



# Viqarunnisa School closed for 3 days

Staff Correspondent

The government asked the authorities of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College on Monday to suspend all classes for three days from today (Tuesday).

The directive to suspend classes of the school and college came from the Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education amid

continued demonstrations by students, alumni and guardians against government move to remove the college Principal Hamida Ali.

A press note issued by the Press Information Department said the classes of the school and college have been suspended for July 16. (See Page 15 Col. 7)

## Viqarunnisa

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17 and 18 due to unavoidable circumstances.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dr. Osman Faruq in an interview with a private TV channel on Monday said if Prof. Hamida Ali did not hand over power according to the government directive, action would be taken against her as per law.

Though the governing body of the school and college unanimously decided to extend the service of the Principal of the institution Prof. Hamida Ali, the Ministry of Education took a rigid stand against it and refused further extension of her service that sparked agitation by students and guardians.

A few hundred students, alumni and guardians of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College staged demonstration for the second consecutive day on Monday in protest against the government move to remove Hamida Ali.

The angry demonstrators gathered on the road in front of the school since morning causing huge traffic gridlock in the areas as police blocked all entrances of the school. They had to remain confined on the road as a large number of police obstructed them to go other areas.

Ten platoons of police, including two platoons of female police, were deployed to keep the situation under control, police sources said.

Infuriated by the government's decision to remove their beloved Hamida Apa, hundreds of present and former students along with their guardians took to the city streets and put up barricade on several roads in support of their demand.

However, a government clarification has said on Sunday that she was not sacked, but sent on retirement.

Placards and posters inscribed with "We want Hamida Ali", "Viqarunnisa will be destroyed without Hamida Ali", and "None can change our mother" were carried by the students during the demonstrations.

This is for the first time that the students of this premier school took to the street in an angry protest and boycotted their classes.

Meanwhile, a 10-member delegation of the guardians, led by Alhaj Farhad Ahmed Kanchan, was obstructed by police when it was going to the Prime Minister's office to submit a memorandum to press their demand on Monday noon. The policemen took the memorandum, and assured the delegation that they would submit it to the PM office.

The country's premier non-government institution, having 10,000 students was established in 1952. Its academic activities and brilliant results by its students for years after years took the institutions and its faculty members particularly the principal to the helm of reputation.

Recently, Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Principal of Udayan School and College, resigned from the post allegedly for continuing pressure on her by the adhoc committee of the school. Earlier, the governing body of the school extended her service but she began to face pressure after the governing body was dissolved, sources said.



Students of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College (left) staged demonstration, but police put up barricade on the school-adjacent road on Monday to prevent them from going out of their institution. (right) Principal Hamida Ali consoling the students at the institute premises on Monday.

OBSERVER