



Rajshahi University teachers stage a sit-in amid a work stoppage to protest what they say is the "undermining of their dignity" in the recently announced eighth pay scale. The programme, held from 10:00am to 1:00pm yesterday, also pushed for a separate pay scale for university teachers.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16
Rahman, who has been staying in London since 2008, said party insiders. They said Khaleda would stay in Tarique's house in East London. The wife and daughters of her younger son Koko would also fly to London later to celebrate Eid there.

During the visit, Khaleda would take Tarique's opinion on the formation of party's standing committee, executive body and committees of different associate organisations, and then make the final decision, according to BNP sources.

They said she would also discuss with him the issue of amending the party charter to create a new body for pro-BNP intellectuals.

Nazrul said Khaleda had asked them to carry out party reform programmes in line with her instructions.

Police HQ

FROM PAGE 16
It also asked the higher authorities to take departmental action against Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Abdul Jalil, Deputy Commissioner (north zone) Paritosh Ghosh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Shariful Islam and Assistant Commissioner Dipak Jyoti Khisa for their failure to discipline their juniors.

The committee submitted its report on September 3 to the Inspector General of Police Shahidul Haque, who ordered the investigation.

Selim Ahmed, managing director of Super Refinery (Pvt) Ltd at Jalalabad of Chittagong, submitted a written complaint to the IGP against the police officials, saying they were harassing him.

He mentioned that SI Sujon seized a lorry with 9,000 litres of kerosene and filed a case against him and nine employees and officials of his company without any specific allegation.

Contacted last night, OC Pradip said he was not aware of any probe report.

AL's left allies against VAT

FROM PAGE 16
imposing VAT on education. Some of them, however, questioned the intention of the students' movement.

The Workers Party of Bangladesh, a key ally of the AL, said the government imposed VAT on the birth, basic and constitutional right, turning education into a commodity.

In a statement, party's General Secretary Fazley Hossain Badsha accused the finance minister of giving rise to the students' movement. "Imposing VAT on education will encourage commercialisation of education," he said, adding that different statements of the finance minister have only added to the confusion.

"Maybe there is confusion in the way the minister thinks," Badsha said, seeking the premier's intervention to resolve the crisis.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia termed the imposing of VAT a "controversial" decision.

"People have not accepted the decision, and the government should clarify its stance immediately," he said, adding that they are against VAT on education.

Stating their position against VAT on education, Gonoantri Party Presidium Member Nurur Rahman Selim questioned the intention of the ongoing movement.

"Private universities are doing business with education and VAT on them is logical. The government should be alert so that the universities cannot make the students bear the VAT burden," he added.

Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua said there is no logic behind imposing VAT on students. He, however, believes imposing VAT on private universities is logical as those universities have turned education into a commodity and are making a mint.

National Awami Party (NAP) General Secretary Enamul Haque said they would never support VAT on education. "But, as private universities are doing business, imposing VAT on them

is right. The government should be vigilant so that universities could not increase tuition fees on this pretext."

Communist Kendra Joint Convener Asit Baron Roy said education is not a commodity and imposing VAT on it is illogical.

"When the government attaches importance to the education sector, it cannot impose VAT on it," he added.

Main opposition Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad bitterly criticised the government for the decision, saying it proves the government does not want to develop the education sector.

The BNP has also opposed the decision, saying no country in the world has VAT on education.

Bangladesh Chhatra League President Saifur Rahman Sohag has, meanwhile, said there should not be any movement after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina clarified that VAT would be levied on the private universities.

"As the largest student organisation, we think the movement was right at the initial stage when there was confusion over VAT. But when the prime minister herself made it clear, there is no logic behind continuing it," he told The Daily Star.

The BCL president said it is now up to the law enforcement agencies to deal with the agitation.

The BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Vice-President Nazmul Hasan said the private university students are demonstrating for a righteous cause. "We will stand by them," he told The Daily Star, demanding withdrawal of VAT.

