

## Police foil jobseekers' protest

ADC Harun scuffles with journalists, say witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday foiled a demonstration of jobseekers in the capital's Shahbagh and assaulted some protestors, who were demanding increasing the age limit to apply for civil service jobs, according to on-duty journalists and protestors.

At that time, Harun-or-Rashid, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Ramna), and two police officers scuffled with photojournalists, misbehaved and obstructed them from taking pictures.

Witnesses said more than 150 jobseekers demonstrated at Shahbagh intersection and halted vehicular movement around 4:30pm.

"At that time, police, led by ADC Harun, was pushing off the protestors from the street. They caught two protestors. When the journalists were taking pictures of the incident, the ADC obstructed the photojournalists from taking pictures, misbehaved and scuffled with some journalists," said a photojournalist of a national daily who was present at the spot.

Talking to this correspondent, ADC Harun claimed that he did not misbehave with any journalist.

"No one can provide any proof of the

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Additional deputy commissioner Harun-or-Rashid has reportedly developed a habit of turning a peaceful gathering into a bloodied one, and yesterday, his attempt at controlling a crowd of protesters at Shahbagh has been no different. Inset, Harun can be seen beating up a student in an earlier protest.

PHOTO: STAR, COURTESY OF THE DAILY ITTEFAQ

## Is beating his only duty?

Fingers pointed at senior cop in Ramna area

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL and MUNTAKIM SAAD

One senior cop in Dhaka has reportedly developed a habit of turning a peaceful gathering into a bloodied one, as witnessed in several events over a few months.

Apparently, he requires no need or excuse to get into a beating frenzy. He slaps fellow police officers, assaults students on the street, but interestingly enough, leaves Chhatra League men off his list of victims.

Harun-or-Rashid, an additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), earned this dubious credential soon after his appointment in Ramna area.

"No attack was carried out on protestors while I was on duty. Whenever an unruly situation arises, efforts are made to deter it," Harun told this newspaper recently when contacted.

However, video footage and photos of different media organisations as well as witnesses say otherwise.

On August 14, at least 12 demonstrators were injured in the capital's Shahbagh when a police team, led by Harun, pounced on protestors during a peaceful protest over fuel price hike.

Among the injured was Sami Abdullah, a Dhaka University student, who had to get 14 stitches on his head. A video of the incident showed protestors shouting slogans at Shahbagh intersection. All of a sudden, Harun instructed his colleagues to beat the demonstrators.

A cop was seen helping Harun put on a jacket and helmet. Within minutes, the ADC and his colleagues started beating the protestors with batons, leaving Sami and 11 others injured.

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## PM's India visit fruitful: Hasan Mahmud

BSS REPORT

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India has been successful and fruitful.

The biggest achievement of the visit is the opportunity to export Bangladesh's garment products to other countries free of duty using India's territory. For which Bangladesh has been trying for many years, said Hasan, also joint general secretary of Awami League.

Expressing his gratitude to the prime minister for achieving a lot for Bangladesh through a successful visit to India, Hasan said BNP had talked a lot about this visit to India, but it should remain silent now as the visit has been successful.

The minister said this as chief guest while addressing an event of Bangladesh Journalists' Welfare Trust at S Rahman Hall of Chattogram Press Club (CPC).

Chattogram Union of Journalists President Mohammad Ali presided over the function, while Managing Director of Bangladesh Journalist Welfare Trust Subhash Chandra Badal, CPC President Ali Abbas, Member of Bangladesh Journalist Welfare Trust Kalim Sarwar, Vice President of BFUJ Shahidul Alam, General Secretary of CPC Chowdhury Farid and General Secretary of CUJ Shamsul Islam, addressed the function.

# 'Good days at last'

Teachers, staffers, students happy with Buet campus post-politics ban

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SUHANUR RAHMAN SHUVO

The academic atmosphere, residential facilities, and food quality in hall dining areas have significantly improved following the ban on student politics on Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) campus, said different stakeholders of the university.

Bullying and ragging culture in the dormitories have also seen a complete halt after the ban, according to students.

On October 11, 2019, Buet authorities banned student politics after Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of electrical and electronic engineering, was beaten to death by a group of Chhatra League (BCL) activists

**It is obvious that many positive changes have taken place on the campus recently. Most importantly, there is harmony among the students now.**

Satyra Prasad Majumder Buet VC

at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall between the night of October 6 and early hours of October 7.

At least 166 incidents of ragging were reported on a webpage named "UReporter" – operated by a section of computer science and engineering students – till October 10, 2019.

Not a single incident of assault, ragging or forcing to attend BCL's political programmes were reported in the page since the ban came into effect.

