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"[The government] has developed a kind of addiction to coal-based power projects."
TIB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. IFTEKHARUZZAMAN AT A PRESS CONFERENCE



"...It seems like not one but both ears of the government were not functioning. Otherwise, they would have heard the cries of those people."
DU PROF. MESBAH KAMAL ABOUT ATTACKS ON SANTAL COMMUNITY IN GAIBANDHA (PAGE 3)



"We are against the attempt to place national interests above the common interests of humanity."
CHINA PRESIDENT XI JINGPIN TAKES A DIG AT THE US AFTER IT WITHDRAWS FROM PARIS CLIMATE PACT (PAGE 8)

Crisis at JU deepening

Teachers, students defy ban to press on with demo for VC's resignation

JU CORRESPONDENT

The crisis at Jahangirnagar University seems far from over as the teachers and students agitating for the vice-chancellor's resignation defied a university ban and staged protests on the campus yesterday.

They also vowed to go on with the demonstrations until the VC steps down.

The JU authorities on Tuesday shut down the university for an indefinite period and banned processions and rallies on the campus until further notice.

The move came hours after Chhatra League men assaulted the demonstrators who had kept VC Prof Farzana Islam confined to her residence, demanding her resignation over corruption allegations.

After the assault, which left 35, including nine teachers and four journalists, injured, Prof Farzana came out under BCL protection.

Following an emergency meeting the same day, the university authorities asked the students to vacate the dormitories by 5:30pm, but most of the hall residents stayed back.

Later, the authorities extended the deadline until 3:30pm yesterday, warning of action if anyone violates the order.

The move apparently failed to quell the demo. The agitating students and teachers took a fresh vow to press home their demand. They brought out processions and held a rally on the campus yesterday. Around 5:00pm, they took position in front of the VC's residence and left around 9:00pm.

Nazir Amin Chowdhury Joy, one of the organisers of the protest, said students rejected the university order to vacate the dorms.

He said they would stay put if the university authorities, with the help of police, tried to force students to leave.

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Students and teachers of Jahangirnagar University demonstrate in front of the official residence of the VC yesterday evening, defying the authorities' decision to close the university and the order to vacate dormitories. The protesters have been demanding the VC's resignation over allegations of corruption.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Protesters are to blame

JU VC tells Star about unrest

MUNTAKIM SAAD

The embattled vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University yesterday held the agitating students and teachers responsible for the current crisis at the university.

"We would say that they must take responsibility for creating such a situation in the university. We did not close down the university; rather a situation [led to it]," said Prof Farzana Islam in an interview with The Daily Star at her residence.

She said the university authorities were patient for a long time as the protesters had been agitating for over two months using different strategies, culminating in an on-campus strike which was stopped eventually.

The VC said the protests had begun soon after she was reappointed.

Highlighting how this was not something new, she said none of the "vice chancellors belonging to

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Prothom Alo editor sued over Abrar's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, was sued yesterday in connection with the death of Naimul Abrar Rahat, a ninth grader of Dhaka Residential Model College.

The victim's father, Mojibur Rahman, filed the case with the Fourth Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

Abrar was electrocuted during the anniversary programme of Prothom Alo's youth magazine Kishor Alo on Friday. Some unnamed people linked to the programme were also made accused in the case.

The father complained that Abrar died due to negligence of the editor.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (in-charge) Md Aminul Haque heard the complaint and took it into cognisance.

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SHAHJALAL INT'L AIRPORT

Third terminal now to cost 40pc more

Cabinet committee on public purchase okays the 20,598cr-project

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The estimated cost of constructing a third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport has been increased by 40 percent. It is now a Tk-20,598 crore project.

The Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase yesterday approved the project at a cost much higher than what had been estimated at the outset.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) in October 2017 approved the project worth Tk 13,610 crore.

Officials came up with the HSIA terminal construction project in 2016.

Delayed implementation has caused significant rise in the cost of different mega projects in recent years.

Aviation Dhaka Consortium (ADC), comprising Mitsubishi Corporation, Fujiata Corporation and Samsung C & T, has been awarded the job yesterday.

Although 22 tenders were sold, only two had been submitted. Following a negotiation process, ADC got the contract.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said the cabinet body approved the project proposal under the condition that the ministry concerned would take Ecne

approval by submitting the details of the additional cost in a revised proposal.

