

JU plans to merge two vacations

Demonstrators believe it is to sap momentum of two ongoing movements
JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University will merge two upcoming vacations, raising allegations that it was to kill the momentum of two ongoing movements and quell agitators. Around 12 days between the summer and Eid-ul-Fitr vacations will be included in the break, settling the period from May 26 to July 24 instead of the previous May 26 to June 14.

Informing of the change, Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique denied the allegation brought by the agitators, including chairpersons of the computer science and engineering, and geological sciences departments.

He said the syndicate took into consideration the small gap in between and that this would be made permanent from next year.

Students and teachers of the two departments have been demonstrating since the beginning of March protesting the transfer of environmental sciences department to their building.

They staged a sit-in before the vice-chancellor's office yesterday demanding that the authorities find an alternative as, they claim, the building is not big enough for all three.

Meanwhile, all three teachers of the journalism and media studies department continued observing work abstention, beginning around mid March, demanding resignation of the chairperson who they say has been misbehaving with them and autocratically running the department.

Union Parishads must get autonomy, resources

Lessons sharing meeting of The Hunger Project, Brac told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Union Parishads (UP) should be given greater autonomy and equipped with resources so that they do not remain dependent on the government fund for development of their areas, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

They stressed the need for providing training to elected representatives about the laws and regulations related to running the parishad for better delivery of services.

The recommendations were made at a lessons sharing session on the "MDG Unions: Building Participatory Democracy from Bottom Up in Rural Bangladesh" project, organised by The Hunger Project (THP) at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Jointly carried out by THP and Brac, the two-year project funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund, was launched in May 2013 and implemented in 10 unions of Mymensingh and Tangail.

Statistics from a survey conducted in the areas in 2015 to measure the impacts of the project, which aimed to enhance the knowledge, entitlements and responsibilities of locals in ensuring a transparent and accountable local government, were also shared.

The survey conducted in 900 households of 10 unions shows the project encouraged more people to visit and participate in UP and ward meetings including open budget meetings.

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Tribunal questions fettering of four war crime suspects

Asks IGP (prison) to give reasons in 7 days; 2 Shibir leaders get more time to give reply on contempt of court charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday asked the inspector general of police (prison) to explain within seven days why four war crime suspects of Maheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar were bound with fetters.

The four -- Nurul Islam of Sonajanpara, Osman Gani of the upazila headquarters, Zinnat Ali of Muhurirdail village, and Badsha Miah of Kalagazirpara -- were arrested on Thursday and Friday and produced before the tribunal yesterday.

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WAR CRIMES: Monitoring team launched for arrest of fugitives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In compliance with a war crimes tribunal's order, a five-member monitoring committee has been formed to make sure the arrest of fugitive war crimes convicts and accused.

Led by a deputy inspector general of police, the team will also get representatives from Detective Branch and Special Branch of police Rapid Action Battalion and

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A procession of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote stopped by police at Doyel Chattar on the Dhaka University campus yesterday while headed to the home ministry with a three-point memorandum, including the demand for immediate arrest of the Pahela Baishakh molesters. The memorandum was later sent through a high official of the ministry.

PHOTO: STAR

Stop telling lies to deny crimes

JS body tells police; asks the force to arrest rapists of indigenous woman, killers of bloggers; Sammilito Sangskritik Jote submits memorandum to home boss for immediate arrest of Pahela Baishakh molesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on home affairs yesterday asked police to quit "their age-old habit of telling lies" to deny incidence of crimes and save themselves.

"Telling lies would not work at this time when mass media and different social media are vibrant," Tipu Munshi, chairman of the committee, told a meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He said people could take photographs and record any incident with smartphones like they did during the Pahela Baishakh molestation on the Dhaka University campus.

Criticising top police officials including its chief AKM Shahidul Hoque for their primary denial of the sexual assault, the committee said how come police identified seven to eight assaulters from video footage after such denial?

Meanwhile, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote yesterday submitted a memorandum to State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal demanding immediate arrest of the Pahela Baishakh assaulters.

The platform of cultural activists also condemned Thursday's gang-rape of a Garo woman in a microbus in the capital and called for initiating a social movement against sexual assault.

An Awami League lawmaker, who was present at the JS committee's meeting, quoted Tipu Munshi as saying, "At first you (police) denied incidence of any sex assault on women on the Dhaka University campus. But in the face of people's demonstration on roads and social media, you finally identified several youths and announced bounty to help catch them."

The committee also asked top officials of law enforcement agencies to speak to media cautiously.

"The government gets into embarrassing situations and its image is tarnished for your irresponsible and contradictory remarks," a committee member said.

An additional inspector general of police and other top officials, who were present at the meeting, remained silent at that time, said meeting sources.

Pointing to the gang-rape of the indigenous woman, the parliamentary watchdog asked police to bring the rapists to book. "The committee members discussed the issue and asked police whether it is true that they have so far failed to arrest anyone, and police acknowledged it," Tipu Munshi told reporters after the meeting.

The committee instructed police to arrest the rapists

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DSCC to modernise toilets at filling stations: Khokon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has decided to modernise the toilets at every filling station in its area so that they can be used as public toilets.

"We will discuss the matter with the filling station owners within a few days," said Sayeed Khokon, DSCC mayor, at a meeting with reporters at the capital's Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

City dwellers especially women face serious trouble due to a lack of clean public toilets, he mentioned.

"We need 57 transfer stations to properly manage the garbage of DSCC area. We have already selected seven places", said Khokon. He decided to hold a meeting with reporters after every three months.

'KILLED AFTER RAPE' IN INDIA HC orders exhumation of Nargis' body

Wants post mortem report by June 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to exhume the body of Bangladeshi citizen, Nargis Begum, who was allegedly killed after rape in India two months ago.

Moved by a writ petition, the HC asked the commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police and officer-in-charge of Sonadanga Police Station in the city to submit a post mortem report on the corpse of Nargis before it by June 16.

The HC also asked the foreign and home

secretaries to submit documents on the handover of the body to the police station before it.

Victim's maternal aunt Rahela Begum and Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation's Chief Executive Alena Khan filed the petition on May 20.

Alena Khan told The Daily Star that they will ask local administration of Khulna to exhume the body for its post mortem after getting the written order of the HC.

Nargis, 32, her daughter and mother

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Human trafficking cases to be tried in special tribunals

Says law minister

UNB, Dhaka

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said at least one special tribunal will be set up in every division of the country to quickly dispose of the cases related to human trafficking.

Speeding up the trial of human trafficking will reduce this tendency, he told the news agency.

As per the section 21 (1) of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, the government may establish an Anti-human Trafficking Offence Tribunal consisting of a judge of the rank of a sessions judge or additional

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CONGRATULATIONS TO HSBC-The Daily Star Junior Climate Champions

The second season of Junior Climate Champions was held in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with participation of over 7,200 students from the three divisions. Altogether 223 winners from divisional rounds were selected for a national level competition in four categories: extempore speeches, quiz competition, environment related projects and poster and painting competition both Junior(Class VI - VIII) and Senior section (Class IX - X). Around 200 participants competed for the national finale and 33 winners got awards.



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