



PUST students block Dhaka-Pabna highway in front of the campus yesterday demanding punishment of a culprit who harassed a female student of the university on Friday.



PHOTO: STAR

# Punish molester of PUST student

Protesters block Dhaka-Pabna highway to press for the demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Students of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) blocked Dhaka-Pabna highway in front of the campus yesterday demanding exemplary punishment of an alleged stalker who harassed a female student of the university on Friday.

Following a case filed by the university administration, police arrested accused Asif Iqbal Chinmoy, 28, son of Amirul Islam of Radhanagar area in the town, on Friday night, said Sadar Police Station OC Md Obaidul Haque.

Asif used to stalk the victim who stays at 'Jhorna Mess' in the area. Asif is the nephew of the mess owner, said Dr Pretom Kumar, proctor of the university, quoting the victim.

On Friday evening, Asif entered the mess and confined the female student to a room and molested her.

Hearing screams, other boarders of the women's mess rushed to the spot, rescued the girl and informed the university administration about the incident.

Many female students live at messes as Sheikh Hasina Hall, the lone female stu-

dents' dormitory at the university, does not have adequate seats, said the students.

As the news of harassment spread, fellow students blocked the highway for about two hours from 11:00am yesterday, causing tailbacks with several hundred vehicles stranded on both sides of the road.

They withdrew the blockade following an assurance by the administration of taking strict action against the culprit.

Harassment of female students by local spoiled youths is a regular incident, but the university administration failed to take action against the cul-

prits, said the aggrieved students.

"We have no security in the mess. We are too scared to protest harrassment," said a female student seeking anonymity.

The proctor said over 1800 female students study at the university, but the female dormitory can accomodate only 250.

"Although we have little to do outside the campus, we always visit the messes and inquire about the students. A 10-storey female dormitory will be constructed soon and then the problem will be resolved," the proctor said.

# 2 sand workers die of toxic gas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Two labourers died after inhaling toxic gas inside a pipe used for lifting sand illegally from the Nagar river at Dakkhin Chatra village in Shibganj upazila on Friday.

The deceased were Khairul Islam, 27, son of Md Golam Mostafa, and Mosharraf Hossain, 19, son of Amzad Hossain of Joypurhat's Khetlal upazila.

Farmer Nasir Uddin of the village gave work order to owner of a sand lifting machine Nazrul Khandaker and asked him to lift sand from the river for building his house.

Nazrul along with four sand workers dug a 15-foot deep hole in the river and set a pipe that got stuck. Mosharraf went to recover the pipe and became sick after inhaling toxic gas.

Khairul went to rescue Mosharraf and became ill too. They later died on way to a hospital.

A case was filed, accusing Nazrul and Nasir for their negligence during work, said Shibganj police.

# Math Olympiad held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A Math Olympiad competition, arranged by district unit of Prothom Alo Bandhusava, a readers' platform of leading Bangla daily Prothom Alo, was held at the auditorium of Manikganj Government Devendra College yesterday.

As many as 320 students of the district took part in the competition in four categories -- 102 in Class III to Class V category, 72 in Class VI to Class VIII, 76 in Class IX to Class X and 70 in the intermediate class category, said Mahbub Alam Rasel, president of the forum.

"A total of 105 students will get chance to participate in the next divisional competition. There were seven questions with one mark for each correct answer, and the questions were made in creative system," said said Rakesh Raihan, academic team member of the Math Olympiad.

# Over half of HSTU teachers to boycott admission test today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A faction of teachers of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinaipur has decided to boycott this year's admission test scheduled to begin today (Sunday), protesting various administrative irregularities.

About 120 teachers of the university out of 220 under Progressive Teachers Forum, a pro-Awami League body at HSTU, will boycott the admission test for students' enrolment this year.

Due to the teachers' agitation the admission test, previously schedule for December 10, was deferred for 40 days, forcing the university authorities to hurriedly announce the annual winter vacation on December 2 while students were asked to vacate their dormitories with immediate effect.

After a month-long vacation the university opened on January 3.

Although admission test of 42 public universities in the country out of 43 have already been held, it could not be completed at HSTU due to the teachers' agitation.

Moreover, orientations of newly enrolled students at other public universities have already begun.

According to HSTU officials, about 61 assistant professors of the university have been agitating and boycotting their classes for the last two months, protesting discrimination in pay scale.

Over the issue there had been separate scuffles between senior and junior teachers on November 14 and 29 which made the situation more complicated.

Later, the university Vice Chancellor (VC) suspended two teachers, but teachers under Progressive Teachers' Forum stood against the move.

Educational activities at HSTU are totally collapsed as the agitating teach-

ers are now demanding removal of the university proctor, registrar and student advisor for failing to resolve the crisis.

"We decided to boycott the admission test as the VC failed to resolve the crisis, Chairman of Chemistry Department Dr Boloram Roy said, adding that they will be present at the campus during the examination.

