

CU show-causes teacher over FB post

CU CORRESPONDENT

A Chittagong University (CU) teacher was served show cause notice for posting a status on social media platform Facebook, which the authority claimed "instigated students who were creating unrest on the campus brandishing fire arms."

The show cause notice signed by CU Registrar (Acting) KM Nur Ahmed was issued on Sunday against Assistant Professor Khandokar Ali Ar Raji of Mass Communication and Journalism Department.

The notice termed his Facebook status defamatory for teachers who were involved in administrative activities of the university. He was asked to provide an explanation within three working days as to why legal steps should not be taken against him for defaming teachers and provoking students for violence.

"According to CU Employee Act (Efficiency and Ability), he committed a punishable offence by posting such provocative status on Facebook," the notice added.

Terming the notice "ridiculous", Assistant Prof Ar Raji said, "I do not understand why the university authority took the status upon themselves, as similar atmosphere is prevailing in all public universities in Bangladesh." He added that he did not mention any person or university's name in his post.

Prof Ar Raji termed the university's reaction "unfortunate". He said he will talk to his lawyers and act accordingly.

Following an arms case against six BCL activists after recovering ten machetes from different halls on April 3, he posted a status on Facebook the next day, titled "Running university through hooliganism is a sin."



Bouts of rain swept through Dhaka and Chattogram yesterday, disrupting city life. *Left*, people rush for cover from the downpour on the New Market over-bridge in the capital. *Right*, a motorbiker splashes through accumulated rainwater on the Akhtaruzzaman flyover in the port city.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, RAJIB RAIHAN

INSULTING PATIENT

Ctg hospital forms probe committee

MD ABBAS, CU

A Chattogram hospital yesterday formed a committee to look into the allegation that a doctor misbehaved with a patient from an ethnic minority community, for not speaking Bangla.

Dr Nurul Haque, director (administration) of Chattogram Maa Shishu O General Hospital termed it an unprecedented and unexpected incident.

Alin Chakma, son of the patient in question, lodged a written complaint with the hospital on April 7.

Taking the issue into cognizance, the hospital authorities yesterday formed a three-member probe body to investigate the incident, said Nurul Haque.

Alin, a second year student of Dramatics Department of Chittagong University, said he took his father Tarun Kanti Chakma -- a resident of Baghaichari of Rangamati who was visiting his children in the port city -- to Chattogram Maa Shishu O General

Hospital since he was suffering from abdominal pain.

They met gastroenterology consultant Dr Md Mosleuddin Shahed, who apparently humiliated the duo after Tarun could not respond to his queries in Bangla, Alin said.

When Alin replied to the questions, and said his father did not speak Bangla as he was not educated, the doctor misbehaved with him and drove him out of the chamber. Few minutes later, his father also came out of the chamber.

Alin said other physicians and nurses witnessed the incident but did not protest.

This correspondent tried to reach Dr Mosleuddin for the last two days over phone and text message, but he did not respond. Upon a visit to the hospital yesterday, it was found that he was on leave.

"It is not mandatory to know Bangla for a patient. Deaf and mute patients can also visit a physician; we have to deal with them with extra care," said Dr Nurul Haque.

CU DEADLOCK

Chhatra League withdraws strike

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Chittagong University (CU) withdrew its indefinite strike yesterday evening following the authority's assurance of fulfilling their demands.

The decision came in the evening after a meeting between BCL activists and Vice-Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury.

BCL activist Md Shafikul Islam said they have postponed their strike as the VC assured them of fulfilling the four-point demand, for which they had declared a strike on April 6.

Their demands were -- resignation of Proctor Ali Asgar Chowdhury, removal of Hathazari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Belal Md Jahangir for filing a "false" arms case against six activists, withdrawal of all "political" cases filed against

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Halda gearing up for carp spawns

Local admin helping with egg collectors' preparation

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Chattogram

Intermittent drizzling and rain in the last two weeks in Chattogram is creating a congenial atmosphere for spawning in river Halda, a unique and possibly lone natural spawning ground of carp fish in South Asia.

