

## 9 JU teachers resign from hall posts

As students want provost's resignation

JU CORRESPONDENT

Nine teachers jointly submitted a letter resigning from administrative posts at AFM Kamal Uddin Hall of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday just hours after some resident students handed over a memorandum demanding that the provost quit.

Confirming receiving the two, Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam said, "We have requested them to continue their duty until March 26."

The teachers are provost Prof M Nazibur Rahman, wardens AHM Sadat and Mohammad Khorshed Alam, residential teachers Fakhru Islam and Mizanur Rahman and assistant residential teachers Md Taz Uddin Shikder, Md Mozammel Hossain, Kazi Rassel Uddin and Subrata Banik.

In the letter, the teachers mentioned some violent incidents "perpetrated by some students" in the past and alleged that they had no scope to perform their duties with honour and security in this "abnormal" situation.

A procession was brought out around midnight on Monday "provoked by some influential students" from where the provost and teachers were impolitely criticised and threatened, it said.

In the memorandum, handed over around 11:00am, the students brought allegations of "mismanagement, irregularities and misbehaviour" against the provost.

They said the provost was taking in more students than the hall could accommodate, failed to ensure hygienic dining areas, did not cooperate in organising a reunion and was reluctant to solve problems regarding unclean toilets, damaged sports equipment and playground and absence of internet services.



Speed boats have become a regular transport for ferrying people across the Padma River, between Mawa and Kawrakandi. But like other vessels, these small boats are crowded as well, while the riders do not wear life vests. Accidents in the turbulent Padma happen frequently, yet neither the travellers nor authorities are careful enough to take precaution to protect lives. The photo was taken near Mawa end in Munshiganj yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Day labourer found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday morning recovered the body of a young day labourer from the roof of a tin-shed house in Mehediabagh area of Pallabi.

The deceased, Saidul Islam, 18, used to live at his aunt Parveen Akhter's rented house, from where the body was recovered, and worked in a furniture shop.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy and later was taken to his village home at Chirir Bandar in Dinajpur district.

Dadan Fakir, officer-in-charge (OC) of Pallabi police, told The Daily Star that an unnatural death case has been filed.

The OC suspected that when Saidul returned home at night and found the gate closed, he tried to enter by scaling the tin-roof and came in contact with an electric wire and was electrocuted.

During autopsy it was found that there were marks of electric shocks on his feet and left hand, said morgue sources.

## New architecture to repaint Suhrawardy Udyan

HELEMUL ALAM

The government has drawn up a plan to give an architectural makeover to Suhrawardy Udyan and freeze the memories of Bangabandhu's March 7 speech and the Pakistani army's surrender in 1971 on the historic ground.

The new design will connect Suhrawardy with Shishu Park and add facilities like walkways, food shops, and parking space to make the area more accessible and visitor friendly.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain announced the plan at a recent programme.

He said a monument would be built on the place where Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had given the speech, and the scene of the Pakistani forces signing the instrument of surrender would be crafted into statues.

This is part of the government's massive plan to build the Sonarbangla

Sanskritik Boley, an area that will enclose historically and culturally significant places around Suhrawardy Udyan and Ramna Park in Dhaka city.

The place where Bangabandhu had delivered the speech falls in Shishu Park, said Md Asifur Rahman Bhuiyan, assistant chief architect, Department of Architecture.

He said a walkway would be paved through Shishu Park to Swadhinata Stambha (glass tower) at Suhrawardy Udyan. Anyone will be able to see the tower and Shikha Anirban (eternal flames) from the park's gate at Shahbagh, he added.

The walkway will divide the park and have lakes on two sides, but an underpass will be built across the walkway so that visitors could easily move between the two parts of the park.

Asifur Rahman said a visitor would be able to enjoy the historic places while strolling down the walkway.

Suhrawardy Udyan has already had several structures like the 150 feet glass tower, Shikha Anirban, an underground museum, amphitheatre, mural, and reflecting pool.