Seeking anonymity, a final-year student of the university told this newspaper that freshers used to be tortured regularly in guest rooms of the dormitories. Students of other batches were subjected to this torture as well if they dared to upset BCL seniors with their words or actions.

## CHANGES AT A GLANCE

- ➔ No more reported cases of ragging, bullying
- ➔ Improved environment at dorms
- ➔ Better quality of food at canteens
- ➔ Canteen managers not harassed, extorted anymore
- ➔ Students no longer forced to join political programmes

Another student described how senior students who were active in BCL politics would pressurise freshers to attend BCL programmes.

"We were given no other option but to comply. Sometimes, we had to attend programmes after returning from classes at noon, even if we had a lab test in an hour. We couldn't even have lunch and prepare for exams."

However, both students and the administration are more conscious and stricter regarding ragging now.

"There is a peaceful environment in the halls now, with seniors being more friendly to us," said a fresher at Buet's Sher-e-Bangla Hall.

Before the ban, BCL leaders used to become mess managers using their political influence. In the process, they would misappropriate money, which would result in subpar quality of food, said several students and dining staffers.

They claimed that there was no accountability on the part of these managers.

No one dared to talk against them fearing repercussions from BCL activists.

Some hall staffers and canteen managers also mentioned that previously, they had to

give a certain amount of their earnings to BCL activists and would be tortured if they refused to do so.

"We could not make any profit from the venture, which pushed us towards providing substandard food," they said.

A canteen manager, wishing anonymity, said BCL leaders and activists used to dine in the canteens without paying for the food.

"On one occasion, one of them snatched money from our accounts to buy cigarettes," he said.

"We went through unimaginable torture for this reason. Now, we are finally at peace," said another canteen staffer.

Some teachers of the university also claimed that after the ban on politics came into effect, the campus has seen a lot of progress, with significant improvement in the overall environment.

"Buet's academic and overall environment is way better now. The ban on politics is one of the major reasons," he said.

Contacted, Buet Vice Chancellor Satya Prasad Majumder said, "It is obvious that many positive changes have taken place on the campus recently. Most importantly, there is harmony among the students now."

## Cultural activists vow to fight communalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural activists yesterday vowed to raise their voice against all sorts of injustice and communalism, with the aim to build a non-communal and democratic Bangladesh.

They came up with the pledge at a discussion on the occasion of the eight central conference and National Council 2022 of the cultural platform Sammilita Sangskritik Jote at the capital's Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The conference, which was held after eight years with the slogan "Sangskritir Shoktite Jege Othho Bangladesh (Improve Bangladesh with cultural strength)", began with hoisting of the national flag and singing the national anthem in the morning, followed by a discussion.

Speaking at the discussion, eminent cultural personality and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor said, "We are not affiliated with any political party. Rather, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote is an

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## Mild heatwave sweeps country

UNB, Dhaka

A mild heatwave is sweeping across Bangladesh and it may be present for a while, announced the weather department yesterday morning.

"The heatwave has effected the districts of Faridpur, Sirajganj, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Mymensingh, Cumilla, Chandpur, Feni, Satkhira, Jashore, Chuadanga, Kushtia and Bhola, and it may continue," Bangladesh Meteorological Department said in a bulletin.

Besides, light to moderate rain or thunderstorms, accompanied by temporary gusty winds and lightning flashes, are likely to occur at many places over Barishal, Chattogram and Khulna divisions and at a few places in Rangpur, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions.

Temperature during the day may rise slightly

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## A concern for mental health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-five students on average have died by suicide every month in the last eight months, from January to August, a recent study found.

A total of 364 students from different schools, colleges, universities and madrasas have died by suicide, revealed the study conducted by Aachol Foundation, a student-based social organisation.

The findings of the study – conducted by analysing news reports from various media organisations – were revealed during a virtual press conference yesterday on the occasion of World Suicide Prevention Day, to be observed today.

More female students (60.71 percent) have died by suicide than males (39.29 percent), according to the study.

The organisation recommended appointing psychiatrists in all educational institutions, increasing students' participation in extra-curricular activities, facilitating the organisations working for the betterment of students' mental health, and conducting relevant campaigns in the institutions.

Aachol in its report said 194 of the total

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Dengue death toll 31

Total number of patients 8,096

933 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients 7,132

145 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING  
SEPTEMBER 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45  
JAMAA 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:17 8:15  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A group of men marches in rhythm, carrying a heavy log across the road and towards the saw mill. These workers usually work in groups of eight to 12, depending on the size and weight of the log, and get paid Tk 900 for each tonne they carry. In this way, these workers carry 15 to 20 tonnes a day to earn a good enough amount for their families. This photo was taken in Kamrangirchar yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN