

HC SHOW CAUSE
Why RU recent recruitment process not illegal

RU CORRESPONDENT

A High Court (HC) bench issued a show cause notice on Rajshahi University authorities as to why the recent recruitment process of the university should not be declared illegal and the recruitments annulled.

The bench, comprising Justice Syeed Dastagir Hossain and Justice Mamunur Rahman issued the notice on August 31.

Earlier, a number of job seekers - Abudus Shakur, Golam Mostafa, Motahar Hossain, Saheen Uddin and Gias Uddin - filed a petition with the HC alleging the university authorities were recruiting people violating university rules and regulations.

The rule nisi was also issued upon the RU vice-chancellor (VC), pro-VC, registrar, university grants commission (UGC) chairman and education secretary.

When asked, RU VC Prof Altaf Hossain told newsmen that he

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Annan for skipping row with Iran

REUTERS, Doha

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday stressed the need to avoid a confrontation with Iran over its nuclear ambitions, a day after Tehran told him it was determined to negotiate an end to its standoff with the West.

"This is not the time for anyone to take independent decisions," Annan told reporters in Doha, his latest stop in a Middle East tour.

"We want to avoid confrontation. Confrontation is not in the interest of anyone in the region or in the international community."

Annan has been touring the region for a week to shore up a ceasefire that halted more than a month of fighting between Israel and Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas.

During his visit to Tehran on Sunday, Annan said Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had "reaffirmed to me Iran's preparedness and determination to negotiate and find a solution to the

(nuclear) crisis" but would not suspend enrichment.

Annan's visit came just days after Tehran failed to meet a UN Security Council deadline to halt sensitive nuclear work, which the United States says is aimed at producing nuclear weapons but which Tehran says is to meet energy needs.

Newspapers in Tehran reported on Monday that lawmakers had moved a step closer to approving a bill to ban inspectors from the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), from its atomic sites.

"In (Sunday's) open session of parliament, the bill for suspending the entry of IAEA inspectors was received by the presiding board and handed over to the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee for study," the daily Jomhuri-ye Eslami reported.

The head of the committee, Allaeddin Boroujerdi, was quoted as saying by Sharq newspaper: "If the

Security Council decides to deprive the Iranian nation of its legal rights, we will obligate the government to suspend all of the inspections of the IAEA inspectors that are going on at the moment."

The IAEA now only has routine access to Iranian atomic facilities after Iran stopped allowing short-notice inspections earlier this year when its case was sent to the UN Security Council.

Although the conservative deputies who dominate parliament are vocal opponents of compromise in Iran's nuclear standoff with the West, atomic policy is decided by the leadership. The final say lies with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Asked about the nuclear dispute at a weekly news conference, government spokesman Gholamhossein Elham said: "We think a logical atmosphere is starting to prevail and we are optimistic."

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Bol chief again takes a swipe at 5 eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Apparently pointing to the five eminent citizens he recently accused of defamation, Energy Adviser and Board of Investment (BoI) Chairman Mahmudur Rahman yesterday blamed them for 'conspiring against the country and working on agendas of other countries'.

"My dispute with them lies between brightening and damaging the image of Bangladesh. Development processes of the country make them unhappy. Depicting a bad image, they want to make other countries happy," Mahmudur Rahman said.

"The portrayal of bad image is leaving us behind in international competition in trade while other countries are taking our position," he said.

Rahman also blamed newspapers for projecting 'bad image' of the country.

The BoI chairman was addressing a view exchange meeting

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While visiting Phulbari in Dinajpur yesterday, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina consoles a woman who lost a loved one in the August 26 carnage. Six people were killed in law enforcers' firing on locals protesting against open-pit coal mining.

DEEP-SEA PORT
Japanese team due tomorrow for feasibility study

UNB, Bagerhat

A three-member Japanese delegation arrives at Mongla tomorrow for the feasibility study on deep-sea port at Akram point, 68-km off Mongla Port.

The experts will also visit fairway buoys and hiron point in the Sundarbans to this end.

Chairman of Mongla Port Authority MA Taher said if the deep seaport is constructed at Akram point, the port will be safe from any

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AL expels two for attacking Tito

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Two leaders of the Jessore district unit Awami League (AL) were expelled from the party following the attack on senior AL leader and ex-minister Khaledur Rahman Tito.

They are Sharif Abdur Raqib, former general secretary of Jessore district unit AL and Kazi Nabil Ahmed, deputy secretary of the sub-committee of central AL.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil signed the letter of expulsion on

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PHOTO: STAR

Long queue of patients at Suhrawardy Hospital in the capital yesterday as doctors and nurses continued their two-hour daily work stoppage demanding punishment to those involved in beating up of two nurses.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Graft, confrontational politics obstacles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Confrontational politics and corruption are major setbacks to achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs).