The official said a parking lot would be built under Shishu Park with the capacity of 500 cars, and visitors would be able to move seamlessly between places like Bangla Academy and TSC through walkways, underpasses, or overpasses.

Asifur said the Shahbagh police box would be relocated, and 50 flower shops would be built decoratively in the place of the existing flower market.

There will also be food shops and toilets, he added.

Kazi Golam Nasir, chief architect of the Department of Architecture, said they were working to estimate the project cost and would submit a plan to the ministry concerned.

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## Yet another body formed to probe cargo sinking in Shela

UNB, Khulna

The Forest Department yesterday formed another committee to investigate the reason behind the sinking of a coal-laden cargo vessel in the Shela River at Harintana point of the Sundarbans in Mongla upazila.

The seven-member committee, headed by Wildlife & Nature Conservation Division Divisional Forest Officer Md Jahidul Kabir, has been asked to submit its report within the next three working days. Earlier, two probe bodies were formed.

"MV Sea Horse-1", carrying 1,235 tonnes of coal, capsized in the Shela River on March 19.

## More fish production must for rural dev

Experts tell training workshop

BSS, Rangpur

Enhanced fish production through ensuring proper utilisation of the water bodies as well as latest technologies, involving fishermen, could cut poverty in attaining food security and improving rural economy.

Fisheries experts expressed the opinion at a concluding ceremony of a two-day training course organised by the Department of Fisheries (DoF) for the fish farmers and fishermen in Badarganj upazila auditorium on Monday afternoon.

The DoF arranged the training under the "Expansion of Aquaculture Technology Services Up to Union Level Project" to disseminate the latest aquaculture technologies on fish farming among the grassroots level fishermen and fish farmers.

Fish farmers and fishermen from 10 unions under the upazila participated in the training.

The experts laid maximum emphasis on proper utilisation of water bodies, canals, haors and flood plains and bringing those under fish cultivation, ensuring the best use of all existing natural resources to make the country self-sufficient in fish production.

Md Rakib Uddin Biswas, divisional deputy director of DoF, Rabiul Alam Parvez, senior upazila fisheries officer for Badarganj upazila, and Dr Zillur Rahman, district fisheries officer, addressed the event.

## 4 'militants' arrested in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday claimed to have arrested four men in the capital's Kalyanpur on Monday night, alleging they were members of a militant group having books on extremism in their possession and preparing to conduct some killings.

Abdur Razzak Umayer, Faysal Ahmed, Ahmed Fazle Akbar and Abu Muhammad Zakaria met at Kalyanpur Bus Stand, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam.

A case was filed under Anti-Terrorism Act and police had submitted a remand prayed, he told a press conference at DMP Media Centre.



A batch of 20 train coaches made in India arrived at Darshana of Chuadanga yesterday. It is the first consignment and more are expected to arrive.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## Thirsty Sylhet city keeps

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If there is any complexity in production, the department will take full responsibility of solving the problem, he added.

As an expanding city, Sylhet demands a huge amount of water but a lot of areas are without supply lines, said Ali Akbar. Residents used to set up deep tube wells to extract underground water without authorisation, and they were cautioned against the practice last month, he added.

Meanwhile, the residents alleged that the corporation was not concentrating on the situation, even areas with water connections were not getting water properly, and still the authority was sending them bills.

"Water provided by the corporation is not regular; it's not even fresh enough," alleged Maksud Hossen Chowdhury, a resident of Housing Estate in the city.

SCC, on the other hand, claimed that the residents were not paying bills accordingly; hence it was losing expected revenues that could have been used to face the scarcity, said Ali Akbar.

According to the civic body, it spends Tk 50 lakh every month on water supply, while they earn only Tk 10-12 lakh.

Faruk Mahmud Chowdhury, president of civil society organisation SHUJAN's Sylhet chapter, said for years authorities had

assured them of solving the crisis, but to no avail.

