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Your Right to Know

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Buet protesters won't budge

Issue ultimatum of 2:00pm today to meet their 10-point demand; 3 more arrested; minister pledges charge sheet at the soonest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With Buet authorities yet to take any visible steps for meeting their demands, the students yesterday issued an ultimatum of 2:00pm for the VC to make his stance clear, or they would lock down all buildings on campus.

They also threatened to stop the Buet admission tests scheduled for October 14 if the authorities failed to postpone the tests by 5:00pm today.

"We have given deadlines to meet our 10-point demand. If those are not met, we will be forced to stop all administrative activities. We will be forced to announce that the October 14 admission tests would not be held," said one of the organisers of the protest.

The students were briefing reporters during their fourth consecutive day of demonstrations following the murder of Abrar Fahad inside Buet's Sher-e Bangla Hall.

Abrar, a second-year student, was beaten to death early Monday allegedly by a group of Chhatra League leaders, sparking widespread protests.

Over a thousand students yesterday brought out a procession on campus, staged a sit-in blocking a major street, drew graffiti, and performed a street play before postponing their protest until today.

They demanded expulsion of the students involved in the murder, the university bearing the cost of the murder trial, compensation for Abrar's family, and banning "organisation-based student politics" on campus.

They said they were not for wholesale ban on student politics but they were against "organisation-based student politics".

The protesters yesterday thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for

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Agitating students chant slogans demanding justice for Abrar Fahad at a sit-in on the Buet campus yesterday. Inset, holding placards, students bring out a procession.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Fathers of 2 suspects devastated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Fathers of two of the suspects of Abrar killing yesterday said their sons should face the full force of law and demanded a separate investigation into how their meritorious sons got involved in the heinous crime while studying at a prestigious institution like Buet.

They demanded that the problems in the system should be addressed so that no other parents face their fate.

Key suspects Anik Sarker and Mehedi Hasan Robein are from Rajshahi. Officers investigating the case

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COMMENTARY

It's culture of impunity that killed Abrar

MAHFUZ ANAM

Whenever a gross violation of law occurs, such as Abrar's killing, ruling party leaders sing in chorus "nobody is above the law" and that "law will take its own course." The truth is there are people above the law in this country, and the law takes its due course only when there is a "green light".

For years we, along with other media outlets, have been writing incessantly about the "culture of impunity" that has now become all pervasive and has stymied institutions of accountability and those upholding the law.

This "culture" saves killers, extortionists, power abusers, the corrupt, wilful bank defaulters, and the like from punishment. Over time such



behaviour encouraged and emboldened criminals to commit more gruesome acts of violence with a near certainty that the "law will NOT take its course" in their case. Some members of Chhatra League may have beaten and tortured Abrar to death, but he was actually killed by the "system" that gives impunity to criminals.

Since independence, there have been 151 killings on various campuses with none being punished for those crimes. The usual pattern has been that the student wings of the ruling party of the day would "capture" all the dormitories at every public university and drive out students loyal to their rival parties, mainly confined to BNP's Chhatra Dal and AL's Chhatra League.

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Dipu Moni slams Buet alumni, teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday lambasted the Buet teachers' and alumni associations, who have been demanding the removal of Vice-Chancellor Prof Saiful Islam following the brutal murder of Abrar Fahad, for not raising their voice earlier.

Claiming that ragging is nothing new on the Buet campus, the minister said, "We could have resisted such inhuman incidents if they had raised their voice earlier."

She came up with the

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GRAFT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST JU VC

Teachers, students call for probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform of teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday expressed frustration over what it said was the authorities' indifference to allegations of corruption against Vice-chancellor Prof Farzana Islam.

There are numerous allegations of tender manipulation, bribery and embezzlement of funds against the VC and JU unit BCL leaders, said the teachers and students.

The participants, who held the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity under the banner of Durneetir Biruddhe Jahangirnagar (Jahangirnagar against corruption), said the VC made administrative decisions without transparency and assigned her chosen people at the top posts.

The platform has been demonstrating on the campus since August. VC Prof Farzana Islam denies any wrongdoing.