Egg collectors of Halda, who are hoping for a big haul ahead of spawning season, are preparing themselves with hatching ponds and fixing up nets along the 10-kilometre stretch of Halda ranging from Gorduara to Chayachor area.

Local administration has come forward for the first time to aid egg collectors, by helping them set up scientific hatching ponds where eggs are turned into fry.

Most of the eggs people net get spoiled due to absence of scientific method. This time, egg collectors are weaving hope to reap the best of spawning with the help of local administration.

Mohammed Elias, whose family is involved in egg collection

for generations, told The Daily Star that this time the management was better than ever before.

"Local administration, especially the UNO, allocated grants to mend the hatchery which we never got earlier. They are helping us preserve the eggs ahead of spawning," he said.

If incessant rain accompanied by thunderbolt and gusty wind takes place, spawning may begin within weeks, Elias said.

Ruhul Amin, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Hathazari upazila told The Daily Star that they renovated at least 53 scoops of three hatcheries spending Tk 3.75 lakh, which were left deserted earlier.

Amin also arranged power connection to the hatcheries, so that egg collectors could hatch their eggs without any disruption.

"We intensified patrolling along the riverbank to ensure uninterrupted movement of breeding fish. This year we expect the heyday of Halda spawning to

return," Amin said.

Prof Manzoorul Kibria, an expert on Halda, told The Daily Star that this time initiatives were intensified to save brood fish by local administration.

"Besides, we held meetings with egg collectors of Hathazari and Roazan upazilas to know of their problems in preserving and hatching the eggs. We found out a few problems, and are helping them find solutions," he added.

This time more mud scoop have been set up in Hathazari and Roazan upazilas with the help of PKSf and IDF, two organisations working on the river.

Kibria said they trained at least 20 officials of the Department of Fisheries to assess the egg collection scientifically, which will help them get the clear picture of the amount of collected eggs.

More than one thousand egg collectors net eggs during spawning time, usually in the month April.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Pizza Hut launches in Cox's Bazar

CITY DESK

Pizza Hut, one of the largest pizza chains in Bangladesh, has opened its 17th outlet on Kolatoli Main Road in Hotel Motel Zone of Cox's Bazar, says a press release.

The outlet which is the first of its kind, an FCD (Fast Casual Delco) restaurant, comes with the feature of open kitchen. Customers can use Dine In, Take Away and Delivery options from this restaurant.

Cox's Bazar-2 lawmaker Asheq Ullah Rafiq and municipality Mayor Mujibur Rahman graced the occasion with their presence on March 30.

Other government officials also attended the ceremony with the CEO and key officials of Transcom Foods Limited.

"We are always looking for new expansion opportunities for Pizza Hut because the brand is constantly developing. After Dhaka, we are focusing on making the brand accessible to more and more people in other parts of the country. This time, we are in Cox's Bazar to win hearts with the love of a pizza. We believe there is great potential here with Cox's Bazar being a major tourist spot. We have plans to open five-six restaurants in the next two years," said Amit Dev Thapa, the CEO of Transcom Foods (the franchisee of Pizza Hut and KFC in Bangladesh).

US-based pizza and fast food chain Pizza Hut started its operations in Bangladesh with the flagship outlet in the capital's Gulshan-1 in 2003.

BANANI FIRE

Two owners of FR Tower sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of the two owners of FR Tower and sent them to jail in connection with the case filed over the devastating fire that ripped through the high-rise on March 28, killing 26.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sadbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury passed the order after Md Jalal Uddin, inspector of Detective Branch of Police and also the investigation officer of the case, produced them before the court on expiry of their seven-day remand.

In forwarding report placed before the court, the IO said the duo gave important information about the building construction and other matter which were being verified. So they need to be detained until the investigation is completed, the IO said.

The defence submitted separate petitions seeking bail for their clients, saying that they were not involved in the incident.

