

PABNA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# Turmoil for VC's resignation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday started agitation demanding immediate resignation of the vice chancellor of Pabna University of Science and Technology for what they said widespread corruption and nepotism at the institution.

The university faced a stalemate as eight men of the 18-member Regent Board, including two Pabna lawmakers, were replaced on Thursday, sources said.

The Regent Board is highest administrative authority of the university.

Workers and employees of the university also demonstrated on the campus to press for their seven-point demand, worsening the situation yesterday.

Against the backdrop, the authorities announced closure of the university from June 18 to July 8 in the name of annual summer vacation although the vacation usually starts within mid-May, campus sources said.

Pabna district unit of BCL along with the students of the university blocked the administrative building,



Students of Pabna University of Science and Technology form a human chain on the campus yesterday demanding resignation of the vice chancellor for what they said widespread corruption and nepotism.

PHOTO: STAR

confining the vice chancellor inside.

They also put blockade on Dhaka-Pabna highway in front of the university academic building at Raghobpur village in the district headquarters.

"The vice chancellor appointed many of his relatives and favourites in university during the last

three years. The construction work of the academic building is yet to complete due to his corruption," said Ahmed Sharif Dablu, president of Pabna district unit of BCL.

Hundreds of workers and employees of the university formed a human chain in front of the administrative

building demanding formation of workers and employees union, and formulation of proper policy to ensure job security and due promotion of the staff.

Lawmaker of Pabna-4 constituency Shamsur Rahman Sarif Dilu and lawmaker of Pabna-5 Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince are

among the eight persons dropped from the reformed Regent Board.

They were replaced by lawmaker of Sirajganj-3 Ishaque Hossain Talukder and lawmaker of Natore-3 Junaid Ahmed Polok.

"The vice chancellor made the change in the Regent Board as we often protested his whimsical decisions and appointment of staff through nepotism," said lawmaker Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince.

When the local journalists tried to talk with the vice chancellor about the situation, the university administration did not permit them to enter the university building yesterday.

In a press release issued by Md Faruk Hossain Chowdhury, public relation officer the university, authorities claimed that the vice chancellor is not responsible for change in the Regent Board.

"The honourable president and the prime minister have approved the Regent Board according to the university act. Recruitments at the university were done according to rules after approval at the Regent Board meeting and there was no corruption regarding

# Fear, anxiety haunt journalists

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Journalists in several southwestern districts under Khulna division are passing their days amid fear and anxiety as one journalist was killed and nine others were tortured and threatened in a week from June 10 to 16.

On June 16, criminals hacked to death Jamal Uddin, 33, a correspondent of Jessore-based Bangla daily Gramer Kagoj, in Sharsha upazila of Jessore, allegedly for reporting on a local drug smuggling syndicate.

On June 12, activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of ruling Awami League, and a few physicians tortured three journalists in Chuadanga. The victims are staff correspondents of Chuadanga-based daily Mathabhanga, Touhid Tuhin, Khairuzzaman Setu and Saif Jahana.

According to police and journalists sources, the daily published a report on illegal activities of BCL men in Chuadanga Government College several days ago. When Touhid Tuhin, the reporter, went to the college to collect further information, the BCL men attacked Tuhin. They mercilessly beat up Tuhin, leaving him injured at the college canteen. Tuhin's colleagues Setu and Saif rescued him and rushed him to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital but the on-duty doctors declined to treat him there.

At one stage of alterca-

## Jamal killed, 9 tortured, threatened in a week in Khulna division



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH/STAR

Mother of slain Jamal Uddin, reporter of local daily Gramer Kagoj, wails at her house in Sharsha upazila under Jessore district.

tion, doctors' men attacked the journalists and beat them up. The injured journalists were then treated at a private clinic.

Two separate cases were filed against the BCL men and doctors with Chuadanga Sadar police station. After the incident, 35 journalists filed separate general diary (GD) with Sadar police asking security of their lives.

Later at a meeting called by local ruling party lawmaker Solaiman Joarder on Saturday, BCL men and physicians expressed sorrow for the incident.

The same day, a gang led by

Modor Uddin attacked Saifuzzaman Tazu, Harinakundu correspondent of the Bhorer Kagoj, when he was returning to his Tatiapur home from Harinakundu Bazar. He is now undergoing treatment at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. Tazu had written several reports on incidents of land grabbing allegedly by Modor.

On June 13, Jhenidah Superintendent of Police (SP) Pankaj Bhattacharya threatened two journalists to file false cases against them when they went to collect news at his office over a few issues in the district.

Journalists protested the

incident and demanded immediate withdrawal of the SP.

The matter was settled after the SP expressed sorry to the journalists at Jhenidah Press Club on June 14.

A top criminal of Jhenidah town Sharif Ahmed threatened MA Jalil, Jhenidah correspondent of Kushtia-based popular Bangla daily Dainik Kushtia, after the daily ran a report on Sharif's preventing contractors from dropping tender at Roads and Highways Department. Sharif waylaid Jalil at Arappur intersection in the town on June 15 and threatened to 'shoot him dead'. Jalil filed a GD with Sadar police station.

A group of criminals allegedly loyal to Sadar Uddin Khan, chairman of Khoksa upazila parishad in Kushtia, went to Al Helal Registered Primary School on June 16 and looked for Munshi Liton, Khoksa correspondent of daily Samakal and Kushtia-based Dainik Kushtia. The criminals threatened Liton, also a teacher of the school, for reporting on a child marriage held on June 8. Sadar Khan, also president of Khoksa Awami League, played leading role in the child marriage for the son of a party leader in the area.