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation President Saikat Mollik said the state should shoulder the responsibility of education and withdraw VAT imposed on the private universities.

"We urge all students to support the movement," he said.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) President Hasan Tareque and General Secretary Lucky Akhtar said they expressed solidarity with the demonstrators and urged all progressive organisations to do so.

Illogical, unfair

FROM PAGE 16
Also, it is not true that all the students of these institutions come from rich families. In fact, most are from middle- and lower-middle-income households who find the existing fees already very high, he noted.

"If VAT is imposed on top of it, it will have negative impacts on their education."

"If the government feels the varsities are making profits, it can impose tax on them, but not VAT," said the professor emeritus of Dhaka University.

Prof Nazrul Islam, former chairman of the University Grants Commission, too thinks that VAT on education is illogical and it should be withdrawn.

The National Board of Revenue's argument that students would not have to pay the VAT is confusing because it's always the consumers who pay the VAT, he observed.

"Even if the students are exempted from paying the VAT for now, the universities might just increase other fees on some pretext."

"Though there are questions over the quality of education in many private universities, some of them are doing well."

So, what the government should first do is to bring all the private universities under proper rules to ensure quality education, Prof Nazrul suggested.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University said the imposition of VAT is contradictory to the government's policies as, through this move, it accepted that the universities are doing business.

"The National Education Policy considers education as a right, not a product. But by levying VAT, it is being regarded as a product," he pointed out.

By imposing VAT, the litterateur said, the government is actually allowing two education systems in the country -- under one, students are studying at a lower cost at public universities while under the other, they are struggling with high tuition fees at private universities.

"This is unacceptable ... If the VAT burden falls on these students, it will prove to be a weakness on the government's part," said Syed Manzoorul Islam, who teaches English literature at the DU.

Economist Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said the government perhaps made the move to increase its revenue earnings.

He, however, questioned the process leading to the government decision to impose VAT on the privately run universities. "Has there been any inclusive debate on it?"

"The issue of governance in the private universities is crucial ... But is the government ensuring quality education at these universities? And what measures has it taken to this end?" said the executive director of Power and Participatory Research Centre.

Unhealthy eating

FROM PAGE 16
vegetables, fruits, nuts and grains and too much red meat, salt and sugar - was shown to be a bigger killer than smoking and alcohol.

But for the UK, unhealthy eating is still pipped to the top spot of high-risk factors in early death by smoking. Low levels of activity are at number 5, and alcohol use is at number 9.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in the US has found that high blood pressure, to which diet, exercise and obesity are key factors, is the biggest cause of premature death in countries across the world.

And unhealthy eating overall, characterised by high consumption of red meat and sugar-sweetened beverages, contributed to more deaths than any other factor - because they contribute towards ischemic heart disease, strokes and diabetes.

The study was the most recent update on the 2010 report on the Global Burden of Disease, considered the most authoritative work on the causes of ill-health.

"There's great potential to improve health by avoiding certain risks like smoking and poor diet as well as tackling environmental

risks like air pollution," IHME director Dr Christopher Murray told The Guardian. "The challenge for policymakers will be to use what we know to guide prevention efforts and health policies."

Data from 108 countries from 1990 to 2013 was used in the study, and the number of risk factors in premature deaths was increased from 67 to 79, to provide a broader study.

High-income countries tended to have smoking as their number one cause of premature death. In India and elsewhere in south and south-east Asia, air pollution was a leading problem.

In Latin America and the Middle East, meanwhile, obesity came out as the biggest risk for poor health.

But sub-Saharan Africa has a different pattern of risks from the rest of the world. Its combination of childhood under nutrition, unsafe water, unsafe sex and alcohol use is unseen to the same degree elsewhere.

Govt to raise

FROM PAGE 16
The official said now it was decided that from July 1, all freedom fighters would get monthly allowance of Tk 8,000. From the next FY, they each would receive Tk 10,000 as allowance.

At present, around 2 lakh freedom fighters receive allowance from the government budget for which Tk 2,000 crore has been allocated in the current FY budget.

