

Buet postpones exams amid student boycott

DU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology have decided to postpone examinations as students continue to boycott academic activities as part of their protest against politics on the campus.

The decision was made on Saturday evening through a meeting of Buet's academic council, said meeting sources.

The students have been boycotting their classes and examinations since March 30, protesting the gathering of Chhatra League activists on Buet campus on March 28.

Wishing anonymity, an academic council member said the authorities postponed the examinations considering the overall situation, adding that a fresh examination schedule will be announced at a convenient time.

Contacted, Prof Mohammad Al Amin Siddique, director of Buet's Directorate of Students' Welfare, said the academic council has postponed the ongoing examinations from Saturday as students have not been attending the examinations except only a few.

"Those who took part in the scheduled exams may either take part in the rescheduled exams again later along with the absent students or may opt not to attend. It will depend on them," he added.

Student politics was banned on Buet campus after a group of BCL men killed Abrar Fahad, a second-year student, at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall on October 7, 2019.

On April 1, a High Court bench stayed the effectiveness of the university's notice that banned student politics.

Regarding the matter, Prof Siddique said, "We are yet to receive the written copy of the High Court's order. We will take preparation once we get the copy."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the newly constructed "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Battery Complex" at the Artillery Center and School in Chattogram's Halishahar Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Won't allow anyone to undermine sovereignty

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh wants to maintain friendship with everyone, but it will not allow anyone to undermine its independence and sovereignty.

"We do not want anyone to undermine our independence and sovereignty. We want friendship with all, but to protect our country's independence and sovereignty we will do whatever is needed," she said, adding, "We have to always keep this in our mind."

Hasina said this while addressing a darbar (gathering) after inaugurating the newly constructed "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Battery Complex" at the Artillery Center and

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RIFAT MURDER Minni seeks bail from HC again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Death-row convict Ayesha Siddika Minni yesterday filed another petition with the High Court seeking bail in the murder case of her husband Rifat Sharif.

Minni, now in Kashimpur jail, submitted the petition through her lawyers ZI Khan Panna, Syeda Nasrin, Md Shahinuzzaman, and Nazmus Sakib Tusti, stating that she was not involved in the murder and was trying to save Rifat.

Rifat, 25, an internet service provider, was hacked by a group of people, led by prime accused Nayon Bond, in front of Barguna Government College in broad daylight on June 26, 2019. Rifat died at a Barishal hospital later that day.

A video clip of the attack, believed to be captured on a mobile phone, went viral on social media and triggered public outrage, with many condemning bystanders for not coming forward to save Rifat.

Minni, seen in the video clip screaming while desperately trying to stop the two men from attacking her husband with sharp weapons, was made the first witness in the case.

Advocate Panna told The Daily Star that the hearing

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'Unite to save the country'

Dr Kamal Hossain urges all



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Kamal Hossain cuts a cake at an event marking his 87th birthday at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no alternative to a united movement to free the country from the existing difficult situation, said eminent jurist and one of the architects of the country's constitution, Dr Kamal Hossain, yesterday.

Dr Kamal, also founder and emeritus president of Gonoforum, made the remark at an event held on the occasion of his 87th birth anniversary. Gonoforum organised the event at Jatiya Press Club.

"Let us all come forward and take a decision collectively to free the country from the existing difficult situation. We will unite people and continue our movement," he said.

"We learn from history that whenever we have started a united movement, we have overcome all kinds of difficult challenges," Dr Kamal said.

"Let us all -- who are present here and who aren't -- call for a

united movement and take to the streets," he added.

Earlier, highlighting his vibrant life and works, speakers, including politicians and civil society leaders, said Dr Kamal is the lighthouse of the country's democracy.

Khaliquzzaman, adviser to Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, said Dr Kamal is the only politician in Bangladesh at present, under whose leadership the country's democracy can be restored.

Nagorik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna said Dr Kamal is out and out a good and competent politician. "Such a politician like him is badly needed at present to free the country from the clutches of autocracy," he added.

Dr Kamal is not only the leader of Gonoforum; he is also the leader of the country's people, Manna also said.

Saiful Haq, president of Biplobi Workers Party, said Dr Kamal is part and parcel of the country's history.

"His role as a lawyer in the Agartala Conspiracy Case and as a constant companion of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will make him memorable forever in the history of Bangladesh," he added.

Sharif Nurul Ambia, president of Bangladesh Jasod, also termed Dr Kamal the lighthouse of the country's democracy.

However, he posed the question -- why Gonoforum did not get any success in politics.

Junaid Saki, chief coordinator of Gonosonghoti Andolon, lauded Dr Kamal, saying despite being a part of the ruling party's politics, Dr Kamal was always on the side of the common people and the oppressed.

Bodiu Alam Mojunder, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik, said Dr Kamal was a lawyer for the masses. He was the symbol of hope and inspiration in times of danger.

A cake was cut at the end of the programme to celebrate Dr Kamal's birthday.

'Investigate wealth of former IGP Benazir'

Barrister Suman appeals to ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman, lawmaker from Habiganj 4 constituency,

has submitted an application to the Anti-Corruption Commission seeking an investigation into the wealth of Benazir Ahmed, former inspector general of police.

In the application, Suman made allegations of discrepancies between the former IGP's known income and wealth.

He also requested the ACC to investigate the wealth held in the names of Benazir's family members, for possible irregularities.

"During his tenure, Benazir, his wife and daughters accumulated a significant amount of wealth, which, according to reports, is not commensurate with his legitimate income," Suman wrote in the application.

Earlier, a national daily reported that Benazir, his wife Jisan Mirza, and their two daughters amassed a vast amount of wealth.

Citing the report, Suman wrote, "The legitimate income of Benazir Ahmed does not justify the amount

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BTEB chairman's wife was involved with certificate forgery racket: DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police found "proof" of financial transactions between Sehela Parveen, 54, wife of BTEB Chairman Ali Akbar Khan, and a gang involved in forging HSC and SSC certificates.

A DB team arrested Sehela, 54, from her Rajuk apartment in Uttara on Saturday, DB Chief Harun-Or-Rashid, told a press briefing at DMP Media Centre yesterday.

He said she was involved with the racket which made fake certificates, mark sheets, registration cards and admit cards of the Bangladesh Technical Education Board.

She was taken into a two-day remand yesterday. "This gang has made millions of taka by making over 5,000 fake certificate, mark sheets in the last few years," he said.

The DB chief said the BTEB chairman will be interrogated if needed.

Apart from Sehela, five other people were earlier arrested on these charges. Three of them gave confessional statements before a Dhaka court recently.

Investigators said a syndicate of corrupt individuals has been illegally altering information related to student registration, roll numbers, result modifications, and personal details like names and birthdates in various educational institutions across Bangladesh in exchange for money.

Meanwhile, some journalists covering the education sector knew about the syndicate for a long time. But they did not publish any report in exchange for money, Harun alleged.

The detectives have the names of these journalists, he added.

Earlier on April 1, DB arrested BTEB system analyst AKM Shamsuzzaman and Faisal, a sacked employee of the same institution, from Maddhya Pirerbagh area.

The DB recovered hundreds of fabricated fake

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A cool splash

Fire drill brings momentary relief for UIU students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the relentless heat, amid the mundane routine of classes, students of United International University (UIU) got some relief yesterday morning from an unexpected source -- a fire drill.

This morning, UIU's permanent campus in Dhaka's Satarkul hosted a fire drill and building evacuation practice to increase awareness of the fundamental steps that should be taken in the event of an earthquake, fire, or other such incidents.

As part of the exercise, fire service officials sprayed water from a height of at least six or seven storeys onto the open ground in front of the university building. That is when students took the opportunity to cool down and have some fun.

On Facebook, a video of the students having fun in this "artificial rain" went viral.

As the temperature soared to the high thirties in the capital, UIU employees, students and personnel



field, many with umbrellas. Some were jogging away from the path of water, while others were walking towards it.

A good number of university employees, students and personnel of Fire Service and Civil Defence of

Bangladesh jointly participated in the hour-long fire drill, said Syed Monirul Islam, senior station officer of Baridhara Fire Station.

"A [controlled] fire was lit on the 7th floor of the 11-story building at 11:00am. The fire alarm was then set-off. The participants later received instruction on how to leave the seventh floor in the event of a fire. Additionally, we practised administering first aid and evacuating two individuals from the eighth floor to the ground floor and sent them to hospital on an ambulance."

"Later, we demonstrated three different nozzle display types -- spraying, fogging, and jetting -- from a height of 64 feet using a turntable ladder. We sprayed water on the open ground in front of the university. Normally, we don't spray water at the building or inside the building [during drills] as the furniture and other belongings might get damaged," he added.

As a heatwave is sweeping the country and temperatures are too high to bear, the students didn't hesitate to head outside and enjoy the water as it "rained" over them from a height of 64 feet. The fire service officials sprayed the water for 10 minutes.

PLIGHT OF MIGRANT WORKERS Bangladesh, Malaysia working group meeting likely in May

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is expected to hold the next joint working group (JWG) meeting with Malaysia by the end of May to address the overall market situation and plight of Bangladeshi migrant workers there.

The JWG is comprised of officials from both countries and is designed to hold meetings at regular intervals.

Malaysia, one of the largest labour markets for low-paid Bangladeshi migrant workers, has announced a temporary

suspension on intaking foreign workers from all of its labour-sourcing countries after May 31.

Many Bangladeshi migrant workers there have experienced hardship, including unemployment, despite entering the country through formal channels.

UN experts on Friday expressed dismay about the situation of Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia.

Md Ruhul Amin, secretary of the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas

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USAID BANGLADESH ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH THROUGH ENERGY (BADGE)

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) with Innovative Business Concept for the "Youth Energy Entrepreneurship Program".

Tetra Tech ES, Inc., is the implementing organization of the Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy (BADGE) project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID/BADGE Project initiated the "Youth Energy Entrepreneurship Program" which aims to empower the youth and women in the field of clean energy, energy efficiency, and other energy related sectors in Bangladesh. In this regard, Tetra Tech is inviting youth and/or women entrepreneurs to express their interest by submitting innovative business concept to support their own business ideas. Through the Youth Energy Entrepreneurship Program, BADGE will create an opportunity to establish a network of youth entrepreneurs in the energy sector and link them with potential funders/investors to support accelerated their businesses. For detail information about the Expression of Interest (EOI), please visit the Tender/EOI section of www.bjjobs.com.