

# JU dorms reopen Thursday

Case not withdrawn; protest on

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) have decided to reopen all the dormitories on Thursday. They will also provide Tk 5 lakh each as compensation to the families of the two JU students who died in a road crash on May 27.

The decisions were made at an emergency syndicate meeting yesterday with JU Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam in the chair, said Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique.

But the authorities are yet to take any decision regarding withdrawal of the case against 42 students, who protested the deaths of two fellows.

They will consider the students' demand for withdrawal of the case and take necessary steps after consulting with the university's legal advisers, said the registrar.

Police will be deployed in front of the VC's office, halls and other key places on the campus to ensure safety, he added.

A section of the students have been demanding withdrawal of the case, opening of the dormitories, formation of a fair probe body to investigate what happened on the campus following the deaths of two students, compensation for the victims' families, placing speed breakers and enforcing speed

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

# KABI NAZRUL UNIVERSITY BCL leaders 'give death threats to teachers'

CITY DESK

Three Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) were expelled from the organisation for allegedly giving death threats to their two teachers.

A press release, signed by BCL central committee president and secretary Saifur Rahman Sohagh and SM Zakir Hossain, issued on Friday said BCL central committee member and Bangla student Mahfuz Razzaq Anik, JKKNIU unit's vice-president and economics student Noore Rabbi Murad and its joint-secretary and accounting student Md Nayan Mondol were expelled for breaking organisation's discipline.

Earlier, an emergency meeting of provost council of the university on Thursday noon decided to cancel their hall seats, said Proctor Dr Jahidul Kabir.

A recommendation was also sent to the university administration

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



Sammilita Sangskritik Jote organises a sit-in at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday with a call for upholding the spirit of the Liberation War by standing against the communal forces.

PHOTO: STAR

# Govt wants Hefajat as political force

Sit-in of cultural activists told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is trying to establish Hefajat-e-Islam as a political force, alleged eminent theatre personality Ramendu Mazumder yesterday.

"If they [Hefajat] are given patronisation... if these people who are using religious cards are not resisted, we will dig our own graves," he said, adding that cultural activists would not accept any political compromise with the fanatics.

He said this at a sit-in programme at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital. Sammilita Sangskritik Jote organised the two-hour programme with its President Golam Kuddus in the chair, with a call for upholding the spirit of Liberation War by standing against communal forces.

The cultural platform organised the programme at a time when the country went through some changes -- dropping the writings of some progressive writers from the textbooks of primary and secondary levels allegedly following the demands of Hefajat and Bangladesh Awami Olema League, recognising Dawra degree of Qawmi madrasa as equivalent to master's degree, and removing the statue of Lady Justice from in front of the main building of the Supreme Court amid pressure from the same groups.

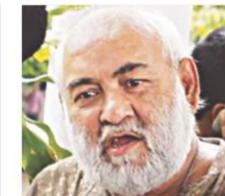
Nasiruddin Yousuff, former president of the Jote, urged all cultural activists to be united against the communal forces.

Cultural activists also castigated the gov-

ernment alleging that it was bowing down to force like Hefajat and urged all non-communal forces to be united to build Bangladesh in line with the spirit of the Liberation War.

Noted theatre personality Mamunur Rashid, Jote's General Secretary Hasan Arif, artiste of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra Ashrafal Alam, Prof Muhammad Samad, and Mannan Hira, among others, spoke. They also protested the attacks on indigenous people in Rangamati's Longodu on Friday.

Hasan Arif said they will hold National Cultural Convention on July 22 in Dhaka to finalise next course of action. Before the national convention, they will hold divisional representative conferences.



# Freedom fighter's family appeals to prime minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighter Syed Shahidul Haque Mama is fighting for his life at a Qatar hospital following a massive cardiac arrest while flying to Sweden from Bangladesh on a Qatar Airlines flight on April 28.

His relatives in Bangladesh quoting doctors and family members attending him in Qatar said that doctors had recently shifted him from intensive care unit to coronary care unit.

However, he is not out of danger yet, said his relative Harun-O-R-Rashid Zamadder. Shahidul was under life support for several days at the initial stage, he added.

In such condition, the family urged the prime minister's intervention to bear his medical expenses. An application was sent to the Prime Minister's Office on May 22 in this regard.

"It will be helpful if the government arranges an air ambulance to carry him from Qatar to Sweden, where Shahidul lives with his family," Harun told The Daily Star yesterday over the telephone.

After the cardiac arrest, the plane immediately landed in Doha and the airline authorities rushed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

# WB okays \$100m to help create 90,000 jobs

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank has approved \$100 million financing to help Bangladesh diversify its exports in labour and skill intensive industries beyond the garment sector and create more and better jobs.

"Bangladesh is the world's second largest garment exporter after China and it can boost growth by diversifying its exports, and repeat the garment sector success story in other sectors," said Qimiao Fan, World Bank country director for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

The Export Competitiveness for Jobs Project will improve competitiveness of the existing and potential export-oriented industries such as leather, footwear, plastics and light engineering, where Bangladesh has demonstrated a competitive edge.

The project will help create more than 90,000 jobs in non-readymade garment (RMG) export sectors.

"The project will help the economy to integrate further into the world trading system, and provide better jobs to Bangladeshi youths entering the labour market in the next decade, with a particular

focus on improving female labour participation," said the WB official.

The approval of \$100 million financing came on June 1, according to a message received from the Washington.

The project will help firms access international markets and enhance their ability to comply with international standards through awareness building and matching grants.

It will also support marketing and branding efforts to strengthen linkages to the existing and new markets. It will also address the shortage of skills development, especially in industrial training for women, as well as in infrastructure and technology.

"The project will enhance growth and competitiveness of selected sectors that have a demonstrated comparative advantage or that provide essential inputs in export-oriented manufacturing value chains," said Michael Olavi Engman, World Bank team leader for the Export Competitiveness for Jobs Project.

"The project will encourage training to improve skills and labour productivity, and thus help generate better-paid jobs. The average wage growth for firms benefitting from

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

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