

19 DU teachers face termination

By Masud Arif

Services of 19 teachers of the Dhaka University, illegally over staying abroad on expiry their study leave, will be terminated if they do not join their respective duties within two months of issuing the letters handed out by the DU authorities recently.

The University authorities have mailed this notice to the defaulting teachers last month, Syndicate sources said.

The decision was taken in a meeting of the DU Syndicate on November 30th last.

The university authorities had formed a five-member committee headed by the Dean of the Arts Faculty last year to investigate into the unauthorised stay of those teachers.

Meanwhile, at least 60 teachers, enlisted as permanent university teachers are now out of the country and some of them were staying abroad since 1975, sources said.

The 19 DU teachers to whom the letters have been issued are: Dr Rawnaq Jahan, Professor of the Department of Political Science, Fazle Kabir, Assistant Professor of the Department of Library Science, Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Assistant Professor of the Department of Psychology, Md Nurul Hossain, Assistant Professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dr Intiaz Hasan Habib, Associate Professor of the Department of English, Abdul Gafur, Assistant Professor of the Department of Mathematics, Joy Kumar Sarogi, Assistant Professor of the Department of Physics, Dr Abdul Anam and Md Sarwar

Alam, Lecturer of the Department of Physics, Monoranjan Sarker, Associate Professor of the Department of Physics, Abu Zafar Chowdhury, Assistant Professor of the Department of Management, Dewan Md Rezaul Karim, Assistant Professor of the Department of Management, Md Shafulah, Assistant Professor of the Department of Accounting, Anwar Hossain, Assistant Professor of the Department of Finance, Dr H M Sadeque, Assistant Professor of the Department of Finance, Dr Yusuf Talukder, Associate Professor of the Department of Finance, A K Mansur Ahmed, Secretary, Institute of Business Administration, Md Abdul Mannan, Assistant Professor of the Department of Statistics, Abdus Shahid, Assistant Professor of the Department of Accounting and Md Al-Faruk, Assistant Professor of the Department of Islamic History and Culture.

The system for formation of a tribunal by the Syndicate to terminate the services of a DU teacher being complicated and time consuming the authorities have formed the committee to take immediate action against those teacher within a short time, sources said.

Sometimes teaching and research activities were hampered for the teachers' being away, some DU teachers felt.

The present strength of teachers in the university is about 925 against some 1165 sanctioned posts.

About 256 of the teachers stay away from the university classes on various leaves daily on an average.

Washington should give increased priority to India, say top-level US experts

WASHINGTON, Jan 16: A group of high-level experts is urging the United States to give increased priority to India as the world's largest democracy and "a potential partner" in efforts to resolve global disputes, reports USIS.

Washington should also move away from its current emphasis on nuclear non-proliferation, and towards a policy designed to maintain nuclear restraint in the sub-continent, according to a new report released on January 14 by the Carnegie Endowment Study Group on US-Indian relations.

Describing efforts to seek a rollback of India's nuclear programme as "unrealistic," the report states that "it is not too late to achieve a freeze in the production of missile material for weapons purposes and in the development and deployment of nuclear weapons by both India and Pakistan."

The report, co-authored by senior Carnegie Endowment associates Selig Harrison and Geoffrey Kemp, was signed by 34 members of the study group. They include Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, former ambassador to India; Henry Rowan, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; Stephen Solarz, former Chairman of the House Asian and Pacific Affairs subcommittee; and Robert Oakley, former ambassador to Pakistan.

The group's meeting were co-chaired by former ambassadors to India Harry Barnes and Robert Goheen.

US policy makers should approach India with the understanding that it is the strongest military and economic power in South Asia, and that "its power is likely to grow," said Goheen at a January 13 press conference.

The end of the Cold War offers significant opportunities for improved Indo-US relations, and Washington should capitalize on those — not only because of India's growing influence, but also because of values shared by both.

There is in India a resilient, functioning, secular democracy," Goheen said, adding that the United States has a vested interest in supporting and promoting precisely that kind of government.

Selig Harrison told reporters that Washington should seek a summit with New Delhi this year, and should insist that India be included in any reform of the United Nations Security Council. "If the council is enlarged, India, should be a prime candidate for permanent membership," states the report. Given India's importance in terms of geography and population, the United States "should treat its candidacy on a par with that of Japan, Germany, Brazil and Nigeria."