University Registrar Safiul Alam said they have taken all out preparation of holding the admission test as it is not possible to defer the examination again.

The teachers' boycott will not affect the test as some officials of the university have been kept standby and they would be deployed as invigilator if required, he said.

Meanwhile, HSTU authority in a press release yesterday informed that this year's admission test will begin on January 20 and will continue for the next three days.

# Mustard farmers all smiles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gobindaganj mustard seed farmers are expecting high yield and fair price this season due to favourable weather.

It is a mid-term additional crop in between Aman harvesting and Boro plantation, as the land remains fallow most of the time.

Farmers cultivate mustard on the land with the hope of getting more profit, said Abdur Rahman, mustard grower of Taluk Kanpur village in Gobindaganj upazila.

Due to favourable weather this time, farmers preferred high yielding varieties of mustard like Bari-9, Bari-14, Bari-15 and Tory-7 to local variety, he added.

Farmers are getting unexpected production this season as the weather is suitable and no pest attack took place anywhere, said another farmer Sobhan Ali of Nakai village.

Earlier farmers harvested three to three and half maunds of mustard seed per bigha of land, whereas, HYV mustard produced five to six maunds per bigha investing the same input cost, so



A blooming mustard field at Taluk Kanpur village in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

this season farmers are expecting more production, he added.

The farmers are expecting more earning from mustard farming that would help to meet up cost in the next Boro season, said Sobhan.

He cultivated mustard seed on

three bighas of land this year, which was only one and half bighas last year, said Sobhan.

Upazila Agriculture Officer Sahera Banu said about 4,550 hectares of lands have been brought under mustard cultivation in the upazila this year.



PHOTO: STAR

# 2 'robbers' held with sharp weapons

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two members of an inter-district robber gang were arrested from Purasanda village in Sayestaganj upazila of Habiganj on Friday night.

The arrestees are Lukman Mia, 28, son of Shafiq Mia of Doriarpur village in Habiganj Sadar upazila, and Khelu Mia, 25, son of Ayub Ali of Bhati Soilojura village in Habiganj Sadar upazila, police said.

# Hostel for ethnic students lies unused as wrong spot chosen

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

A hostel for students built four years ago in Sadar upazila lies unused as there are no villages of indigenous people, or even educational institutions, near it.

Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC) built the hostel for Kyang students in Lemujiri area under Sadar upazila in 2014.

This correspondent came under verbal attack by Thowai Chaw Mong Marma, sub-assistant engineer of the project, when asked about the hostel.

Kwe Shwe Hla, chairman of BHDC and president of ruling party Bandarban district

unit, warned this correspondent not to go to his office for any information.

"Don't come again to my office for any information," the chairman said.

"The hostel was built in a totally unplanned way by cutting hills early in 2014-2015 fiscal year. Kyang students are not interested in staying in the hostel as it is situated in a secluded area," said Mra Sa Kyang, a Kyang leader and also member of BHDC.

"It is really a matter of sorrow that the newly built hostel has remained unused for the last four years," said Md Mahbubur Rahman, executive engineer of BHDC.

# ILLEGAL ENTRANCE BSF men flee, leaving arms in border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) entered Bangladesh territory illegally and fled leaving their arms beside the main pillar No 841 at Mughlibari border in Patgram upazila on Friday night.

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) 61 Battalion Burimari camp recovered the arms from the spot and took those in their custody, said Lieutenant Colonel Md Sharif, Commanding Officer of Rangpur BGB 61 Battalion.

Additional BSF and BGB were deployed on the border due to tension created over the issue, locals said.

Quoting villagers, BGB officials said two BSF men of India's Bhotpatti camp in Cooch Bihar district chased four Bangladeshis while they were moving suspiciously in Mighlibari border area at around 9:00pm.

Villagers gathered together and surrounded the two BSF men when they entered Bangladesh around a quarter of a kilometre from the no-man's land. The villagers dispersed when the BSF men fired two rounds of blank shots. The BSF men went back to India leaving their arms.

"Now the border is peaceful and there is no tension over the issue. BSF men entered Bangladesh as they could not see the border pillar in the dark of night," said BGB Commanding Officer, adding that BGB will hand over the arms to BSF after a flag meeting.

# Fake doctor jailed in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court sentenced a fake doctor to one month's imprisonment at Veramara area in Bhangura upazila on Friday evening and sent him to jail yesterday.

The convict MI Manik, 42, son of Anwar Hossain of Per-Faridpur village in Faridpur upazila of Pabna, had been treating patients at Veramara Bazar area in Bhangura upazila since long by introducing himself as a specialist doctor.

Acting on a tip-off, a mobile court led by Bhangura Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Masudur Rahman, also the executive magistrate, raided Veramara area on Friday evening and caught him red-handed, said Ekramul Haque, sub-inspector of Bhangura Police Station.



This hostel was built four years ago for Kyang students in Lemujiri area under Bandarban Sadar upazila, but has remained unused as there are no educational institutions near it.

PHOTO: STAR