

# Buet classes resume Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After about two months of deadlock, classes at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will resume on Saturday.

"All classes in graduate and postgraduate programmes will begin on Saturday. An academic calendar has already been announced," the Buet authorities said in a notice yesterday.

According to the calendar, the classes will continue till October 19 before going on a 14-day vacation on the occasion of Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Azha. The semester final exams will begin on November 17.

Buet Vice-Chancellor Prof SM Nazrul Islam confirmed the resumption of classes saying that he yesterday approved the new calendar that was placed at a meeting of the Deans' Committee on Monday.

Talking to The Daily Star, the VC said they would convene the meeting of academic council soon to fix the date of admission test for 2012-2013 academic sessions.

Tranquillity had returned to Buet campus, abuzz with students as seen yesterday. Teachers and administrative staff had expressed their contentment over the present situation.

Prof Ashrafur Islam, general secretary of Buet Teachers Association, said they were happy at the government's decisions, and would resume classes on Saturday.

Teachers and students of Buet had been staging agitation since April 7 demanding removal of the university's VC and pro-VC. Finally, the pro-VC was removed on Sunday.



Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain addresses a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, slamming pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League activists for their attack on pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists on Dhaka University campus on Monday, tarnishing their organisation's half-century long image.

PHOTO: STAR

# Community based TB treatment launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With Bangladesh ranking sixth among countries with heavy tuberculosis burden, the government yesterday launched a community based treatment programme for TB patients.

According to World Health Organisation, an estimated 3,500 TB patients with Multi Drug Resistance (MDR-TB) live in Bangladesh and every year new TB cases emerge.

There are 2.1 percent MDR patients among new TB cases and 28 percent among pre-treatment patients. The estimated prevalence rate of all forms of tuberculosis is 411 in 100,000 people and incident rate 225 in every 100,000.

The programme styled "Community based Programmatic Management of Multi Drug

Resistance TB" was launched at a hotel in the capital. USAID is funding it.

Under the programme, a tuberculosis patient will be discharged from hospital within two months and rest of the treatment will continue under close supervision of out patient (MDR) TB team.

It will reduce the overall management cost of treating tuberculosis patients and also reduce the numerous infections the patients get from hospitals.

In the programme, Richard Greene, mission director of USAID, handed over GeneXpert, a tuberculosis diagnostic machine, to Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque.

The GeneXpert gives TB test result within 2 hours instead of the two months required for results.

# Dr Kamal slams current BCL activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday heavily criticised the activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) saying they are destroying the image and glory of the over 50-year-old student organisation.

He demanded punishment, within 24 hours, of those BCL activists who attacked students of another organisation on Monday on Dhaka University campus.

Dr Kamal was addressing a human chain formed by his party protesting "parliamentary and judicial crisis, Hall-Mark scam, traffic jam, deterioration of law and order situation and increasing the price of electricity" in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

"They [BCL activists] have insulted Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,

Tajuddin Ahmad and thousands of martyred, who were activists of Chhatra League. I think exemplary punishment should be handed to them," said Dr Kamal, also a noted jurist of the country.

He also called upon the parents of the activists to control their children and blamed Awami League for misleading the student body by using it to secure the party's "narrow interest".

On the Padma bridge issue, he urged the government to present all related documents in the parliament to inform the nation.

On corruption by BNP-Jamaat government, he said, "Hawa Bhaban was created following endless greed. We do not want the Hawa Bhaban era to prevail in the country."

Over 100 Gonoforum leaders and activists formed the human chain.

## TAX EVASION CASE ETV chairman gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Ekushey Television Ltd (ETV) Chairman Abdus Salam after his surrender in a tax evasion case filed by National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Judge Md Zahirul Haque of Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka granted him bail upon a bond of Tk 20,000 with two guarantors.

The court fixed October 9 for hearing on charge framing against him.

On August 12, the judge asked Abdus Salam to appear before it yesterday after Bazlur Rahman Khan, deputy tax commissioner of the NBR, filed the case against him.

The case statement said the ETV chairman evaded tax upon his income of Tk 17.64 crore in 2006-2007 and 2009-2010 fiscal years.