Expressing concern over the incidents, Sarder Al Amin, editor of Chuadanga daily Mathabhanga said, "The government should take immediate steps as men of the ruling party are

# Criminals kill youth for witnessing their crime

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A youth was killed allegedly by a gang of criminals at Shankarpur in the town early yesterday for witnessing an incident of mugging.

The gang tortured the youth for whole night, killed him and threw the body on the rail line. Later a train ran over the body cutting it into four pieces, locals said.

They youth was identified as Suman, 21, son of Chandu Mia of Shankarpur area in the town.

Locals and family members said, Suman saw the incident of mugging on the rail line on Saturday midnight. At this, Parvez Hossain, Razon Hossain, Suman Ali, Shofiullah Haq and Razeq Ali, Babu Mia and Beri Ali caught him and took him to a nearby room of Babu on the railway land. They tortured him overnight, leaving him dead.

Locals heard his screaming but did not dare to come to his rescue.

Kamruzzaman, ASI of Jessore railway police said, they recovered the body in the morning and sent it to Jessore Medical College and Hospital for autopsy.

No case was lodged till filing of this report yesterday afternoon.

# The Daily Star - ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Students from two schools, who won different events at the English language fair held at Kashipur AC High School in Narail Sadar upazila yesterday, flash V-sign.

# Five more schools in 3 districts join fray

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of five more schools in Narail, Lalmonirhat and Feni districts yesterday joined English language fairs held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of English language fairs

Over 200 students of Kashipur AC High School and Botdia High School in Narail Sadar took part in joyful events at the fair held at Kashipur AC High School auditorium in the morning. Teachers and guardians of the students were also present, according to our correspondent.

Md Habibur Rahman, headmaster of Kashipur AC High School, inaugurated the programme at around 10:00am.

Following screening of Lion King, a globally renowned movie, the students of the two schools participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test, and situation-based question answer--all based on the movie.

Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions at the end of the programme.

An English language club was also formed.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that students of Vadai GS School and College and Vadai KB Girls' School



PHOTO: STAR

and College took part in the English language fair held at the auditorium of Vadai GS School and College in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat district.

Over 400 students of the two institutions participated in different competitions at the fair. Ranjit Kumar Debnath, headmaster of Vadai GS School and College, inaugurated the fair at noon.

Prizes were distributed among the winners of different events. The students also formed an English language club.

The English language fair at Ataturk Model High School at Dagonbhuian in Feni saw lively participation of over 400 students of the

school, according to a correspondent.

Arun Roy, assistant headmaster of the school, opened the fair at the school auditorium at noon. English teacher Alauddin spoke.

"This wonderful event has encouraged school students to learn English in a different and interesting way," Arun Roy in his inaugural speech said.

The assistant headmaster urged continuation of English in Schools programme to encourage English learning among the students.

Globally renowned movie The Lion King was screened followed by quizzes on vocabulary, one-word questions, situation-based questions, extempore speeches and roleplay.

Students entertained the audience by telling jokes and singing songs. Six students of the school won different competitions. Prizes were distributed among the winners at the end of the programme.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi undertook English in Schools



PHOTO: STAR

Prize-winning students pose for photograph at Vadai GS School and College at Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat district yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Pineapple has flooded local markets in Rangamati as the hill district witnessed a bumper production of the juicy summer fruit this season.

# Pineapples aplenty but still pricey

SHANTIMOVY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Pineapple has flooded the markets in the hill town but it still remains pricey for ordinary consumers.

The growers are happy due to bumper output this year mainly due to early rainfall, said Sadir Uddin, deputy director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

At least 15 to 20 truckloads of pineapple leave Rangamati for other districts everyday, said local fruit trader Lokman.

The number of buyers increases during weekly hat (makeshift market) days on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday due to arrival of plenty of pineapples from various areas of the district, he said.

At least 1845 hectares of land were brought under pineapple cultivation in the district this year, a DAE official said.

Yield of pineapple per hectare exceeded 30 metric tonnes (MT) this

season while it was 20MT last year, he said.

Two varieties of pineapple -- Jiantque (Singapuri) and Honey Queen (Jalpur) -- are being grown in the district.

Commercial cultivation of the juicy summer fruit started here 15 years back. Earlier, only the indigenous farmers grew it in small scale for family consumption.

Currently, the fruit has turned into a cash crop for the growers while its cultivation saw rapid increase.

The places well-known for growing the fruit in the district are Islampur, Betchhari, Bogachhari, Kutikchhari, Ramhoripara under Naniachar upazila, Bondukbhanga, Tomedung, Moghan, Kayindya, Hazaribug, Katakchhari under Sadar upazila.

Attarackhhara in Longudu, Dhumma Talang and Bhusionchhara in Barkal, Bonojoghchhara and Samira in Jurachhari and Wagga, Debatachhari and Murolipara in Kaptai upazila are

also reputed for pineapple cultivation.

While visiting local markets a couple of days ago, this correspondent said that a pair of large size pineapple still sold at Tk 40-50. The price of a pair of small size fruit was Tk 20-30 while they were almost double only two weeks ago.

In mid-May, the price came down slightly. But the price increased again because of high demand, said a local grower.

The fruit is mostly transported by engine boats to Old Bus Station point in the district headquarters from different areas from where the traders send those to other parts of the country.

Sukkra Charya Chakma, a grower at Noadam Katakchhari under Sadar upazila, said "I cultivated pineapple on my six acres of land. I have already got Tk 2lakh by harvesting two-thirds of fruits."

I hope to get Tk 50 thousand from the rest of the fruits, said a beaming Sukkra.