Harrison stressed that the group had taken into account India's severe ethnic and religious tensions, which were recently highlighted by Hindu-Muslim riots following the destruction of the Ayodhya

Mosque by Hindu fundamentalists.

The study deplors Indian human rights violations in Kashmir, Punjab and other states, where "draconian security laws" are used against critics from human rights groups or the media. It strongly urges New Delhi to give "high-level attention" to curbing human rights abuses.

Despite such difficulties, the group agreed that India will remain fundamentally stable and will continue to move ahead with its programme of economic reform, Harrison said. Their report recommends that Washington support Indian development through expanded contributions to multilateral institutions.

The study describes India's business environment as "restrictive," and in need of liberalized policies in the areas of import licensing and duties. India should make the rupee fully convertible and raise the present 51 per cent limit on foreign equity ownership in joint ventures. The report urges India to make "further compromises" with the United States on disputes over intellectual property rights.

Regarding Indo-Pakistani relations, the United States should maintain a "detached posture" as it disengages itself from its Cold War relationship with Pakistan, Harrison said. Washington needs to preserve its ties to Islamabad, but it "need not and should not choose sides between India and Pakistan," the report em-

phasizes. Pending a rapprochement between the countries, the United States should refuse to make concessional military sales to either.

The report urges Washington to cancel its "anachronistic" 1959 mutual security agreement with Pakistan, and "make clear that it has no residual commitment to assist Pakistan in the event of an Indo-Pakistani war."

Geoffrey Kemp noted that increased US-Indian cooperation in the military arena may be "desirable and likely". Current policies in support of joint exercises and reciprocal visits mirror US cooperation with other Asian countries, and have vastly reduced Indo-US tensions.

"Neither side sees the other's military power in the region as threatening," Kemp noted.

He warned against excessive US opposition to India's Agni and Prithvi Missile Programmes, which are "far advanced" and enjoy widespread domestic support. The primary focus of US efforts, therefore, should be to persuade India not to transfer its missile technology to others," states the report.

He also stressed that the group's opposition to US non-proliferation policy toward India was based on a number of factors, including the nature of the New Delhi government. "We need to distinguish between the behaviour of truly democratic states" such as India and Israel, and dictatorships such as Iraq, Kemp said.

The Midnight File

Asghar Khan to run for presidency

ISLAMABAD, Jan 16: Former Pakistani Air Force Chief Asghar Khan, an ally of Opposition Leader Benazir Bhutto, has been nominated by his political party to run for the presidency this year. It was reported today. A successor to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is to be elected in November a month before he completes his five-year term. By an electoral college made up of members of parliament and of the four provincial assemblies, reports AFP.

Calcutta newsmen continue boycott of WB govt functions

CALCUTTA, Jan 16: Journalists and press photographers of Calcutta have continued their boycott of all West Bengal government functions for the fourth day today to press for protection of their rights and reversal of the government decision shifting the press corner at the Writers Building (the state secretariat), reports-PTI.

Tamils blow up their ship

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: At least nine Tamil Tiger rebels were apprehended Saturday after they set fire to their explosive-laden ship and jumped into the sea off the southeastern coast of India, news reports said. Two Indian ships intercepted the rebel vessel 12 nautical miles (18 kilometers) off the southern state of Tamil Nadu on Friday, news agencies quoted a Defence Ministry spokesman as saying, reports AP.

Rao cabinet resigns

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AR Antulay, former Maharashtra Chief Minister. The north east region might get better representation in the government.

Names of RJK Dhawan and Capt Satish Sharma are also mentioned as possible aspirants.

The expansion and also reshuffle is likely to be the first major one since Rao assumed office 18 months ago and is aimed at revamping the functioning of the government.

AFP adds: India's main Hindu revivalist political party has set a February 25 deadline for Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao to concede to its demands for early polls and for a Hindu temple on the site of the fallen Babri Mosque.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Murli Manohar Joshi said his party would take "direct action" if the government failed to heed the ultimatum.

The Statesman and other newspapers today quoted Joshi as saying Friday that the BJP, the largest opposition party in parliament, wanted the legislature's dissolution by February 25 to be followed by early elections.

He said Rao, whose Congress (I) party has more than three years of its five-year term in office left to run, should also concede to Hindu revivalist demands for a temple on the site of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya town.