The speakers yesterday urged President Abdul Hamid to form a probe committee to look into the allegations immediately.

Rayhan Rhyne, convener of the platform, said although the evidence of the VC's involvement in corruption had been published in the media in recent weeks, the government had not paid any heed.

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This is what is left of Bangla Tila in Sylhet Sadar upazila's Chhalia area. Unscrupulous traders have long been razing the hillock to extract earth for sale. The authorities have apparently turned a blind eye to the illegal act. Some buildings were also constructed there.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Risha's killer gets death penalty

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced to death Obaidul Khan, the lone accused in the class-VIII student Suraiya Akhter Risha murder case.

The 14-year-old girl was stabbed to death on a footbridge close to her school, Willes Little Flower School, in the capital's Kakrail by her stalker Obaidul in 2016.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka delivered the verdict in presence of the convict.

Obaidul, a tailor by profession, has also been fined Tk 50,000.

The judge observed that it was a planned and cold-blooded murder. The accused was given the highest punishment so that nobody dares to commit such an



offence in future, he added.

Before the delivery of the judgment, a group of students of the school and guardians gathered on the court premises with placards and formed a human chain, demanding justice for Risha.

They expressed their satisfaction over the verdict.

Risha's mother Tania Hossain was present in the court and expressed her satisfaction over the judgment. She also broke down in tears and urged the government to execute the verdict immediately.

After cross-examining all 22 prosecution witnesses, the judge handed down the sentence in a packed courtroom.

HOW RISHA WAS KILLED

Obaidul, who was then 28, killed Risha as she refused his

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Handke



Tokarczuk

Tokarczuk, Handke win Nobel prize in literature

AFP, Stockholm

Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk yesterday won the 2018 Nobel Literature Prize, which was delayed over a sexual harassment scandal, while Austrian novelist and playwright Peter Handke took the 2019 award, the Swedish Academy said.

Experts had predicted the Academy would go to great pains to steer clear of controversy with its pick of laureates, as it seeks to restore its reputation tainted by the scandal.


But Handke, 76, was quickly seen as a divisive choice for his pro-Serb support in the Balkan wars.

Tokarczuk, 57, considered the most talented Polish novelist of her generation, was honoured "for a narrative imagination that with encyclopaedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life".

She told Swedish Radio she "couldn't believe" she had won, and was pleased to share it with Handke, "my favourite writer".

"It looks like central Europe is still alive despite all those political

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Faraaz Hossain
COURAGE AWARD 2019
A PEPSICO Global Initiative

SEARCHING FOR A BRAVE SOUL

Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, a name etched forever in our hearts; a name that shines today as a symbol of the unbreakable values of true courage, friendship and humanity.

Faraaz Hossain was martyred in the horrific attack at the Holey Artisan Bakery, Dhaka on July 1, 2016. He sacrificed his life refusing to abandon his two dear friends, despite the terrorists allowing him to leave. Faraaz exemplified true friendship, standing against injustice and connecting a humanity beyond the boundaries of race, religion and nationality with love and harmony. He demonstrated an exceptional strength of character in the final moments of his life, rising above all self-interest.

To continue recognizing the spirit of bravery among Bangladeshi youth, the very spirit Faraaz inspires, the search for yet another brave soul begins for 2019.

The winner must fulfill the following criteria:

- Exemplify exceptional personal courage;
- Has taken outstanding initiative to help other human beings;
- Symbolizes highest standards of moral and ethical values;
- Be a male or female citizen of Bangladesh below age of 35;

In addition to a Certificate of Recognition and a Plaque, the award will carry a cash prize equivalent of USD 10,000/- (Ten Thousand US Dollars).

To find the winner of the award, we seek your personal and institutional help. If you happen to come across or have heard of such an extraordinary individual, please try to obtain the name and details of the person and inform us through email courageaward@faraazhossain.com or please call +88 01704 166770, +88 01313 494309 (9 am to 8 pm). All such information should be communicated no later than **October 31, 2019.**

A jury comprising of eminent personalities will review all proposals to finalize the individual winner who will be given the "Faraaz Hossain Courage Award" along with a prize equivalent of USD 10,000/- (Ten Thousand US Dollars).

