

Call fresh polls or face demo

5 panels who boycotted Ducsu elections issue 3-day ultimatum to DU authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The agitating students yesterday issued a three-day ultimatum to the Dhaka University authorities to announce a fresh Ducsu election, or face a tougher movement from Sunday.

Members and supporters of five panels, who boycotted Monday's Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) elections citing vote rigging, vowed to continue their protest until their four-point demand is met.

The demands are: announcement of a fresh polls schedule, resignation of all the teachers and staff members involved in the "farical" election, formation of a neutral

election committee and withdrawal of all the cases filed against the agitating students.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman said it was not possible to hold a fresh election, but Ducsu VP-elect Nurul Haq Nur, a quota reform leader, expressed solidarity with the call.

"The students voted for me. They want a re-election and I'm on their side," Nur told reporters at Mohsin Hall, where he resides.

To press home their demand, several hundred students brought out a procession from Raju sculpture around 12:30pm and marched towards the VC's office. Nur was among the protesters.

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Six Dhaka University students observe a fast unto death at the base of Raju Sculpture near the TSC yesterday. They began the protest on Tuesday afternoon demanding a fresh Ducsu election. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



MARCH 14, 1971

Bangabandhu urges people to carry on agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the end of the non-cooperation movement's second phase coming closer, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called on his countrymen to continue their fight for freedom.

New orders were announced for the future. Bangabandhu had said,

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Don't burden children with extra studies

PM tells teachers, guardians

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all not to put extra pressure on the children for studying instead of making education interesting and delightful to them.

"Extra pressure should not be put on the children for studying. All should keep in mind that the children can learn through playing, without any fear," she said.

The PM was addressing a programme



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ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

Doubt lingers as conflict flares up in Myanmar

PORIMOL PALMA

Uncertainty over Rohingya repatriation is likely to stay as conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army in Rakhine has escalated since early January, say experts.

The situation poses challenges for Bangladesh in handling the one million refugees in Cox's Bazar, especially as tension between the host communities and the Rohingyas, and the risk of Rohingya radicalisation are rising, amid a fund shortage.

Meanwhile, aid agencies are proposing medium-term plans, including the provision of education, skills and income-generating activities for the Rohingyas before their return.



The Bangladeshi authorities, however, are reluctant. "Joblessness among Bangladeshis is high. So, there is little scope for creation of jobs for the Rohingyas," said Refugee Relief and Repatriation

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Gold bars hidden in solar devices

Two Chinese nationals held at Dhaka airport with 5.5kg gold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To the naked eye, the two items are just rechargeable solar home systems, costing only a couple of thousands.

In reality, their value is in the crores. Customs officials at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday seized the two "home appliances" from two Chinese nationals.

Once taken safely away from the airport, the appliances would have been dismantled to recover the 5.5 kilograms of gold stowed in them.

The gold would command a market value of an astonishing amount of more than Tk2.5 crore.

Customs officials throttled the attempt by detaining the

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Dec 30 polls 'lopsided'

US state dept report says; decries rights abuse

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has said unlawful or political killings, forced disappearances, life-threatening prison conditions, freedom of speech limitations, negative government pressure on and fear of reprisal by press and media, and impunity for security force abuses were the most significant human rights problems in Bangladesh last year.

US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo formally released the 2018 Country

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