



Wearing shoes and sandals, two students in uniforms and another individual stand on the main pedestal of Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. It is strictly prohibited by the High Court to do so in order to protect sanctity of the memorial for language martyrs. But this brazen disregard continues due to indifference of the authorities concerned, who are supposed to deploy guards to check such activities. Though they have put up signs (not in pictures) asking people to refrain from it, those also fail to make any impact.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DEMONSTRATIONS AT BUET

Education minister meets with students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Demonstrating students of Bangladesh Engineering of University and Technology (Buet) yesterday said they will end their agitation programme if the authorities issue an official notice regarding the fulfilment of their 16-point demand.

Hasan Sarwar Shaikat, a coordinator of the movement, said this to The Daily Star after holding a three and a half hour-long meeting with Education Minister Dipu Moni and the university vice-chancellor.

"They assured us that all our demands will be met, but we demanded the issuance of [official] notice regarding this. In response, the authorities said they would issue a notice tomorrow [today]. We will stop our movement if they do so," Shaikat added.

Shaikat said they will resume their agitation from Saturday if the authorities do not issue the notice.

Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, Chhatra League president-general secretary and Buet BCL leaders were also present at the meeting.

Students have been demonstrating since last Saturday to realise their demands, which include formation of a committee comprising teachers of civil engineering and architecture departments to build the Buet gate, introducing teacher evaluation system, digitising students' payment process and increasing allocation in research sector.

Meanwhile, the VC remained absent to his office since the movement started, students alleged.

Too risky for students

346 primary school buildings in Chattogram in bad state

MD ABBAS, Ctg

Students of 346 primary schools in Chattogram are attending classes risking their lives as the school buildings are in a dilapidated condition. Despite the risk, authorities concerned are yet to take any visible step in this regard.

Guardians fear that accident might take place anytime there.

According to the district primary education office, 346 government primary school buildings are in derelict state due lack of maintenance and renovation.

On April 7, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education issued a letter, signed by its senior assistant secretary Md Nur Nabi, asking authorities to identify such school buildings across the country.

According to the list of Chattogram district primary education office, there are 49 such schools in Banskhal; 17 in Patiya; 32 in Anowara; 28 in Boalkhali; 5 in Chandanaish; 21 in Satkania; 20 in Lohagera; 14 in Fatikchhari; 6 in Sitakunda; 12 in Hathazari; 9 in Roazan; 48 in Mirsarai; 35 in Rangunia and 9 in Sandwip upazila.

Moreover, 41 primary schools, deemed risky, are located in port city. Of them, 6 are in Pahartali; 9 in Panchlaish; 7 in Chandgaon; 5 in Double Mooring and 12 in Bandar area.

There are 2,269 primary schools in the district.

Seeking anonymity, an official of the district primary education office said around 100 primary school buildings in the district are not useable and may collapse anytime.

Rafida Rahman, mother of a student at Makbulia Government Primary School in Bandar area, said she is afraid to send her son to school due to condition of the building.

"The authorities should take immediate steps to ensure our children's safety," she added.

Contacted, District Primary Education Officer Nasrin Sultana said as per direction of the ministry they have identified the risky schools.

"Of those, some are at high risk and not useable. We have already sent the list to the ministry and will act according to their direction. Hopefully, they will take a decision soon," she added.

VANDALISING RESIDENCE

Upazila BNP leader files case against city unit president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A BNP leader of Chattogram's Chandanaish upazila filed a case accusing 20 to 30 people including the party's city unit president Shahadat Hossain and joint general secretary Gazi Siraj Ullah for vandalising his residence in port city's KB Aman Ali Road area early yesterday.

Nurul Anwar, president of BNP's Chandanaish municipality unit, filed the case with Chandgaon Police Station, said OC Abul Bashar of the police station.

In the case statement, Anwar alleged that upon instruction from Shahadat, some 20-30 persons led by Siraj carried out the attack, said the OC.

Anwar also alleged that the incident took place over political rivalry, he added. Shahadat and Siraj could not be contacted for comments despite repeated attempts over the phone.

Meanwhile, in a joint statement, leaders of BNP's Chattogram city, north and south district units condemned the case filing.

They termed the allegation against Shahadat and others "false" and "motivated".