On March 31, SMHI Faruque, owner of the land on which FR Tower stands, and Tasvirul Islam, one of the owners of the high-rise building, were placed on a seven-day remand each.

The two, along with Liakat Ali Khan alias Mukul, chairman of Rupayan Group, and some unidentified persons, were charged for the deaths of people due to negligence.

The case was filed with Banani Police Station by Sub-Inspector Milton Dutt.

Meet nutrition demand of adolescents

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to emphasise on meeting nutrition demand of adolescents, particularly the poor who drop out of school, to ensure a healthy and productive Bangladesh.

Addressing child marriage as one of the major causes of malnutrition among women, they also demanded its elimination from society for good.

Brac University and Shornokishoree Network Foundation, a non-government organisation, in association with Unicef, World Bank and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, organised the discussion on adolescent nutrition at Cirdap auditorium in Dhaka.

"Adolescent girls who drop out of school mostly fall victims to child marriage and become mother at an early age. Adolescent pregnancy makes both the mother and her children malnourished," said Prof Nazma Shaheen of Dhaka University.

"Such process of malnutrition continues in a vicious circle, affecting the adolescent mothers generation after generation. We have to stop it," said the professor of nutrition and food science.

She also suggested that government focus on school feeding programme -- providing students a mid-day meal, which will help reduce malnutrition as well as school drop-outs.

Speaking as chief guest, Abul Kalam Azad, principal coordinator for SDG Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office, said families, particularly mothers, have a big role to play in ensuring nutritious food for children.

"Nutrition can be ensured with low cost food, as it is mostly dependent on the cooking process and food habit," said Azad.

He urged youngsters to engage in physical exercise and sports, along with taking nutritious foods.

Prof Shamsul Alam, senior secretary of the Planning Commission; Sheepa Hafiza, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra; Nizam Uddin Ahmed, executive director of the Shornokishoree Foundation; and Malay Kanti Mridha, a director of Brac James P Grant School of Public Health, also spoke at the programme, among others.

HC clears way for trial proceedings against Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the lower court concerned to continue trial proceedings of a corruption case against former law minister Moudud Ahmed.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Gulshan Police Station on September 16, 2007 against Moudud on charges of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 7.38 crore and concealing information about his wealth worth Tk 4.40 crore.

Yesterday, the HC summarily rejected a revision petition filed by Moudud challenging a lower court order that dismissed his application for halting the trial proceedings.

In the revision petition, Moudud also prayed to the HC to stay the trial proceedings.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman passed the rejection order after holding hearing on the revision petition.

ACC lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the lower court concerned to continue trial proceedings of the corruption case against Moudud following the HC order.

Modud Ahmed had submitted the application to the lower court concerned for stopping the trial proceedings, saying that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Four-tier security for Pahela Baishakh in Ctg

CMP bans vuvuzela and masks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Imposing ban on carrying vuvuzela and any type of mask in Pahela Baishakh programmes, Chattogram Metropolitan Police has taken four-tier security measures ahead of the April 14 celebration, said CMP Commissioner Md Mahbubor Rahman yesterday.

Talking to the media after holding a coordination meeting with different government agencies and other organisations, the CMP chief said this year Pahela Baishakh is going to be celebrated in three spots -- DC hill, Shirish Tala of CRB and Patenga sea beach.

However, no programmes will be allowed there after 6pm, he said.

The meeting was held at CMP

Headquarters around 10am where officials from Rab-7, Fire Service, Ansar, Railway Police, intelligence agencies and Chattogram City Corporation were present.

"As part of all-out security measures, visitors will be frisked by police personnel before entering the venues," he said.

The CMP chief also said with a watch tower and a police control room, around 5,000 police personnel will be deployed across the city.

Apart from that, Bomb Disposal Unit, Crisis Response Team and SWAT will also be kept as backup forces, said the police official.

The CMP chief urged the visitors to cooperate with the law enforcers during search at checkpoints.



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