Of the total amount, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) will finance around Tk 15,000 crore while the government will provide the rest.

Explaining why the projected cost has risen, Civil Aviation Secretary Muhibul Haque told The Daily Star that a separate cargo village was not included in the first plan.

Besides, all firefighting equipment at the HSIA will be replaced with new and modern ones.

He also said that when the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh first estimated the project cost, it was around TK 9,200 crore.

The cost increased to around Tk 10,100 crore after Jica conducted a feasibility study, he added.

It was further raised to around Tk 12,400 crore during the tender process, Muhibul said.

An estimated Tk 5,000 would be needed as various charges including VAT.

Besides, around Tk 2,000 crore has been set aside to use in case of an emergency.

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Industries, but not bypassing agriculture

Says PM at Krishak League council; AL front gets new president, secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her stance on not allowing industries on arable land, saying that the country's industrialisation would not come at the cost of its agriculture sector, BSS reports.

"We will definitely go for industrialisation for the country's development, but not by bypassing the agriculture [sector] as development is largely dependent on agriculture. Therefore, no more industries will be allowed on arable land particularly on triple-cropped fields," she said.

She said this during the inauguration of the 10th council of the Krishak League at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

At the council, the Krishak League, an associate body of the ruling Awami League, also named Sameer Chandra its president and Umme Kulsum its general secretary for three years.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader announced the new leadership at the



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30 COAL-RUN POWER PLANTS

A 'carbon bomb' lying in wait

Says a report by US and Australia-based environment groups on the Bangladesh plants that may go into operation by 2031

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is likely to be hit by its own "carbon bomb" once its 30 coal-based power plants go operational altogether by 2031, says a new report.

Besides, the projects will put the country in a "trade deficit" because those will cost Bangladesh an estimated \$2 billion or over Tk 170 billion annually to import coal, it says.

The report, titled "Choked by Coal: The Carbon Catastrophe in Bangladesh", was jointly released by Australia-based Market Force that deals with environmentally sustainable economic issues and US-based 350.org that works to end the use of fossil fuels.

As co-publishers, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Waterkeepers Bangladesh (WKB) shared the report with the media at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Coal plant developers should suspend plans to build coal power projects and utilise the capital to drive rapid deployment of renewable energy, the report recommends.

Speaking to The Daily Star over phone, Waterkeeper Alliance Council Member Sharif Jamil, who attended the press conference, said coal-based power plants are becoming obsolete all over the world and "such projects should not be continued in Bangladesh as well".

At present, the only operational coal-fired plant in the country is the 525 MW Barapukuria plant in Dinajpur.

Tests found that the coal ash pond of the plant had significantly contaminated water in wells and irrigation water with toxic heavy metals.

The lead levels were 35-395 times higher than the WHO drinking water

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Pedestrians wait in a long queue on the footpath to go across Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, using the footbridge at Karwan Bazar, the commercial hub of the capital. The nearby underpass, which is much wider than this new bridge, has been shut due to construction work of the metro rail in the area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Series win in Tigers' sights

Cyclone Maha threat looms over today's second T20I

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Rajkot

A vibrant Bangladesh team have the chance to continue their momentum and clinch their first ever T20I series win over India when they take on the hosts in the second T20I at Rajkot's Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium today even as the threat of cyclone 'Maha' looms on the horizon. The Tigers find themselves in a commanding position having taken a 1-0 lead in the three-match series with a seven-wicket victory

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10th Death Anniversary of
Mir Zahir Hossain

Today marks the Death Anniversary of **Mir Zahir Hossain** (1947-2009) former Managing Director of Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd., Mir Cement Ltd., Mir Concrete Products Ltd., Mir Real Estate Ltd. & Mir Telecom Ltd. He was also the former Chairman and one of the founders of NCC Bank Ltd., former president of Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry (BACI) and General Secretary of International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractor's Associations (IFAWPCA).

His hard work, vision, work ethics, perseverance and philanthropic sense has set the path of establishment for Mir Group of Companies. May we all strive to achieve the standard of success that he was able to.

On this occasion we mourn this loss and we remember him at his element: an enthusiastic perfectionist in business and general people welfare. May the Almighty Allah bless him with eternal peace and a place in heaven.

On behalf of Family and Mir Group of Companies
Shama-e Zaheer
Chairman
Mir Group of Companies