

# RU controversial recruits allowed to work until Dec 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

After new tactics for assuring the jobs of 544 controversially recruited employees turned futile, the Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have hastily allowed them to work for four months.

Despite the issue was pending in the higher court, a RU notice signed by the registrar on September 19 permitted them to work till December 13 with effect from August 14.

When contacted RU Registrar Abdus Salam admitted the fact.

Different sources including senior teachers have termed the move 'illegal and illogical' and said, RU would suffer fresh losses of Tk 50 lakh in addition to Tk 3 crore already washed out after them.

The latest move came after the High Court on September 11 stayed the fresh process of recruiting 573 employees with an ulterior motive of legalising the 544 appointments.

Their recruitment witnessed legal impediment first when Advocate Abu Aslam in a public-interest-litigation challenged it calling 'politically motivated, beyond budgetary provisions and without requirement'.

Over the litigation, Rajshahi Senior Assistant Judge's Court issued injunction on the appointments and the ruling was upheld at High Court. The case is now pending in the Supreme Court.

RU authorities appointed 544 employees in 2004 in an unprecedented manner without any advertisement and violating the university rules and University Grant Commission (UGC) circulars.

Meanwhile, many senior teachers and officials have alleged that the disputed employees have no requisite qualifications.

Moreover their presence is hampering educational and administrative activities as they terrorise and embarrass us," said a RU teacher.

## UK Chief Secy to Treasury arrives tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The UK's Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Timms MP, will arrive here tomorrow on a four-day visit.

During his visit, Timms intends to discuss the UK's significant and growing bilateral relationship with Bangladesh.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury is a cabinet position as the second most senior minister in the UK's Treasury.

## RIDE FOR PEACE

# JJ in city to promote brotherhood

SHAHRIAR ROBIN

Jeffrey Rony Polnaja, who is on a world tour on motorbike, said he hopes that his visit to Bangladesh would stir up the spirit of brotherhood and peace in the hearts of Bangladesh people.

Talking to journalists at a press conference at the Indonesian embassy in Dhaka yesterday, he said he chose two-wheeler for his Ride For Peace, the theme of his tour, since it gave him access to the people from all walks of life.

Jeffery, popularly known as JJ, said he began his Ride For Peace on April 23 this year and has so far visited nine countries. He has plans to visit 100 countries in five years.

He was, however, unable to ride into Bangladesh because the authorities in Bangkok told him that it was too risky for him to ride through Myanmar as 'landslides may occur'.

He flew to Dhaka on the 20th of this month but his motorbike arrived on Wednesday. Asked what he thinks about Bangladesh he said the Bangladeshi people are great but the traffic condition in Dhaka was appalling. He apologised for the delayed start of the

conference as he was stuck in heavy traffic after going for a spin in the city.

Ambassador of Indonesia in

Dhaka Warmas Hasan Saputra in his speech said Jeffery had sold his rubber business to embark upon the journey and he ought to be

encouraged and praised.

Talking about his motorbike, he said he was riding a BMW R1150GS limited edition adventure bike, which has an outstanding reliability record and very capable of handling the terrain it would be exposed to.

He said his world tour has been divided into two stages and the first include 45 countries in 750 days.

The 44-year-old motorbike enthusiast is supposed to leave Bangladesh on Tuesday for India and then to Bhutan, Nepal before heading for the Middle East. He said his contract with the sponsors ends after the first stage and he would return to Indonesia in the hope of getting sponsors for the second leg of the tour.

When asked how he felt about tobacco sponsorship for his tour, Jeffery said he does not promote smoking but a tobacco company promotes him.

The father of two said he prays for Bangladesh and hopes the people of Bangladesh would pray for him, so that he has a safe tour.

Jeffery is also the Off Road motorbike champion in the United States and a champion horseback rider in Indonesia.



PHOTO: STAR

RIDE TO PROMOTE PEACE: Jeffrey Rony Polnaja on his BMW world-tour bike at the Indonesian embassy in Gulshan in the city yesterday.

# Depression in Bay

UNB, Dhaka

The well-marked low over the Bay moved northwestwards and intensified into a depression.

The depression was centred about 590-km southwest of Chittagong port, 515-km southwest of Cox's Bazar and 540-km south of Mongla port at noon yesterday.

"It is likely to intensify further and move in a west-northwesterly direction. Sea will remain rough," said a Met office bulletin.

Maximum sustained wind within 44-km of the depression centre is about 40kph, rising to 50kph in gusts or squalls.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal no 3.

All fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay have been advised to remain close to the coast until further notice.