

# CU engineer assaulted by BCL leader

## Univ staffers sever utilities lines on campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chhatra League leader assaulted the chief engineer and harassed the security officer of Chittagong University yesterday.

Protesting the incident, the engineering department cut off the water, gas, and electricity lines campus-wide for several hours and staged a protest in front of the administration building, demanding the immediate arrest of the BCL leader.

They accuse Raju Munsî, CU BCL's joint general secretary and a follower of CU BCL's General Secretary Iqbal Hossain Tipu, of leading the attack.

Raju is a former student of the accounting department. Though he is no longer a student, he lives in BCL-dominated Shah Jalal dormitory.

Chief Engineer (acting) Sayed Jahangir Fazal was beaten at Kata Pahar Road around 11:00am.

### Security officer Sheikh Abdur Razzak was also harassed by Raju

A few minutes later, security officer Sheikh Abdur Razzak was harassed by Raju, they alleged.

Following the incident, the employees of the engineering department gathered in front of CU VC's office and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

Chief Engineer Sayed Jahangir Fazle told the university correspondent that he went to Kata Pahar Road on official duty.

Suddenly, BCL leader Raju Munsî appeared and started scolding him. At one point, the BCL men started punching him, he said.

Campus sources said Raju Munsî stopped the construction work of the second Fine Art Faculty building on campus demanding toll.

In the evening, the demonstrating staffers withdrew their programme and restored the utility connections following assurances of justice from the university administration.

Proctor Nurul Azim Shikhdar said the incident would be investigated and a case would be lodged in this connection.

Contacted, CU BCL unit general secretary Tipu told The Daily Star, "I'm not sure what happened. We heard the allegations. We will look into the matter."



Rescuers work at the site of vegetable oil factory destroyed by Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Poltava region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Ukraine recaptures key village in south

## Eyes breakthrough in grinding offensive against Russian positions; 4 killed in Russian attacks in Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine announced yesterday it had recaptured a village on the southern frontline, where its forces are hoping for a breakthrough in their grinding offensive against entrenched Russian positions.

Kyiv launched its pushback in June after stockpiling Western-supplied weapons, building up assault battalions and attacking Russian positions.

But officials in Kyiv have acknowledged that progress has been slow and Moscow says Ukrainian forces are running out of resources.

"Robotyne has been liberated. Our forces are advancing southeast of Robotyne and south of Mala Tokmachka," Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Malysar said on television.

Both settlements are in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia, one of four that the Kremlin claimed to have annexed last year despite not having military control over any of them.

Ukraine's limited advances on the southern front have spurred a political debate in Western capitals over political and military support for Kyiv.

Compared to previous offensives in the Kherson and Kharkiv regions, Ukrainian forces are crashing into Russian defensive lines of trenches and minefields that are kilometres deep.

But experts say that the capture of Robotyne is evidence Ukrainian force can puncture Russian lines as they move towards the Black Sea.

### Experts say that capture of Robotyne is evidence Ukrainian force can puncture Russian lines.

Meanwhile, three people were killed in an overnight Russian missile strike on Ukraine, and a fourth was killed in shelling yesterday morning, Ukrainian officials said.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said the three people killed overnight were workers at an industrial facility that was hit in the central Poltava region. Five others were wounded and another person was unaccounted for, he said.

Presidential chief of staff Andriy Yermak described the facility as a vegetable oil

factory in the Myrhorod district of Poltava region, and posted photos showing the plant in flames. Klymenko said the fire had later been extinguished.

"The people were working the night shift," Yermak said on the Telegram messaging app.

Oleksandr Prokudin, governor of the Kherson region, said a 63-year-old woman had been killed in shelling of the village of Sadove at around 10:40 am yesterday.

The Ukrainian military said Russia had launched four missiles from the Black Sea overnight, two of which were shot down.

The military also said the Kryvyi Rih region in central Ukraine had been struck in a missile attack. Local authorities said several private houses had been damaged, but reported no casualties.

Russia, which sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine 18 months ago, did not immediately comment on the reports.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan will visit Russia soon to discuss the collapsed United Nations deal that had allowed Black Sea exports of Ukrainian grain, a spokesperson for Turkey's ruling AK Party said yesterday.

# PM to brief media today on BRICS Summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hold press conferences at the Gono Bhaban today around 4:00pm.

The PM will brief the media on the outcome of her recent visit to South Africa, according to the press wing of the Prime Minister's Office.

She attended the 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg on August 22-24 at the invitation of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Hasina left Dhaka for Johannesburg on August 22 and returned Sunday.

# 15 JMB men charged in 2020 bomb blast case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday framed charges against 15 operatives of "Neo JMB", including an expatriate, in connection with a case filed over the bomb blast at a traffic police box in the city's Sholoshahar Gate-2 area on February 28, 2020, which left five men, including two cops, injured.

Chattogram Anti-Terrorism Tribunal judge Abdul Halim framed the charges after hearing the sides of the defence and prosecution in presence of 13 JMB men, said court sources.

The accused are Md Saifullah, 24, Md Emran, 24, Md Alauddin, 23, Mohidul Alam, 25, Md Jahir Uddin, 28, Md Moinuddin, 23, Md Rahmat Ullah, 24, Md Shahed Hossen, 24, Md Selim, 33, Abdullah Al Noman, 25, Abdul Khaiyum, 24, Kaiser Uddin, 21, Md Morshedul Alam, 25, and UAE expatriate Md Shahjahan, 28.

According to the charge sheet, Noman was the military commander of the group.

A juvenile accused in the case would be tried in the juvenile court, said the court sources.

Advocate Rubel Pal, public prosecutor (PP) of the tribunal, said "The court framed charges implicating the 15 JMB men. Among the 15 accused, 13 were present. Two accused are out on bail in the case from High Court."

# Biker killed in collision with microbus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A biker was killed after his vehicle collided head-on with a microbus on the Thakurgaon-Panchagarh highway in Panchagarh's Boda upazila Sunday night.

The deceased, Farhan Labib, 22, was the son of Mokhlesur Rahman of Islambag village in the Panchagarh municipality area.

Boda Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shariful Islam said Farhan was headed towards Panchagarh town from Boda upazila.

His vehicle collided with an oncoming microbus at Dhonipara village as it changed lanes erratically to enter a filling station, leaving the biker severely injured.

He died from his injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital on the same night after he was transferred from Panchagarh Sadar Hospital.

Police seized the microbus, but its driver managed to escape.

# 104 Nobel laureates, 79 global figures

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has made laudable progress since its independence in 1971," reads the letter.

"However, we are deeply concerned by the threats to democracy and human rights that we have observed in Bangladesh recently...One of the threats to human rights that concerns us in the present context is the case of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus. We are alarmed that he has recently been targeted by what we believe to be continuous judicial harassment," it says.

"We respectfully ask that you immediately suspend the current judicial proceedings against Prof Yunus, followed by a review of the charges by a panel of impartial judges drawn from within your nation with some role for internationally recognised legal experts. We are confident that any thorough review of the anti-corruption and labour law cases against him will result in his acquittal."

Eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, former US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Virgin Group Founder Sir Richard Branson, and former presidents, prime ministers and ministers and business leader are among the signatories.

The letter, published on the website of US-based Cision PR Newswire, attempts to build upon an earlier appeal to PM Hasina by 40 global leaders in March.

The new letter reads, "As you know, Prof Yunus' work, which has been inspirational to all of us, focuses on how social business can be a force for international progress resulting in zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions. He is a leading example of how Bangladesh and Bangladeshis have contributed to global progress in recent decades. We sincerely wish that he be able to continue his path-breaking work free of persecution or

harassment.

"We hope that you ensure the resolution of these legal issues in an expedient, impartial, and just manner while also ensuring a free, fair, and participatory national election in the coming months, and respect for all human rights. We will join with millions of concerned citizens around the world in closely tracking how these matters are resolved in the days ahead."

Prof Yunus is one of only seven people to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, the US Congressional Gold Medal, and the US Presidential Medal of Freedom.

