

QUOTA REFORM MOVEMENT Protests resume on DU campus

Proctor asks BCL not to act as 'authority'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Quota reformists once again took to the streets on Dhaka University campus yesterday, two weeks after Chhatra League activists swooped on a procession of teachers and students demanding release of detained quota reform movement leaders on July 15.

Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, the platform that spearheaded the movement, demonstrated to press home their three-point demand including immediate release of their activists from jail.

Their other demands include punishment of the attackers of teachers and students on campuses of different educational institutions, and reform of the quota system in the civil service in line with their earlier five-point demand.

The students' platform also backtracked from their earlier call for boycotting classes.

Around 400 students, under the platform, brought out a procession from the Central Library premises at 11am.

They also observed one minute of silence in honour of two students who were run over by a bus on Sunday.

After the procession, the group held a brief rally at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture.

Speaking at the rally, Nurul Haque Nur, a joint convener of the platform who was injured in an attack carried out by BCL men at DU on June 30, said, "We will continue our peaceful demonstrations until the gazette notification

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PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of students took to the streets at different points of Dhaka yesterday, enraged by the death of two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College after being hit by a bus on Sunday. Clockwise from left, students of Notre Dame College blockade the Shapla Chattar intersection in Motijheel; a demonstrator is roughed up and detained by law enforcers in front of Science Laboratory on Mirpur Road; and a student holds a placard, seeking justice 'for the killing of my brother and sister', also on Mirpur Road.



CATTLE SALES FOR EID-UL AZHA

Six DSCC markets draw zero bids

Politically-influential syndicate controlling tender process

HELEMUL ALAM

Syndicates of ruling party leaders and activists are controlling the tender process of makeshift cattle markets of both the city corporations of Dhaka for Eid-ul-Azha, putting the two city corporations in loss.

Of the 13 makeshift cattle markets in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), six failed to get a single offer in three biddings.

Sources at DSCC said the syndicate is forcing general bidders to keep out from bidding, and they are also not taking part to run the cattle markets without any bids in the name of 'khas collection'.

If there are no bids for a cattle market in three bid calls, the respective city corporation operates the market under the provision of khas collection.

Last year, DSCC earned Tk 5.31 crore from nine makeshift cattle

markets awarded through tenders, and made Tk 2.55 crore from five markets run as khas.

Sources at DSCC said though on paper a committee was in charge to run the cattle markets, but in reality, ruling Awami League men controlled the markets as DSCC had no capacity to operate those.

DSCC's third tender for seven cattle markets, which did not receive bids in the last two calls, was opened yesterday.

Only two offers were received for the Meradia Bazar cattle market, but the other six received no offers.

Among the offers of Meradia, both are local Awami League leaders. Haji Shah Alam, president of ward-3 Awami League, submitted the highest bid of Tk 68.30 lakh. He claimed that last year they faced Tk 36 lakh in loss, and that is why others did not show interest in the bid.

Last year, Shah Alam won the bid at a price of Tk 81.24 lakh.

The other makeshift cattle markets, which did not receive any offer in the last three consecutive biddings, are at Brothers Union play ground, eastern side of Kamalapur Stadium, Armanitola playground, Dhupkhola East End Club playground, Donia College field, Dholaiakhal Truck Terminal and Sadeque Hossain Khoka playground.

Aside from those, DSCC received around Tk 2.65 crore in offers for the six other cattle markets in earlier biddings this year, now awaiting final approval, sources said.

DSCC Chief Estate Officer Abdul Malek said the decision about the markets that drew bids will be taken through a tender evaluation committee.

Nearly all of the highest bidders for these markets are ruling party men.

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'Before you gun me down, I'll slap you twice'

Dr Kamal tells those opposing quota reform activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist and Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday expressed his support for the quota reform movement, and criticised those who insult activists of the movement.

"Who are the ones in the quota [reform] movement today? They are not sons of Razakars; they are the sons of the soil. Those, insulting the demonstrators, come stand before me. Before you gun me down, I'll slap you twice," he said.

Dr Kamal made the remarks at a discussion titled "National unity to establish voting rights, democracy and rule of law through eradicating corruption and plundering of banks and stealing of coal" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The discussion was organised by Jatiya Oikya Prokria, a political platform, of which Dr Kamal is the convener.

Referring to the quota reform activists, the eminent jurist said, "These youths are demonstrating for a just cause. They have the right to demand reformation of the quota [system]. This is their basic right that was earned through the martyrdom of thousands of people during the Liberation War in 1971."

"No individual owns the country. The people are the owners of the country and they should be respected. The president, the prime minister -- everyone should show respect to the people."

"Weren't the students at the forefront of the Liberation War? Weren't they youths? ... Today's students are their successors. Are they making the demand for [their] own personal gains? Are they demanding a share of loots? Their demand is reformation of the quota [system]," Dr Kamal said.

Submit report on sexual abuse of migrant workers: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government and authorities concerned to submit a detailed report in one month about the number of Bangladeshi workers, including females, who were sexually abused so far in foreign countries including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The report will also need to mention the number of such Bangladeshi workers who returned home voluntarily with the assistance of the government.

Moreover, the total number of Bangladeshis sent abroad as workers has to be included in the report.

The HC asked the following respondents to the submit the report: secretaries to the ministries of expatriates' welfare and overseas employment and foreign affairs; director general of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET); chairman of Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB); and president and secretary of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira).

