

KILLING OF BAU STUDENT SAAD

Syndicate asks for action against 7 more accused

Teachers call off strike, classes to resume Sunday

A CORRESPONDENT, BAU

The Syndicate of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) yesterday directed the university authorities to take early actions against seven more accused of killing BAU student Saad Ibney Momtaz, as mentioned in the supplementary probe report submitted 11 days ago.

The syndicate members took the decision at its 305th meeting chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Rafiqul Hoque at his office around 11:00am, said KM Khalid, a member of the syndicate.

Earlier on April 9, the BAU authorities expelled three students from the university and suspended three others for different periods for their alleged involvement in Saad killing.

Police arrested three of the accused while the others are still at large.

Meanwhile, the teachers of BAU at a general meeting took decision to resume their classes from next Sunday.

They also issued a 21-day ultimatum to the university authorities to take effective steps against the students who locked BAU Prof Dr Akhtar Hossain Chowdhury at his campus office with an official on May 21.

Protesting the incident and demanding punishment of the culprits, the teachers suspended all classes and examinations for an indefinite period.

Around 10:00am yesterday, the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of ruling Awami League, formed a human chain on the campus demanding removal of session jam,

implementation of the probe report on Saad killing, steps against 'false complaints and conspiracy' against BCL, and steps against the teacher who they said was involved in a scandal concerning a woman.

Later at noon, general students of the university brought out a protest procession on the campus and staged demonstration

in front of the BAU administration building demanding punishment of Saad's killers.

Saad Ibney Momtaz, a final year student of the fisheries faculty of BAU, also former organising secretary of Ashrafal Haque Hall committee of BCL, succumbed to his injuries at a private clinic in Mymensingh town on April 1, a day after some activists



PHOTO: STAR
The students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in Mymensingh bring out a procession on the campus yesterday, reiterating their demand for ensuring punishment for the killers of BAU student Saad Ibney Momtaz.

Health service in Bandarban limps for lack of doctors

SANJOY KUMAR BARIUA, Bandarban

Health service in the hill district remains in an awful condition amid acute shortage of doctors, medicines and medical instruments.

Surprisingly though, only 32 medical officials are working in Bandarban Sadar Hospital and the upazila health complexes in the district against 108 posts, said sources at district civil surgeon's office.

"Administrative works and indoor treatments in the health complexes of the district are badly hampered as the posts of resident medical officers have remained vacant for long," said Dr Maong Te Zaw, civil surgeon of the district.

The 50-bed Bandarban Sadar Hospital was upgraded to 100-bed hospital in 2005 but the numbers

of doctors, nurses and technicians were not increased, he said.

It has been running without senior consultant for medicine, senior consultant for orthopaedic surgery, junior consultant for gynaecology, junior consultant for orthopaedics, junior consultant for cardiology and junior consultant for anaesthesia and emergency medical officer for a long time.

Posts of dental surgeons have remained vacant in Ruma, Thanchi, Rowangchhari, Lama, Alikadom and Naikkhongchhari upazila health complexes for long.

Against 23 posts of assistant surgeons, only two persons are now serving -- one at Bandarban Sadar union health and family welfare centre and the other

at Lama union health and family welfare centre.

Against nine posts in each upazila health complex, there are only two doctors in Rowangchhari upazila, five doctors in Ruma, two doctors in Lama, three doctors in Alikadom, three doctors in Naikkhongchhari, and only one doctor in Thanchi upazila health complex.

Locals alleged that the doctors often remain absent during the duty hours.

In most cases, the upazila health complexes and union health and family welfare centres in the district can hardly provide any service beyond primary treatment while many people of remote areas have to depend on quacks and unskilled pharmacists, said local public representatives.

The only X-ray machine

of 31-bed Lama upazila health complex has remained dysfunctional since 2005.

Both of its ambulances went out of order two years ago but they have not yet been repaired due to fund crisis, said Dr Md Syed Ahmed of Lama upazila health complex.

