

Move to amend Absorption Rules worries BCS teachers

ASHIQR RAHMAN
The government is going to amend the existing Absorption Rules 2000 to allow non-cadre teachers of government colleges to enjoy senior rank facilities although they don't have adequate job experience, leaders of BCS General Education Association alleged.
If the existing rules are amended, most of the college teachers under the cadre service will lose their seniority, they added.
"The secretary committee of the establishment ministry is now scrutinising the amendment after getting approval from the education and law ministries in this regard," association President Prof MA Rouf told The Daily Star recently.
He said by bringing changes to Section 3 of Article 9 of the existing rules, the government is actually restoring the controversial Absorption Rules of 1998 which

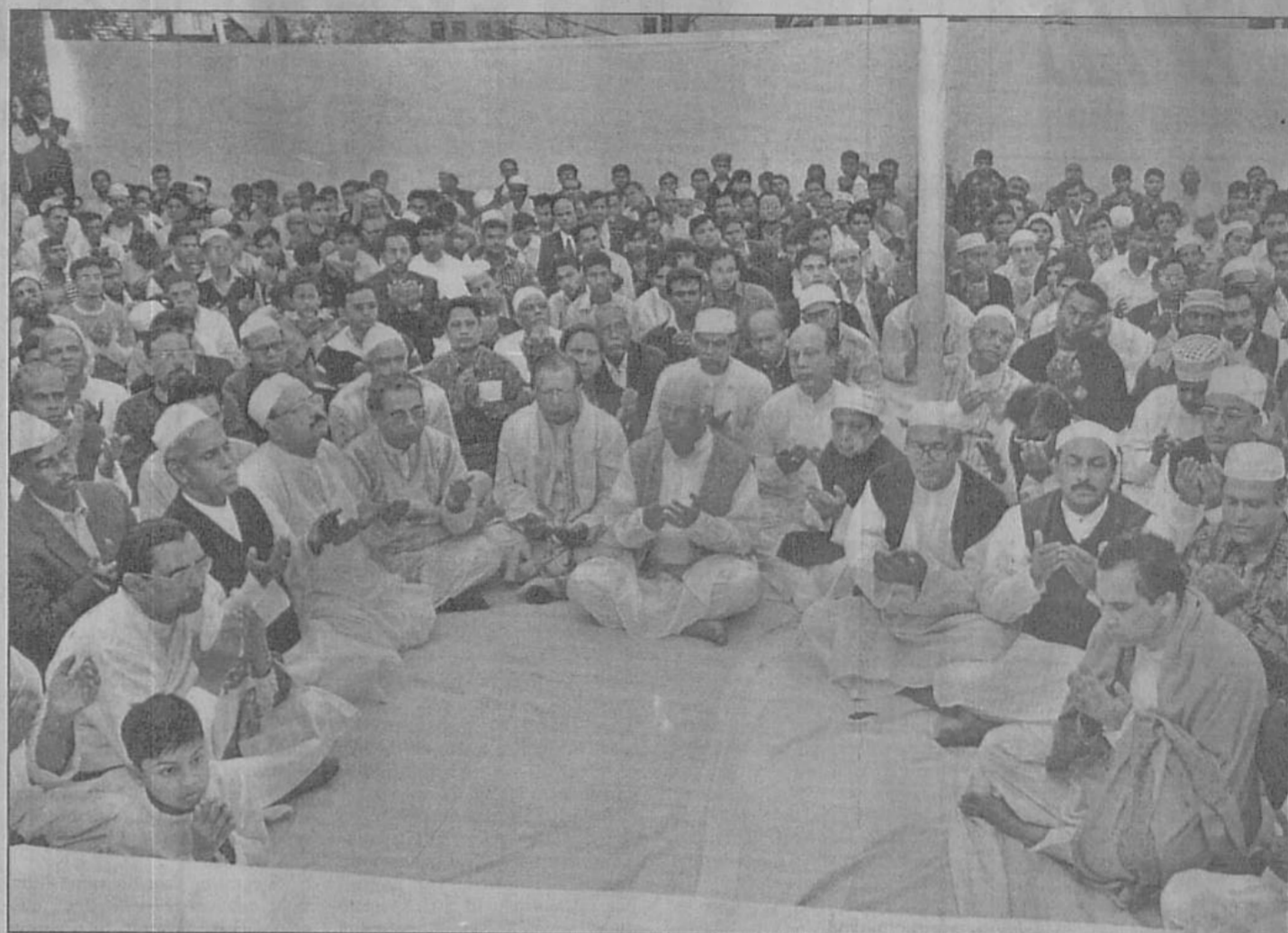
was repealed in the face of severe protest by the teachers under cadre service.
The government formulated the Absorption Rules 2000 to bring the non-cadre teachers absorbed in the government colleges converted from private colleges under a common government rule for members of the education cadre.
"According to the existing rules, the service period of a non-cadre teacher of the government college is counted from the date of his regularisation in his private college and thereby he has to gather the same job experience for the promotion what a BCS cadre teacher has," Rouf mentioned.
But if the government restores the rules of 1998, a non-cadre teacher with the rank of an associate professor or even principal with only five or six years' experience will be able to hold the same post when the college will be nationalised in future, he explained.

