

CASE STILL PENDING WITH ADMIN TRIBUNAL

Move to provide selection grade for diploma pharmacists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance ministry has taken an initiative to provide selection grade for diploma pharmacists under the health ministry, although a case regarding the issue is pending with the administrative tribunal.

Sources said the finance secretary gave his approval on July 31 to a proposal for providing selection grade for half of a total of 2,516 diploma pharmacists and it is just awaiting to be issued as government order (GO).

A vested interest group within the ministry and BNP has convinced the finance secretary to give the nod, though approval from the finance minister and the cabinet committee on wage discrimination is mandatory in such cases, they

added.

However, Finance Secretary Siddiqur Rahman Choudhury told The Daily Star that he could not remember whether he has signed such a file or not as he is signing hundreds of files every day.

The implementation division of the finance ministry in an order on February 11, 1990 provided a salary scale of Tk 470 (amended pay scale of Tk 1000 and present scale of Tk 4,100) for the diploma pharmacists. But in that order, it was not mentioned whether the selection grade that they got earlier would remain in force or not.

As a result, the accountant general's (AG) office ordered them to refund the money given in selection grade. Challenging the order, Abdul Bari Mian and Amir Ali - two pharmacists of Suhrawardy

Hospital -- filed a case with the administrative tribunal in 1997 and the case is still pending.

An inter-ministerial meeting held on August 10 in 1998 with the representatives from the AG office, directorate of health, health ministry and the finance ministry decided that it will not be wise to take any decision on selection grade now since a case is still pending.

As per government rules and regulations, the proposal to provide selection grade should be sent to the cabinet committee on wage discrimination after the finance minister approves it. And the government order should be issued after the cabinet committee approves it. But, due to reasons unknown, an initiative has been taken to provide selection

grade to the diploma pharmacists in violation of the rules.

The sources said the vested quarter concealed the information about the exact number of diploma pharmacists and told the finance secretary that an additional Tk 16 lakh will be needed to provide selection grade for them.

"In fact, around Tk 30.19 lakh more will be needed to provide selection grade for 50 percent of 2,516 diploma pharmacists as shown in the proposal," said a source seeking anonymity.

According to the directorate of health, the number of diploma pharmacists working in public institutions is 3,949, but the quarter concealed the actual number from the secretary to manipulate him, the sources alleged.

Hasina to visit Phulbari on Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will visit Phulbari in Dinajpur on Monday, an Awami League press release said yesterday.

Sheikh Hasina, also the president of the main opposition Awami League, will address a public rally in Phulbari during her daylong visit.

Party sources said the leader of the opposition will express her sympathies to the people of Phulbari specially to the families of the slain and injured during the recent movement against Asia Energy.

Death of Bangladeshi peacekeepers condoled

BSS, Dhaka

Coalition of Local NGOs, Bangladesh (CLNB) yesterday held a condolence meeting followed by a mourning procession at Mukhtang in the city in memory of the six Bangladeshi peacekeepers who were killed in a road accident in Ivory Coast on August 26.

With CLNB Chairman Harunur Rashid in the chair, the speakers at the rally appreciated the role of the Bangladesh peacekeepers in maintaining peace in various troubled spots of the world, a press release of CLNB said.

The speakers said the position of Bangladeshi soldiers in the UN peacekeeping mission is the highest because of their unique professional skill and the ability to deal with disastrous situation. As troubleshooters, their ability is far above than those of other countries, they said.

The rally was addressed, among others, by former Deputy Chief of Congo Peace Mission Lt Col Shahidul Islam, Faiz Hossain, Shahjahan Talukdar and Social Worker Nazma Akhter.

They conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed souls.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting of the party's central working committee at its Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

36 killed by law enforcers in Aug

Reveals Adhikar Report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 36 people were killed across the country by law enforcement agencies in the previous month, a report of Adhikar based on newspaper analysis reveals yesterday.

The report of Adhikar, a human rights organisation that conducted the study in cooperation with the 'Academy for Educational Development', shows that 11 people were killed by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), 22 were killed by police and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and three were killed by forest and coast guard.

According to the report, a total of 22 were killed, 1598 were wounded and 58 were arrested in

the month of August due to political reason.

In Chittagong Hill Tracts, five were killed, 34 were wounded and 12 were abducted at the same time violating human rights.

In addition, 15 journalists received death threats, 12 were wounded, one was arrested, three were assaulted and cases were filed against two.

The report also shows that a total of 51 women and children were raped, five women including a child and four men were victims of acid violence.

A total of 143 children fell victim to violence across the country including 58 killed, 16 wounded, 32 raped, eight abducted while 10 committed suicide and 18 were missing.