Critically ill people have to be taken to upazila health complex on shoulders but many have to return without proper treatment due to absence of doctors, said Hla Thwai Prue Marma, Ching Hla Mro and a few other indigenous people in Remakri union under Thanchi upazila.

Reports were sent to the higher authorities for taking urgent steps to deal with the situation but to no effect yet, said sources at Bandarban civil surgeon's office.

3 fishermen abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Three fishermen were abducted by 'forest robbers' from Jalghata area in the West Sundarbans under Sathkira range for ransom of Wednesday night.

The abducted fishermen are Mamun Hossain, 18, son of Gaffar Gazi, Saiful Islam, 20, son of Sirajul Islam and Jahur Ali, 22, son of Musa Gazi of Harinagar village in Shymnagar upazila.

Yasin Ali, 30, one of the two fishermen who were freed to bring the ransom money, said after taking permission from Kadamtala station, he along with four other fishermen went to catch crabs on Monday night.

On Wednesday night, the gang members of 'Jonab Bahini' took them hostage and beat them severally. Later the gang released two of them only for bringing the ransom money for release of the remaining three abductees, Yasin said.

Keramot Ali Mallik, assistant forest conservator of Sathkira Range, said he heard about the abduction incident.

Aminur Rahman, officer in-charge (OC) of Shymnagar Police Station, said they were yet to receive any information about the abduction of the fishermen.

Man killed

FROM PAGE 1

BCL. As the news of the altercation spread, Gittu along with his supporters rushed to the campus and the two sides engaged in a chase and counter chase in the afternoon.

At one stage, supporters of Saleh swooped on the house of Gittu and Chuttu at Munsheshbari in Monoherpur and attacked Pritom Chakrabarti, a cousin of the siblings.

Witnessing the incident from a neighbouring house, Sumu rushed to the spot to save Pritom. But the attackers shot Sumu in the back and thrashed his head with bricks, leaving him critically injured, witnesses said.

He was taken to Comilla Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Pritom, son of local businessman Panna Chakrabarti, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition worsened.

Fatema Doli, a sister-in-law of the victim, said, "Sumu came out of the house hearing gunshots.

"As he rushed to save Pritom, some armed cadres shot him point blank."

AKM Bahauddin, the local lawmaker, said, "We have heard that supporters of Saleh Ahmed killed Sumu. Legal action will be taken against the culprits soon."

Mohammad Shamsuzzaman, inspector (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station, said prepara-

Killings

FROM PAGE 2

Bangladesh faced various challenges ever since it has existed as a nation, he mentioned, adding that the current and future challenges would certainly be different from the previous ones.

"And what now is that a matter of concern is that the state very quickly finds a way of imposing correct state control in all parts of the country," he noted.

The Speaker, said Conze, has given the assurance that the present government would make sure the state protects all its citizens from those who want to exploit people.

Pointing to the January 5 parliamentary polls, the German ambassador said: "None of our position as European has changed [regarding the election]."

"The future now seems to be more important than the past. And this is what I will leave to my successor -- Try and build up friendly relations with the Bangladesh society with regards to the coming challenges," he mentioned.

He is scheduled to leave Dhaka on Sunday after discharging his duties for around two years.



PHOTO: STAR
Sexagenarian Mahmud Ali does the arduous task of pulling the ladder with ropes while his seven-year-old grandson keeps pressing the load on it as the poor man cannot afford to buy bullocks to ease the work.

Too hard-pressed, they do inhuman labour

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Landless farmer Mahmud Ali, 65, has his seven-year-old grandson Jihad press the ladder while he draws it with a rope to plough his leased land at Majbari village in Gabtoli upazila under the district.

"Our two elder sons, both day labourers, left us after getting married. I also married off my two daughters through hardship," said Mahmud, now living along with his wife Ayesha Begum, 60, and youngest son Al-Amin, 18, on a piece of land given by father-in-law.