As part of urbanisation, the very first water treatment plant was established in 1918 at Topkhana, which still supplies water to greater Bandarbarazar, Sheikh Chat and Kazir Bazar areas. But residents alleged that the plant was no longer capable of supplying fresh water.

"Water from the Topkhana plant is unhygienic and murky. I have asked the corporation to solve the matter, but they did not take any action," alleged painter Satyazit Chakrabarty, a resident of Bandarbarazar.

SCC said they were planning to modernise that water treatment plant, which would provide 1 crore litres of water after renovation.

Currently, the Topkhana surface water treatment plant and 33 production tube wells supply water to the residents. Except for the Kushighat plant, three more production tube wells are under construction and another plant is being planned near Salutikor, SCC informed.

"We are trying our best to provide safe water to all within a couple of years. Several projects are under planning to solve the fresh water crisis," said Enamul Habib, chief executive officer of SCC.

## Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Both the kidneys of Mawla n a M a h m u d H a s a n, 52, f o r m e r councillor of ward no-2 in Lalmonirhat municipality, have almost been damaged.

Doctors at Rangpur Medical College Hospital suggested him kidney transplant for which Tk 15 lakh is needed. Mahmud, a father of two sons and two daughters, have already spent around Tk 8 lakh for his treatment at home and abroad.

As the family alone cannot afford the treatment, they seek financial help from the well-off of the society.

Aid can be sent to account no-0200005785557, Agrani Bank, Mission Mor Branch, Lalmonirhat town; contact cellphone numbers-01716477987 and



## Dhaka slum

FROM PAGE 3 marking the World Water Day.

Quazi Rosy, MP, Project Manager of NGO Forum for Public Health M Nurun Nabi, World Bank Senior Consultant Abdul Motaleb, WSUP Country Programme Manager Abdus Shaheen and local leaders Quazi Zahirul Islam and Rashida Akhter addressed the rally.

Quazi Rosy said a holistic approach to using safe water is a prerequisite to addressing the scarcity of safe water.

She urged the Wasa authorities for giving more focus on ensuring water supply in the slum areas.

Referring to this year's theme on the World Water Day "Water and Jobs", the speakers pointed out that almost half of all workers -- 1.5 billion people -- work in the water-related sectors, and nearly all the jobs depend on the availability of freshwater.

## Water management must

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While analysing the integral nexus between people's lives and water, President of Bangladesh Water Partnership Dr K Azharul Haq said, "25 ministries and 35 departments of the government are dealing with water issues", adding that some 1.5 billion people of the world were working in sectors relating to water.

Water Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan said employment, lives and livelihoods would be sustainable if water was adequately available.

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation in association with Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK), WaterAid and World Vision organised a discussion and a drawing competition at the capital's IPH School and College to observe the day.

DNCC Mayor Anisul Huq distributed prizes among the participants in the competition.

In addition, Distressed Children and

Infants International (DCII), and Rights and Sight for Children (RSC) jointly held a number of events at the capital's Kalyanpur Porabari Slum on the day.

Starting with a colourful rally opened by Dr Nina Hoque, the DCII director, the programme included a seminar and provision of medical services to slum dwellers.

The seminar was attended by Dr Tasnim Mirza of the DCII Health Clinic and Nowroz Jahan, associate professor of National Institute of Kidney Diseases & Urology.

Another seminar styled "Recognising Works in Water" was held at the capital's Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) auditorium in observance of the day yesterday.

The DPHE, Dhaka Water And Sewerage Authority, World Bank, and Unicef in association with some other organisations organised the seminar presided over by Md Wali Ullah, chief engineer at the DPHE.

## HC upholds BTRC's decision

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issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain as to why it should not be declared illegal, he added. The HC yesterday lifted its stay order.

Yesterday, the same bench rejected another writ petition filed by ETV, challenging a BTRC's action of suspending ETV's terrestrial frequency for failing to pay the rent arrears of the frequency.



Bangladesh College-Biswabidyalay Shikkhak Samity forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding salaries through the implementation of the 8th national pay scale.

PHOTO: STAR