"On the other hand, BCS cadre teachers need at least 10 to 20 years' job experience to become an associate professor or principal in the government college," he added.
As a result, as many as 12,500 cadre teachers of 271 government colleges across the country will lose their seniority and the chain of command will completely break down if such flawed amendment comes into effect, Rouf said.
He also threatened that the cadre teachers of government colleges would go for a tougher agitation and legal action if the government amends the existing absorption rule.
The education ministry sources also acknowledged the government's initiative to amend the rules.
But when contacted, ministry officials avoided this correspondent saying that they have no comment on the matter.

Bomb-making materials seized in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Police recovered explosives and bomb-making materials from a house at Chakla village in Chowgachha upazila early yesterday.
Acting on the information obtained from detained outlaw Shahin Alam, a team of Chowgachha police raided the house of Shahabuddin and seized gunpowder, scrap iron, and marbles.
Alam, a cadre of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party-Janajuddho faction, was arrested with firearms and ammunition at Ballapur village in the same upazila four days ago.
Meanwhile, a top-listed criminal of Kushtia, Bachchu alias Kala Bachchu, 30, was arrested at Missionpara in Jessore town yesterday noon. During the raid, a gunfight broke out between Kotwali police and Bachchu's men. A police constable was injured in the shootout.
Bachchu stands accused in at least half a dozen cases including the ones for murder and robbery with different police stations across Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts, said a source in the police.



Leaders of political parties and members of civil society offer munajat at a milad mahfil held at the residence of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria in the city yesterday on the occasion of his first death anniversary.



A group of devotees takes food in one plate on the ground of Biswa Ijmeta that began on the bank of Turag River at Tongji yesterday.

SECURITY ISSUES US embassy officials to sit with Americans on Feb 6

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Top officials of the US embassy will sit with the American citizens living in Bangladesh on February 6 to discuss security issues of the past few months here.
US Chargé d'Affaires Judith A Chammas and Consul Elizabeth P Gourlay, apart from the Regional Medical Officer and the Regional Security Officer, will also discuss the avian influenza issue, according to a US Embassy release.
On December 21 last year, the US State Department issued a public announcement saying that the security situation in Bangladesh is volatile.

Sylhet Samity gives winter clothes to poor

Sylhet Samity, Uttara, a community association of people from Sylhet living in Uttara in the city, yesterday distributed winter clothes and cash assistance among over 500 poverty-stricken men, women and children, says a press release.
The destitute people were provided with winter clothes, blankets and small cash assistance through a simple charity programme at Uttara Sector-9, Jalalabad Association's President Syed Abdul Mukhtar was present as special guest.
Besides, the office bearers of Sylhet Samity, Uttara including Captain Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, BH Chowdhury, Mortuza Ahmed Chowdhury, Chowdhury Tofail Sami, Amjad Ahmed Chowdhury, Kader Chowdhury, Obaidul Islam and Dr Sadekur Rahman also took part in the charity programme.
Founded in 1996, the Sylhet Samity, Uttara, has been active in community development and charity activities for quite some time now, the organisers said.

Poet Helal Hafiz wins literary award

UNB, Dhaka

Poet Helal Hafiz has been selected for Khalequddin Chowdhury Literary Award-1412 for his contribution to Bangla poetry.
The award, instituted by Netrakona Literary Society, will be handed over to the poet at a function on the premises of District Public Library on February 13.
Renowned poets, litterateurs and other distinguished scholars will attend the function, said a press release.

