

The sorry state of polytechnic instt in Faridpur

Students suffer for dilapidated dorms, teacher shortage, insufficient resources

SUJIT DAS

Broken ceilings, no water supply in restrooms, and unappetising meal quality – these are what students are coping with at the dorms of Faridpur Polytechnic Institute.

Established in 1962 on 16 acres of land in the municipality's Baytul Aman area, the institution currently has 4,044 students studying in its six active departments.

Currently, the institution has three halls (two male and one female) with a combined capacity of 300 students.

During a recent visit to the Kabi Alaul Hall, which can accommodate 100 male students, this correspondent found that most of the doors and windows of the rooms were either broken or cracked. The plaster on the ceilings was also falling off and could collapse at any minute.

Out of the total 42 rooms available in this hall, 38 are currently in use. Besides, only 7 out of 18 restrooms are functional, and merely 2 out of 24 shower rooms can be used at present.

Drinking water is not available at the dorms neither is water for showers or other daily chores.

"The majority of students either opt to take a bath in a nearby pond or are compelled to manually fetch water from other sources to meet their daily requirements," said

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Students at Faridpur Polytechnic Institute are facing a host of challenges at their dormitories, including broken ceilings, lack of water supply in restrooms, and unappetising meal quality. The institute, currently has 4,044 students studying in its six active departments. Despite its size, the institution only has three halls at present, with a combined capacity of 300 students, two of which are male and one female. The substandard living conditions are raising concerns about the well-being and safety of students, and the urgent need for improvement in dormitory facilities.

PHOTO: STAR

BARISHAL 'BNP will vote for us' Says Islamic Andolon candidate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Mufti Syed Muhammad Faizul Karim, the mayoral candidate of Islami Andolon Bangladesh, has expressed his desire to secure votes from supporters of the BNP in the upcoming Barishal City Corporation election.

During a meeting yesterday with local journalists in the city, Karim said, "BNP will vote for me for two reasons – to prove that the current government has no public support and to show that they have actually boycotted the polls."

"If the independent candidate with BNP affiliation wins, it will suggest that the party was not serious about boycotting the election," he added.

Kamrul Ahsan Rupom, son of former BNP-backed Barishal mayor Ahsan Habib Kamal, has expressed his desire to contest in the upcoming city polls. However, he has not collected nomination papers yet. Rupom has no

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GAZIPUR 'Relieve us from party activities' Say 10 councillor candidates after BNP serves them show-cause notices for contesting

Say 10 councillor candidates after BNP serves them show-cause notices for contesting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an interesting development, 10 BNP councillor aspirants have sought to be relieved from party activities ahead of the Gazipur City Corporation polls.

The BNP served show-cause notices to them on Friday for participating in the upcoming polls, but they replied en masse, citing "sickness" and "personal reasons" as their grounds for wanting to be excluded from party activities.

These aspiring councillors believe that contesting the election is more important to them than being part of BNP. They say they are already popular among voters, with some of them having already served as councillors in the last two terms.

They say as the full-fledged committee of Gazipur city unit of BNP and most of its associate fronts are yet to be formed, they prefer to be identified as "former BNP leaders".

It remains to be seen how the BNP higher-ups will respond.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Hannan Mia, BNP's former convener of Gazipur Metropolitan Sadar thana unit, said, "I, along with several others, responded (to the show cause notice) by seeking exemption from party activities for the time being showing illness."

What's more interesting is Faisal Ahmad Sarkar, member secretary of city unit Sramik Dal, an associated body of BNP, will be elected unopposed in ward-15 as no other candidates have submitted nomination papers for councillor position from this constituency.

Contacted, he said, "We are contesting as we did not receive any instructions from the party. Also, no action was taken against the BNP men who participated in union parishad elections in Gazipur before."

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LNG TERMINALS SHUT AT MAHESHKHALI Gas crisis hits Ctg



PHOTO: STAR

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Many households in Chattogram have been left without gas in their cooking stoves since yesterday morning as the supply from the two floating LNG terminals at Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar has been shutdown as a precautionary measure due to cyclone Mocha.