Joshi, known to be a fiercely hardline Hindu politician, also urged a lifting of the ban imposed on three non-political Hindu militant groups following the December 6 demolition of the 16th century mosque.

Joshi did not reveal details of the BJP's planned "direct action" — a phrase used in 1946 by the Muslim League in demanding Pakistan's creation from the Subcontinent — but said it would be within constitutional bounds.

He said the party would mobilise more than one million supporters for a rally here on February 25 to press its demands. It would be preceded by whirlwind tours of the country by BJP leaders.

AP from Bombay adds: The government has decided to ask a high court judge to inquire into the riots that erupted in Bombay last week and claimed more than 500 lives, the states chief minister said Saturday.

For the first time in 10 days of Hindu-Muslim rioting, streets of this metropolis were crowded with buses, cars and people.

Banks, offices and schools reopened in the city, and suburban trains were more crowded than when the riots began Jan. 6 and exploded two days later.

Jamaat : No difference

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If BNP continues its repression on Muslims in the country... we'll be compelled to brand BNP as enemy of Islam," he said and called upon the government to take stand in favour of Islamic forces.

The Jamaat Secretary General, also leader of the party's parliamentary group, alleged BNP's student wing, Jatiyatadagi Chhatra Dal, Awami League-backed Chhatra League and Workers Party supported Chhatra Molity combinedly killed a Shibir activist in Rajshahi with the backing of police.

Jamaat will organise protest rallies across the country on January 20 to protest the extension of detention order on Golam Azam, who was detained in March last year in the wake of massive campaign by the Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee for his trial on charge of war crime in 1971.

Drug case
Prosecution fails to produce witness
By Staff Correspondent
The Prosecution Saturday failed to produce witnesses before the Second Additional Sessions Judge Court in connection with the sensational drug case.

On a prayer of the Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razaq, the judge Mohammad Ansaruddin Sikder fixed the date of examination and cross-examination of the witnesses on January 27 and 28.

Five persons, four of them foreign nationals, were charged with attempted trafficking of 3.27 kg heroin to Zurich, Switzerland, from Bangladesh on February 25 last year.

Of the five accused, Eliadah McCord a teenaged American girl, Robert Blankson, a South African and Ochendu Goddy a Nigerian, who were arrested meantime, were produced before the Court yesterday.

Unanimous JS resolution

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Alam Tara from the government side and Abdus Sumad Azad, Tofael Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta were among others who prepared the draft resolution.

Competent sources said that the draft resolution condemned the demolition of the 16th century mosque in Ayodhya and demanded its reconstruction as declared by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

The resolution said the demolition of Babri Mosque by Hindu zealots hurt the sentiments of the people belonging to all religious faiths.

It also condemned the outbreak of communal violence in different parts of the country following the demolition of the Babri Mosque on December 6.

The draft resolution suggested that the minorities affected by communal violence

be rehabilitated, damaged temples reconstructed and legal actions taken against those responsible for the acts of communal violence in the country.

Earlier, the Business Advisory Committee met in Sangsad Bhaban with Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair.

The meeting decided to hold a general discussion on Babri Mosque for five hours spreading over two days. The time will be equally divided between the Treasury and Opposition benches.

Sheraton limousine service

The Dhaka Sheraton Hotel has recently introduced its own limousine service, a new addition to its expanding services, says a press release.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited Bandartila and Halishahar in Chittagong yesterday and talked to the people affected in the January 2-3 incident. — PID photo

Defeated forces

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President Badrul Anwar, the meeting was also addressed by Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Planning Minister AM Zahuruddin Khan, City Mayor Meer Mohammad Nasruddin and MP's Amir Khasru Mohammad Chowdhury, Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Rosy Kabir and Wahidul Huq.

Local BNP and its front organisation leaders, including Ehsanul Kabir, Advocate Abu Saleh, Golam Akbar Khandkar, MA Nazimuddin, Abul Hassem Bakr and Abu Sufian also spoke.

Sources said 1,494 houses, 252 semi-kutcha and 117 kutcha shops were damaged, affecting nearly 830 families, in the fire allegedly set by the personnel who also opened fire.

Begum Zia went around the fire-ravaged areas and talked to the injured and affected people. Burnt trees and houses stood witness to the devastation.