Hasina condoles Wali Khan's death

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep sorrow at the death of Wali Khan, a veteran Pakistani politician and close friend of Bangabandhu.
In a statement, she said, "We have lost one of our progressive politicians who had opposed the attacks by the then Pakistani military ruler on unarmed Bangladeshis in 1971."
Hasina said Wali Khan, also chief of National Awami Party, had fought for the establishment of democracy and welfare of the people.

Create massive awareness to combat HIV/AIDS

SA parliamentary seminar recommends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Second Sub-regional South Asian Parliamentary Seminar on HIV/AIDS ended in the city yesterday with a call to create massive public awareness to combat the deadly disease.
The speakers at the concluding session of the two-day seminar said HIV/AIDS is not only a clinical issue but also a political one to be addressed on an urgent basis.
The seminar was organised by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) at a city hotel with the support of UN and other international organisations.
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Advocate Abdul Hamid attended the concluding session as chief guest.
Chaired by Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan MP, the session was moderated by Zahiruddin Swapan MP and attended by Shazia Z Rafi,

secretary general of PGA.
Abdul Hamid said the country's parliamentarians are working on HIV/AIDS, human trafficking and other serious issues affecting the people in general.
He also read out a message sent to the seminar by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.
In her message, Hasina said her government in 1996 recognised HIV/AIDS as a national problem and took immediate measures to combat the disease.
She said apart from national actions, joint collaboration among the neighbouring countries is imperative to tackle the disease because of its cross-boundary nature.
Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad also sent a message to the seminar.
Regional Director for South Asian Region of Action Aid John

Samuel said there has to be a multi-sectoral approach to combat HIV/AIDS as it is not only a clinical issue but also a human, political, economic and cultural issue.
Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shaheed MP, G M Quader MP and Habiba Akhter, executive director of Ashar Alo Society, an NGO working with HIV positives, and other experts from home and abroad were present at the concluding session.
Earlier on January 26, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurated the seminar where Dr Nafis Sadik, special envoy of the UN secretary general for HIV/AIDS in Asia and Pacific, was the keynote speaker.
Parliamentarians from different countries including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand and Canada along with international experts and members of different UN organisations took part in the seminar.

Ershad leaves for S Arabia today

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad will fly to Saudi Arabia today on a seven-day visit.
During his visit, he will undergo medical check-up at the King Faisal Hospital in Riyadh.
Both of his sons, Eric and Arman, and the party's Vice-Chairman Golam Masiha will accompany him during his visit, party sources said.

Fugitive convict arrested

UNB, Munshiganj
The members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a fugitive convict, who was sentenced to death in a sensational case of five murders, from near his house at Bagra village in Srinagar upazila on Wednesday.
The convict, Faruq, was given the death penalty in absentia along with 14 others in the case of murder of UP chairman Monowar Ali and four others.
The judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka sentenced 15 people to death and nine others to life imprisonment in a verdict on July 12, 2005.
The judge also sentenced 12 people to two years' rigorous imprisonment in the same case.

Zakaria elected president, Nazmul general secy of ERF

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Zakaria Kjol of the daily Inqilab and Nazmul Ahsan of the New Age have been elected president and general secretary of the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF).
The election was held at the National Press Club yesterday.
Masumur Rahman Khalili of the Naya Diganta was elected vice-president while Kismat Khondker of the Samakal elected finance secretary.
Jamal Uddin of the Ittefaq was elected assistant general secretary unopposed.
The executive members are Aszadul Kibria of the New Age, Sharmin Rivvi of Bangla Vision, Hamid Sarker of the Naya Diganta and Mir Mustafizur Rahman of The Independent.

Machine-readable passport to be introduced by August

UNB, Dhaka

The government will introduce Machine Readable Passport (MRP) by August to prevent passport forgery and the use of fake passport for illegal migration and trafficking in women and children.
About 5,000,000 MRPs will be issued in the first phase, according to Home Ministry sources.
There will be a central database under the strict supervision of the home ministry to preserve details of each MRP holders. This

database will provide information about the passport holders for various purposes -- travelling, casting vote, job application, police verification, admission in educational institutions and other multi-functional services.
Meanwhile, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has initiated several training programmes for the officials of the Passport and Immigration Department on how to use the computer technology developed for MRP.