Also, in a rule, the HC asked the respondents to explain in two weeks why their failure and inaction to ensure due safety, emigration, repatriation, rehabilitation, compensation and integration of the female workers who are victims of harassment, physical and mental torture and sexual abuse in Saudi Arabia and other countries should not be declared illegal.

In the rule, the court also asked the respondents to show causes as to why appropriate legal action should not be taken against the recruiting agencies and the people who were responsible to send the

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Advance bus ticket sales for Eid to begin Aug 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private bus operators will start selling advance tickets from August 5 for home-goers ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha, which is expected to be celebrated on August 22.

The decision was taken at a meeting of top officials of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association, its chairman Faruk Talukdar Soheli told The Daily Star last night.

The sale of tickets will start from the morning of August 5 and will continue until the tickets are sold out, he said, adding that tickets of any date will be available from the first day of sale.

Earlier, on July 26, Bangladesh Railway announced to begin sale of advance train tickets from August 8 so the holidaymakers can collect their tickets well ahead of Eid.



Workers in presence of police demolish structures inside the compound of the building in Banani yesterday. The property was handed over to the heirs of Bangladesh's first education minister Prof Mohammad Yusuf Ali.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Banani house freed from Moosa Bin Shamsher's possession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After two decades of legal battle, the house of Bangladesh's first education minister was handed over to his heirs yesterday, removing possessions of controversial business tycoon Moosa Bin Shamsher from it, following an order from a Dhaka court.

"We had been fighting a prolonged legal battle since 1999 against Moosa to get back the possession of our house," said Ayub Ali, eldest son of the late minister, Prof Mohammad Yusuf Ali.

Yusuf Ali built a two-storied house on plot 57 on road 1 in block-I of Banani. The then Dhaka Improvement Trust had allotted the plot to him, said Ayub. The house was rented out to Moosa in October of 1996 for three years. "My father died in December, 1998 and we declined to renew the rental contract any further, as we wanted to stay there," he said. "But Moosa did not vacate the house and resorted to some five cases, one after another. He lost all of them," he said.

Finally, Yusuf Ali's heirs filed an case seeking Moosa's eviction. Based on the prayer, a joint district judge court in Dhaka delivered its verdict in favour of Yusuf Ali's heirs on July 25, Ayub said.

Moosa used to run an office in the building and lives with his family in a palatial house in Gulshan, he said.

None of Moosa's family members was available at the time of the eviction drive. One of those, who were taking the belongings out of the house, said they were moving out as the court has ordered the eviction. He however declined to disclose his identity to The Daily Star.

Form committee to survey vehicle fitness

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to constitute a national independent inquiry committee, including at least 15 experts, to conduct a survey on the fitness of public motor vehicles in order to avoid road accidents across the country.

The secretaries to the ministries of transport and bridges, and home affairs and the chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) have been asked to form the committee immediately and to submit the survey report to the HC within three months.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of

the government to explain why they should not be directed to stop plying of the unfit vehicles. The HC also ordered the authorities to show causes why their failure to stop that should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal passed the order following a writ petition filed by Advocate Tanvir Ahmed, a Supreme Court lawyer.

In the petition, Advocate Tanvir said many vehicles do not have adequate looking glasses, brake or signal lights, and many are unfit to ply roads, for which accidents are taking place and people are losing their lives.

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Cut economic ties with Myanmar

NHRC chief urges int'l community

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque yesterday stressed the need for imposing sanction on Myanmar by the international community to resolve the ongoing Rohingya crisis.

He said the international community should put more pressure on Myanmar for repatriation of the forcible displaced minorities.

Speaking before high government and UN officials, rights activists, civil society representatives and others, he also called for a comprehensive investigation into Myanmar's abuses against its Rohingya population.

He said the international community should impose sanction and cut economic ties with Myanmar for its "widespread,

systematic and shockingly brutal" attacks on the Rohingya, as well as decades of discrimination and persecution.

NHRC organised the views-exchange programme, "Rohingya influx and its impact on locality: Role of stakeholders for durable solution" at a hotel in Dhaka.

He said the International Criminal Court should be provided with all sort of assistance so that they can hold the perpetrators responsible through inquiries.

Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque said Bangladesh is engaged in "multi-pronged diplomatic" efforts to resolve the crisis and the deal signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh clearly calls for a safe, sustainable and voluntary return of Rohingyas to their homeland.

He said a Bangladesh delegation led by Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali will visit

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Prof AK Azad Khan receives 'Gyanalok Puraskar 2017'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agrashar Bikrampur Foundation, a socio-cultural organisation, yesterday honoured eminent physician Prof AK Azad Khan with "Gyanalok Puraskar 2017" for his outstanding contribution to the country's medical and health sector.

National Professor Anisuzzaman handed over the award at a ceremony organised by the foundation at national museum in Dhaka yesterday evening.

Prof Azad, president of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, turned health services into a social movement and set an example of providing the services free of cost, said the foundation.

The Swadhinata Padak recipient doctor established several health institutions and associations to extend the health services, it said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Anisuzzaman said, "Through his work, Prof Azad will remain among us forever."

Attorney General Mahbub Alam said Prof Azad's contribution to Bangladesh's health sector is very significant. "It is our responsibility to honour such personalities who continue to work in the backstage," he added.

Expressing gratitude and elation, Prof Azad said health service itself is a social movement as serving the people should be the motto of all doctors.

The foundation's President Nooh-Ul-Alam Lenin, vice presidents Dr Rashid-E-Mahbub and Laila Hasan, and General Secretary Nazrul Islam also spoke at the event.

Agrashar Bikrampur Foundation has been conferring the award since 2015.