As a result, thousands of people have been left without the means to prepare food.

Shuvescha Ghosh, a resident of Askar Dighir Par area in Chattogram, said, "When I fired the stove in the morning after waking up, I found there was no gas. I have to make food for my three-year-old baby. I don't know what to feed him."

The gas pressure has been very low in various CNG pumps in the city, causing further inconvenience. Some residents have resorted to buying food from restaurants and hotels.

Sohel Ahmed, a resident of Hem Sen Lane, said, "I have come to buy food for breakfast, but I don't know how to cook lunch in my house without gas."

Deputy General Manager (Maintenance) of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL), Mizanur Rahman, said the gas supply disruption has affected not only households but also CNG pumps and industrial plants. He said the situation may continue until Sunday night.

However, Raees Uddin Ahmed, general manager of Engineering Services Division at KGDCL, said they are trying to procure some gas from alternative sources to maintain normal gas supply at least to households.

He said the total daily demand of gas in Chattogram is 300 mmcf and all of it is supplied from the LNG terminal. KGDCL is also in talks with Petrobangla to get some gas from the national grid to meet the domestic demand.

UTERUS RELATED DISEASES Kumudini resumes free treatment Australian physician couple to supervise for 3 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The authorities of Kumudini Hospital at Mirzapur, Tangail have resumed free treatment of uterus related diseases.

The patients from the district as well as other parts of the country can receive treatment at the hospital from May 13 to 15.

Australian physician couple – Dr Barbara Ann Hall and Dr Jhon William Taylor – will supervise the treatment being provided by the hospital doctors. Besides, the couple will train doctors and nurses at Kumudini Hospital during workshop for the three days, hospital sources said.

Prof Abdul Halim, principal of Kumudini Women's Medical College, came up with the information at a press conference at the Old Library of the hospital yesterday.

A release from the hospital said DAK Foundation, Australia in cooperation with Impact Foundation, Bangladesh had since 2017 been working with Kumudini in providing training to the Kumudini Hospital gynaecologists and nurses on Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP) management through a project named "PROSHANTI".

The programme, however, had been postponed due to spread of Covid-19.

POP is a childbirth related complication that causes death of around 3,00,000 women every year in Bangladesh along with 3 million neonatal deaths.



Market at the cost of ponds

Locals protest Tangail municipality's move of filling up three waterbodies

MIRZA SHAKIL

Three government ponds are being filled in Tangail's Santosh area for constructing a market in place of the kitchen market established by legendary political leader Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani.

Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University and Tangail Municipality have signed a mutual understanding (MoU) in this regard.

Locals and traders of the kitchen market yesterday formed a human chain in front of the market located beside the Tangail-Charabari road in front of the university, protesting the move.

Speakers at the human chain alleged that Maulana Bhasani constructed the kitchen market in 1975 after taking the land's lease from the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), keeping the interest of the locals in mind.

Currently, around 500 people, including shop owners and street vendors, are solely dependent on their earnings from the market.

The municipality, however, has plans to construct a two-story concrete market in place of the kitchen market. They have already started filling the ponds behind the land, defying environmental laws, claimed locals.

The municipality has already started taking substantial amounts of money from different parties, assuring them

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29 more get hospitalised with dengue

UNB, Dhaka

Twenty-nine more people were hospitalised with dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Of the new patients, 23 were admitted to hospitals in Dhaka and the rest outside it, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Ninety-eight dengue patients, including 76 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

So far, the DGHS has recorded 1,225 dengue cases, 1,115 recoveries, and 12 deaths this year. The country logged 281 dengue deaths in 2022 – the highest on record after 179 deaths recorded in 2019.

Also, it recorded 62,423 dengue cases and 61,971 recoveries last year.



In Tangail's Santosh area, a significant change is underway as three government ponds are being filled to make way for the construction of a new market. This market will replace the historic kitchen market that was originally established by the revered political leader, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani.

PHOTO: STAR