Contacted, Idris Ali, assistant office secretary of Chattogram city unit of BNP, said they demanded that Anwar withdraw the case immediately.

REPORTING ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Four Star journos awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four journalists of The Daily Star yesterday received the IED Indigenous Affairs Journalist Award-2019 for their outstanding reporting on "Ethnic minority communities or indigenous people" between August 2018 to April 2019.

Naimul Karim received the first prize for his report headlined "Indigenous Migrants: A story unheard" published on August 17, 2018 in the paper. The report presented a story on the dangerous journey of indigenous people across the Myanmar border.

Bishakha Devnath stood second for her report headlined "Batting to keep mother tongue alive: 3 Adivasi youths work online to preserve Chakma, Santal languages" published on February 21 this year.

The report told the story of three youngsters who developed their native languages on digital platforms to encourage members of their communities to learn and spread their mother tongue across the globe.

Sanjoy Kumar Barua was awarded in special category for his report headlined "Torchbearers in remote hills: Couple gives shelter, education to underprivileged indigenous girls" published on October 10 of last year.

Mostafa Shabuj was also awarded



Award winners with guests at the ceremony.

PHOTO: STAR

in special category for the report headlined "Trapped in uncertainty: Around 1,200 Santal families in Gaibandha yet to be rehabilitated 2 yrs after their houses were torched" published on November 6 last year.

Including them, a total of 12 journalists from different media houses received the award at a ceremony at the auditorium of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro.

Institute for Environment and Development (IED) authorities handed over awards to winners, each receiving a certificate and crest, along with prize money for the top three.

Among the other awardees, Saiful Islam Masum of Khola Kagoj secured third position. Others who

were awarded in special category are Mehedi Hasan of Prothom Alo, Halim Al Raji and Md Saiful Islam of Dhaka Tribune, Sayed Shahin of Bonik Barta, Shakil Murad of Ekattor TV, Malek Mithu of DBC News and Uralmonir Chakma of Independent Television.

Speaking at the ceremony, IED coordinator Jyoti Chattopadhyay said such awards would encourage journalists to carry out more reporting on life of indigenous people.

With Dainik Sangbad acting editor Khandaker Moniruzzaman in the chair, IED assistant coordinator Harendranath Sing and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjib Drong were also present at the ceremony, among others.

EU to donate 18 million euros for Rohingyas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

European Union has announced a fund of 18 million euros to help build resilience among Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi host communities.

Over 288,000 children and families will benefit as part of a three-year long EU-supported Unicef programme, building synergy across four key areas of nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene; education; and child protection, said a joint statement of European Union (EU) and Unicef yesterday.

"The support from the European Union allows us to address the issue of resilience in a holistic manner, integrating and harmonising services for the delivery of better results," says Tomoo Hozumi, Unicef Representative in Bangladesh.

"We have substantially scaled up our humanitarian response over the past year and a half thanks to strong support from partners like the European Union. At the same time, the situation remains critical with 1.2 million people requiring humanitarian assistance in one of Bangladesh's poorest and most vulnerable

districts."

Cox's Bazar is home to 2.3 million people. Around 33 percent live below the poverty line. Education indicators in Cox's Bazar are among the lowest in the country with the primary school completion rate standing at 55 percent. Over half of the girls marry before the age of 18 years and close to 50,000 children are engaged in child labour.

The district records very high rates of malnutrition. One in two children suffer from stunted growth due to poor maternal nutrition and lack of adequate infant feeding and care practices.

Further, Cox's Bazar is one of the most vulnerable districts to natural disasters in the country including cyclones, flooding and landslides caused by monsoon rains, and the impact of climate change.

"We need to act decisively to secure a better future for all those affected by the refugee crisis," said Rensje Teerink, EU Ambassador to Bangladesh.

To date, the European Union has contributed 24.8 million euros to Unicef to support the Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh.

Two prisoners die from illness in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In separate incidents, two prisoners in Chattogram died yesterday due to illness.

The deceased are Bilati Tripura, 45, from Khagrachhari Sadar upazila, and Omar Faruk, 57, from Cumilla, said jail sources.

Bilati, who was imprisoned at Khagrachhari jail, had been suffering from rabies and was admitted to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital on Tuesday.