US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina Rocca held a meeting with Matuor Rahman Nizami, minister for industries and ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, at the party's central office in the city yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the country during late night until morning, Met Office said, predicting that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 9.5 degrees at Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:42pm today and rises at 6:41am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.5	15.4	69	61
Chittagong	28.4	13.8	73	70
Rajshahi	26.0	11.4	67	67
Khulna	25.0	12.2	69	66
Barisal	26.5	10.5	91	82
Sylhet	29.8	13.6	79	44
Cox's Bazar	28.1	14.5	56	68



Left Democratic Front stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting the move to form anti-terrorism unit with the assistance of the USA.

3 outlaws held with arms in Rajbari

UNB, Rajbari

In a special drive on Thursday night, police arrested three activists of an outlawed extremist group from Pangsha upazila of the district.
A shutter gun, four rounds of bullet and some sharp weapons were also recovered from their possession during the drive at Mashalia village.
The arrested were identified as Kamal Mondal, 35, second-in-command of the outlawed 'Sagar Bahini', Harmuz, 34, and Lokman, 30.
Acting on a tip-off, the law enforcers raided a house belonging to Ranjit Mallik and nabbed the three extremists along with the arms.
Police said Kamal Mondal was one of the chargesheeted accused in the killing of former Pangsha thana officer-in-charge (O/C) SM Mizanur Rahman.

DHAKA TODAY

<p>Talk Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises a talk on 'Development of agriculture through cultural exchange' with Dr Noazesh Ahmed, former agricultural advisor to ADB as keynote speaker. Venue: Seminar room of the Society. Time: 4:00pm.</p>	<p>Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am.</p>
<p>Lecture Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) organises a lecture by Prof M Pandkar of Southern Illinois University, USA, on 'Cinema and Globalisation'. Venue: IUB Baridhara campus. Time: 10:30am.</p>	<p>Citizens' rally Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon will hold a citizens' rally and form a human chain demanding safe, hygienic and modern management of hospital waste. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 10:30pm.</p>
<p>Convocation Brac University will hold 1st Convocation of the University with President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed in the chair. Venue: Bangladesh China</p>	<p>Rotary Dhaka Central The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.</p>
<p>Rotary Dhaka North West The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm.</p>	

Prothom Alo editor's mother Lutfunnesa passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lutfunnesa, mother of Prothom Alo Editor Matuor Rahman, passed away at Birdem Hospital at 9:30pm yesterday at the age of 82. She had been suffering from old-age complications.
Lutfunnesa left behind three sons, Dr Rezaur Rahman, Matuor Rahman and Dr Zakur Rahman, five daughters, Nazma Nabi, Selima Begum, Farida Haq, Shahana Ahmed and Nina Islam, and a host of admirers. Her eldest son Lutfar Rahman died in 1964.
Her eldest son-in-law is artist and cartoonist Rafiqun Nabi. Her two daughters Farida and Shahana live abroad.
Daughter of Abdus Shaheed, a member of Bengal Legislative Assembly, and Hasna Banu, Lutfunnesa was born at Moshakali village in Gafargaon, Mymensingh, in 1925. She got married to Fazlur Rahman, a lawyer, in 1938.
Lutfunnesa won Carmichael award twice for her sewing skills when she was a student of Mallitola School.
Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Lalmatia New Colony Jame Mosque, adjacent to Block-B, after Zohr prayers today and she will be buried at the Azimpur Graveyard.

Justice N K Chakraborty

BSS, Natore
Justice N K Chakraborty, former law secretary and judge of the High Court, died of cardiac arrest at a clinic in Dhaka on Thursday night at the age of 61.
He is survived by one son and two daughters.
Leaders of political parties and people from all walks of life paid homage as his body was brought here yesterday.
Justice Chakraborty was the under secretary of the law ministry of the provisional government of Bangladesh during the Liberation War, and the law secretary in 1998-99.
He was appointed High Court judge in 2000 and retired in 2003.
Sakauddin Khan
BSS, Manikganj
Sakauddin Khan alias Sonu Mian, a noted soccer player and sports organiser, died of old-age complications at his Chairgram village home here yesterday morning at the age of 87.
He left behind four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.
He was buried at Chairgram graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Chairgram High School ground.
His brother and former industries minister Shamsul Islam Khan died of cardiac arrest on January 22.