

UPGRADING CMC TO UNIVERSITY

Cops warn protesters to stop movement

Raid their houses, alleges employee oikya parishad; 2-hour work abstention for 3 days starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg,

Protesting nurses and staff of Chittagong Medical College Hospital have alleged that the CMCH authority sent police to the houses of some of their leaders to warn them of staying away from the ongoing movement.

"Police raided the houses of seven of our leaders on Saturday night without any allegation," said Ratan Kumar Nath, a joint convener of the CMCH Karmakarta Karmachari Sangram Oikya Parishad.

"Police ransacked their houses, and threatened them to stop the movement or else sedition charges will be brought against them," he said.

The Oikya Parishad, consisting of nurses

and third and fourth class employees, have been observing a one-hour work abstention from 11:00am to 12:00 noon since April 9, protesting the government's decision to upgrade the Chittagong Medical College to a medical university.

They fear that if the hospital goes under an autonomous body from government's authority, their jobs will be at stake.

Romena Akther, president of Oikya Parishad, said they would observe a two-hour work abstention from 11:00am to 1:00pm for three days from tomorrow, protesting the police harassment.

She said upgrading CMC to a university

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would also deprive the poor people of treatment, pathological tests and medicines, which are now given either free of cost or at nominal prices.

Asked, Abu Jafar Mohammad Omar Faruk, officer-in-charge of Panchlaish Police Station, said police had just visited the houses to collect information of Oikya Parishad leaders.

He brushed aside the allegation of harassing the family members.

This correspondent rang up CMCH Director Brig Gen Khondakar Shahidul Ghani several times for his comments, but he did not pick up the phone.