Later, doctors referred her to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for better treatment, but she died on the way, prison jailer Abu Fatah told The Daily Star.

She was accused of murdering one Kali Bandhu Das in Khagrachhari and was imprisoned on April 4 this year, he added.

Meanwhile, Omar Faruk, who was imprisoned at Chattogram Central Jail, fell sick and complained about chest pains at midnight yesterday. He was then shifted to the prison hospital for treatment, said prison jailer Nashir Ahmed.

As his condition deteriorated, Omar Faruk was later rushed to CMCH, where he died around 2am, the jailer said, adding that Omar was imprisoned after being arrested in a narcotics case filed with Kotwali Police Station in March.

The bodies were sent to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsies, officials said.

BTV to broadcast in India

DD India to be made available in Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In a big boost to bilateral cooperation, India on Tuesday announced its decision to show state-owned Bangladesh TV World (BTV World) on Doordarshan Free Dish, which will be available for the viewers in India.

"At the same time, DD India will be made available in Bangladesh," India's Information Minister Prakash Javedkar said. This arrangement is a result of an MoU

signed between Prasar Bharati and BTV on May 7 this year.

BTV World will be of special interest to viewers in eastern India, Javedkar said.

"The decision marks an important milestone in strengthening ties between the two countries and follows an earlier decision taken by the two governments to co-produce a film on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which will be directed by eminent filmmaker Shyam Benegal," he added.

Police informant stabbed dead in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Miscrants stabbed a police informant to death in Chattogram's Mailer Matha area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mobarak Hossain, 25.

The incident took place in front of a licensed liquor bar at Mailer Matha in EPZ around 3:45pm, said Inspector (investigation) Osman Gani of EPZ Police Station.

Mobarak was stabbed in his belly and

neck, leaving him critically injured.

Locals rushed him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries, said the police official.

The reason behind the killing is yet to be ascertained, however, police came to learn the killers' names and are trying to arrest them, Osman added.

The body was sent to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Two sentenced to jail for raping schoolgirl in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced two persons to different terms of imprisonment for raping a schoolgirl after abducting her in the port city in 2007.

Chattogram Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 Judge Mashiur Rahman Khan handed down the verdict after examining all records and witnesses, said Public Prosecutor Jesmin Akter.

The convicts are Abu Daud and Joynal Abedin. The court proceedings occurred in the duo's absence, as they have been absconding since they got bail earlier.

Joynal was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined Tk 30,000 while Daud was sentenced to 14-year jail term and fined Tk 10,000 after the court found the duo guilty beyond doubt, added the prosecutor.

According to the case statement, the girl's cousin, Daud, and her house tutor, Joynal, jointly abducted her while she was returning from school in the city's Patharghata area under Kotwali Police Station on June 4 in 2007.

The victim's father filed a case with Kotwali Police Station in this connection on June 7 after failing to rescue her. Joynal raped the girl for over a month, taking her to different districts with Daud's help.

Later, police rescued the victim from Dinajpur on July 10 of the same year and arrested the abductors on the same day.

Police pressed charges against the two on August 28 in 2007, and a Chattogram court framed charges against them on November 15 of the same year.



Central cast of the film along with producer Mahboob Rahman and director Taneem Rahman Angshu at the press conference.

First look at 'Naw Dorai'

Star Cineplex announces film on surfing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking International Surfing Day, multiplex company Star Cineplex yesterday announced its first venture into film production with a unique feature film, based on the life of a surfer in Cox's Bazar.

Speakers at the press conference at Bashundhara City Mall said "Naw Dorai" (English title "Dare to Surf") -- produced by Mahboob Rahman under the banner of Star Cineplex -- is the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Directed by popular small-screen helmer Taneem Rahman Angshu, the film stars Sunerah Binte Kamal and Sariful Razz in central roles. The cast and crew of the film were present at the event.

"I have noticed in the recent past that Hollywood films have been dominating our market. Despite Bangladeshis having great potential, very few local films make it big," said Mahboob Rahman, also chairman of Star Cineplex. "Therefore, I have ventured into films in order to comprehend the market better and help produce and uphold local talent in the international arena."

PHOTO: STAR