President Obama, himself a Nobel laureate, recently wrote to Prof Yunus: "During this period, I hope it gives you strength to know that many whose potential you invested in, and those who care about a more equitable economic future for all, are thinking of you, and I hope that you continue to have the freedom to do your important work."

On Sunday, 34 Bangladeshi eminent citizens expressed concern over the case filed against Prof Yunus and three others on charge of labour law violation.

On September 9, 2021, Labour Inspector (general) SM Arifuzzaman of the Inspection for Factories and Establishments Department filed a labour law violation case against four people, including Prof Yunus, with the Third Labour Court of Dhaka.

According to the case documents, officials of the Inspection for Factories and Establishments Department on August 16, 2021, inspected the office of Grameen Telecom in the capital's Mirpur and found several violations of labour laws.

On June 6 this year, the court framed charges against the accused -- including Prof Yunus -- in the case. The trial began on August 22.

Meanwhile, Civic Courage, originally named the Center

for Citizen Empowerment and Transformation, an organisation that empowers citizen action, in a press release said, the Nobel laureates and the global figures wrote the open letter to Hasina responding to a mid-August review from an international law firm.

In its review, the law firm said, "Professor Yunus is facing six months in prison for a crime that he not only did not commit, but that legally does not exist...Events are moving quickly in Bangladesh driven by a forthcoming election and a presumed desire to imprison Prof Yunus prior to that election.... Not only are the allegations entirely without merit, but the legal process is wrong in law....A miscarriage of justice is happening in Bangladesh and the state must not be allowed to carry it to its conclusion."

Following are the Nobel Laureates who are the signatories of the letter: PEACE

Barack H. Obama, 2009; José Ramos Horta, 1996; Mairead Corrigan-Maguire, 1976; Shirin Ebadi, 2003; Leymah Roberta Gbowee, 2011; Albert Arnold Gore Jr., 2007; Tawakkol Karman, 2011; Denis Mukwege, 2018; Nadia Murad, 2018; Maria Ressa, 2021; Oscar Arias Sanchez, 1987; Juan Manuel Santos, 2016; Rigoberta Menchu Tum, 1992; and Jody Williams, 1997.

CHEMISTRY  
Peter Agre, 2003; Thomas R. Cech, 1989; Martin Chalfie, 2008; Emmanuelle Charpentier, 2020; Aaron Ciechanover, 2004; Johann Deisenhofer, 1988; Jacques Dubochet, 2017; Joachim Frank, 2017; Walter Gilbert, 1980; Alan Heeger, 2000; Richard Henderson, 2017; Dudley R. Herschbach, 1986; Avram Hershko, 2004; Roald Hoffmann, 1981; Robert Huber, 1988; Martin Karplus, 2013; Brian K. Kobilka, 2012; Yuan T. Lee, 1986; Robert J. Lefkowitz, 2012; Jean-Marie Lehn, 1987; Michael Levitt, 2013; Tomas Lindahl, 2015; Paul L.

Modrich, 2015; John C. Polanyi, 1986; Jean-Pierre Sauvage, 2016; Sir John E. Walker, 1997; Arie Warshel, 2013; and Sir Gregory P. Winter, 2018.

ECONOMICS

Oliver Hart, 2016; Finn E. Kydland, 2004; Paul R. Milgrom, 2020; Edmund Phelps, 2006; Alvin E. Roth, 2012; Vernon L. Smith, 2002; and Joseph E. Stiglitz, 2001.

LITERATURE

J. M. Coetzee, 2003; Herta Muller, 2009; Orhan Pamuk, 2006; and Wole Soyinka, 1986.

MEDICINE

Harvey J. Alter, 2020; David Baltimore, 1975; Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, 2008; J. Michael Bishop, 1989; Elizabeth H. Blackburn, 2009; William C. Campbell, 2015; Peter C. Doherty, 1996; Jeffrey Connor Hall, 2017; Leland H. Hartwell, 2001; Jules A. Hoffmann, 2011; Tasuku Honjo, 2018; H. Robert Horvitz, 2002; Sir Michael Houghton, 2020; Craig C. Mello, 2006; Edvard Moser, 2014; May-Britt Moser, 2014; Sir Paul M. Nurse, 2001; Ardem Patapoutian, 2021; Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe, 2019; Charles M. Rice, 2020; Sir Richard J. Roberts, 1993; Michael Rosbash, 2017; Gregg L. Semenza, 2019; Hamilton O. Smith, 1978; Jack W. Szostak, 2009; Harold E. Varmus, 1989; Eric F. Wieschaus, 1995; Torsten N. Wiesel, 1981; and Michael W. Young, 2017.

