padma bridge project, will be provided from government funds. It will be adjusted later when donors release funds, he said.

Nearly Tk 1,085 crore has been spent on the project from government funds till December last year.

None of the project's financiers have yet released funds following main financier World Bank's suspension of funding over corruption allegations.

The donors were to provide Tk 16,294 crore for the Tk