Earlier on March 25, the ETV chairman and its managing director Ashrafur Alam got bail in another case, for not submitting their tax returns within a stipulated time.

## BANGLADESH SECRETARIAT Staff demand job status upgradation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of Bangladesh Secretariat officers and employees yesterday demanded that the government upgrades their job status within one month the way it has done in the police force recently.

Otherwise the government will face tough agitation, they warned at a meeting at the secretariat while placing a seven-point demand.

The demands include upgrading the status of administrative and personal officers to class-I officers and that of class-III employees to class-II employees.

Bangladesh Secretariat Administrative Officers' Association, Personal Officers'

Associations' Liaison Committee and Bangladesh Secretariat Officers and Employees Oikya Parishad jointly organised the meeting.

The organisations also demanded that the position of the MLSS was changed to the post of office assistant and their salary was increased.

They also sought formation of permanent pay commission and service commission, increase of the salaries of the officers and employees up to 50 percent of their basic pay, the lowest pension scheme for the employees at Tk 3000, and increase of house rent allowance by 50 percent.

The officers and employees set October 10 as the deadline to meet their demands.

## Gold smuggling ring member on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Monowarul Huq, a member of a gold smuggling ring, on a seven-day remand.

Police produced him before Metropolitan Magistrate Hasibul Huq and sought a 10-day remand for him to know the names of others in the gang.

Law enforcers arrested 46-year-old Monowarul at Shahjalal International Airport on Monday while he was bringing in 13.6 kilograms of gold worth around Tk

7 crore from Dubai.

Following the seizure of 117 gold bars, the arrestee disclosed the name of Abdul Aziz, a field officer of National Security Intelligence (NSI). Aziz had assured him of taking the gold away from the airport.

Talking to The Daily Star, Monowarul admitted that he had carried 2.5 kgs of gold last month and handed it over to Aziz.

Sources at the NSI said the authorities have recently withdrawn Aziz from his duty at the airport.

## JOB SUSPENSION Odhikar defends rights activist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights organisation Odhikar condemned the suspension of schoolteacher Shampa Goswami from her job in Kaliganj of Satkhira for defending human rights, said a press release.

Shampa, a human rights activist of Odhikar's "violence against women" programme, was suspended from teaching at Mozahar Memorial Secondary School on Monday.

Under the programme in 2011, Shampa was working with a woman who was gang raped. Afterwards, when four people were arrested in this connection, a group of people began harassing her.

On August 30 this year, school authorities issued a show cause to Shampa accusing her of "antisocial" behaviour and "unethical" activities.

Contacted, Shahdat Hossain, president of managing committee of the school, said they suspended Shampa as locals complained about her character.

"She also went to India without prior permission," he said. Shampa said locals were angry at her for working with the raped woman and pressured the school authorities to suspend her. "I went to India during the Eid holidays," she added.

## AL leader sues Amar Desh editor, publisher

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir on Sunday filed a defamation suit of Tk 50 crore against Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, its publisher Md Hasmat Ali and two others for publishing a "defamatory report."

Other defendants are Amar Desh Publications Ltd, and reporter Asaduzzaman Sagar.

A Dhaka court fixed October 7 for next hearing of the case. In his complaint, Dr Alamgir alleged that the daily on November 17 last year published the report mentioning that Dr Farida Adib Khan was appointed to the Public Service Commission (PSC) on July 29 last year as its member because she was the niece of Dr Alamgir.

Dr Alamgir in his complaint claimed that he had no relation with Dr Farida. The report was false and fabricated and it was done only to tarnish his image, the plaintiff said.

## Obituary

METRO DESK



Anwara Rahman, wife of Engineer Md Mujibur Rahman, died at her

own residence in Bailey Road in the capital on Friday. She was 71.

She was buried at Banani graveyard.

Her family members, relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers are requested to attend her doa mahfil, which will be held at her residence at 4:45pm next Friday.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 23rd death anniversary of Dr Najma Jesmin Chowdhury, an education-

ist and a former teacher of Modern Language Institute of Dhaka University (DU), says a press release.

On the occasion, the institute will organise Dr Najma Jesmin Chowdhury Memorial Speech at its auditorium at 4:00pm.

Najma Jesmin, wife of eminent educationist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, died on this day in 1989.