

JU finally expels 5 BCL assaulters of Adivasi female student

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University authorities last night expelled five activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League for sexually harassing a female indigenous student on Pahela Baishakh.

The five also assaulted her male friend and snatched their belongings near Munni Sarani on the campus on April 14, found an investigation of the JU's Anti-Sexual Harassment Cell which recommended the expulsion.

All the five students expelled were residents of Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall -- Nishat Imtiaz Bijoy of journalism and media studies (third year), Nafis Imtiaz of chemistry (third year), Abdur Rahman Ifi and Nurul Kabir of anthropology (second year), and Rakib Hassan of geography and environment (second year).

Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique said the syndicate took the decision around 8:30pm.

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Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, left, and Nasima Saheen perform selected favourite love songs of eight eminent personalities, written by Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. The host, Star Melodies, also invited singers Ferdous Ara, Tapan Mahmud, and Adity Mohsin. PHOTO: STAR

Current number of universities no match for demand

Says new UGC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

The present number of university is no match for accommodating the continuously increased student aspirants in the institutions, said new University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan yesterday.

He also emphasised improving the quality of education to create "world class figures" in Bangladesh.

As the chief guest, he was speaking at a reception accorded to him by private Port City International University (PCIU) in its auditorium of Chittagong city's South Khulshi.

Of the total 120 universities, 38 are public while 82 private in the country, said the UGC chairman.

Presently around 30 lakh students are studying in different universities and of them 11 lakh in public and private universities whereas the rest in the institutions under National University, headed.

Bus strike makes Khulna div remote, govt nonchalant

Rajshahi, Rangpur dists getting ready to follow suit tomorrow in solidarity

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Though hundreds of passengers are suffering immensely as an indefinite strike by bus owners and workers have snapped road communications between the south-western districts and the rest of the country for five days, the government remains unresponsive.

Transport owners and workers enforced the strike at 10 districts of Khulna division on Tuesday afternoon demanding release of a bus driver and his helper, who were detained by police earlier on the day for robbery.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday afternoon, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said no initiatives for discussions could be taken yet as he has been out of the capital for the last few days.

"I have already spoken with the state minister over phone and I will also talk to the road transport and bridges minister. Let us see what will happen," said Shajahan, also the executive president of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, the largest body of road transport workers in Bangladesh.

"If no development occurs, I will come to Dhaka the day after tomorrow (Monday) and then I can look into the issue for a solution," said the minister.

However, the situation will worsen tomorrow as transport workers in Rajshahi and Rangpur districts have announced a bus strike there expressing solidarity with the workers of Khulna.

Osman Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, said, "We want the

driver and helper to be released and the superintendent of police of Faridpur and officer-in-charge of Modhukhali Police Station withdrawn. The strike will continue until our demands are met."

Khandaker Enyet Ullah, convener of Malik-Sramik Oikya Parishad, an organisation of road transport workers and owners, said, "The government should have taken the issue seriously from the beginning. It is unfortunate that no progress has been made even though a few days have already passed."

Visiting Gabtoli bus terminal yesterday afternoon, The Daily Star found staff of different bus counters sitting idle and some napping. Whenever somebody wanted tickets, they said, "No tickets, buses are not plying."

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Salahuddin may appear at Shillong court tomorrow

He will face trial as per law, it's not political, says Indian state minister for home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shillong police is likely to produce Salahuddin Ahmed before a court tomorrow, as doctors at the Indira Gandhi health institute might discharge BNP leader on that day, police and hospital sources said.

A Shillong court on Friday asked police to submit a report on the BNP joint secretary general by May 29 before it, Salahuddin's lawyer SP Mahanta told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, Indian State Minister for Home Kiren Rijiju yesterday said the BNP leader would be tried under the existing



laws of India for intrusion, and there was no reason to consider this issue from a political point of view.

Addressing the sixth India-Bangladesh Friendship Dialogue at New Delhi, Kiren added that the Indian agencies would take care of the matter.

"If it is a policy matter, where we need to intervene, definitely I will see that. We will take steps, but as long as it's a legal matter and dealt by our security agencies, let them handle the case," he also said.

Asked about Salahuddin being taken to the court, Vivek Syiem, superintendent of police

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