"I got lease of 80 decimals of land for Tk 10 thousand a year to cultivate paddy, jute, vegetables and spice. Sometimes I plough the land with tractor for Tk 300/400 per bigha. But the cost is too much for me and

most of the time I have to pull the ladder myself with the help of my minor grandson, as I have no cattle," Mahmud told this correspondent during his visit a few days ago.

"I would be relieved of the pain if the government or any NGO or generous person provides me with cattle for ploughing the land," he said.

Gangni mayor removed on corruption charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Authorities have removed Gangni municipality mayor Ahmmed Ali from the position on charge of misappropriation of government fund.

Saroj Kumar Nath, senior assistant secretary of the local government, rural development and cooperatives ministry, sent a letter to the deputy commissioner of Meherpur in this regard on Wednesday afternoon. Copies of the letter were also sent to the other offices concerned.

The removal order has been issued under Section 32 (1) (Gha) of the Municipality Act-2009, the letters said.

"Mayor Ahmmed Ali

misappropriated Tk 1.52 crore in collusion with contractors through unjustified payment of bills to them for the works of 18 different projects under the

None, however, was given acting charge to run the body.

Earlier on January 12, the ministry formed three inquiry committees to probe the allegations against the mayor, submitted by all six councillors of the municipality.

The mayor was finally removed based on the report of the committees submitted on May 12, said sources of Meherpur district administration seeking anonymity.

Contacted, Ahmmed Ali admitted to receiving the removal letter and said, "I will go to legal battle as the removal order is illegal and conspiracy."

Ahmmed, a member of Meherpur district unit of



Ahmmed Ali municipality in 2010-11 and 2011-12 fiscal years," it adds.

3-year-old boy lands in jail with mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A three-year-old boy landed in Bogra with his mother as police arrested the woman on charge of conducting narcotic business on Wednesday evening.

The arrested woman, Rina Khatun, 35, wife of Shahidul Islam of Kadai village in Dhunat upazila of Bogra district, was conducting narcotic business with her husband for a long time in the area, police said.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of the couple and seized one kg of contraband hemp from their possession and arrested Rina Khatun with her three-year-old son Siam Hossain in her lap while her husband managed to flee, police said.

Talking to local journalists, Rina said, "My husband, not I, is involved in narcotic business. Police arrested me in a false case."

Sub-inspector Milon Kumar filed a case with the



PHOTO: STAR
Although too young to commit any crime, three-year-old Siam accompanies his mother Rina Khatun to jail yesterday. Police arrested the woman on charge of illegal narcotic business Wednesday evening.

police station under Narcotics Control Act against the couple on Wednesday night.

Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dhunat Police Station, said, "The

woman was sent to the court yesterday [Thursday] morning and the court sent her to jail. It was not obligatory to take her minor child to jail. She could keep it with her relatives if she so wanted."

BNP LEADER ISMAIL MURDER CASE

Human chain demands arrest of the accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Locals of Chapali village formed a human chain in Nimtola bus stand area on Dhaka-Khulna highway under Kaliganj municipality yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the accused in local BNP leader Ismail Hossain murder case.

Several hundred people joined the human chain programme that continued for an hour from 10:00am.

At the human chain Rustom Ali, brother of the victim, said a known criminal had killed his brother on broad daylight, but police are yet to nab the culprit even after 15 days of the killing.

The participants of the human chain said they would launch a tougher agitation programme if the killer was not arrested



PHOTO: STAR
The people of Chapali village form a human chain at Nimtali bus stand in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah district yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the killers of BNP leader Ismail Hossain.

immediately.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Eradul Haque demanding steps to arrest the killer.

On May 13, Ismail Hossain, 59, president of ward-1 BNP unit in Kaliganj municipality, was attacked and hacked to death allegedly by local AL activist

Shahjahan Ali.

Ismail came under the attack while he was going to the district headquarters from Chapali village around 7:30am on the day.