

MOLESTATION OF FEMALE STUDENT AT JU Ensure punishment

Peers demand of university authorities

JU CORRESPONDENT
Student of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday brought out procession and held a rally on the campus demanding that the university authorities ensure punishment for the culprits who molested an indigenous female student and beat up her male friend at JU on Pahela Baishakh.

Under the banner of "Indigenous Students' Association", over a hundred students holding placards and chanting slogans against the accused and the JU authorities marched from the JU Shaheed Minar and back to it after circling the campus.

They demanded that the molesters be expelled from the university and be put on trial. JU progressive student's body joined the programme.

The university authorities suspended eight students, also activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, for their alleged involvement in the incident.

JU BCL President Mahmudur Rahman Jony and General Secretary Razib Ahmed Russel also demanded punishment for the culprits.

The university's Anti-Sexual Harassment Cell is investigating the incident.

ROW OVER NEW JU BUILDING All demos called off

as authorities assure amicable solution

CSE, geology teachers withdraw resignations

JU CORRESPONDENT

Computer science and engineering, and geological sciences departments of Jahangirnagar University yesterday withdrew all of their protest programmes after the university authorities assured them of solving the ongoing crisis regarding transfer of another department to their building.

The departments called off their hunger strike and the teachers withdrew their mass resignation.

Prof Mafruhi Sattar, secretary of JU Teachers Association (Juta), said representatives and chairpersons of all three departments reached an agreement to call off their movement following an executive meeting of Juta.

The two departments began demonstrating on Saturday after the university authorities decided to transfer the environmental sciences department to their building.

Prior to the decision, the environmental sciences department demonstrated throughout April demanding the move which was supposed to take place a year ago. They met resistance from the other two departments.

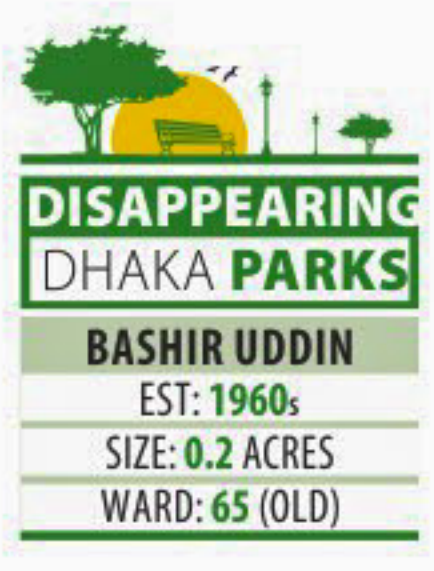
In the face of their demonstration, the university authorities formed a committee to probe into the matter and give a recommendation.



Though it is a tiny area, Bashir Uddin Park offers the local people a place to breath fresh air in the congested Old Dhaka. It was first shrunk by construction of a public toilet and then was turned into a garage for rickshaws and rickshaw-vans. Fortunately enough, unlike some other parks, it is still surviving and can be salvaged. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A breathing space still salvageable



How many parks does Dhaka city need? According to rules, it should be 92, one for each ward. But we have only 54, with several of them having ceased to exist and many threatened. At least 10 parks have been replaced with a community centre, kitchen market, mosque, rickshaw garage or truck parking lot, mostly by the city corporation itself. This is the picture when an urban expert, Prof Nazrul Islam, says every 10,000 city residents need an open space of four acres -- park or playground -- for healthy development of children and prevention of diseases related to physical activities. The Daily Star reports how and why we are squeezing our breathing spaces in our metropolis where 15 million people cram in. The sixth report of the series is published today.

HELEMUL ALAM

What is now a garage for rickshaws and rickshaw-vans in the capital once used to be a 0.2 acre area of greenery called Bashir Uddin Park.

Due to neglect from the city corporation, influential people have been using the park on Waterworks Road as a garage for their financial benefit for over 20 years.

Over 50 years old, the park lost a big chunk of space when a public toilet was constructed on it some 25 years back. However, the park completely lost its look when rickshaws and rickshaw-vans began using it as a garage.

Owners of the vehicles pay Tk 20 per day for each rickshaw or van. Two people have been appointed to collect the money every day on behalf of influential parties.

The city corporation is set to renovate the public toilet, but it has no initiative to recover the park from those who have set up the garage there, said sources in Dhaka South



City Corporation. Islam Uddin Maruf, one of the lease holders of the public toilet, said income from the toilet is very poor so they collect money from rickshaw and van owners. "About 10,000 taka is received monthly from rickshaw owners," he said.

Mohammad Pintu, who lives on Waterworks Road, said the park was very lively once and it had swings and slides for children. He said children from Lalbagh, Rahmatganj and Kharamtola used to come to the park to play.

"But now it is just a rickshaw garage," he said sadly. Khalid Ahmed, chief estate officer of DSCC, said they would soon launch a drive to remove the garage.

Mohammad Ilias, a resident of the area in ward 65 (old), said a park is necessary for every ward. Children need parks for outdoor games and youths and adults for exercise.

He said many are forced to go to Dhaka University campus as there is no longer a park in the area.

There were three places for recreation in the area -- Rahmatganj playground, Eidgah and Bashir Uddin Park. But children nowadays are deprived of all three.