The official said if each freedom fighter was given Tk 8,000 as allowance, the allocation would cover the rising demand of money.

NBR looking

FROM PAGE 16
The government slapped the indirect tax on private universities, and medical and engineering colleges in the current year's budget.

The decision sparked outrage among students and guardians as they fear the burden will ultimately fall on the shoulders of over 4.5 lakh students.

On Saturday, the NBR in a press release said it is the private university authorities, not the students, who would pay the VAT.

"The VAT was included within the existing tuition fees. The responsibility of paying it is solely on the university authorities, never on the students," it said, without clarifying why the government made a fresh announcement of the VAT imposition if it's already included in the tuition fees.

There is no proper estimate of how much money the government will get by levying the 7.5 percent VAT. But some officials said the amount could be between Tk 40 crore and Tk 300 crore a year.

The tax administration gets nearly Tk 70 crore as indirect tax from English medium schools for the period.

NBR officials said it's usually the businesses and service providers who collect VAT from consumers. The private universities were exempted from it.

Currently, private universities, private medical, dental and engineering colleges have to pay tax at reduced rate of 15 percent on their incomes. While the highest income tax rate for companies and an individual is 35 percent and 30 percent.

Bangladeshi Hajj

FROM PAGE 16
Kanchongonj village in Chandanaish. The body was kept at Al Moaisim mortuary in Makkah.

Of the 40 Bangladeshis injured in the accident, only Nizam Uddin of Chandanaish was still undergoing treatment at a city hospital. The others had received primary treatment at different hospitals, it added.

Kasem was a contractor listed with the Local Government Engineering Department. He left Bangladesh on September 5 to perform Hajj, said Imran Saif, the victim's brother.

Kasem had been traceless following the accident. But around 4:00pm yesterday, a relative called from Makkah and informed the family about his death. The Hajj agency concerned too had confirmed it, Imran added.

Quoting two other Bangladeshi pilgrims, who witnessed the accident but luckily survived, the relative said Kasem died on the spot as something hit his head.

Imran said the Hajj agency had informed them that the victim would be buried in Makkah.

The crane collapse took place around two weeks before the annual Hajj. Officials say strong winds and heavy rains caused the crane to topple, according to BBC.

Office of the Project Director
Establishment of Fish Landing Centres in Haor Area
Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation
24-25, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

Corrigendum Notice

This is for information to all concerned that due to some unavoidable circumstances the following amendments have been made in the advertisement Request for Expression of Interest (EOI). EOI Ref No. 33.03.0000.112.05.005.15/14, Dated: 02/09/2015.

Sl. No.	Description	Original	Amended
4.	Procuring entity district	Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sunamganj	Dhaka
13.	a) EOI closing date & time	30/09/2015	30/09/2015, Time: On or before 12:00 noon.
	b) EOI opening date & time		Immediately after closing of EOI submission. Authorized persons of the competent organization may attend in opening of EOI.
	c) EOI submission place		Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres in Haor Area, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, 24-25, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

This corrigendum notice is a part of the EOI advertisement & all other terms and conditions of the EOI will remain unchanged.

Project Director
Establishment of Fish Landing Centres in Haor Area
Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation
24-25, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

GD-2981

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) Project
UCEP Cheyne Tower, 25, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

Corrigendum-1

Corrigendum for IFT No. FD/SEIP/Equipment/GD-17/151/2015-16/506, dated: 12-08-2015 is hereby carried out as follows:

Sl. No. of IFT	Original	Amended Provisions
17. Tender last selling date	14.09.2015	30.09.2015
18. Tender closing date & time	15.09.2015 (2.30pm)	01.10.2015 (2.30pm)
19. Tender opening date & time	15.09.2015 (2.45pm)	01.10.2015 (2.45pm)
22. Eligibility of tenderer	First Bullet: The tenderer shall not be from non-ADB eligible countries and Israel.	First Bullet: The tenderer should be from ADB-member countries as listed in Section 9 of the tender document.