PHYSICS

Barry Clark Barish, 2017; Steven Chu, 1997; Andre Geim, 2010; Sheldon Glashow, 1979; David J. Gross, 2004; John L. Hall, 2005; Takaaki Kajita, 2015; Anthony J. Leggett, 2003; John C. Mather, 2006; Michel Mayor, 2019; Arthur B. McDonald, 2015; Konstantin Novoselov, 2010; Giorgio Parisi, 2021; James Peebles, 2019; Roger Penrose, 2020; William D. Phillips, 1997; H. David Politzer, 2004; Brian P. Schmidt, 2011; Horst L. Stormer, 1998; Daniel C. Tsui, 1998; Carl E. Wieman, 2001; and David J. Wineland, 2012.

# 17yrs gone

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"The poor online ticketing coverage of Bangladesh Railway goes against the government vision of 'Digital Bangladesh'," said Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity.

He told The Daily Star yesterday that the government invested thousands of crores of taka in the railway sector over the last decade to improve railway services, but BR failed to properly utilise it due to a lack of capacity, and the poor ticketing system was a reflection of it.

BR does not have any dedicated IT cell and it is entirely dependent on vendors for the limited online ticketing services.

"A service provider like the railway must have a dedicated IT cell and should have made all ticketing services online," he said.

Between 2008-09 and 2022-23 fiscal years, the government allocated Tk 1,07,645 crore to BR under the annual development programme. However, the state-run transport agency could only spend Tk 71,113 crore, which is 66.06 percent of the total, until October last year, documents show.

The current online ticketing service is usually smooth. But during holidays like Eid, people face difficulties in getting tickets, said Rifat Hossain, who regularly travels by train.

On the other hand, it is difficult to get tickets from station counters in many areas as scalpers, in collusion with some unscrupulous railway employees, sell train tickets in the black market at a significant markup, Rifat said.

E-TICKETING NATIONWIDE?

The finance ministry yesterday suggested that all stations be brought under the online ticketing system to reduce people's suffering and ensure transparency in ticket sales.

Officials of the finance division at an inter-ministerial meeting at the Rail Bhaban yesterday presented a concept paper on how online ticketing systems work globally and how the BR can adopt it, meeting

participants said.

People buying tickets online can only travel to and from 41 stations in BR's east zone and 44 in west zone, according to the presentation given by Muhammad Anisur Rahman, a deputy secretary of the finance division.

The presentation, which this correspondent obtained a copy of, reads that Agrani Bank collects the money from stations selling tickets manually one to three days later. But how many tickets were sold and how much money was received are not verified, it said.

It is not possible to get real-time information on revenue as the money is being collected online and in cash.

It said BR got 61.17 percent of its earnings from online ticket sales in May and June this year.

Citing online ticketing systems of the Netherlands, India, and the USA, it suggested bringing all stations under e-ticketing system.

Deputy Secretary Anisur said with an online ticketing system, people will be able to buy tickets for all trains from the comfort of their homes.

It would give railway high-ups real-time information on the number of tickets sold, and ensure accountability and transparency and there would be no cash transactions.

When contacted, Anisur, on behalf of his division, said they placed the concept paper before the railway authorities. "It will depend on them [rail authorities] whether they will take initiatives in this regard," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Responding to a question, he said it is mandatory that government revenue is deposited within 24 hours of income, but it is not possible without the online ticketing system.

BR Director General Quamrul Ahsan yesterday told this paper that online ticketing facilities are available for stations where intercity trains usually stop. "We will bring other important stations under the online ticketing system gradually."

Asked about the finance division's suggestion, "We will go for cent percent online ticketing system in phases."