Pregnant woman dies in Khulna clinic

Wrong treatment alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A pregnant woman died due to alleged wrong treatment at a clinic in Khulna city on Thursday afternoon.

Laila Parvin Renu, 36, died ten minutes after she was given an injection, said her husband Abul Kashem, a businessman.

Renu had been under treatment of Dr Shamsunnahar Lucky at Victory Nursing Infertility Research Centre.

Abul Kashem demanded an investigation into the tragic incident.

When contacted, Dr Shamsunnahar, an associate professor of Khulna Medical College Hospital and owner of the clinic, refused to comment on the death of Renu.



Malaysian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Aziz, extreme left, visits a photo exhibition titled 'Focus Malaysia' at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. Earlier, the high commissioner inaugurated the exhibition in observance of the National Day of Malaysia.

Domestic wastewater can be turned into fertiliser

BSS, Dhaka

Domestic wastewater can be turned into fertiliser through extracting 90 percent of phosphate from it.

A reactor could remove pollutants from liquid sewage and recycle them into an environmentally safe commercial fertiliser.

This was revealed at a seminar titled 'Nutrient recovery from wastewater' organised by

Bangladesh Forum for Municipal and Urban Development (BFMUD) at the LGED Bhaban on Thursday.

President of BFMUD Quamrul Islam Siddique chaired the seminar while Local Government Division Secretary SM Jahurul Islam was present as the chief guest.

Chief Engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Shahidul Hassan attended the seminar as the special guest while Iqbal Hossain

Bhuiyan, PhD student of the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada, presented a keynote paper.

Iqbal Hossain said a group of researchers of the UBC developed the core technology of the wastewater management over a period of five years, which is now being implemented in Japan and the Netherlands.

"The research team designed a reactor, which not only removed in

excess of 90 per cent of the influent phosphorus, but also resulted in formation of a highly pure, slow release fertiliser in granular form," Iqbal Hossain, one of the members of the research team told BSS.

In his keynote paper, he said gradually depleting naturally occurring phosphorous resources and their decreasing purity are likely to make the recovery and recycling phosphorus from potentially rich wastestreams.

The option of recycling phosphorus from wastewater also solves the wastewater treatment problem and provides an environmentally sound and renewable nutrient source for the agriculture industries.

Iqbal Hossain said with the support of the donor agencies operating in Bangladesh, it could be possible to apply the technology in the country's only sewage treatment plant at Pagla in Narayanganj.

Jahurul Islam asked WASA high officials to take an immediate step for evaluating the implementation feasibility of the technology in the country.

Waste experts and high officials of LGED and Dhaka WASA attended the seminar.

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

Follow Cambodia in collecting evidences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should follow Cambodia in collecting evidences of brutal activities by the war criminals to put them under trial, said the speakers at a programme yesterday.

The programme was organised by the Liberation War Museum on the eve of its 10th anniversary in the city.

Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khandaker presided over the programme at the auditorium of the museum.

Speaking on the occasion Sorya Sim, deputy director of the Documentation Centre of Cambodia, narrated their experience in collecting the documents about the brutal activities of Cambodian war criminals.

Like Bangladesh, around three million people were killed by Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia in 1970s.

The Documentation Centre of Cambodia popularly known as DC Cam, a non-government organisation, has been collecting the evidences.

On the basis of those evidences the Cambodian government has requested the United Nations to help form a special tribunal to conduct the trial of the war criminals.

"In our field research or publication, we have taken a neutral,



Sim Sorya, deputy director of Documentation Centre of Cambodia, speaks at the 10th Anniversary Lecture on 'Genocide studies and war crimes trial' at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. On his right is Air Vice Marshal (ret.) AK Khandaker.

objective and transparent approach. Throughout our research, we work without any prejudice, because our job is not to judge but to collect information," said Sorya Sim, also the research director of the DC Cam.

"We have also provided documents requested by the lawyers of the Khmer Rouge regime," he added.

Sorya said with complete neu-

trality, they have interviewed 500 former Khmer Rouge cadres and 2000 non-cadres.

While describing the effectiveness of their documents, he said DC Cam documents are assessed as 'excellent' by the UN groups of Experts.

Dr Sarowar Ali and Mofidul Haq, trustee members of the Liberation War Museum, also spoke at the programme.

CU Persian Dept activities suspended

BSS, Chittagong

Chittagong University (CU) authorities have suspended all academic activities of the Department of Persian Language and Literature for a year due to shortage of teachers.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the university's academic council recently.

CU administration sources said the Department of Persian Language and Literature was launched at the CU in the current year. A total of 10 students were also admitted to the department. But, the classes could not be started for a long period due to lack of course teachers.

The students of the Department of Persian Language and Literature, however, will be transferred to the Department of Islamic Studies.

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