Halishahar and Bandartila are in one of the five constituencies from where Begum Zia was elected in the last parliamentary polls. She went from house to house and assured her government's all-out cooperation in rehabilitation of the victims.

The government has so far ordered cash grant of Tk 14 lakh, 30 metric tons of rice, 300 sarees, 300 lungis and 2,000 bundles of CI sheet for the affected families.

Obituary

Al-Haj Moutajuddin Ahmed, a retired Superintendent of Police died of old age complications last night at his Shantinagar residence here. He was 84, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, five sons, six daughters and a host of relations to mourn his death.

The namaj-e-janaza of Ahmed, who hailed from Daudkandi of Comilla, will be held at Baitul Mokarram National Mosque today after Zohr prayer and will be buried at Banani Graveyard.

Hundreds hurt

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Medical Centre from the SM Hall.

The students — Nitai, Abdul Mannan and Fazul Rahman — reported that many others, with stab wounds remained stranded inside the halls as the gates were locked.

As the Shibirites were on rampage, activists of the JCD and GCO flocked together from the Madar Box and the Suhrawardy Halls to launch a combined attack on the Shibir stronghold — Zoha Hall.

Until writing of the report at 12:30 midnight, clashes continued and the injured students were left unattended inside the halls as neither police nor the university administration officials could come for their rescue.

Sir Salimullah's death anniversary observed

The 78th death anniversary of Nawab Sir Salimullah was observed yesterday in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Different socio-cultural and political organisations have observed the anniversary through separate programmes.

Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage held a discussion on the life and activities of the late leader.

Presided over by Nawab Begum Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah MP, president of the Orphanage, the discussion was also participated, among others, by Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali MP, Ali Imam and Alhaj G A Khan.

The speakers at the meeting described Sir Salimullah as the pioneer of Muslim renaissance in the undivided India. They called for evaluating Sir Salimullah's activities in the present perspective.

They also demanded to name after him the organisations set up by him.

Bangladesh Muslim League observed the day through offering fatcha and placing wreath at the Mazar of the founders of All India Muslim League.

Exert pressure on India to rebuild Babri Mosque: ML

Muslim League yesterday called upon the international community for exerting diplomatic pressure on India to rebuild the Babri Mosque in its original site in Ayodhya and immediate halt of killing of Muslims in that country, reports UNB.

President of Muslim League, Kazi Abdul Kader was speaking at a discussion to mark the 78th death anniversary of Nawab Sir Salimullah, founding President of All India Muslim League.

The party founded in Dhaka in 1906 fought for and won a Pakistan.

Kazi Kader referred to the turbulent situation in India and said the people of Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram were struggling for liberation from oppressing Hindu rule.

He paid rich tributes to the late leader and observed that had there been no Pakistan there would have been no Bangladesh.

Earlier, leaders and workers of the party offered fatcha at the mazar of Nawab Salimullah at Begum Bazar in the old city and laid wreaths there.

Foreign policy

From Page 1 Col 4
also united when and if the country's sovereignty is questioned or its interests threatened.

Unfortunately, national leaders like Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina would never take the platform or the floor at the parliament to reaffirm their shared commitment. Instead, the two and their ardent followers do not miss any opportunity of hammering on their differences on the execution of the accepted objectives, often going to the extent of questioning one another's motives and bonafides.

In the end, often carried away by their own rhetoric, they send out wrong, unintended signals to a confused nation and to forces outside which are a little too eager to discover some new cracks within the country.

Of course, no one would suggest that the ruling party and the opposition should not have their differences, even serious ones, on the implementation of the country's foreign policy in any specific field. Indeed, the opposition parties are perfectly within their democratic right to express their disagreements with the government's position.

However, it is important — and imperative at a moment of crisis — to put these differences in the right context, within the framework of a broad-based consensus or, as it happens in many countries, a bi-partisan foreign policy.

Here, a case in point is the understanding between President George Bush and President-elect Bill Clinton on the US air attacks against Iraq.

True, we cannot develop such an understanding between the government and the opposition overnight. However, it is also true that opposition

is hardly a question of the government making a political gain out of such an exercise. On the contrary, it is a question of according a rightful status to the Leader of the Opposition who, in a parliamentary democracy, is the head of an alternative government.

It is also a question of the government taking a bold initiative for strengthening our national unity on any issue in foreign affairs, especially at a time of crisis.

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