



Drivers who run over 100 CNG-run auto-rickshaws on the Mohammadpur-Vakurta route in Savar stage a protest blocking the road yesterday for four hours from 8:00am protesting an attack by extortionists. One driver, Amir Hossain, filed a case with Savar Model Police Station accusing a local Shahin Miah and his cohorts of attacking him at his residence on Sunday night leaving him and four others injured. He and other drivers informed that Shahin and his cohorts recently demanded that the drivers pay Tk 85 instead of the previous Tk 65 daily against each vehicle. Shahin could not be reached for comment.

PHOTO: STAR

ICDDR,B'S THERAPEUTIC FOOD FOR INFANTS Government to form review committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to form a committee to review the newly developed therapeutic food for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). It will also form another committee to review the national guidelines for managing acute malnutrition in Bangladesh, said Nasreen Khan, an official of the health ministry, at a discussion on management of SAM children in the country yesterday. The two committees would be formed within a week with relevant ministry representatives, experts concerned and other stakeholders, she said. "We will sit to take a decision about the issues pending," said National Professor Dr MR Khan, a child health expert, addressing the programme as chief guest. The move was made following a recent debate over ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) Sharnali 1 and Sharnali 2 developed

by icddr,b. The two food items made of locally available ingredients -- rice, lentil, chickpea, milk powder, sugar and soybean oil -- are rich in energy and protein that have been proved successful in treating SAM children, icddr, b said. Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation Chairperson Dr SK Roy and Adviser Dr MQK Talukder, meanwhile, opposed the idea of introducing any RUTF in Bangladesh and wrote to the health ministry to stop icddr,b from promoting it. They argued that it would eventually lead to commercialisation of baby food, promote use of powdered milk and discourage breastfeeding. Dr Makhduma Nargis, additional secretary at the health ministry; Dr Mohammad Shahidullah, president of Bangladesh Paediatric Association, and representatives from UN Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Programme and World Health Organization also spoke.

PROTESTING VAT ON PVT UNIVERSITIES Cops foil march to finance ministry

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday foiled a procession of private university students, which was heading to besiege the finance ministry at Bangladesh Secretariat demanding withdrawal of the 10 percent value added tax (VAT) imposed on private universities. Beshorkari Bishwabiddaloy Shikkha Adhikar Andolon formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club before marching towards the secretariat. Faced with barricades and some 200 armed personnel, they then staged a sit-in in front of Bangladesh Medical Association Bhaban, threatening to besiege the Prime Minister's Office. The protesters said the 10 percent VAT, to be charged on admission and course fees, would make education a "product" rather than a "right". They gave a seven-day ultimatum to fulfill their demand and threatened to march to the cabinet on June 30. Later, some students of private universities and medical colleges held a human chain at Shahbagh, saying around four lakh students were studying in 160 private universities, medical and engineering colleges and claiming that it cost them Tk 18-25 lakh for studying at private medical colleges and Tk 4-17 lakh at private universities.

DEFAMATION CASE AK Khandker gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to former planning minister Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker for six weeks in a defamation case. The case was filed for his statement in his book "1971: Bhetore Baire" that some members of Mujib Bahini, an armed force formed during the Liberation War, were involved in looting after the country's independence and most of them were not found in the battle field. MA Ishaq Bhuiyan, a Mujib Bahini member, filed the case with a Brahmanbaria court on September 10 last year. The court on March 23 this year summoned Khandker, who was the deputy chief of Staff of the Bangladesh Armed Forces in 1971, to appear before it on June 25 in the case.

Ex-BCL 'jobseekers' lock IU admin building

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya

A group of former leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League of Islamic University (IU) yesterday locked the administrative building, demanding completion of the viva voce for recruitment of class I, III, and IV employees before June 28. Former IU unit BCL vice-president Asiqur Rahman Japan, who led the protest, said they would halt all academic and administrative activities from today. According to BCL insiders, teachers, and administrative officials, the protesters want jobs in the university and think that if they appear for the viva voce shortly, the syndicate at its meeting slated for June 28 would approve their recruitments. Vice Chancellor Abdul Hakim Sarker said he would discuss the situation with the pro-VC, treasurer, registrar, and other officials. He said, "It's not possible to recruit people before every syndicate meeting." In 2012, the university recruited some employees but there has been no hiring ever since. But according to the then job circular, IU was supposed to appoint more staff.

'ASSAULTING FEMALE PEERS' BM college suspends BCL man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A student of Government BM College, Barisal was suspended for three months on Sunday over allegations of assaulting two female classmates on Thursday after one had refused to go out with him. In a complaint submitted to the principal, one of the victims accused Abdur Rahim of the English department of harassing her despite being turned down several times in the last couple of months. Rahim, also Bangladesh Chhatra League's Barisal city ward 29 president, claimed that she was his ex-girlfriend and that he "slapped only her friend" after being denied Tk 2,000 he had lent. Principal Prof Fazlul Huque said further measures would be taken following investigations.

Sust teachers confine VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Demanding his resignation, a section of teachers of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) confined Vice Chancellor Prof Md Aminul Haque Bhuyan to his office yesterday after he got back to work from a two-month leave. Around 50 teachers under the banner of Mahan Muktiyuddher Chetonai Udbuddho Shikkhak Brindo locked him in around 8:30am. He was freed more than seven hours later, at 4:00pm. Syed Shamsul Alam, convener of the

platform, said they would confine him again today. Prof Bhuyan went on leave on April 24 and was supposed to join work on June 24. Another section of teachers, however, welcomed the VC back. Meanwhile, the VC appointed Md Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, a professor of forestry and environment, as proctor and three other teachers as assistant proctors yesterday. The teachers have been demanding his resignation since April 13, accusing him of misbehaviour with colleagues, nepotism, and corruption. The VC declined to talk to journalists yesterday.



Members of the executive committee of the newly established Inner Wheel Dist 345 along with guests at the first district assembly held at a local hotel recently.

DU English masters students boycott semester final exam

DU CORRESPONDENT

The first semester masters students of English department of Dhaka University yesterday boycotted the semester final examination, claiming that they had not got adequate time for preparation and the admission process was incomplete. The exam was scheduled for 9:00am yesterday but none of the 150 students sat for it. The students claimed that their honours final examinations were held in January and they were supposed to get the results within 21 days. But, their results were published on May 27 and they received the mark sheets on June 11, so they could not complete their admission process on time. Earlier on Sunday, the students besieged the vice chancellor's office for about two and a half hours demanding postponement of the exam. They said they were ready to start taking the exams on June 27. However, the university authorities said already the exam was postponed once. VC AAMS Arefin Siddique said they would not postpone the exam again.

N'ganj sand barge workers withdraw strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Workers of vessels carrying sand in Narayanganj yesterday withdrew their indefinite strike, which they called on Sunday demanding a stop to "extortion and attacks" on them, following assurance from the administration.

14 become members

FROM PAGE 3 M Shamsur Rahman, member of Newspapers Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) and editor of The Independent; Mozammel Haq, member of NOAB and editor of Daily Karotoa; Reazuddin Ahmed, member of NOAB and editor and publisher of The News Today; Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy; M Khaled, secretary of Bangladesh University Grants Commission; advocate M Sana Ullah Mia, member of Bangladesh Bar Council; AKM Rahmatullah, MP; and Sukumar Ranjan Ghosh, MP.

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