Only members of Rahmatganj Club are allowed to play on the field there and the Eidgah is used for Eid congregations.



Within just six months of the oil tanker incident that devastated the Sundarbans, another vessel, MV Java Lemur, carrying Muriate of Potash, a fertiliser, sank in Bhola River near Shoronkhola of Bagerhat on Tuesday. Although the forest officials say the fertiliser is harmless to the mangrove forest, the incident sheds light on the urgent necessity of putting a complete ban on plying of cargo vessels through the endangered forest, a long standing demand of the environmental activists which has been facing a persistent reluctance of the authorities concerned.

YABA SMUGGLING INTO BANGLADESH Myanmar agrees to identify gangs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Myanmar delegation recently agreed to identify the gangs trafficking Yaba pills into Bangladesh and take action against them at a bilateral meeting with the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) Bangladesh.

The team from the Central Committee for Drug Abuse and Control (CCDAC) of Myanmar also agreed to watch production of Yaba near their international border with Bangladesh.

A DNC official told The Daily Star that about 50 lakh Yaba tablets were trafficked and consumed in the country every day. Most of the deadly drugs come from Myanmar, he added.

DNC Director General Bazlur Rahman told journalists in his office yesterday that the authorities of both the countries would exchange intelligence information and meet regularly to stop drug trafficking.

He informed the bilateral meeting where the agreements came on Tuesday in a hotel of the capital.

"We asked them to meet at least once a year to discuss strategies and exchange operational and technical information to fight drug trafficking," he said.

"We also told them that there are clandestine laboratories along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border where Yabas are produced. And they agreed to look into the matter," he said.

The four-member CCDAC delegation included Brig Gen Kyan Win, Col Myint Aung and Maj Yee Tun Than. Minister counselor of the Myanmar embassy in Dhaka Kyan Swar was also a member of the delegation.

Although the journalists were invited to meet delegates from both sides yesterday at DNC office, only Bangladeshi officials met the press.



Workshop
Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management has organised a workshop on "Internal Control and Compliance of Banks"; Venue: BIBM Auditorium; Time: 10:05am.

Exhibition
CEMS-USA in association with CEMS-Bangladesh has arranged the seventh international exhibition on medical equipments and healthcare supplies; Venue: Bangabandhu International Convention Centre; Time: 11:00am.

Human Chain
Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) has organised a human chain protesting the mass molestation of females at Dhaka University on Pahela Baishakh; Venue: WVA, Dhanmondi-27; Time: 3:00pm.

Court asks

FROM PAGE 4
Revenue filed the case against Koko on March 1, 2010 for allegedly evading an income tax of Tk 52.39 lakh between 2002-03 and 2006-07.

He had been arrested in 2007 but he was paroled the next year and travelled abroad, never to return. His parole was cancelled in August 2010.

Koko faces a total of six cases including the aforementioned one. In a money laundering case, he was sentenced to six years in jail on June 23, 2011.

Criticism was fair

FROM PAGE 3
One signatory, Khushi Kabir, later withdrew her name. The tribunal exonerated 26 signatories who sought unconditional apology.

Yesterday, Akhtar Imam, who along with Rashna Imam represented two of the 12, said his clients have utmost respect for the judiciary and believed they did not do anything that belittled the tribunal. He said criticism over any judgment does not "ipso facto" or by the very act constitute contempt if done honestly and on good faith without ill intention and his clients had no mala-fide intention behind issuing the statement.

Imam said his clients did not question justification of the conviction and sentence but merely opined on the decision's impact

on the scope of freedom of speech and expression.

Justice Obaidul Hassan pointed out a part of the statement reading, "The sentencing of David Bergman is nothing but a constitution of curbing of all forms of freedom of expression and differences of opinion about the International Crimes Tribunal."

"This may be continuation of their opinion," said Akhtar.

"They might have crossed the invisible line between fair criticism and the contempt while giving their opinion and even if they did this, they did this from bona-fide intention," he added.

Md Asaduzzaman, representing 10 of the 12, said he adopted Akhtar and Rashna's arguments.

ANN pays tribute to Straits Times

FROM PAGE 3
1999, has grown to be the world's largest and most active news alliance with 22 member media in 19 Asian countries.

The veteran newspaperman, who retired last November, had been suffering from motor neuron disease, which causes nerve

cells to gradually break down and die.

"Work was his life. He worked 365 days. Even if he was at home, he would be preparing for work. For him, work would come first and I accepted it," said his wife Genevieve Soh.

Soh's journalistic career spanned more than 30 years.

Turag

FROM PAGE 3
for Bangladesh challenging the HC status quo order.

HRPB lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the pillars cannot be removed following yesterday's order. No lawyer was present for Amin and Momin Company.

Ctg city girls can now SMS cops

FROM PAGE 4
the girls by extending our helping hands," said the police commissioner.

Many girls are teased or disturbed by unknown callers. And most of the girls

cannot share this problem with their parents fearing that they might be blamed, said a student.

Headmistress Hasmat Jahan also spoke at the rally.

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend has an array of articles for you. This week's spotlight talks about how social media has facilitated people's right to express. There is also an article on sexual harassment in our society. Don't forget your copy of Star Weekend tomorrow, Friday!

DIGITAL RIGHTS

W