

## Ruet students on strike over credit system

Boycott classes, exams for indefinite period

A CORRESPONDENT, RU

A section of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) students went on an indefinite strike yesterday demanding cancellation of the "33 credit system".

The announcement came at a demonstration programme where around 150 students of 2014-15 and 2015-16 sessions staged a sit-in in front of the Shaheed Minar from 8:00am to 3:00pm. They also boycotted all the classes and examinations yesterday.

They also submitted a memorandum to the university vice-chancellor.

Earlier on August 2015, demanding cancellation of the system, students besieged the vice-chancellor's office and organised a demonstration programme.

According to the university sources, a student has to achieve minimum 33 credits out of 40 according to the "33 credit system". If the student fails to do so, he or she will not be allowed to move up to next session and has to retake the whole year.

Whereas previously, students were allowed to attend classes and examinations of the next session even if they get less than 33 credits. They could obtain the credits by taking examinations later. But the Ruet authorities cancelled the system in 2013-14 academic year.

According to the university sources each course represents three to five credits.

Ruet Vice-Chancellor Prof Rafiqul Alam Beg said, "The credit system was introduced in 2013 for the students' own good. Demanding withdrawal of the system is illogical."

The students had not consulted with him about the matter before the demonstration, said the VC, adding, "Decision regarding the issue will be made after a meeting of the academic council."



Chief Justice SK Sinha, centre, at a programme on "Meeting with panel lawyers of Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee and unveiling covers of publications" in the Supreme Court's auditorium in the capital yesterday, jointly organised by Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee and Manshuer Jonno Foundation (MJF). From left, National Legal Aid Services Organization Director (in-charge) Mostafizur Rahman, Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee Chairman Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Supreme Court Bar Association's President Yusuf Hossain Humayun and MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam were present.

PHOTO: STAR

# Pro-ruling party lawyers appointed prosecutors

## Chief Justice SK Sinha tells programme expressing unhappiness over legal aid lawyers' performance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers loyal to the ruling government are now being appointed as assistant public prosecutors (APP) in every district instead of the prominent ones, observed Chief Justice SK Sinha yesterday.

"Earlier, in every district, famous and renowned lawyers used to be appointed as APP in criminal cases. This post was dignified. The system continued for a long time. But it's not being implemented now-a-days," he said.

"Now [appointment of] APP means a panel list made by the ruling party, whoever in power, none from outside is appointed. Earlier, four to five prominent lawyers were in such panels. I'm not criticising eminent lawyers. This is an ethical question. We are losing tradition. If we can maintain this tradition, those who are not getting proper judgment will get served in a better way," the CJ added.

He made the remarks while addressing as the chief guest at a programme on "Meeting with panel lawyers of Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee

and unveiling covers of publications," in the Supreme Court's auditorium in the capital, jointly organised by Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee and Manshuer Jonno Foundation (MJF).

For providing legal aid services, now panel lawyers are being appointed, the CJ said. "How much are these lawyers giving services, it is also a question," he observed.

"When prominent lawyers defend against these panel lawyers in the concerned cases, there's no balance indeed," Sinha said.

"I'm not saying this to hurt anybody. Prominent and experienced lawyers defend one side while someone not famous or inexperienced ones defend the other, which is not balanced. The government funded money is being spent but the deprived people are not getting due justice. This has made me worried," he added.

The CJ stressed training for the panel lawyers and sought everybody concerned in the legal aid services to work properly to ensure justice for the hapless. He also announced to create a

fund to appoint the prominent lawyers who can defend the deprived.

Sinha urged the media to work in this regard to make people aware of the legal aid services. Mentioning his recent bitter experiences at Juvenile Correction Centre in Gazipur, he said the law enforcement agencies are violating norms in some cases.

Earlier, Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee Chairman Justice M Enayetur Rahim said legal aid services should be available to all, even for those who are not entitled to pay income taxes.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam also echoed him and said her organisation is working to ensure rights of the underprivileged people.

But the CJ disagreed and said the legal aid services should not be open to all because many people have crores of money but do not pay income taxes.

SC Bar Association's President Yusuf Hossain Humayun and National Legal Aid Services Organization Director (in-charge) Mostafizur Rahman also spoke.

## Teenage rivalry turns deadly

### Schoolboys kill fellow from another institution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Four teenagers, including two schoolboys, hacked a tenth-grader to death while injured three others over previous rivalry at a field in Barisal city yesterday, said police.

A student of Sahid Abdur Rab Serniabat Secondary School, Saydur Rahman Hridoy Gazi, 16, son of Md Ziaur Rahman Sahin of Chinguria village of Pirojpur, was declared dead at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Injured Golam Sajid Rafi escaped from the hospital after 2:00pm, said police.

Other two injured only needed first-aid. Police arrested Sayed and Sahin, students of Govt Technical School and College, and its former students Miraj and Sakib.

According to police, Hridoy and his associates, armed with sticks and rods, clashed with Sayed and his 10 friends, who were already carrying knives and machetes, as the latter group entered the Poreh Sagar field.

The two groups had been fighting for long over various issues to establish supremacy.

Additional Police Commissioner Abul Kalam Azad said Sayed confessed to the involvement of his own and his friends in the killing.

Six months ago, they had a fight over using the field adjacent to both of their schools.



Hridoy

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## Rohingya woman gives confessional statement

### In human trafficking case against lawyer that prompted vandalism in Ctg court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Rohingya woman who was allegedly being helped by lawyer Jamal Hossain and his wife Yasmin Akhter to go to Saudi Arabia with fake Umrah visas gave her confessional statement on Friday mentioning the lawyer had received her in Chittagong and took her to Shah Amanat Airport to put on a flight.

Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Nazmul Hossain Chowdhury recorded her statement, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (prosecution) Nirmalendu Bikash Chakraborty.

On January 18, a group of lawyers vandalised a Chittagong court after it rejected the couple's bail petition in a human trafficking case, filed by special branch of police with Patenga Police Station.

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Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb, Prithwi Raj and Ritu Raj perform at Star Melodies' unplugged musical soiree, held at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The programme also featured artistes Rumana Islam and Anupoma Mukti, who sang Bangla songs of the yesteryears.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Pakistan expects to host Saarc summit soon

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan has expressed its expectation that the 19th Saarc summit would be held in Islamabad soon.

The summit, which was scheduled for November 9-10, 2016, was postponed as a number of Saarc members -- Bangladesh, India, Bhutan and Afghanistan -- conveyed their inability to attend the summit amid terror attacks in Kashmir that killed Indian troops. India blamed Pakistan for the attack.

Adviser to Pakistan Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz talked to the outgoing secretary general of Saarc Arjun Bahadur Thapa in Islamabad on the issue on Friday.

"Pakistan remains committed to hosting the 19th Saarc Summit at Islamabad at the earliest so that the objectives of regional cooperation under the Saarc umbrella can be pursued more vigorously," Aziz was quoted by Indian and Pakistan media as saying.

Thapa laid emphasis on the need to overcome the difficulties that the Saarc faced.

## CU to launch five new disciplines

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University (CU) authorities have decided to launch five new departments from upcoming academic session 2017-2018.

They are: Insurance & Rich Management under business administration faculty; development studies, and police & criminology management departments under social science faculty; material science, and information & communication technology departments under engineering faculty.

The authorities also decided to transform physics department into electrical and electronics engineering (EEE), informed CU Registrar (acting) Prof Kamrul Huda quoting an academic meeting held on January 23.

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