Abdur Rouf Talukder
Executive Project Director
Skills for Employment Investment Program

GD-2983

Convert RU applied

FROM PAGE 4
APEE students launched the protest on Saturday opposing the academic committee's plan to open the EEE department, saying the two disciplines had the same curriculum.

Dr AHM Asadul Huq, chairman of the EEE department at DU, confirmed it to The Daily Star, saying when the issue of the curriculum overlap arose, "all our teachers agreed on the conversion and students were pleased as well".

Over 300 students formed a human chain at 11:00am in front of the university central library with the slogans "stop EEE" and "convert APEE into EEE".

Prof Abu Bakar Md Ismael, dean of the RU engineering faculty, said following the APEE department's demand, the faculty had sent a proposal to the university's academic council that was approved recently.

"Now it is the APEE department's duty to decide whether to convert to EEE or not," he said.

He termed the students' protest illogical.

RU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan said now the faculty, which took the decision first, and the APEE department must jointly decide whether they would launch a new discipline or convert it.

Families of migrants

FROM PAGE 3
better lives, living in brick houses and having access to everyday necessities, education and health, it said.

Apart from sending their children to educational institutions of a better quality, they also spent 35 percent more on private tutoring, it added.

They also had the habit of spending in social and religious rituals such as marriage, funeral and pilgrimages.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, urged the government to include rights issues of migrants in its policies and planning and check illegal migration.

She also urged the government and the civil society members to place forth at the GFMD difficulties Bangladeshi migrants face in receiving countries.

Solidarity Centre Country Director in Bangladesh Alanjo Susan, Senior Programme Officer of International Organisation for Migration Abdusattor Esov and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Regional Adviser for migration and development Shabarinath Nair also spoke.

DESCO Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)
House # 22/B, Faruque Sarani, Nikunja # 2, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh
Tel. No: +88 02 8900110-11, 8900820-23, Fax No. +88 02 8900100
E-mail: pit@desco.org.bd, Web: www.desco.org.bd

Invitation for Tender

1 Agency	Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)			
2 Procuring Entity Name	Procurement Division, DESCO			
3 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
4 Invitation for	Supply of DESCO's Annual Report with Envelope			
5 Tender No.	26/2015			
6 Invitation Ref No.	DESCO/Procurement/Local Tender/2015/784			
7 Date	08/09/2015			
KEY INFORMATION				
8 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (Single Stage Single Envelope)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9 Budget and Source of Funds	DESCO's own fund			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10 Tender Name	Supply of DESCO's Annual Report with Envelope			
11 Tender Selling Date, Closing & Opening Date and Time	Last Selling Date	Closing & Opening Date	Closing Time	Opening Time
	28/09/2015	29/09/2015	12:00 Noon	2:30 PM
12 Name & Address of the office for selling Tender Document, receiving & opening tender	Selling		Receiving & Opening	
	Office of Deputy General Manager (Accounts) DESCO, House # 22/B (6 th floor), Faruque Sarani, Nikunja#2, Dhaka-1229.		Office of the SE (P,I&T), DESCO, House # 22/B (1 st floor), Faruque Sarani, Nikunja#2, Dhaka-1229.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
13 Eligibility of Tenderer	Contractors/firms having valid trade license, TIN & VAT registration from concerned authority of Bangladesh. Detail described in tender document.			
14 Brief Description of Goods	The supplier shall supply DESCO's Annual Report with Envelope in accordance with Section 6: Schedule of Requirements and Section 7: Technical Specifications.			
15 Price of Tender Document	Tk.2,000/- (two thousand) only payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favor of 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)'.			
16 Tender Security Amount (Tk)	The amount of the Tender Security shall be: Tk.20,000 (twenty thousand) only in the form of Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/ Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited.			
17 Delivery Completion Period	45 (forty-five) days from the date of contract signing.			
18 Location of Delivery	Company Secretariat, Head Office (Nikunja-02), Dhaka.			
19 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.				

Engr. Md. Shofiqul Islam
SE (Procurement, Inspection & Testing)