This was the observation of lawmakers of different political parties including the ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League (AL) and civil society members at a national dialogue in the capital yesterday.

The poor are deprived of economic development despite better growth rate and enrolment for primary education because of disparity in resource distribution and education system, and inefficiency in project implementation, they noted.

The dialogue on 'Election manifesto and MDGs: commitment and its implementation by the politicians and parliamentarians' was organised by All-Party Parliamentary

Group (APPG) on MDGs, PRSP, WTO and Bangladesh Development Forum and held at LGED auditorium.

People's Empowerment Trust (PET) and United Nations Millennium Campaign cooperated in the programme and The Daily Star, ntv, Channel i and the daily Somokal were media partners.

The keynote presentation at the dialogue said the rate of poverty

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Croc-grappler Irwin killed by 'peaceful fish'

AFP, Sydney

The irony of "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin's death is that he was not killed by one of the deadly creatures he regularly handled, but by a relatively peaceful fish, scientists said yesterday.

Irwin, renowned worldwide as a fearless environmentalist happy to handle crocodiles and snakes on his television show, was killed Monday by a stingray - a flattish, diamond-shaped fish, which rarely attacks humans.

"They are normally not aggressive and use their long barbed tail to protect themselves from predators such as sharks and killer whales," said Sean Connell, a

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RUET RECRUITMENT
BNP, Jamaat leaders demand 'special' quota for their men

RU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP-Jamaat ward commissioners of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) and some local leaders yesterday barged into the office of the Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RuEt) vice chancellor (VC) and issued a seven-day ultimatum for recruitment of their loyalists in the university under 'party and local quota'.

"The university operation will be shut down if you fail to recruit them," threatened the mob.

RuEt VC professor ANM Anwarul Haque fell sick during the altercation and was rushed to his residence, campus sources said.

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Polls to be held as per constitution

Says Khaleda

UNB, Mirzapur, Tangail

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has categorically said the next general elections will not be held at the instruction of anyone or to appease anyone, rather it will be held as per constitutional provision.

Addressing a public meeting at Mirzapur SK Pilot High School ground yesterday, she said the Election Commission (EC) is pre-

paring to hold the elections and the BNP is mentally prepared to contest the polls.

"But the opposition doesn't like the existing system of caretaker government," she said, adding that it doesn't want to accept the provision of caretaker government enshrined in the constitution.

"It has been written in the constitution who will be the chief

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PHOTO: STAR

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakha bulldozes an illegally built market at Bijoy Nagar in the capital yesterday.

MINIMUM WAGE
RMG workers warn of strike if announcement not made by Sept 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The garment workers' leaders once again warned of going for strike if the minimum wage for the readymade garment sector were not declared by September 12.

They reiterated their earlier demand of Tk 3,000 as the minimum wage.

Accusing the government and garment owners of disregarding the tripartite agreement, they said although the government and owners committed to declare and implement the minimum wage within August they are yet to do it.

As per the agreement signed on June 12, the cases against the leaders of garment workers were to be withdrawn but it has not been done, they said, adding that the owners have continued torture and harassment on them.

The workers' leaders also reiterated the demands of issuing identity card to the workers, providing them maternity leave, weekly holiday, proper overtime bill, safety measures and right to trade unionism in the garment units.

"If all the demands are not met within September 12, we will declare strike from a demonstration on September 15," workers' leader

Hossain Mollah said, while reading out a statement of National Protection Alliance for Garment Workers and Industries, an alliance of 16 garment workers associations, at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

Asked what the workers' stand will be if the garment owners do not accept or implement the demand of Tk 3,000 as the minimum wage, Abul Hossain, a workers' leader, said in that case they would go for 'tougher' movement.

The workers' leaders also warned that the international buyers may take up the minimum wage as an issue, which will ultimately hamper the garment export from Bangladesh.

They criticised the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) for donating vehicles to the police administration while failing to purchase an ambulance for BGMEA's health centre.

Among others, workers' leaders Joinal Abedin, Kamrul Ahsan, Alamgir Roni, Rafiqul Islam Sujon, Nazrul Islam Sabuj, Shafi Uddin Mollah and Lovely Yasmin were present at the press conference.

Rab man jailed for hijacking covered van

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday handed down a seven-year imprisonment to a member of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) for hijacking a covered van with some of his accomplices on July 12.

The special court headed by Additional Director General of Rab Col Mahub Alam Mollah pronounced the verdict after the charges brought against Corporal Bazlur Rashid of Rab-10 were proved.

A Rab press release yesterday said that the court was constituted as per the Rapid Action Battalion (court system and departmental

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Prayer Timing		
September 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-26
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation